



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Summer 2011

The Storm

By Stephen May, R.F.

On the morning of April 27, 2011, I was awakened in my home in Tuscaloosa by very loud thunder and bright lightning at about 4:15 a.m. I woke up my wife and remarked to her, "Where did this storm come from? I thought it was not supposed to be here until



later in the afternoon." The early morning storm had produced high winds and rains at our home but no damage. Little did I know what

the rest of the day would be like.

The Board of Registration for Foresters was to meet this day at 8:30 a.m., so I rushed to leave in time to get to Montgomery. Just past the Tuscaloosa/Bibb County line, U.S. 82 was blocked with trees that had fallen over the highway. In the dark, I groped around on small county paved and gravel roads, turning north then east until I worked my way around the storm's path. As I traveled in the early morning twilight, I remembered that R.F. Jim Jeter also was traveling to Montgomery for an Alabama Forestry Commission meeting. I called Jim over the SL and warned him that the roads might be blocked. Jim called back in a few minutes and said, "Yep, they are still

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Governor Bentley Appoints New Board Member

On March 4th 2011, Governor Robert Bentley appointed Michael A. McCorvey to the State Board of Registration for Foresters. McCorvey is a native of Monroe County, Alabama but presently resides in Hale County (Greensboro, AL). McCorvey and his wife Gloria have two children, Andrea and Michael Jr., both of whom are in college in Tuscaloosa. McCorvey, a graduate of J.F. Shields High School in Beatrice, Alabama, received his B.S. Degree in Forest Management from Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Virginia) in 1976. McCorvey brings over 30 years of forest management experience to the Board. Over the years he has worked throughout south and central Alabama, as well as north-west Florida. McCorvey spent most of his career with International Paper

Company (30 years) working in land management. However, he also has several years of wood procurement experience. In 2007 McCorvey joined Resource Management Services as District Manager of the Brent District in west central Alabama. He presently manages 100,000 acres of land in eight counties in west central Alabama. He is a deacon as well as superintendent of Sunday school at his church.

"I look forward to working with my fellow Board members and serving my fellow foresters, landowners and the citizens of this state to the best of my ability," said McCorvey.



Chairman Gates administers oath of office to new Board Member Michael McCorvey

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STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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Member

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Alexis London, Executive Assistant

Olivia Martin, Assistant Attorney General

Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters

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No Change in Board Fees for 2012

Application Fee	\$50.00
Reinstatement Application Fee (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$150.00
Re-examination Fee	\$100.00
Renewal Fees	
All Licensees	\$100.00
Inactive	\$30.00
Late Penalty (Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)	\$100.00
License Replacement Fee (Certificate)	\$50.00
Printed Roster	\$10.00
Registered Forester Window Decal (Auto)	\$1.00
Returned Check Fee	\$30.00
Reciprocity Application Fees (Initial Application)	Same as charged for Alabama Applicants in the reciprocal state

New Registered Foresters

Justin D. Bonner #2148

Timber Buyer
Midstar Timber Harvesting, Inc.
4524 Wimberly Road
Toxey, AL 36921
Ph. 251/843-5407
Email: justin@midstartimber.com

Ryan D. Holland #2136

Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
1473 Owassa Rd.
Evergreen, AL 36401
Ph. 251/578-3226
Email: conecuh.county@forestry.
alabama.gov

Jewell C. Etheridge III #2137

Forester/Timber Procurement
T.P. Young Logging, LLC
398 Industrial Drive
Linden, AL 36748
Ph. 334/295-8696
Email: jcetheridge16@gmail.com

Philip A. Lambert #2134

Utility Arborist
EDKO, LLC
148 East University B-102
Auburn, AL 36832
Ph. 334/381-4684
Email: philip.lambert@edkollc.com

Gregory B. Fuller #2145

(Reinstatement)
Area Manager
American Forest Management, Inc.
522 N. Main St., Ste. 201
Cedartown, GA 30125
Ph. 706/728-5724
Email: gregory.fuller@amforem.biz

Jon R. McDonald #2135

Forester
Complete Forestry Service, Inc.
4 Bradley Park Court Ste. 2A
Columbus, GA 31904
Ph. 706/221-1919
Email: Jon@completeforestry.com

Gary A. Futch #2132

(Reinstatement)
Forester
Self-Employed
P.O. Box 3505
Meridian, MS 39303
Ph. 601/479-7972
Email: garyfutch@gmail.com

Patrick E. O'Neal #2146

Cogongrass Coordinator
Alabama Forestry Commission
1281 Hwy 70
Columbiana, AL 35051
Ph. 205/669-4133
Email: Shelby.County@forestry.
alabama.gov

Nicholas M. Hindman #2147

Operations Manager
Corley Land Services
P.O. Box 40
Chapman, AL 36015
Ph. 334/376-9707
Email: nick@corleyland.com

Kim C. Sparks #2133

(Reinstatement)
Self-Employed - Technician
835 Valley Road
Thomasville, AL 36784
Ph. 334/830-0453
Email: 6sparks@bellsouth.net

New Reciprocity Foresters

Joseph W. Bryan #GA2874

Consulting Forester
Rock Creek Capital
501 Riverside Ave., Ste. 902
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Ph. 229/331-1404

Michael D. Westbrook #GA2863

Atlantic Region Forester
The Westervelt Company
1183 GA Hwy 24 East
Statesboro, GA 30458
Ph. 912/489-4401

The Storm *continued from page one*

blocked." A little later Jim called to report that he had checked on a family who had several trees on their home. They were okay but had lost their home and several cars. What a start for the day!

I really did not think much about the weather conditions as I traveled until my brother called and asked me to be sure our parents were in a safe place before the "bad weather" arrived. He cautioned me to be in a safe place as a very strong storm system was approaching Alabama. As I listened to the radio, I noted several remarks about the "possibility of severe storms." Today is going to be an unusual day, I thought to myself.

Chairman Darrell Gates R.F. brought the meeting to order. Immediately I requested that we work through lunch so that I could get back to Tuscaloosa and prepare for the weather event. All Board members agreed as they also had knowledge of the possibility of severe weather. The ASBRF meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m., and I left for Tuscaloosa shortly after that time.

The sky was surprisingly clear, but the temperature was warm and humidity was stuffy as I drove toward T Town and thought of things I needed to get together before the impending storm. But most of all I wondered: Why was I more serious about this storm than others? A sixth sense, I guessed! Anyway, back to more immediate needs. Chainsaws, batteries, matches, radios, candles, lanterns, flashlights, charged cell phones, SL, and many other items all needed to be in place. As I continued to drive home, I noted more and more information on the radio about the weather. One thing was for sure: the weather people were extremely worried. We will try to be ready, I thought to myself.

Flash forward to the storm event at 5:00 p.m.: I gave instructions like a drill sergeant to my wife Terri, middle daughter Brooks, and my dog Bully. "Get to our safe place now and I mean now." I was in fact yelling at the top of my voice. You could hear the storm in the distance. The thunder was like none I have heard: BAM,BAM,BAM,BAM as loud as you could imagine mixed with high wind sounds as the storm came toward us from the southwest. We were in a small cellar on our backs waiting. Storm sirens had been sounding but now were silenced or at least we were not hearing them. The BAM, BAM, BAM continued and came closer. Not much rain but lots of wind. Clearly not a rain-wrapped storm. The thunder sound was moving very fast; now south then southeast and east. We were safe. The radio told a far different story for a large part of Tuscaloosa and for many other areas of Alabama, as we would learn later.

All over this state Registered Foresters were impacted in

many ways: the home of former Board member and current R.F. Phillip Sasnett was severely damaged. Many of Phillip's neighbors' homes were completely destroyed. That night R.F. Brad Lang was assisting people who were injured and helped recover bodies in Tuscaloosa. The next day R.F. Jim Jeter and his AFC crew were recovering bodies in Hale County and opening roads. R.F. Grant Lovinggood was checking for timber damage in Greene and Hale Counties, as was R.F. Rick Johnson in Tuscaloosa County. Another example of Registered Foresters helping with the disaster recovery was R.F. Doug Ezzell helping farmers in Lawrence County dispose of dead chickens.

The Alabama Forestry Commission had Registered Foresters working all over the state. They were doing assignments given to them by the State Emergency Management Agency. These assignments were many, for example: EMA in Clanton, Incident Teams in Tuscaloosa and Maxwell AFB in Montgomery. Other AFC employees were recovering bodies, helping the injured, opening roads and distributing food and water. AFC R.F.'s did back-breaking work in all rural Alabama from Sawyerville in Hale County to Hackleburg in Marion, Phil Campbell in Franklin, Hatton in Lawrence, to Hulaco in Morgan, to Marshall and DeKalb and other counties around Lake Martin.

On Sunday, May 1, I was assigned to fly most of the storm damage with FEMA and EMA. We flew in a UH-72 helicopter for nearly eight hours, stopping for fuel twice. I cannot begin to describe the damage to both personal property and the forest. Let me just say that the tornado's path can be easily followed when flying far above the storm areas. From a forestry standpoint, you just wonder how the forest will be reestablished or if all areas need to be reestablished? Will it be done naturally or artificially, using tax dollars? One thing is for sure: the Registered Foresters of Alabama will be involved.

Again my heart goes out to the many Alabama citizens who lost family, friends, and property. Thanks to all the Registered Foresters for helping the people of Alabama.

Biomass Markets – Are they here to stay?

By Ruth Seawell, R.F.

While back, I attempted to clarify some of the biomass “buzzwords” as they related to Alabama’s timber markets. As predicted then, there is still little clarity of how the emerging biomass markets will affect current and future markets for timber, and there continue to be new players and new terminologies to learn.

Most folks now know the distinction between the biofuels and bioenergy markets. Biofuels, the production of ethanol-type fuels from cellulose materials, continues to capture the fascination of venture capitalists, economic development groups and public policy think-tanks as a vehicle to free ourselves from expensive and strategically vulnerable fossil fuels. However, while many continue to pursue this holy grail, the proof in the pudding still escapes many; *i.e.*, read the closure of the first woody biomass ethanol plant, Range Fuels in Soperton, Georgia. On the other hand, the increased development of bioenergy markets, either through direct combustion or the production of pellets, continues to be challenged by low cost electricity rates and legislative policies related to concerns of increased greenhouse gas emission concerns such as the Tailoring Rule.

Currently, about 63% of the woody biomass consumption is used in electricity production while only 31% is allocated to pellets, and 6% to biofuels. Even though there are predictions that woody biomass consumption could double in just a few years, it is still predicted that electricity production will be a large majority of that consumption (70%) with biofuels only increasing to 7%.

Related to this predicted increase of woody biomass consumption is discussion of where it will come from, *i.e.*, the type of feedstock. Will it be mill byproducts such as sawdust, shavings and slabs, or will it be logging residues such as tops and limbs and slash left in the woods? Or will biomass markets rely mostly on roundwood products? Efforts by some policy makers to use state Renewable Portfolio Standards and Renewable Fuel Standards as a mechanism to restrict biomass feedstocks to certain types of woody resources, such as non merchantable timber only, have not been successful to date. Nor has the RPS or RFS movement made much traction in the southern states as an incentive for biomass market development. Alabama, and its surrounding states, are part of only 12 states left with no such policies or standards. Likewise, the federal BCAP program has not been much of an incentive to either producers or landowners due to changing rules

and payment delays.

Given the current reduction in both sawmill production and timber harvesting, due to the decline in overall timber markets, almost all studies indicate that any increase in woody biomass markets will involve the use of lower value roundwood products such as pulpwood. Is this good or bad? I guess if you are buying pulpwood to furnish a mill, it is bad, and if you are trying to sell pulpwood to manage timberland, it is good. Registered foresters find themselves on both sides of this street. Maybe it is helpful to reflect on some fundamental basics of timber markets as well.

Historically, timber markets have been driven by demand for solid wood products as well as pulp/paper products, which can follow very different business cycles. Depending on local market conditions, timber supply for solid wood products is worth 3-5 times as much as supply for pulp and paper products. For example, in 2007 the total tons of timber inventory removed for solid wood products and for pulp/paper products in the South was approximately 145 million and 134 million, respectively; however, using average stumpage prices for that same time period, the estimated value of those removals was \$4.3 billion for solid and \$1.0 billion for pulp/paper. In this same year, there were approximately 80 million tons of logging residues and other removals that could hypothetically represent a woody biomass supply. However, even at a very liberal estimated price of \$5/GST, this theoretical biomass supply is only 40% of the value of the pulpwood market and 8% of the sawtimber market.

With the weakening of traditional markets for pulpwood and the positive growth/removal ratio of timber supply across the South, and Alabama in particular, some would suggest there is adequate supply for both markets, and even so, as illustrated above, it would take a long time for the price of biomass to challenge pulpwood. I guess time will tell...look for the third installment on biomass markets next year!

A Note from the Board

During the legislative session of 2010, the Alabama House and Senate passed Act # 2010-278 (see: www.asbrf.alabama.gov/Laws&Rules/ForestryLaws/Article2Section34-12-30). One of the provisions states, "The membership of the Board shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender geographic, urban/rural and economic diversity of the state".

As you can see, that provision covers a tremendous amount of ground. Especially since the pool of candidates for appointment to the Board of Registration is composed mostly of Caucasian males.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, the Alabama Division of the SESAF has a committee composed of past chairs that annually submit three names to the Governor for him/her to select from. All nominees, by law, are to be registered foresters who are members of the SAF with ten (10) years of forestry experience.

The current make-up of the Board is one Caucasian woman, an African-American male and three Caucasian males. Our office locations span from Mobile to Tuscaloosa. Our education backgrounds include: Auburn, Georgia, Mississippi State, Sewanee and Virginia Tech. Our forestry experience includes: one government forester (AFC), one TIMO forester, two consulting foresters and a

forester affiliated with a saw-mill.

Our discussions during Board meetings reflect a wide range of professional experiences and opinions, as it should.

I say all this to let you know, we **are** a diverse group of foresters. The legislature wants to insure all have a "seat" at the table. I would contend that we are well on our way.

On another front the Board has taken steps to insure our financial stability by increasing fees 3 years ago. I am happy to report to you that we have made great strides in that regard. At the time of our fee increase we had just gone through the process of having our executive assistant (Pam Sears) retire. The costs of retirement for non-compensative time falls on the Board to pay and taking care of those costs depleted our reserves. As of this date, we now have another executive assistant (Alexis London) who will be eligible to retire in January of 2013, and I am happy to let you know that those costs have been prepared for.

While we all hope that Mrs. London stays with the Board for many years, we can now confidently say we are prepared for her retirement.

— Darrell Gates, R.F.

We Need Your Feedback

When the Alabama Foresters Board convened in January, several ideas were discussed to improve communication with our licensees and affiliates. One suggestion was to check and see how many registered foresters would want an updated printed roster. This roster contains an alphabetical listing of the names and addresses of all Alabama registered foresters, the laws and rules that govern us, and R.F.'s listed by counties. If you are interested, please respond to Alexis London by email at Alexis.London@asbrf.alabama.gov. (Note: The information included in the printed roster is also available online.)

Also, Dr. Glenn Glover is helping the Board to look at and update our current test for those wanting to become registered foresters in the state of Alabama. We need help from those who already are registered foresters (who have graduated in the last 10 years) to suggest related questions to incorporate into our test. Our goal is not to make a test that no one can pass, but for forestry graduates to understand the requirements to become a registered forester in this state. The Board is looking for questions that relate to issues that the younger forester will be dealing with in today's world: urban/rural interfaces, alternative products, biofuels, carbon credits, certifications, fragmentation via inheritance and invasive species, to name a few.

One example for a question would be to name 3 of the top 10 abundant invasive plants by reports. Kudzu would be my number one guess, with privet being number two, and I would have to think about the third one. However, kudzu was number 4 on the actual list, with privet ranking 6th. (For the answer to number 1, check the bottom of this article).

Another possible question would be: what county has the most invasive species reported? Which has the least? These are not easy questions for me because I just don't deal with such issues. Mostly, I deal with problems like overrun, percentage of number 2, and the average price of lumber on a weekly – if not daily – basis. Remember that most of the Board members have been out of college 25 years or more, so we need the help of some younger foresters. "Think, ?!#?#, Think," as one of our professors used to say.

**The answer to the question from above: Japanese honeysuckle is listed as number one by many reports. Just for information's sake, how many counties in Alabama have all top ten invasive species? Just 3. Email me if you want to know what these counties are. (jerry@phenixlumber.com)*

Jerry Schwarzauer, R.F.

2012 License Renewals

All registered forester licenses are due to expire on September 30, 2011, unless renewed by that time. Renewal notices for the 2012 renewal period will be mailed by the Board's office on or before July 1, 2011. The current renewal fee is \$100.00 for all licensees and \$30.00 for inactive/unlicensed persons. Those who renew their licenses between October 1 and December 31 must pay \$200.00 (renewal fee + \$100.00 late fee). The online renewal application and printable form will be made available at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/renewalform.htm> beginning July

1. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Board's office at (334) 240-9301 to request a copy of the renewal form. (Please do not attempt to renew any license **prior to July 1.**) **Important: Those whose licenses have expired for non-renewal are prohibited from identifying themselves as registered foresters and practicing professional forestry. The Board will revoke the license of any licensee who fails to renew annually by December 31.**

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