



RANDOM PLOTS



NEWSLETTER
of the
NC STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS
Post Office Box 27393
Raleigh, NC 27611
919-847-5441

No. 53

May 2008

Annual Renewal Fee Notice

Your current registration expires on June 30, 2008. To renew your registration, please complete the attached renewal form and CFE Activity Report and remit the annual renewal fee of **\$40.00. Checks should be made payable to "State Board of Registration for Foresters"**. Please **DO NOT** send cash. The Board must receive your registration renewal **NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2008.**

Failure to submit your renewal form will result in the suspension of your registration.

Continuing Education Requirements

Registered Foresters who do not have "retired" status must obtain **at least 10 hours of CEs per year**. At least six CE credits must be SAF Category 1. The remaining four credits can be SAF Category 1, 2, 3, or 4. These credits must be earned during the fiscal year July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. Retired foresters who want to remain registered must obtain at least 3 credit hours per year. **RFs are required to submit their CE credits when they renew their registration.** Any CEs earned prior to July 1, 2007 cannot be used toward the June 30, 2008 requirements.

Failure to obtain the necessary credit hours will result in loss of your registration until the required hours are satisfied. A late fee of \$3.25/month (maximum of \$40.00) will also be assessed for renewal. There is no time limit on this obligation. However, the RF has the option to become "re-registered" by submitting a new

application for registration, and passing the registration exam(s).

CFE Activity Report

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. ***You must attach a copy of the CFE Certificates for all Category 1 Hours*** for each Continuing Education course you attended. CFE Certificates are **NOT** required for CFEs credits earned in Categories 2, 3, or 4. You must retain copies of all documentation for a period of two years in the event of an AUDIT by the Board.

Please do not send information unless you have all of your CFEs. CFE credit reports should **ONLY** be submitted with your registration renewal. Please do not send them individually.

Those Registered Foresters still needing CE credit hours may wish to check the Board website (<http://ncbrf.org/>) for more information on programs being offered. Additional links with information on available programs throughout the South are also listed on the site.

Registration Renewal and CFE Activity Report forms are also available at the website (<http://ncbrf.org/renew.htm>).

Continuing Education Changes for FY 08-09

As most of you know, SAF has made changes in their CFE standards and guidelines. The SAF Council asked the Certification Review Board (CRB) to oversee this process. Mike Thompson, former NC Board of Registration for Foresters member and chairman, represented NC's Board and acted as the representative for the Association of Southern Boards of Registration for Foresters [ASBORF]. The CRB finalized and approved a new CFE Handbook on January 2, 2008. A copy of this can be found on the SAF website at www.safnet.org.

SAF's newspaper, "The Forestry Source" has had two recent articles about this topic. In the February edition, on page 9, Louise Murgia provides a summary of the changes and indicated that the CRB hopes to have these changes implemented by December 31, 2008. The April edition of "The Forestry Source", on page 11, outlined information on the new CFE standards that "providers" of continuing education programs should follow.

The biggest change in the CFE standards is the revision of CFE "categories". The old standard included categories 1 through 6. The new standard only has categories 1 through 3. This is explained in the February article noted above. To learn more about these new standards read the articles mentioned above or contact Louise Murgia, SAF Director of Field Services, at murgial@safnet.org.

As mentioned in the previous "Random Plots" newsletter, the NC Board of Registration for Foresters only requires continuing education (CFE) for registered foresters. The Board is NOT a CFE provider, and the Board does NOT determine or approve the category of CFEs. This function is handled (in NC) by the Appalachian SAF, or ApSAF. The NC Division contact for CFEs is currently Ed Pomeroy. You can reach him at eepomero@gapac.com or by phone at 919-878-2400, ext. 103.

Since these CFE changes will not be fully implemented by SAF until December 2008, the Board will implement the CFE changes effective July 1, 2009. Some rule changes will be needed, since the new CFE Category 3 includes the old Category 6, which is not acceptable under the existing administrative rules.

Chairman's Corner

It's a busy time of year for me here at NC State. The spring semester is winding down and semester projects are being graded and final grades submitted, my annual report for the Tree Improvement Program was due last week, and travel and meetings are non-stop for the next several weeks, and I suspect I would get no sympathy from any of you with my whining. It seems that we are all ridiculously busy these days. Whether you are a Service Forester with the NC Division of Forest Resources, a consultant, a company forester, or a lowly professor at a college, I've never seen people working so hard for so long.

Why do I bring this up? Despite how busy we are, we still have obligations to serve our forestry community. Whether it's active membership in SAF, working with Scout groups on the weekend, participating in educational tours and field days with school groups, or even volunteering to serve on the Board of Registration for Foresters, the citizens of North Carolina and the region deserve our service and expertise. Who else is better qualified than we to be the spokespersons for stewardship and management of our forest resources? If not us, then who? I'm not sure we like the answer to this question, so most of us choose to do what we can to spread the word about the importance and value of good forestry.

Keep up the good work and maintain that volunteer and service ethic that is fundamental to our profession.

Steve McKeand, RF # 1246

Editor's Corner

The Rules We Live By!

The Board has recently been asked for an electronic copy of the database list of registered foresters, and we have provided it because of the public records law.

This database and other records in the possession of the Board are considered "public records" and are considered to be the "property of the people". A public record is defined as "all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, . . . electronic data-processing records, . . . or other documentary material, . . . made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions" (GS 132-1). The word "agency" includes every public office, institution, department, commission, council, board, or other unit of government.

Fortunately, this law does not include the release of social security numbers and other "identifying information" as defined in GS 132-1.10 (b). So, the Board is obligated to provide public information when requested, but we will insure that no identifying information is released.

Larry J. Such, RF # 623

New Registrants

Since March 2008, 9 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster:

Christopher Brockenfelt	1625
Carolyn Dawson	1626
David T. Foil	1627
Vance L. Garren	1628
William T. Godwin	1629
William B. Summer	1630
Sara Ellis Thompson	1631
Duane K. Truslow	1632
Cierra L. Ward	1633
Sally Thigpen	1634

Forester Examinations

The most recent examination for registration was given on February 13, 2008, in Greenville. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Qualifying (Level I)	0	2
Qualifying (Level II)	10	11

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 a 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 on August 25, 2008, in Morganton, NC.**

2007 ASBORF Meeting

The 2008 annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF) will be held June 12-13 in Asheville, NC. Since NC is hosting this event, all NC Board members will attend the meeting. Some of the issues already on the agenda include reciprocity and forester testing. If you have issues or suggestions related to reciprocity agreements or other regional matters, please contact Steve or me. A more detailed report will be given in the next newsletter.

CFE Audit

The Board will continue to audit continuing education classes attended by registered foresters. The Board cross-references the CFE credit sheets submitted with registration renewals with the attendance records provided by the course administrators. A minimum of five courses is selected each renewal period. Past audits have not revealed any discrepancies.

Board Meeting Schedule

The Board is changing its meeting schedule to better coincide with exam results. This year, the Board met on March 4th, less than three weeks after the exam was given on February 13th. This provided exam takers with more timely notice of the exam results and allowed the Board to award RF numbers with minimal delay. Dates of Board meetings are posted on the website. The last Board meeting was held May 15th in St. Pauls.

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.

As a reminder, effective June 1, 2007 the **Board's email and web address are:**

Email: info@ncbrf.org

Web site: <http://ncbrf.org/>

The Board welcomes any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding the administration of the registration law. If the Board or its members can be of assistance, please contact them directly or through the Board office.