



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Fall 2013

The Sunset in the Rearview Mirror

As I write my last ASBRF article, I am doing some major reflecting, all with the benefit of being able to look in the rearview mirror. You see this past summer, I presided over my first state Sunset Committee review and, as Board tradition, I served my last year as chair of the Board. Finally, after five years on the Board, some things started to make sense. Hopefully, I can share some departing wisdom as I zoom out of sight and wave in the rearview mirror.

For those who are new to state government, the Sunset Committee is a diverse group of state legislators who reviews your agency's work and then decides how well you have carried out your mission and if you should still stick around. They can slap your hand for no-no's but also go to bat for you if some help is needed in the legislature related to your cause, etc.

So, after listening to the Prosthetics Board explain how they serve and protect the public, it was our turn and I thought it would be a piece of cake. (I mean, we didn't have to explain why a Walgreen fitted shoe was bad, right?) However, it was very clear, when I stood up in front of this group of legislators, who, even though they had done their homework (i.e. read our pre-report, the survey of current licensed registered foresters, etc.), they still didn't know the difference between a registered forester and a random "joe" cutting timber. In fact, we discovered that almost all of them were landowners themselves, who had cut timber in recent years, but not one of them knew if they had used a registered forester or not!



Chairman Steve May presents Ruth Seawell with a plaque of appreciation for five years of service on the Board

They were curious. "Why did it matter?" they asked. I told them more than likely the timing and intensity of harvest is the single biggest decision a timberland owner makes regarding the management of their timberland. Then, they asked, "How do you find out who is registered?" WELL....they are listed on the website of the Alabama State Board of Registered Foresters, but it seemed clear that on that day, that all landowners don't know that. Also, when

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we started to explain the different lists of forestry services available, these legislators seemed confused between the roles of state and federal agencies and the various forestry lobby associations. It is a shame we can't coordinate better within our professional organizations, isn't it?

This concern of non-registered foresters giving forestry advice and, most specifically, advice on the timing, selecting and method of timber harvesting, is nothing new. Of the 58 participating licensees in the Sunset questionnaire survey, this was the overwhelming concern expressed. See Kent Hanby's article in this issue.

Another constant theme during my tenure on the Board has been the desire of some for a separate designation for consulting foresters in order to deal with perceived conflict of interest for registered foresters working for both landowners and timber buyers in single transactions. The current Rules of Professional Conduct seems to deal with this apparent conflict of interest, however. In Rule 6, it states: "A Registered Forester will not, without the full knowledge and consent of his principal, client or employer, have any interest in a business which may influence his judgment in regard to the work for which he is engaged." All applicants are required to sign and notarize the Rules of Professional Conduct when applying and should be aware of them. The Board is considering having all renewal applicants also sign and notarize a copy as a means to "reinforce" the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Another improvement during the last five years is the progress the Board has made on the forestry exam. The pool of questions has been edited and a systematic grading process established. Also a continuous improvement system has been put in place with Glenn Glover hired as an advising consultant to the Board. The Board is committed

to continuously work on this, as well.

Finally, the Board has diligently worked through violations and other on-going issues in spite of its small size and infrequent meeting. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of representatives on the Board and the frequency of meetings. This might also help in meeting some of the demographic diversity goals set by the Sunset Committee for race, gender, geographical, etc. I think it might be time to put together an "ASBRF" booth and go to the SAE, AFA, ACE, etc., meetings and talk to young foresters about being a registered forester and how violations are initiated and investigated. Visits to college campuses would be great too. This will take time and commitment, though, and a larger Board would help greatly with this. Adding a retired or inactive status category and using these foresters as volunteers to do this might be an option, as well. Also, I think in order to get a broader representation on future boards, the sole representation of the SAF nomination committee needs to be revisited.

I am very thankful for my time on the Board and, as many things in life, I can say I learned so much more than I gave. And despite the fact our state legislators did not know if they used an ASBRF registered forester or not, I am encouraged for our profession. I believe forestry is coming full circle. Yes, the truck headed out to the field is more crowded than it used to be. Before, it might have just been us foresters. Now, we have all these other folks climbing in: the SFI audit guy, the wildlife guy, the mitigation specialist, etc.; but, it is also clear they need the forester to get them there and pull it all together. So, no matter who joins the forester in the woods; be he a consulting forester, a corporate forester, a county forester, etc., let's be sure they are a registered forester or working directly for one!

– Ruth Seawell

Thoughts From the Chairman

I would like to thank Ruth Seawell for her service as Chair to this Board. She guided us through an interesting year which included a review by the Alabama Legislative Sunset Committee. Ruth handled this chore with grace before a group of legislators that honestly did not seem to understand what we do as a profession. This leads me to remind everyone of the process for the selection of your Board. The Alabama Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) selects three names to be submitted to the Governor, who picks one of the candidates to be on your Board for the next five year term. The key to remember is that to be eligible for selection you must be a

member of the SAF. This in some ways might narrow our pool of candidates. This Board has been commended recently for its diversity and it is important to continue that opportunity for a diverse Board. The limited pool of SAF members that are Registered Foresters could affect that diversity. All of you that are not SAF members but are Registered Foresters should seriously consider becoming a member. In addition to considering becoming a member of the SAF you might want to become more informed of the Board's meeting process.

I hope all of you know our meetings are open to the public. While we have limited space, your Board would

welcome all Registered Foresters and for that matter, others to attend our meetings. After all, it is the law. If we have an overflow, we will make arrangements. Through the years I have found the free press was the best group to keep public meetings running by the rules. If you don't like what is happening get in touch with your friendly reporter.

A few suggestions to those of you that do not know the law. First, go to the Alabama Open Meeting Act on the Alabama Secretary of State web page (www.openmeetings.alabama.gov). In the old days we called this "The Sunshine Act." Download the act, read and keep. Second, find the Alabama Open Meeting Act 2005-40 "A Manual for Alabama Public Officials" prepared by The Alabama Press Association and Attorney General King (<http://www.uasa.ua.edu/Alabama%20Open%20Meeting%20Act%20-%20A%20Manual%20for%20Alabama%20Public%20Off..pdf>) You can download it or get a copy from the AG's office. And finally, there are many other resources to inform you about public meetings if you search the internet for Alabama Open Meeting Act.

The rules around executive session are most interesting. "Job Performance" discussions are not to be discussed in

executive session for example. Interesting! If you attend or participate in many meetings, you know the procedures for running the meeting can be different. For example Public Comments – some exclude it, others encourage it.

One should always remember that the various commissions, boards, councils, and other public agencies should conduct their business openly. These various state entities are in fact public servants and should be called to task if they conduct business that might harm the State of Alabama.

One more thing that might be of interest to some of you is The Freedom of Information Act. The Alabama Public Record Law under Alabama Code 36-25A (<http://www.nfoic.org/alabama-foia-laws>) grants citizens the right to inspect public writings pursuant to the statutes. Every citizen has a right to inspect and take copies of any public writings of the state, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute.

Your Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters welcomes all input. We will conduct our meetings with the full intent of being open, forthright and honest. We will conduct our meetings in accordance with the law.

– Stephen May

New Registered Foresters

Mark Phillip Bales #2180

F1 Forester
F&W Forestry Services, Inc.
3002-B Hwy 72 West
Corinth, MS 38834-7035
Phone: 662/286-9544
Email: mbales@fwforestry.com

Justin Dexter Barnes #2176

Forestry Supervisor I
The Westervelt Company
1800 County Rd. 21
Demopolis, AL 36732
Phone: 334/289-2900
Email: jdbarnes@westervelt.com

Jameson Skylar Clark #2183

Timber Buyer
Scroggins Logging, LLC
266 Hwy. 165
Eufaula, AL 36027
Phone:
Email:

Matthew Cody Davis #2184

Midsouth Forestry Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 600
Gordo, AL 35466
Phone: 205/364-7145
Email: mdavis@midsouthforestryservices.com

Michael Bryan Jackson #2177

Project Forester
Foster Land Management, LLC
14608 Wire Road
Coaling, AL 35453
Phone: 205/826-4963
Email:

Amy Louise Morgan-Gaddy #2179

Land Steward
AL Land Trust
226 Old Ladiga Rd.
Piedmont, AL 36272
Phone: 256/390-2710
Email: agaddy@allandtrust.org

Clint Eric Ozier #2181

144 Poplar Rd.
Newnan, GA 30263
Phone: 678/431-7367
Email: cozier79@gmail.com

Olen Paul Padgett #2175

Forester
Scotch Land Management
119 Southeast Main St.
Fulton, AL 36446
Phone: 334/636-4424 X191
Email: ppadgett@scotchlandmgmt.com

William Isaac Vinson #2174

Senior Forester
Forest Resource Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 545
Lumpkin, GA 31815
Phone: 229/838-4418
Email: ivinson@frcemail.com

William Travis Wharton #2182

Contractor
Wharton Timberland Services
2904 Willow Circle
Northport, AL 35473
Phone: 205/344-3235
Email: williamwharton@charter.net

William Bennett Whitaker #2178

Financial Analyst
Regions Bank
1901 6th Avenue North, Ste. 520
Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: 205/264-7309
Email: ben.whitaker@regions.com

Sunset Committee Report – Dealing with Non-Registered Foresters

The Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters is charged with administering a licensing and regulatory program for the practice of forestry in order to benefit and protect the citizens of Alabama. As the Board begins its fifth decade of service, it is our responsibility to ensure the public that those who are licensed to practice forestry in the State of Alabama have the knowledge, experience, and education to do so. We do this through a version of “truth in advertising.” To the public, we advertise that a registered forester is a person who holds a bachelors or higher degree from a school approved by the Board or accredited by the Society of American Foresters in a forestry curriculum accepted by the Board, has at least two years of satisfactory forestry experience, and has satisfactorily passed a licensing exam administered by the Board. To present oneself as a registered forester or to profess to practice forestry without such credentials is a violation of the “truth in advertising” aspect of the Alabama State Board of Registration law and related regulations. The purpose of the law and regulation is to protect the citizens of the State of Alabama from unscrupulous individuals who do not meet the standards of education, experience, and testing.

In its recent four-year review of the Board, the Sunset Committee, which is charged by the legislature with reviewing boards like ours to determine their efficacy and justification of existence, surveyed 100 of our licensees. Fifty-eight responded. Question #10 of the survey asked: “What do you think is the most significant issue currently facing your profession in Alabama?” Of the 42 respondents, ten said “the unlawful practice of forestry by unlicensed individuals,” while the rest gave a diverse range of answers. In fact, many of the answers given by the responders dealt with issues such as weight limits on roads,

bridge situations, county logging permits, etc., indicating that the respondents were actually confused on the mission and role of the Board. It is true that registered foresters should be involved in these types of issues and many other related matters, but the mission of the Board is to ensure for the benefit of the public that anyone presenting themselves to the public as a registered forester, or practicing forestry, is in fact qualified to do so under the laws and regulations pertaining to the Board.

Currently, the Board has no investigative staff and, therefore, it depends on the public and the registered foresters to self-regulate violators of this law. Individual registered foresters should assume it their professional responsibility to report known violations to the Board. Also, reports of violations should be more than an informal complaint to a Board member. In order for the Board to take action, it must have evidence and a formal written complaint. A business card with the title “registered forester” and the name of a non-registered forester is an example. A sign offering forestry services or the practice of forestry by a non-registered forester might be another example but may be harder to verify. A copy of a management plan or timber sale contract would satisfy as well. In some cases, an individual who is not a registered forester may be acting under the supervision of a registered forester which is acceptable. However, their name should be on all signed documents.

If you are concerned about the actions of an individual who may be in violation, collect the evidence and submit it to the Board along with a written complaint. A copy of the complaint form can be found on the Board’s website at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/documents/PDF/ComplaintFormNon-RF.pdf> and more information on how to pursue a formal complaint or what constitutes a violation can be found there as well.

– Kent Hanby

Hunting Season Safety for Foresters

Those of us who work in the woods know we are entering one of the most exciting, yet one of the most dangerous times of the year—Hunting Season. After reading about some of the hunting accidents that occurred last year, I thought that it would be a good idea to touch on a few basic gun and hunting season safety rules to help us all survive another season. As the rut

approaches, they go completely wild, throwing all caution to the wind, eyes wide open, moving all times of day and night and paying no attention to anything or anybody. Of course I am referring to the hunters and not the deer. Don’t expect some guy who gets up at 3:00 AM, drives 200 miles, douses himself with doe pee and skunk or fox urine, then climbs a tree before daylight in freezing weather to act in a

calm and rational manner when you come crashing through the woods running your cruise line. Indeed, hunting season can be a very dangerous time for foresters to be in the woods. Whether you are cruising timber, painting sale lines, checking logging crews or planting trees, keep in mind, in hunting season you are not alone in the woods. Hunters can be anywhere at any time. Listed below are some safety tips to help us all safely survive another hunting season. will conduct our meetings in accordance with the law.

1. During hunting season always wear safety orange while in the woods.
2. If possible, avoid working on weekends, especially on the opening and last weekends of the season.
3. When entering the woods early in the morning or coming out late in the afternoon, always carry a flashlight even if there is enough light to see with out it. (Some hunters, unfortunately, shoot at movement in dim light).
4. When driving in the woods during hunting season, expect the unexpected. Adhere to safe driving guidelines; you never know when you will go over a hill or around a curve and meet a speeding hunter in a hurry to get to his deer stand.
5. If you have a heated encounter with a hunter, remember, someone has to act like an adult. Avoid senseless heated verbal exchanges with unreasonable hunters. Remember, you are arguing with a man with a gun.
6. If possible, do your field work in the mid-day and avoid being in the woods early in the morning and late in the afternoon.
7. When in the woods and you suspect hunters may be near, make some human noise: whistle, cough, etc.
8. Finally, use common sense. Don't take chances and put yourself in dangerous situations. Nothing is more important than you returning safely from the woods each day to your family.

– M. McCorvey

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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Alexis London, Executive Assistant
Olivia Martin, Assistant Attorney General

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

*513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4500
Ph. (334) 240-9301
Fax (334) 240-9387
Alexis.London@asbrf.alabama.gov
www.asbrf.alabama.gov*

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Changing Business Climate

It was sad and disturbing to hear the news of International Paper permanently closing and dismantling its Courtland mill in Lawrence County. I understand the mill was one of several IP operated in the southeast US producing a particular product. Due to declining product demand the Courtland mill was chosen to be closed.

Hearing the news of the closure at Courtland, I was reminded of an unfortunate experience I had several years ago while attempting to thin a pine plantation near Courtland. The Lawrence County Engineer (at the time) shut our crew down until we met his demand to post a \$50,000.00 bond. The bond was to allow us to haul timber on a poorly paved county road, which, ironically, had been used successfully years before when it was only gravel. We, with the Alabama Forestry Association's help, tried to reason with the Engineer, Lawrence County Commissioners, and others - to no avail. The contractor had to move off the tract until the issue could be resolved. We eventually thinned the tract, but not until that individual (the Engineer) was gone.

During our negotiations with the Lawrence County officials, I relayed my concern that issues such as these could have serious repercussions down the road. I reminded

them of the Gulf States closure of the Tuscaloosa paper mill in 1977 - and how that closure resulted in the loss of one of Tuscaloosa's largest employers, including my own father losing his job. My comparison to International Paper's Courtland mill being Lawrence County's largest employer did not resonate with them. In fact, their lack of cooperation and nonchalance to suppliers' ability to use county roads for delivery of raw material to their county's largest employer was simply of no concern - then. I wonder what they think now.

It is imperative that, as Registered Foresters, we educate the public - from landowners, loggers and other foresters to local, county, and state officials, as well as the general population - with regard to what these mills mean to our economy. The whole food chain, from stump to mill, needs to be healthy in order for the industry to survive. Sharing information about the practice of Forestry in an easy to understand way 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 Johnson

2014 License Renewal Reminder

THE GRACE PERIOD FOR 2014 LICENSE RENEWAL ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2013.

If you submitted your renewal but have not received your new ID card,

please contact Alexis London immediately at 334-240-9301

to make sure the renewal was received and processed.

Licenses not renewed by December 31, 2013 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.

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters Expired Licenses

(As of 12/09/2013)

The Registered Forester licenses of the persons listed below expired on September 30, 2013. However, these individuals have until December 31, 2013 to complete the late renewal process. Please call 334-240-9301 to check their current status.

NAME	LICENSE NO.	CITY/STATE	STATUS
Bart H. Adams	1709	Selma, AL	Active
Roderick S. Bach Jr.	2100	Montgomery, AL	Active
Mark F. Beeler	1114	Northport, AL	Active
Gregory L. Broyles	1704	Norris, TN	Active
Stephen D. Burnett	1763	Arab, AL	Active
Stephen M. Butler	MS0771	Brandon, MS	Reciprocity
William W. Canale	MS1177	Oxford, MS	Reciprocity
Samuel C. Carlton	SC1324	Johns Island, SC	Reciprocity
Charles M. Carter	MS1410	Blue Springs, MS	Reciprocity
Shannon C. Casey	1395	Monroeville, AL	Active
Jimmie O. Cobb	1728	Lenoir, NC	Active
Scott T. Delaney	1986	Mobile, AL	Active
Callie S. Dixson	1883	Scottsboro, AL	Active
Mary E. Edwards	1043	Decatur, AL	Active
Jack A. Fox	0385	Demopolis, AL	Active
James B. Glasgow	1373	Phil Campbell, AL	Active
James R. Gober	0843	Ohatchee, AL	Active
Stephen A. Guy	0718	Tallassee, AL	Active
Richard W. Hall	1701	Warm Springs, GA	Active
Jeffrey D. Hall	MS1283	Flowood, MS	Reciprocity
Larry G. Hardwick	0784	Pell City, AL	Active
Michael G. Harper	1839	Notasulga, AL	Active
Robert D. Hatcher	GA1010	Big Canoe, GA	Reciprocity
Matthew A. Holtzsch	1622	Prattville, AL	Active
David D. Keen	MS2356	Vicksburg, MS	Reciprocity
Jason R. Kinsey	2143	Crossett, AR	Active
Donald J. Lancaster	1868	Eutaw, AL	Active
Jeffrey W. Latham	1553	Livingston, AL	Active
Michael J. Long	1740	Phenix City, AL	Active
James H. Luscher	2086	Mobile, AL	Active
Larry W. Lyons	1840	Yulee, FL	Active
Michael D. Martin	0871	Savannah, TN	Active
Robbie M. Martin	1598	Knoxville, TN	Active
Jon B. McDonald	1275	Auburn, AL	Active
Johnny E. Mims	1896	Clanton, AL	Active
Jimmy L. Murphree	1561	Spruce Pine, AL	Active
Patrick D. Neeley	1696	Letohatchee, AL	Active
Allyson C. Peeler	1341	Birmingham, AL	Active
Mark A. Pickett	GA2252	Calhoun, GA	Reciprocity
Teddy W. Reynolds	AR0485	McNeil, AR	Reciprocity
Owen L. Riley	GA0227	Pine Mountain Valley, GA	Reciprocity
Robert I. Rogers III	2058	Russellville, AL	Active
Mark L. Sikole	AR0600	Monticello, AR	Reciprocity
Montgomery C. Simpson	1273	Atlanta, GA	Active
Frederick W. Stokes	MS1057	Louisville, MS	Reciprocity
Jan A. Vanderhoeven	1301	Millbrook, AL	Active
Timothy C. Washburne	2096	Northport, AL	Active
Noel S. Yoho	1185	Daphne, AL	Active

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

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ROSTER CHANGE

Effective immediately, 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: _____ License Number: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Business Address: _____

Business City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Cell: _____

Business E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____

Home Phone: _____ Personal Cell: _____

Home E-mail: _____