



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Summer 2014

Registered Foresters can learn a lot From College Football

You are probably asking yourself what on earth college football has in common with forestry. Well, if you really give it a little thought, I think you will find that there are many analogies between the two. First of all, it is amazing how competitive college football has become these days, with each passing year coaches find themselves under more and more pressure to succeed. Likewise, practicing forestry has become extremely competitive. In this sluggish economy, registered foresters find themselves under increasing pressure to be successful as well. A successful college football coach starts by competing with his fellow coaches to

recruit the best talent available. Likewise, successful foresters must compete with their fellow foresters to purchase, sell, or cut that good tract of timber or perhaps solicit that big new client for their consulting business. Unfortunately, sometimes aggressive recruiting lead coaches to bend the rules and regulations a little. Likewise, registered foresters may sometimes either subconsciously or consciously bend the rules a little as they aggressively compete with their associates. It is that bending of the rules and regulations a little that get some coaches in trouble and the same applies to us as registered foresters.

Retirement

It is with much sadness but warm wishes that we announce the retirement of Alexis London from the Board of Registration for Foresters. Mrs. London has been an integral part of this agency and her dedication and contributions will always be valued and remembered. She will most certainly be missed! Thank you Alexis for the excellent service you provided to the Board. We desire for you only good things as you begin this new adventure.

Lea Anna Meadows, RF, previously employed with the Alabama Forestry Commission and former employee of the Florida Division of Forestry has been selected as Alexis' replacement. We welcome Lea Anna as she brings her forestry knowledge and experience to the Board and look forward to working with her in the future.

Obviously the purpose of this article is not to talk about football, but instead to discuss how the competitive nature of our business can sometimes lead us to walk the edge of that thin line between crafty business practices and ethical behavior. As stated earlier, given the state of our economy and the competitive nature of our business, it is imperative that foresters be wise businessmen. Whether you are buying timber, selling timber, cutting timber, soliciting clients or other forestry practices, it helps to have a competitive edge. However, in seeking that competitive edge it is important not to violate our Rules of Professional Conduct. I encourage all registered foresters to periodically review these rules which can be found in the back of our Registered Foresters Roster. Being familiar with and adherence to these rules can go a long way in preventing misconduct issues.

One of the many duties of the Board of Registration

continued on page two

In This Issue...

Registered Foresters can learn a lot From College Football	1
New Registered Foresters	2
The Exam – Becoming a Registered Forester	3
From the Chairman	4
No Change in Board Fees for 2015	7
2015 License Renewal Reminder	7

continued from page one

for Foresters is to police the activities of registered foresters as well as the activities of individuals practicing forestry without a license. While it is not our intent to hinder anyone from making a living in this business, it is however important that we try to make sure that we all compete on a level playing field. It is also important that we protect the citizens of this state from unethical forestry practices.

If you have any questions concerning the Rules of Professional Conduct or a specific business practice that you may be employing, don't hesitate to call the board. The present board consist of registered foresters from very diverse backgrounds (Alabama Forestry Commission, Academics, Forest Industry, TIMO and

Consulting), between the board members, our new executive assistant (who is also a registered forester) and our legal counsel, we can get you an answer to your questions.

As we all prepare for another year of doing business in a climate full of challenges; rainy wet conditions, tight wood orders, unpredictable prices, increasing competition and other barriers. Let us start by reviewing our Rules of Professional Conduct, then go out and compete hard, but fair and pray for a winning year for all.

M. McCorvey

New Registered Foresters

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American Forest Management
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Thomas Eugene Carignan #2193 (Reinstatement)

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Email: tom@carignan.net

Billy Earl Clark III #2191

Forester
American Forest Management
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Email: Billy.Clark@amforem.biz

Malachi Sowder Gandy #2186

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Union Springs, AL 36089
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Gregory Allen Pate #2188

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James Benjamin Simms #2187

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LaFayette, AL 36862
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The Exam

Becoming a Registered Forester

In order to become a Registered Forester in Alabama applicants must pass an exam. Exam formats oral or written? What topics should the exam cover? What level of expertise should the applicant demonstrate? What questions should be in the exam question blank?

Based on the applicant's request, the exam was administered written or oral. Due to the vagary in how the oral exam was administered the Board elected to primarily use the written exam. However, the oral exams can be administered under certain circumstance as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Over the years the exam has evolved into questions that may be divided into certain categories. Those groups are as follows:

Biology: silviculture & protection:

FIRE MANAGEMENT; FOREST HEALTH & PATHOLOGY; ENTOMOLOGY & ABIOTIC AGENTS; DENDROLOGY; GENETICS; TREE PHYSIOLOGY; SOILS & GEOLOGY; SILVICULTURE & WATERSHED; WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Economic: mensuration & valuation:

HARVESTING & PROCUREMENT, WOOD PRODUCTS, MENSURATION, INVENTORY, SAMPLING; SPATIAL ANALYSIS: SURVEYING, PHOTOGRAMETRY, CARTOGRAPHY; SPATIAL ANALYSIS: REMOTE SENSING, GIS, GPS; FOREST MANAGEMENT: FINANCE, VALUATION, DISCOUNTED CASH FLOW; INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY

Social: communications & public relations:

FOREST RECREATION; URBAN FORESTRY; FOREST LAW; ETHICS

The question bank was developed by experts in the forestry field, including but not only faculty members. All exams are created by a random selection process. Initially Board members were grading the exams but to remain consistent and fair a professional was contracted to grade all exams. Applicant's exams are submitted to the grader and are identified by a number only.

In the past, the Board has requested feedback from all registered foresters, unfortunately with very little response. Do you as Registered Foresters find this list of topics to be complete and/or relevant? In order to determine if the Board is getting the examination job done, they are currently performing a survey of Registered Foresters whose jobs include the recruitment and employment of registered foresters.

Individual registered foresters are encouraged to submit questions designed to reflect the practicality of the subject areas. The Board needs input from the pool of registered foresters. What does a registered forester need to know in order to satisfy the mission, "servicing and protecting the public?" Please give it some consideration; you may be contacted regarding the questions and relevance of the exam. We welcome anyone to submit feedback and/or exam questions.

Send your suggestions to the Board's Montgomery office.

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, P.O. Box 304500 Montgomery, AL 36130-4500

New Reciprocity

Jeffery Bryan Greene #GA1415

President

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Aaron Nathaniel Rambin #MS2418

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From the Chairman

While serving on the board of Registration for Foresters for the past five years, there have been four items that are consistently misunderstood. Therefore, I find it necessary to review these in the newsletter.

1. Qualifications required to sit for the Registered Foresters Exam:

Code of Alabama 1975

Section 34-12-4 Qualifications of applicants for registration.

(a) The following requirements shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified to practice forestry and to be registered and licensed pursuant to this chapter.

Each applicant shall:

- (1) Hold a bachelors or higher degree from a school approved by the board or accredited by the Society of American Foresters in a forestry curriculum accepted by the board.
- (2) Have passed a written or oral examination, or both, designed to show the knowledge and skill obtained through graduation from the school or college.
- (3) Have a specific record of two years or more of experience in the practice of forestry of a nature satisfactory to the board and indicating that the applicant is competent to practice forestry.
- (4) Be a person of good character and reputation.
- (5) Be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(b) The board shall issue licenses only to those applicants who meet the requirements of this section. (*Acts 1957, No. 533, p. 750, §12; Acts 1961, Ex. Sess., No. 141, p. 2082, §1; Acts 1969, No. 1051, p. 1965, §6; Acts 1973, No. 1202, p. 2020, §5; Acts 1990, No. 90-105, p. 124, §3; Act 98-145, p. 223, §3; Act 2010-278, p. 502, §3.*)

Recently the Board received an application from an applicant who:

- 1). Graduated from a non-accredited institution.
- 2). The forestry curriculum did not meet the accepted stan-

dards of the Board.

The Board reviews each transcript to see if the minimum standards are met and acts upon that determination. Be assured the application and transcript are held in strict confidence and will only be discussed between the applicant and the Board. Third parties are not to approach the Board on an applicant's behalf; complainants are responsible of airing their complaint/request with the board.

Alabama Administrative Code

380-X-3-.11 Curriculum Guidelines. It shall be the policy of the Board, under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-4 (A) (1), that determination of "curriculum accepted by the Board" will be guided by a list of core courses common to most accredited forestry degree programs and Society of American Foresters standards, and will include: Mensuration/Forest Measurements, Dendrology, Silviculture, Forest Economics, Forest Management, Forest Pathology or Forest Health, Forest Policy, Forest Ecology, and Forest Soils. Other courses that are frequently required or offered include tree physiology, watershed ecology, surveying, Silvics, wildlife management, harvesting, prescribed fire or fire ecology, forest recreation, wood properties or forest products, forest taxation and remote sensing (GIS and/or aerial photography). General course work may include general chemistry, biology, genetics, computer science and/or applications, mathematics, statistics, and technical writing.

Author: Everett Johnson, Jr.

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-4 (A) (1)

History: New Rule: Filed August 9, 2006; effective September 13, 2006.

380-X-1-.04 Applicant's Files - Confidentiality. Applicant's files are confidential and are available for inspection only by the office manager, members of the Board, and the applicant personally. These files will be kept in the offices of the Board and will not be removed. Proof of identity may be required of any person requesting access to his file.

Author: Charles Tomlinson

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-35.

History: Filed October 1, 1982.

380-X-1-.05 Audience with Board by Written Request.

Any person may obtain an audience with the Board by directing a request, in writing, to the chairman, stating his reasons therefore, provided that the request is approved by the chairman.

Author: Charles Tomlinson

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-35.

History: Filed October 1, 1982.

2. The Exception to Registration required**Code of Alabama 1975;****Section 34-12-2 Registration required; exceptions.**

(a) In order to benefit and protect the public, no person in either public or private capacity shall practice or offer to practice forestry, unless he or she has submitted evidence that he or she is qualified so to practice and is registered by the board as hereinafter provided or unless he or she is specifically exempted from registration under this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice in this state forestry, as defined by this chapter, or to use in connection with his or her name or otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he or she is a registered forester, unless duly registered or exempt from registration under this chapter.

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

(1) The practice of any other legally recognized profession or trade.

(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.

(3) The work of an employee or a subordinate of any registered forester holding a license under this chapter; provided, that such work is done under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of a person holding a license under this chapter.

(4) The practice of forestry by officers and employees of the United States government on federally owned lands.

(5) The practice of forestry by officers and employees of the State of Alabama on state-owned lands.

continued on page six

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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Lea Anna Meadows, Executive Assistant
Olivia Martin, Assistant Attorney General

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

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www.asbrf.alabama.gov

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Friday

7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(6) Employees of the federal government and educational institutions of the State of Alabama who, in the exercise of their assigned duties, conduct forestry education programs or provide free forestry advice and assistance to timberland owners, or both.

(Acts 1957, No. 533, p. 750, §1; Acts 1969, No. 1051, p. 1965, §1; Acts 1973, No. 1202, p. 2020, §1; Act 98-145, p. 223, §3.)

3. Statement of Supervision Requirements:

Alabama Administrative Code

380-X-6-.01 "Supervision" Under §34-12-2 (3) Construed. It shall be the policy of the Board, under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-2 (3), that: the word "supervision" should mean the direct personal inspection and approval of all work of such employee or subordinate which is presented to the public in any form as being the effort, the result of the efforts, opinion, advice or recommendation of a forester.

Author: Charles Tomlinson

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-35.

History: Filed October 1, 1982.

380-X-6-.03 Exception Under §34-12-2 (3) Construed. It shall be the policy of the Board under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-2(3) that: The exception allowing for work performed under supervision of a licensed forester excludes the work only and does not permit the public use of the title forester for those being supervised.

Author: Charles Tomlinson

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-35.

History: Filed October 1, 1982.

380-X-6-.06 Notarized Statement of Supervision. It is the policy of the Board, under Section 34-12-2 (b)(3) of the Code of Ala. 1975, that the subordinate of a registered forester must be prepared to demonstrate that they are under the "direction, supervision, and responsibility of a registered forester" by submitting a notarized statement from the registered forester that describes that relationship and the time period it is in effect.

Author: Everett Johnson, Jr.

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-12-2 (b) (3).

History: New Rule: Filed August 9, 2006; effective September 13, 2006.

Form can be found on website

<http://www.asbrf.alabama.gov/Forms/OtherForms>

Form A-17: Found in Appendix A (Registered Foresters Roster)

Submit completed form to:

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters,
P.O. Box 304500
Montgomery, AL 36130-4500

4. Anonymous letters of complaints

The Board occasionally receives anonymous letters of complaint. Although we welcome your comments, no credibility can be given to persons submitting unidentified complaints without a specific cause identified and no action can or will be taken.

Please identify yourself in complaints, so the Board may work accordingly to resolve the concerns or misconduct regarding forest management you may have.

Form can be found on website

<http://www.asbrf.alabama.gov/Forms/OtherForms>

Form A-19: Found in Appendix A (Registered Foresters Roster)

No Change in Board Fees for 2015

Application Fee	\$50.00
Reinstatement Application Fee (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$150.00
Reciprocity Application Fees (Initial Application)	Same as charged for Alabama Applicants in the reciprocal state
Re-Examination Fee	\$100.00
Renewal Fees	
All Licensees	\$100.00
Late Penalty (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$100.00
License Replacement Fee (Certificate)	\$50.00
Printed Roster	\$10.00
Registered Forester Window Decal (Auto)	\$1.00
Returned Check Fee	\$30.00

2015 License Renewals

All registered forester licenses are due to expire on September 30, 2014, unless renewed by that time. Renewal notices for the 2015 renewal period will be mailed by the Board's office on or before July 1, 2014. The current renewal fee is \$100.00 for all licensees. Those who renew their licenses between October 1 and December 31 must pay \$200.00 (renewal fee + \$100.00 late fee). The online renewal application and printable form will be made available at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/renewalform.htm> beginning July 1. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Board's office at (334) 240-9301 to request a copy of the renewal form. (Please do not attempt to renew any license prior to July 1.) **Important: Those whose licenses have expired for non-renewal are prohibited from identifying themselves as registered foresters and practicing professional forestry. The Board will revoke the license of any licensee who fails to renew annually by December 31.**