

STUMP TALK

by Charles E. Tomlinson

I have made an error. As an editor, I am charged with bringing clarity and conciseness to the publication I edit and it seems that I failed. Herewith I attempt to restore clarity, if not conciseness.

The winter issue dealt with my report to the Board in which I suggested that the board, as a matter of personal preference, might wish to change our designation to "Professional Forester" from "Registered Forester". I then stated that the Board approved the recommendations of my report.

This has caused some misunderstanding. The Board approved my report, including my suggestion that they might consider the name change, but they by no means approved the name change. In fact, after considering the personal preference of the members of the Board was that "Registered Forester" has served us well in the past and will continue to do in the future. Sorry for the confusion!

In addition, I now notice that the title "Faces & Places" was left off the second printing of the fall newsletter. This violates the editing clause of the editor operating procedures manual and is considered in some circles as a major sin.

I have given myself three slaps with a wet noodle and resolve to do better. ("Damn, there I go again!")

The Registered FORESTER

Volume 26, #2 Spring, 1996



Mike Beach Is Newest Board Member



Of all the places in the United States that could be nominated for the least likely location to produce a forester, Tulsa, Oklahoma, would seem to be near the top. And of all the places to become motivated to be a forester, a bar in Anchorage, Alaska, would also seem to be improbable. But that is the way it happened to Mike Beach who was born in Tulsa on Christmas day in 1942.

Mike enjoyed exploring the suburb in which he lived so much that when he was in the eighth grade and took an aptitude test, it indicated that he should be a farmer or a forester. Since nobody in Tulsa

knew about the latter, Mike's dad, who was just looking for an excuse, moved the family to the prairie so that Mike would have more room to roam and they could hunt and fish together. A rest-of-childhood spent hunting and fishing seem to have started Mike down the road he now follows, but not without some detours.

In 1960, Mike started Oklahoma State in Civil Engineering but ran slap up against calculus. He decided to join the Air Force instead. When he finished his basic training, he and one other airman were assigned to Alaska. The other guy contemplated suicide, but Mike thought he had been given a ticket to hunting and fishing heaven, which he had. For two and a half years Mike served as an airman as often as he could work it in between his hobbies. He speaks of the Anchorage earthquake, which he observed, as

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one who no longer takes firm ground for granted. However, most of his stories center around caribou, elk, fish, and other critters of the north woods.

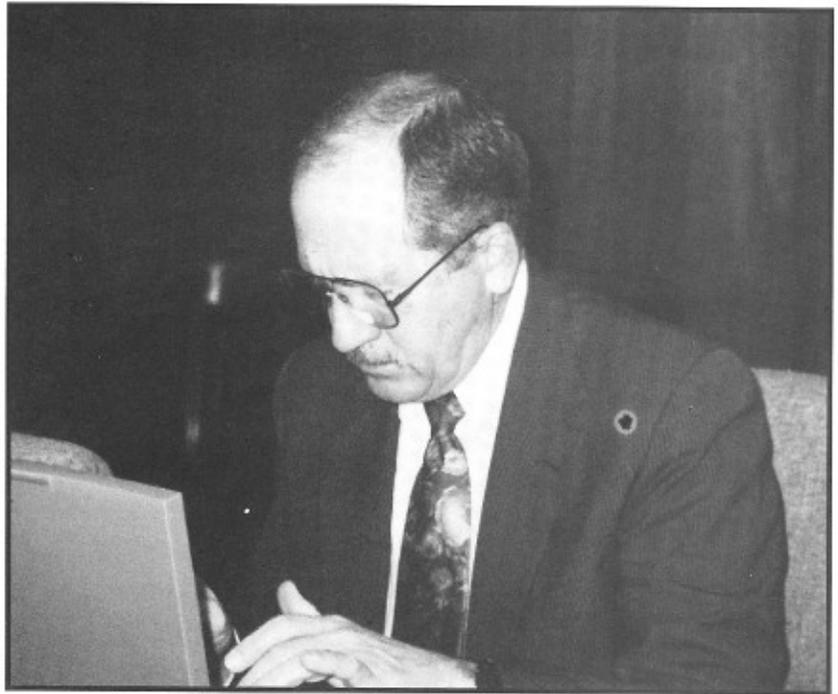
It is well known that nights are long in Alaska, and that while waiting for the sun, recreation seems to center around bars. It was in a bar near the Forest Service Office Building that Mike heard a conversation about foresters who were preparing to go to an island for timber inventory. They would work ten days, then return home for four days. They would catch their fish and crab food and hunt for their meat. They told Mike about seeing a many as a hundred deer a day, having to protect themselves from bears, and other tales of the forest that sounded to him like paradise found. They did not tell him that the island got 200 inches of rain a year and that it was always cold, which is just as well.

Mike finished his Air Force career in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and then hustled off to Oklahoma State to become a forester. He received his Bachelor degree in June of 1969, and immediately moved on to the University of Idaho where he received a Masters of Forestry degree in June of 1970.

The best job available after graduation was with Weyerhaeuser on the west coast. He was called a production supervision trainee, but his job was setting chokers on a high lead logging system. Now for those who are not familiar with choker setters, this job is rated as the second most dangerous in the logging business (the most dangerous occupation) in the West. The first most dangerous job is that of powder monkey (the guy who tries to blow up stumps, shake trees to get the window makers out of them, and make little rocks out of big rocks without losing any important body parts). This, of course, was Mike's next job. Mike says this was the only job he was ever really good at (blowing things to smithereens), but his wife read an article about the life expectancy of powder monkeys and began a subtle campaign for a change.

When Weyerhaeuser purchased Dierks Lumber Company in Arkansas, they just assumed that Mike spoke and could understand southern, since Oklahoma is part of the south to anyone who lives on the west coast. For the next four years Mike ran wood yards, was a logging foreman, an inventory forester, and became regional planning coordinator. Then the grass began to look greener out west, so he loaded up his family and took a job as a logging manager for Idaho Pole Company in Bozeman, Montana. When he was interviewing with Idaho Pole he also dropped by Champion International for a talk and 14 months later they made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

This move to Champion seems to have stuck. He worked for them in Missoula, Montana, for nine months, was then



Mike surfs the NET.

transferred to Huntsville, Texas, as Manager of Planning and Research, where he stayed for six years before moving to Courtland, Alabama. Mike has been Wood Procurement Manager, Forest Lands Manager, and is now Regional Support Manager. He has been in Courtland now for 12 years and seems to be settling in.

Over the past thirty years, Mike has acquired a family of which he seems quite proud. His wife, Sharon Ann, is trying to cope with the "empty nest syndrome" while his oldest daughter Kerry Lynn works for the Department of Defense after graduating from MIT with a degree in Electrical Engineering, his daughter Allison Marie works for ANCO in Florence, Alabama, and his son, Mathew Culver, is presently in the Air Force in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mike is active in the Killen United Methodist Church, a member of the Lauderdale County Forest Planning Committee, AFOA, the Treasure Forestry Organization, is past chair of the Alabama Division of the Southeastern Society of American Foresters and edits the Eagles Nest, the official publication of the Eagle Council. Mike is also the newest member of the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters.

When asked about his hobbies, Mike talks about his Treasure Forest farm in Lauderdale County with great enthusiasm. He spends much of his spare time on his forest doing hands-on timber stand improvement, but one gets the impression that he is looking for a pair of beavers to dam up his stream so that he will once again have a reason to blow something up.

Meanwhile, Mike hopes to continue making a contribution to his profession by serving on the Board of Registration. His assignment load since joining the Board indicates that he will certainly be given the opportunity.

Faces and Places

PAUL L. ALLEN #84, a consulting forester from Atmore, AL died recently.

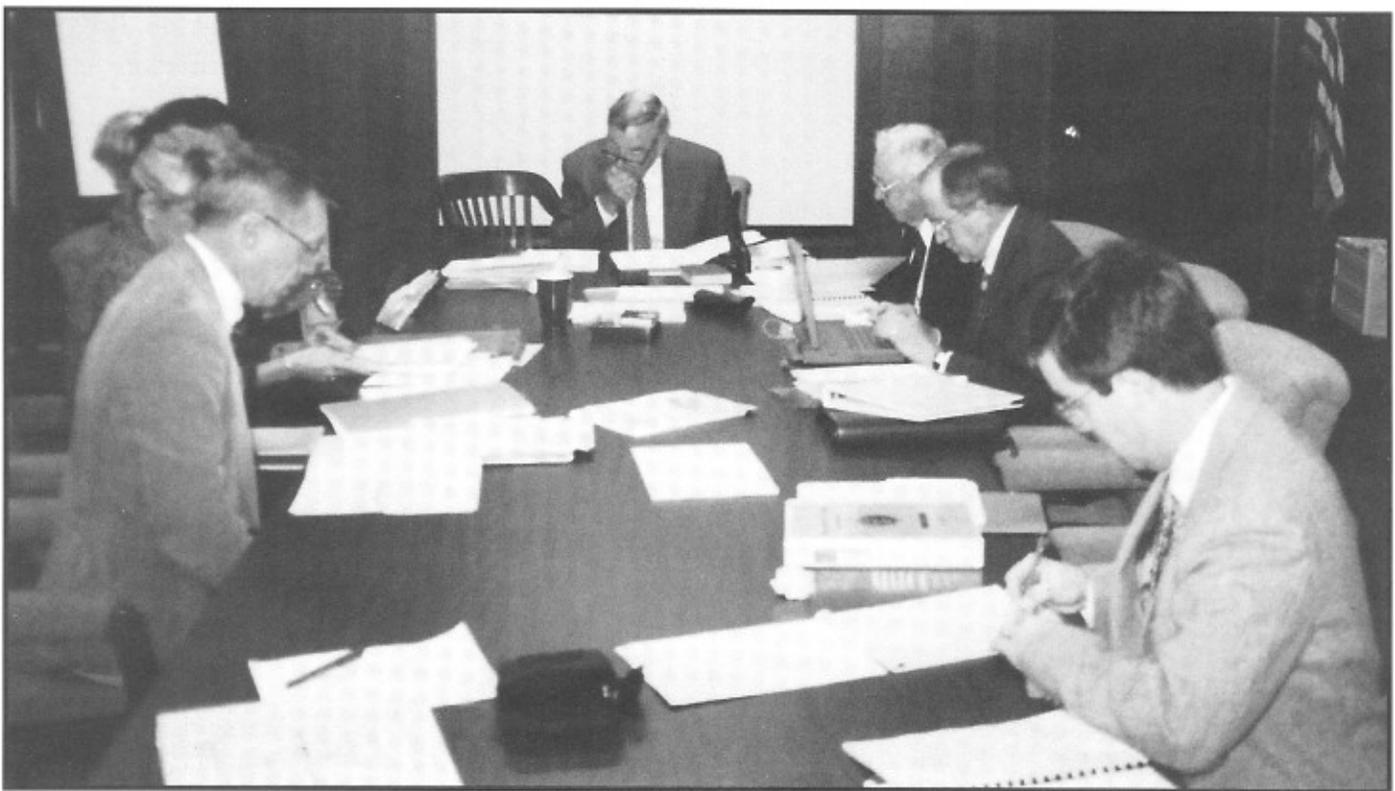
DR. EARL L. DeBRUNNER #378 of Auburn, AL died recently. Dr. DeBrunner was associated with the Auburn School of Forestry for 34 years and was well known and loved by his students and associates.

F. TED HIXON #54 (Inactive) of Tuscaloosa died April 17, 1996.

WILLIAM C. JONES, III #1116 has accepted a position as consultant and account manager with the consulting firm of Forest Resource Consultants, Inc.. Bill leaves Louisiana-Pacific Corp. to accept this position. He was previously the private woodlands coordinator for the Alabama Forestry Association in Montgomery.

HARRY L. HANEY, JR. #424, Garland Gray Professor of Forestry in the College of Forestry and Wildlife at Virginia Tech has been named 1995 Outstanding Forestry Alumnus from the Auburn School of Forestry. Haney is a 1959 graduate of Auburn and is well known for his seminars and workshops on timber taxation, estate planning, forest finance, and private timberland management. He recently taught forest finance applications at Nanjing Forestry University in China.

This space is waiting for information from you!



Board works while chairman eats fist.

April Board Meeting

The Board met in regular session on April 24, 1996. Chairman Sahlie called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

In summary, the Board reviewed 15 pieces of violation correspondence and acted on 2 violation cases. The Board approved 10 new applications for license, granted 9 requests for reciprocity, and reviewed the applications for 9 Forestry Interns. The Board granted licenses to reinstate 2 Foresters who had lapsed licenses but had met the requirements for reinstatement, granted licenses to 3 applicants who has passed the oral exam and granted licenses to 12 applicants who had passed the written exam. The pass rate for all examinations reviewed was 79%

A report was given by Beach on alternatives available to the Board for its future operations and the costs associated with each. Much discussion resulted concerning increasing the annual fees and other steps which appear to be necessary if the Board is to remain autonomous, but action was postponed until after further study.

The Board authorized forming a committee to review the 1975 Code of Alabama, Title 34-12 to make recommendations for changes. The Office Manager made a preliminary report of the findings of the auditor from the State Examiner's office. Sasnett presented a preliminary Violation Procedure Chart that he had prepared for Board consideration. Sasnett will attend the Southeastern State Board of Registration annual meeting on behalf of Chairman Sahlie.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ALERT

submitted by Jim Hyland, A.F.C.

Foresters should be on the lookout for Southern Pine Beetle infestations in their area and advise their clients to be alert for dying pines. The cold winter did have an effect on the beetles in thin bark pines (Virginia) but by no means did the cold eradicate them.

The winter southern pine beetle flight for January/February, 1996, showed an increase in the number of counties with beetle populations and an increase in the number of epidemic counties comparing 1995 and 1996.

Jan/Feb	# Spots	# Trees	# Counties	# Epidemic
1995	655	15,356	33	8
1996	630	24,779	39	11

The southern pine beetle epidemic is still in effect. The average size spot has increased from 23.4 trees to 39.8 trees (comparing 1995 and 1996 winter flights). The relative location of epidemic counties has shifted from Central/South Alabama to North Alabama. The eleven (11) epidemic counties are Marshall, Etowah, Lauderdale, Morgan, Madison, Limestone, Cullman, Pickens, St. Clair, Blount and Lamar. Out of this list only Marshall, Cullman and Pickens were epidemic this time last year. Detection in the Northeast Region was done using a GPS unit and so far this process is highly successful.

Generally, statewide the number of spots found in the winter will increase by ten (10) times the next summer. So Alabama can expect another "hot" beetle summer.

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NEW Registered Foresters

Ausborn, Darrell Lee 1615Forest Manager

USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Business: Winnebago Agency
Winnebago, NE 68776
Phone: 402/878-2418
Home: 520 5th Avenue
South Sioux City, NE 68776
Phone: 402/494-1209

McCorvey, Michael Andrew 1616Senior Forester

International Paper Company
Business: P.O. Box 159
Bay Minette, AL 36507
Phone: 334/937-2691
Home: 300 E. Mango Street
Bay Minette, AL 36507
Phone: 334/937-4684

French, Otis George 1617Urban Forester

Alabama Forestry Commission
Business: 41261 State Hwy 225
Bay Minette, AL 36507
Phone: 334/937-7771
Home: 43860 Old Robinson Road
Bay Minette, AL 36507
Phone: 334/937-4965

Spiller, Troy Earnest 1618Management Forester

Southern Forestry Service
Business: 5901-F McFarland Blvd. E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Phone: 205/758-0339
Home: 3550 Watermelon Road
Northport, AL 35476
Phone: 205/752-3843

Plott, Howard Keith 1619Forester

Home: 1016 Eagle Ridge Drive
Birmingham, AL 35238
Phone: 205/995-5639

Cleveland, James Robert 1620

Home: Route 1 Box 91
Newville, AL 36353
Phone: 334/585-2399

Moore, Paul Bayne 1621Procurement Representative

James River Corporation
Business: P.O. Box 130
Pennington, AL 36916
Phone: 205/654-3000
Home: P.O. Box 824
Pine Hill, AL 36769
Phone: 334/963-4181

Holtzsch, Matthew Allen 1622Procurement Forester

Bankhead Land & Timber
Business: P.O. Box 2385
Jasper, AL 35502-2385
Phone: 205/221-4044
Home: 439 Oak Manor Drive SW
Culman, AL 35055
Phone: 205/737-5471

Stewart, H. Scott 1623Mgr-Procurement/Land Management

Timberland Harvesters
Business: P.O. Box 130
Eufaula, AL 36072-0130
Phone: 334/687-6000
Home: 400 Saddlewood Drive
Pike Road, AL 36065
Phone: 334/409-2127

Kessinger, Jeremy Anderson 1624Regional Forester

Resource Management Service
Home: 1309 Gatewood Drive Apt 2014
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334/821-8351

Lloyd, Steve D. 1625Staff Forester

Alabama Forestry Commission
Business: P.O. Box 538
Monroeville, AL 36461
Phone: 334/743-2350
Home: Route 2 Box 368-C
Monroeville, AL 36460
Phone: 334/575-9684

Lamb, Perry Todd 1626Procurement Representative

Great South Timber Company
Business: P.O. Box 1385
Brewton, AL 36427
Phone: 334/867-6087
Home: 45500 Ann Avenue
Bay Minette, AL 36507
Phone: 334/937-6628

Hendrickson, Holmes Ashby 1627Assistant Forester

Southern Forestry Consultants
Business: 305 West Shotwell St.
Bainbridge, GA 31717
Phone: 912/246-5785
Home: 33 Trillium Circle Apt. 712
Dothan, AL 36301
Phone: 334/677-7653

Finlayson, Joe Keith Jr. 1628Consulting Forester

McFinn, Inc.
Business: 2912 Shamrock North
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Phone: 904/894-0614
Home: 2912 Shamrock North
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Phone: 904/893-7749

Davis, Edward Lee 1629Vice President

Central Alabama Timber Company
Business: P.O. Box 1650
Clanton, AL 35045
Phone: 205/280-1267
Home: 835 Ponce de Leon
Montgomery, AL 36106
Phone: 334/834-3295

Gables, Timothy Dean 1630Forester

Chattahoochee Valley Forestry Service
Business: 9 Depot Street
Clayton, AL 36016
Phone: 334/775-8345
Home: 406 N. Eufaula Ave. Apt. C-3
Eufaula, AL 36027
Phone: 334/687-2739

Rankin, John Duncan 1631Associate Forester

F & W Forestry Services
Business: 3509 Summerville Road
Phenix City, AL 36867
Phone: 334/297-8817
Home: 23 Porter Road
Seale, AL 36875
Phone: 334/855-2337

CONGRATULATIONS!

LEE LAECHELT #454,
*Executive Vice President
of the*

*Alabama Forest
Owner's Association, Inc.,*

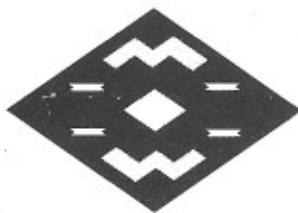
*has announced that his organization is
again printing a
Timber Buyer's List*

*and suggests that any R.F. who purchases
trees might like to get his company listed.*

*Just call Lee at 205/987-8811
or fax him at 205/987-9824
to be included.*

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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