



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Board Considers Major Change to Testing Policy

At its October 29, 2003 meeting the Board discussed the idea of permitting applicants to take the registered forester examination as early as during the senior year of study in an accredited forestry program. This discussion was prompted by a proposal suggested jointly by Auburn University and Alabama A&M University to use the examination as a tool to benchmark their respective forestry academic programs. The schools would use the test results to assist in reporting for both Society of American Foresters (SAF) and university accreditation. In considering the suggestion, the Board noted several possible benefits with no significant downside.

Applicants passing the proposed early examination, upon earning a qualifying degree, would be designated as a *Forester in Training (F.I.T.) who is working to satisfy the requisite two years of professional experience to become licensed as a Registered Forester in Alabama. Upon satisfying the experience requirement**, the F.I.T. would be granted a license as Registered Forester. Another proposed change considered by the Board is to invite state universities with accredited forestry programs, the Alabama Division, SAF, and the Alabama Chapter, Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) to submit questions for consideration to be included in the examination database. This would be a standing invitation and questions could be submitted at any time. Registered Foresters would also be encouraged to submit questions. The Board would act unilaterally, without feedback to the submitters, to reject, accept, or accept with

changes any proposed test questions. These procedures, coupled with the random selection of questions for each test, would ensure the integrity of the test database and fairness to all applicants while ensuring the examination maintains relevancy and reflects expertise beyond the members of the Board.

The above proposals have a number of positive benefits. The changes would benefit the public by potentially resulting in more registered foresters. Educational institutions would benefit by using the examination pass rate to benchmark their instructional

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Boards from Across the South Meet in Opelika

The Association of Southern Boards of Registration for Foresters (ASBORF) meets annually to provide a platform for sharing ideas and experiences from the member boards. The Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters was the host this year and the meeting was held in August at the beautiful new Lodge and Conference Center at the Grand National in Opelika. The other states represented were South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Arkansas. A representative from Pennsylvania attended to observe as Pennsylvania is trying to enact a forestry registration law.

Dean Brinker and the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences staff presented an outstanding program spotlighting some of the projects

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Board Highlights--October 2003

Notes from State Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Foresters met on October 29, 2003 in Montgomery. Members present were: Leh Bass, Kenneth Day, Melisa Love and Rhett Johnson.

The Board reviewed applications for licensing and approved the following applicants for examination: Christopher J. Reynolds, Robert C. Mantie and Phillip K. Cox. Written exams were held on October 8, 2003 for three applicants; all of whom passed the exam. The Board also reinstated the licenses of Russell W. Booker and Charles E. Murphy.

The Board discussed the nomination process for filling Emmett Thompson's seat on the Board. His term expires on January 6, 2004. The Alabama Division of the Society of American Foresters is charged with recommending three possible replacements to the Governor, who must choose one of those names. According to Mark Bond, current division chairman, that has been done, and the Board should soon be notified who the new member will be.

Dick Brinker, Dean of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University requested that the Board consider allowing graduates from accredited forestry schools in the state be allowed to take the Registered Forester's exam while in school. They would still be required to have the two years of experience before they could be granted a license. The Board decided to seek input from the Registered Foresters in the state concerning this policy change. Please see the article on page one of this newsletter for more information about this topic.

The following dates were set for the 2004 exam schedule:

January 8

April 8

July 7

October 6

All of the exams will be given at the Board's office in Montgomery.

State Board of Registration for Foresters

Emmett Thompson,
Chairman

*Forest Stewardship Committee
Public Information Committee*

Lehman Bass,
Vice Chairman

Examinations Committee

Kenneth Day
Secretary

Violations Committee

Rhett Johnson

Rules & Regulations Committee

Continuing Education Committee

Melisa Love

Finance & Administration Committee

Staff

Executive Assistant - Pam Sears

Editor - Rick Oates

Assistant Attorney General - Olivia Martin

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters

513 Madison Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama 36130

(334) 353-3640

psears@elmore.rr.com

www.alsbrf.org

Don't Forget! Renewal Time

In order to maintain your certification, all of your CFE credits must be turned in to the Board office by December 31, 2003. If this is not done you, will be required to reapply for your license!

2004 Fees

Application Fees	\$ 50
Renewal Fees	
Active	\$ 75
Inactive	\$ 30
Late Fee	\$ 50
Reinstatement Fees	\$125
Lost License	\$ 10

Master Tree Farm Program Offered to Landowners Across the State

Landowners and others interested in managing their land will find this workshop an exceptional opportunity. The Basic Master Tree Farmer program is designed for landowners and others who have an interest in learning more about managing forest resources. One of its goals is to encourage landowners to seek professional advice and to better understand the advice they are given by professional foresters.

The course will be offered in the following counties:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Barbour/Russell | Blount | Butler |
| Bullock | Choctaw | Covington |
| Fayette | Houston | Lamar |
| Madison | Marengo | Marshall |
| Montgomery | Tuscaloosa | Walker |
| Winston | | |

Each location will have a Program Coordinator and a professional forester handling the program for their site. Speakers will be presenting material to the group from Clemson, South Carolina. Presentations will be delivered live to sites in multiple states via satellite. There will be a toll-free number and e-mail participants can use to ask questions of the presenters. Questions will also be handled at the local level.

Registrants will receive a comprehensive notebook with chapters on each topic and speaker's notes. Persons completing five of the seven sessions will receive a certificate and a Master Tree Farmer cap.

Workshop sessions will be each Tuesday from February 3 to March 16, 2004. Sessions will begin at 6:00 pm and will last until 9:00 pm CST. Instructors and coordinators will be available through a toll-free number, email and on site until 9:30 pm.

When you register, your county's coordinator will send you information on the location for your county (normally at the extension office). All presentations also qualify for Forest Masters Credits, Alabama's forest landowner and stakeholder education and service recognition program. For more information on the Forest Masters Program contact Glenn Glover (334)844-1019 or visit the Forest Master's website at: <http://www.pfmt.org/fm>.

February 3	Introduction to Forest Management, Forestry Terms and Concepts
February 10	Forestry Economics, Taxation and Estate Planing
February 17	Pine Management
February 24	Hardwood Management
March 2	Timber Marketing and Harvesting
March 9	Non-Timber Management Opportunities
March 16	Forestry Assistance, Current Issues and getting Engaged

Change of Address Form

Please update the information found in the Roster of Registered Foresters by sending this form by mail to the Board of Registration at 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130; fax: 334-353-3641 or email it to psears@elmore.rr.com).

Name: _____	Title: _____
Company: _____	Email: _____
Business Address: _____	
Business Phone: _____	Fax: _____
Home Address: _____	
Home Phone: _____	Email: _____

Summary of Board Enforcement Activities

The philosophy of the Board is that educating and seeking voluntary compliance best serves the public interest. Therefore enforcement actions first seek to correct problems before pursuing punitive measures.

A summary of ongoing complaint investigations is presented below in tabular format. The information is sanitized to protect the identity of those involved.

Complaint Number	Alleged Violation(s)*	Status
2002-001	1,2	<i>Closed</i> ; the accused complied with a cease and desist notice.
2002-002 Undated	5	<i>Pending</i> ; the Assistant Attorney General Counsel assigned to the Board is evaluating an attorney's request for a temporary stay of action. Case on hold pending the availability of accused.
2003-001	2	<i>Closed</i> ; the accused complied with a cease and desist notice.
2003-002 Updated	1,2	<i>Closed</i> ; accused has been notified to cease and desist and confirm corrective action with the Board. Response received along with the documentation.
2003-Informal-1 Added	1	<i>Closed</i> ; dialogue to clarify policy interpretations concluded.
2003-Informal-2	1	<i>Pending</i> ; Investigation initiated to determine facts.

Summary of Violations*

1. Practice or offer to practice the profession of forestry without being registered or exempted.
2. Use in connection with name or other wise assume, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that one is a registered forester, without being registered or exempted in accordance with the Code of Alabama 1975, Chapter 12, Section 34-12
3. Present or attempt to use as one's own, the license of another, or any person who shall give any false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or any member thereof in obtaining a license.
4. Attempt to use an expired or revoked license.
5. Violate any of the provisions of the Code of Alabama 1975, Chapter 12, Section 34-12.

Alabama Division Hosts Southeastern SAF Meeting

The Alabama Division of the Southeastern Society of American Foresters hosted the Society's 2003 Annual Meeting in Mobile. Over 170 members were in attendance at the October meeting, the largest group at a Southeastern Society in several years. Attendees came from all three states in the Southeastern Society

For the first time, the meeting sponsored a poster session, with several informative posters featuring new and ongoing research and outreach projects. In another departure from past meetings, alumni evening socials replaced the traditional alumni breakfasts and

Division business meetings were held during the breakfast meal. The meeting opened with an Awards Banquet on Sunday night, recognizing several members for their contributions. Alabama's Keville Larson, RF#499, was recognized by the Southeastern Society for Excellence in the General Practice of Forestry over his career. The Excellence in Forest Research Award was given to Forest Service employee Dr. Bob Rummer. Alabama Board of Registration member Rhett Johnson, RF#1312 was recognized as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, along with Jim Fendig and Chuck Place of Georgia. Other award recipients from Alabama included David Hornsby, RF#1642, who was recognized as the Alabama

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AF&PA Hails Congressional Passage of Healthy Forests Restoration Act

"An epic victory for the health of our nation's forests," says CEO Moore

WASHINGTON, DC - The American Forest & Paper Association today hailed today's passage in both the House and Senate of the conference report for H.R. 1904, The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). The bill represents the most meaningful change in federal forestlands law in more than 25 years.

"This bipartisan legislation represents an epic victory for the health of our nation's forests, both public and private," said AF&PA President and CEO W. Henson Moore. "Federal land managers will now have the tools they need address the forest health crisis that has resulted in the destruction of millions of acres of public and private forestland, not to mention the loss of homes and other property resulting from catastrophic wildfire."

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act conference agreement will allow federal land managers to address the more than 100 million acres of federal forest at risk to wildfire, insect infestation and disease by expediting vital forest health projects and simplifying the Forest Service's appeals process, while still ensuring that the public has ample opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

"This conference agreement culminates 15 months of intense negotiations between the Administration and Congress with the vital input of a number of important stakeholders including landowners, conservation organizations and industry," continued Moore. "I applaud everyone involved in creating this landmark legislation for their hard work and willingness to compromise. I believe we have taken the first step toward finally addressing the nation's forest health crisis."

On August 21, 2002, after touring the fire-ravaged forests of Southern Oregon, President George W. Bush proposed a number of measures to help address the forest health crisis. Called "The Healthy Forests Initiative", President Bush's proposal reflected the regulatory and legislative actions necessary to stop the growing risk of wildfire. Many of the regulatory fixes were implemented by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior in the winter and spring of 2003.

HFRA represents many of the legislative changes President Bush asked for in his Healthy Forests Initiative. The HFRA conference report now goes to the White House, where President Bush is expected to sign it into law in short order.

American Forest & Paper Association Press Release

SAF Meeting, Continued from Page 4

Division Young Forester of the Year.

The program theme was Forestry in the Southeast: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow and the speakers and panelists were asked to look 10 years into the past and 10 years into the future. One panel included discussions of how we view and value forest land today in the face of burgeoning development and loss of forest land acreage to other uses. Another session examined changing markets for forest products and forest land. An issues forum looked at such topics as the current tri-state "water wars", air quality issues, carbon sequestration, invasive plants, and forest tree nursery issues. Another session focused on herbicides in forestry today, including a presentation on precision application.

There was a report on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment by one of its authors and a timely presentation on the Urban-Wildland Interface by Annie Hermansen from a Forest Service Center. Finally, a frantic session in which representatives from state and federal forestry agencies, forest industry, the private consultant sector, forestry research, forestry education, and extension, and the institutional forestland investment field were asked to look back at their segment of the forestry profession, compare it to today's activities, and "crystal ball" 10 years into the future. A highlight of the program was provided by Michael Goergen, the newly selected Executive Director of the Society of American Foresters, who flew in from Washington directly from his honeymoon to be with us and share his view of the status and future of the professional society.

The 2004 conference will be hosted by the Florida Division and will be held in Jacksonville in November.

Contributed by Board Member Rhett Johnson

Testing Policy, Continued from page 1

by using the examination pass rate to benchmark their instructional programs. A stronger partnership would be forged between state universities offering forestry programs, the Alabama Division, SAF and the Alabama Chapter, ACF as they collaborate to provide continuous input to the test database. Applicants would benefit by taking the examination while coursework is still fresh and their test taking skills are finely honed. Additionally, applicants passing the examination may be more competitive for employment. Advocates of the proposed procedural changes believe implementation would result in a "win-win-win" scenario for all concerned - the public, the educational institutions, and the applicants.

Due to the significance of the proposed changes, it is the Board's desire to allow an opportunity for Registered Foresters in Alabama to express their views on the matter. Written comments are preferred and may be provided either by letter or e-mail.

The Board will consider feedback received by January 25, 2004 and further consider the proposed changes at its January 28, 2004 meeting.

* The Board seeks input on an appropriate designation for those passing the early examination if the proposed changes be adopted. Some suggestions include Forestry Intern, Forester in Training, (FIT), etc..

** Consideration is being given to establishing a reasonable time frame to satisfy the professional experience requirement without retesting. One suggestion is to allow five (5) years to meet the requirement unless the Board, on a case-by-case basis, specifically extends the time.

Contributed by Board Member Ken Day

Board Meeting, Continued from page 1

AUSFWS is supporting. Our own board member Rhett Johnson participated with a presentation on the Longleaf Alliance. The other states were very impressed with what AUSFWS is doing in Alabama and the southeast.

Representatives from each state presented a report of activities for the year with an emphasis on testing and registration. With so many southern states reciprocating registration it is important to maintain standards that will fulfill each states requirements. Pam Sears took minutes of the meeting in the absence of the ASBORF secretary. During the business meeting Leh Bass was elected Chairman for 2004.

The 2004 meeting will be held in Georgia. We look forward to another opportunity to meet, share ideas and fellowship with the other southern boards of forestry.
