



RANDOM PLOTS



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

No. 55

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Annual Renewal Fee Notice

Your current registration expires on June 30, 2009. 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, 2009**.

Failure to submit your renewal form will result in the suspension of your registration. (This means you cannot represent yourself as a Forester in NC if your registration has lapsed.)

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, 2008-June 30, 2009. 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, 2008 cannot be used toward the June 30, 2009 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 this 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.

One opportunity to get CFEs this year is to attend the NC-SAF meeting in Wilmington this summer. It is scheduled for June 11-12, 2009 in Wilmington. For more information go to: <http://www.safnet.org/meetings/othermeetings>

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. The CRB intended to have these changes implemented by December 31, 2008.

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. Since these CFE changes were not fully implemented by SAF until December 2008, the Board decided to 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.

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.

Chairman's Corner

Registered Foresters in North Carolina are governed by General Statute 89B: http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_89B.html that can only be changed by legislative action. In addition to Statute 89B, there are administrative rules that also apply and can be found at:

<http://ncrules.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2020%20-%20foresters/chapter%2020%20rules.html>

As most of you know, over the last few years, both the North Carolina Forestry Association and the North Carolina Division of Appalachian Society of American Foresters have considered promoting changes to the statute. This has been a long and sometimes contentious debate focused primarily on changing the law from a "title act" to a "practicing act". As we have publicly stated, the Board "will take no position on proposed law changes and will follow whatever laws and rules are in effect." (see January 2009, Random Plots Newsletter). In discussion with representatives from NCFCA and SAF, it appears that no legislative action will occur any time soon.

After many months of deliberation, the Board has decided to initiate changes in the rules. For the Board to carry out the RF law, we feel that several rules need to be amended and adopted. For example, we have limited flexibility to grant exemptions for military personnel who are deployed overseas, and rules to allow for such hardship exemptions for CFE requirements are needed. Other rules regarding CFEs, examinations, reciprocity agreements, and acceptable forestry degrees are under consideration. The procedure for making/changing rules is very specific. You can learn about it by reading a copy of The Administrative Procedures Act, GS 150B (see <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/Statutes/StatutesT>

[OC.pl?Chapter=0150B](#) for details). We are working closely with the staff of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Rules Division, to better understand the process for rule making. Draft changes, public notices and further information will be forthcoming.

Steve McKean, RF # 1246

Editor's Corner

News Items Affecting Foresters in NC!

The NC Department of Agriculture, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division [SPCPD], recently sent letters, dated February 25, 2009, to consulting foresters in NC informing them that they cannot make pesticide application recommendations and charge a fee without being licensed as a **"Pest Control Consultant"** [as defined in GS 143-460 (27)].

It seems that several consulting foresters were making specific pesticide recommendations in their reforestation management plans and charging for this service, but they did not have the proper license to do so.

Developers of management plans that do not include specific pesticide application recommendations are not required to get a Pest Control license. A Pest Control Consultant's license is not required if the party who develops the plan is also the one who will make the pesticide application, provided this person is licensed as a commercial applicator in the Forestry Pest Control category. In this case, the reforestation management plan is considered part of the applicator's estimate for the application.

For more information on this or to get answers to your questions, contact SPCPD at 919-733-3556 or go online at <http://www.ncagr.com/SPCAP/>

On a different topic, the NC Division of Forest Resources [DFR] is leading an effort to complete a **Statewide Forest Assessment** which is required in the amended Cooperative Forestry

Assistance Act (CFAA) and enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill, to satisfy the recent requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill.

To ensure that federal and state resources are being focused on important landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared management priorities and achieve measurable outcomes, each state and territory will work collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders to develop a statewide forest assessment which will focus on three national themes: Conserve Working Forest Lands; Protect Forests From Harm; and Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests.

A project this large requires cooperation with partners and stakeholders, and DFR has enlisted the help of NCSU Forestry Extension and others to assist with this effort. Much more information is available on a special website for this project at: <http://www.ncforestassessment.com/>

Finally, the **2008 Farm Bill** contains some new incentives for non-industrial private forest landowners, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP] and other programs. Some of these programs should be available soon, but landowners and forest managers can contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) and / or the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), if they are interested in participating in any of these programs. Below is the phone number for the main office in Raleigh as well as the website to obtain additional information.

NRCS: 919-873-2100 www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov

FSA: (919) 875 – 4800 www.fsa.usda.gov/nc

There is a good article in the April edition of the "Treeline" newsletter, produced by NCFR, that describes the application process and eligibility criteria that landowners and their agents need to understand.

Larry J. Such, RF # 623

New Registrants

Since December '08, 3 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster and one forester was reinstated:

George Clay Creed	1655
Ben Moore	1656
Laura Hendricks	1657
Benjamin Ardrey	1658

Charles Daniels was reinstated with RF#620

Forester Examinations

The most recent examination for registration was given on January 29, 2009 in Greenville. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Qualifying (Level I)	2	1
Qualifying (Level II)	6	4

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 24, 2009, in Morganton, NC.**

Enforcement Action

The Board receives and reviews many complaints each year. Most of these complaints are related to the illegal use of the term “forester” or “professional forestry services”. The Board sends warning letters to each person determined to be in violation of the law.

On March 23rd, the Board held a hearing as result of a complaint filed against David McGrew, RF#1093, on the charge of misappropriation of escrow funds. Prior to the hearing the Board learned that Mr. McGrew had been found guilty

of embezzlement and sentenced to 60 months of supervised probation.

Mr. McGrew attended the hearing to respond to the complaint and met with the Board. The Board found that Mr. McGrew was in violation of Canons 5 and 7 of the Code of Ethics. After the facts were established, the Board deliberated and voted to suspend Mr. McGrew’s registration for the period of his probation.

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.

Board Meeting Schedule

The Board changed its meeting schedule to better coincide with exam results. This provided exam takers with more timely notice of the exam results and allows the Board to award RF numbers with minimal delay. Dates of Board meetings are posted on the website.

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.

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.