



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Fall 2008

Continuing Forestry Education Credits

By Al Lyons

The Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters is working to streamline the process for issuing board approved CFEs. In the July Board meeting a new policy was approved that put in place a system for the Alabama Forestry Commission to internally grant CFEs for classes, meetings and courses sponsored by the AFC. Furthermore we are currently in discussions with Mathew Smidt, the SAF CFE Coordinator, to develop a system to ensure SAF CFEs and Alabama Board approved CFEs are compatible and can be issued to you with a clear understanding of their value as related to renewing your license. We are committed to developing a system to make the issuance of CFEs effective and clear.

In the last few months the Board has received request for CFEs for courses that, while important, are not at a professional level. The Administrative Code governing the issuance of Continuing Education Credits specifically states that the training must "constitute an organized program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competency of the registered forester". As such, training sessions such as first aid, CPR and defensive driving would not qualify as professional level and would not be acceptable to submit for license renewal. It should also be noted that correspondence courses and independent studies are permitted under categories 1 and 2 if the course provides for interaction between you and the person administering the course. Certain on-line courses may not qualify for Category 1 and 2 CFEs without this interaction but would qualify for Category 5 (self improvement) CFEs. At least 5 of your 10 required CFEs must be in Category 1 and 2. If you have any questions concerning Continuing Education please feel free to contact your Alabama Board.

2008 ASBORF Meeting

Darrell Gates

On June 12th and 13th 2008, I attended an Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF) meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, representing the Alabama Board.

Current members of ASBORF are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Oklahoma (voted in this year). As I reported in our last newsletter, Tennessee is working towards a Forestry Registration Law. Collectively we represent some +/- 5,000 foresters in all seven member states.

The main topic of this year's meeting was the testing methodology used by each Board. We looked at the process for exam development, grading and pass rates among other metrics. As it turns out, all states have written exams with Alabama being the only state to offer an oral exam. Most states use a multiple choice format. I am hoping that we will be able to use some of the ideas shared at the conference to upgrade our exam here in Alabama. Georgia solicits questions from foresters with 5 to 15 years experience. The idea being that they want their questions to be geared toward more current forestry operations. As you can imagine there were many excellent ideas that were shared.

On another note, the Alabama Board is scheduled to host the Annual ASBORF meeting in 2009. We are in the process of coming up with a venue and possible program topics. One suggestion is to look at how each state handles violations.

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New Registered Foresters

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(Reinstatement)**

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Fulghum, Douglas D. #2077

County Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
320 MLK Parkway
Livingston AL 35470
205/652-6500

Gillespie, Corey P. #2081

Procurement Forester
Advantage Forest Resources, Inc.
4360 Lile Lane
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Grider, Galen E. #2083

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Foresters Granted Reciprocity in Alabama

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**PRESS RELEASE**

August 8, 2008



American Forest Foundation

Contact: Bob Simpson

202-463-2458

bsimpson@forestfoundation.org

Oldest and Largest U.S. Tree Certification Program Receives International Approval

Washington, D.C. - Family forest owners in the U.S., who own nearly two-thirds of the country's forestlands, today cheered the international approval of the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. The 67 year-old program is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation.

Family forest landowners welcomed the endorsement by PEFC for certifying sustainably produced wood, a step that will open the door to new green markets for wood that is sustainably produced on their land. The Geneva-based Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) made the announcement after a 14-month rigorous review designed to provide assurance to purchasers that certified wood and paper products are in fact produced from sustainably managed forests.

For some U.S. companies like NewPage Corporation whose North American operations include a mill in Rumford, Maine, this change could not come soon enough. "We sorely needed this endorsement in order to satisfy our customers who are demanding that our pulp and paper come from certified forest operations," said Tony Lyons, Director of Fiber Supply at the NewPage Rumford Mill. He added that the market dynamics for sustainably produced wood have changed dramatically over just the last two years. "We can't meet the demand, and that's a shame when qualified forest owners are standing ready. This fixes that problem."

"This is fantastic news for conservation-minded family forest owners who are struggling to survive in tough economic times," said Laurence Wiseman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Forest Foundation, the parent group of ATFS. "PEFC approval is the key to

connecting more of the good operators to the rapidly growing marketplace of green manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers."

Forest landowners who voluntarily commit the extra time and expense to produce wood sustainably under the ATFS system will now qualify for access to the international markets that they never had before. Traditional markets for U.S. wood have been shrinking as more foreign wood gains control into those markets, and Wiseman believes this endorsement step will help U.S. growers.

The United States is permanently losing 1.5 million acres per year of family forestland to development. Many people mistakenly assume that forestland they see is owned by either the government or large paper companies, when in fact 60 percent of all the wood harvested in the U.S. actually comes from family forestlands. For many of these small forest landowners, achieving some economic return on their property is essential if they are to avoid the pressures of development.

Jo Pierce is a sixth-generation family forest owner in Cumberland County, Maine who walks the talk. Not only does he spend much of his time teaching other landowners how to manage their forest sustainably, his own operation won the national ATFS Tree Farmer of the Year award in 2007 for his conservation practices. A pioneer in this area whose grandmother first enrolled the family's forestland in the volunteer ATFS program in the 1960's, Jo credits his great, great grandfather who reportedly once said "Take care of the land first, and it will take care of you."

Many communities depend on private forests to provide benefits including water purification, clean air, recreation, wildlife habitat and education. Eighty percent of all rain that falls east of the Mississippi River falls on family-owned forests where it is purified, stored, and released into aquifers.

"By joining the largest forest certification system in the world, the American Tree Farm System is creating new markets for American growers," said Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of PEFC International. "The demand for

sustainably-procured wood is rapidly increasing because more businesses and more consumers are stepping up to the plate on issues like climate change. PEFC endorsement means that more American growers can now serve this rapidly growing market. "

Only about 10 percent of the global wood market currently comes through forest certification systems. Now with ATFS, PEFC has 500 million certified acres. At this size and growing rapidly, PEFC is by far the largest global program for certifying sustainable forests. Canada, Norway, Finland, Spain, Brazil, the Malaysian Republic, and many other European countries are among those with PEFC-approved forest certification systems. This is the second such approval for the U.S., with the first being the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

The American Tree Farm System was first launched in 1941 as a private initiative to address concerns that America's forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation. It now represents more than 90,000 family forest owners in 45 states, most of whom manage woodlots of less than 100 acres. ATFS is the largest private forest conservation and forest restoration initiative in the history of the U.S. "The number of certified family forests landowners in the system has doubled over the past four years, and this shows the tremendous growth potential in this area," said Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President for the American Forest Foundation.

For more information contact Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President, Forestry at 202.463.2458 or bsimpson@forestfoundation.org.

<p><i>The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) is a national program of the Center for Family Forestry that promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS has 23 million acres of privately owned forestland and 90,473 certified forest properties that exhibit excellence in forest stewardship. ATFS private forest landowners [Tree Farmers] manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation with assistance from 4,400 volunteer foresters.</i></p>	<p><i>the sustainability of America's family forests for present and future generations. Our vision is to create a future where North American forests are sustained by the public which understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits they provide to our communities, our nation, and our world.</i></p>	<p><i>largest forest certification umbrella organization covering national systems from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tons of wood to the processing industry and then onto the market place from currently more than 200 million hectares of certified forests. This is an area which is larger than the combined forest area of all European Union member states. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organizations.</i></p>	
<p><i>The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation and education organization that strives to ensure</i></p>	<p><i>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes(PEFC)</i></p>		
	<p><i>PEFC is a framework for the assessment and endorsement of national forest certification systems that have been developed based on internationally recognized requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the</i></p>		

Roster Order Form

Thirty-Second Roster of Registered Foresters 2008-2010

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Rosters: _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters and mail to:

Alexis London
Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters
513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130-4500

Eye Opening Experience

As my five year term on the State Board of Registered Foresters winds down (expiring January 2009), let me tell you that that it has been an “eye opening experience”. Being chairman or a regular member does not matter; you still have plenty of work to do and of course the old saying fits well here - “you get out of something what you put into it”.

This is a “working board” that meets once a quarter with a full agenda every time. Even though we do not meet regularly there is a lot of work that goes on outside the board room. Phone conversations, e-mails and direct contacts are a norm. At times there are tough questions on the table where you have to back off and look at the big picture as well as other times that are purely comical. As a whole, it has been a learning experience as well as fun.

As the new nominees to fill my vacancy read this, they need to prepare themselves for a lot of hours of hard work

ahead. I wish them all of the success that I have enjoyed as well as my fellow board members. Frank Walburn will be the new chairman next year and I know he will do a great job. As long as we have Alexis London as the secretary, I promise you that she will keep everyone on a straight course.

It has been an honor to serve on this dynamic board and as most of you should know that we have the best organized State Board of Registered Foresters in the United States. I’m “bragging”, but it is the truth when you compare with other states. So to all of you registered foresters out there – thank you for giving me this chance to serve you these past five years and I hope and pray that many of you will have the same opportunity that I have enjoyed.

Thanks Again,
David Wright

A Tribute to a Pioneer

Gerald L. Schwarzauer

As I sat taking notes of Wilbur DeVall and his life, I realized what a pioneer he was in the forestry profession. At 93 years old and hard of hearing which I have a problem with as his junior, Wilbur talked about what it was like in those early years of the Board of Registered Foresters. When the State of Alabama passed a Bill (#533) in 1957 to start the Board, Govern Jim Folsom named five members to the first Board in January of 1958. These included: Vance Miles (Gulf States, R.F. #1), Jake Stauffer (A.F.C., R.F. #2), Wilbur DeVall (Auburn University, R.F. #3), and John Mitchell (T.V.A.) was also named to the Board. C.T. Prout (S.C.S.) served six months and was then replaced by Dave Hampe (T.C.T.- U.S. Steel).

Wilbur was born in 1915 in Phelps, N.Y. and graduated from N.Y. State College of Forestry, located at Syracuse University, in 1937. He was

married to Eleanor for over 50 years and they had one son named Harry, who now lives in Dallas, Texas. In



1946 he came to Auburn University as an assistant professor of dendrology, silviculture and wood tech. Wilbur became the head of the Forestry

program at A.U. in 1950; he held this position until he retired in 1978.

Wilbur was the first chairman of the Board of Registered Foresters and dealt with the Board for 29 plus years as a member and a consultant. As I listened to him talk about all the many bylaws, forms, application forms and renewal forms that they had to create, I was glad I wasn't on that first Board. They had monthly meetings until they got all of that done. He said one of the hardest things was grandfathering all the old timers, but each one of them had to come to Montgomery to be examined by the Board. The only sad comment that he made to me was when he had to give up being an active registered forester because he could not get his C.F.E. hours. Wilbur, I and the rest of the registered foresters in the state of Alabama owe you and the first Board members a great deal of gratitude.



Online Renewals

Many Foresters have experienced the ease and convenience of renewing their annual Alabama State Registered Forester's license online. This is a service that is provided to the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters through a private-public partnership with the State's digital government partner, Alabama Interactive. As part of this partnership, Alabama Interactive develops web-enabled applications to streamline governmental processes for the benefit of the State of Alabama and its citizens and businesses.

For your peace of mind this online renewal application was developed with security of your information as a top priority. Once you have accessed the renewal, many of you may have noticed the padlock symbol or the https in the web address, indicating that your information is being transmitted over an encrypted connection. Rest assured that data encryption, as well as the incorporation of many strict security measures have been taken to protect your information with the Board.

Alabama Interactive is a wholly owned subsidiary of NIC Inc. NIC provides digital government solutions for 2,600 state and local agencies, serving more than 61 million people in the United States. Additional information is available at www.nicusa.com.

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