



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

When Can a “Non-Registered Forester” Work Under the License of a Registered Forester?

Forestry professionals in Alabama are required by law to be registered to practice forestry or perform any forestry service such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, or planning. In spite of this law, there are people working in the field of forestry who do not meet the education, experience, and testing requirements to become registered. As a registered forester you may someday be called upon to "vouch for" one of these people.

Alabama law, Section 34-12-2 (b) (3) provides exemption from the need for registration for "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". This exemption is not meant to be used casually or with no formal agreement through employment or other means.

Under the Administrative Rules-Policy Statements-Chapter 380-X-6-.01 the word supervision is further described "to 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 results of the efforts, opinion, advice or recommendations of a Forester". Later Chapter 380-X-6-.03 states that those being supervised by a registered forester can not under any circumstances use the title Forester.

These rules clearly state our responsibilities as

*Please see **Non-Registered**, page 2*

An Opportunity to Enhance Professional Stature

As an educational institution, we at Auburn University are constantly asking ourselves, "Are we doing an adequate job preparing our graduates to be professional foresters?" We want to provide our graduate foresters with the most relevant, and well-grounded education possible. To help our faculty answer this question, we have requested that the Board of Registration for Foresters consider testing our students during the spring semester of their senior year to assess the effectiveness of our curriculum leading to the B.S. Degree in Forestry.

We are currently using internal evaluation techniques, and utilizing the success rate of our graduates on the written examination given by the Board of Registration for Foresters to applicants with at least 2 years of professional experience after graduation. However, all of our graduates do not take this exam, and we feel that the RF Exam can provide a definitive, external review of the level of knowledge of our graduates. The exam would be the

*Please see **Opportunity**, page 3*

Hurricane Ivan Photo



Hurricane Ivan devastates Alabama's Forests as it comes ashore near Orange Beach, Alabama. See story on page 2.

Hurricane Ivan Reeks Havoc on Alabama's Forests

On September 14th Hurricane Ivan came ashore near Orange Beach. The news media has done an excellent job describing the havoc that Ivan brought to houses, businesses and people's lives in many respects, but they have largely neglected to describe how the storm affected the forests of Alabama.

Preliminary damage assessments from the Alabama Forestry Commission show just under three million acres of forestland suffered some type of damage in the twelve hardest hit counties of southwest Alabama (see the map below). Their early estimates show over \$425 million worth of damage to timber and the equivalent of one year's worth of the state's annual harvest is on the ground.

The Alabama Forestry Commission and the Alabama Forestry Association have worked with Governor Riley to begin salvage and forest restoration efforts. Governor Riley created the Forest Recovery Task Force which is made up of industry and agency representatives on Monday, October 4th. Their immediate task will be to facilitate salvage efforts. In the long term they will be investigating ways to help landowners reforest and lessen the risks of forest fire created by the excess debris on the ground.

Through an Executive Order, Governor Riley also temporarily raised weight limits on log trucks performing salvage operations throughout the state in order to more rapidly move storm damaged timber. For information about the routes that these trucks can use go to: www.alaforestry.org/ivan.

The AFC and the AFA are working to minimize the loss to Alabama's forest landowners. There will be a considerable amount of work over the next several months and many volunteers will be needed as we work to salvage this timber. Go to www.alaforestry.org/ivan to see where help is needed and to keep up to date with the salvage efforts.

This map shows the most severely damaged counties in Alabama following Ivan.

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

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

2004 Fees

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

Non-Registered, continued from page 1

Registered Foresters when assisting someone claiming this exemption. If you are not in a position to direct, supervise, and take responsibility for someone, do not allow them to exempt themselves from registration laws under your license. The Board currently requires a copy of a written agreement proving a position of employment or subordination when violation claims are made under this Section of law.

If you would like further clarification of this issue, please contact a Board member.

*Lisa Love, Forestry Consultants, Inc.,
Member, Board of Registration for Foresters*

Opportunity, Continued from page 1

culmination of a student's academic training, and would provide substantive feedback to our faculty on the professional forestry knowledge that the students have acquired.

I think that there have been misinterpretations by some Registered Foresters concerning this request by the School. This request would not entail changing any aspect of administration of the exam by the Board, and would be analogous to the administration of professional exams for engineers, lawyers, or certified public accountants taken at the end of their academic training. If the student did not pass the exam, they would have to re-take and pass the exam to become registered. Upon successfully passing the exam, these students would not be Registered Foresters, but "Foresters-in-Training." The time requirement for work experience under a registered forester to become an RF would not change.

I think that offering the Forestry Senior an opportunity to take this exam during their final semester before graduation would enhance the stature and allure of becoming a Registered Forester. I have not surveyed the percentage of our graduates who become RF's, but if they become a Forest-In-Training (FIT), I think they are more likely to continue their efforts to become RF's after an additional two years of apprenticeship after the exam.

I think it is also essential that we as educators stay current with the knowledge required to be a profes-

sional, Registered Forester. If our faculty are confronted with higher failure rates in some portion of the exam, such as forest surveying, forest roads, BMP's, etc. it would behoove our faculty to question what they are teaching, and make them strive to make their instruction more relevant. To give the exam just prior to graduation would allow that more immediate feedback to our faculty. If we find that some unacceptable percentage of our students cannot successfully pass the exam, we will have to adjust our curriculum to better prepare them to become Registered Foresters.

As was discussed at the recent meeting of the Alabama Division, Society of American Foresters, our faculty will have no involvement in the administration or grading of the exam. This will continue to be a responsibility of the Board of Registration, who will maintain the integrity of the exam as they have since the inception of the law requiring registration of foresters. I have also discussed this possibility with Dr. George Brown, Director Emeritus, Center for Forestry and Ecology at Alabama A&M. He was very interested in this concept of assessment and would like his faculty consider this option as well.

I think that this is a great opportunity for the professional forester community to enhance the status of registered foresters, attract more professionals to become registered, and ensure that we as educators are preparing graduates to enter the workforce.

Dr. Dick Brinker, Dean Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University

New Registered Foresters

Bradley, Kristofer #1954

AmSouth Bank
P.O. Drawer 1628
Mobile, AL 36633
(251) 438-8358
kbradley@amsouth.com

Brocato, Sam #1958

Retired
137 Cedarwood Trail, NW
Cleveland, TN 37312
(423) 472-3615
svboys@charter.net

Clark, Thomas #1953

F&W Forestry Services
P.O. Box 259
LaFayette, AL 36862
(334) 864-9542
trandmistry@earthlink.net

Coffee, Louis #1952

Resource Management
100 Corporate Ridge
Birmingham, AL35242
(205) 980-7349
mcoffee@resourcemt.com

Craig, Stewart #1957

The Campbell Group
3580 Lorna Ridge Drive
Hoover, AL 35216
(205) 822-7130
scraig@campbellgroup.com

Hunnicut, Charles #1956

Alabama Forestry Commission
409 South Broad Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768
(256) 574-3217
brandonhunnicut@hotmail.com

Kline, Timothy A. #1951

Kline Forestry Services.
338 County Road 57
Eufaula, AL 36027
(334) 687-5898
tkline@zebra.net

Littlepage, Connie F. #1950

Littlepage Land Corporation
22671 Highway 10
Butler, AL 36904
(877) 660-2131
littlepage@tds.net

Viars, Michael B. #1955

Timberline, Inc.
P.O. Box 622
Trussville, AL 35173
(205) 612-5135
mviars@24by7.org

Our Friend, Jerry Johnson

Many of us began 2004 on a sad note with the news of the death of a valued friend and colleague, Jerry Johnson, on the last day of 2003. Jerry was the consummate professional forester, epitomizing everything our profession aspires to. He had a long career as the staff forester for NRCS in Alabama and, as such, played a role in the management of thousands of acres of private lands in the state. Jerry was active in professional forestry and wildlife organizations and was recognized for his quiet leadership on many occasions. Notably, Jerry was on the original committee that conceived and administered the TREASURE Forest program and continued to serve on that committee through its various re-inventions until his health no longer allowed, a period of nearly 26 years. Throughout this entire time, Jerry worked diligently to guard the integrity of that program, keeping it true to its origins as a program to recognize excellence in forest land management. Jerry was a long time member and strong supporter of the Society of American Foresters at several levels. He was recognized for his efforts with induction into the Alabama Foresters Hall of Fame in 2001. Jerry also received the Governor's Award as the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Soil Conservationist of the Year in 2000. In recognition of his role as a strong advocate of landowner's rights and the good stewardship of private land, Jerry received the Bill Moody Award from the Alabama Treasure Forest Association in 1998.

Recounting his achievements, awards and honors is not sufficient to describe Jerry's contributions to the world around him. He was a proud holder of Alabama Registered Forester Number 681 and represented the profession in an excellent fashion in both his personal and professional life. He was devoted to his family and his church and lived his life accordingly. Those of us who were lucky enough to call him a friend know that we are unlikely to have a better one. A true gentleman in every sense of the word, Jerry empathized with our misfortunes, offered his assistance without hesitation, and always managed to see the silver lining in every cloud.

Jerry received his forestry degree at Auburn in 1970 and remained a proud supporter and contributor to the school throughout his professional life. Accordingly, contributions to the School of Forestry and Wildlife

Sciences at Auburn in Jerry's memory are being solicited. A plaque in Jerry's honor will be placed in the new Forestry and Wildlife Building on the Wall of Honor. Checks or other contributions in any amount will be accepted by Angie Stephens at the Auburn University Foundation, 317 South College Street, Auburn University, AL 36849. Checks should be made out to the Auburn University Foundation and accompanied by a note indicating that the donation is being made in Jerry's memory.

*Rhett Johnson, Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center,
Member, Board of Registration for Foresters*

Board Decides on Testing Policy for Forestry Graduates

Reference articles in the Winter 2003 and Spring 2004 editions of The Registered Forester entitled "Board Considers Major Change to Testing Policy" and "Major Change to Testing Policy Still Under Consideration" respectively. The Board was successful in engaging Registered Foresters in dialogue on the consideration of a proposal to allow early examination of candidates desiring to become licensed to practice forestry in the State of Alabama.

Thanks to those who shared their views and comments. At its July 2004 meeting the Board took formal action on the proposed testing change and decided to leave the existing examination policy unchanged. If there is enough interest in the future, this issue could be brought back to the table.

Under this policy, applicants with eighteen (18) months of qualifying experience acquired after graduation from a curriculum in forestry of four years or more in a school or college may submit applications for licensing to the Board for their consideration. The Board will review such applicants and may schedule them for an examination to be given after such time as they have two years of qualifying experience. Upon passing the exam they will receive their license and be considered a Registered Forester.

*Ken Day, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Member, Board of
Registration for Foresters*

Making Sure You Meet the Continuing Education Requirements

The Requirements

Chapter 380-X-6-.04 of the Administrative Rules for the State Board of Registration for Foresters in Alabama establishes the requirement that all foresters registered to practice in the state of Alabama complete at least 10 hours of acceptable continuing forestry education each year. Credits earned in one year may be carried over to the next year if not used to meet requirements in the year in which they are earned. For licensing purposes, the year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. Newly registered foresters are not required to have the 10 hours of continuing education prior to that first license expiration, but will be required to have 10 hours before the second year expiration date. Reporting is done annually at the time of license renewal. A portion of the renewals are audited to verify accuracy in reporting. Failure to comply will result in non-renewal and those registered foresters are prohibited from identifying themselves as registered foresters and practicing professional forestry as provided in the Registration Law.

There are six categories of continuing forestry education for which credit can be granted. Category 1 credit can be earned in organized course work or activities in forestry or forestry-related subject matter such as silviculture, mensuration, forest pest management, professional ethics etc. Examples of sources of Category 1 education include seminars, short courses, workshops and technical sessions of professional meetings. These courses may be sponsored by professional groups, industries, extension services, or other public or private organizations. Category 1 activities must:

- ≧ constitute an organized program that contributes to the professional competency of the registered forester;
- ≧ deal primarily with matters directly related to the practice of forestry, to the professional responsibility or ethical obligations of foresters;
- ≧ be conducted by individuals who have special education, training and experience which qualifies them as experts in the subject matter of the program;
- ≧ conducted in a setting physically suitable to the educational objectives;
- ≧ have applicable subject matter to foresters (The course may be offered to a specific group, but must be of a nature to be applicable to all foresters).

Category 1 hours accrue at the rate of one hour per hour of actual contact.

Category 2 credits are earned by developing, prepar-

ing and presenting forestry or forestry-related course work in an instructional capacity such as described in Category 1. Category 2 hours accrue at the rate of 2 contact hours for each hour of actual presentation.

Category 3 credits are rewarded for other organized course work or activity not specifically forestry-related, but which are professionally enriching or directly benefiting the individual in his or her present position. Examples include general sessions of forestry of other professional meetings or course work in areas such as real estate, finance, etc.

Category 4 credits can be earned for the preparation, writing and publication of forestry or forestry-related subject matter beyond that required by the general scope of the individual's normal duties. Credit accrues at the rate of 15 hours for each publication requiring technical review and 5 hours for an article or series of articles of a substantial nature in magazines, newspapers, etc.

Category 5 credits may be earned through self-improvement activities, including attendance at meetings of professional boards or societies, reading publications or attending audio-visual presentations on technical forestry subjects or preparing such for non-forestry audiences.

Category 6 credits may be earned for holding elected or appointed office in forestry or allied professional organizations and on national, state, or local boards as a representative of the forestry profession. Credit accrues at the rate of 5 hours per year of office or active committee membership.

All 10 credits in any given year may be earned in Category 1. At least 5 credits must be earned in either Category 1 or 2. The remaining credit hours may be earned in any of the categories.

Sources of Continuing Education Credits

Many Registered Foresters have expressed difficulty acquiring the necessary continuing education credits. Because I work for an educational institution and am involved in outreach efforts across the state, I probably view that with a little more skepticism than most. In addition, I have served as the arbiter for con-

tinuing education credit for the Alabama State Board of Registration of Foresters for the past year or so and am constantly amazed at the number and variety of short courses and workshops that are submitted to me to "score" for credits and offered to the profession here in the state. Dr. Ken McNabb, Forestry Extension Coordinator at the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn, accredits many more programs that I never even hear about. For instance, last year's Southeastern SAF meeting in Mobile afforded attendees a total of 12 Category 1 continuing education credits. The recent Alabama Division Meeting in Birmingham was "worth" another 10 CFE's. Attendance at either of those would have yielded enough continuing education credits to satisfy the requirements for the entire year. Attendance at local SAF chapter meetings usually offers an hour of Category 1 credit. Most counties have an active forestry planning committee or its equivalent. Over the course of the year, most of these offer workshops or short courses on topics ranging from wildlife habitat management to forest taxation to herbicides to thinning and beyond. These activities offer not only continuing education credits, but also an opportunity to meet other professionals and potential clients.

Universities occasionally offer short courses, seminars and workshops that award continuing education credits. Auburn, Alabama A&M, the University of Georgia and Mississippi State all have active natural resource extension programs and are good sources of such programs. Topic areas are broad and include subjects like prescribed fire, watershed management, mensuration, GIS/GPS technology and others. The Junior College and Community College network in Alabama is also a good source of continuing education opportunities, particularly Category 3 activities.

Forestry related professional organizations and societies often offer continuing education credits that meet registration requirements. The Wildlife Society and the professional societies for surveyors, realtors, tax accountants, horticulturist, herbicide applicators and many others provide continuing education for professionals in their field and from which foresters would both benefit and earn continuing education credits. Meetings and workshops offered by groups like the Alabama Forest Owners Association, Forest Landowners Association, Alabama Forestry Association, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, the Longleaf

Alliance, and ALFA all are eligible for and provide continuing education credits for attendees.

Forest industries or agencies conduct in-house training for their employees and occasionally make them available to others if asked. Occasionally, a group of local foresters will independently put together a short course or workshop for credit. Agendas, including topics, speakers, and times must be submitted to the Board for approval and evaluation prior to the actual event.

How to find out where to get continuing education

The answer to many questions today seems to be the internet and in this case that also holds true. Extension and agency web pages typically list in-house activities as well as related opportunities offered by others. The Alabama Forest Owners Association newsletter, *Capital Ideas*, may offer the most complete "one-stop shopping guide" to continuing education activities in the state. The SAF monthly newspaper, *the Forestry Source*, and the Southeastern SAF newsletter lists short courses and meetings, as do the publications of the Forest Landowners Association and the Longleaf Alliance. Web pages include www.alabamaforestowners.com, www.forestlandowners.com, and www.longleafalliance.org. A call to your local county forester, NRCS office, or Extension office should yield a list of locally available courses. Most forestry publications, such as the Alabama Forestry Association's magazine, *Alabama Forests*, contain a section listing scheduled forestry courses and meetings.

Registered foresters should have more than adequate opportunity to acquire the necessary continuing education to keep themselves up to date as professionals and to remain registered. Of course, attendance at organized activities is not the only way to acquire credits. Involvement in professional societies can "lighten the load" for travel challenged foresters. This newsletter will include a section listing short courses, workshops, and meetings of which we are aware. This information will also be available on our web site. We must rely on you, however, to keep us informed. We will attempt to establish a network of correspondents in the agencies and organizations which routinely offer such opportunities and will do our best to keep our list current and complete. Still, we ask you to inform us, through Pam Sears or Rick Oates, of meetings you know about or are involved in so that we can get the word out.

*Rhett Johnson, Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center,
and Member of the Board of Registration for Foresters*

Alabama Division SAF Holds Annual Meeting in Birmingham

Alabama's annual meeting was held in May at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and was a tremendous success. "Keeping Up: The Profession & You" was the theme based on providing foresters with a variety of continuing education opportunities at a low cost.

Judging from the recent record turnout of 160 paid registrants, Programs Committee Chair Mark Bond believes they hit on a winning combination. Feedback from attendees confirmed a strong demand for practical information for foresters needing CFE credits provided at a lower cost.

Concurrent technical sessions covered Herbicides, Prescribe Burning, Certified Arborist training, Tree Farm Inspection Certification and Professional Logging Manager training in one grouping. Other one-hour courses touched on Taxation, Forestry Software & Hardware, new Technology, Tree Identification and Plant Pathology. While the logistics of offering so many subjects provided some pre-registration and room allocation challenges, those attending certainly got their money's worth. Local Arrangements Chair Waymon Paul and his group did an excellent job of coordinating the food, social and events.

Besides the concurrent sessions, the keynote address by Jim McNutt dealt with the question of the potential for building a new papermill in Alabama. On the last day of the meeting, Mark Elliott moderated a panel discussion concerning the selling of the tree products we are growing. From growing short rotation hardwoods to the Tim Tek process of utilizing small diameter wood, several speakers provided interesting insights to our current and future markets.

While no banquet was held, Good Time Bluegrass ably provided entertainment. One of our own, Dwayne Tew is in the band and arranged for the appearance of the group. You know he's talented when the first part of his email address is "flatpik".

Holding the event in late spring at the scenic Botanical Gardens in Birmingham was certainly a draw. Combine that with the support of Lana Cox and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Jefferson County staff and you have the foundation of a great meeting.

By offering a variety of CFE opportunities many non-SAF members (40% of attendees) attended, some of whom have now committed to re-joining the SAF. Even with a SAF member registration fee of only \$25 (\$35 for non-members) the Division made a profit, in large part due to the low-cost facilities, no expensive banquet meal and the generous support of eighteen exhibitors lined up by Exhibit Chair Robert Gandy.

Whenever you get the praise of folks like long-time member and SAF Fellow Harry Murphy, you know you have accomplished your goal of providing a good educational and fun meeting at a reasonable cost. Hats off to all those who worked to make the meeting a success and good luck to the 2005 meeting coordinators.

Brian Bradley, Secretary, Alabama Division, SAF

Board Works on Revision to Web Site

In an effort to make their web site more user friendly, the Board is evaluating some changes to the site. Please visit our web site to see what changes you might recommend we make in order to have it better meet your needs. Our web site address is <http://www.alsbrf.org/>.

Some of the things we are planning to add include a listing and links section to various continuing education opportunities, an updated roster of foresters, and a way to allow you to update your records through email as well as links to other relevant web sites.

We also intend to develop an electronic version of the *Registered Forester Newsletter*. We will send this out via email to those foresters that we have valid email addresses for in our database. All of you will continue to receive hard copies of the newsletter, but eventually we plan to just mail it to those of you who request hard copies and email it to the rest of the Registered Foresters. Past additions of the news letter will also be archived on the web site.

If you have any suggestions to improve the web site, please mail them to Pam Sears at psears@elmore.rr.com or Rick Oates at rickoates@bellsouth.net.

Summary Of Board Enforcement Activities

The philosophy of the Board is that educating and seeking voluntary compliance best serve the public interest. Therefore enforcement actions first seek to correct and rehabilitate before pursuing punitive measures. A summary of ongoing investigations is presented below in tabular format. The information is sanitized to protect the identity of the principals.

Complaint Number	Alleged Violation(s)*	Status
2002-002 Updated	5	Pending: The Assistant Attorney General Counsel assigned to the Board has evaluated an attorney request for a temporary stay of action. Case formerly on hold pending availability of accused, but now being pursued. Counsel action requested.
2003-Informal-2 Updated	1	Pending: Accused notified to cease and desist and confirm corrective action w/Board. Ongoing dialogue to achieve satisfactory corrective action. Counsel action requested.
2003-Informal-3 Updated	1	Pending: Dialogue initiated to clarify policy in response to possible attempt to establish business. Confirmed that proposed business venture terminated. Action closed.
2004 -Formal-1 Added	1,2	Pending: Formal complaint form filed, investigation initiated.
2004-Formal-2 Added	1,2	Pending: Formal complaint form filed, investigation initiated.
2004-Formal-3 Added	1,2	Pending: Formal complaint form filed, investigation initiated.

*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 otherwise assume, use, 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 Code of Alabama 1975 Chapter 12, s34-12.
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 Code of Alabama 1975 Chapter 12, s34-12.