



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Summer 2017

MEET ALABAMA STATE FORESTER RICK OATES



Members of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) named Rick Oates as Alabama's State Forester in a special called meeting April 3, 2017. His appointment was confirmed by Gov. Robert Bentley that afternoon. Oates replaces interim State Forester Gary M. Cole and Rick states "I am humbled by their

decision and excited by the challenge of this new position. I appreciate the trust they have placed in me and am committed to earn everyone's confidence".

Oates began his new duties Monday, April 10, and said he looks forward to the opportunities and challenges his new job brings. "Our state is blessed with more than 23 million acres of timberland, and about 87 percent belongs to private landowners. Alabama forests are an economic engine providing hundreds of thousands of jobs in our state and generating over \$14 billion annually to Alabama's economy. They provide endless recreational opportunities for hunters and outdoorsmen and are a renewable natural resource."

As state forester, Oates will oversee 240 employees of the agency whose mission is to protect and sustain Alabama's forest resources and educate the public about the value and importance of those resources. The AFC has an annual budget of approximately \$22 million. The commission gained media attention last fall as Alabama's front-line defense against numerous wildfires due to drought conditions.

Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell commended AFC on Oates' appointment. "Rick's education, experience and passion for forestry make him an outstanding choice to lead the AFC," Parnell said. "He is able to build relationships among industry leaders, and he understands the importance forestry has to our state's economy and to our citizens."

Oates grew up in a small town outside of Corpus Christi, Texas. Knowing he was interested in forestry and needed to get away from South Texas, he went to a small Christian school in Sewanee, Tennessee for a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, later earning a Master's degree in Forestry from Auburn University.

After college, John McMillan hired Oates to work for the Alabama Forestry Association. During 18 years of employment there, he did everything from helping loggers and landowners comply with Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMPs as Director of Alabama Loggers Council) and served as Director of the Alabama Pulp and Paper Council. He also worked with lawmakers on legislation important to forest landowners and industry. His responsibilities also included things like negotiating air quality regulations with ADEM and building and operating fuel stations for loggers. Commissioner of Agriculture, John McMillan later asked Oates to serve as his Chief of Staff, a management role for the agency's 400 employees. Later, Oates was offered a position with the Alabama Farmers Federation as their Forestry, Wildlife and Catfish Division Director. While at the Federation, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association became a part of the organization and he served as their Executive Director. In this role, among other things, he worked with landowners to help them better manage their land.

More important than all of that though, this summer will mark Oates 25th year of marriage to his wife Kelly. She has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Texas and is a pre-school teacher at their church, Christchurch Anglican in Montgomery. They have two children; Andrew (20) is a freshman at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business, and Lauren (17), a junior at LAMP High School in Montgomery. Rick is active in the church, serving the vestry (the board of elders, for lack of a better term) and as Senior Warden (president of the board and lay leader of the church) this year.

For more about the AFC, visit www.forestry.alabama.gov

In This Issue...

Boad Member Reappointed	2
Forest Technology Degree, LBWCC	2
Foresters Granted Reciprocity	3
2018 License Renewals	3
New Registered Foresters	3
Renewal Reminder	4

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS BOARD MEMBER RAIFORD C. JOHNSON

On November 10, 2016, the Governor re-appointed Raiford C. (Rick) Johnson to the State Board of Registration for Foresters.

Rick is Managing Partner of Tuskaloosa Forestry Services LLC in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He is a native of Tuscaloosa. He and his wife, Ellen, have a daughter and son in law, Rebekah and Dan Gaines.

Rick is a graduate of Tuscaloosa High School. He attended the University of Alabama and graduated from Auburn University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in Forest Management. Upon graduating, he worked with Resource Management Service as a timber cruiser. He held wood procurement positions with Georgia-Pacific Corp., Hammermill Paper Co. and International Paper Co. until 1986. He was then Forester for the University of Alabama. He formed Tuskaloosa Forestry Services, Inc. in 1987. His company manages private landowners' timberland in west Alabama and east Mississippi and markets their forest products to area mills. He also was a partner in Compania Maderera Golfito from 1996 to 1999 harvesting gmelina arborea plantations and producing wood chips in southern Costa Rica for Stone Container Corp. He was a partner in Northport Wood Products from 1995 to 2000 producing lumber for local steel mills. He also holds an Alabama Real Estate License.

Rick feels strongly "that sharing information about the practice of Forestry to the public is critical and, when the citizens of Alabama realize the forest products industry is one of the largest if not largest in our state, we will well be on our way to ensuring the cooperation of those outside our field. Working together, we will be able to harvest and deliver our timber to market and help grow our state's economy".

Rick is the Warrior District Director for the Alabama Forestry Association and President of the Key Harbour Homeowners Association. He attends Christ Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa.

Rick considers it an honor to serve on the Board and felt it important enough to continue his service on the board in hopes to maintain the integrity of our profession.



Forest Technology Degree, LBWCC

Lurleen B. Wallace (LBW) Community College offers the only two-year Forestry Technology degree in Alabama. Hundreds of our graduates work in various aspects of the forest industry. The Alabama Forestry Commission, the USDA Forestry Service, forest product companies, and forestry consulting firms employ LBW graduates across the south.

Forest technology students at LBW learn to cruise and mark timber, plant seedlings, identify problematic insects, disease, and invasive species. In Dendrology, they learn to identify over 100 native and introduced tree species, their wood characteristics, shade tolerance, and wildlife habitat contributions.

Through their coursework, students become Certified Prescribed Burn Managers and have the opportunity to acquire the necessary certifications to fight wildland fires.

Some of the required courses for graduates of the Forest Technology Program include: Dendrology, Forest Fire Control and Use, Forest Pathology, Silviculture, Forest Mensuration, Advanced Forest Mensuration, Forest Math, and Cartography.

In 2016, all LBW Forest Technology graduates who wanted full-time employment will go to work in the field of forestry. One graduate elected to continue his education with a four-year degree at the University level. Multiple job opportunities were presented to all graduates of the Forest Technology program and employment opportunities vastly exceed the number of graduates.

The Forest Technology program at LBW has strong backing from the local forestry and wildlife community. Multiple scholarships are awarded annually to forest technology students, and the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation have recently funded brand new, state of the art GPS units and software for the program.

For students who do not live within commuting distance, housing is available adjacent to campus through Saints Hall student apartments, owned by the LBWCC Foundation.

Over the previous decades, well respected instructors have taught forest technology at LBW, including Tom Center, George Showalter, and Robert Carter. In the fall of 2015, Mark J. Hains became the newest faculty when he was hired as the Forestry Instructor on the Andalusia Campus of LBW.

Hains is a Registered Forester in the state of Alabama, with two decades of employment/experience in dual positions with the Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, and as the first employee of The Longleaf Alliance. His work primarily focused on artificial regeneration, with research in: site preparation, planting methods, seedling quality, herbaceous release treatments, identification and control of invasive plant species, and prescribed fire.

For more information about LBW's Forest Technology Program, please visit their website at www.lbwcc.edu. Call Hains at 334-881-2275, or email mhains@lbwcc.edu.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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Foresters Granted Reciprocity in Alabama

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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

2018 LICENSE RENEWALS

All registered forester licenses are due to expire on September 30, 2017, unless renewed by that time. Renewal notices for the 2018 renewal period will be mailed by the Board's office on or before July 1, 2017. 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/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.

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

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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 _____