

TREE LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

GIBSON NAMED NCFA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The NCFA's search committee for the NCFA's Executive Vice President position selected former North Carolina legislator, Pryor Gibson, as the NCFA's new leader. Gibson started in his new position the week of Forestry Day in the Legislature.

No stranger to most members who regularly attend NCFA events such as Forestry Day and the Annual Meeting, Gibson was a strong ally of the association and the forest products industry during his tenure in the North Carolina General Assembly (1989-1990, 1999-2011). Over this period, he chaired over 20 committees and was a chief sponsor of numerous forestry, environmental & regulatory legislation.

Gibson left the House of Representatives in 2011 to serve as a senior advisor to the governor. Gibson also served as the director of the Workforce



Senator Bob Rucho and Pryor Gibson pose for a photo at Forestry Day.

Solutions section of the Business Services Department within the North Carolina's Department of Commerce. Gibson began his career as a builder and real estate developer.

Gibson earned his bachelor's degree in biology & chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and attended graduate classes at North Carolina State University and University of North Carolina Charlotte. ■

CAMP ADAPTS TO WEATHER



John Cecil with Domtar helps a student with tree measurement.

The NCFA's Forestry and Environmental Camp got off to a rough start as tornado threats roamed North Carolina on the opening day of camp on Wednesday. Kernodle teachers and NCFA volunteers adapted to the weather and ran the first day of camp in classrooms and areas close to the school. The weather eased by Thursday and the camp returned to its outside setting at Carolyn S. Allen Park.

"Our volunteers once again proved that they were up to the challenge of teaching forestry to sixth grade students in any weather conditions," stated Chris Brown, the NCFA's Director of Communications (continued on page 2)

2013 TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR IS A ROW CROPPER AT HEART

By Chris Brown, NCFA Communications Director

You will have to forgive Gene Brown, North Carolina's 2013 Tree Farmer of the Year, if he is a little obsessed with rows and the neatness of the roads that subdivide his different tracts of timber. He is after all, a third generation farmer.

"I just love to see the trees growing," explained Brown, 78, when talking about his Tree Farm. "Trees are beautiful, but they are prettiest when they are planted in rows. I have spent a lot of time out here planting trees, building and improving access roads. It's a labor of love."

Today, Brown's labor of love totals 735 continuous acres and another 52 acres down the road in Rich Square in Northampton County. His grandfather, Jere Brown, moved to Rich Square in 1883 and raised a family of 12 children in a house that now serves as hunt club lodge on the property.

"He made a living on 34 acres of land," stated Brown. "That was a different day."

Brown is the only child of Hollie Parker Brown and Eugene Brown, Sr., who raised cotton, peanuts and grains. In addition to farming, Eugene Sr. established the first commercial chicken hatchery in northeastern North Carolina in 1921. The family farm had a 32-acre peanut allotment and a 23-acre cotton allotment. The farm also produced corn, wheat, oats, barley, and soy beans that were fed to the family's chickens, hogs and cattle.

Despite having a brother who was a professor at North Carolina State University in the poultry science department, the



Gene Brown was the North Carolina Tree Farmer of the Year in 2013.

elder Brown urged his son to go to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obtain a liberal arts education. The plan was for the Browns to share the farming and poultry raising duties on the family farm after Eugene Jr. graduated from UNC.

"Plans change," explained Brown. "The plan was that I was going to come back and run the hatchery operation, and he was going to concentrate solely on farming. But of course, he died, and that never happened."

So, in 1956, Brown and his mother, Hollie, inherited the 535-acre family farm during his junior year in college. After graduating from UNC in 1958, Brown took to managing the family farm. Another unforeseen change in plans redirected Brown's path once again. This time it was his Uncle Sam calling.

Brown got drafted in January of 1959 into the United States Army. He freely admits that he had no interest in going (continued on page 5)

NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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Tom Inman	Mark Wiseman

SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFA

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

The NCFA is the state's oldest forest conservation organization, consisting of 4,000 member with ties to forestry and the forest products industry. A private, non-profit organization, the NCFA 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

SUN SHINES BRIGHTLY FOR FORESTRY DAY



(l-r) Senator Michael Walters, Joe Ross, Joanne Reese and Pryor Gibson pose for a photo during Forestry Day in the Legislature.

A total of 80 members showed up to forward the forestry message during Forestry Day in the Legislature. We enjoyed strong representation from all of our member categories once again this year. This diverse turnout demonstrates the range of individuals and companies woven into our association to the members of the General Assembly and their staff.

The event was once again well attended by lawmakers. Our event continues to be one of the most popular because of the relaxed atmosphere and menu.

It also marked the first Forestry Day in the Legislature for the NCFA's new

Executive Vice President, Pryor Gibson. Of course, Gibson previously attended many of our Forestry Days as a lawmaker.

"Forestry Day is one of the best opportunities for legislators to take time out of their hectic schedules and actually sit down and listen to what we need for the forests and the forest products industry in North Carolina," stated Gibson. "It is one of the favorite events among legislators - not only because the food is good and the company is good - but they get a chance to get out of their normal routine and walk across the grass to see people from home. And that's what they like to do best. For me, it was a great reunion with old friends and colleagues, and a chance to share my good fortune to be the new executive vice president with people that I respect and can do a lot of great things for the forestry community and our forests." ■

Forestry Camp...(from page 1)

and camp coordinator for Greensboro.

The Friday morning session was the competition portion of the camp. The top team on Friday was Ms. Smith's Cypress team.

"We really appreciate all the volunteers who came out to help with the Greensboro Camp," stated Brown. "It's one thing to talk about the importance of education, and it's another to have the boots on the ground to actually be able to do it. Our volunteers make the difference in these camps. We have some great volunteers that do an awesome job connecting with these kids." ■



(right) Jason Lefler with Edwards Wood Products teaching land measurement.

Greensboro Volunteers

Askew, Scott
Blackwood, Nancy
Blake, Mickey
Blue, Adrian
Burlison, Doug
Byrd, Michael
Castle, David
Cecil, John
Charest, Chris
Cox, Joe
Daniel, Josh

Daniels, Chuck
Davis, Rhet
Doggett, Coleman
Evans, Bruce
Gladden, David
Gregg, Stewart
Haines, Brian
Hill, B.J.
Inman, Tom
Jarrard, Roy

Johnson, David
Lefler, Jason
Listerman, Ed
Masters, David
Megalos, Mark
Morris, Justin
Phillips, Amy
Phillips, Ron
Swan, Eddie
Thompson, Marshall

BUDGET THE FOCUS OF EARLY ACTION IN RALEIGH

The General Assembly is open for business and lawmakers are working quickly towards finalizing a budget in this short session. The Senate has released its budget, and there are a few provisions that would impact forestry.

One provision that calls for the counties to contribute more for the services provided by the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) than they do currently.

This budget reduction at the state level could mean a loss of up to 18 positions across the state if the local counties are not able to provide funding for the positions at the county level.

The NCFA recognizes the invaluable service that NCFS personnel provide in the management and guidance for forest landowners and strongly supports keeping current the state funding formula for funding the NCFS.

Another budget provision proposes the NCFS setting a service fee for writing forest management plans, which is a free service to landowners currently. The fee would range from \$250 for acres 20 or less, \$500 for acres 50 or less, and \$750 for acreage over 50 acres. Forest management plans are extremely important tools for forestland owners, communities, and foresters.

Finally, the Forestry Museum in Columbus County has been targeted for closure. The NCFA strongly supports continuing the funding for the Forestry Museum. Our membership helped removed it from the chopping block last year and that same effort will be needed again this year.

Transportation issues always impact our industry and the state is currently reviewing how it pays for its roads, bridges, highways, etc. There is some good and bad in this for forest products. On the positive side, the Department of Transportation is reviewing several bridges and crossings that have historically been trouble spots for our industry and agriculture in general. We have been asked to forward the top "problem" bridges by NCDOT so they can be addressed in this review.

On the negative, the state is actively seeking to transfer state highways over to federal highways. This designation means the weight tolerance that was gained two years ago to 90,000 pounds could be lost on all those state highways that go into the federal ranks since the federal weight limit is still 80,000 pounds.

In terms of taxes, the Senate has proposed raising the highway use tax on all three axle vehicles over 27,000 pounds. This provision would impact industries across the state, not just the forest products industry.

The NCFA will be actively addressing all of these issues with its partners in agriculture and other impacted industries. ■

POINT OF VIEW

PROOF IN THE NUMBERS

By Frank Rackley, NCFA President Elect

In order to provide an accurate picture of the forest resource in North Carolina, the U.S. Forest Service and the North Carolina Forest Service collaborate to collect, analyze and publish a comprehensive report on the forests in North Carolina on a regular basis. This report, the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA), provides our best look at the quantity, species, age and health of forests across the state.

The inventory numbers in the most recent report published in 2014, which updates the forest resource to 2011, demonstrates the state's forestland inventory grew at a modest level. The total acreage increased some 40,000 acres to a total of 18,587,541 acres. Roughly 60 percent of our state's land remains forested, which is impressive considering North Carolina continues to rank in the top five of the fastest growing states in the nation.

What is even more impressive is that nearly 85 percent of this forestland is privately owned among non-industrial private forest owners (NIPF), non-industrial corporate ownership (TIMO) and forest products companies. The NIPFs dominate this private ownership group, managing some 64 percent of the state's forests for a myriad of reasons, including wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics and yes, forest products. In the end, these landowners expect and depend on a return on their sweat equity and ongoing financial investments they put in their forests.

The most recent FIA report is a good news story. It also is a tribute to the landowners, foresters, wildlife experts and others managing our state's only renewable resource that has shaped North Carolina's environment and economy since the colonial days.

Unfortunately, our home-grown stewardship continues to go unrecognized by the nation's leading green building code, LEED. Overseen by the U.S. Green Building Council, the LEED standard only rewards Certified Wood Credits to a project that utilizes wood that has been certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC), which is just one of the three major forest certification

systems. The other two certification systems, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), are recognized internationally as quality forest certification systems equal to FSC.



Frank Rackley

If we are truly to recognize and reward our private forest landowners for their investment in their forests, we should guarantee them access to all available markets in our state. Any state or local entity that demands the use of the LEED standard is discriminating (either knowingly or unknowingly) against certified wood grown in compliance to the SFI and American Tree Farm System standards. Ironically in North Carolina, this means looking past locally grown wood for foreign imports. A total of 1.3 million acres of forestland is enrolled in the SFI or ATFS certification programs in North Carolina while less than 50,000 acres are FSC certified in our state.

Let's also be clear - the NCFA strongly supports the inclusion of ATFS and SFI standards in the LEED standard as it pertains to Certified Wood Credits only. The NCFA has never petitioned the U.S. Green Building Council to consider rewarding more points for the use of certified wood products instead of other building products such as concrete or steel. The complaint lies strictly in the certified wood arena of the standard.

Despite being asked during the open comment period to include SFI and ATFS wood through four different revisions to the standard since its creation in 1998, the U.S. Green Building Council stubbornly refuses to evolve and be an inclusive standard. Consequently, the NCFA strongly urges North Carolina to join the growing number of states that have already issued the dismissal of the LEED standard in any publicly funded construction projects. ■



PROLOGGER GRADUATES 60 IN NEW BERN

The NCFA's ProLogger program graduated a new class of ProLoggers the first week of April in New Bern. The comprehensive base course consisted of two days of classroom instruction and concluded with a field day.

"We truly appreciate the efforts of our partners with these classes," stated the NCFA's Jack Swanner. "All of our instructors provide up-to-date information in their fields and it makes for a great three days of instruction."

ProLogger partners include Forestry Mutual, North Carolina Department of Labor, the North Carolina Forest Service, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. ■



Thanks to Jon Wetherington (left) and his crew for hosting the ProLogger Field Day session. There was 60 new ProLoggers out on the field day in addition to staff volunteers from Forestry Mutual, OSHA, NCFS and the NCFA.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW SCALE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

The NCFA encourages members who are looking to comply with the position and maintenance requirements in Handbook 44 of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Standards Division to review the following document. The requirement pertains to the scales at a facility weighing incoming trucks. In short, the customer must be able to see a zero indication on the scale indicator before the transaction begins, the weight when he or she is on the scale, and then witness a zero indication after pulling off the scale. This rule was first put in place in 2012. If you need further assistance with obtaining the proper paperwork associated with these requirements, please call the NCFA at (800) 231-7723. ■

ANDREWS NAMED FRA LOGGER OF THE YEAR



Anthony Andrews received the Forest Resources Association's National Outstanding Logger Award for 2014 on Thursday of this week in Virginia Beach, VA at the FRA's joint Southeastern & National Annual Meeting.

Andrews was named Forestry Mutual's Logger of the Year in 2013 for his excellent safety record and overall professionalism. Andrews is recognized as a true leader in the logging profession. In addition to his work in the woods, Andrews has developed a new logo to help promote forestry in North Carolina and the southeast. He was profiled in the NCFA's March/April TreeLine and be found online at www.ncforestry.org. ■

REVERSE RAFFLE CROWNS TWO WINNERS

The Friends of Forestry PAC sold 752 tickets to its reverse raffle, generating just over \$20,000 for the FFPAC and a pot of \$5,000 for the winners. The drawing took place at the Brownstone on Tuesday evening. As the tickets dwindled under 10, two tickets remained amongst the top 10 where the owner had notified that she would not share the winnings. Consequently, tickets were drawn from the drum until only two remained that would share the prize. Frank Rackley and Charlie Kenley were the lucky two still in the drum and will split the \$5,000 pot.

The FFPAC would like to thank everyone who sold and/or bought tickets for the raffle. This was our best year for selling tickets! The funds generated will be used to support worthy candidates this summer in preparation for the fall elections.

If you would like to support the FFPAC, there is still time. Please contact Chris Brown (919) 337-6094 if you would like to make a donation. We are trying to get to at least 50 Gold Level supporters this year! ■

MODULE 14 SCHEDULE

- June 2, 2014: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.** CNS Training Room, Georgia Pacific, Dudley, NC
- June 10, 2014: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** Resolute Forest Products Office, Lancaster, SC
- June 12, 2014: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.** CNS Training Room, Georgia Pacific, Dudley, NC
- June 19, 2014: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** James Sprunt CC, Monk Auditorium, Kenansville, NC
- June 24, 2014: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Roaring River VFD, Roaring River, NC
- June 26, 2014: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.** Southeastern CC, Whiteville, NC
- June 27, 2014: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Stan Adams Training Facility, Chapel Hill, NC

BASE COURSE SCHEDULE

- April 2-4, 2014:** Craven County Center, New Bern, NC [COMPLETED]
- June 11-13, 2014:** Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston Salem, NC
- October 8-10, 2014:** McDowell Community College, Marion, NC

WNC WORKSHOP SERIES

The Western NC Woodland Steward Series program, which empowers forestland owners to manage their properties for forest health, will take place in the Asheville area in July and August. Please contact Addie Thornton, Program Coordinator, at (919) 515-5065 for more information or check out www.ncsu-feop.org/woodlandstewards. The workshops are a collaborative effort led by N.C. State University's Forestry & Environmental Outreach Program. ■

A Row Cropper...(from page 1)

into the Army, serving 21 months in total.

"I served 15 months at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland," recalled Brown. "I got an early release to come home and plant the fall crops. Nobody ever hated to go as much as I did, but it was a great experience. It was good duty. Once in a while you could get into the industrial area and you could see testing. They tested everything from tanks and bazookas to rockets. I also met my wife in the process."

While stationed in Aberdeen, Brown met his wife, Opal.

"She was going to the University of Maryland and I went down there on a blind date," explained Brown. "And I was smitten."

Once back in Northampton County for good, Opal and Eugene set out to expand the family farm while raising a family. The Browns have two children, Elena Brown Strickler and Eugene Brown III and two grandchildren, Will and Luke.

With the soil types on the family farm, Brown balanced his crop acreage with tree plantings on the non-productive acres on the farm. Brown received his first assistance from Jim Anderson, a forester who worked for the Halifax Paper Company. Anderson wrote the property's first forest management plan in 1961. Brown has used that as his blueprint for his farm ever since. He enrolled his farm in the American Tree Farm System in 1962. A farmer at heart, Brown was reluctant tree planter in the early stages.

"You can imagine how I really resisted the idea of putting open cropland back into trees that our ancestors had to clear," explained Brown, "but we finally did it."

Maybe as a subconscious compromise, Brown began planting his trees in rows in earnest in 1970. He methodically took marginal farmland out of crop production while adding tracts of land that bordered his farm. At this time, Brown worked with forester Joe Huff with Champion International on a comprehensive forest management plan that is still used as blueprint for the activity on the Tree Farm. By 2000, Brown had only 123 acres left in row crop production. The rest of the farm was either in trees or pasture for cattle. He decided at that point to put all of his land into trees.

Brown maintains two notebooks in his farm shop office. One has his current forest management plan for his farm. These plans have detailed maps and forest management

activities planned for years ahead. Brown calculates that he is on the seventh overall update on the original plan set forth by Huff. The other notebook is home to all of the previous plans. Over the years, he has sold timber to Union Camp, West Fraser, Domtar, and Halifax Paper Company, which is now Kapstone.

His property is divided into 13 different plots that all bear the name of the original family name of the farmer that owned them, including his own grandfather. He works on the plans to keep them up-to-date with the assistance from Rodney Black, Northampton County's Forest Ranger.

"I have had the privilege to offer assistance and work Eugene's Tree Farm extensively since the fall of 2003," stated Black. "Eugene and Opal are two of the most humble landowners I have ever met. My first visit to the farm back then is just like my most recent trip in that it takes my breath away every time. Under the well-managed canopy of his forests lay manicured forest roads, waterways, food plots, and fire breaks that he created and maintains."

In addition to his trees, Brown has a long-standing rental agreement with a hunt club. While the hunt club supplies feed in season, Brown has planted specific groves of trees and annually plants patches of turnips for wildlife to feed on during the non-hunting months.

Brown is the first to point out that he has learned much over the years through trial and error, with an emphasis on the error part!

"I used to take a four wheeler and put an old tire on a wire and ignite it and just drag it around the outside of area that I was going to burn," stated Brown. "It didn't take long to learn that's not the way to do it."

On a more serious note, Rodney Black credits Brown with being a pioneer among landowners in Northampton County.

"Eugene began burning during a time when fire was feared by most landowners," stated Black. "He recognized the multiple benefits of understory burning for forest



Three ages in view. Standing in one of Gene Brown's oldest forest stands, you can see two other age groups within the Tree Farm.

health, wildfire reduction, and wildlife benefits."

Brown believes cost-share programs and markets are two of the keys to his survival as a Tree Farmer.

Updates to forest products facilities have helped shorten the exposure for landowners on that initial investment in a new forest.

"Most of the mills now are so automated and they are set up for smaller logs," stated Brown. "The day of a large pine tree – 24 inches in diameter – is about gone. It's just a remarkable process."

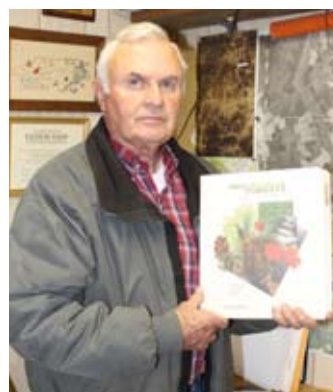
The cost-share programs have also provided critical capital for the investment in moving marginal farmland into productive forests.

"It has been a great assistance," stated Brown. "You can get back 40 percent of the cost of planting. That makes a difference and you can also get some cost share for site prep and for your fire lanes."

There is no better example on the farm than the most recent acquisition of land that runs adjacent to the railroad that borders the property. The property had been neglected and was not in a healthy state. After reforesting the site, Brown spent countless hours and deposited some 130 truckloads of sand into the access road that is just eight-tenths of a mile long.

"It's tedious, it's fun, but it's also expensive," summarized Brown.

The end result of Brown's work is also beautiful. It does not take a visitor long to appreciate the amount of effort that has gone into the planning and implementation of excellent forest management on this Tree Farm in Northampton County. ■



Brown maintains his forest management plans in a notebook.

HOW SFI SUPPORTS THE CAPE FEAR ARCH

By Tony Doster, North Carolina Region Manager, Resource Management Service, Chair, Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration, Chair, Appalachian Society of American Foresters

While the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a globally recognized certification system, one of its basic missions is to certify management practices that enhance both forest management and conservation. Since the program's inception, it has certified over 240 million acres across Canada and the United States. But, SFI is not only committed to the sustainable production of wood products, it is committed to maintaining the unique places that exist in forestlands through its Conservation and Community Partnership Grant Program. Since 2010, SFI has awarded 40 grants totaling more than \$1.65 million to support projects that promote sustainable forestry practices and engage communities.

In my role with Resource Management Services and the Society of American Foresters, I have had the unique opportunity to see the program work hand in hand with local conservation groups to achieve common goals. One great example of this outreach is our current efforts with the Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration (CFACC), which is a nonprofit partnership of organizations and individuals created in 2006 for the purpose of enhancing cooperation and communication regarding

regional conservation issues within the Cape Fear Arch (CFA) landscape.

The participating organizations represent a broad spectrum of land managers and land conservation advocates with differing missions, but all are dedicated to sustainable natural resource management while retaining the natural heritage of the region. Towards this end, the participating organizations are committed to foresee potential conservation opportunities and resource issues and, within their authority and consonant with their missions, work to maintain and protect ecologically viable and significant areas.

Over the last three years, two organizations within the CFACC have received SFI Community and Conservation Grants.

In 2011, RMS worked with the Coastal Land Trust to aid their efforts towards educating landowners about working forest conservation easements. That year, the CLT submitted a Community and Conservation Grant Proposal to SFI and received over \$20,000 to promote the conservation of ecologically important forest and aquatic habitats through The Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration.

The Trust collaborated with the North Carolina

Wildlife Resources Commission and the North Carolina chapter of the Nature Conservancy to conduct community education, outreach workshops, training, and technical assistance focused on utilizing conservation easements to protect vulnerable forests.

In 2013, CFACC participants - RMS, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and The National Wild Turkey Federation - received a conservation grant for enhancing habitat on private lands. TNC and its partners have a renewed focus on private landowner outreach in areas surrounding existing priority conservation areas and SFI certified lands. The intent is to keep lands in privately-held working forests and where feasible and practical, implement longleaf pine restoration. The optimal outcome will be a mix of restoration, certification and working forest conservation easements. As lead organization for the grant, TNC received \$27,000 from SFI.

"The Nature Conservancy is thrilled to enhance our capacity in reaching private landowners through funding from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative," stated Dan Ryan, Director of the NC Longleaf Pine Whole System program for TNC. "The project is a true partnership, leveraging the wherewithal, resources and skill sets of Resource Management Service, the National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy to reach private landowners. Our aim is to advocate for forest certification, working forest conservation easements and longleaf pine restoration where appropriate in an effort to keep working forests working."

In addition to conservation grants from the SFI Community



and Partnerships grant program, SFI member companies in North Carolina, working through the North Carolina Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee (NC SFI SIC) have developed a grant program that is available to organizations working throughout North Carolina.

This year, the Coastal Land Trust (CLT) received a grant of \$8,500 from the NC SFI SIC grant program to learn more about Tree Farm Certification, evaluate the CLT portfolio of properties and certify them to the Tree Farm standard, and incorporate certification in its work with landowners that engage with CLT for conservation easements and for properties CLT currently holds under conservation easement.

Now is a great time for foresters, conservation organizations, and SFI to work together. SFI member companies can make a real difference in promoting forest conservation by looking for grant partners and helping to sponsor suitable projects. Both the Community and Conservation grant program and the NC SFI SIC grant program provide a valuable vehicle for enhancing cooperation and for sustaining forests. Grant applications for the NC Sustainable Forestry Implementation Committee are due July 1. Information on the program can be found at www.ncsfi.org. Grant applications for the SFI Community and Conservation Partnerships program can be found at www.sfi-program.org. ■

COMMISSIONER TROXLER ANNOUNCES HEMLOCK FUNDING

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently announced the allocation of seed funding for a new effort to restore North Carolina's hemlock trees to long-term health. Hemlocks across Western North Carolina are being decimated by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect that sucks the sap of young twigs, which leads to tree death.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use \$100,000 from the state's legal settlement with the Tennessee Valley Authority to start the Hemlock Restoration Initiative. The department has selected WNC Communities as its primary partner to implement the project. ■

NEW MEMBERS

Member.....	City
Edward Ayers.....	Plymouth
Don Beasley.....	High Point
Brad Cahoon Trucking LLC.....	Belhaven
Dennis Tyrone DeVane.....	Ivanhoe
Eagle Claw Hunting Club.....	Rocky Mount
Joseph C, Pamela J & Trevar J Eason.....	Roper
Fryor Hunt Club.....	Wake Forest
Jeffrey Goodson.....	Jacksonville
George Haney.....	Wadesboro
Charles Henderson.....	New Bern
J and C Hunt Club.....	Conover
Greg Jacobs.....	Bolton
James Kirk.....	Greenville
Lauren Lesak.....	Garysburg
Charles Lovings.....	Browns Summit
Natural Capital Investment Fund.....	Chapel Hill
Joey Phelps.....	Washington
Edwin Price.....	Plymouth
Eric Rasberry.....	New Bern
Jake Sanders.....	Elizabeth City
Summitt Logging LLC.....	Lumberton
Eric Swindell.....	Plymouth
T. J. Greene, LLC.....	Candor
Marcus Thomas.....	Merry Hill
Adam Traywick.....	Marshville
Triple T Gun Club.....	Roper
Christopher White.....	Clarkton

NCFA LOSES FRIEND WITH PASSING OF DAN GELBERT

Dan Gelbert was born in Chambersburg, PA on November 4, 1939, and died April 3, 2014. In 2005, Gelbert was honored with NCFA's Distinguished Service to Forestry Award after concluding his 40-plus year career as a consulting forester, land surveyor, appraiser and educator. Gelbert was a former NCFA President and Chairman of the Board during his career.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degree from Duke in the early 1960's, Gelbert started Daniel Gelbert & Associates, a consultant firm in Durham in 1973. Over the years, Gelbert reached out to landowners, government officials, corporate entities and peers in the forestry field. In 1974, Gelbert received the prestigious National Wildlife Federation's Governor's Award for Forest Conservation. ■



Robin and Dan Gelbert celebrated Dan's selection as the NCFA's Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

US HARDWOOD MANUFACTURERS SEE FLAWS IN PROPOSED PROMOTION PROGRAM

The US Hardwood Lumber Industry Coalition released the results of an industry research project designed to gauge the support for the USDA's proposed Hardwood Lumber and Hardwood Plywood Promotion, Research and Information Order, otherwise known as the Hardwood Check Off program. The research data were collected by Conquest Communications of Richmond, Virginia.

Check-off programs are designed to support marketing and research activities for various commodities through USDA's collection of mandatory assessments on the commodity's producers and processors. Those assessments are in turn used to fund programs targeted at increasing the sales of those commodities. Some of the better known check-off promotions include the "Got Milk?", "Beef, It's What's for Dinner" and "Pork, The Other White Meat" campaigns. Check off programs are administered by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. There are currently more than 20 such programs in place. In the past few years, check off programs covering forest products such as softwood lumber and Christmas trees have been developed.

Conquest Communications questioned hardwood lumber manufacturers on the proposed check off with 257 companies participating. That group represents 18 percent of the total 1,434 companies eligible to vote on USDA's proposed check-off, which is a statistically representative sample of all hardwood lumber manufacturers. The telephone research was completed in May 2014 and based on USDA's list of affected hardwood manufacturers.

According to the research results, five percent of the respondents support the check off program. An additional 12 percent indicate their openness to consider supporting an industry check-off program given modifications to the proposal put forth by USDA. More than 19 percent were unsure of the check off program, despite USDA and other reported industry efforts to publicize the potential upcoming industry referendum on the proposal.

USDA published the proposed check off program in the Federal Register on November 13, 2013, with a 60 day comment period. On January 16, 2014, USDA extended the comment period another 30 days until February 18, 2014. A total of 956 comments were filed by industry participants and other stakeholders, including the US Hardwood Lumber Industry Coalition.

In its comments, the Coalition expressed a number of concerns, including the inclusion of both hardwood lumber and hardwood plywood under the same check off program, the exclusion of imports under the program, and small business exclusion that would prevent hardwood lumber manufacturers with annual revenues of \$2 million or less from voting in check off referendum or participating in promotional activities. The results of those inquiries were:

- 70 percent of respondents opposed including hardwood lumber and hardwood plywood in the same check off, with 14 percent in favor;
- 74 percent of respondents opposed excluding imported hardwood products from the check off assessment, with 12 percent in favor;
- 85 percent of respondents opposed excluding hardwood lumber manufacturers with less than \$2 million in annual revenues from the referendum and check off activities, with eight percent in favor.

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.

"This research confirms the message that the US Hardwood Industry Coalition has tried to communicate to the USDA and others in the industry," said Jeff Edwards of Edwards Lumber Company and co-chairman of the Coalition. "USDA's proposed check off is irreparably flawed, and our current system of voluntary funding of research and promotion serves our industry well," Edwards concluded.

"Commodity check off programs are popular and effective in the agricultural sector," says Jeff Hanks, of Bill Hanks Lumber, co-chairman of the US Hardwood Industry Coalition, "but the check-off model does not fit the hardwood industry." ■

TREE LINE

MAY / JUNE 2014



(l-r) Tony Doster of RMS and Mary Watzin, N.C. State University's Dean of the College of Natural Resources, pose for a photo during the NCFA's Forestry Day.

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 1-3, 2014

Loaded with two nights of entertainment, this year's Annual Meeting will take on October 1-3, 2014 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. The meeting kicks off on Wednesday with activities such as golf, shooting clays, zip line. On Wednesday night, the Band of Oz will be taking the stage. Members will get down to business on Thursday with a spectacular program that will strive to navigate our membership through current wetlands issues, general water quality issues and an in depth look at the impacts that federal and state transportation policies may have on how our members conduct business and the landscape in our state. Transportation Secretary Tony Tata highlights the start of the afternoon session on transportation. The speaking program will conclude with the popular political expert, John Davis, who will provide a preview on the fall elections.

On Thursday night, Forestry Mutual and the NCFA will present its annual award winners. The entertainment for the evening will be a "Casino Night" and a silent auction. The silent auction will once again benefit the NCFA's education programs and will be a tax deductible donation since all proceeds go to the Forestry Foundation. This auction has grown in scope and quality over the past few years so please be ready to bid!

The NCFA's Board of Directors will meet on Friday morning at the Grandover.

Registration materials will be mailed to the membership in July. Registration costs will be \$350 for a full registration, \$200 for a spouse, and \$250 for a one-day speaking program only registration. Members are encouraged to make their room reservations at the Grandover well in advance of the meeting. Each year our membership sells out the block of rooms reserved. The room rate for the Grandover is \$169.

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