

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING HEADS TO MYRTLE BEACH

The NCFA's Annual Meeting, "Managing Your Market Rebound", will take place on October 7-9, 2015 at the Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort at Grande Dunes.

Members better bring their most comfortable dancing shoes since the Embers featuring Craig Woolard will be performing on Wednesday evening and the Coconut Groove Band will be taking the stage on Thursday night!



NCFA members enjoyed dancing to the Band of Oz during last year's opening night festivities. This year, there will be two nights of bands on the schedule.

In addition to great entertainment, there will be plenty of excellent items, tickets and adventures for members to bid on as part of the Forest Education and Conservation Foundation's silent auction. All proceeds from the silent auction benefit the FECF's education programs. This year's silent auction committee is being led by Billy Cipriani and Scott Askew.

While not completely finalized, the Thursday speaking program is typically worth 6.0 Category I CFE credits and this year's lineup should be the same.

The special room rate for NCFA members at the Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort at Grande Dunes is \$142. Members should call (843) 449-8880 to make their room reservations. **The cutoff for rooms is September 6, 2015.**

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Teachers toured Uwharrie Lumber with Ray Allen (center) as part of the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy that was held in the Piedmont in July.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TEACHERS' ACADEMIES VISIT THREE LOCATIONS IN ONE YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME

Over three of the past four weeks, 90-plus teachers had the opportunity to be immersed in the world of forestry and the forest products industry through their participation in the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academies held in New Bern, Asheville and Asheboro.

In the second week of July, 31 teachers from across the state took part in the first-ever Academy in Asheboro. The Asheville and New Bern Academies have been on the calendar for years now, but this year marked the first time the Academy set up shop in Asheboro and for the first time, three academies were conducted in the same year.

"We are really pleased to be able to offer teachers this opportunity to visit facilities and forestry locations of interest in the Piedmont," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "Our members in this area have been requesting the chance to host an Academy for several years now, and we appreciate the support we received from our partners, namely North Carolina State University and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee, to be able to run all three locations in one year."

The NCFA would like to thank the NC SFI State Implementation Committee for its generous support of this program that directly reaches teachers across the state with information, PLT training and first-hand interaction with forestry professionals.

"Our member companies that participate in these Academies are to be commended for their willingness to open their doors and share all the great things the forest products industry is doing for North Carolina's economy and forests," stated Gibson. "The number one comment we keep hearing is that teachers had no idea how efficient each facility is with the forest resource. It is truly an eye-opening experience for many of these educators." ■



(right) Carl Parton led a tour of Parton Lumber Company during the Asheville Academy.



(left) Greg Decker walks teachers through Columbia Forest Products.

NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The Budget, Budget, Budget, Budget...Budget negotiations are set to begin in earnest after the July recess. The Senate passed their version of the budget just prior to the holiday and after the Governor and the House had already released their versions.

The changes the Senate made in the House's version of the budget were to major issues such as Medicaid, economic development, and transportation funding. The differences are significant. Here are some highlights of the Senate's budget:

- Eliminates the 1%/\$80 privilege tax on mill machinery and other equipment. Replaces tax with a maximum of \$500.
- Includes the elimination of the state tax deduction for reforestation and cultivation of commercially grown trees that was in House Bill 117.
- Reduces the corporate income tax to 4% in 2016 and 3% in 2017.
- Reduces the personal income tax from 5.75% to 5.5% beginning in 2016.
- Reduces franchise tax by 33%.
- Increases funding for transportation projects by \$334 million to add 70 new highway projects and accelerate current projects.
- Provides \$445 million to replace structurally deficient bridges, \$66 million to improve secondary roads, and an additional \$100 million for pavement preservation.

Not surprisingly, the House did not agree to the Senate budget and negotiations are ongoing. Meanwhile, a continuing resolution, which needs to be passed whenever a new budget is not in place by the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30th for North Carolina, makes the budget currently in place the budget until a compromise is reached.

In terms of legislation, the Senate passed **House Bill 796 - Regulatory Act of 2015**. The bill would make several changes to various state environmental regulations, including allowing businesses to conduct environmental audits themselves. Other changes include an increase in the percentage of land that is allowed to be subject to less stringent coastal stormwater management requirements. The percentage would go from 12% of a lot to 24% of a lot. The bill also includes the study of several occupational licensing boards, like the North Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters, to see if any should be consolidated or eliminated.

The NCFCA will continue to monitor budget negotiations going forward to ensure that provisions in place for forestry and the forest products industry remain consistent to previous sessions. ■



(l-r) Marshall Thompson, Ray Allen, Senator Tom McInnis, Todd Willis, Billy Cipriani and Boyd McLaurin pose for a photo at Forestry Day.

LOW SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ACTIVITY PREDICTED FOR FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2015

In 2014, Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) activity was again low with no confirmed spots reported in the state. This year, trapping data indicate another low year for populations of SPB in North Carolina as well as many southern states. There are some exceptions areas outside of North Carolina that are predicted to see a slight increase in SPB activity this summer. Those areas include: Mississippi: Amite County, Bienville National Forest, Holly Springs Ranger District; Alabama: Barbour County, Oakmulgee Ranger District; and Georgia: Glynn and Screven Counties.

In recent years, SPB activity in the northeastern U.S. has increased and expanded into uncharted territory for the beetle. Last year, an SPB outbreak occurred on Long Island, NY for the first time in recorded history and this year, SPB activity was noticed for the first time in Connecticut.

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COMMENT PERIOD FOR HARDWOOD CHECKOFF EXTENDED 60 DAYS

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced in July that it is extending the comment period deadline for the Hardwood Checkoff program by 60 days to allow members of the public to submit comments on the proposal that contained supplemental provisions from the previous proposal. The deadline is now September 7th.

The US Hardwood Industry Coalition, a group comprised of hardwood lumber manufacturers nationwide who oppose the Hardwood Checkoff proposal, had requested an extension on June 10, 2015.

"We are grateful for USDA's decision to extend the comment period as the supplemental notice provides additional complexity to the proposed checkoff program and differs substantially from the original proposal issued in 2013," stated Jeff Hanks, President of Bill Hanks Lumber in Danbury, North Carolina.

"While we appreciate the additional time, we are disappointed that the USDA continues to pursue a program that is overwhelming opposed by the hardwood industry," stated Jeff Edwards, President of Edwards Wood Products in Marshville, North Carolina.

Hanks and Edwards are the co-chairs of the US Hardwood Industry Coalition.

Historical Review on Hardwood Checkoff

Late last year it appeared as if the proposed Hardwood Checkoff program, which in simple terms is a mandatory marketing program for the hardwood industry that will be administered by the Federal Government, was about to finally meet its demise.

After a comment period that collected almost 1,000 comments, those comments against the Hardwood Checkoff program were roughly 7-1 (continued on page 5)

NCEA Annual Meeting...from page 1)

The meeting will get underway on Wednesday afternoon with several recreation activities and conclude on Friday with a board of directors meeting. Full registrations will be \$350 per member with a special accompanying spouse rate of \$250. Registration materials will be mailed in July.

In addition to the NCEA's Annual Meeting, the Southern Forest Products Association (SFPA) Annual Meeting will also be celebrating their 100th Anniversary at the same hotel during the same dates.

The SFPA's annual meeting will open with recreational events on Wednesday October 7, 2015 and NCEA members are invited to join the SFPA's chartered fishing excursion from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

NCEA has invited SFPA members to join us during our sporting clays event on Wednesday along with our welcome reception and dinner later that night. ■



POINT OF VIEW

FOREST FALLACIES AND WOOD PELLETS

By Chris Brown, NCEA Director of Communications

Regarding the June 18 Point of View "The wood-pellet industry and the harm it's causing": In 2002, the Southern Forest Resource Assessment, a comprehensive study that examined the factors affecting Southern forests, was published by the U.S. Forest Service. The study was commissioned to address fears that our forests were being clear cut to supply chip mills, which make wood chips for the production of paper products.

Over 1,000 pages, the study determined that population growth and urbanization were the most significant threats to sustaining forests. Today, these fallacies are resurfacing with the 2015 villains being wood pellet facilities.

According to the most recent data, North Carolina has increased its forestland to 18.6 million acres. More good news is that 85 percent of the state's forests are privately owned. These private landowners rely on healthy markets to sustain their forests.

So if a new side market emerges, such as pellets, who benefits? Forest landowners, of course. These landowners now have an additional source of revenue from a harvest and an improved path to conserving their forest legacy for the next generation.

The raw materials used for the production of wood pellets are low-end trees and/or harvest residues. Wood pellets do not dictate harvest rates.

Forest landowners earn well-

deserved returns on their forest management investments through harvesting large trees that result in higher end products such as lumber and flooring. All steps in the forest management cycle benefit wildlife, especially a harvest that creates early successional habitat that is so critical to many native plants and animals.

North Carolina, the birthplace of American forestry, has a proven track record of conserving our only natural, renewable resource through public policy that promotes private property rights, forest health and productivity and a strong forest products industry.

Compliance with the state's Forest Practices Guidelines by our professional loggers is over 93 percent.

Markets may change, but our state's commitment to its forestry tradition is proud and unwavering. ■

This letter was published in the Raleigh News & Observer on June 22, 2015. The NCEA responded to an opinion piece printed on June 18th in the Raleigh News & Observer that stated the wood pellet industry had a negative impact on the state's forests. The NCEA was granted a 300 word response.



Chris Brown

USDA PROMOTES PELLET PRODUCTION IN BLOG AND REPORT

In June, Robert Johansson, USDA Acting Chief Economist, posted a blog in support of the wood pellet industry. The blog's opening paragraph is listed below:

"An industry that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase forest growth, and create jobs sounds too good to be true. But that is the reality of the emerging wood pellets market in the Southern U.S. That conclusion is supported by independent economic assessments of wood bioenergy, including a recent study that specifically focused on European pellet demand conducted by researchers at Duke and North Carolina State Universities. (<https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/articles/us-wood-pellets-can-help-eu-meet-renewable-energy-goals#.VaVIDJ3D9ox>.) Those researchers found that increasing demand for wood pellets resulted in more forest area, more forest investment, large greenhouse gas reductions, and little change in forest carbon inventories."

The complete release can be seen online at <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/06/08/study-finds-increasing-wood-pellet-demand-boosts-forest-growth-reduces-greenhouse-gas-emissions-creates-jobs/> or by calling the NCEA office for a copy. Both the blog and study cited in the article demonstrate how the forest products industry promotes healthy forests. ■

PROLOGGERS

PROLOGGER YEAR COMPLETED! PROGRAM RETAINS 98% OF PROFESSIONAL LOGGERS

The NCFA's ProLogger program completed its annual training year on June 30th - the deadline for completing the annual training module, which was Module 15 this year, and submitting dues.

The NCFA would like to thank all of its member companies that hosted classes throughout the year to assist ProLoggers in their pursuit of this valuable training. We also would like to thank Jack Swanner and the Carolina Loggers Association for their support of the ProLogger program. Training 1,500 people on an annual basis takes teamwork!

We certainly appreciate our ProLoggers taking the time out of their schedules to attend one of the classes and continuing to be a member of our organization. There are 1,547 ProLoggers in the program. With 99% of the training records in, it appears as if less than 75 ProLoggers missed the training. This is a great retention rate!

"Our annual training program continues to be a success story for our industry," stated NCFA Director of Communications, Chris Brown. "We spend a considerable amount of time collecting information for what topics to include each year with our member committees and training partners to make sure we are addressing the appropriate and timely topics. We really appreciate all of our classroom leaders who volunteer their time and resources to promote and host these training sessions."

In terms of dues payments, the NCFA has received close to all of the payments for trained ProLoggers. Final lists will be posted to the NCFA's website. All ProLoggers who have a 'Yes' under the module column and an expiration date of 8/1/2016 have paid their dues. Any ProLogger who failed to take Module 15 or pay his/her dues must follow the reinstatement process or take the base class over again. ■



NEW MEMBERS

Member	City	Sponsor
Chris Allen	Lansing	
Jerry Caines	Riegelwood	
Circle Logging LLC	Ellerbe	
Continental Underwriters	Richmond, VA	
Davis Gavin	Lawsonville	
John & Debbie Dickinson	Florence, SC	Dean Alsup
Anthony Elledge	N. Wilkesboro	
Larry Fuller	Brunswick, GA	
Patrick Lee Gallimore	Carthage	
H & E Equipment Services	Garner	
Chad Huffman	Danville, VA	
Felicia Kearney	Norlina	
Chris Mauldin	Siler City	
Kyle Walker Nance	Lawsonville	
Neil Nelson	Kernersville	
Jay Norris	Siler City	
David Parks	Elizabethtown	
Paul Henry Parks	Bladenboro	
Rob Reppy	Wake Forest	
Patrick Sullivan	Greensboro	Pryor Gibson
Harland Wall	Siler City	

FORESTRY MUTUAL IMPROVES AM BEST RATING

Thanks to the hard work of Forestry Mutual's policyholders and its staff, Forestry Mutual recently received another upgrade from AM Best. The company improved from a B rating to a B+ rating with a positive outlook. If Forestry Mutual is going to continue to climb the AM Best ratings ladder, the company will continue to select quality policyholders to join its ranks as the company continues its growth. As a mutual insurance company, a policyholder's safety performance impacts how the company performs. Clearly, the combination of the quality service provided by Forestry Mutual's staff combined with its dedicated policyholders are creating a formula for success - the best service at the best rates. ■

NCFA JOINS COMMENTS ON NLEB BAT WITH 4(D) RULE

The NCFA joined a coalition of organizations to submit comments on the Threatened Species Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat. You can find the submitted comments online at www.ncforestry.org under the issues banner or by calling the NCFA office and requesting a copy from Chris Brown (800) 231-7723 ext. 3.

In summary, the comments address some of the top issues with the rule. Firstly, the coalition questions the need for a .25 mile restriction on any forest management activities around a known hibernacula and/or a maternity roost. The coalition also questions the language concerning converting mixed stands to pine plantations. The comments also request the Fish and Wildlife Services develop proper guidance and information for all of the parties (landowners, loggers, foresters, field offices) that will be impacted by this new rule. ■



Keith Money (far right) with the NCFS reviews stream crossings and water quality issues with ProLoggers during a base class in Winston-Salem.

PROLOGGER BASE CLASS SCHEDULE

September 23-25, 2015.....McDowell CC, Marion, NC

NHLA HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING WORKSHOP AT N.C. STATE

A three-day workshop will include a thorough study and explanation of the NHLA Rules Book, emphasizing the basics of hardwood lumber inspection will take place on July 21-23 at North Carolina State University. A written test will be administered at the end of the workshop. The workshop will also offer Continuing Forester Education contact hours in Category 1-CF for full workshop attendance. For online information: <http://www.ncsu-feop.org/biomaterials/index.html> ■

MID-ATLANTIC LOGGING & BIOMASS EXPO HEADS BACK TO THE SMITHFIELD/ SELMA AREA IN 2015



The 2015 Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo will take place in the Smithfield/Selma area on September 18-19, 2015. The visitor and exhibitor guides are now posted on the NCFAs website.

The Expo promises to showcase the newest equipment in a family-friendly setting. There are special programs geared for the entire family during the weekend in addition to the live equipment demonstrations and various competitions.

A two-day pass is \$15 per adult when you register online at www.malbexpo.com or \$20 per adult at the gate. **Children 16 and under are FREE.** Please, no ATVs, golf carts or animals. *Transportation for handicapped or disabled person(s) will be arranged at main registration*

tent for all visitors.

For more information on the show, please contact Jack Swanner of the Carolina Loggers Association at (828) 421-8444 or Eddie Reese of the NCFAs at (800) 231-7723 ext. 4. ■

FRANKLIN AND WAKE COUNTIES JOIN QUARANTINE AREA FOR EAB

Franklin and Wake counties are the latest to come under quarantine rules restricting the movement of hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock and other ash materials after emerald ash borers were confirmed in both counties. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler signed an emergency quarantine order allowing the expansion.

An emerald ash borer was found via the capture of a cerceris wasp in Franklin County. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Plant Industry Division had been monitoring sites in Franklin County and throughout the state looking for evidence of EAB. Part of the monitoring included capturing cerceris wasps around baseball fields to see what food sources or insects they were bringing back to their underground nests.



"This brings the total counties in the state under EAB quarantine rules to seven, with detections in Granville, Person, Vance and Warren counties in 2013 and Wayne County earlier this year," Troxler said. "We continue to monitor other counties for this highly destructive pest by trapping areas with ash trees. If you see the purple, triangle-shaped traps, please do not disturb them."

The beetle was first detected in the United States in Michigan in 2002. It is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions of ash trees across the country.

Under the state quarantine, all hardwood firewood and plants and plant parts of the ash tree -- including living, dead, cut or fallen, green lumber, stumps, roots, branches and composted and uncomposted chips -- cannot be moved outside the county. The Plant Industry Division and the N.C. Forest Service are working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Symptoms of emerald ash borer in ash trees include a general decline in the appearance of the tree, such as thinning from the top down and loss of leaves and increased woodpecker activity. Emerald ash borers overwinter as larvae. The adult beetle is one-fourth to a half-inch long and is slender and metallic green. When the adults emerge from a tree, they leave behind a D-shaped exit hole. The larvae can also create serpentine tunneling marks which are found under the bark of the infested trees.

Landowners are encouraged to report any symptomatic activity in ash trees to the NCFAs Plant Industry Division hotline at 1-800-206-9333 or by email at newpest@ncagr.gov. ■

JOB POSTINGS

Procurement Forester Opportunity

Clendenin Lumber Company, a subsidiary of Baillie Lumber Company, has an immediate opening for an experienced Hardwood Procurement Forester in the Upstate South Carolina, Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia region. Please email Matt Reynolds at MReynolds@ClendeninLumberCo.com to submit your resume.

General Job Description - Responsible for log procurement activities within an assigned territory. Will procure hardwood timber and logs through direct landowner negotiation, timber bids and from timber dealers/independent loggers. Will oversee harvesting of company tracts and coordinate the delivery of cut logs to company facilities. Essential Experience - Bachelor's degree in Forestry with five years of successful hardwood timber procurement experience. ■

Field Supervisor & Staff Forester Opportunity

Coal Creek, which owns 72,000 acres, is looking to fill two positions - a field supervisor and a staff forester. There are three main areas of focus; the management of company timber, third-party forest consulting, and recreation. The Coal Creek Company has been in business since 1872 and harvests approximately 5 million board feet of timber annually with three full-time logging contractors.

Minimum of bachelor's degree in forestry with a minimum of two years of experience for Staff Forester position and five years of experience for Field Supervisor position. Experience with hardwood forest inventory, timber sale administration and other basic field forestry work is required. Experience with ArcGIS software, handheld GPS units and software (i.e. Garmin, DNR Garmin), as well as Excel and Word are needed. Forestry consulting experience is preferred, but is not required.

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to: Brent Galloway, CF, ACF, Chief Forester / General Manager, at bgalloway@coalcreekcompany.com. ■

Hardwood Checkoff...from page 3)

against the proposal. In general, those comments opposed to the program believe that the hardwood market is too unique to be properly represented in one campaign and that the mandatory costs are a burden that most companies view as an unnecessary burden.

The proponents of the Hardwood Checkoff program believe the program would pay dividends by promoting the industry as some other Federally run campaigns such as the "Got Milk" campaign.

The proposal seemed to be something that was going to fade away as it has done in the past, but last December new discussions took place about revising the proposal. The newest version was released on June 9th and now the comment period has been extended to September 7th.

So, if you looking to weigh in on this issue, you don't have much time. Here is the link to the website to make comments.

As per a discussion at a January 2014 meeting of the NCFAs Board of Directors, the NCFAs has remained neutral on this issue since its membership is represented in both the pro and con groups. ■

Sign up for the NCFAs weekly newsletter, ZipLine, by entering your e-mail on the NCFAs home page www.ncforestry.org

LANDOWNERS



(l-r) Jennifer Kobylecky with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and North Carolina Tree Farm Chair David Henderson pose for a photo at the Land Ethic Workshop held at Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC. The workshop was hosted by the NC Tree Farm and made possible through sponsorship by the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee.

NC TREE FARM HOLDS ALDO LEOPOLD WORKSHOP

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program held a Land Ethic Workshop in Asheboro in June hosted by the Aldo Leopold Foundation. The workshop attracted over 75 participants with the majority of them being Tree Farmers. Other attendees included foresters, both consultants and industry representatives, and representatives from several non-profit organizations. All participants received a book and an DVD as part of their registration materials prior to the workshop.

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is one of the country's renowned naturalists and authors. His book, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949), sets forth his most enduring idea, a concept he termed the "land ethic" – a moral basis for people's relationship to the natural world.

Through a series of observations and small group discussions, the workshop demonstrated the common ground that landowners and foresters have despite any differences they may hold in their approach to forest management. The workshop was made possible through a grant by the NC SFI SIC. ■

WOODLAND STEWARDS SERIES ANNOUNCED FOR WESTERN NC

North Carolina State University Forestry Extension and partners will be conducting a series of workshops in Asheville for private forestland owners. The goal of the series is to empower forest landowners to promote environmental and forest health through increased awareness, experience and access to resources.

The workshops will cover a wide variety of forest management topics from native plants, to water management, fire and recreation and liability. Get more information at <http://www.ncsu-feop.org/woodlandstewards/> ■

H-2B VISA PROGRAM REVISIONS WORKING WAY THROUGH CONGRESS

According to the Forest Resources Association (FRA), recent appropriations processes in both U.S. House and Senate are progressing towards making the administration's published rules governing H-2B Guestworkers workable.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services passed a bill that addresses problems the FRA and allies have raised about H-2B worker wage determination guidelines while increasing funding for processing applications.

The House subcommittee passed legislation allowing "staggered crossings" for all H-2B workers. It also includes report language that "directs the Department to administer and regulate the H-2B program in a manner that is consistent with the law, easier for employers legally seeking temporary workers at a reasonable prevailing wage, and reduces incentives for employers to hire immigrant workers illegally."

Since the appropriations processes are always subject to change, the FRA is urging all proponents of the H-2B Visa program to remain vigilant and reach out with two important requests to their national representatives: 1) A fair and workable wage determination methodology, with private wage surveys allowable. 2) Lifting the "cap" for returning workers.

The FRA has established a link on its website to help proponents to reach out to their elected officials. The link can be found here: http://www.forestresources.org/issue_alert.asp?g=FRA_ACTION&issue=appropriations_H2B&parent=FRA_ACTION

Background: The H-2B Visa program annually authorizes the temporary entry of seasonal foreign guestworkers serving specific employment niches which domestic workers are unwilling to fill. Among those jobs are the hand-planting of hardwood and softwood tree seedlings following timber harvest. Largely because of its seasonal nature, U.S. workers are not interested in this work. Labor interests have pressured a compliant DOL to press ahead with the fiction that the new rules protect U.S. jobs and serve larger "social justice" goals. In actuality, the rules discourage reforestation by raising the expense to unrealistic levels. ■

Southern Pine Beetle...(from page 2)

Though low SPB populations are predicted, the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) requests landowners and foresters to continue to be on the lookout for localized and sporadic infestations as they could occur anywhere in the state. Activity is most likely in pine stands that are overstocked, over mature, stagnant, or have poor soil drainage. Forests affected by littleleaf disease, annosus root rot, and other causes of tree stress may also be susceptible to SPB infestation.

The NCFS recommends the use of sound silvicultural practices to prevent SPB damage and encourages landowners to thin overcrowded pine stands. Proper stocking levels promote healthy stands that can better withstand attacks from SPB. The NCFS continues to provide Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program (SPBPP) cost-share funds (funded through a grant from the USDA Forest Service) for pre-commercial thinning of pine stands. More information on the SPBPP cost-share is available on our website at http://www.ncforestservice.gov/forest_health/fh_spbpp.htm.

BACKGROUND: Considered the most destructive forest pest in the South, the southern pine beetle (SPB) surpasses all other forest pests for the amount of damage it causes to pine forests. Periodic outbreaks occur on a regular basis over the majority of our state, although the last outbreak occurred in the early 2000's.

The North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) attempts to predict SPB population levels each spring through pheromone-baited insect traps. ■

WESTERN NC FORESTERS NOTE TWO NEW PESTS EMERGING

The N.C. Forest Service is reporting outbreaks of two forest pests that have already had significant impacts on trees in the western part of the state.

“Oaks in Western North Carolina, particularly red oaks, are losing leaves as a result of oak leaf blister, a disease caused by a fungus,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “In addition, foresters are reporting damage from yellow-poplar leaf mining weevil, which is causing widespread browning and defoliation on yellow-poplar trees.”

Most years, oak leaf disease is of minor consequence and fluctuations are typically associated with early spring weather.

“Oak tree leaves will have light green, yellow or white leaf spots,” stated North Carolina State Forester David Lane. “As the disease progresses, the spots form yellow or brown puckered lesions or blisters. When the infection is severe, the entire leaf yellows, curls and drops prematurely.”

Chemical control is not needed, as the disease affects only the leaves and, as with most defoliating pests, a single year of defoliation will not affect the long-term health of the tree. Landowners are encouraged to maintain general tree health, such as watering during dry periods.

The yellow-poplar leaf mining weevil is damaging mostly yellow-poplars, but it can also attack magnolias and sassafras trees. Adult weevils feed on leaf tissue in April and May. They then mate, lay eggs, and when the immature weevils emerge in early summer, they mine the leaf, or feed on the internal tissues. As a result, the leaves die and turn brown.

Most years, infestations are not widespread and are generally not considered a threat to yellow-poplar timber. Outbreaks have been recorded in the Eastern U.S. since 1960. During the 1960s, outbreaks similar to the ones being seen now caused significant foliage loss on yellow-poplar in the Appalachian Mountain region.

Foliage destruction temporarily reduces the aesthetic values of landscape trees. To manage the pest, promoting general tree health is best.

“The outbreak should subside on its own, especially with the help of native wasps, which destroy up to 50 percent of the weevil larvae,” stated Lane. ■



Thanks to the Forestry Club members at Montgomery Community College for running a timber sports demonstration during Forestry Day in the Legislature.



CHIPPER SAFETY

As the needs of the mills change their daily intake of pulpwood, many loggers have looked at various options to get move a few extra loads of wood a week to help replace those lost loads. For many loggers, they look to using in-wood chippers. In times that the mills may not take pulpwood, they will normally continue to buy the chips. This option of chipping allows some loggers to increase production by several loads by week's end.

The chippers are very helpful to production but they add another hazard to an already dangerous job. These machines are no more than an office paper shredder on steroids and we have all seen what a paper shredder can do to a piece of paper or credit card. Chippers have chains and knives that turn at a very high revolutions and can chip a single piece of pulpwood in a matter of seconds. If those knives and chains can do that to a piece of pulpwood just imagine what they can do to the human body.



In-woods chippers use several different sources of energy to operate. Those sources are: electrical, pneumatic, mechanical, hydraulic, gravity, and thermal. It is very important that when the chipper is being worked on that all of these energy states are at zero. The chipper should be Locked and/or Tagged Out when it is being serviced, whether you are just changing a hose or changing the knives.

Here are safety measures that must be followed with a chipper:

- Proper PPE is required when operating a chipper.
- Make sure all employees have read and follow the safety procedures in the operator's manual.
- Make sure that the chipper and loader are set up where no one can walk into that area or between them during operation. Also be aware that chips can be thrown at least 200 feet.
- Chock the wheels and set the parking brakes.
- Make sure all guards are in position and serviceable.
- If replacing lost or damaged hardware, make sure the hardware replacement is of proper grade.
- Do not allow anyone in front of the in-feed area while the chipper is operating.
- Never open the maintenance doors while the machine is running.
- Turn the ignition switch in the off position and remove the key. Place the key in your pocket to prevent accidental start up. Locate the master disconnect and place it in the off position.
- Allow all moving parts to come to a complete rest before performing any repairs.
- Access covers or doors must remain closed until the knives or disk stops completely.
- Make sure all pressure has been bleed off of the lines before servicing equipment.
- Remove battery cables before performing any repairs to the electrical system.
- Turn off the fuel shut-off valve before performing repairs on the fuel system.

Let's remember that **SAFETY** is always first. Make sure everyone gets home the same way they left that morning! ■

TREE LINE

JULY 2015



(left) Allen Whitesell with Troy Lumber leads a teachers on a tour of the facility during the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy.

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MEETINGS

Board of Directors
October 9, 2015 at Marriott in Myrtle Beach, SC

Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee
September 17, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. Smithfield/Selma

NC SFI State Implementation Committee
August 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at NCFAs office, Raleigh, NC

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

September 18-19, 2015 - Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo,

Smithfield-Selma area.

October 7-9, 2015 - NCFAs Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.

October 26-30, 2015 - Forestry & Environmental Camp,

Wilmington, NC

North Carolina Forestry Association

1600 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27609



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