

THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Guardians of Alabama's Forests: A Year of Transition and Progress



In its 68th year of service, the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters (ALSBRF) marked a pivotal chapter in its history. The 2024–2025 fiscal year was defined by leadership changes, technological upgrades, and a renewed commitment to professional integrity in forestry.

The Board bid farewell to long-serving Executive Director Lea Anna Meadows, who retired after 16 years of dedicated service. Stepping into the role was Nicole Horn, appointed as Administrative Manager in January 2025. Her seamless transition ensured continuity in operations and ushered in a new era of modernization.

A major highlight was the launch of a revamped website, offering improved access to public records and forestry resources. This digital overhaul was accompanied by hardware and software upgrades, aligning the Board's infrastructure with contemporary standards.

Oversight remained a top priority. The Board investigated multiple complaints regarding violations of forestry practice and underwent a comprehensive audit of its finances and procedures. A corrective action plan was submitted, and Board members appeared before the Joint Interim Sunset Committee to clarify findings and reinforce transparency.

The Board held five meetings throughout the year, including a special session focused on forester salaries across the state. Committees tackled key areas such as rules and regulations, public information, finance, violations, and continuing education. Notably, the Board maintained interstate cooperation through reciprocity agreements with six states, ensuring mobility and consistency in forestry standards.

Publications continued to play a vital role. The semiannual newsletter, *The REGISTERED FORESTER*, featured updates, while the biennial Roster of Registered Foresters is set for release in 2026.

On the licensing front, 37 new foresters were registered, bringing the total to 2,638 since inception. Impressively, Alabama now boasts over 1,000 active registered foresters for the second consecutive year.

As the Board looks ahead, its mission remains clear: to uphold the integrity of forestry in Alabama through vigilant oversight, professional development, and public engagement. With fresh leadership and a modernized approach, the Board is well-positioned to nurture the state's forests and the professionals who care for them.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

Ashley P. Smith, R.F.

Chair

*Forest Forever Committee
Public Information Committee
Rules and Regulations Committee*

Stephen W. Herrington, R.F.

Vice-Chair

*Violations Committee
Examination Committee*

Michael R. Delaney, R.F.

Secretary

Continuing Education Committee

J. Boyd Robinson, R.F.

Member

Finance & Administration Committee

Dana M. Stone, R.F.

Member

Examination Sub-Committee

Staff

Nicole Horn | Board Administrator

Olivia Martin | Assistant Attorney General

Chris Howell | Assistant Attorney General

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

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NicoleL.Horn@asbrf.alabama.gov

www.asbrf.alabama.gov

Hours of Operation

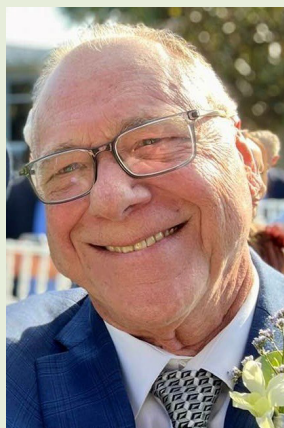
Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Due to building security,
please call for an appointment.**

In Memoriam

Joel Ford Moon, age 69, passed peacefully into the presence of God and a heavenly host of beloved friends and family on September 2, 2025.



He was a loving husband, a present and proud father, and the happiest “Pa” to his two grandchildren. Joel was joy personified. When he entered a room, laughter and light followed, and people felt genuinely seen, heard, and loved. His life was defined by delight in others, a teacher’s spirit, a deep faith, and a love of the outdoors. He especially enjoyed hiking with his wife and son, skiing, spending time near the ocean, and playing soccer and disc golf. He also loved watching the Auburn Tigers and the Brazilian National futebol team.



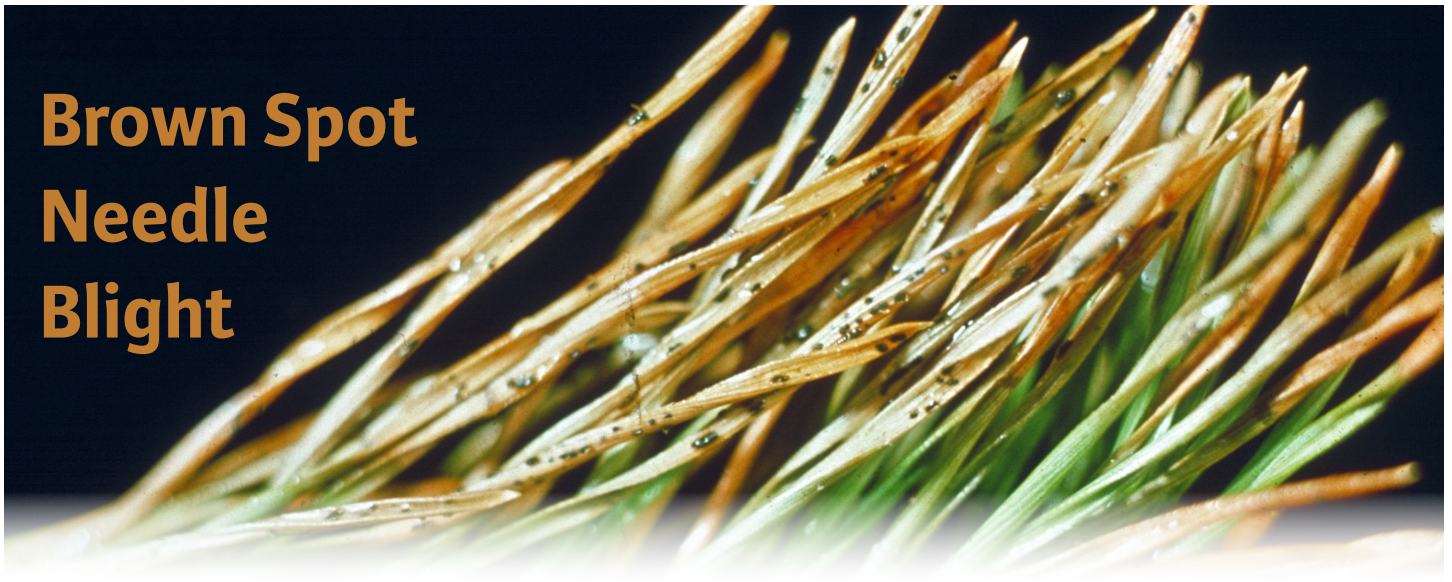
Register Forester’s Renewal Reminder

The grace period for 2026 license renewal ends December 31, 2025. If you submitted your renewal but have not received your new ID card, please contact Nicole Horn immediately at 334-240-9301 to make sure the renewal was received and processed.

If you renewed your license online an email was sent to you with your pocket card. The email will be from the Board it will be from noreply@al.accessgov.com.

If you need me to resend the email with your RF card, please let me know. Licenses not renewed by December 31, 2025, will be revoked. The Board is required by law to send revocation notices to all non-renewing licensees, including those who, for whatever reason, intentionally allowed their license to lapse.

Brown Spot Needle Blight



By Drew Metzler

Registered Forester | Certified Associate Wildlife Biologist | Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama is blessed with some of the best timber growing conditions in the country due to our long growing season coupled with typically generous precipitation patterns. This allows our forests to be among the most productive in the country, and collectively, the southern U.S. states account for over half of the timber harvests by volume in the country. However, these same climatic patterns also provide ideal growing conditions for a variety of insects and pathogens that can harm our forests, which the entire nation depends on.

The most prominent disease recently, has been brown spot needle blight, *Lecanosticta acicola* a pathogen historically known to infect longleaf pine that has now affected loblolly pine for several years now. It has also infected many other species of pines, especially non-native pines used for ornamental and Christmas tree production. The fungus thrives on mild humid conditions, typical of our spring and early summer weather patterns. Severe infections were noted in many stands throughout the state this spring as humid conditions and rainfall allowed the fungus to rapidly spread. Typically, these infections cause premature needle death during the spring, causing unsightly brown canopies. Fortunately, these infections rarely cause direct mortality to stands but certainly add additional inciting stress that puts pines at risk for other diseases or insects. The fungi that cause brown spot needle blight (BSNB) can continue to produce spores long after the dead needles have fallen to the forest floor or get trapped in the canopy of other mid-story trees. Auburn University has studied the sporulation period of BSNB and even one year after the needles had fallen, they could continue producing infectious spores. This lingering spore production is likely what facilitates recurrent years of infection, leading to reduced growth and the potential for mortality.

Strategies for controlling BSNB in longleaf pine are well documented and prescribed fire has long been the gold standard for controlling the disease by burning infected needles still attached as well as needle litter and vegetation on the ground. This not only physically removes the fungus, but also increases the aer-

ation at ground level, which helps reduce the humidity at which the fungus prefers. Control in planted loblolly stands is much less defined, as our ability to use prescribed fire in loblolly is typically at lower intensities and longer return intervals. However, at least from anecdotal observation, mid to late rotation stands with frequent prescribed fire intervals have tended to show lower severity of infection when compared to unburned stands nearby. This is most likely due in part by consuming the understory litter layer and reducing the inoculum levels.

The threats posed by BSNB on loblolly pine production has emphasized the need for thorough research on how the disease impacts tree physiology, procedures for mitigating damage, and most importantly identifying and developing resistant families of loblolly pine seedlings. Fortunately, preliminary results by several universities including Auburn, have yielded promising outcomes in both controlled lab settings and field trials in ambient air conditions on selected forest study areas. Several families of loblolly seedlings have expressed resistance to infection and further trials are currently underway to refine these results. It is likely in the near future that this research currently underway by private industry, universities, and nursery cooperatives will yield seedlings of greater resistant quality and provide long term solutions.



NEW REGISTERED FORESTERS

Granec, Garren Riley <i>Forester</i> Delaney Development Inc 690 Pine St. NE. Bellamy, AL 35464 Ph.: 205-379-0558 Email: garreng@delaneyinc.net	2497	Byrne, John William <i>Owner</i> Byrne Forestry Consulting, LLC 595 Hill Street Athens, GA 30606 Ph.: 706-207-5377 Email: byrneforestryconsulting@gmail.com	2504	Gray, Nathan Forrest <i>Forester I</i> American Forest Management, Inc. 4962 Old Spanish Trail Rd. Marianna, FL 32448 Ph.: 850-451-8350 Email: nathan.gray@AFMforest.com	2511
Roberts, Timothy Steven <i>Forester</i> American Forest Management P.O. Box 245 Helena, AL 35080 601-274-9279	2498	Robison, Christopher Tyler <i>Forester</i> Alabama Forestry Commission 164 Smokey Bear Road Hamilton, AL 35570 Ph.: 334-561-5468 Email: trobison2000@gmail.com	2505	Broughton, Agee Stallworth <i>Graduate Forester</i> Larson & McGowin 10 N. Florida St. Mobile, AL 36607 Ph.: 251-438-4581 Email: abroughton@larsonmcgowin.com	2512
Sanders, Skyler Evan <i>Forester</i> Baseline Forest Services 74501 Tallasse Hwy. Wetumpka, AL 36092 Ph.: 334-514-9077 Email: szs0277@auburn.com	2499	Hammack, John Michael <i>Forester Buyer</i> Stella-Jones 492 Woodlands Dr. Goodwater, AL 35072 Ph.: 256-794-9260 Email: hammackjohnmichael@gmail.com	2506	Pugh, Phillip Tyler <i>Procurement Forester</i> Brighton Forestry Services, LLC PO Box 37 Holly Pond, AL 35083 Ph.: 205-495-0584 Email: ptyler.pugh@gmail.com	2513
Causey, William Marc II <i>Forester</i> Pioneer Forest Mgt. Inc. 936 Jones Rd. Dawson, GA 39842 Ph.: 229-854-9797 Email: marccausey@yahoo.com	2500	Owens, Marcus Julian <i>Procurement Manager</i> Owens Lumber Inc. 31595 Hwy 47 N Pine Apple, AL 36768 Ph.: 251-746-2731 Email: owenslumbercompany@gmail.com	2507	Bricken, John Benjamin IV <i>Timber Buyer</i> W. J. Sorrell Lumber Co. 11 County Road 6605 Troy, AL 36081 Ph.: 334-566-3754 Email: foresters@wjsorrell.com	2514
Farrow, Dalton Lee <i>Forester</i> Lawson & McGowin, LLC P.O. Box 2143 Mobile, AL 36652 Ph.: 251-438-4581 Email: dfarrow@lawsonmcgowin.com	2501	Creech, James Wayne III <i>Seed Orchard Specialist</i> IFCO Seedlings/PRT 707 CR 20 West Verbena, AL 36091 Ph.: 229-985-0321 Email: jcreech@ifcoseedlings.com	2508	Turner, Russell Sinclair <i>Procurement Representative</i> International Paper 200 Jensen Road Prattville, AL 36067 Ph.: 334-782-9109	2515
Gibbons, Noah Schaffer <i>Harvest Manager</i> Weyerhaeuser 3050 Highway 5 Suite 134 Thomasville, AL 36784	2502	Jernigan, Caemon Gage <i>Procurement Forester/Timber Buyer</i> Snow Timber Company, LLC 1910 Ingram Wells Rd. Ohatchee, AL 36271 Ph.: 256-689-2572 Email: snowtimbercompany@yahoo.com	2509	Broussard, Chance Keylynn <i>Inventory Forester</i> Sweet Water Forestry, LLC 451 Woodland Dr Sweet Water, AL 36782 Ph.: 334-643-9911	2516
Williamson, Heath Bryant <i>Buyer II - Fiber</i> Clearwater Paper Corporation 4231 Mike Padgett Hwy. Augusta, GA 30906 Ph.: 839-273-0550 Email: heath.williamson@clearwaterpaper.com	2503	Cook, Thomas Jared <i>Forestry Supervisor</i> Florida Forest Service 290 Airport Road Carrabelle, FL 32322 Ph.: 850-697-0025 Email: thomas.cook@fdacs.gov	2510	Lloyd, Blake Delaney <i>Procurement Officer</i> Canfor Southern Pine 215 NE Main St. Fulton, AL 36446 Ph.: 334-564-1715 Email: blake.lloyd@canfor.com	2517

NEW REGISTERED FORESTERS

McGilberry, Darren Joe

2518

Owner

South Land Company
30 Lauderdale Street
Selma, AL 36701
Ph.: 334-872-6484
Email: southlandoffice66@gmail.com

Babb, Joseph Davidson

2519

Urban Forester/Land Use Division

City of Montgomery
25 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
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Email: joseph.babb@montgomeryal.gov

NEW RECIPROCITY FORESTERS

Eckenrode, Robert Thomas IV

SC1979

Lead Forest Carbon Analyst

Green Assets
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Email: robeckenrode@gmail.com

Thurmes, John Francis

SC0889

Principal

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Loomer, James Lawrence

MS2506

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Clinton, MS 39056
Ph.: 601-613-4094
Email: jim.loome1@gmail.com

Simpson, Joseph Bailey

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Lead Conservation Forester

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ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF
**REGISTRATION FOR
FORESTERS**

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Farewell Note to the ASBRF

By Dana Stone, RF 1823

Since its declaration in 1957, the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters (ASBRF) has an obligation to license and regulate the profession of forestry. With five licensed foresters appointed to the Board, each one serves for a period of five years. These board members use their adept knowledge and extensive experience to investigate complaints and review policies pertaining to the practice of forestry.

I was fortunate to be appointed as a board member in January of 2021. As one of the members, we were committed to protect landowners from malpractice, incompetence, and unethical behavior in forestry that may adversely affect their management objectives and financial goals. We also had the responsibility to administer examinations needed to become a registered forester and to approve continuing education units for maintaining this status.

The work in forestry can be quite complex with its various stages of conservation practices and skilled professionals to implement them. It is an art and science working together to produce a sustainable outcome. We uphold these standards through the regulatory work of the ASBRF.

My five years serving on the ASBRF have been interesting and rewarding. I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve on the Board and to work with such a wonderful group of professionals. I also want to thank the Board for its patience and cooperation during my alternating role from member to Chair. Just when I started to fully understand the various positions and their associated responsibilities, it was time for me to say good-bye. I will truly miss you all and the work with the ASBRF.



“From our scheduled meetings discussing policies, rules, and regulations, our continued responsibilities reviewing exams, CEUs, and violations, we maintained our commitment as a state entity, and we made a difference to the profession of forestry.”