

# TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## PROLOGGER DEADLINE ON THE HORIZON

The NCFA's ProLogger annual deadline of June 30th is approaching. All ProLoggers must complete Module 15, which is this year's required annual training, and pay their membership dues by June 30, 2015 to remain active in the program.

Classes have been held across the state since November. Any ProLogger who has not taken Module 15 should contact the NCFA or his/her supplier to find the nearest class. ■

## WINSTON-SALEM CLASS ADDS TO PROLOGGER RANKS

The NCFA's ProLogger program graduated 26 new ProLoggers this May in Winston-Salem.

A total of six NCDOL employees also audited the class, bringing the total class size to 32. On the year, the program has added 90 new ProLoggers after graduating 64 in March at Williamston.

Thanks to our partners and presenters including Forestry Mutual's Scott McKee, Eddie Campbell and of course, Bryan Wagner; Anthony Andrews of Andrews Logging; NC Department of Labor's Eric Smith and Gary Thorpe; North Carolina Forest Service's Keith Money, Tom Gerow and Gail Bledsoe; and North Carolina Highway Patrol Officer Greg York.

Thanks also to our snack and lunch sponsors, Weyerhaeuser and Louisiana Pacific at Roaring River. NCFA staff appreciates the boots on the ground support of Weyerhaeuser's David Johnson, Amy Phillips and Brad Howard and Louisiana-Pacific's Mike Adams.

The final ProLogger base course will be held on September 23-25, 2015 in Marion at McDowell Tech. ■



Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner (left) reviews techniques useful during storm damage timber removal.

## FORESTRY DAY, FFPAC RAFFLE AND BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHT NCFA'S BUSY MONTH

The NCFA's Forestry Day in the Legislature enjoyed great weather and a strong showing from our members interested in forwarding the forestry message.

The morning briefing for NCFA members featured North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. Troxler provided a quick update on his department and thanked NCFA members for what they do.

Agriculture and forestry continue to be two of the state's biggest drivers of our state's economy in terms of economic impact.

NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson then provided a detailed review of the bills of interest before the General

Assembly in addition to a brief discussion on the budget process.

Members were then released to go and meet with their elected officials. The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. The Forestry Day menu and atmosphere continued to be a popular event with our elected officials and staff.

"It was a real positive day for forestry and our association," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "We had some great visits and created a lot of exposure for our industry. Our members showing up for a day like this and thanking their elected officials for the work they do on a daily basis is the best way to forward our message. It is crucial to our success."

**THE FINAL FOUR** - The Friends of Forestry PAC Reverse Raffle was held the evening of Forestry Day at the DoubleTree by Hilton Brownstone. As the drum emptied out one ticket at a time, a total of four tickets were left that agreed to share the \$5,000 pot. The four winners were Dean Alsup, Ed Listerman, Jesse Thompson and Michael Walters.

Thanks to all of our Board of Directors and Friends of Forestry PAC members that bought and/or sold tickets. A list of the top ticket movers can be found on page 7. The FFPAC managed to sell over 775 tickets and raised just over \$21,000 after the winnings were paid out. If you missed a chance at this year's jackpot, the FFPAC will be holding its reverse raffle again next year prior to Forestry Day.

**BOARD GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO WLT** - The NCFA's Board of Directors met at the Brownstone the day after Forestry Day. One of the top action items was the Board's approval of the NCFA's Executive Committee's recommendation for the NCFA to endorse the Working Lands Trust, Inc. (WLT). The board approved the recommendation.

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(l-r) Joe Ross, Joann Reese, North Carolina House of Representative Michael Wray and Bernard Rose pose for a photo during Forestry Day in the Legislature.



(l-r) Dean Mary Watzin, Senator Tom Apodaca and NCFA President Frank Rackley smile for the camera at Forestry Day in the Legislature.

# 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/ Treasurer</i>	Patrick Parton <i>Western VP</i>
Bernard Rose <i>First Vice President</i>	Michael Walters <i>Chair of the Board 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](mailto: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



*Thanks to the NC Forestry Service's Brian Haines and crew, Big Smokey was standing tall on the Halifax Mall during Forestry Day.*

Budget, Budget, Budget...At this point in the legislative session, the Senate's main focus is the budget! The Senate is the third and final branch to take up the challenge of setting the financial course for the state. It hopes to release it by mid-June. The Governor and the House have already presented their budgets. At some point, the debate will begin in earnest as all three branches seek to reach an agreement on a budget that will guide the state for the next two years.

In terms of legislation, the House and Senate reached an accord on **House Bill 795 - SEPA Reform**. It now heads to the Governor's desk for approval. House Bill 795 mandates that only projects involving more than \$10 million in public funds or that disturb more than 10 acres of publicly owned lands are subject to the state's Environmental Policy Act. The only change made to what passed in the Senate was deleting the definition of the term - direct environmental impact.

It's worth noting that while the General Assembly is in session, Governor Pat McCrory has 10 days to either sign or veto a bill, otherwise it will become law without his signature.

The House did not agree to the changes the Senate made to **House Bill 640 - Outdoor Heritage Act**, which would allow firearm hunting on Sundays. The Senate changed the bill to allow hunting only after noon on Sunday. House and Senate members will now conference on a compromise.

Here is a list of the bills the NCFCA is currently following:

	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Short Title</b>
H 3	McGrady; Stam, Lewis, and Goodman.....	Eminent Domain
H 97	Dollar, L. Johnson, McGrady, and Lambeth.....	2015 Appropriations Act
H 183	R. Brown, Conrad, Lambeth, and Watford.....	Repeal Map Act
H 318	Cleveland, Millis, Whitmire, and Conrad.....	Protect North Carolina Workers Act
H 367	Brody, Bumgardner, Hager, and Waddell.....	NC Consumer Fireworks Safety Act
H 378	Whitmire, Holloway, West, Presnell.....	Amend Cost-Share Programs
H 456	R.Turner.....	Clarify Weight Limits/Ag. Vehicles
H 640	Dixon, Malone, Lucas, and Presnell.....	Outdoor Heritage Act
H 795	Torbett, Hager, and Millis.....	SEPA Reform
H 901	Waddell, Ager, Dobson, and Goodman.....	Agribusiness Income Tax Exemptions
H 907	Whitmire.....	Strengthen Military in NC/Mitigate BRAC Risk
H 920	Saine, Hamilton, R. Moore, and Jeter.....	Omnibus Economic Development Improvements
H 927	Torbett.....	Reestablish NC as the "Good Roads State"
S 155	Bingham.....	Reduce PUV Entry Time for Farmland
S 361	Hartsell.....	Occupational Licensing Reform Study
S 369	Brown, B. Jackson, Clark.....	Sales Tax Fairness Act
S 469	Hartsell.....	Occupational Lic. Bd. Reporting Requirements
S 513	Brock and B. Jackson.....	North Carolina Farm Act of 2015
S 572	Cook.....	Agricultural Regulatory Relief
S 592	McInnis.....	Clarify Proof of Eligibility Reqs. for PUV
S 656	Lee.....	WC/2015 Omnibus Law Changes

If there is an issue or bill that the NCFCA is not tracking that you believe is important to forestry or the forest products industry, please contact NCFCA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson at (800) 231-7723 ext. 5. ■

## ARTICLE EXPRESSES FEAR OF PELLETS

The Washington Post recently took a look at pellet production in a story titled, *How Europe's Climate Policies Led to More U.S. Trees Being Cut Down*.

The article rehashes many of unsubstantiated claims made in the past by certain organizations about forest sustainability within the forest products industry.

Clearly, the forest products industry in North Carolina and across the United States has demonstrated its commitment to forest health, diversity and productivity through its positive management of these forests. All the forest inventory data reflects this positive story.

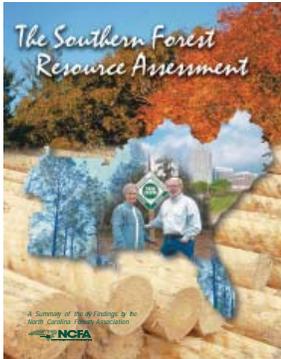
The most recent data from North Carolina State University proves the industry's commitment to proper stewardship. It is worth noting that over 85 percent of North Carolina's forests are privately owned and the same percentages are found in all of the southeastern states.

Consequently, healthy markets for forest products, whether the products are chips, pellets or two-by-fours, are critical to healthy forests. The financial rewards from a harvest provide the means and incentive for private forestland owners to invest and maintain their forests.

In every survey of forestland owners, while the financial rewards of owning forests may not rank as high as some other priorities, an overwhelming majority expect to harvest timber at some point in their lives.

The top threat to forests in the south is urbanization. This was the conclusion of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA), a federal study that was commissioned in 1999 and released in 2002. Back in the late 1990's, the finished product of major concern was wood chips and the facilities to fear were chip mills.

The NCFCA has a copy of its summary of the SFRA on its website under the Forest Products tab. ■



Over 100 people participated in the Log A Load Golf Tournament held in Laurinburg in May. The Tournament had over 50 sponsors and raised over \$12,000 for Duke Children's Hospital. ■



## THE CONSERVATION FUND SELECTED TO LEAD HOFMANN FOREST NEGOTIATIONS

By Mary C. Watzin, Dean, College of Natural Resources

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund of NC State University has selected The Conservation Fund, supported by the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, to work with the university to explore options and manage land use negotiations for Hofmann Forest.

As announced earlier this year, the university plans to retain ownership of the majority of the Hofmann Forest, working to maximize the property as a long-term financial asset for the benefit of the College of Natural Resources while also protecting the majority of the 79,000 acres from intensive development. The Conservation Fund's record of achievement in environmental protection and economic vitality, along with Sutherland's broad expertise in the timber and forest products industries and in negotiating complex transactions with the military, will bring much to our goal of achieving long-term sustainability for Hofmann Forest.

Larry Seltzer, president of The Conservation Fund, comments, "The Conservation Fund is honored and excited to work on a project of such enormous significance to NC State and the communities of eastern North Carolina. We look forward to bringing our expertise in working forest conservation and ability to work effectively with federal, state and other partners to protect Hofmann Forest while providing economic benefits for the College of Natural Resources."

I am thrilled to have The Conservation Fund-led team helping to manage the next steps of this process. Their contract is for one year, with options to renew. ■

## OHIO VOTES NO ON HARDWOOD CHECKOFF

In late May, the Ohio Forestry Association's (OFA) Board of Directors agreed to oppose the Hardwood Lumber and Hardwood Plywood Promotion, Research, and Information Order (Hardwood Checkoff) as had been originally proposed by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services. The OFA's move comes after the Virginia Forest Products Association also went on record in 2015 to oppose the Hardwood Checkoff proposal.

The Hardwood Checkoff proposal was first published in the Federal Register on November 13, 2013. A 90-day comment period ending on February 18, 2014, generating more than 950 industry comments. An overwhelming majority of these comments were opposed to the proposed plan. State organizations filing comments opposed to the Hardwood Checkoff at that time included the Michigan Association of Timbermen and the Missouri Forest Products Association.

Based on comments from the USDA and in the face of such heavy opposition, many in the hardwood industry believed the order would not move forward, but earlier this year, the Blue Ribbon Commission, which supports the Hardwood Checkoff, had renewed its bond for another year to keep working on the order. It is also surfaced that the USDA is in the process of re-writing the order.

In light of those actions, OFA felt it was important to take a stand on the order. Following a review with OFA industry members in which an overwhelming majority of manufacturing members indicated opposition to the original proposal, the OFA Board approved the position in opposition to the proposal.

"The plain truth is, this proposal has been very contentious since it was first looked at more than 20 years ago," stated Jeff Hanks, of Bill Hanks Lumber, and co-chairman of the U.S. Hardwood Lumber Industry Coalition.

The U.S. Hardwood Industry Coalition is comprised of hardwood lumber manufacturers nationwide who oppose USDA's most recently published Checkoff proposal. In May of 2014, the Coalition commissioned a telephone research study about industry attitudes towards the Checkoff.

"When this latest plan came up in late 2013," stated Hanks, "most trade associations chose to remain neutral because of that history of controversy, but now there is a clear consensus forming in the hardwood industry that this Checkoff

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# PROLOGGERS

## MODULE 15 SCHEDULE

If you are hosting a class, please let Chris Brown know at [cbrown@ncforestry.org](mailto:cbrown@ncforestry.org) or (800) 231-7723 so it can be advertised in TreeLine and on our website.

Date	Time	Location
June 12, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Bonsal Chip Mill, New Hill, NC Reserve Spot (919) 545-4571
June 15, 2015	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Lampe & Malphrus, Smithfield, NC
June 20, 2015	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Mitchell Continuing Education Center, Statesville, NC, Reserve Spot (704) 873-6832
June 25, 2015	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.	James Sprunt CC, Kenansville, NC
June 26, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	NCFA Office, Raleigh, NC
June 30, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD, Roaring River, NC

## PROLOGGER BASE CLASS SCHEDULE

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



The NCFA's ProLogger graduated another base class in May. The latest session of the three-day program took place in Winston-Salem.

## FROM THE DESK OF NC HIGHWAY PATROL

### ATTENTION ALL TRUCKERS

Effective immediately (May 26, 2015), the North Carolina State Highway Patrol will begin to strictly enforce **(NO PARKING)** on all areas of the Interstate 77 Corridor from the Virginia state line to the South Carolina state line.

The areas of no parking include but are not limited to:

1. ALL on-ramps and off-ramps and the shoulders of the interstate.
2. No parking on on-ramps or off-ramps at Rest Areas.  
The only exceptions are emergencies and vehicle break downs.
3. Parking at Weigh Station parking lots are also prohibited when the stations are closed.

### North Carolina General Statute

§ 20-140.3. Unlawful use of National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and other controlled-access highways.

On those sections of highways which are or become a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways

and other controlled-access highways, it shall be unlawful for any person:

- (1) To drive a vehicle over, upon, or across any curb, central dividing section or other separation or dividing line on said highways.

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# NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	Sponsor	City
Ammons Property.....		Raleigh
Andrews, Kenneth D.....		Sanford
Arnold, Larry.....		Stoneville
Bumgarner, Jeff.....		Morrisville
Carr, Daniel W.....		Willard
Carroll, Robert L.....		Sanford
Dan River Head Hunters.....		Taylorsville
Farabee, Michael Grant.....		Wallace
Hicks, Andy.....		Zebulon
Hoggard, Will.....		Zebulon
Killian, Bryan.....		Franklin
Lester, Allen.....		Franklinton
Lucas, Ricky.....		Roseboro
Malpass Trucking LLC.....		Bolton
Mendoza, Antonio.....		Pantego
Mendoza, Jose A.....		Pantego
Montragon, Isael.....		Williamston
Putnam, Darrell.....	Phil Bain	Kings Mountain
Rascoe, Cononcheat.....		Windsor
Rose, Bruce.....		Goldsboro
Timber Creek Gun Club.....		Cary
Winslow, Richard Lanier.....		Hertford
York, Mike.....		Raleigh

## RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY ON NCFA OFFICE

The NCFA's office has been undergoing renovations over the past few months to address some water flow issues around the building. A new retaining wall and proper drainage has been installed around the building. At the same time, much of the landscaping was updated.

In terms of inside the office building, the first floor, which was home to Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, is now being renovated after Forestry Mutual left in May for a new office space. The NCFA will have new tenants both on the first and second floor in the coming weeks. FireHorse Films, the company which produces the NCFA's training videos, will occupy two offices on the second floor. The Adams, Howell, Sizemore & Lenfestey Law Firm will be moving into the first floor.

The parking lot also has received a new layer of pavement and there are substantial improvements being made to the attic to improve the ability to store items. ■





## 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 NCFCA's 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](http://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 NCFCA at (800) 231-7723 ext. 4. ■



## FOROP SCHOOL TO NOW CALL VIRGINIA HOME

The Forest Equipment Operator Training School (FOROP) is moving to Lynchburg, Virginia. Now in its fourth year of operation, FOROP is a non-profit school with a mobile classroom, assets and tools to provide full time training on a active logging job.

The entire school will be operating on timber tracts northeast of Lynchburg for approximately six months. Training will commence in July.

The school offers both basic and specialized training.

Basic training involves comprehensive operation of skidder, fellerbuncher and knuckle boom loader with delimeter and bucksaw for entry level operators. Students are screened for a willingness to start a career and also past heavy equipment experience. Average class length is 8-10 weeks depending on competencies achieved and many are able to secure employment earlier.

Specialized training can be started at any time and involves existing logging operators who want to upgrade their skill levels, typically from a skidder to fellerbuncher or loader.

Logging business owners can send their current employees to FOROP to be trained and returned to their crew.

There is no tuition cost and students are issued a small stipend to help defray transportation costs. Students are interviewed by instructors and drug tested prior to acceptance.

Training on live production logging sites runs from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily. Safety, professionalism, productivity and teamwork are incorporated into all aspects of our training. Students are offered assistance with job placement following successful completion of the training.

FOROP is supported by CAT Forest Products with new equipment provided by their dealerships in Virginia and North Carolina. A 573C fellerbuncher, 525C skidder, and 559C loader are provided this year by Carter Machinery, Carolina CAT and Pioneer-Gregory Poole Forest Products respectively. MeadWestvaco is also supporting FOROP efforts and assisting with contacts and logistics.

Existing logging crews have been some of the program's best suppliers of students. If they can identify solid prospects within their own community, they can send them to FOROP training.

Prospective students should contact the FOROP recruiter, Terri Wallace at [terri.wallace@forop.org](mailto:terri.wallace@forop.org) or at (910) 814-7181.

More information is also available at [www.forop.org](http://www.forop.org) or on Facebook under FORESTEQUIPMENT.

Our instructors look forward to providing support for the Virginia forest products industry and welcome questions related to on-site training. If you have further questions, please contact:

Doug Duncan - [doug.duncan@forop.org](mailto:doug.duncan@forop.org) (919) 271-9050  
David Meiggs - [david.meiggs@forop.org](mailto:david.meiggs@forop.org) (252) 340-1640  
Aaron Barbolish - [aaron.barbolish@forop.org](mailto:aaron.barbolish@forop.org) (570) 468-5458. ■



### From the Desk of the NC Highway Patrol...(from page 4)

- (2) To make a left turn or a semicircular or U-turn except through an opening provided for that purpose in the dividing curb, separation section, or line on said highways.
- (3) To drive any vehicle except in the proper lane provided for that purpose and in the proper direction and to the right of the central dividing curb, separation section, or line on said highways.
- (4) To drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access highway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.
- (5) To stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, on any part or portion of the right of way of said highways, except in the case of an emergency or as directed by a peace officer, or at designated parking areas.
- (6) To fail to yield the right-of-way when entering the highway to any vehicle already travelling on the highway.
- (7) Notwithstanding any other subdivision of this section, a law enforcement officer may cross the median of a divided highway when the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a felony is being or has been committed, has personal knowledge that a vehicle is being operated at a speed or in a manner which is likely to endanger persons or property, or the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the officer's presence is immediately required at a location which would necessitate crossing a median of a divided highway for this purpose. Fire department vehicles and public or private ambulances and rescue squad emergency service vehicles traveling in response to a fire alarm or other emergency call may cross the median of a divided highway when assistance is immediately required at a location which would necessitate the vehicle crossing a median of a divided highway for this purpose. (1973, c. 1330, s. 5; 1977, c. 731, s. 1; 1999-330, s. 5.) ■

Sign up for the NCFCA's weekly newsletter, ZipLine, by entering your e-mail on the NCFCA's home page [www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org)



## NCFA ANNUAL MEETING WILL HEAD TO SOUTH CAROLINA THIS YEAR OCTOBER 7-9, 2015

### USDA ANNOUNCES RESTART OF BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that incentives will resume this summer for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in growing and harvesting biomass for renewable energy.

The support comes through the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. BCAP provides financial assistance to establish and maintain new crops of energy biomass, or who harvest and deliver forest or agricultural residues to a qualifying energy facility.

Financial assistance is available through BCAP for costs associated with harvesting and transporting agriculture or forest residues to facilities that convert biomass crops into energy. Eligible crops may include corn residue, diseased or insect infested wood materials, or orchard waste.

The energy facility must first be approved by USDA to accept the biomass crop. Facilities can apply for, or renew, their BCAP qualification status beginning today. \$11.5 million of federal funds will be allocated to support the delivery of biomass materials through December 2015.

Last year, more than 200,000 tons of dead or diseased trees from National Forests and Bureau of Land Management lands were removed and used to produce renewable energy, while reducing the risk of forest fire. Nineteen energy facilities in 10 states participated in the program.

Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners can also receive financial assistance to grow biomass crops that will be converted into energy in selected BCAP project areas.

New BCAP project area proposals will be solicited beginning this summer and accepted through fall 2015, with new project area announcements and enrollments taking place in early spring 2016. The extended proposal submission period allows project sponsors time to complete any needed environmental assessments and allows producers enough lead time to make informed decisions on whether or not to pursue the BCAP project area enrollment opportunity.

This fiscal year USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will allocate up to \$8 million for producer enrollment to expand and enhance existing BCAP project areas. Additionally, in accordance with the 2014 Farm Bill, underserved farmers are eligible for a higher establishment cost share. BCAP projects have supported over 50,000 acres across 74 counties in 11 different project areas.

BCAP was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing, and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America.

For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill). ■

The NCFA's Annual Meeting will take place on October 7-9, 2015 at the Myrtle Beach Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes. The room rate is \$142 and the cutoff date is September 6, 2015. The phone number for NCFA members to call for a reservation is (843) 449-8880.

The committee is still working on some details for the speaking program, but the format has been established. The meeting will open with recreational events on Wednesday followed by a reception with a band performance. Thursday will feature an informative speaking program. On Thursday night, there will be the traditional awards dinner followed by entertainment.

**NEW SILENT AUCTION LEADERS:** The NCFA staff would like to thank Billy Cipriani of Claybourn Walters Logging and Scott Askew of Jordan Lumber for agreeing to lead the 2015 Silent Auction effort. Cipriani and Askew will be looking to hear from NCFA members who would like to donate items, events, and trips to the fundraising effort. ■

### EPA FINALIZES CLEAN WATER RULE

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army finalized the Clean Water Rule. According to the EPA's release, the Clean Water Rule will clearly protect from pollution and degradation the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources.

The rule seeks to ensure that waters protected under the Clean Water Act are more precisely defined and predictably determined, making permitting less costly, easier, and faster for businesses and industry.

"For the water in the rivers and lakes in our communities that flow to our drinking water to be clean, the streams and wetlands that feed them need to be clean too," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "Protecting our water sources is a critical component of adapting to climate change impacts like drought, sea level rise, stronger storms, and warmer temperatures - which is why EPA and the Army have finalized the Clean Water Rule to protect these important waters, so we can strengthen our economy and provide certainty to American businesses."

Protection for many of the nation's streams and wetlands has been confusing, complex, and time-consuming as the result of Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006. In developing the rule, the agencies held more than 400 meetings with stakeholders across the country, reviewed over one million public comments, and listened carefully to perspectives from all sides. EPA and the Army also utilized the latest science, including a report summarizing more than 1,200 peer-reviewed, published scientific studies which showed that small streams and wetlands play an integral role in the health of larger downstream water bodies.

Specifically, the Clean Water Rule:

- Clearly defines and protects tributaries that impact the health of downstream waters. The Clean Water Act protects navigable waterways and their tributaries. The rule says that a tributary must show physical features of flowing water - a bed, bank, and ordinary high water mark - to warrant protection. The rule provides protection for headwaters that have these features and science shows can have a significant connection to downstream waters.
- Provides certainty in how far safeguards extend to nearby waters. The rule protects waters that are next to rivers and lakes and their tributaries because science shows that they impact downstream waters. The rule sets boundaries on covering nearby waters for the first time that are physical and measurable.

(continued on page 7)

## TOP TICKET SELLERS FOR FFPAC REVERSE RAFFLE

#	Name	#	Name
45	Evans, Bruce	15	Logan, Chris
45	Jordan, Robert	15	Lumpkin, Parker
33	Rose, Bernard	15	McCollum, Keith
24	Worley, Lori	15	McLaurin, Boyd
22	Norris, Tommy	15	Parsons, John
21	Alsup, Dean	15	Plaster, Allen
18	Allen, Ray	15	Pridgen, Jim
16	Brown, Chris	15	Rackley, Frank
15	Batchlor, Larry	15	Shaver, Jimbo
15	Batts, Dwight	15	Sitts, Jim
15	Burleson, Doug	15	Stone, Dennis
15	Cain, Kenny	15	Thompson, Marshall
15	Cipriani, Billy	15	Thrash, Dale
15	Crawley, Steve	15	Whitesell, Allen
15	Edwards, Jeff	12	Fletcher, John
15	Faircloth, Ashley	12	Graham, Ted
15	Gray, John	10	Brewer, Scott
15	Hanks, Jeff	10	Marshburn, Charlie
15	Hardin, Fred	9	Owen, Wib
15	Hendrix, David	9	Reavis, Jim
15	Jackson, Jimmy	9	Vollinger, Mark
15	Jones, Charles	9	Wiseman, Mark
15	Kenley, Charles	7	Durham, Jim
15	Listerman, Ed		

### Forestry Day, Reverse Raffle...(from page 1)

The WLT was developed over the past 10 years by the NCFA staff and several contract workers. The original idea for the WLT came out of the NCFA's Forest Management Committee. The first result from this effort was the DVD production, What is a Working Forest Conservation Easement, in 2010. Over the past five years, there have been several exploratory efforts on the demand for working forest easements. Last year, the WLT applied for and was granted its own tax status.

The WLT is designed to hold conservation easements for working lands, namely working forests. The WLT will hold perpetual and term easements for landowners.

The board also heard from the association's auditors, who reported that the association was given a clean report for its accounts in 2014. ■



The Lumpkins have Senator Barefoot surrounded! (l-r) Parker, Tripp and Arturo caught up with Senator Chad Barefoot for lunch and this photo during Forestry Day.

### EPA Finalizes Clean Water Rule...(from page 6)

- Protects the nation's regional water treasures. Science shows that specific water features can function like a system and impact the health of downstream waters. The rule protects prairie potholes, Carolina and Delmarva bays, pocosins, western vernal pools in California, and Texas coastal prairie wetlands when they impact downstream waters.
- Focuses on streams, not ditches. The rule limits protection to ditches that are constructed out of streams or function like streams and can carry pollution downstream. So ditches that are not constructed in streams and that flow only when it rains are not covered.
- Maintains the status of waters within Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The rule does not change how those waters are treated and encourages the use of green infrastructure.
- Reduces the use of case-specific analysis of waters. Previously, almost any water could be put through a lengthy case-specific analysis, even if it would not be subject to the Clean Water Act. The rule significantly limits the use of case-specific analysis by creating clarity and certainty on protected waters and limiting the number of similarly situated water features.

A Clean Water Act permit is only needed if a water is going to be polluted or destroyed. The Clean Water Rule only protects the types of waters that have historically been covered under the Clean Water Act. It does not regulate most ditches and does not regulate groundwater, shallow subsurface flows, or tile drains. It does not make changes to current policies on irrigation or water transfers or apply to erosion in a field.

The rule protects clean water necessary for farming, ranching, and forestry and provides greater clarity and certainty to farmers about coverage of the Clean Water Act. The final rule specifically recognizes the vital role that U.S. agriculture serves in providing food, fuel, and fiber at home and around the world. The rule does not create any new permitting requirements for America's farmers. Activities like planting, harvesting, and moving livestock have long been exempt from Clean Water Act regulation, and the Clean Water Rule preserves those exemptions.

The Clean Water Rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. For more information: [www.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule](http://www.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule) and <http://www.army.mil/asacw>. ■

### Ohio Votes No on Hardwood Checkoff...(from page 3)

proposal is wrongheaded, and the actions taken by the Ohio and Virginia organizations underscore that."

A checkoff was first proposed in 1993 within the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA). The NHLA polled its membership and never garnered more than 41 percent support. In an internal vote in 1995, NHLA members voted down the checkoff process and the industry never submitted the proposed order to the USDA for publication in the Federal Register. In November 2013, however, the proposal by the 14 member Blue Ribbon Committee was published in the Federal Register for industry comment.

"This process was supposed to be finished a year ago, and the industry has spoken clearly through the comment process that it does not want a Checkoff imposed on it against its will, but somehow the Checkoff idea has clung to life in the halls of USDA," said Jeff Edwards, of Edwards Wood Products, and co-chairman on the U.S. Hardwood Lumber Industry Coalition. "We hope the voice of OFA, which is chorus with the industry across the country, will reach Washington and be heard finally. It is time to formally terminate the Hardwood Checkoff," Edwards concluded.

Conquest Communications of Richmond, Virginia, questioned hardwood lumber manufacturers identified on a list from USDA of eligible companies to vote in any referendum on the Checkoff. A total of 257 companies responded. Those respondents represent 18 percent of the companies eligible to vote on USDA's proposed check-off, which is a statistically representative sample of all hardwood lumber manufacturers.

When presented with the question, "As the USDA check off proposal is written, do you plan to vote for it or against it?" A total of 83 percent of respondents indicated they would vote against the check off program. ■

# TREE LINE

JUNE 2015



*Bryan Wagner (center) led the proper felling technique demonstration during the NCEFA's ProLogger Field Day.*

Sign up for the NCEFA's weekly e-mail newsletter by typing in your e-mail on the home page of [www.ncefa.org](http://www.ncefa.org)

June 16-19, 2015 - Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy, New Bern, NC  
June 22-26, 2015 - Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy, Asheville, NC  
July 7-10, 2015 - Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy, Asheville, NC  
September 18-19, 2015 - Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo, Smithfield-Selma area.  
October 7-9, 2015 - NCEFA Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.  
October 26-30, 2015 - Forestry & Environmental Camp, Wilmington, NC

## EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

## MEETINGS

North Carolina Forestry Association  
1600 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27609



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