



# RANDOM PLOTS



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

No. 56

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January 2010

*Happy New Year*

### Chairman's Corner

In the last newsletter, we let you know that the Board has started the process of making rules changes. Not too surprisingly, this has taken longer than any of us expected, but we want to make sure we get it right.

For the Board to carry out the RF law, we feel that several rules need to be amended and adopted (see the next section for an example concerning military personnel). Other rules regarding CFEs, examinations, reciprocity agreements, and acceptable forestry degrees also need to be amended. The procedure for making/changing rules is very specific. (see <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/Statutes/StatutesT OC.pl?Chapter=0150B> for details). We will start the formal process of initiating the rules changes in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for the announcement.

*Steve McKeand, RF # 1246*

### 2009 Legislative Session Impacts to RFs

During this past legislative session, the General Assembly passed several laws and/or law revisions that affect registered foresters or forestry. Of particular interest is House Bill 1411, which revised G.S. 93B-15 - Payment of license fees by members of the armed forces; board waiver rules. This bill, which was ratified on July 30, 2009, added a new section. The new language reads, "Occupational licensing boards shall adopt rules to postpone or waive continuing education, payment of renewal and other fees, and any other requirements or conditions relating to the maintenance of licensure by an individual who is currently licensed by and in

good standing with the board, is serving in the armed forces of the United States, and to whom G.S. 105-249.2 grants an extension of time to file a tax return." The Board is working on rule revisions that will address this issue.

Another law of note is Senate Bill 990, the revision of G.S. 14-135 - Cutting, injuring or removing another's timber. This law, which becomes effective December 1, 2009, will increase the penalty from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class H felony any timber damage or theft in excess of \$1000.

Finally, due to budget reductions, the legislature revised the funding of the Forest Development Program [FDP] by repealing G.S. 113A-19(c) - (e). This eliminated the appropriated funding, but allowed the program to continue to operate using the assessment on forest products paid by forest industry. This effectively reduced the available funds of the program by about 30%.

A more complete summary of legislative activity can be found in the September issue of "Treeline", the newsletter of the North Carolina Forestry Association.

### Stan Adams Memorial

Stanford M. Adams, RF# 877 and NC's seventh State Forester passed away December 10<sup>th</sup>. He was 74 years old. Stan graduated from NC State University with a BS in Forest Management in 1957. His forestry career started with the US Forest Service where he served in various positions in the South and in Washington, DC. He returned to the family farm in Four Oaks and accepted the

position of State Forester in 1991. He served in that capacity until 2006.

Stan was active in many forestry and civic organizations and held leadership positions in most of them. He was an active member of the Izaak Walton League of America for 30 years, serving in many capacities, including national president. He was also active in the National Association of State Foresters and the Southern Group of State Foresters and served as president of both associations.

Other memberships include Society of American Foresters, American Forestry Association, North Carolina Forestry Association, Forest Landowners Association, Public Relations Society of America, and the North Carolina Forestry Foundation.

Stan served the forestry profession with distinction and was recognized throughout his career with many awards, including Distinguished Alumni Award from N.C. State University, Distinguished Service to Forestry Award by the Appalachian Society of American Foresters, Society of American Foresters Fellows Award, Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of State Foresters, U.S. Forest Service Golden Smokey Award, NC Forestry Association Outstanding Service Award, and North Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year. He also received the prestigious Governor's Order of the Longleaf Pine.

Stan was also a veteran who served his country admirably in the US Navy, on active duty as well as in the reserve. He retired from the Navy in 1988 with rank of Captain.

#### **New Registrants**

Since May 2009, 7 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster. They are:

- J. Benjamin Ardrey . . . . .RF# 1658
- James Caddy . . . . .RF# 1659
- William Cipriani, Jr. . . . . RF# 1660
- Heath Corley . . . . .RF# 1661
- Corey L. Klamut . . . . . RF# 1662
- Thomas McGowen III . . . . . RF# 1663

- William P. Whalen . . . . . RF# 1664
- Harry A. Keating IV (A.J.). . . RF# 1665
- Korey W. Meadows . . . . . RF# 1666
- Travis D. Perry . . . . .RF# 1667
- W. Neel Weaver . . . . . RF# 1668
- Lucas T. Tuschak . . . . . RF# 1669

#### **Forester Examinations**

The most recent examination for registration was given on August 24, 2009 in Morganton. Twelve applicants took the examination: two individuals took the Level I exam for candidates who do not possess a forestry degree from an SAF-accredited program; while ten candidates took the Level II exam. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Pre-Qualifying (Level I)	1	1
Qualifying (Level II)	10	3

This was a 77% passing rate for the Level II exam, and the "average" passing grade was 70.1%.

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

Individuals without a SAF-accredited 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 Thursday, February 11, 2010 at the Pitt County Agricultural Center in Greenville, NC. The summer exam will be Monday, August 23, 2010, at the Burke County Ag. Building in Morganton, NC

#### **Registered Forester Exam Preparation Course** **Offered by FEOP**

The Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program (FEOP) at NC State University offered an exam review sessions for the NCBRF exam. The session was January 21 – 22, 2010 in Jordan Hall on the NCSU campus. Details are at: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/NCRF/exam\\_prep.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/NCRF/exam_prep.html). The following is from the FEOP website:

“These review and exam prep sessions were developed by North Carolina State University's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program in cooperation with the NC Division of Forest Resources, NC State University Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, and NCSU Cooperative Extension Forestry. Limited guidance for the sessions was provided by the North Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters (NCBRF).

The required, formal Registration Exam that leads to the NC Registered Forester credential is meant to be a rigorous measure of the applicant's practical and theoretical knowledge of professional, applied forestry. The review and exam prep sessions cannot, and will not, attempt to "teach" forestry. Rather, they review the critical areas of mensuration, management, silviculture, dendrology, silvics/physiology, genetics, soils, economics, entomology, pathology, fire, and aerial photography which will be present on the Registration Exam.

The format for the sessions will be relaxed, but focused. Each day will cover a different set of topics. The information will be shared through a combination of lecture, discussion, classroom exercises and self-study assignments. Each day's session is limited to 30 participants. In the case of a waiting list, first consideration will be given to those who have applied to take the upcoming NCRF Qualifying Exam.”

Please help spread the word about this session and future prep courses offered by FEOP.

### Registration by the Numbers

The number of Registered Foresters now totals 965 (5 more than in 2008-2009). The number of Consulting Foresters increased slightly, from 290 in 08-09, to 295 this year. RFs filed affidavits with the Board to qualify as Consulting Foresters. There are 716 RFs residing in North Carolina while 249 live in other states. There are 450 RFs who are also members of the SAF, of which 85 are SAF Certified Foresters.

A look back over the past eight years shows some interesting changes. Although you may expect to see a gradual increase in the number of RFs and CFs over time, there are some annual fluctuations. And, there are fewer RFs now than there were in FY 01-02, and more CFs now than there were in FY 01-02. Note that CFs refers to "consulting foresters":

<u>Year</u>	<u>#RFs</u>	<u>#CFs</u>	<u>Out of State CFs</u>
01/02	957	266	244
02/03	967	253	244
03/04	959	255	245
04/05	954	261	239
05/06	968	269	251
06/07	975	266	256
07/08	976	289	261
08/09	960	290	257

### Complaints

The Board handles about two to three complaints per quarter, and many of them are from registered foresters. The processing of some of these is delayed because the complaint is not submitted properly. As a reminder about the procedure for filing a complaint with the Board, if you wish to file a complaint about a Registered Forester or someone representing themselves as a Registered Forester you will need to send a letter to the Board's address which fully documents the complaint. **The letter must be signed and it must be notarized.** This is posted on the Board's website at <http://www.ncbrf.org/complaint.htm>.

Ray Bratcher (Goldsboro, NC)

The Board received a complaint about Mr. Bratcher representing himself as a forester when he is not a RF. The Board has mailed him a letter that was never received. The Board is still in the process of contacting Mr. Bratcher to discuss this issue with him.

The Board requests that all RFs be alert to violations of the registration law and report any infractions to the Board. The Board can only take action when a complaint is filed.

### **Disciplinary Action**

In March 2009, the Board held a hearing on a complaint filed against Mr. McGrew [RF# 1093] for misappropriation of escrow funds. After reviewing all the facts of the case, the Board found that Mr. McGrew was in violation of Canons 5 and 7 of the Code of Ethics. The Board ruled to suspend Mr. McGrew's registration for the period of his probation, provided he met all the conditions of his probation.

At the September meeting of the Board, the case of Dave McGrew was revisited. The Board learned that Mr. McGrew violated his probation. Since he did not meet the conditions of his registration suspension, the Board voted unanimously to revoke his registration.

### **CFE Audit Results**

The Board completed its annual 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 Reminder**

The fiscal year is now half over and the Board would like to remind all Registered Foresters of the Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) requirements necessary to maintain their current registration.

Current rules require that every non-retired Registered Forester earn at least 10 hours of CFE per year (6 of these need to be SAF category 1). All retired foresters wishing to maintain their registration must earn at least 3 credit hours per year.

Failure to obtain the necessary credit hours will result in the Board's refusal to renew the RF's registration until the required hours are "made up", at the rate of 10 CE's per year missed. A late fee of \$3.25/month will also be assessed for renewal. There is no time limit on this obligation. However, the RF will have the option to become "Re-registered" by submitting a new application for registration, and passing the Forester's exam(s).

The Board posts CFE opportunities on the CFE page of its web site. Some examples of CFE opportunities include NCSU's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program [FEOP] webinars or teleconference series which typically provide 3 hours each of Category 1 credits.

There are also opportunities through SAF chapter meetings as well as the APSAF meetings.

Continuing education courses play an important role in helping RFs remain current in forestry training and technology. 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 we serve.

### **Electronic Mailings**

In an ongoing effort to minimize costs, the Board is encouraging all RFs to make better use of email and the internet. This year there was an extra effort to get more RFs to utilize the on-line forms

for registration renewals. Newsletters have been and will continue to be emailed to save paper and postage. The Board is also encouraging users of the 2009-2010 Roster of Registered Foresters to get their information from the website. This will greatly reduce printing and mailing costs. However, if someone requests a paper copy, then the Board will provide it.

***The Board wants to strongly encourage all Registered Foresters to receive this Newsletter 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 printing expenses. If you receive a printed version of this newsletter, it means the Board does not have a current e-mail address for you. Please consider providing the Board with your e-mail address and be sure to let us know when your e-mail address changes (send updates to [info@ncbrf.org](mailto:info@ncbrf.org)). Your assistance will help the Board reduce its expenses. The dollar we save is yours!

#### **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://www.ncbrf.org>

***E-mail address: [info@ncbrf.org](mailto:info@ncbrf.org)***

We invite all RFs to take advantage of the information and forms available on the website.

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.