



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Summer 2016

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER TIM ALBRITTON

Tim Albritton has been the State Staff Forester with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Auburn for the past 13 years. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resources from Auburn University.

Tim began his forestry career with the Alabama Forestry Commission in 1986 where he worked for 18 years. He is a registered forester in Alabama and a member of the Society of American Foresters. Tim is a supporter and promoter of the Alabama Treasure Forest Program. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Treasure Forest Association and is involved in the Elmore County chapter. He has been a member of the Alabama Forestry Council for 13 years; and, also serves as an advisor to the

Bradley/Murphy Forestry and Natural Resources Trust.

Tim has been married to his wife, Karen, for 31 years. They live in south Elmore County with their daughter, Sarah, a senior at Wetumpka High School. Their son, Joseph, is a forest ranger with the AFC in Montgomery County where he lives with his wife, Ashley and newborn daughter, Braeleigh. Their daughter, Hannah, is a Speech Language Pathologist, working in Pensacola. Tim and his family have been active members of the Mulder Methodist Church for 25 years. He enjoys spending his free time working and hunting on his 15-acre Treasure Forest/Tree Farm on the Tallapoosa River with his family.



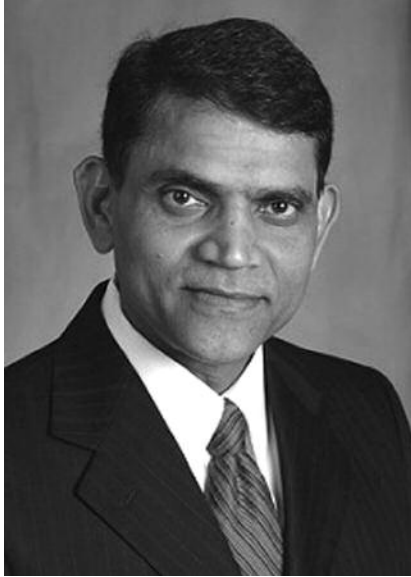
Tim feels it is an honor and a privilege to be appointed to the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters and is looking forward to serving in this capacity over the next few years.

In This Issue...

New Dean of Auburn's School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences	2
Registered Foresters Exam	3
Endangered Species	4
2017 License Renewals	4
New Registered Foresters	5
Foresters Granted Reciprocity	5

Alavalapati named dean of Auburn's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

By Charles Martin



AUBURN UNIVERSITY — Following a national search, Janaki Alavalapati, head of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech, has been named dean of Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, effective May 27.

"Dr. Alavalapati has an outstanding record of accomplishments in a range of disciplines, including forest resources, the environment and new energy solutions, as well as a wealth of experience with national and international governmental agencies," said Auburn University Provost Timothy Boosinger. "We look forward to working with him as we continue to build the academic, research and outreach programs of our School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences."

Alavalapati has served as a professor and department head in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment since 2008. Previously, he was a faculty member in the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and

Conservation from 1998 to 2008.

"I am delighted and honored to have been chosen as the dean of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences," Alavalapati said. "With world class faculty, staff and students, and the significance of forests, wildlife and natural resources to the economic and employment fabric of Alabama, and unwavering support of stakeholders and alumni, the school has a great potential to grow. I look forward to dedicating my efforts to building upon the strong programs that already exist in the school."

Alavalapati succeeds interim Dean Graeme Lockaby, who will resume his position of associate dean of research in the school.

Alavalapati has a doctorate in forest resource economics and a master's degree in rural sociology, both from the University of Alberta, Canada, and he earned master's degrees in botany and forestry from universities in India. He has published more than 200 publications and made more than 145 professional presentations relating to forests and natural resources.

His awards include University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship, Superior Honor Award from the U.S. Department of State in 2008 and International Union of Forest Research Organization's Scientific Achievement Award in 2010.

Alavalapati serves as an editorial board member of "Forest Policy and Economics" and "Outdoor Recreation and Tourism" journals and as the policy chair for the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs. As the chair or co-chair, Alavalapati has advised 28 graduate students.

Since 2011, as a senior fellow of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas at the U.S. Department of State, Alavalapati has helped Belize, Guyana and Brazil with issues relating to sustainable forestry and natural resources management. In 2007-2008, as a Jefferson Science Fellow, he served as a senior advisor for International Energy Affairs in the U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C.

REGISTERED FORESTERS EXAM

Joe Roberson, RF

Board Member, Rules and Regulations Committee

When to test and how to test is always a question when trying to understand someone's level of knowledge. Teachers usually test after each new concept, so they test regularly. Testing the full depth of knowledge for professionals licensing is different. Covering all aspects of law, engineering, or forestry usually require one to several days for examinations. Timing of professional exams are usually immediately after the professional degree, sometimes in the graduating semester, and sometimes several years after practical experience has been gained. The Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters (ASBRF) has been assessing how timing of our exam impacts overall scores and proficiency.

The ASBRF Exam is an open book exam, comprised of short answer questions in the subject areas of Dendrology, Ecology, Economics, Ethics, Finance, Fire Management, Forest Health, Forest Law, Forest Management, Forest Recreation, Genetics, Harvesting & Procurement, Mensuration & Inventory, Silviculture & Watershed, Soils & Geology, Spatial Analysis, Tax, Tree Physiology, Urban Forestry, Wildlife Management, and Wood Products. All calculations must be shown and partial credit is given for each question, basic-calculators are allowed, although no communications devices or computers may be used. It is designed for each half to be completed in three hours, although extra time is allowed. Anyone with special needs upon presentation of adequate documentation has been and will be accommodated.

At the 27 January 2016 meeting of the Board, it was decided to try a new approach for examinations in Alabama. That approach is to offer the ASBRF Exam to graduating seniors, while they are in the habit of studying and exam taking. This approach is being used by some other states with positive results. After discussions with Auburn University and Alabama A&M University, we set up a trial run at Auburn on 25 March 2016 and administered the ASBRF Exam to 40 candidates.

Results are similar to historical averages in numbers finishing early, numbers finishing on time, and numbers of exams pulled from their frantic hands trying to get one more answer completed. Pass-Fail rates are comparable to those historical averages and warrant a continuation of this approach. Next up is expanding to other candidates the early exam option and securing adequate testing space to do so.

At the 27 April 2016 meeting of the Board, it was decided that all those passing the exam will have a status as "candidate for registration" and are encouraged to complete their application for registration, and keep their contact information current as they work their two years of qualifying experience and complete their registration process in 2018. Any of those graduating seniors that didn't pass the exam, may fill out their registration application and sit for the exam after at least six months. As well as anyone else may sit for the exam at any time during their two years of qualifying experience. Note, the fees for application and reapplication still apply and are unchanged.



Alabama Forestry Commission Taking an Active Role in Threatened and Endangered Species

Walter E. Cartwright

Forest Management Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission

The Northern Long Eared Bat and Black Pine Snake were recently listed as threatened and critical habitat was established for the species' recovery. These and other recent listings by the US Fish and Wildlife Service has prompted The Alabama Forestry Commission to hire a retired state employee with vast experience in the wildlife field and particularly related to threatened and endangered species. Ray Metzler will serve as a Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist, monitoring proposed future listings, providing comments to the State Forester and the US Fish and Wildlife Service as needed. Ray will also provide forest management recommendations to field Foresters that would address habitats of concern and provide proper forest management techniques for landowners.

On April 26, 2016, the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a press release determining that "Critical Habitat is not Prudent for Threatened Northern Long-eared Bat". These excerpts came from that press release: "Given the nature of the primary threats facing the species and the potential harm of publishing its hibernation locations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that designating critical habitat for the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not prudent. The Service's determination does not affect the bat's threatened status, which it received in 2015 due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease impacting cave-dwelling bats".

"Critical habitat is a designation under the ESA for lands that contain habitat features that are essential for the survival and recovery of a listed species, which may require special management considerations or protections. The ESA requires the Service to consider which areas are needed for a species' recovery and to designate critical habitat accordingly, unless it determines that doing so is not prudent for the species".

"While critical habitat has a fundamental role to play in recovering many of our nation's most imperiled species, in the case of the northern long-eared bat, whose habitat is not a limiting factor in its survival, designating it could do more harm than good," said Tom Melius, the Service's Midwest Regional Director. "Today's finding will ensure we don't put the bat at greater risk by drawing people to its hibernation sites. It also enables the Service and our partners to focus our efforts where they clearly can do the most good, finding a solution to the primary threat of white-nose syndrome."

This sudden change in direction by that agency is one of many reasons that we need a specialist fully devoted to following these issues, which can literally change overnight or at some court's decision. We have decided to be more proactive and less reactive to proposed listings and will work diligently with the USFWS to provide any scientific and pertinent information that we can provide to them as well as the landowners of Alabama. Hopefully this proactive approach will limit the impact of any listings on the timberland owners of the state.

2017 LICENSE RENEWALS

All registered forester licenses are due to expire on September 30, 2016, unless renewed by that time. Renewal notices for the 2017 renewal period will be mailed by the Board's office on or before July 1, 2016. The current renewal fee is \$100.00 for all licensees. 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/renewal-form.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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No Change in Board Fees for 2017

Application Fee \$50.00

Reinstatement Application Fee \$150.00
(Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)

Reciprocity Application Fees (Initial Application)
Same as charged for Alabama Applicants in the
reciprocal state.

Re-Examination Fee \$100.00

Renewal Fees

All Licensees \$100.00

Late Penalty \$100.00

(Paid in addition to the applicable renewal fee)

License Replacement Fee (Certificate) \$50.00

Printed Roster \$10.00

Registered Forester Window Decal (Auto) \$1.00

Returned Check Fee \$30.00

Foresters Granted Reciprocity in Alabama

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513 Madison Avenue
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ROSTER CHANGE REMINDER The Board will only list business addresses in the roster unless the home address is the only address on record, in which case it will be listed as the business address. Although home addresses will not be published in the roster, licensees must continue to provide current home addresses to the Board.

UPDATE YOUR ROSTER INFORMATION Please take a moment to review your current roster information online at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/rosterofforesters.asp>. To submit changes, fax the form below to 334-240-9387 or submit the online Change of Address form at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/vs2k5/changeofaddress.aspx>.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Full Name _____

Title _____ License Number _____

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Company _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____