



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Fall 2007

THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IS AN EXPANDED DEFINITION NEEDED?

The Board has for some time wrestled with the idea of whether the definition of the practice of forestry as codified in State law is adequate, or if an effort is needed to expand or clarify the definition.

The broad field of forestry is ever evolving and encompasses a number of specialized areas (e.g.; urban forestry, industrial forestry, non-industrial forestry, etc.) and includes an array of activities that are generally considered professional services covered under the practice of forestry. These specific activities include conducting inventories, management planning, stand typing/delineation, harvest planning, regeneration, stand management, and the sale of timber. The Board, excepting to clarify through administrative rule that the sale of timber on behalf of a landowner involves the practice of forestry principles and data, has relied on the definition codified in State law.

Due to the significance of this issue, the Board is allowing an opportunity for Registered Foresters in the State to express their views on the matter. Comments may be provided either by letter or e-mail. The Board will consider feedback (i.e.; whether an expanded definition is needed and if

so what should be included in a revised definition) and take up the issue further at its October 24, 2007 meeting.

Some considerations, associated with expanding the definition or clarifying the practice of forestry, are noted below.

- The existing definition gives the Board leeway to make contemporary interpretations based on the facts of specific cases that may be referred for action.
- Revising the definition would require a change in the Forestry Law. Changing the law can be an unpredictable process.
- Clarification of the definition of the practice of forestry could be handled by administrative rule and may be of benefit to landowners and others.
- If changed, at what point would an expanded definition be complete? How soon might a revised definition become obsolete?
- Any revised definition would need to avoid infringing on other legally recognized professions or trades.

The Practice of Forestry as defined in Alabama Code Chapter 12, Section 34-12-1:

Any professional service such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning or responsible supervision as interpreted by the board of any forestry activities in connection with any public or private lands wherein the public welfare and property are concerned or involved when the professional services require the application of forestry principles and data. The term also means the application, teaching, investigation, or administration of forestry theories, principles, practices, or programs directly or indirectly related to the environmental and economic use and the biological and ecological understanding of gross areas of land in public or private ownership or direction or both, and supervision over persons engaged in the formation or implementation, or both, of forestry policies.

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NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Next Board Meeting—

October 24, 2007
Board Office, Montgomery, AL.

License Renewal—

The license renewal period officially ends September 30, 2007. All unexpired licenses will expire at that time. Licenses may be renewed between October 1 and December 31 by paying the applicable renewal fee plus a \$100 late fee. **Note: Those renewing late may not practice forestry until the license has been renewed.**

Email Addresses—

If you did not get the last copy of **THE REGISTERED FORESTER** newsletter electronically, that means we don't have a good email address for you. Please go to the Board's website and update your email address. The website is www.asbrf.alabama.gov.

Rosters—

Rosters will be printed again in January 2008 and will be made available upon request at cost. Please make sure your contact information is up to date. To view your roster information, please go to <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/rosterofforesters.asp>. If you have a change of address, new phone numbers or email addresses, please submit a Change of Address form at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/vs2k5/changeofaddress.aspx>.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN BOARDS OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS CHOCTAW, MS JUNE 7-8, 2007

- All boards represented at the meeting have multiple choice exams except Alabama and North Carolina, who both have short answer exams.
- Boards expressed concern about CFE certificates being issued too freely.
- SAF subcommittee on CFE's is trying to strengthen CFE program by setting more "black and white" standards on CFE evaluation and providing training/certification process for CFE coordinator before they will be allowed to assign credits to classes. Hope to have something in place by year-end.
- South Carolina does not list classes for renewal, only number of hours. If audited, documentation is submitted at that time.
- Georgia governor can consider someone without a forestry degree as a candidate for director of the Georgia Forestry Commission.
- Member boards will begin paying membership fees starting January 2008 to help cover the cost of meetings.
- Oklahoma would like to become a member board -- so far, they have always been visitors.
- Chairman Michael Thompson (NC) passed the gavel to Frank Wright (AR) and John Britt (GA) was elected Vice-Chairman.
- Alabama is scheduled to host the meeting in 2009.
- Next meeting is June 12-13, 2008 in Asheville, NC.
- Looking at exam questions/processes for each state will be on the agenda for next year's business meeting. *(To learn more about the Association see Page 5.)*

THE NC STATE TREE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – 50 YEARS OF PARTNERING WITH SOUTHERN FOREST LANDOWNERS

Steve McKeand and Bailian Li¹

As plantation forestry has become an integral component of the southern forest landscape in the last half century, members of the North Carolina State University – Industry Cooperative Tree Improvement Program have led the way in developing genetically superior southern pines that enhance the health, productivity, sustainability, and profitability of our forest stands. Through the application of sound scientific principles, tree breeders have developed families of loblolly pine that produce 30% to 50% more wood per acre than what was available 50 years ago. These families are more resistant to fusiform rust disease, have better wood quality due to enhancement in straightness and disease resistance, and are widely adapted to a range of site types and silvicultural systems (Li et al. 1999, McKeand et al. 2005b).

For many forest landowners, intensive management of southern pine stands has become routine practice.

Silvicultural inputs such as site preparation, planting genetically improved seedlings, management of herbaceous and woody plant competition, manipulation of stand density, and fertilization are routinely applied during the rotation (Allen et al. 2005). When the best genetic material is planted and given the necessary resources to grow, mean annual increments of 300 ft³/acre/year can be readily achieved on many sites (Allen et al. 2005). There are few other regions in the world where the use of integrated silvicultural systems that

include the manipulation of site resources, management of stand density, management of pests, and use of genetically improved planting stock is having such a large positive an impact on plantation productivity. Today's plantations are growing more than twice as fast as plantations of the previous rotation.

Tree improvement has been a standard silvicultural tool for foresters to use in southern pine regeneration programs for many years. Virtually all of the 1.2 billion loblolly pine seedlings planted annually come from tree improvement programs (McKeand et al. 2003). Estimates of genetic gains in the Lower Gulf region of southern AL, MS, GA, and western FL, estimates of volume improvements for rotations of 25 years averaged 16% for a mix of average families and 31% if only the top 30% of the families are used (Li et al. 1999). This tremendous variation in gain depending on which families are actually used for deployment has been a

best open pollinated (OP) families are expected to produce 50% or more volume than unimproved seedlings and 35-40% above a typical mix of 2nd-generation families. If the best full-sib families are deployed using mass control pollination, the gains are even greater (Jansson and Li, 2004). Depending on the site quality, the silvicultural systems employed, and the market prices for harvested products, we estimate that the best families are worth between \$50 to \$500 per acre to landowners (McKeand et al. 2005a). This is the present value of the additional gain that would come to a landowner if he or she simply planted the very best genetic material.

Over the past 10 to 20 years, most nurseries have not only sold mixtures of seedlings from various families, but also specific open pollinated families. These families could range from the very best genotypes to average genotypes. Informed foresters recognize the tremendous financial advantage

The NC State Tree Improvement Cooperative started in 1956, when a group of 11 charter members agreed to support research in forest genetics, selection, breeding and testing, and technology transfer for an initial five-year period. This group of visionary industry leaders recognized the need to invest in the long-range regeneration of the forests they were harvesting in the Southeast. The mission of the Cooperative is to economically increase forest productivity through the genetic manipulation of loblolly pine populations. Nearly 50 years later, the Cooperative is still going strong, providing vital research to forest landowners and the forestry industry. The cumulative investment in genetic improvement exceeds \$95 million. Additional wood and higher quality raw material produced on over 17 million acres reforested with genetically improved seedlings is estimated to exceed \$ 2 billion of marginal value.

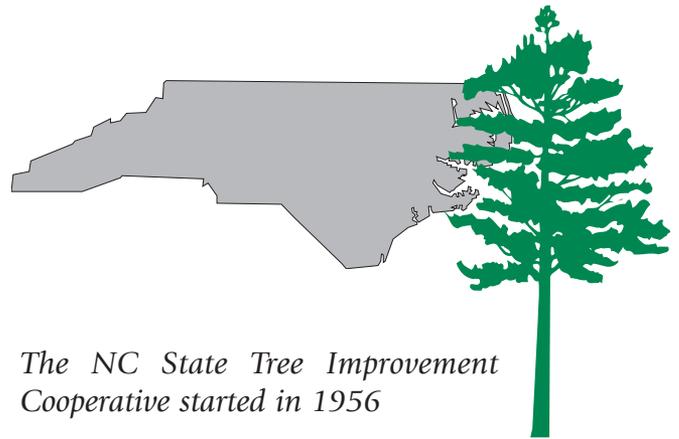
that comes from planting the best families. Unfortunately, many landowners are often not as knowledgeable and do not always purchase the best genetic quality seedlings except in mixture with other families. Information and knowledge is power, and when landowners become better informed of the benefits of using specific families for their forest regeneration,

tremendous advantage to informed landowners (McKeand et al. 1997). For example, in the Lower Gulf, the

they should be willing to invest in the best genetic material possible for planting their next investment.

Literature Cited

- Allen, H. L., T.R. Fox, and T.J. Albaugh. 2005a. Response to fertilizers and current practices. Forest Nutrition Cooperative web site <http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsfnc/response.htm>
- Allen, H.L., T.R. Fox, and R.G. Campbell. 2005b. What is ahead for intensive pine plantation silviculture in the South? *South. J. Appl. For.* 29(2): (in press).
- Jansson, G. and B. Li. 2004. Genetic gains of full-sib families from disconnected diallels in loblolly pine. *Silvae Genetica* 53(2):60-64.
- Li, B., S.E. McKeand and R.J. Weir. 1999. Tree improvement and sustainable forestry - impact of two cycles of loblolly pine breeding in the U.S.A. *Forest Genetics* 6(4):229-234.
- McKeand, S.E. R.C. Abt, H.L. Allen, B. Li, and G.P. Catts. 2005a. Financial benefits from deploying specific families of loblolly pine to sites of varying productivity classes and to different silvicultural systems: what are the best genotypes worth to landowners? *South. J. Appl. For.* (in prep).
- McKeand, S.E., R.P. Crook, and H.L. Allen. 1997. Genotypic stability effects on predicted family responses to silvicultural treatments in loblolly pine. *South. J. Appl. For.* 21:84-89.
- McKeand, S.E., E.J. Jokela, D.A. Huber, T.D. Byram, H. Lee Allen, B. Li, T.J. Mullin. 2005b. Performance of improved genotypes of loblolly pine across different soils, climates, and silvicultural inputs. Submitted to *For. Ecol. and Manag.*
- McKeand, S., T. Mullin, T. Byram, T. White. 2003. Deployment of genetically improved loblolly and slash pine in the South. *J. For.* 101(3): 32-37
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Please clarify the exception described in Code of Alabama Chapter 12:

§34-12-2 Registration required; exceptions.

(b) This Chapter shall not be construed to prevent or to affect:

(2) The application of forestry principles and procedures on any timberlands, woodlands, or forest in which any person, firm, partnership, or corporation owns an interest; or persons, firms, partnerships, and corporations having the right to manage and administer forestlands in any legal manner.

A The Board interprets this section to mean that if a person has a legal **ownership interest** in land (as an individual, a member of a firm, partnership, corporation or other legal means) then that person can manage the timber resources and apply forest principles on that land without being registered.

Q I recently accepted a position which, as a condition of employment requires, that I be a Registered Forester in Alabama. What options do I have?

A You should submit an application for licensing to the Board for consideration. The Board will consider the application at its next scheduled meeting and may schedule you for an examination to be given at the next quarterly testing session (January, April, July, or October).



CHARTER OF ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN BOARDS OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

1. The name of the Association shall be the Association of South-eastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF).
2. Charter membership consists of the Boards of Registration for Foresters from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. All board members and other interested individuals may participate in the open meetings of ASBORF; however each state shall have only one vote.
3. Additional States may be admitted by unanimous vote of the members. This vote and any discussion pertaining to it shall be conducted in executive session.
4. Officers of ASBORF shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the membership. Only members with two or more years remaining on their terms on their respective boards shall be elected. The term of office shall be one year fro the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and two years for the Secretary-Treasurer. The Vice-Chairman will succeed the Chairman. The Chairman shall appoint a nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers prior to the end of his term.
5. Records of ASBORF shall be kept by the Secretary-Treasurer. All monies shall be kept by the Secretary-Treasurer. The secretary-Treasurer shall give to the membership an accounting of all funds at least once a year. An audit shall be performed with the change of Secretary-Treasurer or every four years whichever comes first.
6. ASBORF shall meet at least each year at a location acceptable to a majority of the membership.
7. The Chairman, at his discretion, may appoint committees to carry out assignments of ASBORF. Committee members do not have to be members of ASBORF.
8. No action of ASBORF shall impinge on the sovereignty of any State Board of Registration for Foresters and no action taken by ASBORF shall be binding on any individual Board unless such action is ratified by the individual Board.
9. ASBORF may be dissolved by a vote of the majority of the membership.
10. The purpose for which ASBORF is created is, but not limited to:
 - A. To promote the discussion of ideas of mutual interest which transcend state boundaries;
 - B. To promote, where possible, uniformity among individual Boards;
 - C. To assist in the investigation and conviction of persons who violate the laws of one or more states by conducting interstate activities.

*Originally adopted: January 11, 1994;
Modified: March 24, 1998 and May 10, 2005.
This Revision adopted: April 21, 2006*

June 1, 2007

History of ASBORF Meeting Locations

Year	Host State	Location
1993	SC	Greenville
1994	GA	Atlanta
1995	MS	Starkville
1996	NC	Asheville
1997	AL	Birmingham
1998	SC	Columbia
1999	GA	Athens
2000	AR	Little Rock
2001	NC	Asheville
2002	MS	Starkville
2003	AL	Opelika
2004	GA	Tifton
2005	AR	Little Rock
2006	SC	Columbia
2007	MS	Choctaw
2008	NC	
2009	AL	
2010	GA	
2011	AR	
2012	SC	
2013	MS	
2014	NC	
2015	AL	
2016	GA	
2017	AR	

Note: There are seven states which have forester licensing boards that are not charter members: California, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

Submitted by David Wright

STATE LICENSING BOARDS

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
Phone: (334) 240-9301
Est. 1957

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters

3821 West Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
Phone: (501) 296-1998 • Fax: (501) 296-1949
Est. 1969

California Board of Registration for Foresters

1416 9th Street, Room 1506-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 653-8007 • Fax: (916) 653-0989
Est. 1972

Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA 31217-3858
Phone: 478.207.2440 • Fax: 478.207.1354
Est. 1951

Maine Office of Licensing & Registration

#35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035
Phone: (207) 624-8521 • Fax: (207) 624-8637
TTY (Hearing Impaired) (207) 624-8563
Est. 1975

Maryland State Board of Foresters

500 N. Calvert Street, Room 304
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3651
(410) 230-6271
Est. 1972

Michigan Forester Registration

P.O. Box 30018
Lansing, MI 48909
Ph(517) 241-9288 • Fax: (517) 373-3085
Est. 1955

Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters

Box 9681
Mississippi State University, MS 39762-9681
Phone: (662) 325-2772 • Fax: (662) 325-1358
Est. 1977

New Hampshire Board of Foresters

N.H. Joint Board
57 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-2219
Est. 1998

North Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters

PO Box 27393
Raleigh, NC 27611
Telephone: 919-847-5441 • Fax: 919-847-5441
Est. 1975

Oklahoma Board of Foresters

(No Website)
Kurt Atkinson, Secretary
2800 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Phone: 405-522-6147
Est. 1963

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters

P.O. Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 896-4498 • Fax: (803) 896-4484
Est. 1961

West Virginia State Board of Registration for Foresters

Route 1, Box 271 B
Leroy, WV 25252
Phone: 304-532-9663 • Fax: 304-372-1957
Est. 1963

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