



# 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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NUMBER 1



## MIRACLE IN THE SOUTHERN FOREST - REVISITED

Fred C. Gragg, Retired

In Birmingham, October 31, 1967, in an address to a group of urban dwelling timberland owners, I made the following observation:

"Sometime in the mid-1950's an event occurred that was so unlikely that it has properly been called a miracle in the southern forest. A point was reached when the rate of timber growth equalled, then exceeded, timber drain. This event was of epic significance. It signalled a new day in forest land management and forest utilization. And, it proved beyond doubt, that with the proper economic incentives, the vast timber resources of the South could sustain a healthy forest economy to the growing benefit of the entire region and its people."

My own forestry career had begun over 30 years earlier in 1936, following my graduation from the University of Georgia, School of forestry.

It was well known then that forests of the South were in deplorable condition - understocked, overcut, overgrazed, burned over, and, with few exceptions, unmanaged. At the same time, economic conditions were poor. We were in the middle of the "Great Depression." It follows that interest in investments in improved forestry was at a low point.

Forest industry leaders recognized that serious problems faced them that must be resolved. With assistance and encouragement from foresters with federal and state agencies, and the forestry schools, decisions were made to begin work on the most pressing problems - fire, open range, destructive cutting practices, unfavorable balance of growth versus drain, reforestation, taxes, and trespass. These efforts took many forms.

The industry committed itself to apply more intensive management to its own land in order to demonstrate to other private owners its faith in its recommendations. It also committed to assist private owners by providing foresters to help them improve the quality of management on their land. The industry agreed to help build up the state forestry programs, to obtain better fire protection, improved tree seedlings, and forest management assistance. The forestry community as a whole worked to secure more adequate funding for the professional forestry schools. The industry recognized that it had a most important interest in the productivity of these private lands, because its future timber supply was at risk.

Between 1936 and 1967, the world changed and brought new economic, social, and political influences on the southern forest. The demands for the products of the forest increased dramatically. The economic climate improved for forest investment and the result was acceleration in the application of new forest technology. Another result was that before 1967, a favorable balance of growth had been reached.

I quote again from my 1967 speech. "The miracle is tangible evidence of the success of the free enterprise system applied to the development of a depleted but renewable natural resource."

Since 1967, the favorable balance between growth and drain has continued. New manufacturing technology has converted weed species and cull trees, as well as sawmill and plywood manufacturing waste, into valuable raw materials. These economic and technical developments, added to important improvements in forest technology, have provided the raw material for major expansions in all segments of the forest products industry.

I feel confident in assessing forestry progress since 1967, as a second miracle in the southern forest.

It has been my privilege to have been a forester during this exciting 57 years. We made our share of mistakes, but I am proud to have been a part of this effort. I must admit, however, that I am now sometimes discouraged at the lack of appreciation or understanding by the public, especially the well-educated, of the tremendous improvement in the conditions in the southern forests during my 57 years. I still travel over much of the South. I am also amazed at the improvement since my first travels as a young forester.

There remains opportunity to improve productivity. The small private owner is still managing his timberland poorly. This is a challenge and an opportunity. The restoration of capital gains treatment of timber income is of utmost importance. There still remains the opportunity to improve the economic benefits as well as the quality of life for the people of the South.



T. Waymon Paul, Chairman

### CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

Chris Isaacson, School of Forestry, Auburn University outlined the following plans for course offerings which may be of interest to Registered Foresters. He discussed his responsibilities for the Board during its January meeting.

1. His position requires that he formulate programs that meet the needs of continuing education criteria. Registered Foresters should find offerings at Auburn adequate preparation for meeting the Board's requirements.

2. Instructors for all courses will be faculty members from the School of Forestry, other schools on the Auburn campus, corporation executives, Registered Foresters, and consultants.

3. Needs are being identified so that an effort can be made to find the best resources to fit those needs. Auburn has given Isaacson the freedom to identify needs and get the necessary information to those who might attend the scheduled programs of instruction.

4. Format will include: a) short courses that will run from two to five days (primarily on the Auburn campus or at the Bryant Center in Tuscaloosa), in depth and intensive, b) workshops of a single day but broader in interest (located in different areas of the State, and c) in-house programs by companies and agencies with Isaacson assisting in the planning to meet the identified needs.

5. Credit will be assigned each offering that will meet CE requirements in a maximum of situations related to need. Isaacson is the evaluator for continuing education credits, Southeastern Society of American Foresters, and is working to get as many courses as possible which will meet the requirements of continuing education for the SAF.

Each Board member was given a copy of the 1993 offering by Auburn University with the request that Board members provide feedback from Registered Foresters. Board members may be called on to teach some of these courses when the need exists and the area of instruction meets their individual expertise.

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**VIOLATIONS HANDLED/Decisions Made by the Board**

**Bobby Lowe, Chairman**



*This is  
Important*

**Violations Committee**

The Board reviewed five (5) cases involving alleged violations of the Alabama Code requiring the registration and licensing of foresters. The review took place January 27, 1993 with all Board members present. One case was closed for lack of supportive information concerning the charges and four (4) remained under investigation.

Due to the increasing number of complaints, the Board has been reviewing the procedures as prescribed by the Code as they apply to violations and penalties and general powers of the Board when handling complaints and subsequent preferring of charges, including prosecution when circumstances justify such action. The number of complaints indicate that Registered Foresters are concerned about the practice of forestry when it occurs outside the Code. They are also taking appropriate action to resolve observed violations. The Board's responsibility to the public and the profession of forestry is to administer the Code fairly and equitably as it applies to violations and violators.

Gerrilyn Grant, Assistant Attorney General and legal counsel to the Board, met with the Board on January 27th. Since a conviction under the Code is a misdemeanor and carries a maximum fine of \$500, she suggested that this penalty is not stringent enough to deter one from practicing forestry without a license. She advised that any attempt to amend the Code would require documentation of convictions and assigned penalties made under the present Code in past years.

Legal adviser Grant discussed the administrative handling of violations, the necessity of proper documentation of evidence, and the need to have persons willing to testify. She implied that a witness would need personal knowledge of charges and testify as to their being false, misleading or causing financial harm to a person due to damages or losses incurred based on the recommendations or actions of the violator.

The Board recommends that a person who makes a complaint concerning an alleged violation of the Code, do so with the criteria cited by the AG's representative in mind. The Board would then carefully review each complaint and when appropriate prefer charges and fully cooperate with law enforcement officials in the prosecution of the case. The powers of the Board are set forth in Article 2, Section 34-12-35, Code of Alabama 1975.

NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOMED - William F. 'Bill' Sahlie of Wetumpka (R) is welcomed to his first meeting of a five-year term by Board Chairman Waymon Paul. Bill was immediately appointed to a Standing Committee on Rules and Regulations and to a Special Committee on Finance and Administration. (See bio-sketch below)



**GOVERNOR TAKES ACTION/Sahlie Appointed to Five-year Term**

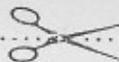
William F. Sahlie, Wetumpka, Alabama, is the twenty-sixth forester to be appointed to the State Board of Registration for Foresters. Governor Hunt announced the appointment early in January 1993 and Sahlie attended his first Board meeting, January 27th. Bill fills the vacancy left at the end of Jack Fillingham's five-year term.

Bill Sahlie holds a BSF degree from the University of Florida. Following graduation he was employed by the Forest Service, USDA in California, St. Regis Paper Co., and Royal Wood, Inc. He formed Bama Wood, Inc. of Wetumpka in 1963 and has been its president and now consultant. He has also branched out into other businesses such as small motors and trucking but has retained a more direct interest in Mid-South Wood, Inc. of Montgomery.

Professional, religious, fraternal, political, and charitable groups and agencies have benefited from his interest and leadership. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1955 and has served as an officer of both the Southeastern Society and Alabama Division. He has maintained an active interest in the forestry-related activities of the Alabama Forestry Association and has served both as a committee chairman and officer of this State-wide group. Sahlie is a Registered Forester in Alabama (License No. 78) and in two other states. The Alabama Forestry Council has benefited from his membership and leadership since 1983. He has maintained his academic interest by serving in various capacities of leadership at Auburn University. He has chaired the Advisory Council, School of Forestry, has been an adjunct lecturer and, a featured speaker in the Forestry Club's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Bill Sahlie has maintained an active interest in community affairs. He has served the Wetumpka City Council and has served as Mayor Pro-tem. He became the charter president, Wetumpka Jaycees in his town and has provided leadership for the United Way in Elmore County. He is a licensed Real Estate Broker in addition to being licensed as a Registered Forester, and has been sought out by such agencies as Young Men of America, Montgomery Academy Parents' Organization and Board of Directors.

Board chairman Waymon Paul appointed Sahlie as chairman, Rules and Regulations Committee and chairman of a special committee on Finance and Administration.



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**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

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Daniel P. Norman, Chairman  
Forest Practices Committee  
Alabama Forestry Association



The subject for "Best Management Practices" for forestry is a topic which has been discussed at great length by a multitude of individuals and groups recently. The out-fall of some of these meetings is a revised edition of the "Best Management Practices for Forestry." This document was produced by the Alabama Forestry Commission in conjunction with forest industry representatives, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Alabama Forestry Association, and cooperation and comments from other groups throughout the State. The document is approved and due to be released. A copy may be obtained by contacting the office of the Alabama Forestry Association, 555 Alabama Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Many times, within industry groups, the discussion of BMP is directed to the political process and the regulatory implications. These are valid concerns that could impact the forest industry in the very near future. These concerns are "the agenda" for the preservationist and environmental groups of this country. These concerns have also become the agenda for many of our politicians. Therefore, the political and regulatory issues cannot be ignored by anyone with resource ownership or management responsibilities.

If the political issues and agenda can be put aside, the real need for silvicultural Best Management Practices is biological. It is the need to maintain and consume the resource. It is the practice of sound technology in the use and regeneration of a renewable resource. It is the use of engineering practices to insure access for management and utilization, continuing water quality, soil stability, and site integrity. All of these functions can be achieved through the use of Alabama's Best Management Practices for Silviculture.

The use of BMP's may sound overwhelming, but it is a very common sense approach. The stewardship and wise conservation of the forest is the best approach. Through the use of management practices which control erosion, movement of soil, and loss of nutrients, the productivity and site quality of forest lands can be maintained. The "Best Management" techniques can insure long-term economic viability and productive capacity of forest resources of Alabama, while insuring that water quality within the State is not degraded by silvicultural activities.

The common sense of the subject is to simply open our eyes. Review the need for access and landings and plan them with the least possible impact to water quality. Every effort should be made to avoid stream crossings. However, if necessary, stream crossing should be at right angles, well constructed, and stabilized. Any activities which cause soil disturbance should be reviewed closely for water quality considerations. As site preparation, control burning, and fire line construction and maintenance are performed, water movement and erosion potential must be considered.

As with life, no one rule or set of guides is the perfect solution for every situation. The Alabama Best Management Practices for Silviculture are guidelines to help insure that forestry practices do not result in a negative effect to water quality of this State. The case of these guidelines and the reference materials and organizations cited within them will help maintain the quality of water flowing through the forest and on forest lands of Alabama. Therefore, acquire a copy of the BMP's, read them, understand them, and practice them; not only within your operations but, throughout those you might contact, because it is only through active communication and education that these practices can be implemented. Please practice the BMP's because through them, not only water quality can be achieved, but quality forestry practices.

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

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**OBSERVATIONS . . .  
EDITORIALLY  
SPEAKING**

  
**WILBUR DE VALL**

The article on page 4 of this issue dealing with Best Management Practices was solicited by the Board. It was considered to be in the best interest of Registered Foresters to have a brief article on the subject published in the REGISTERED FORESTER as a reminder to look for good practices, whether on lands owned or on those of another, and to assist in the implementation of such practices.

The Alabama Forestry Council has a Standing Committee on Legislation. During its semi-annual meetings, the committee reports. On January 26, 1993 it reported on Federal Laws and Regulations affecting private forestry. Included in a prioritized list are sixteen to be monitored. They are: 1) Endangered Species Act, 2) Federal Cost Share and Subsidy Programs, 3) EPA Pesticide Regulations to protect endangered species, 4) Pesticide Applications, 5) Clean Water Act, Sections 208 & 319, 6) CWA, Section 404, Dredge and Fill Wetlands permitting, 7) CWA, Section 404, Forestry Regulations, 8) Coastal Zone Management Act, 9) Clean Water Act Reauthorization, 10) Indirect Permit Regulation of Forestry (TVA), 11) Clean Air Act Smoke Management Regulations, 12) EPA Banning Ozone Depleting Chemicals, 13) Migrant & Seasonal Worker Protection Act, 14) OSHA Worker Sanitation Standards, 15) OSHA Logging Regulations, and 16) EPA Final Worker protection Standards.

A 1992 Public Opinion Survey, conducted by Alabama Forestry Commission Districts, polled 4,191 people to get an understanding of the public's knowledge and acceptance of forestry practices. Accuracy has been rated at (+/-2%). Five questions were asked. The results have been summarized in 21 tables. A brief summary of the findings was suggested by the Board to be published in the REGISTERED FORESTER for information. Approval to publish was obtained from the Commission.

1. How do you feel when you see a clear cut? A slight majority (55.8%) opposed clear cutting.
2. Should industry have the right to manage their land to meet their corporate objectives? A slight majority (64.8%) approved.
3. Does the Corporate Right include the right to cut their trees? Approval (60.8%) was less than in No. 2 above.
4. Does an Alabama Family have the right to manage its property to meet family needs? Here approval (94.6%) was just short of unanimous.
5. Does the family right include the right to cut their own trees? Approval (89.5%) dropped from that reported in No. 4.

Auburn University  
School of Forestry

**Schedule of Continuing Education Programs**

Short Course Series

Managing the Forest Resource:

- Working Through People (11 hrs).....March 16 - 17
- Forest Roads (9 hrs).....March 30 - 31
- Negotiating Skills for Foresters (9 hrs).....April 5 - 6
- Prescribed Burning (15 hrs) (4-H Center-Columbiana, AL) .May 5 - 7
- Non-Industrial Private Forests in the 1990's (8 hrs).....May 11 - 12

See back of page

**ROSTER UPDATE**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>License No.</u>
<b>Ford, Stanley, W.</b> County Agent Alabama Coop. Extension Serv. Business: 536 County Courthouse Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Phone: 205/349-3886 Home: 130 Union Chapel Road Northport, AL 35476 Phone: 205/333-0621	1508
<b>Leighty, Brian J.</b> Assistant District Forester Georgia Pacific Corporation Business: P. O. Box 1227 Troy, AL 36081-1227 Phone: 205/566-3616 Home: Route 3, Box 314-D Troy, AL 36081 Phone: 205/566-7590	1507
<b>McNeal, Joseph W., III</b> Home: 466 Pine Court Mobile, AL 36608 Phone: 205/344-3020	1509
<b>Smith, Douglas C.</b> Home: 764 Williamson Road Montgomery, AL 36109 Phone: 205/244-7885	1506
<b>Yeatts, Douglas E., Jr.</b> Forestry Consultant Business: 12123 Armstrong Road Soddy Daisy, TN 37379 Phone: 615/332-6237 Home: 12123 Armstrong Road Soddy Daisy, TN 37379 Phone: 615/332-6237	1510



**COMMITTEES**

Public Information  
T. Waymon Paul

Examination  
James D. Spears

Rules & Regulations  
William F. Sahlie

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

## STATE



Your State Board of Registration for Foresters began its 35th year of operation with the January 1993 meeting. Chairman Waymon Paul welcomed new member William F. Sahlie of Wetumpka to his first meeting.

Office Manager Pamela Sears reported that there are now 937 Registered Foresters licensed by the Board as of the beginning of 1993. Only 132 registrants failed to renew for a number of reasons. Of this number, 26 took time to write the Board giving reasons for non-renewal.

Legal counsel Gerrilyn Grant sat in on a portion of the meeting. Another visitor was Chris Isaacson, Auburn University who outlined the schedule of offerings by the University in the area of Continuing Education. He also made reference to an announcement by the Society of American Foresters that National SAF Forestry Certification is being considered.

Seven applications for registration were reviewed. the number of Forestry Interns certified to date now numbers 535 with the certification of two applicants. Reciprocity applications processed included two from Georgia and three from Mississippi. All five were granted reciprocity based on their qualifications and verification by their respective licensing boards that each holds a valid license in his state of residency. Oral examinations were given to five applicants on January 26th. Licenses were granted to all based on their successfully passing the examination.

The new requirement that Continuing Education credits be filed with each application for renewal of license did not appreciably affect the number renewing licenses. The Board considered special requests for an extension of time to earn the required number of credits and awarded a four-month extension to three registrants.

The Board was made aware of the Sunset Review scheduled for the Maryland Board. A contact by Greg Smith, Society of American Foresters, in the interest of the Maryland Board brought this action to the Board's attention. Several questions were answered based on the experience in Alabama during four Sunset Hearings.

### STATE BOARD (205) 240-9368

T. Waymon Paul ('94)  
Chairman

James D. Spears ('95)  
Vice Chairman

James R. Lowe ('96)  
Secretary

Robert M. Nonnemacher ('97)  
Member

William F. Sahlie ('98)  
Member

### ADJUNCT OFFICERS

Gerrilyn V. Grant  
Legal Counsel

Mrs. Pamela B. Sears  
Office Manager

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

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Continuing Education  
Robert M. Nonnemacher

Violations  
James R. Lowe

Finance & Administration  
William F. Sahlie

From previous page

Applied Forest Finance (12 hrs) .....	June 2 - 3
Law for Foresters (15 hrs).....	June 28 - 29
Environmental Law for Foresters (7 hrs).....	June 30
Urban Forest Management (18 hrs) .....	July 13 - 15
Logging Cost Analysis (13 hrs) .....	July 26 - 28
Timber Procurement Basics (13 hrs)* .....	August 3 - 4
Negotiating Skills for Foresters (9 hrs) (Tuscaloosa, AL).....	September 1 - 2
Estate Planning for Forest Landowners (13 hrs) (Tuscaloosa, AL).....	September 20 - 21
Thinning Systems for Southern Forests (10 hrs) .....	October 5 - 6
Forest Roads (9 hrs) .....	October 12 - 13