



# THE Registered Forester

## A News Bulletin

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters  
513 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130



VOLUME 23

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### LEAD OPINIONS

William A. Whiting, Chairman  
Alabama Division - SAF

This year I had the privilege to serve many of you as Chairman, Alabama Division, Southeastern Society of American Foresters. I also had a tree fall through my house - but that is another story.

Last year, the Bylaws of the Division were amended to require the Division's chairperson to write an editorial for The REGISTERED FORESTER, usually the last issue of the calendar year. That gave me nearly a year to ponder what I might say to my fellow professionals. So, if I'm long-winded, remember I have an entire year to get off my chest.

The issues facing a modern forester seem altogether different from those of 30-40 years ago. The problem of reforesting large areas of cut-over land is no longer much of a problem. Education of the public to the dangers of wildfire is not a great problem. Most landowners are familiar with forest management and know the markets for the products of their resources.

The question instead seems to be, "What rights does ownership convey? Is it your land or do you just pay the taxes on it? Is deciding how to use the land the province of another group? Is your land public or private? Does a government agency, or even a judge, manage your timberland?"

For the forestry professional, the question seems to be "Do you manage the timber or would you prefer another group to assume this responsibility?" Or, maybe better said, "Do you defer the responsibility to another group?"

In the U. S., natural resource management developed more from public opinion than science. The first foresters were given authority by the opinions of leaders of the times. That science had any place at all, is a credit to the German training and character of those first foresters. But, public opinion allowed the genesis of the movement. Public opinion is formed by opinion leaders. Decision makers are influenced by their perception of public opinion.

In our time, natural resource issues are being formed by opinion leaders. A great many 'modern' issues - Endangered Species, Wetlands, Best Management Practices, Coastal Zone Management, Clean Water, Clean Air, Landowner Rights, Wilderness, Ecosystem Management - have what we may regard as the finest intentions. Unfortunately, the way to achieve these goals appears to have been forgotten, and our guides - opinion leaders - seem to have forgotten the way.

The basic issue now facing this nation could be expressed this way. Do you believe humans have a right to exploit natural resources to our benefit? Or, should resources be preserved at the expense of humans? The answer will be found somewhere in the middle ground. I have to feel that humans must be part of the equation. In some cases, however, our opinion leaders in some fields have excluded the human side.

So now we come down to it! Who are our opinion leaders? In the field of natural resource management, foresters should have a strong voice. As a group, I know of no other with the strong commitment to perpetuating America's wealth of natural resources. Academic, agency, or private, the commitment is there; The touchstone to leave our forests better than we found them.

*(Continued page 4)*



*James R. Lowe  
Chairman*

Today's challenges to the profession of forestry are numerous and perhaps greater than those of yesterday. The profession faces an avalanche of regulations and guidelines. Some are designed to reduce or take away the freedom to manage private property in the best interest of the landowner. Some are developed or interpreted by persons not trained in natural resource sciences and are based on emotions, opinions, and erroneous data rather than scientific research. The Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act will continue to make major impacts on the practice of forestry. A new act with ominous-sounding regulations called the Biological Survey Act of 1993 will probably be passed this year. The Board encourages each registered forester to study the issues, attend hearings, write letters to legislators, and get involved in the interpreting and shaping of these regulations.

Be assured that these regulations will influence the practice of your profession in the future. Registered foresters must fully understand the application of regulations to be qualified to advise landowners on the management of their forests. Registration of foresters is more important than ever to assure that the public receives advice from qualified persons.

The new officers of the Board assumed their respective duties October 27, 1993. Each Board member was challenged with new responsibilities as the following questions were addressed. How do we as a Board, most effectively administer the 1975 Code of Alabama, Chapter 12 - Foresters, requiring the registration of foresters? How do we best meet the needs of registered foresters? How do we best police our own profession to assure that only qualified and licensed foresters offer services to the landowners of Alabama? The Board can be fully effective only when it receives the input and full support from all licensees.

The names of the 1993-94 officers and those assigned committee chairmanships appear on the insert in this issue of *The REGISTERED FORESTER*. Feel free to contact any member and discuss your ideas and concerns. Registered foresters may request information from the Board or obtain an audience by writing the chairman. Do Not hesitate to do so!



**NOTES FROM THE VIOLATIONS COMMITTEE**

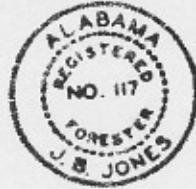
Bill Sahlie, Chairman

During the regular quarterly meeting of the Board on October 27, 1993, eight cases involving alleged violations of the Alabama Code were reviewed. Five cases were closed after having been satisfactorily resolved. Three cases remain open pending further investigation.

The number of cases of alleged violation of the law being reported to the Board is indicative of the interest by licensed foresters in upholding the registration law. As forestry practices come under the scrutiny of the public eye, it is important that we adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards when providing services to forest landowners. This includes the effective administration of the Code to assure that landowners receive forestry advice and services from qualified, licensed foresters.

Foresters in Alabama should fully understand the requirements of the law and the function of the Board in the administration of the Code. With this in mind, the Board is in the process of preparing a Synopsis of the Code in a format suitable for presentation to the public. The format should be of interest to groups such as the Society of American Foresters, Association of Consulting foresters, Forest Landowners Associations, and others when developing programs for public groups.

TWO PROUD SEALS



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JUST FACTS/Board in Session

Each regular quarterly meeting of the Board follows an Agenda which is set forth in the Bylaws. During the October 27, 1993 meeting reciprocity was granted four applicants and 'temporary' reciprocity was given to two who have recently moved to Alabama and are making application for license. Forestry Intern certifications were given to three bringing the total certifications to date to 555. Licenses were issued to seven who qualified by examination; one by oral exam and six by written exam. The examination schedule for 1994 was announced by chairman Spears as follows: Oral examinations on January 25, April 26, July 26, and October 25. Written examinations will be held April 1 and October 4, 1994. All examinations are the responsibility of a Board member with assignments rotated each year. Two oral examination panelists will complete two-year assignments in January 1994 and two new registered foresters will assume two-year assignments. Alternates will also be invited to serve.

The Board authorized a re-publication of the Continuing Education requirements which will become part of the Winter 1994 issue of The REGISTERED FORESTER.

The Board was asked to respond to specific questions raised by the Examiner of Public Accounts. Each question was answered by the Boards' chairman as part of the audit connected with the Legislative Sunset Committees review of the Board. The public hearing before the Sunset Committee is cited on page 3 of this issue of The REGISTERED FORESTER. Recommendations will be announced later by the Committee.

Name and Address License No.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Anderson, James A.<br>Owner<br>Anderson Forest Products<br>and Services<br>Business: Star Route Box 55<br>Elrod, AL 35458<br>Phone: 205/339-8333<br>Home: Star Route Box 55<br>Elrod, AL 35458<br>Phone: 205/339-8333   | 1529 |
| Core, John D., Jr.<br>Branch Manager<br>F & W Forestry Services<br>Business: P. O. Box 6260<br>Marianna, FL 32447<br>Phone: 904/482-6573<br>Home: P. O. Box 592<br>Malone, FL 32445<br>Phone: 904/569-1243              | 1533 |
| Hendricks, Brian, R.<br>Forester I<br>Alabama Forestry Commission<br>Business: Route 1, Box 2<br>Butler, AL 36904<br>Phone: 205/459-2928<br>Home: P. O. Box 321<br>Butler, AL 36904<br>Phone: 205/459-3106              | 1531 |
| Hurst, Robert D.<br>County Supervisor<br>Alabama Forestry Commission<br>Business: P. O. Box 163<br>Clayton, AL 36016<br>Phone: 205/775-3496<br>Home: P. O. Box 95<br>Louisville, AL 36048<br>Phone: 205/266-5185        | 1532 |
| Johnson, F. Bruce, Jr.<br>Consulting Forester<br>Business: 312 Dickey Lane<br>Prattville, AL 36067  | 1534 |
| Sims, David W.<br>Woodland Manager<br>Canal Wood Corporation<br>Business: P. O. Box 407<br>Cordova, AL 35550<br>Phone: 205/483-8823<br>Home: 209 Arnold Street,<br>Apt. I-4<br>Cullman, AL 35055<br>Phone: 205/773-1344 | 1535 |
| Wigginton, Thomas C.<br>Forester Trainee<br>Sizemore & Sizemore, Inc.<br>Business: P. O. Box 314<br>Tallasse, AL 36078<br>Phone: 205/283-3611<br>Home: P. O. Box 517<br>Tallasse, AL 36078<br>Phone: 205/283-3932       | 1530 |



**STATE BOARD**  
Phone: 205/240-9368  
FAX 205/240-9390

**Chairman**  
James R. 'Bob' Lowe ('96)

**Vice Chairman**  
James D. 'Jim' Spears (95)

**Secretary**  
Robert M. 'Bob' Nonnemacher ('97)

**Member**  
T. Waymon Paul ('94)

**Member**  
William F. 'Bill' Sahlie ('98)

**ADJUNCT OFFICERS**

**Legal Counsel**  
Gerrilyn V. 'Gerri' Grant

**Office Manager**  
Pamel B. Sears

**Editor**  
Wilbur B. De Vall, R.F.

**COMMITTEES**

**Public Information**  
Bob Lowe

**Examination**  
Jim Spears

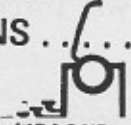
**Rules & Regulations**  
(Vacant)

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Continuing Education**  
Bob Nonnemacher

**Finance & Administration**  
(vacant)

**Violations**  
Bill Sahlie

OBSERVATIONS...  
EDITORIALLY  
SPEAKING   
WILBUR DE VALL

The end of 1993 and the beginning of 1994 both suggest that a few highlights of the State Board be reviewed. It was in January of 1993 that the Board recognized 35 years of operation having been organized in 1958. Miss Mary Autrey became the Boards' office manager. This meeting was held in an office of the Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation, 711 High Street. The following November, the Board met in the Administration building (now Folsom building), 64 Union Street. Pamela Sears, current Office Manager, replaced Miss Autrey on July 23, 1975. An Oral Examination panel was used for the first time July 26, 1978. The Board celebrated its 30th anniversary in Mobile, Alabama during a meeting of the Society of American Foresters. The Board is now housed in the headquarters of the Alabama Forestry Commission, 513 Madison Avenue, and has been at this location since July 29, 1970.

The Board came under the Legislative Sunset Committee when it was created in 1976. The Board has been reviewed five times; the most recent being November 15, 1993. Previous hearings were held in July 1977, September 1981, October 1985, and July 1989.

A newsletter was first published in August 1971. It became a quarterly publication in 1978. With the advent of a spiral-bound Roster, 'crack & peel' pages were distributed as an insert in the newsletter to keep the Roster up to date. These were discontinued in 1992 when the Roster Update information was published in The REGISTERED FORESTER on perforated pages suitable for insertion in the Roster. This move was required as an economy measure.

The Board is in the process of mailing a letter to employers of foresters for the purpose of acquainting them with the requirements of the licensing Code. This is another move in a continuing effort to acquaint the public with the provisions of the Code.

Your editor receives comments and letters from time to time expressing opinions about forestry matters and The REGISTERED FORESTER. A recent one from a Registered Forester (License No. 860) is being reviewed by the chairman, Public Information Committee. - Editor.

STATE FORESTER ADDRESSES BOARD - Tim Boyce (standing) outlined his plans for the Alabama Forestry Commission in his new position. He emphasized the importance of creating an accurate image of the forester for the public and pledged to support the Board in its efforts to monitor the licensing act as well as provide additional personnel in the general area of forestry education within the Commission. The Board will continue to meet in space provided as shown in the picture. (Board photo)



### ALABAMA DIVISION--SAF HEARS REPORT/Board Vice Chairman Outlines Accomplishments

James Spears, Vice Chairman reported to the Division that the Board had been in session 135 times since organized in January 1958 and through July 1993. Twenty-six foresters have served as members of the Board. Another annual vacancy will occur January 6, 1994 when the five-year term of T. Waymon Paul expires. The governor will fill the vacancy by appointing one of three nominees submitted to him by the Alabama Division, SAF. Further, Spears reported that the Board had issued 1,528 licenses through July 1993, has certified 552 Forestry Interns, and currently has 990 registered foresters on its active roll. Applications for registration, reciprocity, Intern certification, and reinstatement numbered 76 since the fiscal year began October 1, 1992. Violation cases reviewed numbered 35, examinations were given to 40 applicants for license, 37 licenses were issued, and press releases have been sent out following each regular quarterly meeting. The REGISTERED FORESTER has been mailed quarterly and has included Roster Update information. During the annual meeting of the Division, two registered foresters were inducted into the Foresters' Hall of Fame. They were C. W. 'Bill' Moody, License No. 571 and Robert B. Frese, License No. 558.

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BOARD REVIEWED BY SUNSET COMMITTEE - Four members of the Board appeared before the Legislative Committee, November 15, 1993 at the invitation of Committee chairman Senator Corbett. Specific issues addressed during the brief hearing included the Powers of the Board, its ability to operate without an appropriation from the State, and other general administrative details which will require legislation to correct inaccuracies and/or errors in the current statutes. Board chairman Robert Lowe (standing) commented from a prepared statement which was reviewed by the Board during a special meeting on the same date. (Board photo)



#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM (Detach and mail to address below)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(city) (state) (zip)

NEW ADDRESS: Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_

NEW TELEPHONE: Business ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Residence ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL FORM TO: Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters  
513 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

*(Continued from page 1)*

Opinion leaders are evident at every level of society. When someone approaches you with a question, they are asking you to step into the role of opinion leader. Local civic groups, professional organizations, and registration are all ways for you to exhibit opinion leadership. On questions of forest management, you are the professional. If you do not assume that leadership, or are discouraged or prevented from assuming leadership, you abdicate your role in favor of another's opinion.

The SAF is one of a multitude of natural resource organizations - an alphabet soup. It competes for your time and money. We all know the cost of membership. Have we assayed the cost of not being an SAF member? How will we present and defend our management policies, if they diverge from that of "The Society of American Foresters?" Make no mistake, there will be an SAF. Whether it is comprised of working professional foresters or not, remains to be seen.

The controversy over the SAF Task Force Report on Sustaining Long-term Forest Health and Productivity is a case in point. Some say the discussion/debate is healthy. It is! However, the method by which the report was disseminated has rocked the SAF. It, in my opinion, flies in the face of ideas that I hold true. I disagree with the concept and the implied exclusive cure. I even disagree that a cure is needed. I have written to state my opinions. Have you?

This is where you come in. You are the registered professional. Do you abdicate your responsibility? Or, do you get in on the discussion? I say, "Take the bull by the horns." Grab his tail! Heel Him! Get involved in the SAF. Get involved in the Board of Registration for Foresters. Do something!

Aldo Leopold introduced me to the phrase, "Ontogeny repeats Phylogeny." The individual re-learns, reflects the lessons of the tribe!

<sup>4</sup> We have a democratic tribe that recognizes the rights of the individual. You, by virtue of your commitment and training, have the ability to become an opinion leader. You are probably better equipped to form leading opinions on natural resource policy than many leading now.

You may have noticed that, while I did tell you where I stand, I did not ask you to take a position. This is another idea I hold true. Every person's opinion is of value, should they care to express it. It is time to express yourself!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Division chairman. Thank you also for the opportunity to express what I feel is important - that YOU should be the natural resource opinion leaders.

Alabama has more timberland today than has been recorded in the last forty years. That timberland is not decadent, not decaying. It supports a wood-using, human-benefiting industry. Wildlife levels are at all-time highs. You are doing the right stuff. Tell people! Lead opinions!



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS  
513 MADISON AVENUE  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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