

R A N D O M P L O T S

NEWSLETTER of the NC STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

No.37 June, 2000

Annual Renewal Fee Notice:

Your current registration expires on June 30, 2000, and will be invalid unless the annual renewal fee in the amount of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) is submitted promptly. Please complete the accompanying Annual Renewal Fee Notice and return it, along with your fee and CFE Activity Report, as soon as possible. Please be sure your address and other information is entered correctly, for this form provides the information to be included in the N.C. Roster of Registered Foresters. Do it now and avoid the penalty and/or being cut from the Roster.

Continuing Forestry Education:

Section 89B-11-(b) of House Bill 577 states that The Board shall require registered foresters to attend continuing education courses approved by the Board, not to exceed 12 hours per year, as a condition of renewal.

Proposed rules require that every non-retired Registered Forester have at least 10 hours of CFE's per year (6 SAF category 1, & 4 SAF cat. 1, 2, 3, or 4), beginning the fiscal year July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000. All retired foresters wishing to remain on registered status must have at least 3 credit hours per year. RF's will be required to certify their CFE's when they renew their application annually. Any CFE's earned prior to July 1, 1999, cannot be used toward the June 30, 2000, requirements.

Failure to obtain the necessary credit hours will result in the Board's refusal to renew the RF's registration until the required hours are "made up", at the rate of 10 CFE's per year missed. A late fee of \$2.50/month will also be assessed for renewal. There is no time limit on this obligation. However, the RF will have the option to become "Re-registered" by submitting a new application for registration, and passing the Foresters exam(s).

A copy of the CFE Activity Report is included with this newsletter. Please list the programs attended, the sponsoring organization, date(s) attended, number of contact hours, and the SAF category (1-4) where designated on the form. It is not necessary to include documentation or proof of attendance of Continuing Education courses at this time. However, all individuals must retain all documentation for a period of two years in the event of an AUDIT by the Board.

Those Registered Foresters still needing CFE credit hours may wish to check out the website at the top of this page for more information on programs that offer such. Additional links with information on available programs throughout the south are also listed on the site.

Applicants/Registrants/CF's:

In the past year new registrants have increased our RF numbers from #1375 to #1407. It was noted in the February, 1999 issue of Random Plots that 254 RF's had filed affidavits with the Board to qualify as Consulting Foresters, exhibiting a 30% increase in one year. As of this date there are 245 CF's registered in North Carolina; a 4% decrease.

Forester Exams:

Effective January 1, 1999, House Bill 577 requires that all individuals applying for registration pass the Forester Exam.

All graduates with a bachelors or higher degree in a forestry curriculum from a school or college of forestry approved by the Board must pass a one-part comprehensive written open-book examination, and must complete two or more years' experience in forestry.

Those individuals that do not have a bachelors or higher degree from an approved school of forestry must pass a two-part exam, and must have six or more years of active practice in forestry work immediately prior to the application. The first part of the exam is a closed book exam designed to show knowledge approximating that obtained through graduation from a four-year curriculum in forestry in a university or college approved by the Board. The second part is identical to the open-book exam administered to the forestry school graduates, testing practical applications required in the field of forestry.

Only those people with a completed application on file with the State Board of Registration for Foresters may sit for the exam.

The first exam since House Bill 577 was enacted was administered by Board Chairman Rick Hamilton on May 10, 2000, in Goldsboro, N.C.

The closed book portion of the exam was given to the non-graduate applicants, with two people passing. The open book graduate exam was passed by nine applicants.

North Carolina Annual SAF Meeting:

The annual North Carolina state meeting of the Society of American Foresters will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5032 Market Street, Wilmington, N.C. [(910) 392-1102].

Meeting dates are June 21-23, 2000. A total of six category one CFE credit hours are assigned for attendance of the meeting, with an additional one hour given for participation in the tour.

For more information contact William or Janet Steele at (910) 642-9124.

The Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF):

N. C. State Board of Registration Secretary/ Treasurer, Jack Rich, represented North Carolina at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF), hosted by the State of Arkansas Board of Registration for Foresters, May 15 & 16, 2000. The Meeting was held at the state 4-H Center, near Little Rock.

The coalition is a "Board of Boards" formed in 1992, in an effort to promote the discussion of ideas of mutual interest concerning forestry licensing/registration which transcend state boundaries. It is intended to promote, when possible, uniformity among individual Boards and

to assist in the investigation and conviction of persons who challenge the laws of one or more states by conducting interstate activities.

Fifteen Board members from Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, and North Carolina were present this year. Alabama is also a member of ASBORF, but did not have a representative present. One forester from Maryland's Board, and five foresters representing Virginia, Pennsylvania, and

Missouri, who are presently working on structuring a forester licensing law, were also present as guests.

Along with the standard business meeting and individual state reports, a field trip to selected sites was conducted. A narration of events and a trip to the location of where the USFS "Walk in the Woods" took place between Senator David Pryor and USFS Chief Dale Robertson was included on the field trip.

Guest speakers were John Shannon, State Forester, Ark. Forestry Commission, Jim Scott, Ark. State Senator (and RF), Kelly Robbins, Ark. Forestry Association, and Dr. John Gray, retired Arkansas Extension Forester.

Election of officers was held, with Jack Rich, N.C., stepping down from the Chair position.

The new Chairman of ASBORF for 2000/2001 is Don Handley, S.C., Vice-Chairman is Marvin Taylor, Miss., and the Secretary/Treasurer position is held by Frank Roth, Ark.

The next meeting is proposed to be held around the same time next year, and is to be hosted by the North Carolina Board.

Scheduled Events:

The open book portion of the non-graduate exam is tentatively scheduled to be held in Goldsboro in early August, subject to change.

The next meeting of the N. C. State Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for June 19, 2000, at the office of Jordan Lumber Company, in Mount Gilead, N.C.

JVR/jvr