

# TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE SFI UPDATES STANDARDS

SFI Inc recently went through a lengthy review process of its certification standard. The result is a new structure for the standard and some additional performance measures that will provide governance over the program from 2015-2019. The goal is to provide the framework that will ensure the health, diversity and productivity of future of forests. Since the SFI standard governs both procurement and land management, the standard seeks to ensure that all forests are positively impacted by these new rules whether they are certified lands or not.

The added measures will bolster the health and diversity of future forests by monitoring forest conversion, illegal logging, and the use of chemicals. The updated certification program also calls for additional funds be dedicated to research forest health.

In terms of general numbers, it is estimated that just 10 percent of all forests are certified under some certification system worldwide. With a quarter of a billion acres enrolled in the SFI program, SFI Inc. believes it is big enough to make a difference on a global scale as the program strives to get more acres certified to the SFI standard. On the procurement side, 20 percent of all Fortune 100 Companies used the SFI label in 2014. This number continues to grow as more companies seek to ensure their customers that their product originated from a sustainable source.

The SFI program is broken down into three categories – forest management, fiber sourcing and chain of custody.

SFI Inc. points out that its fiber sourcing standard is one element that distinguishes it from other certification systems. Consequently, the new standards have established fiber sourcing, which was once interlaced within the standards, as its own stand-alone entity. Essential to the fiber sourcing standard is the education program for professional loggers. Since 1995, SFI Inc. estimates that over 150,000 loggers have been trained to the state, federal and SFI standards through individual state program such as the NCFAs ProLogger Program. ProLoggers take a base course and then an annual continuing education module that includes topics on safety, environmental regulations, best practices and the SFI program. The belief is that while in a perfect world all lands would be certified to a globally accepted program (continued on page 3)

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## GREAT TURNOUT AT WORKING FOREST SUMMIT IN WILLIAMSTON



Rick Hamilton was one of the speakers to address a full house during the Summit.

Close to 300 people attended the first of four proposed Working Forest Summit workshops that was held at the Senator Bob Martin Agriculture Center in Williamston.

The workshop covered topics such as forest taxes, forest management ideas, and a forest markets review. The highlight of the day was the when area forest landowners provided their own accounts of their forests and forest management decision.

The event was made possible through the partnership of the University of Mount Olive Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center, NC Forest Service, NC State University Extension Forestry, NC Woodlands, and USDA Risk Management Agency. The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission provided funding support for the Working Forest Summit.

The NCFAs and the NC SFI State Implementation Committee were sponsors and exhibitors at the event.

The North Carolina Forest Service's Clay Altizer provided an overview of the forest products industry in North Carolina, including some of the most recent data collected on exports. Altizer noted early in his presentation that the forest products industry was emerging from a rough economic time period.



Clay Altizer provided an update on the forest products industry in North Carolina.

Over the past decade (2001-2011), the number of forest products facilities shrank by 26% and the overall value of shipments dropped by 19%. Altizer's most recent data points to a more positive outlook for the industry.

"North Carolina is very fortunate to have a prosperous and diverse forest products industry and is well-positioned to capitalize on existing and expanding markets across the globe," stated Altizer.

"Overall, China is our top trade partner representing 25% of North Carolina's forest products exports,"

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# 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](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

## WEATHER SLOWS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Winter storms have slowed and in some cases, shutdown the North Carolina General Assembly early on in this long session. There has been some movement on bills in both chambers, but the majority of the work to be done this legislative session will take place once the budget foundation is set in place.

"Early into the session, the budget and the projected shortfall of revenue for the state is a major concern for all of our elected officials," stated NCFCA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "The size of the gap will not really become clear until April. In the meantime, how the General Assembly handles Medicaid, which is nearly a third of the state's budget, will dictate what happens later on in the session with other issues that are important to our membership such as transportation, environment and natural resources, and taxes."

While the session is just getting underway, the makeup of leadership in the North Carolina Senate and House are no strangers to the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee (FFPAC).

In the House of Representatives, the FFPAC supported newly-elected House Speaker Tim Moore (R- Cleveland), House Speaker Pro Tempore Paul "Skip" Stam (R-Wake), Majority Leader Mike Hager (R-Rutherford) and Democratic Leader Larry Hall (D-Durham) with campaign donations last fall.

In the Senate, the FFPAC supported President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Rockingham), Deputy President Pro Tempore Louis Pate (R-Wayne), Majority Leader Harry Brown (R-Onslow), and Democratic Leader Dan Blue (R-Wake) in their fall elections.

In terms of bills in the North Carolina House that have some significance to our membership, the House gave its final approval of House Bill 3 - Eminent Domain that allows voters to decide on the May 3, 2016 primary election if the state constitution should be amended to prevent government seizure of private lands except for public use. The bill would also provide for the payment of just compensation with right of trial by jury in all eminent domain cases. The bill now moves over to the Senate for consideration.

On the Senate side, the Senate passed Senate Bill 20 - IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes with a vote of 35-15. SB. 20 would change the way North Carolina calculates the gas tax. The goal is to stabilize revenues from this tax that directly supports the Department of Transportation's road projects.

Currently, the rate is determined every six months according to wholesale gas prices. The bill proposes determining the rate once a year. It also sets the minimum rate at 35 cents per gallon beginning on March 1st. The current rate is 37.5 cents per gallon, but may have dropped below 35 cents per gallon on the latest evaluation. The bill now heads to the House. ■



(l-r) Charles Jones, Allen Plaster and Senator Harry Brown pose for a photograph during Forestry Day in the Legislature.

## FFPAC TICKETS ARE OUT LET'S FILL THE DRUM!

The FFPAC will be once again holding its Reverse Raffle Event this year - May 20, 2015 - at the Brownstone Hotel. It is the evening of Forestry Day in the Legislature.

FFPAC and NCFCA Board Members are now selling tickets (one for \$50, three for \$100). Please support the FFPAC by participating in this raffle that raises money for the FFPAC and creates a jackpot of \$5,000 for the winning ticket(s).

We are happy to report that we have already received SOLD tickets at the NCFCA office. Congrats to Mr. Jim Pridgen for being on the fast track! We appreciate everyone's support with this important fundraiser. ■

## SFI Standard..(from page 1)

such as SFI or the American Tree Farm System, having a trained logger workforce provides some assurance that best practices will be employed on non-certified lands. SFI companies are asked to have 100 percent of its logging crews certified, but in reality, due to employee turnover, the standard expects member companies to exceed 90 percent.

A focus of the training for the logging workforce in the new standard will be the emphasis on the conservation of special areas within a forest. The goal is to ensure that a forest that may have developed a unique biological diversity over time be maintained throughout a harvest operation much the same as loggers now protect water quality during a harvest. Another element to the fiber sourcing standard is the focus on reducing the risk of illegal logging. While this was primarily a non-North American effort in years past, the standard asks member companies to review its operations in the United States and Canada.

One item that will also be new to the standards is conversion of forest types from one to another without proper assessment of the biological impact on the forest. If the conversion can be demonstrated to not alter the ecological nature of the forest, it can be completed. At no time can a conversion of a special significance such as a home to an endangered species take place. There are limited cases where conversions are permissible such as when a forest is converted from one forest type back to its historical type such as a Loblolly stand being harvested and replanted in Longleaf or the removal of an invasive species to restore the historical species.

The changes in the standards to the use of chemicals aligns the SFI program with other global programs such as PEFC.

The chain of custody updates require that companies move from a percentage threshold to a one-to-one ratio in volume credit. If a company can document that 34% of its fiber is certified, then it can only market 34% of its products as certified. This documentation dictates what labels can be used on final products. A company that does not exceed 70% of certified content must specify on its label what content of certified product is in the product. If the company can document over 70 percent, then it can use the general SFI standard certified label.

This year will be a transition year for all SFI member companies as they work towards conforming to the new standards. By January of 2016, all companies will be operating under the new standards. ■

## FORESTRY DAY - MAY 20, 2015

The NCFAs Forestry Day in the Legislature takes place on May 20, 2015 on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh. This day is the best chance for members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for forestry and the forest products industry. More information will be mailed in April. We encourage all members to make Forestry Day a priority this year. ■



## HAYWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEEK ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT ON PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

In February, Haywood County Commissioners passed a resolution to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to actively manage the Pisgah and Nanatahala National Forests as part of the plan revision process. By some estimates, Haywood is the sixth county in western North Carolina to pass this type of resolution.

In response to concerns raised on both sides of the planning issue, the U.S. Forest Service is planning a series of public meetings in April. The Forest Service held several public meetings last year. The meetings were well-attended by NCFAs members.

The new plan, which has been in the works for two years, is now in draft form. It is estimated to be a year away from completion. When the new plan is finalized, it will set the course for those forests for the next 15 years.

### RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

**WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service proposes to revise its Land Management Plan and reduce the total number of management areas from 21 to 16, rather than manage the lands for sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed revisions would include the Pisgah National Forest and affect areas of Haywood County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Haywood is concerned that less forest management will negatively impact future search and rescue efforts, and increase their frequency, difficulty and cost, by limiting necessary maintenance to roadways and trails, and reducing necessary signage; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is concerned that less forest management will negatively impact recreational uses, therefore impacting tourism and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the County believes that sufficient forest management practices are critical to maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem for native wildlife, which in turn sustains the economic value to the areas as a recreation site.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Haywood County Board of Commissioners do hereby stand in opposition to any additional wilderness/ designated areas where land management practices are reduced within Haywood County. ■

## NCASI REQUESTS INPUT ON EASTERN DIAMONDBACK

The National Council for Air & Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI), a non-profit organization that develops technical information about environmental issues of importance to the forest products industry, is seeking input from NCFAs members on a new survey about observations of eastern diamondback rattlesnakes.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is contemplating whether to federally list this species as threatened or endangered. The NCASI survey is intended to assemble data that will document the range of forest conditions in which the snake is found. Data submitted to-date shows the eastern diamondback being found in a variety of pine forest conditions, including many planted pine forests.

NCASI would greatly appreciate your help inviting landowners, foresters and others to participate in our eastern diamondback survey online at <http://www.ncasi.org/snakesurvey.aspx>

If you have questions about this project, you can contact Dr. T. Bently Wigley, NCASI Program Manager at (864) 656-0840 or at [bwigley@ncasi.org](mailto:bwigley@ncasi.org). ■



## MID-ATLANTIC LOGGING EXPO SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2015

**Mark Your Calendar!** The Mid-Atlantic Logging 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 and other vendors.



The Expo will once again feature live demonstrations of the newest equipment with the opportunity for loggers to get an up-close look at the materials. The Expo is once again being jointly sponsored by Hatton-Brown Publishers, Carolina Loggers Association, and the NCFA. The NCFA's Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee will be providing staff support for the event. ■

### 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.*

3/19, 2015	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Lucky Clay Farms Norwood, NC
3/27, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Halifax CC Room 401 Weldon, NC
4/2, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Forsyth Ag Center Winston-Salem, NC
4/10, 2015	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Chatham Ag Center Pittsboro, NC
4/14, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD Roaring River, NC
4/14, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Domtar Plymouth, NC
4/16, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser Vanceboro, NC
6/30, 2015	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD Roaring River, NC

### 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



## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE AT FARMERS MARKET

North Carolina's 2014 Arbor Day Celebration will 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. The Society of American Foresters' Triangle Chapter and North Carolina State University Student Chapter will distribute 1,500 tree seedlings donated by the NCFS and Weyerhaeuser to the public. Smokey Bear is sure to make a visit to the children's activity area! ■



*N.C. State University Paper Science students will be on hand to lead demonstrations in paper making and other activities during Arbor Day.*

## NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER .....	City
Armstrong, James.....	Fayetteville
Barbolish, Aaron.....	Lewistown
Briggs, Joey.....	Roanoke Rapids
Coxe, Tom .....	Gatesville
Crooked Creek Logging Inc. ....	Stanfield
Dobson, Ryan P .....	Manteo
Draper, David Jo .....	Williamston
Gladson, Anthony .....	Aurora
Glaney, Gilbert .....	Aurora
Glancy, Casey Trucking Inc.....	Pinetown
Harrelson Logging Inc.....	Snow Camp
Heath, Floyd .....	Trenton
Heath, Shelia .....	Trenton
J J Hernandez Logging .....	Siler City
Leigh Farm Hunt Club .....	Elizabeth City
Long, Donnie .....	Harrells
Rex Hunt Club .....	Holly Springs
Richardson, James Wayne .....	Star
Robinson, Charles Harry.....	Elizabeth City
Stephens, Hunter.....	Star
Whitesell, Joey .....	Washington
Whitfield, Richard.....	Pittsboro
Wilson, Griffith.....	Chester, SC



**Top Shelf Help!** Greg Decker and Ted Graham guaranteed a smooth registration for a Module 15 class held in Marion by manning the registration desk. Thanks to Greg, Ted and Shannon Buckley for their help with this class.

## NCFS FINDS LAUREL WILT IN DUPLIN COUNTY

The N.C. Forest Service has confirmed that laurel wilt, a devastating fungal disease of redbay and other plants in the laurel family, has been identified in Duplin County in an area near Rose Hill. The disease has been identified across the Southeast in portions of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. In North Carolina, it was first discovered in Bladen, Columbus, Pender and Sampson counties in 2011. Additional identifications were made in Brunswick County in 2012 and New Hanover County in 2013. In North Carolina, sassafras, pondberry, pondspice, swampbay and spicebush also fall in the laurel family and could be affected by this disease. ■

## NCFA EDUCATION MATERIALS APPRECIATED IN LAND OF THE LONGLEAF TREK

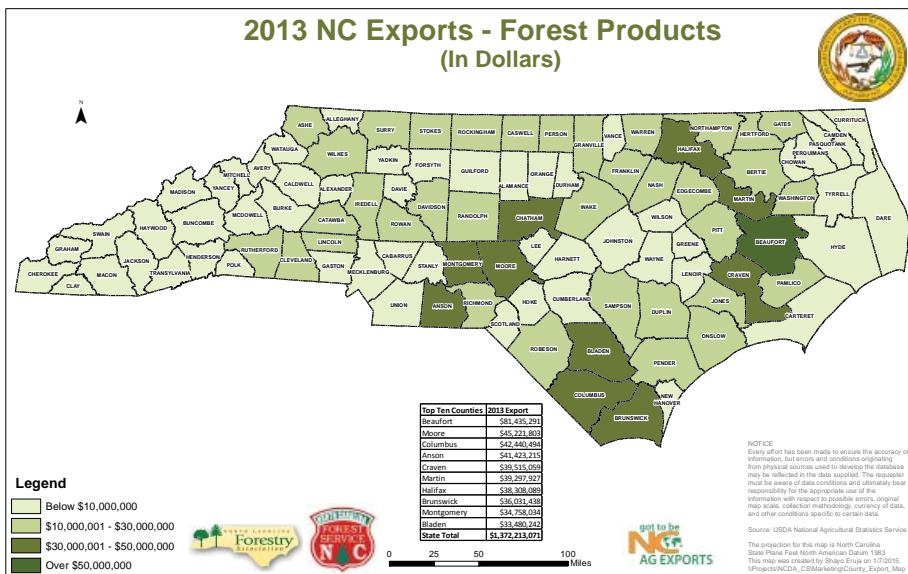


*"I wanted to pass along a quick word of gratitude for your donation of the sets of tree posters and the "goods from the woods" boxes to the 16 educators that participated in our Land of the Longleaf trek with the NC Museum of History and the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. All of the teachers LOVED the posters and "goods from the woods" boxes! Attached is a picture of our group at the end of our workshop. Thank you so much for such wonderful resources that will continue to enrich classrooms, bring home the message of the importance of trees and our forests to our every day lives and ecosystem health!" - Megan Chesser, Curator of Teacher Education, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences*

### Working Forest Summit...(from page 1)

continued Altizer. "Asian demand is expected to remain strong, especially considering Vietnam's recent emergence as a growing market for forest products. North America (Canada and Mexico) continue to be important trade partners for North Carolina as well. The European market will be interesting to watch over the next several years as demand for wood pellets in Western Europe continues to grow."

In addition to several informative slides, Altizer shared this most recent map of the forest products industry by county export data.



*It is worth noting that the estimates for the map are based on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) and Timber Product Output (TPO) Data (US Forest Service), WiserTrade Export Data (2013), as well as NC State University Extension Forestry's publication 2013 Income of North Carolina Timber Harvested and Delivered to Mills. Includes HS Codes 44 (Articles of Wood), 47 (Wood Pulp), and 48 (Paper). County estimates (allocation %) were calculated by using the same percentage of the statewide total as used in NCSU 2013 Delivered Income Report. ■*

## USDA SEEKS TO CLARIFY STATUS ON HARDWOOD CHECKOFF PROPOSAL

The proposal for the Hardwood Checkoff was first published in the Federal Register in November of 2013 and the period for comments from the industry closed on February 18, 2014.

The proposed program has proponents and opponents and the debate has been extensive. The projected date of final action by the USDA was projected to be May 2014.

The USDA recently issued a statement via e-mail to stakeholders clarifying where the process stands for the proposed Hardwood Checkoff program after a December meeting with both proponents and opponents created more confusion on where the process stood. The most recent e-mail stated:

*"Recently, it appears there may have been some confusion regarding the current status of the proposed research and promotion program for hardwood lumber. To clarify, USDA is still in the process of evaluating the voluminous comments received on the proposed rules for the Hardwood Lumber and Hardwood Plywood Promotion, Research and Information Order and Referendum Procedures. We hope to complete our review shortly. AMS intends to publish any next step in this rulemaking process in the Federal Register, and, if appropriate, provide an opportunity for public comment."*

"We thank AMS (Agriculture Marketing Service) for recognizing the need to provide some benchmark to where the process stands. However, based on this recent statement from AMS, it is clear the process has not met its proposed milestones," stated Jeff Hanks of Bill Hanks Lumber and Jeff Edwards of Edwards Wood Products, co-chairmen of the US Hardwood Industry Lumber Coalition, through a press release. "While the potential for future action is still on the table it is unfortunate the proposal currently remains closed to industry comments."

The US Hardwood Industry Coalition urges termination of this proposed Checkoff proceeding for the sake of expanding industry input.

The Coalition made this request in a December 18, 2014, letter to AMS, which stated in part, "We believe that AMS would want to work with all parties to possibly achieve a new proposal that might be supported by a majority of the industry."

The letter continued, with regard to the February 18, 2014 date when the comment period was officially closed, "If discussion with AMS is precluded, this cannot happen."

The US Hardwood Industry Coalition is comprised of hardwood lumber manufacturers nationwide who oppose USDA's most recently published Checkoff proposal.

In other Hardwood Checkoff news, the Virginia Forest Products Association recently stated its opposition to the proposed program. The Missouri Forest Products Association declared its opposition early in 2014.

The NCFA remains neutral on this issue as its membership includes members who support and oppose the plan. ■



# LANDOWNERS

## TREE FARM INSPECTOR WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Due to the recent changes to the American Tree Farm System's certification program, the North Carolina Tree Farm Program 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 Leslie 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: [www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-review](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-review). ■

## WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA TIMBER CONFERENCE - APRIL 30, 2015

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program 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. Speakers include updates from the U.S. Forest Service, North Carolina Forest Service and other government and non-profit organizations concerned with forest health and productivity. For more information on the WNC Timber Conference or the Tree Farm Program in general, please contact Leslie McCormick at (919) 917-8646. ■

## TROXLER ANNOUNCES FUNDS FOR HEMLOCK RESTORATION PROJECTS

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced additional funding for efforts to restore North Carolina's hemlock trees to long-term health.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use \$250,000 from the state's legal settlement with the Tennessee Valley Authority to continue supporting the Hemlock Restoration Initiative, which began last year.

Over the next three years, the investment will support direct interventions on state and private lands, coordination of resources, and increasing volunteer efforts to save hemlock stands throughout the state. Find more information online at: [www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2015/2-15hemlock-restoration.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2015/2-15hemlock-restoration.htm). ■

## KEEP IT PROTECTED - SECURE YOUR TIMBERLAND BY CHOOSING THE RIGHT LIABILITY POLICY

By Tim Lowrimore, Davis-Garvin Agency, Inc.

One of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of timberland ownership is keeping your timberland maintained. We typically think of maintenance as the hands on, physical labor put into the property. However, maintenance also needs to include selecting the right liability coverage and ensuring the coverage keeps up with the changes to your timberland. When choosing a timberland liability policy, be sure to keep the following factors in mind.

**Insure for the right amount.** Timberland liability insurance is a critical component in protecting the health of your timberland. The amount of liability insurance you need is dynamic and dependant on many variables. The value of your total assets, your current financial and business status, lifestyle, and any existing coverage are all relevant. Today, liability judgments can easily exceed your net worth resulting in a significant negative impact to future earnings and generations. Regularly assess your current circumstances along with your current liability coverage to determine if you have adequate limits in place.

**Anticipate and prepare for accidents:** One of the most important components of your liability policy is guaranteeing protection in the event an accident occurs on your timberland.

Imagine you've done everything right. You've removed the cable gates, repaired the damaged roads and stream crossings, marked the property boundaries, filled in the old wells, and followed every other risk management recommendation ever given to you. Yet, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, a few individuals on four wheel all terrain vehicles invite themselves onto your timberland for a trail ride. On a newly constructed woods road, one of the drivers loses control and runs off the road hitting an exposed culvert, ejecting a passenger from the vehicle. The passenger, who is a minor, sustains a life threatening injury. The parents of the injured minor believe that you are at fault because you did not adequately mark or cover the exposed culvert. Even though it appears obvious that you are a victim of an involuntary trespass, you find yourself in a liability lawsuit. You have to incur the cost to hire an attorney and to defend yourself. Timberland liability coverage can provide the legal defense you need and will cover costs up to the policy limits.

**Consider buildings and other external structures.** If there are buildings on your property such as a camp house, barn, garage or shed, consider having them insured. Timberland liability policies are designed to insure your liability associated with the timberland ownership. If coverage for the property is desired, you will likely need to seek additional property and general liability coverage designed for rural property.

**Know the business operations exclusion.** Generally, business operations on your property - timber harvesting or other for hire contracted services - are not covered by timberland liability insurance. As a timberland owner, request proof from any contractor working on your timberland that he or she has named

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## NCFA MEMBERS ASKED TO IDENTIFY A TEACHER

NCFA members are encouraged to identify a teacher in their community who would be a good candidate for the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academies being held this year.

The Academies are open to all teachers with a emphasis on science teachers and those from urban communities. There is a nominal \$50 registration fee. There is a registration link on the NCFA's website under the Teachers Tab.

The three Academies are:

**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.

Teachers tour forest products facilities as part of the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academies. Here, a portion of the Asheville Academy tours Columbia Forest Products.

Individuals or companies interested in helping sponsoring the Academies by making a contribution that will offset the registration costs for teachers and the overall program can do so by calling the NCFA office.

You can learn more about the program via the link on the NCFA's website ([www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org)) under the education tab. ■

### Keep It Protected...(from page 6)

you as an additional insured to their general liability and workers compensation policies. By being named as an additional insured you will not only be sure that coverage is in place but also that you will be notified in the event the policy is cancelled.

**Consider your carrier.** Look for a carrier with a strong balance sheet, low risk investment strategy and excellent underwriting. Seek an admitted carrier for greater assurance that they will be there when you need them the most. Admitted carriers are filed with and subject to the laws and regulations in the states where they are admitted. In most business sectors, admitted carriers, when available, are strongly preferred over non-admitted. Investigate the benefits provided by an admitted carrier when purchasing timberland liability coverage.

**Revisit your policy.** A proper periodic review of your insurance coverage will guarantee the policy keeps up with the changes in your timberland. It is recommended to review your coverage at least once every three years or after any significant event that might have an affect on the policy, such as the acquisition of a new timberland tract or a significant change in your financial situation.

Before you make the commitment of acquiring timberland liability coverage, make sure you are familiar with the policy. Ask the right questions and get the right answers to make sure you have the right coverage in place. Endorsed by NCFA, a timberland owner has easy access to a policy with a \$1,000,000 per occurrence limit and a \$ 2,000,000 aggregate through Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency. Please call Davis-Garvin (800) 845-3163 with any questions. ■



## TRUCK DRIVERS ENCOURAGED TO SHUT OFF TRUCKS WHEN LEAVING CAB

In February, a truck driver was involved in a fatal accident in South Carolina while attempting to remove his load flag. According to reports, the driver was removing his load flag while in line at the facility. The truck driver parked behind him also got out of his truck to remove his flag. When the second driver left his cab, his truck moved forward, fatally striking the first driver who was between the two trucks.

Truck drivers are always encouraged to use extreme caution in and around traffic associated with entering and exiting forest products facilities. If a driver is going to leave his cab, it is recommended that the driver shut off his truck and employ all breaking mechanisms available to ensure that the truck remains stationary.

## PLEASE USE CAUTION WITH OPEN FIRES

Forestry Mutual urges the use of extreme caution when using open fires at logging sites and in shops wood burning stoves to provide heat during the winter months. Forestry Mutual has experienced claims where employees attempted to start or enhance fires without the full knowledge of the potential hazards for using such materials. All the accidents have one contributing factor - employees trying to start fires with combustible petroleum products, such as diesel fuel and gasoline.

Products such as these have low flash points and will explode when ignited. This can cause the fuel, as well as any materials in the fire, to explode back at the person starting the fire. In some cases, multiple employees have been burned.

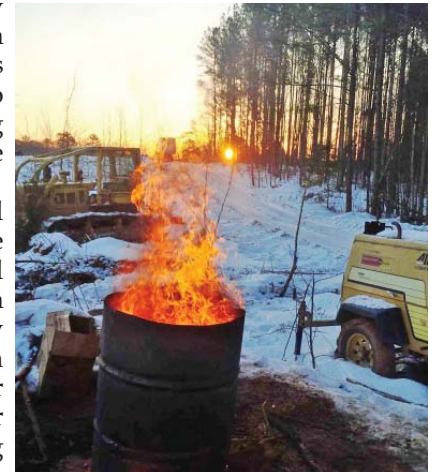
Investigations have concluded that some employees are unaware of the low flash point associated with the newest diesel fuel. On road and off road diesel fuel now contains a product known as "Ultra Low Sulfur" (ULS) which is cleaner burning and helps improve air quality by significantly reducing emissions.

However, the flash point of this new ULS is far lower than conventional diesel fuel. If an employee throws it on a fire, it will "flash" or explode just like gasoline. *Employees need to be aware that Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) poses a greater static ignition hazard than earlier diesel and must not be used to start fires.*

According to OSHA standards, employers are responsible for identifying all known hazards at the job site or workplace. Employers are required by law to train their employees and make them aware of those hazards. Also, employers should make a list of all major fire hazards, potential ignition sources, and fire protection equipment needed at the work site.

An employer must inform employees upon initial assignment to a job of the fire hazards. If their job includes working around fires or starting fires, the employer has the responsibility to properly train those employees. Or if employers do not allow fires at work sites or the workplace, it is their responsibility to have a policy restricting any types of fires. Whichever the case, it is ultimately the employer's responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of all employees during the work day.

Forestry Mutual strongly recommends that employers evaluate their work sites to determine if fires are being started correctly and being done safely. ■



*NCFA ProLogger Chip Capps captured this photo of a sunrise on his job recently.*

# TREE LINE

MARCH 2015



Fay Raynor received a plaque of recognition for serving on the NCFEA's Executive Committee in 2014 from NCFEA Chairman Ray Allen during the January meeting of the NCFEA's Board of Directors.

March 11-12, 2015 - The Forest Resource Association's Southeastern Region 2015 Spring Meeting at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside in Wilmington, NC  
March 21, 2015 - Arbor Day Celebration, Farmers' Market, Raleigh, NC  
April 29 - May 1, 2015 - Forestry & Environmental Camp, Greensboro, NC  
May 20, 2015 - Forestry Day in the Legislature, Halifax Mall, Raleigh, NC.  
May 20, 2015 - Friends of Forestry PAC Reverse Raffle, Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh, NC.  
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, Montgomery, NC  
September 18-19, 2015 - Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo, Smithfield-Selma area.  
October 7-9, 2015 - NCFEA Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.  
October 26-30, 2015 - Forestry & Environmental Camp, Wilmington, NC

## EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

May 21, 2015 at Brownstone Hotel, Raleigh, NC.  
**Board of Directors**  
April 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at McLaurin's Farm, McColl, SC  
**Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee**  
May 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at NCFEA office, Raleigh, NC  
**NC SFI State Implementation Committee**

## MEETINGS

North Carolina Forestry Association  
1600 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27609



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