



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Winter 2009

2008 Awards of Excellence Winners



Left to right: David Lewis, Eric Jokela, Al Lyons and Mathew Smidt

Research Award - Dr. Eric Jokela

Dr. Eric Jokela is Professor of Silviculture and Forest Nutrition in the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC). Since joining UF in 1985, Dr. Jokela has taught undergraduate (Silviculture, Regional Silviculture, a study abroad program in the Czech Republic) and graduate (Silviculture: Concepts and Applications, and Forest Productivity, Health and Sustainability) courses. Eric conducted extensive research into the many facets of managed pine stands. He has authored or co-authored over 140 scientific and technical publications. Dr. Jokela acts as Co-Director for the Forest Biology Research Cooperative, and previously directed the Cooperative Research in Forest Fertilization program. Prior to Florida, Dr. Jokela earned a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry and a Master's Degree in Silviculture/ soils from The University of Minnesota

in 1978. He served on the faculty at The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1978-1981) and earned his Doctoral Degree in Silviculture/soils from The State University of New York (1984).

Eric has been an active member in the Society of American Foresters for 33 years, and has served in leadership positions at all levels of the organization including Chapter and Division Chair and Committee Chair at the SESAF level.

General Practice of Forestry Award - David Lewis

David S. Lewis graduated from The University of Florida School of Forestry Resources and Conservation with a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation in 1979. From 1979-1983 he worked in Pole Procurement, Lake City, Florida for Southern Wood Piedmont Company. From 1983-1989 he was the Area Forester in Florida for Balfour Pulpwood Co. in wood procurement. Currently he is the Vice-President of Southern Forestry Consultants, Inc. and manages the Monticello, Florida office of the Company. David's extensive career covers activities with the State Tree Farm Committee of Florida and the Jefferson

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Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters

*513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4500
(334) 240-9301
Alexis.London@asbrf.alabama.gov
www.asbrf.alabama.gov*

New Registered Foresters

Capps, Joseph Thompson #2090

Forester
Forestry Consultants, Inc.
P. O. Box 684
Opelika, AL 36803
334/745-7530
cappsjt@hotmail.com

Cheaney, Michael DeWayne #2092

Vice President
Mountain Valley Forest Products, Inc.
22608 Highway 22 East
Daviston, AL 36256
256/395-9911
mikecheaney@hughes.net

Farley, Robert Bradford #2088

Head of Procurement
Farleys Forest Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 71810
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407
205/758-4499
Brad@farleysforestproducts.com

Haigler, Anna Carol #2091

Farm Manager
Aldridge Borden and Co., C.P.A.
P. O. Box 59
Pine Level, AL 36065
334/239-1434
achaigler@gmail.com

Isbell, Cameron Devon #2084

President
Advantage Forest Resources, Inc.
4360 Lile Lane
Leighton, AL 35646
256/446-4000
advantageforest@aol.com

Luscher, James Hayes #2086

Portfolio Manager
Regions Timber Fund
P.O. Box 10463
Birmingham, AL 35202
205/326-5442
hayes.luscher@regions.com

Partain, Franklin Scott #2093

Timber Buyer
Drennen Forestry Corporation
P.O. Box 1029
Cullman, AL 35056
256/739-8344
spartain@drennenforestry.com

Vancil, William Keith #2085

Vice President
Timberland Harvesters, LLC
Eufaula, AL 36072
334/687-6000

Vernon, James Carlton #2087

Timber Buyer/Associate Forester
Wood Dealers South, Inc.
105-C Sam Moseley Dr.
Selma, AL 35184
334/877-1816
wooddealerssouth@bellsouth.net

Woods, Clint Harris #2089

Timber Buyer
Farleys Forest Products, Inc.
P. O. Box 71810
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407
205/758-4499
clint@farleysforestproducts.com

Foresters Granted Reciprocity in Alabama

Anderson, Chad M. #MS1597

President
Timber Investment Managers, LLC
P.O. Box 1970
Purvis, MS 39475
601/795-2286
timcoinfo@aol.com

Canale, William White #MS1177

Owner - Consultant
Canale Forest Management Co.
426 S. Lamar Blvd., Ste. 10
Oxford, MS 38655
662/236-5435
cfmco@dixie-net.com

Dougherty, Derek Sean #GA2484

President
Dougherty & Dougherty Forestry
Services, Inc.
51 Glenn Carrie Road
Hull, GA 30646
1-888-285-0947
ddfmcnc@bellsouth.net

Walley, Marc Ashley #GA2329

Executive Vice President
Forest Investment Associates, LP
15 Piedmont Center, Ste. 1250
Atlanta, GA 30305
404/261-9575
mwalley@forestinvest.com

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County G.R.O. He has served as Chairman for the Florida Forestry Association and is currently a member of the Board of Directors, Jefferson County Farm Bureau. He is a SAF Certified Forester a Society of American Foresters Member since 1978, serving in leadership positions at all levels.

General Practice of Forestry Award - Al Lyons

Al Lyons is a native of Mobile and grew up in Tennessee. He received a B.S. in Forest Resource Management and an M.S. in forestry, both from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In 1994, he received a M.S. Degree in Environmental Management from Samford University in Birmingham. Al's forestry career began as a Research Forester with Kimberly-Clark where he managed a genetic tree improvement and tree nursery program. During this time, he led research and development efforts and was a representative to cooperative research programs at both Auburn University and North Carolina State University. He later went on to positions as a Silviculturist, Environmental Manager and Area Land Manager, and has been a steward of East Central Alabama Forest for over 23 years. He currently serves as Manager of Silviculture and Stewardship for the Southern Division of Hancock

Forest Management. One of Al's passions is the stewardship of Alabama's forest resources.. He has also worked to educate the general public on forest stewardship issues, and in January 2005, Governor Riley appointed Alan D. Lyons, RF #1413, to the Alabama Board of Registered Foresters.

Public Education And Technology Transfer Award - Dr. Mathew Smidt

Dr. Mathew Smidt received his BS Degree in Biology from Doane College in 1987 and his MF Degree in Forest Management from Duke University in 1989. He received his PhD in Forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1996. Mathew is an Extension Specialist with Auburn University where he facilitates the Professional Logging Manager Training Program. His research Interests include logger training methods and evaluation, timber harvesting impacts, and auditing timber harvesting practices. A few years ago Dr. Smidt revised the Auburn Professional Logging Manager Forest Management and Harvesting curriculum, and in 2006, with a major re-vamping of the program, he developed the current curriculum for the three day PLM basic program.

This article reprinted from the Fall 2008 edition of the Southeastern Forester

Protecting the Public

Keville Larson, RF, ACF

Harry Murphy (a co-founder of Resource Management in Birmingham) through much of his career, has reminded us of Julius Kahn's description of a profession as consisting of a specialized body of knowledge and a set of standards or ethics. Mr. Kahn was both a lawyer and a forester. The public understands a professional has more understanding and expertise than a layman and places a degree of trust and dependence on this greater competency. The knowledge advantage places

a burden of fiduciary responsibility on the professional and it is a violation of this responsibility to use this superiority to disadvantage another. Alabama's Forester Registration Law was passed to assure that forestry services offered to the public are provided by qualified professionals. Engaging a Registered Forester is a relation of trust and dependence on one side and superior knowledge and ethical behavior on the other. The law's existence implies the public needs protection against misplaced trust in an

unqualified person who might represent themselves as a professional with the implied status of trustworthiness and expertise.

For over fifty years the State Board of Registration for Foresters (SBORF) has carried out its charge, and I for one, would like to thank and congratulate all who have served the public good and the profession. However, I submit there is a further need; to protect landowners from professionals with conflicts of interest. Any Registered Forester, who buys timber, yet acts as a consultant to landowners in the sale of timber, has a serious and unavoidable conflict of interest. A buyer's goal is to pay the least money and get the

most volume. He cannot represent, unequivocally, a landowner whose interest is the most money for the least volume.

I respectfully suggest the SBORF consider requiring an affidavit to be listed as a consultant. Forester registration in Mississippi specifies an affidavit of full time consulting while North Carolina and Tennessee require, in addition, an affidavit affirming consultants have no timber buying conflict of interest. Such criteria, would strengthen protection for the landowning citizens of our State and further promotes the intent of Alabama's registration law to "benefit and protect the public."

Memories

Gerald L. Schwarzauer

After I gave the test for the Board of Registered Foresters last month, what memories did that bring back to this forester? Each board member gives the test every 5th quarter and we select the questions from a bank of about 400 questions. As I selected the questions from the bank, I remembered some of the questions that I had on my test back in 1980. When I was telling Alexis London the board's executive assistant, (a very good one I might add), that I recalled some of the questions from 28 years ago, she said surely the questions have changed. I responded that forestry has not really changed in that length of time. We do know more information than we did 30 years ago, but the basic forestry is still the same as when I graduated from Auburn in 1978.

Giving the test was more stressful than I ever thought possible. First, I worried that I was making it too easy; then I thought I was making it too hard. We break the test into two segments, consisting of 3 hours in each block. I can remember getting through with the test and being completely exhausted from thinking and worrying all day, in 1980.

Some of the young foresters brought boxes of books to look up answers that they didn't know in their head, which uses up way too much time. The exam we gave each forester came from 21 different categories with at least 1 question from each section. The board is looking at ways to improve its methods of giving the test, to make it both fair and challenging. We are looking at other state boards to see how they administrate the test and how the questions are selected. We are also looking into the possibility of updating the question bank to improve the test.

As I was riding home from work the day I was to write this letter, I called Jim Morris from Wedowee, who rode with me to Montgomery to take the test in 1980. I asked if he remembered who else had taken the test with us. The names we came up with were: Mark Elliott, from Mobile, Edd Kennedy from Camden, and Eric Martin from Birmingham to name a few. All were graduates from Auburn University Forestry School in 1978. I am thankful for all the memories that I created with other foresters and am looking forward one day to be like Jim Morris, RETIRED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

\$ For Forest Carbon Credits?

David Wright

For those of you who like to look into the future you might go to the internet and look up the www.chicagoclimateexchange.com. The buzz word these days among Forest Landowners is "Carbon Credits", one carbon credit equals one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent. On intensely managed pine plantations five carbon credits or more per acre per year are pretty common production numbers. In early June of this year, carbon credit prices reached \$7.50 per credit before weakening in the 4th quarter to around one dollar. Currently they are \$1.65 per carbon credit. What does all this mean? Well, if your land was producing 5 carbon credits per acre at \$7.50 per credit that would equal \$37.50 per acre or \$37,500.00 per 1,000 acres per year. Interested? You bet!

In the first six months of 2008, both CCX trading volume and carbon credit prices reached record territory. By July 1, a total of 45.7 million credits had been traded this year which compares to 22 million carbon credits traded in all 2007. Carbon credits were buoyed through late winter and early spring due in large part

to strong carbon credit demand. It appears that demand was strong due in some part to the market's anticipation of the election of a pro-cap and trade President. Obama and McCain were both solid supporters of climate change legislation, including a mandatory cap and trade framework.

The Lieberman-Warner bill is the leading cap and trade bill. It calls for a 70 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 relative to a 2005 baseline. Critics argue a cap and trade system will lead to even higher energy prices but supporters argue that the impact on energy prices will be modest. The bill was defeated in June but is expected to be reintroduced to Congress early next year.

The first Agragate forestry pool of credits was registered in June, 2008 with 273 landowners across 16 states that actually signed up in 2007 which included only afforestation projects. There is a lot more to carbon credits than I am allowed space to write about. Look it up on the internet and read up on it because there will be more forestry pools to follow so don't miss out on this important trend.

My Opinion on Forest Certification

By Al Lyons

As a young forester, back in 1981, I got to witness an aerial helicopter ignited site prep burn in Coosa County. While many of us have seen such prescribed fires this one encompassed a harvest area of about a thousand acres. It was most impressive and I have often thought of the stewardship comparisons of that time and today. We have come a long way since that day and a lot of credit is due to forest certification standards. While a lot of good forest management was accomplished in the past our forest stewardship is currently at an all time high and we are continuing to improve.

Today harvest size is moderated under both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standards. While we could

debate the merits of each they have both made major contributions to influencing forest stewardship. FSC and SFI, as well as other certification systems, are in competition for market share and competition is needed to ensure sound certification standards. A monopoly is never a good thing whether it is in manufacturing, service providers or forest certification. Without this competitive nature, a single certification system would become either too lax or too extreme. So think of FSC and SFI like football. You're either an Auburn fan or an Alabama fan and you're going to improve so you can beat the other team. But don't forget you also have a lot of mixed marriages between Auburn and Alabama fans. You can also have one in forest stewardship with dual FSC and SFI certification.

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