



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Ad Hoc Committee Reports on Disclosure Practices

In April 2005 the Board called an Ad Hoc committee to discuss if the public can benefit from the adoption of forestry agency disclosure practices similar to those legislated for the Real Estate profession. Committee member's opinions ranged from deep concern over existing practices to deep concern over potential negative consequences of making changes. The Real Estate agency disclosure laws are cumbersome and some feel they are not effective. If the Board makes changes, they need to be well thought out so that the effort extended by RFs reaps the desired results, not just added paperwork. Better defined roles of players in the forestry field, and education of the public about these roles were suggested as some ways to begin making changes.

Since that meeting, the Board has continued to get feedback about this issue. RFs have expressed concern that unqualified people continue to practice forestry in Alabama. Recent violations submitted to the Board bear this out. Also, the most frequent comments expressed in the survey for Sunset Review in 2005 were about these issues. Examples are concerns about:

- People practicing forestry and/or selling timber without forestry licenses.
- Need for more promotion of professional foresters to the general public so they can be aware that this is a source of protection to them in forestry transactions.
- Individuals and/or businesses managing people's timber/land with no registered forester employed.
- Foresters acting as consultant/ timber dealers who are not disclosing their conflicts of interest to landowners.

The Board has in the past year taken action to address the concerns expressed by RFs and the public in several ways (see other newsletter articles), but there is more that can be done. Olivia Martin, legal

counsel for the Board, has suggested that they develop "labels" for those working in the forestry community. Then a landowner could know if the person they were employing was qualified and working for them, or not. Labels can serve to inform the public about non-registered foresters, as well as roles for RFs. The Board is currently beginning work on this project.

Please see Disclosure, page 2

Southern Pine Genetic Tree Improvement & Clonal Forestry

One key element of a good pine plantation silvicultural system is the incorporation of genetically improved seedlings. Good genetics is a cornerstone of the foundation on which intensive plantation productivity is constructed (Weir 1997). Traditional tree improvement has played a major role in plantation productivity and quality; however emerging technologies that can produce clonal plantations have potential to produce even greater gains for Alabama forest.

Traditional tree improvement genetic gain advances in time with each cycle or generation of improvement. An improvement cycle consists of three phases, which include superior candidate tree selection, breeding, and progeny testing. The best individual superior trees are identified by these progeny tests and grafted into open pollinated seed orchards. These orchards consist of numerous superior trees usually numbering from 12 to 24 clones. Genetically improved pine seed is collected from the orchard as half sibling (half sib) families. The reason the seed is half sib is that we can only identify the mother tree. Pine trees are monoecious bearing separate male and female flowers on the same tree. While we collect the cones and seed from a mother

Please see Genetic Improvement, page 6

Notes from the Board

Next Board Meeting--

October 25, 2006,
Board Office, Montgomery, Ala.

Email Addresses--

If you did not get the last copy of the Registered Forester Newsletter electronically, that means we don't have a good email address for you.

Please go to the Board's web site and update your email address. The web site is www.asbrf.alabama.gov

Disclosure, continued from page 1

The Board has also considered how to spend more time and resources on investigation and enforcement of violations and complaints. Some say they do not make formal complaints because they do not think a "cease and desist" letter is adequate to prevent a violator from continuing to practice forestry. Surprisingly, that approach IS effective in many cases. Although more aggressive action will need to be taken against those who continue to violate the Code of Alabama.

It appears that the Ad Hoc Committee and others giving opinions have not yet found a need and/or means to use Real Estate Agency Disclosure procedures directly in the Alabama forestry community. This may change in the future as the Board enforces new policies, as RFs and others report more violations, and as the public becomes better informed.

Submitted by Melisa V. Love, RF

Your Input is Important!

The Board has received numerous responses from the call for comments about requiring use of the RF designation and about describing the practice of forestry in more detail in the law. These comments will be reviewed at the Board's October meeting. Please keep sending them in!

State Board of Registration for Foresters

David Wright

Chairman

Forest Forever Committee, Public Information Committee, Examinations Committee

Al Lyons

Vice Chairman

Violations Committee

Frank Walburn

Secretary

Rules & Regulations Committee

Melisa Love

Continuing Education Committee

Rhett Johnson

Finance & Administration Committee

Staff

Executive Secretary - Alexis London;

Editor - Rick Oates

Assistant Attorney General - Olivia Martin

Alabama Board of Registration for Forester

513 Madison Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama 36130

(334) 240-9301

Alexis.London@asbrf.alabama.gov

www.asbrf.alabama.gov

2006 Board Fees

Application Fee	\$50
Renewal Fees	
Active	\$75
Late Penalty	\$100
Reinstatement Fee (paid in addition to the renewal fee)	\$150
Re-examination Fee	\$100
Lost License Fee	\$50
Reciprocal Fee	Same charged for Alabama Residents in reciprocal states
Roster Fee	Cost of printing roster + shipping

Board Announces Sears Retirement and Hiring of London as New EA

Registered foresters and prospective registered foresters in Alabama have heard a pleasant but unfamiliar voice when they called the Board office after July 1st this year. Pam Sears Arbogast retired as Executive Assistant to the Board on June 30th and was replaced by Alexis London. Pam was the voice and public face of the Board for many of us since 1975, when she worked both for the Board and the Alabama Forestry Commission. She was only the 2nd person to serve the Board as Executive Assistant since its inception. Pam represented the Board at local and regional events and was widely recognized as the “expert” on Board affairs inside and outside the Boardroom. She was the first point of reference for a long succession of Boards, with amazing recall of past Board actions, administrative rules, the law, and Board precedents. She was the voice delivering the news, good or bad, to examinees and was always sympathetic and helpful to foresters seeking information on continuing education, renewals, violations, and numerous other Board matters. Pam was the impetus behind many changes and improvements in the Board’s function, including the Board’s website, on-line renewals, and an electronic on-line roster. Pam and her husband, Paul, are happily retired, spending quality time with children and grandchildren, and good friends. They also plan to spend a good bit of time traveling. We all wish her well in the next chapter of her busy life. Thanks, Pam, from all of us.

Alexis London has assumed responsibilities as Executive Assistant to the Board, coming on board officially on July 1 after a brief training period. Alexis

brings a great deal of experience in State government to the job, having worked since 1987 for the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Attorney General’s office, and the Department of Transportation before coming to the Board of Registration for Foresters. Alexis is married to Alvin and has two children, Alvonta and Ashlee. The Board was immediately unanimous in its decision to employ Alexis after meeting her and we are confident that her experience, willingness to learn, and personality will make her an excellent replacement for Pam. If you are in Montgomery and have a moment, stop by and meet Alexis. We guarantee you’ll be impressed.

Submitted by Rhett Johnson, RF

In Memorium

John Clark Mitchell (RF#44) of Florence died Saturday, June 17th at the age of 94. Mr. Mitchell was instrumental to forestry in several ways. He helped develop the legislation which created the Board of Registration for Foresters and was appointed to serve on the Board of Registration for Foresters. Mr. Mitchell was the first “Life Member” of the Alabama Forestry Council and was inducted into the Alabama Foresters Hall of Fame in 1985. John was an early member of the Advisory Council of the Forestry School at Auburn University and a fifty year member of the Society of American foresters.

John was preceded in death by his wife of sixty five years, Helen McClain Mitchell and survived by his son John David Mitchell and daughter Gayle Holden.

George Wood, (RF#269) of Tuscaloosa died Monday, August 28th at the age of 87. Mr. Wood was the University Forester for the University of Alabama, responsible for managing the 85,000 plus acres of forestland that the university owned prior to his retirement in 1987. Mr. Wood was known as one of the South’s experts on identifying plants, especially native Alabama species. In 1971, George started the Alabama Wildflower Society. He was also responsible for creating the University Arboretum’s Wildflower Garden.

Mr. Wood earned his bachelor’s degree in Forestry from Auburn University and a Master’s Degree from Duke.



Pictured from left to right are: Rhett Johnson, Frank Walburn, Al Lyons, Lisa Love, David Wright, Alexis London, Board attorney Olivia Martin and Pam Sears.

Sixth Longleaf Alliance Regional Conference
November 13-16, 2006
Tifton Campus Conference Center
The University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia
Agenda Overview

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

2:00 pm Registration, Poster & Vendor set-up
 5:30 pm Social/Poster session

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Morning--General Session with invited guest speakers and numerous organizations involved with longleaf management, restoration and research in Georgia and N. Florida.

Afternoon--Plenary Sessions to include wildlife, fire, community restoration, and silviculture & reforestation

Evening Social and poster session

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

All Day--Field tour (transportation & lunch provided). Topics: understory restoration and management, invasive plants and their control, natural & artificial regeneration, fire, stand management, quail management, timber values, cultural values, all-age management, pine straw, silvicultural methods and field equipment exhibits.

Evening--Social and Dinner (location TBD) - featuring fine food and music

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Morning--Technical presentations on longleaf pine and its ecosystems

Plenary session - landowner panels - economic considerations, conservation easements, management issues, and much more.

Noon Adjourn

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth Bowersock
 602 Duncan Drive/Suite 3305
 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Bldg.
 Auburn University, AL 36849-5418
 Phone: 334.844.1012
 bowerep@auburn.edu

Rhett Johnson
 12130 Dixon Center Drive
 Andalusia, AL 36420
 Phone: 334.427.1029
 johnsee@auburn.edu

Attention Alabama Forestry Association Members

The AFA has a brand new web site, with lots of new resources for members and non members. If you are an AFA member and you have not already done so, please send us your email address so we can set you up with a user name and password. This will provide you access to on-line continuing education programs and many other great resources.

If you are an AFA member, please call Kathy at 334-481-2123 and she will be able to provide your member id and a password so you can access our new web site.

New Registered Foresters

Autrey, William Todd, RF# 2020

Project Forester, Larson & McGowin, Inc.
 254 North Jackson Street
 Mobile, Ala. 36652
 (251) 438-4581
 wautrey@larsonmcgowin.com

Donnelly, Joseph Phillip, RF# 2022

Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission
 32760 State Hwy. 59
 Loxley, Ala. 36551
 (251) 964-6391

Moore, Jeremy Keith, RF# 2021

Procurement Forester, DeKalb Forest Products, Inc.
 2152 County Road 537
 Crossville, Ala. 35962
 (256) 528-8733
 dekalbforest@tds.net

Nall, Merrill H. RF# 2019

Forest Manager, International Paper
 P.O. Box 250
 Courtland, Ala. 35618
 (256) 637-7240
 merrill.nall@ipaper.com

Dean Gjerstad

602 Duncan Drive/Suite 3305
 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Bldg.
 Auburn University, AL 36849-5418
 Phone: 334.844.1020
 Fax: 334.844.1084
 gjerstad@auburn.edu

Explanation of “Inactive Status” License for RFs

A number of Registered Foresters in the last several years have sought “Inactive” status, particularly after retirement. To their surprise and sometimes dismay, there is no such status described in the authorizing law. As proscribed by the Section of the Alabama Code governing the registration of foresters, there are only two types of license: (1) Registered and (2) Revoked. Retired Registered Foresters must maintain a current license just as before if they wish to continue to be licensed, whether they intend to continue to practice forestry or not. A change in the law during the 2006 legislative session dictated that any Registered Forester over 65 is not required to meet the Continuing Education requirements, but must otherwise continue to meet registration requirements, i.e., timely annual renewal and payment of fees, in order to continue to be licensed to practice forestry in the state.

Foresters who allow their license to lapse must be reinstated in order to be licensed to practice forestry in the state. The reinstatement process is the same no matter what the reason for revocation of the license. It requires re-application, including submission of references, proof of educational requirements, payment of appropriate fees, and may require passage of an examination if the original license was issued prior to requirement of an examination or if, in the opinion of the Board, a re-examination is appropriate. In effect, a re-application is treated like a new application and the current requirements for registration are enforced. If a new license is issued, the original license number is retired and a new number assigned.

Registered Foresters who do not renew their registration prior to September 30 each year may renew before January 1 of the following year without requiring re-instatement, but will incur a late fee of \$100 in addition to the usual registration fee. Registered Foresters who do not renew by September 30th are not licensed to practice forestry in the state until their renewal is complete. Failure to renew the license prior to January 1st will result in revocation of the license. The person who must then apply for reinstatement.

Registered Foresters who no longer intend to practice forestry in the state, but who wish to continue to be listed in the roster, may do so by paying a fee of \$30 and supplying the Board with appropriate contact information. It is important to remember that these foresters are not licensed and cannot practice forestry

until they re-apply for and obtain a new license. These are not new rules. Administrative Rules 380-X-3-.07 and 380-X-3-.06, adopted in 1981 and 1992, respectively, address this situation directly. The “Inactive” designation in the Roster of Registered Foresters merely indicates that that person was once licensed, but is no longer.

Submitted by Board Member Rhett Johnson, RF

Don’t “Fish” Without a License

The Board has received several complaints about “fishing” letters received by landowners. They go something like this:

Lee County is experiencing a severe attack of flat top pine disease. We at John Doe Timber Company will get the best price for your timber. Call us today!

This may be a popular and sometimes appropriate way to solicit business, but beware of breaking the law.

If you are NOT a registered forester you cannot give forest health advice. Neither can you “get” the best price for timber, since selling standing timber constitutes the practice of forestry and requires a license.

If you ARE a registered forester, read the Professional Rules of Conduct that you accepted and swore to. Number 1 says you will advertise only in a dignified manner, setting forth truthful and factual statements. Number 2 says you will discourage and condemn the spreading of untrue, unfair, and exaggerated statements concerning forestry.

These “fishing” letters typically are mailed to every landowner in a county. If you receive one that seems inappropriate or may violate the Law, please forward it to the Board for examination.

Submitted by Melisa V. Love, RF

Genetic Improvement, continued from page 1

tree we cannot identify the tree(s) which are providing the male pollen. Any one or all of the clones in the orchard may be supplying the pollen which is totally at random. The open pollinated orchard is a very efficient and cost effective method to produce superior seed but the gain is limited because we cannot control the pollination process. Furthermore, gain is significantly reduced over its potential because wild pollen of poor genetic quality, from adjacent stands, invades the orchard. Orchard pollen contamination is estimated to often exceed 30 percent.

Traditional tree improvement provides a proven consistent incremental avenue for achieving genetic gain. Emerging non-traditional technologies can potentially accelerate those gains by producing clonal plantations. Clonal plantations are collections of individuals all with the same DNA and thus produce uniform forest products. In addition, volume gains may be realized over traditional tree improvement provided these clones are derived from the most elite superior selections. One such technique to produce clonal forests is somatic embryogenesis. This genetic pathway produces unlimited somatic seed cultured from a single controlled pollinated seed embryo. The embryo is extracted from an immature cone and used to establish embryogenic cultures in a lab. These embryogenic cultures can be stored cryogenically while a subset of the cultures produces somatic seed for establishment of progeny test. Once the progeny test has been meas-

ured the best clones (lines) are selected and removed from cryo-preservation to produce an infinite supply of somatic seed and seedlings to establish clonal plantations. Because the original embryo was the result of controlled breeding of two elite superior trees, the problems of random open pollination and wild pollen contamination have been solved. The final result is the potential to produce greater genetic gain. Advantages of clonal plantations include faster growth and tree uniformity, yielding, narrow diameter distributions, for instance. Other advantages include higher rust resistance and less forking. The final results can be higher percentages of solid wood products and less pulpwood with greater volumes being produced.

Somatic embryogenesis relies on the same Mendelian techniques used in traditional tree improvement and should not be confused with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) commonly used in agriculture. Traditional tree improvement and open pollinated seed orchards will continue to be the major avenue for improved seedlings. However adoption of clonal technologies will increase. Somatic embryogenesis seedlings have now reached commercialization and you can expect to see operational plantations in Alabama.

Literature Cited

Weir, R.J. 1997. The impact of genetics on forest productivity. [Place of Publication Unknown.]
