



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Governor Riley Fills Vacancy

David Wright Appointed to Board

he completion of Emmett Thompson's term on the Board of Registration for Foresters in January paved the way for Governor Riley to appoint a new member to the Board. David Wright, operations manager for Scotch Lumber Company in Fulton was appointed to succeed Thompson. The Board wishes to thank Dr. Thompson for his service.

Wright has been a Registered Forester since 1981; after earning a bachelor's of science in Forestry from Auburn in 1978. Wright says he is proud to serve on the Board and looks forward to helping maintain the integrity of the forestry profession through his service. Many people don't value positions of this type, but David looks at this service as an honor and is ready to do what he can to help protect the ability of professional foresters to practice forestry.

A native of Pine Hill, Wright has worked at Scotch Lumber Company for five years. Prior to that he was a timber buyer for Scott Paper and later Kimberly Clark for almost 17 years. Wright is proud to point out that his first job after college was to procure timber for his father at their family hardwood veneer mill. Today, Wright is in charge of company lands

Please see New Member, page 2

MAJOR CHANGE TO TESTING POLICY STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

Reference the article in the Winter 2003 edition of The Registered Forester entitled "Board Considers Major Change to Testing Policy." This article outlined consideration of a proposal to allow early examination for candidates wanting to become licensed to practice forestry in the State of Alabama. The proposal was in contrast to the current requirement that a candidate must have completed two years of professional experience before taking the examination. The Board solicited your written comments regarding the proposed change. The Board anticipated that many of you would express opinions on the subject. Perhaps the proposal simply did not evoke a strong reaction or maybe the holiday season had everyone distracted. Nevertheless, only a handful of comments were received. The effort of the six Registered Forester who took the initiative to document their views on the subject is greatly appreciated and hopefully sharing their

Please see Policy Change, page 3



Board Highlights--October 2003

Notes from State Board Meeting

The Board of Registration for Foresters met on January 28, 2004 in Montgomery. Members present were: Leh Bass, Kenneth Day, Melisa Love, Rhett Johnson and David Wright.

The Board reviewed applications for licensing and approved the following applicants for examination: Michael B. Vicars, Timothy A. Kilne, Louis M. Coffee and Thomas R. Clark. Written exams were held on January 8, 2004 for two applicants; both of whom passed the exam. The Board also reinstated the license of Hugh Mobley. Reciprocity was granted to Elizabeth A. Heidbreder-Olson who holds a valid license in Georgia.

The Board discussed the need for "core" courses to be part of a degree program in order to be granted a license to practice forestry in Alabama. It was felt that certain degrees may not include these important elements needed to be a professional forester. Rhett Johnson was charged with drafting a definition of what should be included as "core" courses. This will be discussed at the April meeting of the Board.

The following dates were set for the 2004 exam schedule:

January 8	July 7
April 8	October 6

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

2004 Fees	
Application Fees	\$ 50
Renewal Fees	
Active	\$ 75
Inactive	\$ 30
Late Fee	\$ 50
Reinstatement Fees	\$125
Lost License	\$ 10

New Member, Continued from page 1

owned by Scotch as well as the company logging and chipping crews.

David understands the value of service. He is beginning his third term on the Wilcox County Commission. Years ago he saw a need for leadership on the County Commission and stepped up to the plate to offer his

State Board of Registration for Foresters

Lehman Bass,
Chairman

*Forest Stewardship Committee
Public Information Committee
Examination Committee*

Kenneth Day
Vice Chairman

Violations Committee

Rhett Johnson
Secretary

Continuing Education Committee

Melisa Love
Rules & Regulations Committee

David Wright
Finance & Administration Committee

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time and energy to the Commission. He wants to do what he can to make Wilcox County a better place for his children and grandchildren to live.

Watching changes in the profession of forestry is one of the driving forces that motivates David to get involved. Environmental issues, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and increasing pressures from urbanization are some of the challenges that David sees facing forestry. Educating foresters and the public about the importance of good forestry is important to David. He hopes that his service on the Board will foster this need. He especially looks forward to the challenge of educating the public about the importance of forestry to the state.

David and his wife Angie, also a native of Pine Hill have three children, Ashly, Rachel and Matthew. When he is not working, David manages his family's land and likes to hunt, fish and spend time with his family.

Policy Change, Continued from page 1

feedback will inspire others of you to weight in on the subject. A synopsis of comments is on page 4.

The Board has and continues to consider the proposed testing policy change in an open deliberate fashion and encourages dialogue with Registered Foresters. In response to comments received, the Board feels it is necessary to clarify key tenants of the proposed policy. Adopting a provision for early examination would simply shift - expand the window in which a candidate could take the test to become a Registered Forester. The basic change is that a window of opportunity ranging from the senior year of study in an accredited forestry program through two years past graduation would then be available for an applicant to take the examination. The proposed policy does not diminish the importance placed on internship. Two years of professional experience after graduation would remain a prerequisite to recognition as a Registered Forester. There would be no relaxation of the existing requirements a candidate must meet to earn registration.

While this policy discussion was prompted by a proposal suggested jointly by Auburn University and Alabama A&M University, any testing policy change would apply to all applicants regardless of from what school they matriculate. The Board would continue to

maintain control of the examination question database and responsibility for developing and administering the exam. While the universities and others could recommend exam questions, the Board remains the ultimate authority to determine what questions, in what form, are added to the exam database. Therefore, it would not be likely that universities could teach specifically for the exam particularly considering the Board randomly selects questions from the database for each exam that is administered.

The argument could certainly be made as was outlined in the referenced article that the proposed change would result in a win-win-win for the universities, the applicants and the public. As it specifically relates to the public, more registered foresters means more available choices from which to seek professional services. The number one complaint referred to the Board is the allegation of practicing forestry without license. If more graduate foresters are registered it is reasonable to assume that this complaint may decline.

The Board encourages Registered Foresters to engage in this policy discussion on testing by letting your views be considered. Submit your written comments, by e-mail or letter. We are familiar with the phrase, "decisions are made by those who show up." Don't be absent in the consideration of this very important matter affecting your profession.

New Registered Foresters

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rusty.booker@ipaper.com

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Elba, AL 36323
(334) 330-8031
timeltd@alaweb.com

Ingram, Robert E. #1944
Federal Land Bank
7602 Halcyon Summit Drive
Montgomery, AL 36124
(334) 270-8687
robert.ingram@farmcreditbank.com

Isbell, Cameron D. #1945
Forest Management, Inc.
60 Commerce Street
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Mobley, Hugh F. #1497
Consulting Forester
114 Aegean Way
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Tombigbee Forestry Service
P.O. Box 726
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Reynolds, Christopher J. #1949
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Andalusia, AL 36420
(888) 335-3476
reynoldsforestry@hotmail.com

Sorrells, Phillip K. #1948
U.S. Forest Service
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Andalusia, AL 36420
(334) 222-2555
psorrels@fs.fed.us



The Registered Forester

Date	Source	Comment
January 5	Email	Propose changes sound good to me. Assume the Board will continue to offer testing for applicants not attending forestry schools in the State.
January 6	Email	Appears too much weight is given to numbers and not quality. What will keep the schools for teaching the test? Have worked with foresters who were tested in school during their senior year and observed that only about half passed the Alabama exam after two years of experience. The Alabama exam served as a wake up call. When careers depend on passing the exam, applicants hone their skills and take the matter more seriously.
January 14	Email	Think allowing seniors to take the exam is a good idea for the reasons already noted by the Board. Add Forester Trainee (FT) and Candidate Registered Forester (CRF) to list of designations being considered for the new category. Agree the Candidate Registered Foresters should be allowed five years to complete the two-year experience requirement. Potential drawback - may result in increased employment costs for companies that pay license renewals as an employee benefit. Often these entry-level employees perform technician-level work under the supervision of a Registered Forester. Therefore suggest a lower annual fee for Candidate Registered Foresters.
January 13	Email	Concerned that a candidate may be disadvantaged if asked questions that are based on experience rather than coursework. Other professions take professional exam immediately out of school. Don't see any problems except for how the exam question bank is weighted between experience and coursework.
January 24	Letter	Why an early exam? Universities should develop standardized test if they need one. Results would be more taking the test and more passing. No reason explained why this benefits the public. Considers the proposal as a relaxing of standards. Diminishes the Registered Forester designation. Concern the proposal is being rushed without consideration from Registered Foresters.
January 12	Letter	Concern that schools would dominate the process to the detriment of the profession. Believe that two-years of experience is necessary. Internship has merit. Examination should be prepared by those licensed in the state.

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 and rehabilitate 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 the principals.

Complaint	Alleged	Status
2002-002 Unchanged	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- <i>Informal-2</i> Updated	1	<i>Pending</i> ; Accused notified to cease and desist and confirm corrective action with the Board
2003- <i>Informal-3</i> Added	1	<i>Pending</i> ; Dialogue initiated to clarify policy in response to possible attempt to establish business.

In addition to the above pending investigations, in 2003 the Board successfully investigated and disposed of four other cases.

*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.

AF&PA Survey Shows Decline in Growth in Paper Industry

Reversing the positive growth trend of the last two decades of the 20th Century, U.S. paper and paper-board capacity declined annually from 2001 to 2003 and is expected to remain unchanged during the 2004 to 2006 period, according to the 44th Annual Capacity Survey of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA).

The survey, released March 23rd, said that capacity rose at average annual rates of 2.1% a year in the 1980s and 2.2% in the 1990s, but declined 1.9% in 2001, 1.3% in 2002 and 0.4% in 2003.

Increased foreign competition, maturing domestic markets, and competition from plastics and electronic media were cited as among the factors that may have contributed to the lack of capacity growth.

Paper-- Newsprint capacity fell 1.3% to 6.9 million

tons in 2003, and is expected to decline another 2.8% in 2004 to 6.75 million tons. At that level, it will have dropped by almost 10% from its peak in 1997, and will be at its lowest level since 1989. Newsprint capacity is expected to remain relatively unchanged in 2005 and 2006.

Capacity for printing-writing paper declined by 174,000 tons in 2003, or by 0.6%. Among the four major grades of printing-writing paper, only coated groundwood registered an increase in capacity since 2000, growing by 2.6%. All the other major grades experienced significant declines .

Coated free sheet capacity, at 4.8 million tons in 2003, was down 4.2% from 2002. Capacity is now 14.2% below its 2000 peak, and is expected to rise at 2.1% annually during the forecast period.

Uncoated free sheet capacity was the only printing-writing grade to show an increase in this year's Survey between 2002 and 2003, to about 13.9 million tons.

Decline, Continued from page 5

The increase stemmed from the impact of producer changes resulting from de-bottlenecking projects, machine shutdowns and grade swings into and out of uncoated free sheet. Capacity for this grade is expected to remain unchanged during the survey forecast period of 2004-2006.

Capacity for unbleached kraft paper dropped 1.2% in 2003, to almost 1.8 million tons, and is expected to decline an additional 3.5% in 2004 and rise 1.7% in 2005, and remain unchanged in 2006.

Bleached kraft paper capacity rose 1.6% in 2003 and should grow 0.7% in 2004 to 383,000 tons, according to the survey it will remain stable in 2005 and 2006.

Tissue paper is one of the more dynamic grades of the paper industry in terms of capacity changes. Capacity for tissue rose 1.6% in 2003 to 8.1 million tons and is expected to increase 1.1% in 2004, 2.6% in 2005 and 0.1% in 2006. The changes reflect several developments, including one new tissue paper machine coming on line in 2003; five new machines expected to come on line in 2004; and another new tissue paper machine expected to start up early in 2005.

Paperboard-- Linerboard capacity, at 25.5 million tons in 2003, showed no change and is projected to remain flat during the next three years. No new

machines are coming on line, and while a previously closed machine is being restarted, its capacity will be offset by the swing of linerboard capacity to unbleached kraft paper production.

Capacity for corrugating medium fell 2.1% in 2003 and is expected to drop another 1.5% in 2004. These declines reflect the permanent shutdown of a recycled medium machine during the fourth quarter of 2003. Medium capacity is expected to edge up by 0.3% in 2005 and 0.4% in 2006.

Bleached board capacity (folding boxboard, milk carton and food service, and other) rose 1.7% in 2003 to 5.8 million tons, reflecting capacity swings from other grades and efficiency improvements. Domestic capacity to produce bleached board is projected to remain unchanged through 2006.

Market Pulp-- Market wood pulp capacity in this year's survey totaled about 10.6 million tons in 2003, and is expected to fall by about 285,000 tons through 2006. Major changes in subgrades include strong declines in dissolving pulp capacity, growth in bleached softwood sulfate market pulp and declines in bleached hardwood sulfate market pulp.

AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper and wood products industry. Visit AF&PA online at www.afandpa.org for more information about this report.
