



RANDOM PLOTS



NEWSLETTER
of the
N. C. STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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Chairman's Corner

Greetings to fellow Registered Foresters! It has been a great honor for me to serve on the NC Board of Registration for Foresters over the last four and one-half years and an even greater honor to serve as Chairman of the Board during the last six months. It is the duty of our Board to administer the Registered Forester law, G.S. 89B, for the State of North Carolina. Proper administration of the law is extremely important to forestry, forest landowners, the general public and Registered Foresters in the State.

During 2003, the Board conducted a comprehensive self-assessment based on its experiences with administering the registration act, based upon feedback from Registered Foresters, the general public and current and former board members. The resulting report, "Is the current North Carolina Forester Registration Act effective?" was distributed in February 2004 to all Registered Foresters and also placed on our web page at <http://members.aol.com/ncbrf/>.

In 2004 the NC Division of Appalachian Society of American Foresters directed the Licensing and Registration Committee (LRC) to review the report and the existing Forester Registration Act. After discussions and additional input from the full SAF membership in North Carolina, LRC developed a proposal for a new Forester licensing law that addresses many weaknesses in the current law. The proposal and additional information can be found at the SAF website: www.apsaf.org/nc/index.htm, under the Report of the NC Division APSAF Licensing and Registration Committee. The SAF Licensing

and Registration Committee is currently meeting with forestry organizations and interest groups to discuss the proposal.

If adopted, this proposal will affect all Registered Foresters. I recommend that you visit these two websites and provide comments to LRC and other groups involved in the discussion. Specifically, does the proposal build on the strengths of the current Forester Registration Act and correct its weaknesses?

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

NC Registered Forester 471

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 invite all RFs to take advantage of this service.

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.

A Lesson On Escrow Accounts

THE COMPLAINT: Recently a landowner contacted the Board and complained that a Consulting Forester had deducted unauthorized fees from the timber sale receipts. The Board contacted the consultant and discussed the matter. The consultant immediately returned the disputed funds and the landowner dropped the complaint.

THE LESSON: Consulting Foresters commonly maintain escrow (or trust) accounts to handle and distribute monies resulting from forestry activities for their clients. These amounts often include deposits on timber sales and proceeds from unit sales such as thinning or salvage harvests. **REMEMBER THAT THESE FUNDS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE CLIENT AND THE CONSULTANT HAS A FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY HANDLED. A CONSULTANT CANNOT DISBURSE MONIES FROM THE ESCROW ACCOUNT WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION BY THE CLIENT.** Frequently, the client can accomplish this authorization by signing the closing statement.

Social Security Numbers – Privacy Policy

In an effort to protect the privacy of RFs, the Board has revised the manner in which it handles social security numbers. In the past, individuals furnished their SSN when they applied for registration and again on the annual renewal form. Effective immediately, the Board will no longer require RFs to provide their SSN when they renew their registration.

The Board is annually required by General Statute 110-142.1 to furnish the social security number of all Registered Foresters to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division. With the exception of this reporting requirement, the Board does not use or disclose SSNs in any manner to any other parties or agencies (public or private).

New Registrants

Since June 2005, 20 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster. They are:

Jody Andrews	#1566
Robert Drummond	#1567
Jamie L. Dunbar	#1568
Mollie Goodrich	#1569
Laura L. Hayes	#1570
Jason E. Moan	#1571
Andrew Pascarella	#1572
Mary B. Plummer	#1573
Jason C. Chavis	#1574
Blair Bishop	#1575
Daniel Blackburn	#1576
Carolyn Campbell	#1577
Roger J. Hart	#1578
Michael Mann	#1579
Jonathan McCall	#1580
Justin Query	#1581
Cobitt Simmons, Jr.	#1582
V. Paul Dean	#1583
David S. Fort	#1584
Paul Gellerstedt	#1585

Forester Examinations

The most recent examination for registration was given on August 29, 2005 in Morganton. Twenty-five applicants took the examination: four individuals took the Level I exam for non-graduates, while twenty-one individuals took the Level II exam. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Pre-Qualifying (Level I)	0	4
Qualifying (Level II)	11	10

To become registered, all graduates with a forestry degree from a SAF-accredited school must pass the comprehensive Qualifying examination.

Individuals without a forestry degree must pass both the Pre-Qualifying (Level I) and Qualifying (Level II) examinations. The Pre-Qualifying

examination is a closed book exam designed to test the knowledge approximating that obtained through graduation from a four-year curriculum in forestry.

The Board offers both examinations twice a year. The next examinations will be given on February 24, 2006 in Kinston, and August 28, 2006 in Morganton.

Registration By the Numbers

The number of Registered Foresters now totals 968, 14 more than in 2004-2005. Of these Foresters, 926 are active and 42 are retired. The number of Consulting Foresters increased slightly from 261 in 2004-2005 to 269 in 2005-2006. Currently 717 RFs reside in North Carolina while 251 live in other states. There are 432 RFs who are also members of the SAF, of which 79 are SAF Certified Foresters.

Complaints

The Board has taken the following action concerning complaints filed since June:

Kemp DeVile (Seacoast Land & Timber (Leland, NC)

Mr. DeVile is a timber buyer who was representing himself as a "Forester" without being registered. The Board contacted Mr. DeVile and informed him that he was in violation of the Forester Registration Act. The Board demanded that he stop representing himself as a Forester. Mr. DeVile acknowledged the violation and agreed to take corrective action.

CFE Audit Results

The Board completed its second audit of continuing education classes attended by Registered Foresters. The Board selected five CFE courses for audit and cross-referenced the attendance records provided by the course sponsors with the CFE credit reports submitted by RFs at the time of renewal. Once again, there was 100% compliance.

The Board will continue to monitor compliance with CFE credit reporting in an effort to maintain the integrity of the CFE requirement.

Continuing education courses play an important role in helping RFs remain current in forestry training and technology. A wide variety of courses, schedules, and price ranges are currently available to meet the CFE requirement. With a little prudent scheduling, everyone should be able to take relevant courses, and not courses taken at the last minute just to meet the renewal deadline. Remember, these requirements benefit all Registered Foresters and the people they serve. Take it seriously and don't risk disciplinary action by the Board by trying to circumvent the system.

Electronic Mailings

The Board continues to distribute information when possible to Registered Foresters via e-mail rather than postal mailings. By providing the Board with your current e-mail address, the Board can save postage and copying expenses. If you receive a printed version of this newsletter, it means we do not have a current e-mail address for you. Please consider providing the Board with your e-mail address. Your assistance will help the Board reduce its expenses. The dollar we save is yours!

Expired Registrations
(Effective February 1, 2006)

Listed below are the names of 31 individuals whose registrations expired June 30, 2005. Some of these individuals have retired, while others have changed careers, or moved. Some have allowed their registrations to lapse for failing to meet the CFE requirements. These individuals can no longer legally represent themselves as foresters or consulting foresters in North Carolina.

Roy E. Blackwood RF 1518	Statesboro, GA
Robert F. Brake RF 267	West Point, VA
Sterling A. Brothers RF 1494	Tallassee, AL
James L. Buckner RF 716	Thomaston, GA
Samuel B. Craig RF 660	Shelby, NC
Elizabeth S. Crane RF 678	Atlanta, GA
Alfred B. Crouch RF 1421	Rock Hill, SC
Glenn Perry Davis RF 741	Jacksboro, TN
C. Stuart Dudley RF 74	Washington, NC
James T. Ellis RF 28	Black Mountain, NC
Seth D. Gehman RF 1533	Mt. Joy, PA
Boyce L. Harvey RF 330	Oxford, NC
C. Ray Jackson RF 870	Brevard, NC
Robert C. King RF 574	New Bern, NC
Edward A. LeRoy RF 152	Winston-Salem, NC
Roger D. Lynch RF 1535	Macon, NC
Roger J. Lyons RF 819	Chocowinity, NC
Gerald McCall RF 543	Cashiers, NC
Glenn T. McConnell RF 1222	Robbinsville, NC
Robert W. Merritt, Jr. RF 567	Dudley, NC
Marvin Reed RF 1415	Wilson, NC
Jerry R. Roberson RF 291	Williamston, NC
William D. Roberts RF 1165	Magnolia, NC
Deborah H. Robertson RF897	Raleigh, NC
Richard G. Sluss RF 1004	Knoxville, TN
Marshall D. Spain RF 1205	Fayetteville, NC
John W. Stine RF 338	San Augustine, TX
Carson D. Thompson RF 132	Nashville, NC
T. Bennett Wall RF 1477	Greenville, NC
Bradley W. Williams RF 1099	Washington, DC
Edwin J. Young RF 175	Youngsville, NC

Continuing Education Reminder

The Board would like to remind all Registered Foresters of the Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) requirements necessary to maintain their current registration.

Regulations require that every non-retired Registered Forester earn at least 10 hours of CFE per year (6 hours of SAF category 1 and 4 hours of SAF categories 1, 2, 3, or 4) between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. All

retired Foresters wishing to remain on registered status must earn at least 3 credit hours per year. RFs will be required to certify their CFEs when they renew their application. Any CFEs earned prior to July 1, 2005, cannot be used to satisfy the June 30, 2006 requirements.

A copy of the CFE Contact Hours Notice (Category I Hours Only) MUST be submitted with your registration renewal.

The Board posts CFE opportunities on the CFE page of its web site. Please check it.

2006 ASBORF Meeting

The 2006 meeting of Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF) will be held in Columbia, SC on April 27-28, 2006. Board members Mike Thompson (who currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of ASBORF) and Richard Braham (who serves as Vice-Chairman) plan to attend and represent North Carolina.

Board Meeting Schedule

The Board is scheduled to meet once a quarter in January, April, July, and October. Dates of Board meetings are posted on the website. The next Board meeting will be on April 4, 2006 in Asheboro.

The Koch's Corner

I would like to remind you that the renewal period will be here before you know it. Don't forget to keep copies of your CFE contact hour notices for the Category 1 courses you have taken. You will need to send these forms with your renewal information at the end of June.

I am here to serve you, so please do not hesitate to call or email me if I can be of assistance.

Sara Koch