

STUMP TALK

by Charles E. Tomlinson

I had just returned from a continuing education course when I learned of the tragic death of Bill Sablie.

I recall Bill's comment, when asked by members of the Board if he would serve another term as Chairman, that he was trying to pay back his profession for the success it had provided for him in his life. I had heard him use these words in reference to his service as Council member and acting Mayor of Wetumpka, his service to his church, and about his family. In these areas, Bill wanted to make a real contribution with the remainder of his life.

I cannot speak for the other parts of Bill's life, although I am sure of his contributions in those areas, but I can testify to his commitment, his vision, and his work on behalf of his profession.

Bill's family, his church, his city, and his profession have lost a leader. I have lost a friend. Both leaders and friends are rare - to be cherished, to be mourned and to be missed.

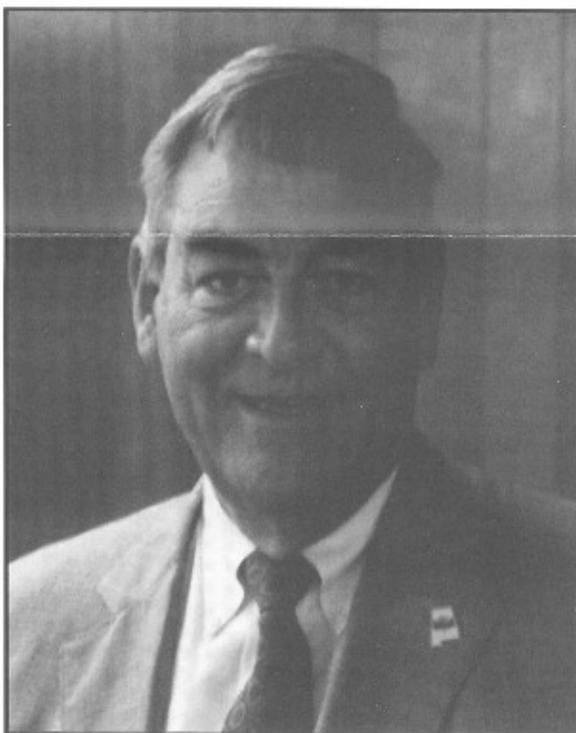
The Registered FORESTER

Volume 26, #3 Summer, 1996



CHAIRMAN BILL SAHLIE KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

As this issue was being prepared for press, we were notified of the tragic death of our Chairman. Bill was concerned that each Registered Forester in Alabama understand the necessity for raising the annual fees and prepared this article for this issue.



At a special meeting on May 22, 1996, a new fee structure was set.

The 1997 Fees Are:

Application	\$50
Renewal-Active	\$75
Renewal-Inactive	\$30
Late Renewal	\$50
Reexamination	\$25
Lost Certificate	\$10

Why did we do this? As you all know, the Alabama Forestry Commission has provided the Board with staff, office space and other resources since the Board's inception in 1957. Without this help, the SBRF could not have made it. However, the Commission's budget has been severely tightened in recent years and your Board has been asked to become more self-sufficient financially. As your Board discussed this, we felt that we needed to become more independent for other reasons, also.

Presently, there are approximately 950 registered foresters whose fees provide a gross annual income of approximately \$30,000. With this new fee structure we are hoping to double that figure. This will allow us to pay the total expenses of our one employee and to occupy an office that becomes more independently recognizable to you, the Registered Forester, and the general public. This may require another fee increase in the future.

We will live with this new fee structure for a period of time and then make another assessment. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

THE NEW FEE STRUCTURE

By Bill Sablie, Chairman

For the past six months, or longer, the Board of Registration has been discussing the annual fees charged for licensing in Alabama.

The 1996 Fees were:

Application	\$50
Renewal	\$30
Late Renewal	\$30
Reexamination	\$25
Lost Certificate	\$10

VIOLATIONS PROCEDURES

By Phillip Sasnett, Violations Chairman



When a complaint is received in writing or verbally, an official complaint form is sent to the complainant. The form must be completed, notarized, and returned to the Board for processing to begin. This form becomes the basis for initiating an investigation and potentially filing formal charges. If the Board determines the complaint is within its legal jurisdiction and has merit, an investigation ensues. Based on the resulting facts, the Board decides if formal charges are appropriate. Should legal proceedings be warranted, charges will be preferred for an unlicensed person in the county where the offense occurred. Registered Foresters would be tried before an administrative law judge, who would advise the Board. The Board would determine guilt or innocence and penalties.

Having a defined process is only part of the answer. The Board is still grappling with resources to conduct the investigation in a timely manner. While the Attorney General provides a legal advisor (currently Gerri Grant), investigative resources would be the local sheriff, and most of these offices are taxed to the limit now. Consequently, contracted investigators may be a solution, but this will be an added expense for your Board. To facilitate investigations, persons filing complaints need to provide as much factual information as possible about the alleged violation of the "Practice of Forestry", including names of other persons knowledgeable of the matter.

I would encourage all of you to review the enclosed processes as well as the sections of the law pertaining to violations. The Board's jurisdiction is confined to the "Practice of Forestry", which is defined in the law. Interpretation of the law is a responsibility of the Board. This is often a challenge, and many hours are spent discussing interpretations with our legal advisor. Many of you may be like I was prior to appointment to the Board, in that I was poorly informed about this Law. For a law that was enacted in 1957, it is remarkably sound and valid today. A better understanding of the law within the forestry community and among the citizens of Alabama can strengthen the "Practice of Forestry". As professionals, we need to participate actively in its enforcement. SBRF encourages you to report violations and not to condone abuses by ignoring them. If you have questions, Pam Sears or any Board member will be happy to discuss them with you.

During the last year, the Board has been reviewing its procedures for:

- 1—processing complaints of violation of the law;
- 2—investigation of alleged violations;
- 3—resolution of alleged violations.

This effort was a response to the Board's concern about the often lengthy period of time from notification of the complaint to its resolution. Some complaints were still pending more than a year after first notice. While the Law and Board Procedures provided guidelines, there seemed to be a need for a better defined process. In addition to the Board, a number of Registered Foresters and citizens have also expressed concerns.

The resulting process includes separate procedures for complaints regarding the "Practice of Forestry" by unlicensed persons and by Registered Foresters. These procedures are included in this newsletter.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

MEMBERS:

- WILLIAM F. "BILL" SAHLIE (98) CHAIRMAN - *Public Information Committee*
ROBERT M. "BOB" NONNEMACHER (97) VICE CHAIRMAN - *Examination Committee*
H. PHILLIP SASNETT (99) SECRETARY - *Violation Committee*
RICHARD H. "RICK" JONES (00) - *Continuing Education Committee*
O.M. "MIKE" BEACH (01) - *Rules & Regulations, Finance & Administration Committee*

STAFF:

- PAMELA B. SEARS - OFFICE MANAGER
CHARLES E. TOMLINSON - EDITOR
GERRILYN V. "GERRI" GRANT - ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY BY REGISTERED FORESTERS

The State Board of Registration (SBRF) for Foresters shall use the following procedures to handle complaints regarding the practice of forestry by Registered Foresters (R.F.).

1. Upon receipt of a complaint, oral or in writing, the Office Manager (OM) will acknowledge the complaint and send the complainant a standard Complaint Form. Complainant must submit a properly completed and notarized form in order for SBRF to take action on the allegations.

2. When a properly submitted complaint is received by the OM at the SBRF office in Montgomery, the date of receipt will be noted, a unique case number assigned and a permanent file established. OM will acknowledge receipt to complainant and send a copy to the Chairman of the Violations (CVC) and the Chairman of the Board (CB).

3. Should CVC and CB agree that no action should be taken, said decision will be noted in the file and the complainant notified in writing. Such a decision will be reviewed by SBRF at its next scheduled meeting.

4. Should CVC and CB agree action should be taken, CVC will notify the R.F. of allegations/complaint and initiate investigation, by contacting all known parties for evidence. Upon completion of the investigation the case is reviewed by SBRF. If SBRF finds the allegations to be without merit the case is closed and all parties are notified in writing.

5. Should SBRF find that the allegations have merit, then charges will be preferred and a formal hearing scheduled within three months after the date in which they have been preferred. The time and place for such hearing shall be fixed by SBRF, and a copy shall be personally served on or mailed to the last known address of the R. F., the complainant and all witnesses at least thirty days before the date of the hearing. (Section 34-12-9).

6. At the hearing, the accused R.F. shall have the right to appear personally and by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him/her, and to produce evidence and witnesses in his/her own defense.

Immediately following the testimony of the hearing SBRF shall deliberate and vote. Should three or more members of SBRF vote in favor of finding the accused guilty, SBRF shall revoke the license of R.F. Additionally, SBRF is authorized to discipline its licensees by the adoption and collection of administrative fines, not to exceed \$500 per violation. (Section 34-12-12(b)). Subsequently, all parties will be notified in writing of SBRF's decision and the case is closed. R.F. has the right of appeal through the legal system based solely on the evidence presented to SBRF. New evidence must first be presented to SBRF.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY WITHOUT A LICENSE

The State Board of Registration (SBRF) for Foresters shall use the following procedures to handle complaints regarding the practice of forestry without a license.

1. Upon receipt of a complaint, oral or in writing, the Office Manager (OM) will acknowledge the complaint and send the complainant a standard Complaint Form. Complainant must submit a properly completed and notarized form in order for SBRF to take action on the allegations.

2. When a properly submitted complaint is received by the OM at the SBRF office in Montgomery, the date of receipt will be noted, a unique case number assigned and a permanent file established. OM will acknowledge receipt to complainant and send a copy to the Chairman of the Violations (CVC) and the Chairman of the Board (CB).

3. Should CVC and CB agree that no action should be taken, said decision will be noted in the file and the complainant notified

in writing. Such a decision will be reviewed by SBRF at its next scheduled meeting.

4. Should CVC and CB agree action should be taken, CVC will notify the unlicensed party (UP) to "cease and desist" the alleged activity citing the pertinent sections of Chapter 12 of the Code and requiring a response within ten days of receipt affirming compliance with the law or explaining UP's position regarding the complaint. Upon receipt of an affirming response, the case will be reviewed by SBRF and provided no additional investigation is required, the case will be closed and all parties notified of satisfactory resolution.

5. Should UP's response be inadequate or negative SBRF may designate legal counsel (AGO) to further investigate and prefer charges accordingly in the appropriate County. Section 34-12-12(a). The results of said prosecution will be reviewed by AGO for SBRF and all parties notified in writing. Any fines collected as a result of conviction(s) shall be placed in the "professional foresters fund" by OM.

JULY BOARD MEETING

The Board met in regular session on July 24, 1996. Vice Chairman Nonnemacher called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Chairman Sahlie was acting as Mayor of Wetumpka at a ribbon cutting for a new business in the city and joined the meeting later in the morning.

In summary, the Board reviewed 18 pieces of violation correspondence and acted on 5 violation cases. The Board approved 11 new applications for license, granted 7 requests for reciprocity, and reviewed the applications for 16 Forestry Interns. The Board granted licenses to 10 applicants who had passed the oral exam.

The Board met with David Long, representing the Alabama Society of American Foresters, and discussions were held concerning the new renewal fees, the SBRF Forestry Law Study Committee, the Registered Forester newsletter, and the need for nominations from SAF for a replacement on the Board for Nonnemacher, whose term is expiring. Activities of the editor of the Bankhead Monitor were discussed by Mr Long.

The Board discussed computer examinations, the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, continuing education requirements and documentation, and the recommendations and findings of the Department of Public Accounts who have recently completed their audit of the Board's activities in fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

The Forestry Law Study Committee is made up of Board member Phillip Sasnett, Tom Glass, and Charles Walsh. The committee met on Tuesday, July 23 with Legal Counsel Gerri Grant, Chairman Bill Sahlie, Office Manager Pam Sears, and ex-Board member Wilbur DeVall. DeVall will serve as advisor to the committee as they examine the present law and discuss possible changes. Each committee member was assigned portions of the present law to review and report on at the next meeting. The next committee meeting will be in September.

State Forester Tim Boyce met with the Board to inform it that construction on the addition to the AFC building will begin soon. He reminded the Board that this will include space for the Board (two offices and a conference room), with a separate entrance and a SBRF sign outside of the building. Chairman Sahlie expressed the appreciation of the present and past Boards for the assistance of the AFC throughout the history of registration in Alabama.

The Board elected officers for the next fiscal year and they are:

William Sahlie, Chairman
Phillip Sasnett, Vice Chairman
Rick Jones, Secretary

Sasnett reported on the Southern States Licensing meeting he attended representing the Board. The next meeting of this organization will be hosted by the Alabama Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Faces and Places

Bruno F. Fritschi (598), President of Resource Management Services, Inc. was recently named honor alumnus of the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, from which he graduated in 1966. CSU honored Fritschi for his forestry and management expertise and stewardship ethic. RMS manages 15 million acres of timberland in 16 southern states.

John Stephen Nix (745), Forest Resource Analyst for AFC, has established a web page on the internet which contains information about the Board of Registration for Foresters. Those who wish to surf should go to <http://members.gnn.com./jsnix/index.htm>

William H. (Billy) Stimpson (Inactive) has received the prestigious Mulrooney Award for leadership in protecting private property rights and exemplary service to the forest products industry and the community at large. The award is bestowed by the North American Wholesale Lumber Association.

NEW Registered Foresters

Montgomery, Robert Thomas 1632County Forester Supervisor

Alabama Forestry Commission
Business: 210 North Elm Suite 401
Tuskegee, AL 36083
Phone: 334/727-3783
Home: P.O. Box 122
Fort Davis, AL 36031
Phone: 334/529-3133

Zane, Glenn Alan 1633President

Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc.
Business: P.O. Box 990218
Redding, CA 96099-0218
Phone: 916/246-2455
Home: 1700 Branstetter Circle
Redding, CA 96001
Phone: 916/243-6582

Hanks, Jerry Curtis 1634Supervisor

Russell Lands Inc.
Business: 2544 Willow Point Road
Alexander City, AL 35010
Phone: 205/329-0835
Home: 6773 Elkahatchee Road
Alexander City, AL 35010
Phone: 205/329-2314

Whitmire, Edward Lee 1635Timber and Log Buyer

Linden Lumber Company
Business: P.O. Box 68
Thomasville, AL 36784
Phone: 334/636-2224
Home: P.O. Box 82
Thomasville, AL 36784
Phone: 334/636-2868

Brinker, Richard William 1636Associate Professor

Auburn University
Business: 122 M. White Smith Hall
Auburn, AL 36849
Phone: 334/844-1038
Home: 436 Summertree Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334/887-6463

McRae, John Brickner 1637Vice President

International Forest Seed Co.
Business: P.O. Box 490
Odenville, AL 35120
Phone: 205/629-6461
Home: 412 Debbie Drive
Trussville, AL 35173
Phone: 205/655-3605

Minchew, Michael Charles 1638Procurement Manager

T.R. Miller Mill Company
Business: P.O. Box 708
Brewton, AL 36427
Phone: 334/867-4331
Home: 4815 Siesta Cove
Milton, FL 32583
Phone: 904/983-8802

Revel, Matthew Leon 1639Area Procurement Forester

Georgia Pacific Corporation
Business: P.O. Box 659
Belk, AL 35545
Phone: 205/932-3246
Home: 13306 Michael Drive
McCalla, AL 35111
Phone: 205/477-4763

Oser, Kenneth Lewis 1640County Forester

Florida Division of Forestry
Business: 6095 Old Bagdad Highway
Milton, FL 32583
Phone: 904/983-5310
Home: 5852 Hermitage Circle
Milton, FL 32570
Phone: 904/623-9597

DeVos, Theodore 1641Natural Resource Officer

First Alabama Bank
Business: P.O. Box 511
Montgomery, AL 36134
Phone: 334/832-8200
Home: 204 W. Chewalla Creek Drive
Eufaula, AL 36207
Phone: 334/689-7838

CONGRATULATIONS!

REMINDER FROM PAM SEARS



Hey, foresters, time is getting short!

Your renewal fees and continuing education forms are due in this office by SEPTEMBER 30, 1996. A check in the amount of \$75 must be attached to your CE form and anything received after September 30 (including CE courses taken after that time) will trigger a \$50 late fee. Late renewal is from October 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996 and will cost \$125. After December 31, 1996 you will have to reapply for forestry registration to reinstate your license.

If you are having problems finding courses to complete your CE requirements, you can contact the following schools to see what is available:

Auburn University (Chris Isaacson 334/844-1042)
Mississippi State University (Tom Monaghan 601/325-3905)
University of Georgia (Richard Field or Joseph Allen 706/542-3063)

Please call me at 334/240-9368 or my E-mail address (pbs Sears@earthlink.net) if you have any questions about CE credits or the renewal process.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

(Copy and mail to address below)

NAME _____ LICENSE NO. _____

OLD ADDRESS _____
city state zip

NEW ADDRESS Business _____
city state zip

Residence _____
city state zip

NEW TELEPHONE Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

FAX Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Business (_____) _____ Residence (_____) _____

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

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

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