



# RANDOM PLOTS



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

Post Office Box 27393

Raleigh, NC 27611

919-847-5441

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## Editor's Corner

Let me introduce myself as the new editor of the Random Plots Newsletter. I am Steve McKeand (RF # 1246) and have been on the NC State Board of Registration for Foresters since July 1, 2006. I am Professor of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State University and direct the Cooperative Tree Improvement Program, working with forest landowners, forestry companies, and state agencies throughout the Southeast. The Cooperative members are responsible for the large tree improvement programs for loblolly pine and other southern pines in North Carolina and other southern states. I have had the good fortune of working with the Cooperative since 1980. My undergraduate and masters degrees in forestry are from Purdue University, and my PhD is from NC State. You can find out more about me at:

<http://www.cfr.ncsu.edu/for/faculty/mckeand.html>

As the faculty representative to the Board, I am also the Exam Administrator. I've already had the "honor" of giving one exam, and another is coming up soon. If you have suggestion for questions, please send them to me (Steve\_McKeand@ncsu.edu). I want to have a comprehensive list of questions and answers from as many areas of forestry as possible.

I look forward to working with the Board and each of you as Registered Foresters in the coming years.

And now the questions you are all asking ... what happened to Rich Braham and Cliff Lewis. Well, all good things must come to an end. Rich's tenure on the Board ended June 30, 2006, and I replaced him. "Replacing" Rich is a poor word choice, because I do not come

close to possessing his breadth and depth of knowledge of forestry in the region. Fortunately, Rich is only a few steps down the hall and up the stairs, so I will have the benefit of his wisdom as the Exam Administrator. Again, Rich, everyone appreciates all you have done for the Board.

Cliff Lewis's tenure on the Board came to an end this past fall. Cliff was a member of the Board and editor of the Newsletter for over 6 years. I was fortunate to overlap with Cliff for a few months, and I came to appreciate his knowledge of forestry, hard work, humor, and dedication to all Registered Foresters. I have a hard act to follow as the Random Plots Editor. We will miss Cliff on the Board, but I know he will stay active with all of us.

Again, I look forward to working with the Board and all of you as Registered Foresters in the coming years.

Sincerely,

*Steve McKeand*

## Chairman's Corner

Life is full of change, and the Board of Registration for Foresters is not immune to changes. After two terms on the Board, Richard Braham and Cliff Lewis's time on the Board came to an end in 2006. On behalf of the citizens of North Carolina, all North Carolina registered foresters, and the Board, I want to thank Rich and Cliff for their excellent service and dedicated efforts. I want to welcome Steve McKeand and Tommy Tew to the Board, and we look forward to their

continuing the hardworking tradition established by their predecessors.

With the change in people, so come changes in Board assignments. Buddy Tate is our new Secretary-Treasurer. Tommy Tew will take over the challenge of being the lead person handling complaints. Steve McKeand has become the exam administrator and editor of the newsletter. With these changes, the Board will continue to serve you and the citizens to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

*Mike Thompson*

### Meet The Board

Tommy Tew (RF # 1131) is the newest member of the Board, starting in October 2006. Tommy is a graduate of NC State University with BS in Forestry and in Agricultural Economics. He also has a Masters of Forestry from NC State. Tommy worked for the Hardwood Research Cooperative at NCSU for 6 years, then was at the University of Tennessee Forestry Experiment Station in Oak Ridge for 4 years. He is currently Land Manager with Corbett Timber Company in Wilmington.

### First in Forestry License Plate

In recognition of the importance of forestry in North Carolina, and the State's status as the birthplace of professional forestry in the United States, the N.C. General Assembly has approved a special "First in Forestry" license plate. \$10 of the \$30 fee collected for each plate will go toward forestry education programs in the state. A customized plate (registration #, special wording, etc.) can be purchased for an additional \$30. (Total cost would be \$60). Please go to the NC Division of Forest Resources web site (<http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/>) and click on the hot topic link or call Dianne Beasley at 919-733-2162, Ext. 203 to purchase one of the first

300 plates made available to the public. Dianne has to have 300 applications before DMV will begin making the plates. It's a great way to put "Forestry" on the road! So go to the web site or call Dianne today.

### New Registrants

Since June 2006, 16 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster. They are:

Donald Hendrix 1590	Christian Neggers 1598
D. Matthew Johnson 1591	Phillip O. Wallace II 1599
Caleb Y. Jones 1592	Scotty Comer 1600
R. Craig McClure 1593	Christopher Crum 1601
Joseph P. Roise 1594	Richard Hollis 1602
K. Brian Short 1595	John W. Little 1603
Matthew Armstrong 1596	Kirk A. Richardson 1604
William Blakenship 1597	Edward F. Travis 1605

### Forester Examinations

The most recent examination for registration was given on August 28, 2006 in Morganton. Fifteen applicants took the examination: one individual took the Level I exam for non-graduates, while 14 individuals took the Level II exam. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Pre-Qualifying (Level I)	0	1
Qualifying (Level II)	6	8

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 examination will be offered February 22, 2007 at the Pitt County Center in Greenville, NC. The summer exam will be August 27, 2007, Burke County Ag. Building, Morganton, NC

## **Registration By the Numbers**

The number of Registered Foresters now totals 975 (7 more than in 2005-2006). Of these Foresters, 938 are active and 37 are retired. The number of Consulting Foresters decreased slightly: 266 RFs filed affidavits with the Board to qualify as Consulting Foresters (3 less than in 2005-2006). There are 719 RFs residing in North Carolina while 256 live in other states. There are 434 RFs who are also members of the SAF, of which 80 are SAF Certified Foresters.

## **Complaints**

The Board has taken the following action concerning complaints filed since June, 2006:

Kenneth A. Knox (Hendersonville, NC)

While conducting business as "The Tree Doctor, Inc.", Mr. Knox represented himself as a registered forester on his web site. Mr. Knox's forestry registration had expired in 1999. The Board notified Mr. Knox that he was in violation of the Forester Registration Act and requested that he stop representing himself as a forester. Mr. Knox acknowledged the error and took the appropriate corrective action.

Frank G. Varvoutis (Asheville, NC)

Mr. Varvoutis, conducting business as "Hemlock Healers, Inc." has represented himself as a forester on his web site. The Board has notified Mr. Varvoutis that he is in violation of the Forestry Registration Act and requested the he stop representing himself as a forester. Mr. Varvoutis has been given thirty days to correct the situation before the Board initiates legal action.

The Board has also investigated one inquiry and one complaint since June, neither of which were deemed violations requiring Board action.

## **CFE Audit Results**

The Board completed its third 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.

## **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 SAF category 1, & 4 SAF categories 1, 2, 3, or 4), between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. 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, 2006, cannot be used to satisfy the June 30, 2007 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 the its web site. Please check it.

### **Expired Registrations** **(Effective February 1, 2007)**

Listed below are the names of 19 individuals whose registrations expired June 30, 2006. 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.

John M. Barlow 1390  
Joseph B. Bernard 327  
Rodney B. Buchanan 1437  
Thomas W. Haene 257  
Robert D. Hamilton 1066  
D. Lester Holley, Jr. 1259  
Johnny R. Hooks 301  
Paul Douglas Hylton 215  
Donald J. Kass 920  
Andrew Pascarella 1572  
Thomas W. Patton, Sr. 509  
Roger E. Sauerborn 436  
Timothy R. Shay 658  
Joshua P. Skidmore 1537  
George E. Smith 20  
Blake H. Stansell 1487  
Max H. Steelman 559  
Fred M. White 4  
Rachel C. Wood 1074

### **Electronic Mailings**

***The Board wants to strongly encourage all Registered Foresters to receive Newsletters and all other information via e-mail rather postal mailings.*** By providing the Board with your current e-mail address, the Board can save postage and copying expenses. 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!

### **2007 ASBORF Meeting**

The next meeting of the Association of Southern Boards of Registration for Foresters will be June 7 & 8 in Choctaw, MS. Mike Thompson is the current ASBORF chair and will be attending the meeting. If you have issues or suggestions for Mike on regional matters such as reciprocal registration agreements with other states, please let him know.

### **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 19, 2007 (location yet to be determined).

### **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.