



RANDOM PLOTS



NEWSLETTER

of the

N. C. STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

Post Office Box 27393

Raleigh, NC 27611

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Happy New Year

Chairman's Corner

2010 was a busy and productive year for the Board of Registration for Foresters. The biggest accomplishment was the revision of the rules that became effective August 1, 2010 and September 1, 2010. Below are the highlights of the most significant changes, but be sure to familiarize yourself with all the rules:

21 NCAC 20 .0103 QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

Education Requirements to sit for the Level 2 exam - we now follow the SAF education requirements used to become a Certified Forester

<http://www.safnet.org/certifiedforester/become/eligibility.cfm>

21 NCAC 20 .0104 EXAMINATIONS

Clarification of the Level 1 and Level 2 exams - The Level 2 exam is for graduates of SAF accredited 4-year forestry programs or for those meeting the SAF education requirements used to become a Certified Forester. The Level 1 exam is for all others who do not meet the requirements to take the Level 2 exam. Here is the verbiage:

(a) The comprehensive written exam required by G.S. 89B-9(a)(1), called a Level 2 examination, focuses on the practice of forestry in North Carolina and shall be offered twice annually. There is no limit to the number of times that an applicant may attempt the examination.

(b) For applicants not meeting the education requirements in G.S. 89B-9(a)(1), a comprehensive written exam, called the Level 1 examination is required. The exam tests the applicants' knowledge of forestry approximating that obtained through graduation from a four-year curriculum in forestry and focuses on the

practice of forestry in North Carolina. The exam shall be offered twice annually. There is no limit to the number of times that an applicant may attempt the examination.

Note that the previous policy for "non-graduates of forestry programs" to first pass the Level 1 exam prior to taking the Level 2 exam is no longer in effect.

21 NCAC 20 .0106 REGISTRATION FEES and 21 NCAC 20 .0123 CONTINUING EDUCATION

Clarification of exemptions for hardship cases

21 NCAC 20 .0115 CODE OF ETHICS

Updated and modified

21 NCAC 20 .0117 RECIPROCITY

Clarification for non-residents of North Carolina

Although the following was not a rules change, it is a policy change. A memorandum from the Attorney General states that: NCGS 89B-9(a)(2)'s two requirements ((1) passage of an exam and (2) six plus years of forestry experience) are not, necessarily, dependent upon each other, yet the Board may impose a six-year experience prerequisite for taking the exam under its policy-making authority.

The Board voted 3-2 that passage of the exam and the 6-years of forestry experience are independent, and an individual may take the Level 1 exam at any time.

For those interested, click [here](#) to view the Registered Forester statute (Chapter 89B). The official posting of our rules (CHAPTER 20 – BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS) are also available (click [here](#) for rules).

We appreciate the input that many of you provided, and the Board looks forward to your continued support.

Steve McKeand, RF # 1246

The Financial Position of the Board

The Board must operate solely on collected fees. It receives no appropriated funding from the legislature. The Board received an audit for the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2010. The audit was conducted by certified public accountants of Boyce, Furr & Company, LLP and a report was provided to the Board on September 17, 2010. The report stated that operating revenues decreased by 3.3% due to fewer RF renewals, and that operating expenses also decreased by 3.8% due to reduced printing expenses. Overall, the report was favorable and indicated that the financial position of the Board was "in conformity with accounting principles".

The Board continues to look for ways to minimize costs. This will insure that the Board can continue to operate within the existing fee structure. One of the most effective cost saving measures has been in the increased use of email which has reduced postage expenses. Another cost saving has been the reduction in printing the Roster of Registered Foresters. Printed copies of the Roster have been costing about \$5.50 each. To save printing costs this publication can be downloaded or viewed on-line at http://www.ncbrf.org/NCBRF_ROSTER_2010.pdf. However, if a printed copy is needed, please contact the Board.

New Registrants

Since May 2010, 11 new Registered Foresters have been added to the roster. They are:

Donald W. Eaddy. RF# 1682
Keith R. Snead RF# 1683
Michael Sweat RF# 1684
Dolon M. Blake RF# 1685
Jeffrey A. Boothby RF# 1686
Nathan Gatlin RF# 1687
Brian Reinhart RF# 1688
Jason Rountree RF# 1689
David Schnake RF# 1690
Shawn Swartz RF# 1691
Tom Lassiter RF# 1692

Forester Examinations

The most recent examination for registration was given on August 23, 2010 in Morganton. Thirteen applicants took the examination. Four individuals took the Level I exam for non-graduates, while nine candidates took the Level II exam. The results are provided below:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Level 1 Exam	2	2
Level 2 Exam	7	2

The Level 1 exam is for those applicants who do not meet the educational requirements of the law, while the Level 2 exam is for those applicants who meet the educational requirements of G.S. 89B-9(a)(1). See details at: <http://www.ncbrf.org/apply.htm>

The Board offers both examinations twice a year. The next examination will be offered Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Pitt County Agricultural Center in Greenville, NC. The summer exam will be Monday, August 22, 2011, Burke County Ag. Building, Morganton, NC. Please check the Board's website (<http://www.ncbrf.org/>) for more information on taking the exam.

Registered Forester Exam Preparation Course Offered by FEOP

The Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program (FEOP) at NC State University will offer exam review sessions for the NCBRF exam. Details on the review sessions are at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/NCRF/index.html>

Please help spread the word about these sessions and future prep courses offered by FEOP.

Registration By the Numbers

The number of Registered Foresters now totals 953. Two hundred and eight nine of those are Consulting Foresters.

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 handled properly. As a reminder, 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 procedure is posted on the Board's website at (<http://www.ncbrf.org/complaint.htm>).

CFE Audit Results

The Board completed its fifth 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 we 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.

Current rules require that every non-retired Registered Forester earn at least 10 hours of CFEs per year between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. 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, 2010, cannot be used to satisfy the June 30, 2011 requirements.

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 CFE'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] teleconference series which typically provide 3 hours of Category 1 credits. Visit the website <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/programs.html> for more learning opportunities. There are also opportunities through SAF chapter meetings as well as the upcoming APSAF winter meeting in Charleston, SC, January 26-28, 2011.

These are just a few options available with half of the fiscal year remaining. Don't wait until June to start looking for CFEs!

CFE Changes for FY 10-11

Please review the new rules on continuing education [21 NCAC 20.0123], which are available on the Board's website at: <http://www.ncbrf.org/laws.htm>. CFEs must be SAF categories 1, 2, or 3, with at least six being from Category 1. Another change is that the Board can now grant exemptions from this requirement for "military deployment, extended illness or other circumstances that prevent the Registered Forester from obtaining the required CFEs". To obtain an exemption the RF must request it in writing to the Board and explain the reason for requesting this exemption.

Expired Registrations
(Effective January 1, 2011)

Listed below are the names of 32 individuals whose registrations expired June 30, 2010. 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.

Andrew Baker	Ronnie Hewlette
William Blake, Jr.	Alexander Johnson
Ernest Bryan, R.	Robert King
Charles Bush, III	Timothy Kirven
William Conrad	Robert Larsh
Stephen Conger	Edward Liverman
Henry Cunningham	Brian Long
Ronald Dickson	A.P. Mustian, Jr.
Paul Dunagan	John Palmer
Joseph Ellen	Allyson Peeler
Wilson Faquin	Timothy Seelman
Robert Folk, III	Jesse Swanner
Barry D. Fulcher	Stephen Tucker
Vance Garren	William Vaughan
Jonathan Gibbs	John Wilson
Steven Grindley	

Electronic Mailings

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. 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.ncbfr.org>

E-mail address info@ncbfr.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.