



# THE REGISTERED FORESTER

## ***Governor Appoints Al Lyons to Board of Registration for Foresters***

On January 26, Governor Riley appointed Alan D. Lyons, RF #1413, to replace outgoing board member Leh Bass. Al was one of the three Registered Foresters recommended by the SAF to Governor Riley to serve on the Board. Upon hearing that he had been chosen to serve on the Board, Al said he was "humbled by this honor and looks forward to working with the other Board members to protect Alabama's forest resources and the profession he loves."

Al, a native of Mobile grew up in Tennessee. He received a B.S. in Forest Resource Management and an M.S. in forestry, both from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In 1994 he received an M.S. in Environmental Management from Samford University in Birmingham.

Al began his forestry career with Kimberly-Clark Corporation as a Research Forester. With K-C, he managed a genetic tree improvement and tree nursery program. During this time, he led research and development efforts and was a representative to cooperative research programs at both Auburn University and North Carolina State University. He later went on to positions as a Silviculturist, Environmental Manager and Area Land Manager. He has been a steward of East Central Alabama Forest for over 23 years. Since this land has been sold to U. S. Alliance and later to Hancock Timber Resource Group investors, he has continued to be involved with its management. He currently serves as Manager of Silviculture and Stewardship for the Southern Division of Hancock Forest Management. The Southern Division currently manages 960,000 acres of forestland in ten states for institutional investors.

One of Al's passions is the stewardship of Alabama's

forest resources. In 1998, he served on the Outstanding Alabama Water (OAW) Workgroup formed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. This workgroup consisted of numerous environmental and business stakeholders that worked together to clarify interpretation of OAW criteria. He has also worked to educate the general public on forest

*Please see Lyons, page 3*

## **Board Describes Core Curriculum for Foresters**

The Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters is charged by the Alabama Code with ensuring that the citizens of the state are well-served by the forestry profession. The Board attempts to achieve that end by, among other duties, licensing only those who meet the professional standards for Foresters set out by the Code. The Code states that, in order to be allowed to take the licensing examination, applicants must have a Bachelor's or higher degree from an SAF accredited forestry program or from a program and curriculum that meets the Board's approval. As the forestry profession has evolved, required courses have changed and many applicants come before the Board today with educational backgrounds that test the Board's ability to judge their adequacy. Increasingly, we are faced with applicants whose undergraduate degrees are not in forestry, but who have earned a Master's degree or doctorate in forestry from an accredited school. The concern is that many of these programs require that the student complete only a minimal course of study in basic forestry. The Board is reluctant to license and present to the public as a competent professional forester someone who has not com-

*Please see Core Curriculum, page 5*

## Board to Begin Accepting “On-Line” License Renewals

This Fall, the Board will offer a new way to renew your license; through the internet. The Board has contracted with Alabama Interactive to provide this service. Online renewals will be by far the easiest, most convenient, and accurate way to renew your license.

Listed below is some important information everyone should read to better understand the upcoming changes that will be taking place. Do a little Internet surfing, to familiarize yourself with Alabama Interactive at [www.alabamainteractive.org](http://www.alabamainteractive.org) or check online services at the state's website [www.alabama.gov](http://www.alabama.gov) so you will be prepared for online renewals.

### On Line, On Time Renewals

- ◆ Online...On Time license renewals are more accurate. This process eliminates errors and omissions by the use of required information fields.
- ◆ Online...On Time license renewals are easier. The online process guides the applicant through the necessary steps and is available 24-7. Applicants can renew as late as 11:59 pm on the day of the deadline.
- ◆ Online...On Time license renewals are faster. Reports and payments are downloaded to the Board daily, with no delay or lag time as with regular mail
- ◆ Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards will be accepted for payment of online licensing services.

### Security of Online Renewals

As the State of Alabama's official eGovernment partner, Alabama Interactive processes thousands of online transactions daily. With such a high demand for online services, the security of information is a top priority. The standards and policies implemented by Alabama Interactive will protect your information and you can be assured that your data will never fall into the wrong hands.

Each transaction conducted through Alabama Interactive's online services is safeguarded by the highest levels of security standards and procedures. Online information is submitted and processed using industry-proven 128-bit encryption -one of the strongest encryption standards available. This encryption translates personal data, like credit card numbers and social security numbers, into complex, coded mes-

## State Board of Registration for Foresters

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sages as they are transmitted. It is then decoded by Alabama Interactive, whose server uses a unique decryption key available only to that computer. The result is a highly-secure transaction.

Once Alabama Interactive receives your information, their commitment to ensuring a secure online environment means their services can be trusted to meet and exceed all privacy and security requirements. By utilizing a secure, nationally known, state-of-the-art technology center to house data, Alabama Interactive is able to ensure that information remains safe during and after the transaction.

As an added level of protection, user full credit card numbers are never stored in Alabama Interactive's database. This eliminates the possibility that someone could obtain a user credit card number to commit fraud or identity theft. Finally, Alabama Interactive will not resell or distribute personal information.

By employing leading-edge security measures to ensure that our user's personal information is protected at all times, Alabama Interactive makes eGovernment worry free.

*Submitted by Erin Hutchins, Alabama Interactive*

*Lyons, Continued from page 1*

stewardship issues and has been an invited speaker, for over 20 years, at numerous seminars and events.

After completing his masters at Samford, Al was asked by the faculty to develop and teach a course on Environmental Forestry for the program. He has been teaching this course for several years at Samford and really enjoys the challenge of introducing students to forestry, and learning from students that have diverse opinions about managing forests and harvesting timber.

Since 1984 Al has been speaking to the participants of the Alabama Forestry Association's Teachers Conservation Workshop. This is one of his favorite things to do, and he says he never makes his summer plans until the dates for this workshop are on his calendar. He feels it is very important for all of us in this profession to take time out of our busy schedules to

share with those who do not know about forestry the importance of properly managing our forest land.

Al is married to Jayne Ivy and has two children, Douglas age 14 and Leslie age 10. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the North Carolina State University Forest Nutrition Research Cooperative.

Al looks forward to becoming an active member of the Board of Registration for Foresters and hopes to make a positive impact on the profession he truly loves.



## New Registered Foresters

### **Carroll, David #1968 (Reinstated)**

Environmental Forestry Company  
640 Longwood Circle  
Auburn, AL 36830  
(334) 821-4187

### **Cornhill, Ronnie #1959 (Reinstated)**

Tennessee Valley Authority  
395 Woodall Road  
Decatur, AL 35603  
(256) 366-1346  
roncornhill@tva.gov

### **Davidson, John #1973**

Wolf Creek Timber Company  
P.O. Box 987  
Pell City, AL 35125  
(205) 473-4630  
jed1238@aol.com

### **Goff, John #1963**

Alabama Forestry Commission  
4130 County Road 5513  
Troy, AL 36801  
(334) 566-3436  
pike@forestry.state.al.us

### **Graham, George #1965**

St. Joe Land Company  
1400 Oven Park Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 591-2090

### **Hamilton, Brandon #1962**

Alabama Forestry Commission  
1202 Shady Lane  
Jasper, AL 35503  
(205) 385-2387  
sallred@bellsouth.net

### **Hunt, Jeffrey #1971**

Rayonier  
603-A West Bypass  
Andalusia, AL 36420  
(334) 427-4246  
jeff.hunt@rayonier.com

### **Langston, Todd #1970**

Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods  
100 Oak Street  
Huntland, TN 37345  
(256) 508-3535  
l.langston@mchsi.com

### **Lee, James #1961**

Swift Lumber Company  
P.O. Box 1298  
Atmore, AL 36502  
gosport1@frontiernet.net

### **Marks, David #1969**

Swift Lumber Company  
P.O. Box 1298  
Atmore, AL 36504  
(251) 368-8801  
swiftlumber@hotmail.com

### **Morris, John #1964**

Alabama Forestry Commission  
6650 Old Highway 31 North  
Gardendale, AL 35071  
(205) 631-2552  
johnsmorris@mac.com

### **Neighbors, Rance #1972**

Alabama Forestry Commission  
101 Jane Place  
LaFayette, AL 36892  
(334) 864-9368  
chambers@forestry.state.al.us

### **Thomas, James P. Jr. #1960**

Big River Land & Timber Co.  
P.O. Box 7  
Sardis, AL 36775  
(334) 872-5900

### **Wierzbicki, Heather #1966**

MeadWestvaco  
P.O. Box 520  
Phenix City, AL 36868  
(334) 448-6332  
ham2@meadwestvaco.com

### **Williams, Samuel #1967**

Scotch Plywood  
P.O. Box 97  
Beatrice, AL 36425  
(334) 412-6411  
shwx2@frontiernet.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. Civil action between accused and plaintiff currently in process. No further Board action anticipated until civil action concluded.
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. Individual responded to Board's initial inquiries and Board will follow up with personal visit to clarify response and assure compliance.
2004-Formal-2 Added	1,2	Pending: Formal complaint form filed, investigation initiated. "Cease and desist" request issued by Board. Individual has responded through legal counsel and has asked for more specific information on charges against. Referred to Counsel for further action.
2004-Formal-3 Added	1,2	Pending: Formal complaint form filed, investigation initiated. Individual informed of complaint but has failed to respond to Board's communication. Counsel action requested.
2004-Formal-4	5	Pending: Formal complaint form filed; investigation initiated. Individual informed of charges against and has not yet responded to Board. Board action pending.
2004-Formal-5	1	Pending: Formal complaint filed; notification by Board. Further action pending response.

\*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.

### Foresters Granted Riciprocity By Alabama

Doughtry, Sean	Hunt, Todd	Mobley, E	Shaver, Weber
Doughtry & Doughtry	Timber Management,	Weyerhaeuser	TAD Tech \$ Dir. of Public Works
Forestry Services	Inc.	Company	2031 GA Hwy. 144 East
P.O. Box 1137	P.O. Box 26757	P.O. Box 577	Fort Stewart, GA 31314
Southern Pines, GA 28388	Macon, GA 31221	Bruce, MS 38915	(912) 767-4288
(910) 692-9508	(478) 935-9820	(662) 983-7311	brent.shaver@us.army.mil
ddfmc@earthlink.net			

pleted a mensuration or silviculture course, for instance. These are not entirely new situations and past Boards have dealt with them in the way they felt was in the spirit of the law and which treated both the profession and the public fairly. The makeup of the Registration Board changes annually, however, and consistency has sometimes been difficult to maintain. Although records of Board actions are kept, sometimes the only reference we have at hand is Pam's memory. It's better than most, but still hard to cite as precedent for a subsequent Board decision.

There will always be gray areas and there is no "one size fits all" solution. The current Board has attempted to set some minimal curriculum standards for applicants which might clarify who is and who is not eligible to take the licensing exam and ultimately become a professional forester. Drawing on SAF accreditation standards and the curricula of several prominent forestry programs, we have devised a "core" forestry curriculum with which to judge applicants. The list is not all inclusive, but does contain what we judged to be subject areas central to the practice of forestry. Applicants who have not earned a Bachelor's degree in forestry from an accredited forestry program are asked to submit a transcript for the Board's review. That transcript is then compared to the list of "core" courses and a decision is made as to whether or not the applicant has satisfied the basic educational requirements for taking the licensing exam. Substitutions for listed courses are possible. For example, an Agricultural Economics course might be substituted for Forest Economics or a

Systematic Botany course for Dendrology. The list is not all inclusive by any means, but does cover what we feel are the basic educational requirements for professional forestry. We cannot judge course rigor or compare courses taught at one university to courses taught at another. In the end, subjective judgments will still be required of the Board members, but we feel this list will impose a measure of consistency for us and future Boards. We invite your comments on this process.

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 coursework should include general chemistry, biology, genetics, computer science and/or applications, mathematics, statistics, and technical writing.

*Submitted by Board Member Rhett Johnson*

<b>"Core" Courses Common to Most SAF Accredited Forestry Degree Programs and Guidelines for licensing in Alabama</b>	
Mensuration/Forest Measurements	Sampling theory, tree and stand measurements, log rules, cruising techniques
Dendrology	Forest tree identification, characteristics and uses/values
Silviculture	Manipulation of forests to produce desired outcomes/products
Forest Economics	NPV, IRR, LEV's, etc., forest investment analysis, cost-benefit calculations, etc.
Forest Management	Forest regulation, silvicultural decisions and impacts on forest structure, growth, composition, profitability, etc.
Forest Pathology/ Forest Health	Insects, diseases, protection, sanitation, salvage
Forest Policy	Laws, regulations, history and policy development
Forest Ecology	Interactions between forest components, site-species relationships, watersheds, aspects, slope, habitat typing
Forest Soils	Productivity, site-species relationships, erodability
Land Measurements	Area measurements, mapping, legal descriptions, etc.

## Clarification of Category Two Continuing Education Hours

There has been some confusion over the awarding of Category 2 Continuing Forestry Education Credits over the past several years. The guidelines for continuing education contained in the Administrative Rules for the State Board of Registration for Foresters, in Chapter 380-X-6-.04, state that Category 2 credits may be earned for the "development, preparation, and presentation of forestry or forestry-related course work, in an instructional capacity such as **described in Category 1**, which require **effort beyond the general scope of the individual's normal duties or job description**. Credit accrues at the rate of **two contact hours for each hour of presentation**."

The phrases in bold type are critical to understanding the intent of the 1992 Board decision which created this rule. Category 1 credits are earned for attendance of organized course work on forestry or forestry related topics presented at a **professional** level and must meet the following five measures: (1) It constitutes an organized program of learning which contributes directly to the **professional** competency of the registered forester; (2) It deals primarily with matter directly related to the practice of forestry, to the professional responsibility or ethical obligations of Foresters; (3) It is conducted by Foresters or individuals who have special education, training, or experience by reason of which they can be considered experts in the sub-

ject matter of the program; (4) It is conducted in a setting physically suitable to the educational objectives; and (5) The subject matter is applicable to Foresters in general. Category 2 credits, then, can only be earned for preparation and presentation of coursework which meets Category 1 standards, coursework intended for professional Foresters and presented at a professional level. This, in the opinion of this and past Boards, does not encompass class presentations to elementary or secondary school students, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, etc. Nor does it allow for credits for presentations to adult groups such as civic clubs or garden clubs. In addition, a registered Forester whose normal job duties include instruction in some forestry or forestry related fields cannot receive CFE's in Category 2 for doing so. For instance, the safety officer for a forestry firm cannot receive Category 2 credits for teaching on-the-job safety courses, nor can a university professor receive Category 2 credits for teaching forestry courses as part of his ordinary duties. Because the standards for Category 2 hours are relatively high and because the time and degree of difficulty required for preparation of professional coursework, two credit hours are awarded for each hour of presentation. Questions should be directed to Pam Sears or to any current member of the Board.

*Submitted by Board Member Rhett Johnson*

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