

# TREE LINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## BATTS FAMILY NAMED NATIONAL TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR!

Judy & Dwight Batts were named the American Tree Farm System's National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year at the ATFS Annual Meeting held in Pittsburgh, PA in late July. *The official release can be found on page 7.*

It marks the second time that a North Carolina Tree Farmer has earned this prestigious title in the past six years. Jean & Bob Cooper were named the ATFS National Tree Farmers of the Year in 2008.

In addition to his volunteer efforts with the North Carolina Tree Farm program and the American Tree Farm System, Dwight Batts is a current member of the NCFA's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The North Carolina Tree Farm program has made tremendous strides since being revitalized in 2000 by the dynamic volunteer duo of Dave Woodmansee and Al Weller. The NCFA was a strong supporter of their efforts during these rebuilding years and remains a committed partner with the program that now has over 900 certified Tree Farms, totaling 265,752 acres.

For more information on the North Carolina Tree Farm program, please contact Leslie McCormick at (919) 917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com. ■



*Dwight & Judy Batts are the ATFS National Outstanding Tree Farmers for 2014*

## SFTA DELIVER FORESTRY PERSPECTIVE IN ASHEVILLE AND NEW BERN

"Just Fabulous" - That is what one teacher expressed to NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson at the conclusion of the tour of Parton Lumber Company. The teacher stopped Gibson just before she boarded the bus that was bound for the group's next stop.

"I want to thank you and the Academy sponsors for this great opportunity," stated the teacher. "It is just fabulous. I have learned so much and everyone has just been so great at all of our visits. And these three ladies are just awesome."

The teacher was referring to Susan Moore, Renee Strnad and Jennifer Grantham of N.C. State University Extension Forestry who organize and guide the Academies.

The Academies were held this past June in Asheville and New Bern. They are four-day residential programs that focus on the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable forestry. Teachers visit a variety of forests and mills learning about



*This is a group shot of the teachers while visiting Georgia-Pacific's facility in Dudley during the New Bern Academy.*



*(right) Jim Sitts leads tour of Columbia Forest Products during the Asheville Academy.*

forest management and the manufacturing of various wood products such as paper, furniture, plywood and lumber.

Teachers participate in tours and hikes in forests under various types of ownership and management plans.

The last day of the Academy is spent in round table discussions reviewing what was learned and how the information and resources can be used in the classroom.

The NCFA appreciates its membership hosting the teachers at their facilities in what has become an extremely popular program with teachers. ■



*(l-r) Susan Moore, Renee Strnad and Jennifer Grantham.*

## NCFA ANNUAL MEETING WILL DOUBLE THE ENTERTAINMENT IN 2014

The NCFA's 2014 Annual Meeting - "*Over the Rivers and Through the Woods to the Scale House We Go!*" - will feature **DOUBLE THE ENTERTAINMENT** from previous years, resulting in double the fun for our members!



*Bobbie & Ed Listerman pose for a photo with Allen Plaster during the 2013 Annual Meeting.*

The focus of the meeting will be water quality issues and what impact they might have on forestry and the forest products industry on a local, state and national level. In the afternoon, the focus will turn to transportation. Again, there are local and national issues that could pose significant

challenges to forestry and the forest products industry.

*(continued on page 6)*

# NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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Brad Howard	Michael Walters
Bryan Hulka	Mary Watzin
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## SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFCA

TreeLine is the bi-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 4,00 member 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

## BUDGET DOMINATES GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

The "short session" has not lived up to all of its hype! Most experts predicted heading into this year's short session that we would witness an early adjournment of the North Carolina General Assembly. Some even predicted a six-week session, but then the budget debate began. Throughout the discussions, the need to meet the fiscal needs of the state were being balanced against various sources of revenue streams. Medicaid and teacher pay are two of the most contentious topics. For forestry interests, there are several provisions being followed closely by the NCFCA.

1. Raising Highway Use Tax Cap from \$1,000 to \$3,000 over the next two years - The NCFCA supports keeping the highway tax as its current level with no increase. The tax would be an unnecessary burden on the forest products industry and all industries that rely heavily on trucking of its products in the state.
2. Increasing the county's portion of the costs for the services provided by North Carolina Forest Service personnel - The NCFCA supports keeping the current formula in place. Shifting more of the burden onto individual counties would put more of a strain on the counties, especially the more rural counties. Ultimately, the NCFCA prefers to see the Department of Agriculture have the ability to balance any budget reductions.
3. Changing Mutual Insurance Definitions - The NCFCA supports definitions clarifying self-funded and standard mutual insurance policy and structure. The changes would have beneficial results for Forestry Mutual Insurance Company.
4. Charging fees for Forestry Management Plans (FMPs) - The NCFCA is concerned that fees will ultimately reduce the amount of management plans written across the state. FMPs are important to our state's forests.

(continued on page 3)

## SUPREME COURT ISSUES FAVORABLE RULING ON TAILORING RULE

The Supreme Court ruled in late June that the EPA's Green House Gas (GHG) Tailoring Rule is invalid as it pertains to the emissions of greenhouse gases. It ruled that greenhouse gases are irrelevant when considering whether a major source permit is required for a facility. Basically, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA lacked the authority to adopt the GHG Tailoring Rule.

The result is that any facility that is a purely greenhouse gas emitting would not need a permit. However, the ruling maintained that if a facility requires a major source permit for emissions of other pollutants, it would also have to track its greenhouse gas emissions. The ruling also does not affect the EPA's authority to regulate GHG emissions under other clean air act programs, including the recently-proposed regulations for fossil-fuel utilities.

Forestry interests would have preferred if the Supreme Court had ruled that all emissions from greenhouse gases were irrelevant.

To provide some background, in 2010, EPA adopted the GHG Tailoring Rule that sought to apply the same major source emissions regulations on greenhouse gas emissions, including from biomass, that are applied to other pollutants. Many groups challenged these regulations, leading to the recent decision by the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) petitioned EPA to reconsider this rule with regard to regulation of GHG emissions from biomass. This objection led to a deferment of the biomass regulation while the EPA developed a framework to account for GHG emissions from biomass. Although this framework is no longer needed to assess whether a major source permit has been triggered by biomass emissions, it may still be needed for other regulatory purposes.

Over the past four years, the potential implementation of the Tailoring Rule is thought to have curbed the expansion of existing facilities or development of new facilities. ■



The NCFA would like to thank Smith-Rowe, our host company for the ProLogger base class in Winston-Salem! Locke Rowe and Jonathan Randall were members of the ProLogger class.

# POINT OF VIEW

## WOOD PELLETS DO NOT DRIVE HARVESTS

By Pryor Gibson, NCFA Executive Vice President



Pryor Gibson

It's been just 13 years since the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) was published and highlighted in every major newspaper in the country. Commissioned in 1999, the SFRA was a comprehensive collaborative study that examined the factors impacting the forests in the South. The collaborators included the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

and the North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina has 18.6 million acres of forestland, which is an increase in acreage from survey data in the early 2000's.

The study was prompted by groups claiming the forest products industry was clear-cutting the South's forests to make paper products. The perceived culprits were chip mills that process wood waste and small trees into chips for the production of essential fiber products like toilet paper. Today, the perceived villain is the wood pellet industry.

More good news is that the majority of North Carolina's forests (85%) are privately owned, and two-thirds of these privately owned forests are designated as non-industrial private forests (NIPF) which are owned by individuals and families. These private landowners rely on healthy markets to sustain their forests. Our state's strong private property rights and our nation's free market system allow them to pursue this opportunity.

The 1,000 page SFRA report made many findings and none found the forest products industry to be the problem. In his conclusion, David Wear, a co-leader of the study with the USFS, stated, "It appears that population growth and urbanization are the most significant challenges we face in sustaining forests."

So if a market emerges where there is an abundant supply of trees; then those benefits should be realized. The real winners are forest landowners and the community because they now have another market for their trees and a better path to conserving their forest legacy for the next generation.

Urban sprawl remains the top threat to the survival of working farms and forests. The slow economy, which has eliminated or damaged markets for forest landowners, probably ranks as a close second.

North Carolina, the birthplace of American Forestry, has a proven track record of conserving our only natural, renewable resource through incentive based public policy that promotes private property rights and healthy forests. Markets may change, but our state's commitment to its forestry tradition is proud and unwavering. ■

The promising news is that according to the most recent data from the USFS

## NCFA SIGNS PETITION ON EPA INTERPRETIVE RULE PERTAINING TO THE CWA

The NCFA joined a list of other forestry associations and organizations who signed onto a letter initiated by NAFO to express concerns over the newly released interpretive rule regarding the applicability of the exemption under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as it applies to certain agricultural conservation practices.

The goal of the interpretive rule was to provide guidance for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) as it pertains to certain agricultural conservation practices based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice standards.

The letter expresses a general concern that the interpretive rule sets standards that are normally exempt during normal forestry activities. It could only pose more problems heading forward. It also notes that the forestry community has worked cooperatively with the EPA and Corps of Engineers on this issue for decades. The overall recommendation is that the agencies not adopt the interpretive rule. ■

## NCFA SILENT AUCTION NEEDS YOUR ITEMS!

The proceeds from NCFA's silent auction at the NCFA's Annual Meeting will support the NCFA's Forestry Education and Conservation Foundation. The auction will take place on Thursday, October 2, 2014 and all purchases are tax deductible. Items include one week at Myrtle Beach, a hunting lease on a Weyerhaeuser land parcel, a turkey hunt on Jordan Lumber & Supply timberlands and many more great items!

This year's effort is being led by Linda Holton. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Linda at (252) 229-3101 or at holtonlj@gmail.com. All donations are welcome! ■

## Budget Dominates General Assembly Agenda...(from page 2)

5. Closing Forestry Museum - NCFA supports the Forestry Museum and has requested the lawmakers provide the industry with additional time to evaluate and realign the museum's structure and mission.
6. Cervid Deer Management - The NCFA supports study of best practices and supports a comprehensive Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) preventive policy.
7. Farm and Forestry Study commission - The NCFA supports the commission's efforts.
8. Changes to Workers' Compensation - The NCFA **DOES NOT** support substantial changes without work group review.
9. Increase NC DOT's maintenance funding - The NCFA supports an increase to the NC DOT's funding to address substandard bridges and roads in the state.

The NCFA reminds members to sign up its weekly release that features legislative updates as well as event and meeting reminders by going online at [www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org) and plugging in an e-mail address. ■



## PROLOGGER PROGRAM ADDS 32 AT WINSTON-SALEM BASE COURSE

The NCFA's ProLogger program graduated a new class of ProLoggers in June in Winston-Salem. The comprehensive base course consisted of two days of classroom instruction and concluded with a field day.

Thanks to our training partners including Forestry Mutual, NC Forest Service, NC Department of Labor and the NC Highway Patrol, a new group of professional loggers into the NCFA's ProLogger program. The course was under the direction of the NCFA's Jack Swanner.

"We had an enjoyable couple of days," stated Swanner. "It was a good group and we continue to get great support with the training portion and the sponsorship of snacks and meals. Thanks to David Johnson and Brad Howard of Weyerhaeuser and Mike Adams of LP Roaring River for helping out with the snacks all week and sharing the cost of the meal."

There is one more ProLogger base course planned for 2014. It will take place in at McDowell Community College in Marion in October. ProLogger partners include Forestry Mutual, North Carolina Department of Labor, the North Carolina Forest Service, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. ■



*ProLoggers graduate in Winston-Salem. A total of 92 new ProLoggers have been added to the program this year through base classes in New Bern and Winston-Salem.*

## SWANNER SELECTED TO LEAD NCPLA

Jack Swanner, who served as the NCFA's Director of Logging and Transportation for the past three years, has accepted the leadership post for the North Carolina Professional Loggers Association. He will start his new job on August 1, 2014.

"We appreciate Jack's efforts during his tenure," stated NCFA President Ray Allen. "His knowledge, perspective and leadership skills have been invaluable to our organization. While we will miss his contributions to the NCFA as a staff member, we look forward to working with the NCPLA on issues and projects in the future."

Prior to joining the NCFA, Swanner spent three years as the forestry advisor with the Biofuels Center located in Oxford, NC. Prior to joining the Biofuels Center, Swanner served as general manager at T&S Hardwoods, overseeing wood procurement, production and sales. A graduate of Auburn University, Swanner is a registered forester. He has also served as president of the Southern Timber Purchaser Council, as president of the Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council, president of the NCFA, and served as a board member on the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Association. ■



*Jack Swanner*

## PROLOGGER HAS GREAT TRAINING YEAR

Thanks to all participating companies and partner organizations, the NCFA's ProLogger program enjoyed a record year in terms of training ProLoggers with the continuing education module.



At the deadline, we failed to train just 65 ProLoggers! We have roughly 59 that need to pay their dues for 2014. All lists currently on the NCFA's website are up-to-date.

In August, the NCFA will be developing supporting materials for Module 15, the training module for the 2014-15 year.

The final ProLogger base course will be in the mountains at McDowell Community College on October 8-10, 2014. The current hold list for this class is online under the ProLogger page on the NCFA's website. ■

## SENATE APPROPRIATIONS VOTES TO SUSPEND HOS RESTART RULE

In June, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 21-9 to suspend funding to enforce the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's new Hours Of Service "restart" provision, pending results of a one-year study to validate FMCSA's basis for that provision. The provision has been widely criticized for creating logistical difficulties for drivers, trucking firms, and shippers by setting impractical and rigid driver rest period and off-duty rules.

Seven Democrats on the Committee joined all of its Republicans in supporting Senator Susan Collins's (R-ME) amendment to suspend funding for the "restart" provision, in spite of vocal opposition from select groups. The Committee's action:

- would suspend the requirement that a driver's 34-hour rest period between on-duty periods overlap two consecutive 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM periods before a driver's work-week could "restart";
- would restore the restart rules in effect before July 1, 2013, from the date of the final bill's enactment "until the later of September 30, 2015, or upon submission of the final report issued by the Secretary under this section";

The House, which had initially indicated that it will accept the Senate's provisions on this issue, released its own version a week later. The House provisions included a study, but did not suspend the funding for the existing rule during the study, effectively keeping the law in place.

Recent events surrounding this issue, including a prominent accident, have slowed any momentum gained from the Senate vote. The NCFA will continue to monitor the provision. ■

# NORTH CAROLINA RECEIVES FUNDS TO CONFRONT FERAL SWINE PROBLEM

By Chris Brown, NCFE Director of Communications

The USDA announced in April of 2014 that a federal program is being introduced to reduce or in some cases eliminate the feral swine problem across the United States. The total funding for the program is 20 million dollars. In North Carolina, the funding will be close to \$300,000 annually and will be administered by the USDA Wildlife Services state office.

"We have asked for money in the past to address this serious and growing problem, but we have never received any funding for it until this year," stated Jon Heisterberg, the USDA Wildlife Services State Director. "Feral swine pose a serious threat to agribusiness here in North Carolina. They carry diseases and can ravage crops, pasture areas, and recently forested acres with their day-to-day activities."

How big are the dollars associated with feral swine damage? Real Big! It is estimated that feral swine rack up about 1.5 billion dollars in damage across nation. This damage occurs in three significant areas - commercial production of hogs in swine facilities and operations, agriculture crops and forestry, and natural resources, including rivers and streams.



*Damage to crops by feral swine is a significant problem. (USDA photo provided)*

As most North Carolinians realize, the hog industry is a big piston in North Carolina's economic engine. It contributes 3.2 billion into state's economy on an annual basis, employing some 45,000 people directly.

Heisterberg, who also oversees North Carolina's Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP), has begun the early stages of putting together a staff and addressing equipment needs. Four Wildlife Service professionals have been assigned to the program. Traps and other equipment are on order in preparation for next winter, which is the best opportunity to trap the feral swine. Heisterberg also created a new, North Carolina Feral Swine Task Force, to bring different stakeholders

to the table. The NCFE is one of the members of this task force

How tough are these hogs? Feral swine have no natural enemies. It is estimated that feral swine are in 92 of North Carolina's 100 counties. In addition to a nasty demeanor and a thick hide, these hogs are as fertile as rabbits. To get North Carolina's wild herds to stay just at the numbers they are today, 70% of the herds would have to be destroyed to stay even with the population.

According to its neighbors, North Carolina has been late to the party in terms of tackling this growing population. Tennessee and South Carolina already have an aggressive approach to controlling feral swine populations, including the use of guns from helicopters. While it may seem a little overkill to be chasing loose pigs with helicopters, you cannot argue with the results. South Carolina shot 321 feral swine in 16 hours of helicopter gunning. The cost estimates ran as low as \$32 a feral hog which is much cheaper than putting personnel on the ground with traps and guns. At this point, North Carolina law does not permit the practice of shooting wildlife from the air so it appears as if traps and guns are going to be the starting point for the North Carolina effort.

In addition to being properly equipped, Heisterberg sees outreach to stakeholders and citizens as one of the top priorities of the program.

"It is clear to most of us that we have a serious problem," stated Heisterberg. "The key to a successful program will be our ability to convince all of the different parties involved in this issue of the environmental, economic and health hazards that are associated with feral swine populations."

One focus group will be hunters. Some hunt clubs actively hunt feral swine as an alternative game species. This can be a dangerous proposition. Feral swine carry over 30 diseases and 37 parasites, many of which can be transmitted to other animals and humans. Examples include brucellosis, swine influenza, toxoplasmosis, tularemia and trichinosis. All those who handle feral hogs need to wear gloves and cook meat thoroughly to avoid contacting diseases. One way hunters can be a great assistance to the program is to call the Wildlife Services to sample any feral hog that has been taken so a biologist can assess the



*Pigs in the Park! Two generations of feral swine visit a park in search of food. (USDA photo provided)*

health of the animal. Another way for hunters to help the cause is to ensure that no feral hogs are relocated to other areas. It is against North Carolina law to relocate feral swine.

North Carolina's feral swine population problem is significant. The economic and environmental stakes are high. Cooperation among all stakeholders will be required to successfully reduce the herds in the state. Heisterberg encourages anyone who sees or suspects feral swine activity to call (866) 487-3297 for assistance. ■

## LATEST ISSUE OF NCFE BMP NEWSLETTER

The North Carolina Forest Service Regional BMP Newsletter Third Quarter Edition is now available online at: [http://ncforestservation.gov/water\\_quality/bmp\\_newsletter.htm](http://ncforestservation.gov/water_quality/bmp_newsletter.htm)

This issue concentrates on the value of site preparation after a logging operation has been completed. The report also includes results from a skid trail BMP study in Virginia, showing the effectiveness of incorporating leftover logging debris to catch sediment and prevent erosion. ■

## SPB UPDATE

The outlook is for a low (and low means good) Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestation for North Carolina based on a recent trap study. The SPB traps, which were set across the state this spring by the NCFE, gauge SPB populations based on the numbers of SPB and Checkered Clerid beetles (CCB), their predator, found in the traps. By looking at the ratio between the CCBs and the SPBs, the NCFE can make a fairly accurate prediction. The same studies show that areas of Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina may see a higher level of SPB activity. ■

# LANDOWNERS

## JUDY AND DWIGHT BATTS NAMED ATFS TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR

Judy and Dwight Batts of Macclesfield, North Carolina, have been named 2014 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year by the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF).

Judy and Dwight are the fifth generation to manage their family-owned Tree Farm. They received their award at the ATFS Tree Farmer Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, on Friday, July 18. The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award is sponsored by



STIHL, Inc. AFF President and CEO Tom Martin joined Kenneth Stewart Jr., Chair of AFF's Board of Trustees and Brad Sorgen of STIHL in presenting the Batts's with a trophy and \$1,000 in STIHL product certificates.

All three generations of the Batts Family are involved in the manage their 375 ATFS certified acres of woodland for timber (mostly Loblolly and Longleaf), water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation. Through perseverance and hard work they have established 60 acres of Longleaf pines, a native species that once covered much of the southeast U.S. but which has declined dramatically over the past century.

The couple raises and releases quail on their property and maintains nest boxes ducks. The nest boxes they provide for Bluebirds produce between 200 and 250 chicks every year. More than seven acres of wildflowers, grasses and clovers support bees and other pollinating insects.

Educating others about forest stewardship is important too. Since 2001, Dwight and Judy have hosted more than 1,500 visitors on their farm, including other Tree Farmers from across the U.S., scouts, school groups, forestry students and professionals, and delegates from Mexico and China.

"Dwight and Judy Batts not only represent the highest standards of forest stewardship, but also the ideal of keeping forests as forest, to be managed sustainably for future generations," said AFF President Martin. "They are the fifth generation to steward their land, and they have made sure their work will continue. They have demonstrated their leadership among America's family forest owners by making their Batts Tree Farm a model of forest management, a place for conservation of water and wildlife, and a place where children and adults alike can learn about and enjoy the outdoors."

"The sustainable production and conservation that Dwight and Judy have created on their family homestead is an inspiration to natural resource professionals, other landowners, visiting

school children and anyone else who is lucky enough to pay a visit," said Sean Brogan of the North Carolina Forest Service. "They embodies the spirit of the Tree Farm Program."

Every year, ATFS inspecting foresters and state committees nominate Certified Tree Farmers whose conservation efforts, outreach efforts to their community and advocacy for sustainable forest management exceed expectations.

"Privately owned woodlands are vital to our country's clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities and producing the jobs, wood and paper products we all need. These benefits wouldn't be possible without the outstanding stewardship and hard work of dedicated landowners across the country, and the American Tree Farm System is proud to recognize our outstanding Tree Farmers every year," said Rita Hite, Executive Vice President for Woodlands and Policy with the American Forest Foundation.

In addition to National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Judy and Dwight Batts, regional honorees celebrated on July 18 includes: Northeast Region - Bambi Jones and David ("Tracy") Moskovitz, Whitefield, ME; North Central Region - Kim and Dennis Schoeneck, Pelican Lake, WI; and Western Region - Audrey and Rick Barnes, Roseburg, OR. ■

## THE NCFA'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN RALEIGH

The NCFA's Education Committee met in Raleigh to continue work on evaluating existing education initiatives and developing goals for new projects. The committee's focus is developing the appropriate education materials while solidifying and creating new partnerships within the education community throughout the state. The committee, under the direction of Lori Worley of Weyerhaeuser, will be making a formal presentation to the NCFA's Board of Directors on October 3, 2014 as part of the NCFA' Annual Meeting. ■

### *NCFA Annual Meeting...(from page 1)*

The host hotel for the meeting is the Grandover Resort, which is located just off I-85 in Greensboro. The Grandover features excellent ballrooms for our indoor sessions and a spectacular patio area that will host our Wednesday night reception.

This year's meeting follows the same popular format as previous years with recreational activities on Wednesday. There are three different opportunities for members to spend some recreational time prior to the welcome reception. The Wednesday evening reception welcomes young professionals and/or new members. The Band of Oz will perform for the membership on what will be an outstanding way to start the 2014 meeting.

Thursday's speaking program will feature comprehensive presentations on two hot issues - water quality and transportation.

Members will hear from experts on both topics and have the opportunity for a question and answer session with each speaker. That evening, Forestry Mutual and the NCFA will present their annual awards. After the awards dinner, members will be all in for a night of fun at Gaming Night. It has been a while since the NCFA held a Gaming Night, but we expect it to be another great night of fun. And while the gaming action will be intense, hunting trips, fishing trips, professional sports tickets, homemade crafts and other great items will be up for grabs during the NCFA's silent auction.

Please return your registration materials and make your room reservations early! It is a great help to our staff!!! ■

## NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	City
Banner Forest Resources	Asheville
Big Boyz Logging, Inc.	Rockingham
Brewer, Barbara	Eagle Springs
Bright, Justin	Seven Springs
Catawba Valley Timber Co., LLC	Vale
Cox, Matthew	Elizabethtown
Dunn, Justin	Mt. Gilead
Edwards, Robert	Columbus
Fleming, Robin	Raleigh
Forest Equipment Operator Training School, Inc.	Cary
Heath, Roger	Cove City
Holland, Charles	Ash
Honeycutt	Burnsville
Howell, Travis	Fuquay Varina
Jones, Eric	Ernul
Kerr, Michael	Columbus
Lewis, Randall	Pink Hill
McHenry, Brett	Dover
Meeks, Linda	Raleigh
Mid-South Engineering	Hot Springs, AR
Mills, Randy	Ruby, SC
Pipkin, Anita	New Bern
Pipkin, Charles	New Bern
Pipkin, Phillip	New Bern
Quality Hardwoods, LLC	N. Wilkesboro
Rathburn, William	Burnsville
Savage, Ladexter	Kenansville
Smith, John	New London
T & S Hardwoods, Inc.	Sylva
Thompson, Kevin	Mt. Gilead
White Timber, LLC	Clarkton
Williams, Travis	New Bern
Woodleaf, Chris	Sanford
Zydron, Millard	Chesapeake, VA

## NC STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERS

Dr. S. Tom Gower has been named the new Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Gower, an internationally recognized forest ecosystem ecologist, is currently a Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Over his 26 years at Wisconsin, Gower is recognized for bringing interdisciplinary thinking and an integrated approach to his teaching and research. He will start on October 16, 2014.

Dr. Marian McCord has been named the new Associate Dean for Research in the Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources at the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University.

McCord is recognized as an accomplished interdisciplinary scholar who currently holds joint appointments in the Department of Textile Engineering, Chemistry and Science in the College of Textiles, and in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University. McCord will assume her duties on August 1, 2014 and hold academic rank in the Department of Forest Biomaterials. ■

## CHANGE TO SALES TAX LAW FOR FOREST OWNERS & FARMERS REQUIRES NEW PAPERWORK

In July of 2013, North Carolina Governor McCrory signed House Bill 998 into law, which made several changes to the state's sales tax system. One of the revisions directly impacts forestland owners and/or farmers who are accustomed to using the farming sales tax exemption for the purchase of equipment and supplies associated with the planting, cultivating and harvesting of crops and livestock.

For many NCFCA members who are forestland owners and/or farmers, this new law may pose a problem since timber is not an annual crop. The NCFCA advises all of its members that have participated in this program in the past to review their status with their tax advisors. Links to all of the documents detailed in this story can be found online under the issues section at [www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org) on this topic.

The new law stipulates that only farmers grossing over \$10,000 annually or over \$30,000 over a three year period can now qualify for the qualified farmer sales tax exemption. Previously, farmers simply had to apply for the designation without any income requirements.

A person who typically meets the financial threshold may apply for a new qualified farmer sales tax identification card by contacting the North Carolina Department of Revenue by phone or online at [www.dorn.com](http://www.dorn.com).

In addition to this form, all persons applying for this status must submit the appropriate gross income documentation to support their application. These documents include the pages of their federal income tax return that states gross income from farming operations and the type of farming operation the applicant is engaged in (Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming, of Federal Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return). A person does not have to submit the entire Federal Income Tax Return.

For those people filing applications that may be an S Corporation, C Corporation or Partnership, they would submit just the appropriate pages (Profit or Loss from Farming) from those submissions.

For those people who do not meet the new threshold, they may apply for a conditional farmer sales tax exemption

with the North Carolina Department of Revenue. The person must submit a statement detailing that he or she will be engaged in farming in addition to providing tax information. The required tax information is focused on the Profit or Loss from Farming sections of the Federal and State returns. If granted, this category gives a person a three-year window to use the farming sales tax exemption.

A person enrolled in this category must submit a new statement of engagement and tax information for each of the three years he or she is in the program to remain qualified. A person who utilizes this status also must document all purchased times for a total of six years from the start of the status (three years within the program and three additional years). The Department of Revenue may request information on purchases at any point during this time period.

It is worth noting that the conditional farmer status is not renewable. However, if person at any point during the three years meets the \$10,000 requirement, he or she may apply to be placed in the qualified farmer sales tax exemption category by processing the appropriate paperwork and nullifying the conditional farmer status.

All applicants, regardless of their status and the years they may have been in the program, must prepare and submit the proper paperwork for a new sales tax exemption number. All existing numbers will be valid until October 1, 2014. After that, all participants must have a newly issued number under this new program. The state recently released a new document clarifying the qualifying farmer and conditional farmer exemption.

All completed applications should be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Registration Unit, P.O. Box 25000, Raleigh, NC 27640-0001 or faxed to (919) 715-2999.

For questions, contact the Taxpayer Assistance and Collection Center at (877) 252-3052 or by mail to the Taxpayer Assistance Division, North Carolina Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 25000, Raleigh, NC 27640-0001. ■

# TREE LINE

JULY / AUGUST 2014



**Top Tour Guides! (l-r) Patrick Parton, Carl Parton and Eric Boyd hosted teachers at Parton Lumber as part of the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy.**



**EVENTS**  
Forestry & Environmental Camps  
at *Wilmington Camp*, Hugh McKae Park,  
October 13-17, 2014  
NCFSA Annual Meeting  
October 1-3, 2014 at the Grandover  
Resort, Greensboro, NC

## MEETINGS

Board of Directors  
October 3, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the  
Grandover Resort, Greensboro, NC.  
Safety, Logging and Transportation  
Committee  
August 6, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the NCFSA  
November 5, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Drake's  
Landing, Holly Springs, NC

NC SFI State Implementation  
Committee  
August 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m. at the NCFSA  
November 12, 2014, 9:30 a.m. at the  
NCFSA

Public Affairs Committee  
TBD  
Friends of Forestry PAC  
August 21, 2014

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