



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Winter 2015

Getting to know your local Registered Foresters

After serving four years on the board, one thing has become exceedingly clear, one of the most pressing issues we have (as a board) is unlicensed individuals practicing forestry. Whether it is a forestry contractor, timber buyer, logger, lawyer or even an unlicensed graduate forester, the results are the same, **they are breaking the law.** Section 34-12-12 of The Code of Alabama 1975—clearly states that any person who shall practice or offer to practice the profession of forestry in this state without being registered or exempted, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof,

shall be fined not less than \$500 or more than \$2000 for each offence.

Unfortunately, the average land owner doesn't know the difference between a timber buyer, a logger, a forestry contractor, etc. and a license registered forester. Most citizens readily seek out licensed professionals to handle their business and important affairs, be it a lawyer to handle legal matters, a certified accountant to handle financial matters, a licensed carpenter to build a house or licensed medical specialist to handle their medical needs. However when it comes to managing their timber assets, many land-owners routinely allow unlicensed individuals to make management decisions that can have critical and long lasting financial impacts on their forest. It's not that they don't care, but instead it is because in many cases they don't know or understand who we (Registered Foresters) are and what we can do for them.

One of the board's objectives for this upcoming year is to help educate the public by introducing them to their (Local Registered Foresters) and giving them a brief overview of what a registered forester has to offer and can mean to their forest management activities. The following suggestions will be presented to and reviewed by the board this year and if approved, we will begin implementing them in 2015.

1. Have the Board put educational articles in the local news papers of counties with strong forestry related

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Farewell Steve May



Chairman Mike McCorvey (left) presents Steve May with a plaque of appreciation for five years of service on the Board. (Due to family matters and limited space, May's Farewell will appear in the Summer issue.)

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Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) Certification

The continuing education requirements for CFE are laid out in full in the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters Administrative Code, Chapter 380-X-6-.04. The administrative code is included in the State of Alabama Thirty-Fifth Roster of Registered Foresters 2014-2016. A copy of the roster may be obtained by contacting the ASBRF office in Montgomery at 334-240-9301 or by email to Lea Anna Meadows at LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov.

"Minimum continuing education requirements for annual license renewal are a total of 10 contact hours of continuing education."

Training may be pre-approved by the Board by (Please submit request to Lea Anna Meadows, Executive Assistant; leaanna.meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov)

1. Applying prior to the training.
2. The application must include
 - A. A description of topic area
 - B. The names of all presenters and a vita or other evidence of qualification to teach the topic
 - C. A program outline, including instructors, objectives and schedule
 - D. Dates and locations of presentations

Requirement: Complete 10 hours of acceptable continu-

ing forestry education (CFE) during the two year period immediately preceding the renewal date. A minimum of 5 hours must be in category 1 or 2 and a maximum of 5 hours may be claimed in categories 3-6. Adjusted for breaks, Q&As and topics not related to forestry subject matter

Continuing Forestry Education, CFE, as recognized by the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters, is divided into the following six categories:

Category

1. Organized course work in forestry-related subject
2. Development or presentation of forestry-related course work
3. Organized course work not specifically forestry related
4. Preparation and publication of forestry-related subject
5. Self-improvement in forestry-related subjects (professional meetings)
6. Holding office in forestry or allied professional organization

More detail about the categories is provided in the administrative code section 380-X-6-.04 section (9).

— Kent Hanby

My Experience

I met a landowner the other day while inspecting a harvest operation who thinks he received an extremely high per unit rate for his timber. I questioned him about it and was interested in his response.

He informed me that a consulting forester sold his timber for a lump sum price after taking sealed bids. His forester gave him estimated per unit prices based on his cruise volumes. His forester informed him the hardwood log per unit stumpage prices were \$150 PER MBF MORE THAN THE DELIVERED PRICE AT THE MILL!

I explained to the landowner while this is a good way to sell timber his forester was giving him estimated stumpage prices based on his timber cruise, not actual harvest volumes or the buyer's cruise volumes. I did not tell the landowner his forester's timber volumes were probably low. I explained occasionally timber buyers overcruise a tract of timber but most of the time success-

ful buyers' cruise volumes are accurate. I know this from my wood procurement days cruising and buying many standing tracts of pine and hardwood timber for Hammermill Paper Company and Georgia-Pacific Corporation. We bought lump sum tracts and rarely lost money on a sale.

Foresters selling client timber on a lump sum basis must have accurate cruise information and knowledge of timber prices paid at area mills to calculate estimated per unit prices paid on lump sum timber sales. Foresters can then disclose accurate stumpage information to their clients. Our profession is well served when this happens.

— By Rick Johnson

Dear Board Members

I would like to thank you for the time that you spend away from your jobs, families, and other obligations to serve on the Board of Registration for Foresters. I would also like to ask for your help on various issues that I feel are imperative to the survival of Registered Foresters in this state.

- I would like to see us work together as a unified group in order to obtain more authority and respect from our State Legislature in order to oversee infringements on the livelihoods of foresters.
- I would like to see us reduce the emphasis being placed on what type of forester (consulting or procurement) is hired to promote the sale of timber, and concentrate more on why a licensed forester of either type is not handling all timber sales.
- I would like to see an emphasis on new and innovative thinking when we try to take courses that will broaden our knowledge as foresters instead of the same types of CFE courses that are taught each year. Quite frankly, cogon grass control, BMP seminars, and PLM refresher courses are not enabling me to present new and interesting material to my clients.
- I would love to see the Board move to digital newsletters and the integration of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) in order to better communicate with a younger group of foresters that the state desperately needs, as well as, the absentee landowners that now control a large part of the State's land base.

As the governing body for Registered Foresters in the State, I look to you for guidance in helping to keep our titles relevant, and to help us move forward instead of becoming irrelevant.

I have been a registered forester since January of 2008. Quite frankly, I often wonder why? Currently, I see a group of individuals (Registered Foresters) that should be bonding together, creating a better work atmosphere industry wide, creating power and strength in numbers, working to gain legislative favor on the state level, and trying to gain legal power over those that infringe upon our livelihoods. However, all I see is dissension and separation between private and company Foresters, and "Consulting" verses "Procurement" Foresters. The real issues at hand are **not** that we need more rules to govern the registered foresters in the State of Alabama, nor do we need to separate one forester from another. The real issues are that WE only have the authority through the Board of Registration for Foresters to protect ourselves from other foresters, and that we have done a poor job of educating the public on the benefits of using registered foresters to aid them in all aspects of forest management. We have allowed both the Forest Industry and Forest Landowners (primarily through the AFA) to fund and communicate with our legislators and officials, as well as, educate the public on how to best sell their timber and manage their assets. We have in all essence let them do our job, so now they are actually doing our job.

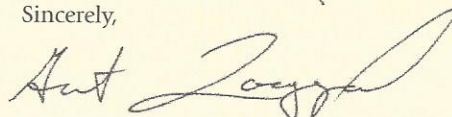
I for one, am not concerned about a classification difference between "Procurement" Foresters (timber buyers or timber pimps according to some) or "Consulting" Foresters (lump summers or line flaggers according to some). I am more concerned that many landowners currently listen to their realtor, lawyer, bank trust department, wildlife manager, logger, or Timber Industry representative on the best way to manage their resources and assets rather than listening to a professional forester! We, as registered foresters, have all attended an accredited forestry school so that we

are properly equipped to market and manage the assets that our clients own within the markets in which they own them. There is not one single management technique that is best for managing the assets of all individuals. Land use patterns have changed, therefore, management strategies must change. Timber markets have changed, therefore, marketing strategies must change with them. We all should become better at "thinking outside of the box" before we have to unload our trucks and put the contents of our desks in a box.

Though my tenure as a registered forester may be limited compared to most of you, I have ample experience in the management of people, process flow, asset management, and business operations from my tenure in managing a farm, as well as, managing production within a processing plant employing over 600 people. Through being a part of that industry, I have participated in future leaders programs that were county based, as well as, a top tier national leadership program. I have served on numerous county boards, as well as, serving on state commodity boards that have overseen check-off dollars for research projects. We concentrated on working on new and inventive ways of making our industry better and we were successful! I have seen how the members of that industry bonded together to battle imports and inferior products in order to win both legislative and economic battles. I then watched as one group within that industry got greedy and tried to hold the other aspects of the industry to a price that the markets could not afford. They have now priced themselves out of the market and have lost their market share to cheaper, domestically raised products (not just imports). Although that is a different industry, the divide within that industry and the greed of some, caused the demise of the industry as a whole. Some may say the the Timber Industry in the State of Alabama is too large to fail. However, the relevance of the professional forester within that industry is a critical, yet expendable portion of that industry if we are not willing to fight for it. In the age of information and technology that we currently reside in, we as foresters better stick together and change with the times. We should strive to become better informed of markets, logging and wood product costs, new and improved economic and investment strategies, and technological advances in order to keep ourselves relevant. Otherwise, we will be no better off that the members of so many industries within our state; irrelevant and looking for a new job.

Thank you again for your time and your service! Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,



Grant Lovinggood AL R.F. 2070

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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*Forest Forever Committee, Public Information
Committee, Examination Committee*

Staff

Lea Anna Meadows, Executive Assistant
Olivia Martin, Assistant Attorney General

Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4500
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LeaAnna.Meadows@asbrf.alabama.gov
www.asbrf.alabama.gov

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2014-Violations Committee Report

The Board strongly believes that educating and seeking voluntary compliance will better serve the public interest. Therefore, before pursuing punitive enforcement, corrective and rehabilitative actions will be taken. A summary of investigations is presented below.

Case #12-003/Case # 14-003

Complaint: Registered Forester accused of Fraud and Deceit by private landowner.

Results: Registered Forester found guilty of misconduct. Appropriate action was taken against the Registered Forester.

Case # 14-001

Complaint: Forestry Contractor accused of selling timber and practicing forestry without a license.

Results: Complaint valid – Appropriate actions taken against Contractor.

Case # 14-002

Complaint: Private Citizen accused of practicing forestry without a license (Selling Timber)

Results: Results: Complaint dismissed for lack of probable cause.

Case # 14-004

Complaint: Timber buyer practicing Forestry without a license

Results: Still under investigation.

Case # 7-002 Reopened/ Reviewing

Complaint: Private Citizen accused of advertising as a Forester.

Results: Still under investigation.

Christopher Scott Futch, RF 1565, agreed to settle a disciplinary complaint charging that he advertised and engaged in a pattern of behavior that mislead a client about the services being offered, the price for the services, and that he had an undisclosed financial interest in the outcome of the transaction. The Board ordered a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 and required the forester to attend a continuing education course on ethics.

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activities. These articles will promote the benefits of using registered foresters to manage and sell timber.

2. List all of the Registered Foresters (Business names and Phone numbers) in the local County news papers of the county in which they reside.

3. Issue, (I Am a Registered Forester) bumper stickers to Alabama registered foresters.

As stated above these are some suggestions that will be reviewed by the Board and if approved, implemented in 2015.

The board will welcome and review any ideas you have to help the general public get to "Know their local registered foresters" and the benefits a licensed professional forester offers to their forest assets.

— M McCorvey

New Registered Foresters

William Edward Dixon #2194

Forester
Larson & McGowin Forestry Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 157
Greenville, AL 36037
Phone: 334/382-3210
Email: wdixon@larsonmcgowin.com

Michael Lee Hartley #2195

Forester
McKinley & Lanier Forest Resources, Inc.
507 Energy Ctr Blvd. Ste 303
Northport, AL 35473
Phone: 205-344-5139
Email: michael@mlforestresources.com

Jeffrey Lowell Green #2196 (Reinstatement)

Forestry Manager, AL Region
Resource Management Service LLC
1834 Grynwood Dr.
Prattville, AL 36066
Phone: 334/380-5110
Email: jgreen@resourcecmgt.com

Adam Michal Ziegenbein #2197

Forestry Inventory and Analysis Crew Leader
Alabama Forestry Commission
P.O. Box 302550
Montgomery, AL 36130-2550
Phone: 334/240-9300

Ryan Thomas Peek #2198

Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
4855 Hodgesville Road
Dothan, AL 36301
Phone: 334/677-5454
Email: Ryan.PEEK@forestry.alabama.gov

Justin Hunter Brown #2199

President
Razor Precision
100 Hunter Road
Randolph, AL 36792
Phone: 205/861-8358
Email: razorprecision@gmail.com

Brandon Chase White #2200

Timber Buyer
Drennen Forestry
P.O. Box 1029
Cullman, AL 35056
Phone: 256-739-5941
Email: Cwhite@drennenforestry.com

Homer Rex Germany #2201 (Reinstatement)

Owner
Forest Sales Inc.
P.O. Box 268
Union, MS 39365
Phone: 601-656-5700
Email: fssibbi@aol.com

New Reciprocity

Blake Alexander Smith #MS2476

Owner
Dixie Forest Service, LLC
2329 Freedom Baptist Church Road
Meridian, MS2476
Phone: 301/-479-0631
Email: dixieforest@gmail.com

Michael Wilson Matre #GA2486

President
Matre Forestry Consulting, Inc
201 Baldwin Drive
Albany, GA 31701
Phone: 229/639-4973
Email: mike@matreforestry.com

In Memoriam

*We remember our fellow foresters
who passed in 2014*

Samuel D. Lewis (#1810)

Renewal Reminder

The grace period for 2015 license renewal ends December 31, 2014. If you submitted your renewal but have not received your new ID card, please contact Lea Anna Meadows immediately at 334-240-9301 to make sure the renewal was received and processed. Licenses not renewed by December 31, 2014 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 Board of Registration for Foresters
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-4500

PRESORTED STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 109
MONTGOMERY, AL

UPDATE YOUR ROSTER INFORMATION

Please take a moment to review your current roster information online at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/vs2k5/rosterofforesters.aspx>. 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: _____