

R A N D O M P L O T S

NEWSLETTER of the NC STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

No. 40 February 2002

Board Web Page

The web site of the State Board of Registration for Foresters provides RFs with instant access to various forms, current roster, registration information, past newsletters, Board member information, exam information and continuing education opportunities.

<http://members.aol.com/ncbrf/>

E-mail address ncbrf@aol.com

We encourage all RFs to take advantage of this service.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REMINDER

The Board wants to remind all registered foresters of the CFE requirements necessary to maintain their current registration.

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.

Rules require that every non-retired Registered Forester have at least 10 hours of CFE per year (6 SAF category 1, & 4 SAF cat. 1, 2, 3, or 4), beginning the fiscal year July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002. 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. Any CFE's earned prior to July 1, 2001, will not be acceptable to be used towards the June 30, 2002 requirements.

A copy of the CFE Contact Hours Notice **MUST** be submitted with your registration renewal.

Information concerning organizations and/or agencies that offer continuing education opportunities in North Carolina is included in this newsletter.

Board Approves Code of Ethics

On September 20, 2001 the Board held a public hearing in Raleigh on the proposed rule change to permanently adopt the Code of Ethics of the SAF (1976 version) as the code that is to serve as guidance for the conduct of registered foresters. Several members of the public including Charles Webb (RF #1133), Barry New (RF #895), and Grady McCawley (representing the NC Conservation Network) attended the hearing. Mr. Webb, read the following statement approved by the Executive Committee of the NC Division of the SAF: "Move to suggest the NC Board of Forestry Registration (sic) that they adopt a code of ethics independent of any SAF Code which may or may not include any past or existing SAF Cannons. The SAF Code of Ethics was never intended for use as a regulatory

instrument." Mr. New expressed his support for the proposed rule change. There were a number of written responses that were also filed with the Board, most of which supported the adoption of the 1976 Code of Ethics.

Upon the closing of the public comment period, the Board unanimously adopted the rule change.

New Registrants

Since June 2001, 9 Registered Foresters have been added to the roster. The new RFs are:

Mary Beth Hanson #1440
John R. Talbert #1441
Terry L. Cross #1442
James Y. Fisher, II #1443
Travis W. Hughes #1444
Leon M. Murph #1445
Don F. Roach, II #1446
Matthew A. Whitley #1447
Kevin E. Williams #1448

Additionally, Christopher D. Sullivan (RF #1207) was re-instated.

Forester Examinations

The most recent examinations for registration were held in October 2001 in Winston-Salem. The results of the examination are provided below:

	Pass	Fail
Level I	0	1
Level II	21	4

To become registered, all graduates with a bachelor's or higher degree in a forestry curriculum from a school or college of forestry approved by the Board must pass the comprehensive Level II examination.

The Level I examination 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. Individuals that do not have a bachelors or higher degree from an approved school of forestry must pass both the Level I and Level II examinations.

The Board offers the examinations twice a year. The examination dates for 2002 are March 1, 2002 (Kinston, NC) and August 30, 2002 (Morganton, NC).

Retiring Board Members

The final terms of Board members Chairman Derryl Walden and Member-at-Large Lucious Hawkins expired in June 2001. Walden, who is with the NC Division of Forest Resources, was first appointed to the Board in July 1991. He was elected Chairman in June 2000. Hawkins' tenure with the Board began in July 1995. Both Board members were presented with service awards at the September 2001 Board

meeting. The Board wants to extend its appreciation to Derryl and Lucious for their service to the Board and to the forestry profession in North Carolina.

Easley Names New Board Members

In November 2001 Gov. Mike Easley appointed Patricia B. Gaskin of Laurel Springs, NC and Michael L. Thompson of Pittsboro, NC to the Board of Registration for Foresters.

Pat Gaskin and her husband Lewis own Laurel Springs Christmas Tree Farm, LLC located in Alleghany County. Trees were first planted on the farm in 1973. In addition to selling Fraser Firs, they have expanded their business to include holiday greenery such as wreaths and garlands.

Pat is a member of the National Christmas Tree Association and has been an active member of the NC Christmas Tree Association (NCCTA) for 15 years. In addition to serving as Legislative Advisor to the Board of Directors of the NCCTA, she is currently first Vice-President of the Association. Pat was also recently appointed to the NC Agricultural Research Service Advisory Committee that deals with issues affecting agricultural research at NCSU.

Pat replaces Lucious Hawkins on the Board and serves as the member at large. Her first term will expire in June 2004.

Michael L. Thompson has been employed with the Division of Forest Resources for the past 30 years. He is currently Forest Management and Forest Development Section Chief and has worked as Assistant District Forester, Field Forester, Staff-Forester-Forest Management and Program Head for Forest Management.

Mike is a native of Virginia and graduated from Virginia Tech in 1971 with a BS degree in Forestry and Wildlife. He is a registered forester (RF # 471) and is a member of the SAF, NC Forest Landowners Association, the NC Forestry Association, and the National Wild Turkey Association. In addition to woodworking and gardening, Mike's hobbies include hunting (when time and seasons permit).

Mike replaces Derryl Walden on the Board and his first term will expire in June 2004.

Registration By the Numbers

The number of foresters currently registered with the Board now totals 957 (a decline of 2% since the 2000-2001 year). Of these foresters, 907 are active and 50 have retired status. Additionally, 266 RFs have filed affidavits with the Board to qualify as Consulting Foresters (an increase of 16% since 2000-2001). There are 244 foresters who are registered in North Carolina but live out of state.

Board Privacy Policy Outlined

Several RFs have inquired regarding the Board's request for Social Security numbers with their registration

The Board is required to furnish the Social Security number of all registered foresters to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division in compliance with General Statute 110-142.1.

The Board does not use this information in any manner nor does it provide it to any other parties or agencies (public or private). Additionally, the Board does not initiate any action against registered foresters who do not provide their Social Security number. However, failure to provide such information may result in the Board being required to suspend or revoke your registration as dictated by law.

Mandatory Forest Registration Law Affects Incorporation Process

The 1999 change in the Forester Registration Act that now requires all foresters to be registered with the Board has impacted the incorporation process for forestry companies.

Prior to the change in the registration act a forester could incorporate his/her business as a regular corporation. However, now that registration is mandatory, registered foresters can ONLY incorporate as a Professional Corporation (PC) - see General Statutes Chapter 55-B. A significant difference between a regular corporation and a professional corporation is that only a registered professional can own stock in a professional corporation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, the Board recommends that you contact your attorney or the Secretary of State's Office.

Enforcement Action

The Board continues to receive complaints of individuals representing themselves to be foresters who are not registered with the Board.

When a complaint is filed, the Board contacts the individual and makes them aware of the requirements of the Forester Registration Act. They are advised they must either stop representing themselves as foresters or become registered with the Board. In most cases this contact by the Board is sufficient to resolve the issue. One case was referred to the Attorney General's Office for enforcement. The Board also has the responsibility to hear complaints filed against registered foresters for alleged violations of the Code of Ethics that governs the conduct of registered foresters. The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke the registration of any registered forester for violations of the Code of Ethics.

The Board asks that all RFs be alert to violations of the registration law and report any infractions to the Board. The Board can only take action if a complaint is filed. It is imperative for the registration law to be fully and fairly enforced if it is to be effective.

The Board welcomes any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding the administration of the registration law.

Forest Management Plans

There is a recent effort to re-activate the American Tree Farm Program in North Carolina. One of the requirements to participate in the program is that a landowner must have a forest management plan prepared by a "forester". Similarly, county tax offices require a forest management plan, prepared by a

"forester", to qualify for the land-use property tax program. In North Carolina this means that those individuals who prepare forest management plans MUST be registered.

Board Meetings

The State Board of Registration meets quarterly to conduct its business. Meetings are usually held in March, June, September, and December. Dates of Board meetings are posted on the website. The next Board meeting is March 21, 2002.

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We want to encourage all Registered Foresters to be advocates for a strong forestry profession. If the Board or its members can be of assistance, please contact them directly or through the Board office.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Clifford Lewis RF #474
Secretary /Treasurer