

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

NCFA ADDS TWO STAFF MEMBERS

In January, the NCFA added two new staff members, Susanna Davis and Eddie Reese. Davis and Reese were on staff for the association's January board meeting.

"We are pleased to add two talented and enthusiastic individuals to our staff," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "Both add tremendous value to our association through their experience and talent. We look forward to introducing them to our members in the coming weeks at various meetings and events."



Susanna Davis

Susanna Davis is the NCFA's new Research and Regulatory Manager. Davis will have research, legislative tracking/analysis support, and intern management responsibilities.

Her experience includes management of research/statistics for a multi-state law firm and the Governor's intern/liaison program. Davis graduated from UNC Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Eddie Reese is the NCFA's new Forestry Program Manager. Reese will manage technical, sustainability, and outreach projects with forest landowners and forestry professionals for the NCFA.



Eddie Reese

Reese has over a decade of experience working with the North Carolina Forest Service in Mecklenburg and Pasquotank Counties. Reese graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in Forestry. ■

NEW FEDERAL TAX LAWS IMPACT FOREST LANDOWNERS

Congress passed a new tax law on December 16th that included changes that impacted the USFS Tax Tip Guide. Linda Wang, the National Timber Tax Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, made the necessary updates and shared the latest version of this helpful guide. You can find this online at the NCFA's website under the Tax Tip section on the Landowners Page or by calling the NCFA office if you need one mailed to you. The direct link on the U.S. Forest Service website is:

http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/revised_taxtips2014.pdf. ■

Sign up for the NCFA's weekly newsletter, ZipLine, by typing in your e-mail on the NCFA's home page at www.ncforestry.org

NCFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE BUDGET AT JANUARY MEETING

The NCFA's Board of Directors met this past Thursday at the North Carolina Rural Center in Raleigh. In addition to welcoming newly elected board members and approving new appointments, the board approved the NCFA's budget for 2015 as submitted by the NCFA's Executive Committee and staff.

The NCFA will operate on a balanced budget again in 2015 with an expected modest surplus at year's end. The Forest Education and Conservation Foundation will also operate on a balanced budget. The NCFA continues to maintain its strong financial health with a positive cash balance in addition to a long-standing reserve fund. This is a great credit to NCFA members who continued to support the association through this most recent downturn in the economy.

With positive economic signs on the horizon, the NCFA Board of Directors will be looking at formalizing a plan to establish a goal for augmenting the association's reserve fund in order to be prepared for the next downturn, whenever that may come. It was noted during the board meeting that despite the tough economic times, the NCFA has never been forced to dip into its reserve funds. Again, this is a tribute to the NCFA membership.

The January meeting also marks the changing of officers on the NCFA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The NCFA staff would like to thank those members who rotated off the Executive Committee and Board, especially outgoing Chair Allen Plaster, who displayed remarkable leadership during his service to the association.

The 2015 Executive Committee:

Chairman of the Board	Ray Allen, Uwharrie Lumber
President	Frank Rackley, Retired
President-Elect/Treasurer	Marshall Thompson, Resolute Forest Products
First Vice President	Bernard Rose, Kapstone
Eastern Vice President	Scott Brewer, International Paper
Piedmont Vice President	Boyd McLaurin, Canal Wood
Western Vice President	Patrick Parton, Parton Lumber
Forestry Mutual Chairman	Michael Walters, Claybourn Walters Logging

The NCFA appreciates its members participating in the Board of Directors election. The following members have been elected to a three-year term: **East:** Kenneth Cain Lumber River Timber, Steve Newcomb Georgia-Pacific, Aaron Welch Weyerhaeuser; **Piedmont:** Bruce Evans Jordan Lumber & Supply, Dennis Hazel N.C. State University, Perry Hunt Hunt Forest Resources; **West:** Ron Heatherly Evergreen Packaging, Brad Howard Weyerhaeuser, Chris Logan Valwood.

In addition to elected board members, the NCFA's Chair and President also appoint individuals to one-year terms. These appointments broaden the board (continued on page 3)



If you enjoy driving around with your First in Forestry license plate, you can thank Dianne Beasley! Dianne, pictured here with NCFA Chair Allen Plaster, was instrumental in designing the plate and gaining its approval. She was recognized at the January meeting of the NCFA's Board of Directors for her years of service. Dianne is definitely one of the First Ladies of Forestry!

NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ray Allen <i>Chair of the Board</i>	Scott Brewer <i>Eastern VP</i>
Frank Rackley <i>President</i>	Boyd McLaurin <i>Piedmont VP</i>
Marshall Thompson <i>President Elect/</i> <i>Treasurer</i>	Patrick Parton <i>Western VP</i>
Bernard Rose <i>First Vice President</i>	Michael Walters <i>Chair of the Board</i> <i>Forestry Mutual</i>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Ashcraft	David Lane
Bob Bardon	Kenneth Lin
Billy Barnette	Robin Little
Scott Bissette	Chris Logan
Scott Brewer	Jim Long
Doug Burleson	Parker Lumpkin
Kenny Cain	Charlie Marshburn
Mark Church	Keith McCollum
Billy Cipriani	Boyd McLaurin
Greg Connor	Stephen Newcomb
John Culp	Wib Owen
Greg Decker	Patrick Parton
Tony Doster	Allen Plaster
Rob Elliot	Fay Raynor
Bruce Evans	Jim Reavis
Ashley Faircloth	Riddick Ricks
John Fletcher	Hans Rohr
Jeff Hanks	Bernard Rose
Fred Hardin	Jack Swanner
Dennis Hazel	Jaime Teel
David Henderson	Marshall Thompson
David Hendrix	Nancy Thompson
Brad Howard	Mark Vollinger
Perry Hunt	Michael Walters
Tom Inman	Mary Watzin
Jimmy Jackson	Aaron Welch
Charles Jones	Allen Whitesell
Robert Jordan	Lori Worley
Charles Kenley	

SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFCA

TreeLine is the monthly newsletter of the NCFCA. News items should be sent to Chris Brown at cbrown@ncforestry.org or by calling (800) 231-7723 ext. 3.

The NCFCA is the state's oldest forest conservation organization, consisting of 4,000 members with ties to forestry and the forest products industry. A private, non-profit organization, the NCFCA promotes healthy, productive forests by supporting the efforts of landowners, the forest products industry, and related groups that responsibly manage and/or use forests. ■

POLITICAL NEWS & REGULATORY ISSUES

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW LEGISLATORS TO WASHINGTON AND RALEIGH

The New Year will bring new lawmakers to Washington, DC and to Raleigh with the completion of the mid-term elections in 2014. In Washington, Congress convened on January 6th with Republicans in the majority in both the House and Senate. Out of the 435 House seats, 246 are held by Republicans and 188 are occupied by Democrats. There is one vacant seat to be filled in New York. There are 58 new House members, including 43 Republicans and 15 Democrats. In the Senate, the Republicans hold a 54-44 majority with two independents in the mix. There are 13 new Senators, including North Carolina's Thom Tillis. Tillis is one of 12 Republican freshman Senators.

The North Carolina General Assembly convened for a one day organizational session on January 14th where leaders and committee chairs were appointed. The General Assembly re-convened to start the year on January 28th.

Republicans managed to maintain their historical dominance of the Governor's mansion, Senate and House during last year's mid-term elections. Republicans hold a 34-16 advantage in the North Carolina Senate and a 74-46 edge in the North Carolina House.

While it does not impact the balance of seats, NCFCA members will be pleased to hear that former state legislator, George Robinson, has been tabbed to replace Representative Edgar Starnes (R, 87th District). Starnes stepped down to take a position in the state's treasurer's office. Robinson has a forest products background and was supported by the Friends of Forestry PAC in his election bid in 2012. For Robinson, it will be his eighth term of service dating back to the 1980's.

Governor Pat McCrory is scheduled to deliver his State of the State address on Wednesday, February 4th. ■



Back in 2011, NCFCA members Jeff Hanks (left) and Hodge Kitchens (right) presented then Speaker Pro Tem Thom Tillis with a handcrafted gavel made from wood dating back to the 1800's. Tillis starts his first term as North Carolina's newest Senator alongside Senator Richard Burr.

REVIEW OF OCCUPATIONAL BOARDS INCLUDES NC BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

Last December, the Performance Education Division recommended to the General Assembly that it review the authority of 12 agencies to issue licenses and consider consolidating 10 individual agencies with other regulatory entities. The North Carolina State Board of Registration for Foresters appeared on both lists in the report. The NCFCA reached out to its members and partner organizations to formalize comments in support of keeping the board as an independent entity.

In January, North Carolina Board of Registered Forester (NCBRF) Chairman and NCFCA member Dan Edwards addressed the committee on behalf of the NCBRF. Edwards did an outstanding job. Clearly, the committee appreciated his comments.

The NCFCA also submitted a letter of support to members of the committee prior to the committee meeting. NCFCA staff appreciates the input provided by several members and partners on this important issue. ■

FORESTRY DAY AND REVERSE RAFFLE - MAY 20, 2015

The NCFCA's Forestry Day in the Legislature takes place on May 20, 2015 on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh. More details are to come, but this is the best chance for members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for forestry and the forest products industry. That evening, the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will be holding its reverse raffle at the Brownstone Hotel. This is the FFPAC's most effective fundraiser! Please plan on purchasing tickets for your chance at the jackpot. ■

NCFA SIGNS NATIONAL TAX LETTER



In January, the NCFA signed onto a letter in support of maintaining the current tax advantages for forest landowners. The letter was initiated from National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) and has been sent to the leaders of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. The provisions are:

Receive capital gains treatment for the harvest of timber or sales of standing trees. (Sections 1231(b)(2)

and 631(a)&(b));

- Deduct the costs of forest management, including prevention measures (fire, pest and disease), thinning, fertilization, interest, taxes, protection of wetlands, and forestry activities. (Sections 162 and 263A(c)(5));
- Invest in timberland Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs); and
- Deduct up to \$10,000 of reforestation costs per stand, with the remainder amortized over 7 years. (Section 194)

The purpose of the letter is to assert early in the new legislative session that these tax provisions are important to forestland owners. Congress is likely to address tax reform this session. At the end of last session, a proposal was floated to remove these tax incentives for forest landowners as part of an overall reform. The proposal never gained any momentum. The NCFA will stay engaged on this issue. ■

EVERGREEN PACKAGING WINS 2014 AF&PA

Last November, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) recognized Evergreen Packaging with its Leadership in Sustainability Award for Sustainable Forest Management for its Certified Success – Evergreen Forest Certification program.

The award is designed to recognize exemplary sustainability programs and initiatives in the paper and wood products manufacturing industry.

“Evergreen Packaging’s program takes a grassroots approach to getting more forestland certified. Increased certification promotes sustainable forest practices and responds to the rising customer demand for paper and paperboard products that contain certified material,” said AF&PA President and CEO Donna Harman.

Evergreen Packaging developed Evergreen Forest Certification, a group certification program that allows multiple landowners to be certified under a single group certificate – a cost-effective way for landowners to have their forests certified to internationally recognized standards. In its first year in 2013, the program grew to include nearly 60 landowners comprising approximately 40,000 acres in North and South Carolina.

“On behalf of Evergreen Packaging, I would like to thank AF&PA for awarding us a Leadership in Sustainability Award for Sustainable Forest Management,” said Evergreen Packaging President and CEO John Rooney. “We are committed to supporting the increase of certified forest acreage through our Evergreen Forest Certification program.” ■

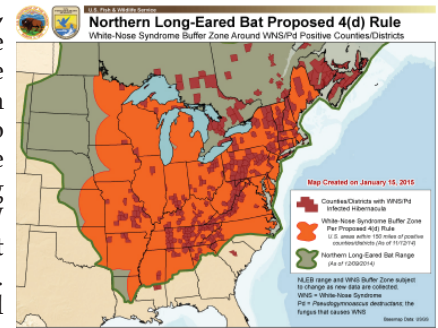
USFW ACTIONS POINT TOWARDS THREATENED LISTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 4D RULE FOR NLEB

In January, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) held a series of conference calls to announce the publication of a 4d Rule related to the proposed listing of the Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB). The USFW is not due to announce the final designation until April 2, 2015.

Back in October of 2013, the USFW proposed to list the NLEB as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in October 2013. The major threat to the bat’s population is the White Nose Syndrome (WNS). During the comment period, the USFW noted that WNS is the major threat as they are not sure how to treat it. Forestry activities were also credited with helping the bat’s habitat. The Service’s options include listing the species as endangered; listing as threatened; listing as threatened with a 4(d) rule; and withdrawing the proposal to list.

In general, the proposed restrictions on forestry and other activities would be extreme if the NLEB was to gain “endangered status” and would have a dramatic impact on the rural economies in the range of the bat. The NLEB’s territory includes 38 states.

By introducing the 4d Rule, the USFW service has sufficient time (60 days) to take comments on the proposed rule in time for the April 2, 2015 designation date. The rule provides flexibility for regulators and is used to tailor the take provisions of the ESA to apply to those actions most important for conservation of the species in question and exempt other actions. It is important to note that the 4d Rule can only be used when the Threatened designation is declared. So, the timing points to a Threatened designation in conjunction with the proposed 4d Rule. ■



The range of the Northern Long Eared Bat includes most of North Carolina as seen in this map from the USFW.

NCFA Board Meeting...(from page 1)

and seek to include committee chairs within the NCFA and leaders of other forestry groups at the state, university and private levels.

The following individuals have been appointed to a one-year term: David Ashcraft, NC State Foundation; Bob Bardon, N.C. State University Extension; Scott Bissette, N.C. Department of Agriculture; Billy Cipriani, Claybourn Walters Logging; Greg Conner, ACF Chair; Tony Doster, RMS; Rob Elliot, Evergreen Packaging; David Henderson, Tree Farm Chair; Tom Inman, AHMI; Robert Jordan, Jordan Lumber; David Lane, N.C. Forest Service; Kenneth Lin, International Paper; Robin Little, BB&T Insurance; Jim Long, Tree Farmer of Year; Parker Lumpkin, Landowner; Wib Owen, Southern Foresters; Jim Reavis, Enviva; Jack Swanner, Carolina Loggers Association; Hans Rohr, SAF Chair; Jaime Teel, RockTenn; Nancy Thompson, Weyerhaeuser; Mary Watzin, N.C. State University; Allen Whitesell, Troy Lumber; Lori Worley - Weyerhaeuser.

A complete list of board members can be found on page two. If you would like to serve on the board in the future, please contact Chris Brown at (800) 231-7723 ext. 3 or at cbrown@ncforestry.org. ■



Mark Wiseman (left) receives a plaque in recognition of his years of service on the NCFA’s Board of Directors. Wiseman rotated off the board after serving as a past president for five years.

Thanks for all your efforts Mark!



SAFETY, LOGGING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HOLDS JOINT MEETING WITH NC SFI STATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE



(l-r) Jaime Teel presented Jim Durham a plaque in recognition of his service as the chair of the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee.

The NCFA's Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee (SLTC) and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee (NC SFI SIC) held their annual joint meeting at the North Carolina Rural Center in January.

One of the main objectives of this joint meeting is to review, discuss and plan for the NCFA's ProLogger training program.

Last year, the committees revised the training guidelines for the program through 2016. This year, the committees focused on the approving topics for the training module for next year.

Scott Brewer, the Education Subcommittee Chair for the ProLogger program, presented a

general outline of topics for next year's module.

Topics include Logging Costs, SFI Standards Improvements, PPE Maintenance and Use, Truck Safety on the Log Deck and at the Mill, Streamside Management Zones from an economic and environmental perspective, and Forest Pests. The committees approved these topics.

One of the sections, Logging Costs, will be supplied through a new cooperative effort between North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. South Carolina will be developing the Logging Cost segment. The NCFA will once again be using Jean-Paul Dame of Krash Creative Solutions to produce the rest of the segments. The NCFA will be sharing its segment on the SFI updates with the co-op.

Earlier in the day, the SLTC also approved the reprinting of the Logger Safety Checklist Book that documents a logger's safety program. This book is highly recommended for all ProLoggers by the NCFA, Forestry Mutual, and the North Carolina Department of Labor. Books are given out to all newly graduated ProLoggers and are available free of cost to NCFA members upon request. ■



PROLOGGERS CAN SAVE ON FUEL WITH SPEEDWAY PROGRAM

With the recent acquisition of WilcoHess by Speedway, the NCFA's ProLogger fuel savings program has undergone a transition to a new card with a nearly the same price savings program.



Just over 125 ProLoggers are currently taking advantage of the cost savings on fuel. Any ProLogger who would like to join the program may do so by downloading the application off of the NCFA's website under the ProLogger section.

The special savings for ProLoggers is retail minus ten cents on diesel fuel and retail minus five cents on gasoline. These savings are better than the listing on the form. When Speedway, which is based in Ohio, purchased WilcoHess and the Hess convenience stores, it became the largest convenience store chain in the United States with over 2,700 stores in 23 states. ■

MID-ATLANTIC LOGGING AND BIOMASS EXPO



The Mid-Atlantic Logging and Biomass Expo will take place on September 18-19, 2015 in the same Smithfield-Selma area as the previous two Expos. Expectations are for the largest show in recent years based on initial response and inquiries by equipment dealers.

MODULE 15 SCHEDULE

The following is the current Module 15 schedule for the NCFA's ProLogger program. It is also updated on the NCFA's website. If you are hosting a class, please let Chris Brown know at cbrown@ncforestry.org or (800) 231-7723 so it can be advertised.

February 7, 2015	6:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Georgia Pacific Dudley, NC
February 10, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Domtar Plymouth, NC
February 10, 2015	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	McDowell Tech Marion, NC
February 12, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser Vanceboro, NC
February 12, 2015	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Georgia Pacific Dudley, NC
February 23, 2015	4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Lampe & Malphrus Smithfield, NC
March 19, 2015	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	James River Equip. Mt. Gilead, NC
March 27, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Halifax CC Weldon, NC
April 2, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Forsyth Ag Center Winston-Salem, NC
April 10, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Chatham Ag Center Pittsboro, NC
April 14, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD Roaring River, NC
April 14, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Domtar Plymouth, NC
April 16, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser Vanceboro, NC
June 30, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD Roaring River, NC

PROLOGGER BASE COURSE SCHEDULE

March 25-27, 2015	Martin CC Williamston, NC
May 13-15, 2015	Agriculture Center Winston Salem, NC
September 23-25, 2015	McDowell CC Marion, NC

KEEPING THE FARM WORKSHOP HOSTS WAKE COUNTY FARMERS & FORESTLAND OWNERS

With a full house once again, Wake Soil and Conservation Director Dale Threatt-Taylor encouraged her audience to be inquisitive and vocal during the Keeping the Farm workshop. The successful workshop brings all of the leading state and county agencies that impact farmers and forestland owners in Wake County to Raleigh for a day full of information, updates and guidance on key issues.

One of the morning program speakers was NCFA member, Joe Cox, who provided an overview of the North Carolina Tree Farm program. After retiring from North Carolina State University, Cox was persuaded to lead the North Carolina's Tree Farm outreach effort. Other speakers included Caroline Sullivan, a Wake County Board of Commissioner, Ken McArtor with the Wake County Revenue Department, and Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison.

In the afternoon, three concurrent sessions were conducted, providing a smaller group environment for questions and answers. Topics included estate planning, basic legal planning and making your land attractive for the next generation.

The NCFA and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee were among the numerous sponsors for the workshop and exhibited during the workshop. ■



Joe Cox presented an overview of forest certification and the NC Tree Farm program at the workshop.

NCFA STAFF PARTICIPATES IN USFS PLANNING SESSION

The NCFA's Eddie Reese and Pryor Gibson participated in the USFS National Planning Advisory Committee meeting that was held in Charlotte the last week of January.

The focus of the meeting was to explore and discuss ways to help the U.S. Forest Service implement its 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 Planning Rule is the document that describes how the U.S. Forest Service will develop the Forest Plans on all national forests. The major component of the plan requires that



The NCFA's Eddie Reese and U.S. Agriculture Under Secretary Robert Bonnie posed for a quick photo.

the U.S. Forest Service engage the communities around the national forests to develop strong cooperatives to aid in plan development. It also requires an accelerated time line requiring the plan to be completed within four years of the start date.

North Carolina's national forests are currently going through the planning process using the 2012 Planning Rule.

Meeting participants represented a variety of backgrounds, including forest products, minerals, native and tribal lands, wildlife, local and state government, social and economic, and the environmental community. Participants provided their input on the planning process for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. While they might have had different agendas, all speakers expressed a desire to see the National Forest Plan integrate input equally to ensure the forests are productive and sustainable for future generations.

Over the three days, the NCFA's Eddie Reese actively represented the NCFA membership by providing valuable input to the committee. A point of emphasis was the need to pursue a more active approach to forest management on the national forests located in North Carolina. ■

HARDWOOD CHECKOFF PROGRAM NOT DEAD YET

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently met with both sides of the Hardwood Checkoff debate to provide an update on where they were with the proposed program. In brief, the Hardwood Checkoff program would collect fees to promote the hardwood industry similar to other USDA campaigns for other commodities such as milk.

In the meetings, the USDA conceded that the funding for moving a checkoff program off the drawing boards had been exhausted without a clear resolution to either proceed or abandon the project.

Interestingly, after both sides met separately with USDA, the two sides came away from two different interpretations from those information sessions.

The Hardwood Checkoff Committee, which supports a checkoff program, pledged a new bond to fund further efforts on behalf of the program. The committee sees this as a continuation of the original effort.

The U.S. Hardwood Lumber Industry Coalition does not see it that way at all. They believe the original program is done. Any new initiative would put the proposed program back to square one.

Only time will tell who is right...Stay tuned. ■

HOFMANN SALE FALLS THROUGH

In December, the proposed sale of the Hofmann Forest was terminated before completion. Here is a statement from N.C. State University Dean of the College of Natural Resources, Dr. Mary Watzin:

The Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund of NC State University announced that the purchase agreement for Hofmann Forest has terminated with the buyers unable to finalize the financial contingencies of the contract. As a result, the sale to Resource Management Service LLC and Hofmann Forest LLC will not proceed to closing.

The property will continue to be owned by the Endowment Fund of NC State University and managed by the Natural Resources Foundation for the benefit of the academic programs within the College of Natural Resources.

In the coming weeks the Endowment Board and the Natural Resources Foundation will evaluate appropriate steps to reinstate a sales process.

Chancellor Randy Woodson has made the following statement: "The sole mission of the NC State Natural Resources Foundation is to benefit the College of Natural Resources, its students and its faculty, and the sale of Hofmann Forest has always been about that purpose. We will always strive to make strategic choices that provide the best educational opportunities for students."

I am disappointed that the sale will not be concluded at this time. I continue to believe that selling the property with the terms and protections we outlined would provide unprecedented educational benefits for our students.

I look forward to new opportunities to create the best future for our College.

*Sincerely,
Mary C. Watzin*



LANDOWNERS

TREE FARM KICKS OFF YEAR WITH BOARD MEETING

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program (NCTFP) held its first Board of Directors meeting of the year at the NCFA's office early in January to review 2014 and look ahead to 2015. The program continues to grow, adding an additional 94 new Tree Farms and successfully completed a corporate fundraising campaign among forest products in the state in 2014. The program now has 983 Tree Farms, totaling 274,223 acres.

During the meeting, the board unanimously voted to change Leslie McCormick's current title to Executive Director of the North Carolina Tree Farm Program.

"It's not so much as a promotion, but more of, the most appropriate title for Leslie," stated David Henderson, NCTFP Chair. "She really has served in this role for a few years now. We truly appreciate her efforts and professionalism in guiding and representing our organization."



David Henderson

Another action item for the board was to approve the operating budget for 2015 that features an ambitious training and workshop schedule for the coming year.

Early in the year, the NCTFP will be hosting the Western North Carolina Timber Conference on April 30, 2015. This is an informative all-day conference held annually in the Asheville area. For more information on the WNC Timber Conference or the Tree Farm Program in general, please contact McCormick at (919) 917-8646.

Due to the recent changes to the American Tree Farm System's certification program, the NCTFP also has the task of re-training its cast of volunteer inspectors on the new standard.

An online course is available to inspectors who conducted at least one inspection in 2013 or 2014, or received training in 2013 or 2014. Inspectors who did not complete an inspection or receive training in the last two years are ineligible for the online refresher and must attend a classroom training to update their credentials and conduct inspections.

For those who prefer to renew their training in a classroom setting, there are several workshops. You must pre-register to attend a training session by contacting McCormick at 919-917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com. Please specify which workshop you will attend.

Workshop sign-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. and instruction will begin at 9:30 a.m. for each workshop and lunch will be provided. CFEs are available for the workshop after you complete one Tree Farm inspection.

If you have questions about the new standards, please visit the ATFS webpage at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-review>. ■

February 24

Pitt County Agricultural Center
403 Government Circle, Greenville
Registration deadline: February 18

March 12

Moore County Ag Center
707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage
Registration deadline: March 5

March 26

Mountain Horticultural Crops
Research and Extension Center
455 Research Drive, Mills River
Registration deadline: March 19

April 15

Forsyth County Coop. Extension
1450 Fairchild Road
Winston-Salem
Registration deadline: April 8

WORKING FOREST SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN WILLIAMSTON, NC

The Working Forest Summit for North Carolina Landowners series will continue in 2015. This year's topic is *Improving Forest Health, Building Family Wealth*. The first installment in the series will take place on February 11, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Senator Bob Martin Agriculture Center in Williamston.

Participants will learn more about timber markets, forest taxes, forest management, conservation, and more. Foresters who attend will earn CFE credits.

This workshop will be the first in a series of four workshops this year. You can learn more and register now by calling (919) 515-5065 or by visiting the website: www.ncsu-feop.org/landowners/index.html. ■

SFI RELEASES NEW STANDARDS

SFI Inc. recently released the revisions to its certification standard. A copy of the highlights of the improvements to the program can be found online at www.sfioprogram.org/sfi-standard-2015-2019.

The NCFA will be incorporating these updates into its ProLogger continuing education training and its landowner guide. ■

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE AT FARMERS MARKET

The public is invited to participate in North Carolina's 2014 Arbor Day Celebration to be held at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. on March 21, 2015. The N.C. State University Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources will host the fun event again this year, featuring many exhibits, a tree seedling give-away, and hands-on activities for whole family.

Arbor Day is celebrated in state observances across the country to demonstrate our appreciation of trees. Arbor Day was ratified into law in North Carolina in 1967.

In cooperation with the Society of American Foresters' Triangle Chapter and North Carolina State University Student Chapter, 1,500 tree seedlings donated by the North Carolina Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser will be distributed to the public. Smokey Bear is sure to make a visit to the children's activity area!

For more information, you can go online and visit: go.ncsu.edu/arborday2015. ■



This year's Arbor Day Celebration will take place on March 21st at the Farmer's Market in Raleigh.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE OUTREACH

The NCFA provides valuable sponsorship dollars for North Carolina's Project Learning Tree program. Under the expert direction of Renee Strnad, Project Learning Tree is a hands-on environmental teaching program that reaches all ages. In January, Strnad provided the following data from 2014.

NC PLT by the Numbers

- 34 Facilitators led 33 Workshops across the state
- 501 Educators trained
- One Facilitator Workshop (Attended by 19 new and seasoned facilitators)
- 881 PLT Activity Guides distributed through workshops
- NC PLT partners contributed \$13,260 in material support of the program and \$10,583 contributed time to lead workshops
- 17 K-8 Workshops, the flagship guide still remain popular
- Seven workshops held at higher education institutions, two at elementary schools ■

THREE FORESTRY TEACHERS' ACADEMIES IN 2015

Registration is now open for all **THREE** Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academies being held this year. The newest Academy will be based in Asheboro and joins the tradition of the mountain and coastal academies.

Coastal Academy: June 15-18, 2015 (New Bern)

Mountain Academy: June 22-26, 2015 (Asheville)

Piedmont Academy: July 7-10, 2015 (Asheboro)

The Academies are generously supported by the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee, North Carolina State University's Forestry & Environmental Outreach Program, North Carolina State Extension Forestry, the North Carolina Forest Service, the NCFA and numerous NCFA member companies that host tours of their facilities.

The Academy is a multi-day residential program for teachers that focuses on the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable forestry. Teachers visit a variety of forests and mills to learn about forest management and the manufacturing of various wood products such as paper, furniture, plywood and lumber.

Teachers can learn more via the link on the NCFA's website (www.ncforestry.org) under the education tab. ■



(right) Carl Parton leads a group of teachers through Parton Lumber during the Asheville Teachers' Academy.



CHAINSAW VS. THE HUMAN FOOT

By Bryan Wagner, Forestry Mutual Chainsaw Trainer

The modern power saw is an engineering marvel. Technology and design has allowed engine speed to exceed 15,000 RPM's on some production saws. Coupled with a razor sharp saw chain, the chainsaw is a very effective tool. The chainsaw has been the work horse in the logging woods for years. In spite of an ever growing mechanical presence in the woods, the chainsaw remains one of our go-to tools when it is needed.

Recently, we have seen a rising occurrence of saw cuts to the feet. Education and training are designed to reduce the chance of injury, or turn around a trend. The first step in this process is to study the animal, the chainsaw.

As earlier stated, the modern chainsaw is a very effective cutting tool. To be effective the saw engine and saw chain must be finely tuned and maintained. A chilling fact is the cutting tooth of the saw chain is designed to REMOVE! Saw chain doesn't cut like a filet or hunting knife. If we are running a 3/8 pitch chain, the cutter is 3/8 of an inch wide. Upon contact with the human body, there is 3/8 of an inch of skin; muscle; tendon and bone that are gone! Add to the fact that a lot of foreign material, (Bar oil, dirt, pieces of shoe leather, etc.) is introduced to the wound area. This injury becomes quite serious.

Next in the loss control process is to **AVOID CONTACT** with the moving saw chain. Chainsaw kick-back is the culprit in the majority of all laceration incidents. Chainsaw kick-back happens seven times quicker than what the human brain reacts to. By the time a human can move a foot or shield a face, the cut has happened! Kick-back injuries can be reduced by understanding the reactionary forces of the bar and chain unit of the saw.

Proper bracing and the use of the "thumb-wrap" grip counteracts the reactionary forces of the moving saw chain. The chain brake on the power saw should be treated like a safety on a firearm. When not cutting, the chain brake should be engaged to avoid unexpected chain movement. Above all, proper body placement greatly reduces the risk of a serious chainsaw laceration. If the foot is not in-line with the saw chain, it won't be injured there!

Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) in the form of cut-resistant foot wear is federally mandated for saw hands. Chainsaw cut-resistant foot wear can prevent or greatly reduce the seriousness of a cut situation. Protective foot wear comes in many forms and styles and is quite comfortable to wear. It just makes good sense; it's like having extra insurance should a situation arise. As with any PPE, catastrophic injury can be prevented or reduced by its use. My angle on the subject is to train and educate to avoid having to rely upon the PPE for protection.

The recent trend of chainsaw foot lacerations has been severe. Many of the cuts have dealt with contact to the bone, which often requires bone-graft surgery. To avoid this possible crippling injury training and education reduce the risk of incident. Good work habits and the use of proper PPE reduce the chance of injury. Try as they may, the chainsaw will always have a place in the logging woods. ■



(right) Bryan Wagner details proper felling technique during the field day of the base ProLogger course.

TREE LINE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2015



(l-r) Outgoing Chair Allen Plaster received a plaque in recognition of his service on the NCFAs Executive Board from incoming Chair Ray Allen at the NCFAs Board of Directors meeting in Raleigh.

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EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

- Board of Directors
May 21, 2015 at Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh, NC.
- Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee
April 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at McLaurin's Farm, McColl, SC
- NC SFI State Implementation Committee
May 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at NCFAs office, Raleigh, NC

- February 11, 2015 - Working Forest Summit, Williamston, NC
- March 11-12, 2015 - The Forest Resource Association's Southeastern Region 2015 Spring Meeting at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside in Wilmington.
- September 18-19, 2015 - Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo, Smithfield-Selma area.
- October 7-9, 2015 - NCFAs Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.

MEETINGS

North Carolina Forestry Association
1600 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27609



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