



R A N D O M P L O T S

NEWSLETTER
of the
STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

No. 73

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PAST CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS



It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of our Board for the last three years. During this time we have faced many challenges that none of us

would have foreseen prior to that time. Foremost among those was the pandemic and the problems obtaining continuing forestry education credits (CFE's) amid decreased in-person courses. Secondly, delays in the receipt of mail created a backlog of those awaiting confirmation of their renewal.

In response to limited CFE opportunities the board hosted an online webinar with CFE's attached. That was a first to our knowledge and was repeated last year with plans to offer more of these in the future. The intent was to provide a tangible product to our membership. These courses were well received with close to 200 individuals utilizing this service.

To decrease the amount of mail received we have implemented an online registration portal that was rolled out last renewal period. Our goal was to provide a system in line with those offered by other institutions in today's climate. After examining multiple systems and through the diligence of our staff we arrived at the current system that allowed us to offer you the ability renew online.

Throughout all this time we have continued to proctor and evaluate exams on a regular schedule and have continued the meetings of the board unabated by shifting to virtual meetings where necessary. Significant focus has also been given to evaluating exams and ensuring that our exam remains challenging yet fair.

The board has also continued to be active in the Association of Southern Boards of Registration for Foresters by hosting this year's meeting in Asheville. By remaining active in this organization, we have not only been able to stay abreast of issues facing other state boards but also have been able to evaluate our program against what other states are doing. This has allowed us to keep strong reciprocity agreements with other southern states.

In closing, as the chairmanship passes into the able hands of Cierra Ward, I will share a quote used in the opening of our last meeting. "We cannot hold a torch to light another's way without brightening our own". I appreciate the honor of serving on your board and look forward to serving you in the future.

Yours in forestry,

James N. Slye, RF

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS



Greetings, Registered Foresters! My name is Cierra Ward, RF and I am the NC Forestry Manager for RMS. I was appointed to the Board in 2019 and look forward to serving as Chair for the next few years.

The NCBRF is made up of 5 Governor-appointed members and a hired Executive Director who handles all financial and clerical tasks. The Board was established in 1976 by the NC General Assembly with the passage of General Statute 89B, which sets forth the following provisions:

- (a) No person shall use the designation "forester", "registered forester", or any other descriptive terms that include the words "forester" or "registered forester" and that directly convey that the person is a forester without first having been registered under this Chapter.
- (b) This Chapter benefits and protects the public by improving the standards for the practice of professional forestry in North Carolina.

General Statutes are more commonly referred to as laws, so yes, it is a **law** in North Carolina that this Board exists and that you must be registered to call yourself a forester.

In 2019, the NCBRF surveyed all 843 RFs to identify key areas for improvement. Of the 318 RFs that responded, a majority Strongly Agreed or Agreed with item 9 which stated: *I want to be able to complete NCBRF-associated requirements (ex. paying annual renewal; uploading CFE sheets) online, and I am willing to pay a "moderately higher" annual renewal fee to do so.*

In 2021, the US Postal Service let us down. During the peak of renewal season in mid-June, about 80 mailed-in renewals were removed from

our Raleigh PO Box by USPS personnel and essentially... lost. This led to folks having to cancel checks, reassemble their renewal packets, and try again. We will never know exactly what happened, but the 80 missing renewals, postmarked in June, were given to us by the Raleigh Post Office in mid-October. Another 20 or so missing mailed-in renewals never did surface.

As Jim mentioned, in 2021, the NCBRF began offering CFE-earning opportunities through webinars. While the webinars are free of charge for attendees, the NCBRF pays for the use of the online platform and the technical expertise involved with hosting the webinars.

Due to the reasons described above plus direct feedback from dozens of RFs, the NCBRF embarked on a modernization mission by implementing an online platform for renewals and membership management. The Wild Apricot membership management system eliminates renewals being lost in the mail, allows RFs to be more efficient by paying with a credit card and uploading their CFEs digitally, and allows our Executive Director, Jennifer Grantham, to keep more efficient records. You may not realize, the Executive Director role is neither a full-time nor full-paying job, rather it is a part-time job with pay based on an average of 20 hours/week. There are 800 RFs and only 1 Executive Director tasked with handling all those renewals in addition to new applications, inquiries from reciprocal States, Board finances, and requests from various State offices.

It is important to note that it was 2005 when the NCBRF last made any fee adjustments, increasing the annual renewal fee from \$30 to \$40, meaning that fee has remained the same for the past **18 years!** Keep in mind that the Board does not exist to oblige its own purposes, but rather to execute the task of registering foresters in the State of North Carolina per the provisions set forth by law. The recently requested rule change to increase the annual renewal fee to \$50 is necessary and long overdue to allow the Board to adopt a more modern way of handling both

payments and data while continuing to carry out its lawful mission.

For comparison, here are the renewal rates for State BRFs across the South with which NC has reciprocal agreements:

Alabama - \$130 / year (\$230 if late)

Arkansas - \$30 / year

Georgia - \$80/ year (\$100 if late)

Mississippi - \$100 every other year (license revoked if 3 months late)

South Carolina - \$130 every other year (\$180 if late)

ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE

Your current registration expires June 30, 2023. To remain current, your renewal must be completed online via Wild Apricot **PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2023.** Forms and payment have to be received for renewal to be complete. *Failure to complete your renewal by the deadline means you cannot represent yourself as a Forester in North Carolina.*

Pending final approval by the NC Rules Review Commission, effective July 1, 2023 the registration renewal fee will increase from \$40 to \$50. The per month late fee will increase from \$3.25 to \$4.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WILD APRICOT

- Wild Apricot is the service that the Board of Registration now uses to accept applications and payment for registration, payment and forms for registration renewal and to provide other services online.
- If you have not already done so, you will need to create an account and password to access the online services. To get started, use the following link to create your password:

<https://ncbrf.wildapricot.org/Sys/ResetPasswordRequest>

Use the email address we have on file for you (the address the newsletter was sent to).

You will then receive an email message with a link and instructions for password reset.

Once you've "reset" your password, you can log in after you accept the site's terms and conditions.

This same process can be used if you renewed online last year, but do not remember your password.

- Payment can be made by credit or debit card through Wild Apricot.
- Fillable *.pdf versions of the CFE Personal Activity Record and Affidavit are available for download under the [Forms](#) tab of the Wild Apricot website. Scanned forms can also be uploaded. The supported formats are: TXT, PDF, DOC, DOCX, XLS, XLSX, PTT, PPTX, ZIP, CSV, JPG, JPEG, and GIF.
- When you are ready to renew for the 2023-2024 year, log in and go to the Membership details section of your profile. Click "Renew to July 1, 2024". **Upload your forms first.** The system will not allow you to proceed to payment until CFE Personal Activity Record and CFE Attendance Certificates are uploaded.
- Registration cards can be downloaded or printed under the Membership details section under My Profile.

REMINDERS

1) Contact information can be updated by logging in, clicking Edit Profile, making the necessary changes and clicking Save.

2) CFE hours must be earned during the fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Any CFEs

earned prior to July 1, 2022 cannot be used toward this year's CFE requirement. Your completed [CFE Personal Activity Record](#) should list **10 contact hours** of credit unless you are in the retired status. At least 6 contact hours must be Category 1 hours. Contact hours for retired foresters should total 3 hours and can be Category 1, 2, or 3.

3) Copies of *Certificate of Attendance forms* MUST be uploaded for at least 6 hours of Category 1 credit or your renewal will not be complete. Documentation is **NOT** required for CFEs credits earned in Categories 2 or 3.

If you are a member of the Society of American Foresters, you can print your continuing education record from their web site and upload it as an alternative to sending certificates.

4) Complete and upload the [Affidavit](#) only if you wish to be listed as a Consulting Forester in the Roster of Registered Foresters in North Carolina.

EXAMINATIONS

All examinations for forester registration are offered at the Stan Adams Training Center, Jordan Lake Educational State Forest in Chapel Hill, NC. The most recent examinations were given on March 25 and August 26, 2022 and March 17, 2023. The results were as follows:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Level 1 Exam	3	3
Level 2 Exam	29	8

NEW REGISTRANTS

Stephen Crookshanks	RF# 1912
Nathan McClure	RF# 1913
Michelle Kaiser	RF# 1914
Rajan Parajuli	RF# 1915
Katie Stovall	RF# 1916
Nathan Thomas	RF# 1917
Tana Santilli	RF# 1918
Cameron Cairney	RF# 1919

Margaret Utecht	RF# 1920
Liam Walters	RF# 1921
Sarah Bailey	RF# 1922
Josiah Marshall	RF# 1923
Jordan Luff	RF# 1924
Sarah Schultz	RF #1925
Douglas Dobson	RF #1926
Samuel MacDonald	RF #1927
Eve Ciotti	RF #1928
David Shelton	RF #1929
Austin Carroll	RF #1930
Tracyllyne Allison	RF #1931
Matthew Amick	RF #1932
Garrison Clarey	RF #1933
Kenneth Dunn	RF #1934
Brett Hill	RF #1935
Bruce Kelly	RF #1936
Chad Locklear	RF #1937
Adam McClure	RF #1938
Anthony Moore	RF #1939
Jordan Nanney	RF #1940
Keith O'Herrin	RF #1941
Zachary Pope	RF #1942
John Smith	RF #1943
Jason Wade	RF #1944
Jacob Whitfield	RF #1945
Dylan Woody	RF #1946

ACTIVE REGISTRATIONS

The number of Registered Foresters now totals 764. Of those, 166 are Consulting Foresters as defined in G.S. 89B, 89B-2.

SAVE THE DATE

NCBRF will offer a free webinar titled *North Carolina Forest Health Update* on May 30 at 1:00 p.m. It will provide a summary of major forest health occurrences throughout the state from the previous year as detailed in North Carolina's annual Forest Health Highlights Report. Forest impacts described include native and non-native invasive pests as well as abiotic factors. Information will be presented by the North Carolina Forest Service Forest Health Program and will be delivered from both a regional and statewide perspective.

To register for the webinar visit [North Carolina Forest Health Update The Webinar Portal \(forestrywebinars.net\)](http://forestrywebinars.net)

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