



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Spring 2008

Southern Reforestation Trends

By: Al Lyons

According to Georgia Forestry Commission statistics we planted slightly over 2 million acres of plantations in the eleven southern states in the year 2001. Subsequently, in the following years, reforestation steadily decreased and by 2005 we only planted about 1.1 million acres. This is a forty-five percent decrease in planting and was a phenomenon on both private and industrial classified forestlands. Some may speculate that it is due to landownership changes but if that were the case why would both private and industrial regeneration acres have dropped. Some of the reasons for this drop are quite obvious such as the reduction in demand for wood. Other reasons, which were predictable, but less evident, include the significant silvicultural strategy changes and investments in intensive silviculture. These factors have a tendency to reduce clear-cut regeneration needs by delaying final harvest and improving plantation productivity and per acre harvest yields.

Planting trends generally follow wood demand trends. Harvesting grew steadily from 1962 to 1998 but began declining in 1999. It is no coincidence that we saw a regeneration decline several years later. Softwood and hardwood harvest declined eleven and twenty-one percent between 1998 and 2001. Southern pulping capacity was

down sixteen percent between 1998 and 2003. Wood chip exports reached a high in 1996 but were almost zero by 2003. Southern softwood lumber capacity did increase rapidly between 1997 and 2000 but was somewhat flat from 2000 to 2003 (Carter and Weir). These numbers are important because reforestation trends lag behind harvesting by about one to two years.

While wood demand impacts harvesting, silvicultural strategy changes and increases in management intensity, in all likelihood, have also reduced clear-cutting by delaying final clear-cut harvest and/or improving growth and yield of plantations. Many plantations that were intended to produce pulpwood on short rotations have been thinned and the rotations extended. For every 300,000 acres of plantations thinned a subsequent reduction in clear-cutting of about 100,000 acres could be realized. Increasing a twenty-five year rotation age by one year would result in four percent reduction in clear-cutting acres given a constant demand for wood. That would reduce regeneration needs by forty thousand acres for each million acres of harvest. According to the Forest Nutrition Cooperative we fertilized about 1.6 million acres of established plantations in 1999. If this conservatively increases growth by one to two tons per acre for six years this could result

in the displacement of between eighty and one hundred and sixty thousand acres of clear-cutting and planting.

Southern pine silviculture has changed significantly since 1990 and ultimately plays a role in reductions in clear-cut harvest and planting. When you factor in other silvicultural advancements, such as genetic tree improvement, herbaceous weed control and improved site preparation, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that we have been extremely successful in improving productivity. Fewer reforestation acres may be a good indicator of that success!

Literature Cited

Douglas Carter and Dave Weir. Rapid Assessment of Market Change in the South.

In This Issue...

In Memoriam	2
Forestry Professionalism	3
2008 Teachers Conservation Workshops Planned for Auburn and Tuscaloosa	3
29 Years Later	4
New Registered Foresters	4

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

David Wright, R.F.

Chairman

*Forest Forever Committee, Public Information
Committee, Examinations Committee*

Al Lyons, R.F.

Vice Chairman

Continuing Education Committee

Frank Walburn, R.F.

Secretary

Violations Committee

Darrell Gates, R.F.

Member

Rules & Regulations Committee

Gerald Schwarzauer, R.F.

Member

Finance & Administration Committee

Staff

Alexis London, Executive Assistant

Olivia Martin, Assistant Attorney General

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters

513 Madison Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4500

(334) 240-9301

Alexis.London@asbrf.alabama.gov

www.asbrf.alabama.gov

Online Renewals

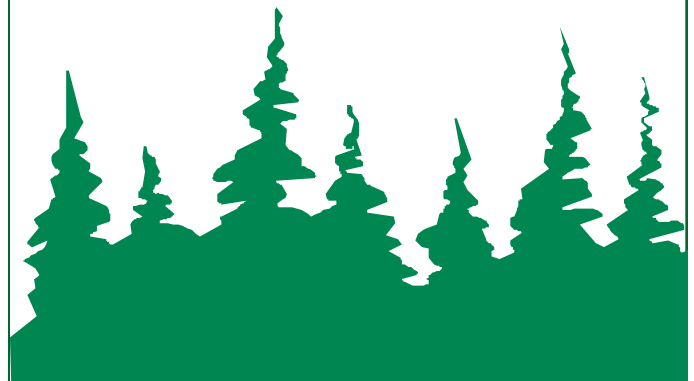
Many Foresters have experienced the ease and convenience of renewing their annual Alabama State Registered Forester's license online. This is a service that is provided to the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters through a private-public partnership with the State's digital government partner, Alabama Interactive. As part of this partnership, Alabama Interactive develops web-enabled applications to streamline governmental processes for the benefit of the State of Alabama and its citizens and businesses.

For your peace of mind this online renewal application was developed with security of your information as a top priority. Once you have accessed the renewal, many of you may have noticed the padlock symbol or the https in the web address, indicating that your information is being transmitted over an encrypted connection. Rest assured that data encryption, as well as the incorporation of many strict security measures have been taken to protect your information with the Board.

Alabama Interactive is a wholly owned subsidiary of NIC Inc. NIC provides digital government solutions for 2,600 state and local agencies, serving more than 61 million people in the United States. Additional information is available at www.nicusa.com.

In Memoriam

David P. Holley
(#334)



Forestry Professionalism

By David Wright

As I am sitting here pondering on what to write, my mind keeps going back to when I graduated from Auburn (December of 1978) and how proud I was to be a graduate forester and immediately how I began looking forward to my two-year internship. I took the written exam (along with about forty others) in the spring of 1981 and much to my surprise, I passed. I still don't know to this day what I made on the exam, but even if I could look, I really don't want to know. I was happy just to pass the exam.

Ever since I became a registered forester (which was many years ago) I have been proud of my profession and to be a small part of the huge economic impact that forestry and foresters play in this state and in the southeast. This profession in some ways is no different than others in having "good" foresters and "bad" foresters. Of course that is the "core" of why the board was formed in the first place. The board's mission was to protect the public from people who called themselves foresters or registered foresters, but in reality was neither.

We all know as registered foresters that the word "forester" can be deceiving in the broad spectrum of the forestry community. The forestry community has timber buyers, forest managers, research and development foresters, industrial foresters, urban foresters, consultants,

wood dealers, landowners, loggers, etc. All of these people are out in the forest community on a daily basis conducting business and in most cases doing a great job. However, at this point in the discussion we could venture off into the direction of "opposite of professionalism" of which I am going to stay away from, but stick to the fact of professionalism.

We as professional foresters must continue to step up to the plate and lead the landowners and others in the right direction with our professional conduct and advice. If there are those out there that do otherwise, then you as a registered forester must (as your duty) submit such evidence to the board and then let it be reconciled by the board.

In a "sense" as "Mr. Tom Kelly" use to say, I know I am "preaching to the choir" because the only ones reading this are registered foresters, but "you" are the ones that can make a difference. Encourage other graduate foresters to become "registered foresters" no matter how old or young they are. That is the only way we will remain strong as a professional organization. We need "all" graduate foresters to become registered and the more we have in number the stronger and larger voice we will have. Be proud of who you are and what you represent!

2008 Teachers Conservation Workshops Planned for Auburn and Tuscaloosa

Frank Walburn

As cities and towns continue to grow into the forest, the public's perception towards forest management sours and fewer and fewer children really understand where groceries and forest products come from. The Teachers Conservation Workshop is one of many efforts the Alabama Forestry Association uses to educate the citizens of Alabama about the importance of Alabama's forests to the environment and economy.

The 2008 Teachers Conservation

Workshops have been scheduled for Tuscaloosa on June 24-26 and in Auburn on July 14-17. Approximately one-hundred teachers will hear from experts on forest and wildlife management, take field trips to Tree Farms, logging operations, paper mills and sawmills. Finally, they receive Project Learning Tree curricula to help them incorporate the information into their classroom to spread the message to tomorrow's voters.

These workshops cost approximately \$500 per teacher to host and

are made possible by generous donations from the forestry community. Please consider sponsoring a teacher for either of these workshops or help us recruit teachers in your community to participate in one of these fantastic opportunities to learn more about Alabama's forests. For more information or to request brochures to pass out at a school near you contact Kathy Clements at (334) 481-2123 or email kclements@alaforestry.org.

New Registered Foresters

Baisden, William Charles #2071

Assistant State Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
Bill.Baisden@forestry.alabama.gov

Lovinggood, Grant Evans #2070

Forest Technician
Tuscaloosa Forestry Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1927
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
205/759-4599
luvngud@msn.com

Creel, Jeremy Dale #2069

Management Forester
Scotch Lumber Company
P. O. Box 38
Fulton, AL 36446
334/636-4424
jcreel@scotchlumber.com

Roberts, Joshua Leon #2067

GPS/GIS Specialist
Hi-Line Engineering
1826 Opelika Rd.
Auburn, AL 36830
334/887-3297
josh.roberts@gdsassociates.com

Fields, Richard Lee #2066

Forester
Heath Forestry Services
301 Long Blvd.
Brewton, AL 36426
251/331-7097
heathforestry@yahoo.com

Williams, Michael Hugh II #2068

Marshall County Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
P. O. Box 303
Guntersville, AL 35976
256-582-4212
Marshall.County@forestry.
alabama.gov

29 Years Later

By Darrell Gates

In January I was scheduled to give the written Registered Foresters' Exam to those who had applied. Giving the exam brought back memories of taking the exam myself back in 1980. I, along with many of you, trudged into the old armory with a box full of books in hopes of passing the exam. I remember at the time being worried about what questions would be on the exam knowing that my dreams of starting a consulting business were riding on passing the exam.

Now here I am some 28 years later giving the exam to six individuals who are feeling the same pressure that I did. In the past 28 years we have seen many changes in the forestry profession. Companies have merged, TIMO's are holding many of the acres once held by Forest Industry and consultants are on every street corner (almost). The objectives of many landowners have changed from income from timber to include a much higher value on recreational and other uses.

Foresters have had to adapt and change with the times. At times we have done so kicking and screaming (old heads using computers) and at other times we led the way. It all makes me wonder where our profession will be in the next (+/-) 30 years. Make no doubt about it, big changes are coming. These are exciting times for forestry. Foresters can certainly be proud of the abundant resource base we are leaving as part of our legacy.

PRESORTED STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 109
MONTGOMERY, AL

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-4500