



THE Registered Forester

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Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters
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Montgomery, Alabama 36130



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REFLECTING ON THE PAST - CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE

Charles A. Pigg, Registered Forester



When the point of retirement is reached in one's career, there is an overpowering urge to reflect on the past and contemplate the future. Since most of my forestry career has been involved with the State agency, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), my comments will be from that perspective.

Looking into the rear-view mirror, several benchmarks in Alabama forestry are still visible to me. The first was the creation of the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, thereby giving our profession both recognition and legal status. Space does not permit a rehash of the pros and cons of registration. But, as my Grandma always said, "If you don't think much of yourself, neither will anyone else".

Another high point was the re-creation of the Alabama Forestry Commission in 1969. Created in 1923, but buried in State government in 1939, State forestry did not have the freedom to totally seek its destiny or fulfill its legislated obligations regardless of the struggle of very dedicated people. The road ahead is not a super highway, but at least it is now paved. Within the AFC, and including previous efforts, several accomplishments are notable. We have a wildfire control capability that allows forestry in Alabama to be practiced on a reasonably assured basis. The mechanization of wildfire suppression techniques, the establishment and enforcement of laws relating to the use of outdoor fires, the use of aircraft in detection and modern communications and dispatching systems, are in place and functioning. Attention, including funding, is needed to continually update and improve system components as time, use, and outdated technology take their toll. We must begin and continue to think of wildfire suppression capability in terms of values at risk - just as we do with the face value of the fire insurance policy on our homes.

The State forestry agency began the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) program in the early 1960's which has exponentially increased both structural and wildfire protection in rural areas. Through various funding and equipment loan programs, RCFP now encompasses over 950 rural fire departments, 1,400 fire trucks, and other emergency vehicles on loan, and 30,000 trained, volunteer fire fighters. These departments are tied into AFC and other dispatch systems. As another result, rural insurance rates are also being lowered as individual departmental ISO ratings are improved.

In the area of forest management and production, a breakthrough in dealing with the small, private, non-industrial landowner, is being achieved. The bureaucratic mindset has finally realized that the holders of 75% of our commercial forestland in Alabama, and similar percentages throughout the South, are individuals and hear their own drummer. They respond to such bizarre ideas as stewardship of the land, aesthetics, and environmental enhancement - not necessarily dollars and cents forestry. The AFC's Treasure Forest program grew out of this recognition years ago.

There are also issues of current concern in addition to the perennial one of funding and regulatory concerns associated with Best Management Practices. Timber theft, or more accurately law enforcement actions associated with timber transactions, seems to be on the increase. Just what this portends is somewhat misty. What is clear, however, is a real need for more awareness and better understanding of statutes relating to this area by both the public and the judiciary system exists.

Ah yes, the future! It seems that the job ahead in forestry is always more formidable than that of the past. So, digest this thought before mounting the white horse of indignation and riding forth to do battle with the forces of the perceived, misinformed, and ignorant. "Truth without belief is whatever one wants it to be". The future of forestry lies at least as much and perhaps more in the area of human relations and political reality as in the innovative application of present and forthcoming technology. I either slept through that class or - take note SAF - it wasn't emphasized enough in the curriculum. The "truths" that we of the forestry community hold so absolute, range from believable to suspect to downright fibs as evaluated by others with different viewpoints and beliefs. Thus, the job of insuring the future validity of our profession, becomes more complex than name calling. (continued page 3)

**PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES/Board Reflects on All
T. Waymon Paul, Chairman**



T. Waymon Paul, Chairman

The 1994 annual license renewal fee was set by the Board on April 28, 1993 at \$30 which is a \$5 increase over that charged in 1993. While the Board is constantly concerned about keeping the renewal fee at a reasonable level, operational costs continue to increase, and more administrative time and work are required. The Board feels the \$5 increase is reasonable and that the additional costs of printing, postage, and administration of the Continuing Education program can be met at this time with the increase. The renewal fees set by other licensing boards can serve as a basis for comparison but should not be considered as potential target amounts which may be met in the future. In addition to the five members of the Board, four additional Registered Foresters are paid for their travel while administering quarterly oral examinations.

The Board desires to place additional emphasis on professionalism and increasing public awareness of the very important and necessary role that the Registered Forester plays in the management of the State's most important renewable resource, the forest. There are almost no funds available for this comprehensive type of work. The Board is auditing all expenses and has been reducing several whenever possible. It respects the input of those registered, especially with reference to the value of the Roster of Registered Foresters; an expensive item even though published only in alternate, even-numbered years.

The Continuing Education requirement, imposed by the Legislative Sunset Committee and implemented by the Board, contributed to a nominal decrease in renewals. The number of persons registered is expected to return to its former normal level within two years. This prediction is based on the continuing normal trend in number of applications for license being received. There are few financial problems at this time but projections indicate that potential problems may be encountered if changes in conditions are not closely and properly monitored. The Board is dedicated to keep this foremost on its quarterly agendas.

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BOARD ADDRESSES BUSINESS MATTERS/Some Old and Some New

The past nine fiscal years' financial statements were reviewed by new board member William Sahlie and his findings were used for decision making by the Board during its April 28, 1993 meeting. Meeting the cash-flow requirements surfaces as the most significant finding. Elsewhere in this issue are the actions taken by the board to meet its financial obligations in fiscal year 1994.

The Board reviewed eleven new applications for registration and approved reciprocity status for four in Georgia and one in Mississippi based on their holding valid licenses in their respective states.

Oral examinations were administered to six applicants under the supervision of Board member Spears and with the assistance of the Oral Examination Panel consisting of Tom Lines, Darrell Gates, Fred Forstall, and Rick Jones. Six applicants chose to take a written examination administered by board member Nonnemacher. Twelve licenses were approved for those successfully passing the required examination bringing to 1522 the number of licenses issued by the Board since its inception in 1958.

The Board will invite officers of the Alabama Division, Society of American Foresters (SAF) and members of its Registration and Licensing Committee to meet with the Board during its regular quarterly meeting July 28, 1993 for the purpose of sharing problems, issues, and future cooperation. The Board looks forward to being of even greater service to the public and the professional forestry segment of it under the new arrangement put in force June 1, 1993. This effort is described elsewhere in this issue of *THE REGISTERED FORESTER*.

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James R. Lowe

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William F. Sahlie

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ETHICS/Meaning and Concepts

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

"ETHICS" is a noun, in the singular form. It is used in the 'singular' to describe a study of standards of right and wrong; also moral conduct, duty, and judgement.

"ETHICS" is frequently used with a 'plural' meaning to describe formal, professional rules of right and wrong, a system of conduct for behavior, and when referring to moral principles by which a person is guided.

Conceptually, to be ethical one must not deliberately distort reality to accomplish ones own goal. Likewise, twisting the truth in an attempt to mislead or to gain approval of something unworthy, is unethical and only serves to corrupt the person doing it.

Codes of Ethics are well known to those who work in the professional fields of forestry. Simply put, such codes require fair dealing with all, elimination of conflict of interest, safeguarding the confidence of others, engaging only in practices which respect integrity, identification of sources on behalf of which statements are made, and refraining from promising results beyond possible delivery. - Editor.

Name and Address **Lic. No.**

Becton, O. M. 1514
Director-Private Land Mgmt.
Scotch Lumber Company
Business: P. O. Box 38
Fulton, AL 36446
Phone: 205/636-4424
Home: Route 1, Box 22
Silas, AL 36919
Phone: 205/542-9247

Drouet, Clifford J. 1512
Forestry Consultant
Self-employed
Business: 144 Co. Road 1145
Cullman: AL 35055
Phone: 205/739-2065
Home: 144 County Road 1145
Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 205/739-2065

Dye, Michael D. 1515
Assistant Dist. Forester
Bowater Woodlands
Business: P. O. Box 950
Albertville, AL 35950
Phone: 205/878-8202
Home: 2266 Cedar Lane
Guntersville, AL 35976
Phone: 205/582-2685

Estes, John E., Jr. 1519
Forester
J. E. Estes Wood Co.
Business: P. O. Box 447
Monroeville, AL 36461
Phone: 205/575-2444
Home: 1028 Westbrook Dr.
Monroeville, AL 36460
Phone: 205/743-2034

Ezzell, Charles D. 1522
Forester I
Ala. Forestry Commission
Business: P. O. Box 687
Geneve, AL 36340
Phone: 205/684-2876
Home: Route 1, Box 225-35
Geneve, AL 36340
Phone: 205/684-3036

Hill, Joseph M., Jr. 1518
Timber Buyer
Millry Mill Co., Inc.
Business: P. O. Box 290
Millry, AL 36558
Phone: 205/846-2520
Home: P. O. Box 363
Millry, AL 36558
Phone: 205/846-3684

(Remove and add to Roster).

Name and Address Lic. No.

Howell, William C., Jr. 1511
 District Manager
 Container Corporation
 Business: 4581 Banks Hwy.
 Troy, AL 36081
 Phone: 205/243-5333
 Home: Route 3, Box 278-E
 Troy, AL 36081
 Phone: 205/566-7825

Logan, Clifford A., Jr. 1517
 Procurement Supervisor
 Toomsba Wood Products
 Business: P.O. Box 529
 Eutaw, AL 35462
 Phone: 205/372-9321
 Home: P. O. Box 529
 Eutaw, AL 35462
 Phone: 205/372-9321

McCarter, Ray W., Jr. 1521
 Procurement Supervisor
 James River Corporation
 Business: P. O. Box 480492
 Linden, AL 36748
 Phone: 205/295-8781
 Home: 1316 Rosedale Drive
 Demopolis, AL 36732
 Phone: 205/289-4331

Matthews, David H. 1520
 Graduate Research Asst.
 School of Forestry
 Business: 207 MW Smith Hall
 Auburn Univ., AL 36849
 Phone: 205/844-1052
 Home: 1112 Wallace Avenue
 Opelika, AL 36801
 Phone: 205/749-3863

Prather, Felix A. 1516
 Area Forester
 Gulf States Paper Corp.
 Business: P. O. Box 824
 Demopolis, AL 36732
 Phone: 205/289-2900
 Home: 3236 Greenwood Rd.
 York, AL 36925
 Phone: 205/652-6392

Pritchett, John D., Jr. 1513
 Forester
 Georgia Pacific Corp.
 Business: P. O. Box 986
 Monroeville, AL 36461
 Phone: 205/575-2778
 Home: Route 4, Box 209-A
 Greenville, AL 36037
 Phone: 205/382-8407
 (Remove and add to Roster)



Editors, by reason of their position, are free to editorialize on most any topic, from any point of view, and for any purpose. Thus, they can use 'poetic license' when writing about any subject. The use of the editorial "we" and "they" frequently excuses the writer of responsibility for the point of view or source of information.

During April 1993, twelve applicants for registration took examinations given by the board. Six took oral and six took written exams. Each person is free to choose between these alternatives in order to complete the requirements for license. We point out that the average, unadjusted grade for each group was 81% and 80% respectively. This result in itself may not be significant. Looking further, we find that presidents of the U.S. are given grades by their public, whether earned or not, and a few are shared with you in this column.

The USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup report card gives grades as follows: 76/over = A+; 72-75 = A; 68-71 = A-; 64-67 = B+; 60-63 = B; 56-59 = B-; 52-55 = C+; 48-51 = C; 44-47 = C-; 40-43 = D+; 36-39 = D; 32-35 = D-; and 31/under = F.

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Herewith is how past presidents were graded "overall", not by term in office.

Eisenhower: B	Reagan: C+	Nixon: C-
Kennedy: A-	Bush: B	Ford: C-
Johnson: C+	Clinton: C-	Carter: C-

(Source: USA TODAY, Wednesday, April 28, 1993)

Your Board has been working on procedures whereby both oral and written examinations can be scored in an unbiased manner. This action was mandated by the Sunset Committee during its last hearing with the Board. Organization Procedures for the Oral Examination Panel are now in 'draft' stage.

All State agencies must comply with the Administrative Procedures Act. Initially, this covered the forming of rules adopted by the Board as they now appear in the Roster of Registered Foresters. The 1993 legislature passed Act No. 93-627 which amended the Act to "...require State agencies to reveal the costs of their proposed regulations." Other legislative action of interest to Registered Foresters involved H. 648 which would change the date for renewal of foresters' registration from January 1 to October 1. This bill died when the legislature adjourned.

At best, if we adapt to change - bio-diversity, ecosystem management, whatever - we will continue to function in society as we and others do now; that is, under negotiated circumstances called laws and - ouch - regulations! Without prudent changes in constantly changing times, we could be dead in the water. The negotiation process and the implementation of the results are termed government. Our current form of this institution is termed a democracy because we and those with differing viewpoints have the freedom and responsibility to participate in the process. The quality of that participation is our key to the betterment of mankind and the environmental quality of our planet - which incidentally - are synonymous. Oversimplification? Sure! But, like Shaker-style furniture, there is a certain beauty in the essence of need and simplicity.

FAMILIARITY WITH THE LAW/Few Violations

Bob Lowe, Chairman
Violations Committee

The public's attention is focused on environmental issues to a greater extent than ever before. The practice of 'forestry' is at the center of this attention. The media's inclination to report on sensational and controversial events is being fed by well-funded organizations that parade under the banner of 'environmentalist'. This type of publicity often depicts foresters as exploiters of the forest with little or no concern for the environment. As a group of licensed professionals, we must be proactive in promoting sound forestry and environmental practices and "yes" we must be enthusiastic in promoting the importance of Alabama's law that requires the licensing of all persons who offer forestry services to the public.

The publication of Best Management Practices (BMP) manuals and other treatises on forestry and wildlife management is another positive step toward improving the natural resource. However, if we do not 'practice what we preach', these publications will be fodder for those reporters willing to play into the hands of misguided activists who desire to cast forest management in a bad light.

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The law requiring licensing of foresters was enacted by the 1957 legislature to assure that 214,000 small forest landowners in Alabama receive forestry advice from persons trained and experienced in the natural sciences and the principles of forestry and who have at least a BS degree in forestry from an accredited forestry school. Your Board's goal is to administer the law in a fair and equitable manner and to protect the public from potentially damaging advice received from non-professionals. We presently have under review several reported cases of violation of the law and will pursue proper disposition of each under the guidance of the Attorney General.

We would welcome commentary from licensed foresters concerning abuse of the law and suggested remedies. All communications should be directed to the Board of Registration for Foresters, 514 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130. Phone calls are always welcome but cannot be considered by the Board as acceptable evidence of apparent law violations.



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

OFFICE MANAGER/New Duties

Effective June 1, 1993, Office Manager Pamela Sears assumed the additional title of Chief, Professional Forestry Information and Registration in the Education Division, Alabama Forestry Commission. She will be working with Cynthia Page who is Director. The Board endorsed the reorganization with the understanding that its needs would be more easily met under the new arrangement.

The Board took official action (Motion 1084) indicating that "it would embark on an outreach program to inform and educate the public of today's forestry issues and concerns."

As Chief of the new Section, Mrs. Sears will be traveling about the State to develop a new image for forestry and foresters through her contacts with landowners, other publics, Registered Foresters, and related educational organizations and agencies. She will also be developing literature, a speakers bureau, and exhibits for use in building the modern-day image of the resource so essential to the future economic development of the State and the basis for professional forestry as practiced by those licensed by the Board.

REGISTERED FORESTER?/Who Knows?

The Board is concerned that all persons holding an Alabama license as a Registered Forester know whether or not those with whom they are associated are also registered. Do you know? If not, the Board suggests that you ask and encourage those not registered to file application immediately. This action would be appreciated and is expected of registrants. Not all members of SAF are registered even though they work in Alabama.

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

OFFICE MANAGER/New Education Section Head

On July 24, 1974, Mrs. Pamela B. Sears sat in on her first meeting of the Board as its Office Manager. She has been only the second person to serve the Board in this capacity and replaced Mary Autrey who was present January 27, 1958 for her first meeting.

Pam Sears, who now holds a new position while still serving the Board (see separate article), has been a main stay in the routine operations of the Board. During Pam's early years with the board, she sat in on as many as six meetings a year until the Board established quarterly meetings. Most of these sessions lasted but one day. She has been witness to some which ran two days.

FEES FOR 1993-94/As Set by the Board

Under Alabama law, the Board must "set fees" annually for the following fiscal year. This was done during the April 28, 1993 quarterly meeting of the Board by the adoption of four (4) motions. Of primary concern to those registered is the 'renewal fee' which has been increased by \$5 to a total of \$30 for the coming year, as announced by Chairman Paul in his column. The re-examination fee will increase \$5 to \$15. The application fee and the lost-certificate fee will both remain at \$50 and \$10, respectively. The Reciprocal Fee charged to registrants in other states will be equal to the amount charged an Alabama resident who wishes reciprocity privileges in the respective states. The Office Manager was instructed to verify the amount of the current fee charged by other licensing states for reciprocity privileges. These will constitute the respective fees charged for reciprocity by the Alabama Board.

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