

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING HEADS TO MYRTLE BEACH

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

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

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

While not completely finalized, the Thursday speaking program is typically worth 6.0 Category I CFE credits and this year's lineup should be the same. (Please see full speaking program on page 6)

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

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

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The Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort at Grande Dunes is the host hotel for the NCFA's Annual Meeting.

FORESTRY MUTUAL HOSTS TRUCKING SUMMIT TO ADDRESS ACCIDENTS

Back in the late 1990's, loggers were suffering heavy equipment losses caused by fire, resulting in climbing equipment premiums. Forestry Mutual Insurance Company took a bold step back then to create the Timber Equipment Applications Management Task Force, which was shortened to TEAM Fire.



TEAM Truck Safety is a new initiative supported by all segments of the forest products industry.

This group of loggers, insurance carriers and equipment manufacturers began meeting to discuss ways to combat these fire losses head on. The group addressed improved logger training on the issue, increasing the awareness of the problem through printed materials/stickers and eventually a video production, and technical changes with the machines.

The success of TEAM Fire can be measured in the reduction in the amount of equipment loss to fire, the normalization of insurance rates, and in the significant

changes manufacturers made in their equipment over the past 10 years.

"TEAM Fire demonstrates what can be achieved when everyone comes together for a common goal," stated Forestry Mutual President Keith Biggs. "People checked their egos and special interests at the door, rolled up their sleeves, and started working on solutions. And, it worked. We are much better off now."

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MID-ATLANTIC LOGGING & BIOMASS EXPO FEATURES PLENTY OF LIVE ACTION

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

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

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

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Swamp Logger Bobby Goodson will be one of the many attractions at this year's Expo.

NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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Charles Kenley	

SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFCA

TreeLine is the monthly newsletter of the NCFCA. News items should be sent to Chris Brown at cbrown@ncforestry.org 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. ■



GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The development of a new budget for the state continues to be the top issue at the North Carolina General Assembly. Heading into the budget negotiations, state lawmakers were provided with the fiscal news that the state's revenues increased this year over previous years. This was good news. The debate now remains how much each chamber hopes to grow the state's budget. The Senate continues to seek a more streamline budget (21.47 billion) while the House (22.2 billion) is comfortable with a larger budget for the state. The state's fiscal year runs from July 1 to July 1. The General Assembly has already granted one continuance of the existing budget and will face another extension if an agreement cannot be reached by the end of August 14.

Early negotiations were hampered by the fact that the Senate insisted on including several legislative issues (Medicaid, Tax Reform, etc.) policies in the budget itself. This past week, the Senate moved off of this position and is focusing strictly on budget numbers.

One of the key issues now is the Senate's economic development bill or sales tax reform bill. The bill is designed to distribute sales tax revenue across rural and urban counties based on a formula using population and where the sale originated. The goal of the bill is to generate additional revenue for rural counties. The original 80% on population/20 on point of sales formula was not received well and it appears as if negotiations have evened out the proposal to a 50/50 split. It is estimated that the latest proposal would generate more income for 80 counties while 20 counties would see a reduction in their revenue from sales tax.

The House introduced and passed a \$2.8 billion bond referendum bill, entitled House Bill 943, that would primarily be used to fund transportation projects. The plan is similar to one Governor McCrory had released earlier. The bill calls for a special election in November for voters to approve the bond. The bill is now in the Senate.

The table below includes bills the NCFCA is tracking.

H/S	Number	Sponsor(s)	Short Title	Status
H	3	McGrady; Stam, Lewis, and Goodman	Eminent Domain	02/11/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Rules
H	97	Dollar, L. Johnson, McGrady, and Lambeth	2015 Appropriations Act	07/16/2015 House/Senate Conf Com Appointed
H	183	R. Brown, Conrad, Lambeth, and Watford	Repeal Map Act	05/12/2015 Senate Re-ref Com On Transportation
H	318	Cleveland, Millis, Whitmire, and Conrad	Protect North Carolina Workers Act	04/27/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Rules
H	367	Brody, Bumgardner, Hager, and Waddell	NC Consumer Fireworks Safety Act	07/20/2015 House Re-ref to the Com on Local Government, if favorable, Finance
H	378	Whitmire, Holloway, West, Presnell	Amend Criteria/Certain Ag. Cost-Share Programs	05/22/2015 Senate Re-ref Com On Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources
H	456	R.Turner	Clarify Weight Limits/Ag. Vehicles	05/22/2015 Senate Re-ref to Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources. If fav, re-ref to Transportation
H	532	McGrady, Jeter, West, and Fisher	WC/Truck Driver Status	08/06/2015 House Cal Pursuant 36(b)
H	640	Dixon, Malone, Lucas, and Presnell	Outdoor Heritage Act	07/08/2015 Ch. SL 2015-144
H	765	McElraft	Regulatory Reform Act of 2015	07/27/2015 House/Senate Conf Com Appointed
H	901	Waddell, Ager, Dobson, and Goodman	Agribusiness Income Tax Exemptions	04/16/2015 House Ref To Com On Finance
H	907	Whitmire	Strengthen Military in NC/Mitigate BRAC Risk	04/20/2015 House Ref To Com On Appropriations
H	920	Saine, Hamilton, R. Moore, and Jeter	Omnibus Economic Development Improvements	04/20/2015 House Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Appropriations
H	927	Torbett	Reestablish NC as the "Good Roads State"	04/20/2015 House Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Appropriations

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General Assembly Update...(from page 2)

H/S	Number	Sponsor(s)	Short Title	Status
S	155	Bingham	Reduce PUV Entry Time for Farmland	03/09/2015 Senate Re-ref to Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources. If fav, re-ref to Finance
S	361	Hartsell	Occupational Licensing Reform Study	03/24/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Rules
S	369	Brown, B. Jackson, Clark	Sales Tax Fairness Act	03/24/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Finance
S	469	Hartsell	Occupational Lic. Bd. Reporting Requirements	03/26/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Rules
S	513	Brock and B. Jackson	North Carolina Farm Act of 2015	06/10/2015 House Re-ref Com On Finance
S	572	Cook	Agricultural Regulatory Relief	04/23/2015 Senate Re-ref Com On Transportation
S	592	McInnis	Clarify Proof of Eligibility Reqs. for PUV	04/09/2015 Senate Re-ref Com On Finance
S	656	Lee	WC/2015 Omnibus Law Changes	03/30/2015 Senate Ref To Com On Rules

NCFA Annual Meeting...(from page 1)



Recreation activities will open the 2015 Annual Meeting.

now be found on the NCFA's website.

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

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

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

Mid-Atlantic Expo...(from page 1)

"We are extremely pleased with the response we have received from equipment manufacturers and other vendors," stated Jack Swanner with the Carolina Loggers Association. "We sold out our live demonstrations quickly and are close to filling our static positions. No question, there will be plenty of action for our visitors. We have a great layout and a great location so we expect to have one of our biggest shows in recent years."

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



The Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo will feature live demonstrations from all of the industry's top equipment manufacturers.

SITTS HONORED WITH CONSERVATION AWARD



(l-r) Bob Slocum presented Jim Sitts with the NCFA's Distinguished Service Award at the NCFA's Annual Meeting in 2007.

NCFA member Jim Sitts has been named the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Forest Conservationist of the Year for 2015.

The 2015 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards ceremony will take place in Cary on September 12, 2015.

Sitts, who is the Appalachian Timber Manager for Columbia Forest Products, has been a leader in forest sustainability throughout his career.

He is being recognized for his work with the Carbon Canopy that provides the opportunity to qualified landowners to participate in carbon sequestration projects to fight climate change through the conservation management of working forests.

Sitts is a former member of the NCFA's Board of Directors, President and Chairman of the Board. In recognition of his dedication to the association and forestry, Sitts was honored with the NCFA's Distinguished Service to Forestry Award in 2007. ■

ALLIANCE FOR SAVING THREATENED FORESTS HIGHLIGHTED

Fred Hain, a retired North Carolina State University Professor, is heading up the Alliance for Saving Threatened Forests. The Alliance supports research on how tree species prevail when attacked by insect pests, looking to the long-term goal of restoring fir and hemlock forests in the Eastern United States that have succumbed to the adelgids.

Recently, North Carolina Public Radio filed a report on the Alliance. You can listen to it online at <http://wunc.org/post/scientists-turning-tide-battle-against-invasive-hemlock-pest#stream/>. ■



PROLOGGER PROGRAM HEADS INTO 2015-2016 YEAR WITH 1,440 PROLOGGERS

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



The NCFA would like to thank all of its member companies that hosted classes throughout the year to assist ProLoggers in their pursuit of this valuable training.

We certainly appreciate our ProLoggers taking the time out of their schedules to attend one of the classes and continuing to be a member of our organization.

There are now 1,440 ProLoggers in the program with an additional 52 loggers currently waiting to take the next base class in Marion in September.

Any ProLogger who failed to take Module 15 or pay his/her dues must follow the reinstatement process or take the base class over again. ■

PROLOGGER BASE CLASS SCHEDULE

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



ProLoggers listen to a PPE presentation during the last ProLogger course held in Winston-Salem in May.

MODULE 16 TOPICS FINALIZED FOR NEXT YEAR'S TRAINING

The topics for the 2015-2015 training module, Module 16, have been finalized and will cover the three basic elements of the program - environment, business and safety.

The NCFA is now cooperating with South Carolina and Florida to share training materials to reduce production costs for each group. This year marks the first year of the cooperative agreement where each association will share one segment. The NCFA will be sharing its Truck Safety segment with South Carolina and in return the NCFA will be received a Logging Cost feature. The topics in the NCFA's Module 16 will be 1) Logging Costs, 2) Biodiversity, 3) PPE Review and Maintenance, and 4) Truck Safety. The module was again produced by FireHorse Films.

Topics for each module are generated throughout the year with discussions with the Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee. ■

NEW MEMBERS

Member	Sponsor	City
George Culbreth		Newton Grove
Kevin Michael Edmondson		Gaston
Tyler Travis Gaddis		Waynesville
Jaime Hutton.....		Mooreville
Christopher King....	Richard Stagger...	Brunswick, GA
Sean McKoy		Fayetteville
Chris Sanderford		Moncure
Joe Snipes.....		Moncure
Vance Wright.....		Blackridge, VA

MINORITY FOREST LANDOWNERS WORKSHOP HELD IN GARYSBURG

Under the direction of Alton Perry, the Forestry Management & Land Retention Project Consultant, the Roanoke Center hosted a minority landowner workshop in July.



Approximately 47 landowners attended the workshop that aimed to provide valuable information about forests in North Carolina and the various forest certification programs, including SFI, Tree Farm and FSC.

Speakers included representatives from the NCFA, Tree Farm, Enviva, Kapstone and Duke University.

The workshop was funded through a grant received by the Roanoke Center that was supported by the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee. ■

COMMENT PERIOD FOR HARDWOOD CHECKOFF EXTENDED

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) extended the comment period deadline for the Hardwood Checkoff program by 60 days to allow members of the public to submit comments on the proposal that contained supplemental provisions from the previous proposal. The new deadline is September 7, 2015. ■

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

With TEAM Fire as a starting point, Biggs and his Forestry Mutual crew decided it was time to take on truck safety – a constant worry for the industry that has risen in prominence in recent years. At one point, it was estimated that an overwhelming majority of log truck accidents were precipitated by an error by the passenger car driver. Recently, the pendulum of blame has swung more on the side of the truck driver. This is a trend the forest products industry cannot allow to continue.

“We need to do something,” stated Biggs. “In almost all of the cases of a serious accident or rollover incident, excessive speed for the road or traffic conditions was the cause of the accident. Our drivers need to do better. It’s not equipment failure. It’s poor decisions by the driver. We, and I mean everyone in this industry, needs to do better with training our truck drivers from start to finish.”



(top right) Forestry Mutual President Keith Biggs addresses the group assembled to tackle the issue of truck safety.

Forestry Mutual’s Jimmie Locklear and J.J. Lemire, the same duo that chaired TEAM Fire, coordinated the first meeting of TEAM Truck Safety in late July. Insurance carriers, loggers, mill representatives, associations and equipment representatives were invited to discuss in an open forum the truck safety problem.

Based on the discussion that took place in the day-long meeting, the challenge is substantial.

Consider some of the points brought forward by veteran loggers about how conditions have changed over the past 15 years. The typical haul has doubled for most from 40 miles to the mill to 80 or 90 miles. Sparked by equipment improvements, the pace of production has improved to the point where some loggers are now striving for 110 loads a week instead of 40. Almost all loggers have the ability to harvest more wood on a daily basis than they ever could before. Mills pride themselves on turnaround times. The quicker the better so the typical driver might be able to get in and out in seven minutes, easily outperforming what a turnaround time may have been in 1990. North Carolina’s population has exploded over the past 20 years, putting more drivers on the roads. (And we will not even touch the rise in the percentage of distracted drivers on the road due to cell phone use!)

These elements all point to double exposure for our truck drivers, at the very least.

Combine the fact that the cost of diesel fuel now costs twice what it did 20 years ago, the cost of the daily maintenance on an average truck and trailer is significant, and the lack of a consistent work week, it’s apparent that the profit margin is pretty fine for the trucker regardless of whether he is a subcontractor owner/operator or incorporated into the logging operation. This economic truth contributes to the ongoing problem of a shortage of experienced, qualified drivers in the forest products field.

Another complicating factor in this truck safety equation is time, namely time management. Consider the average logger operation is not just one business – there are three rather compelling, somewhat complicated and certainly time consuming businesses: harvest operations, (continued on page 6)

FIVE COUNTIES ADDED TO QUARANTINE AREA FOR EAB

In July, Durham, Graham, Johnston, Orange and Wilson counties have come under quarantine rules restricting the movement of hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock and other ash materials following the discovery of more trees infested with emerald ash borers. The addition of those five counties brings the total number of counties now under quarantine to 12. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler signed an emergency quarantine order allowing the expansion.

“This is a devastating pest to ash trees, eventually killing the trees where the insects are found,” Troxler said. “We are continuing to monitor other counties for this highly destructive pest through trapping and visual assessment of trees. We will be pulling traps in early August and it is possible we will find sites in more counties when we do. We ask the public not to disturb the purple, triangle-shaped traps if they see them.”

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

Under the state quarantine, all hardwood firewood and plants and plant parts of the ash tree - including living, dead, cut or fallen, green lumber, stumps, roots, branches and composted and uncomposted chips - cannot be moved outside the county.

Only firewood that has been treated by an approved U.S. Department of Agriculture method, such as treating firewood in an approved kiln, can be moved outside the quarantine area. The Plant Industry Division and the N.C. Forest Service are working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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

Forest landowners encouraged to report any symptomatic activity in ash trees to the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division hotline at 1-800-206-9333 or by email at newpest@ncagr.gov. The pest can affect any of the four types of ash trees grown in the state. ■

MBCI WILL HOLD PUBLIC SIGNING ON AUGUST 28, 2015

The Market Based Conservation Initiative’s project partners will be celebrating the completion of the contracting phase of a pilot project. The private landowners that have signed contracts will be recognized for their participation in a program that is part of the ongoing North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes initiative.

The ceremony will take place on August 28, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center in Clinton NC 28328.

The North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes is collection of partners working together to provide mutual benefits to Agriculture, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Defense. ■

LANDOWNERS

NWTF TO HOST LANDOWNER WORKSHOP IN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

The National Wild Turkey Federation will be hosting a Forestry & Wildlife Management Workshop for private landowners at the Northampton County Cultural & Wellness Center in Jackson, NC on Friday, September 25, 2015.

The workshop is for private landowners who want to learn more about Forestry & Wildlife Management, the Benefits of Forest Certification, Opportunities for financial and technical assistance.

For more information, please contact Graham Hanson at GHanson@nwtf.net. ■



TREE FARM INSPECTOR WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program will be holding two inspector workshops for any forester who wants to update his/her training or obtain training to become a Certified Tree Farm Inspector.

**August 24, 10 a.m., N.C. Farm Bureau
5301 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh**

**August 25, 10 a.m., Jones Lake State Park
4117 HW 242, Elizabethtown**

To register, please contact Leslie McCormick at (919) 917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com.

These inspectors are extremely important to the success of the program. In addition to requests from private landowners to become certified American Tree Farmers, the North Carolina program must complete a certain number of re-inspections to fulfill the requirements of the certification process. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... On October 17, 2015, the North Carolina Tree Farm Program will be hosting its Annual Meeting at Shaver Wood Products in Statesville, NC. More details are to follow on the one-day meeting.

WOODLAND STEWARDS SERIES ANNOUNCED FOR WESTERN NC

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

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

STRONG SPEAKING PROGRAM FOR NCFA ANNUAL MEETING

The NCFA's 2015 Annual Meeting - Managing Your Market Rebounds - will feature an excellent speaking program on Thursday, October 7, 2015.

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome, **Frank Rackley, NCFA President**
- 8:10 a.m. Welcome to South Carolina
Gene Kodama, South Carolina State Forester
- 8:30 a.m. SFI Certification Update on Standards
Bryan Hulka, Weyerhaeuser Company
- 9:15 a.m. Forest Resource Analysis
Mark Brown, U.S. Forest Service
- 10:15 a.m. Impacts of Regional Bioenergy Policy in the Southeastern U.S.
Christopher Galik, Duke University
- 11:00 a.m. Export Markets at Wilmington Port
Tom Leeds, Pacific Lumber & Shipping, LLC
- 12:00 p.m. Recognition of N.C. Forest Service 100th Year
- 1:00 p.m. New Markets in North Carolina
Thomas Mendes, Klausner
- 1:45 p.m. Federal Tax Review
Linda Wang, U.S. Forest Service
- 2:45 p.m. TEAM Log/Chip Initiative
Jimmy Locklear, Forestry Mutual
- 3:30 p.m. Trucking Liability
Rob Moseley, Smith, Moore, Leatherwood, LLP
- 4:15 p.m. Protecting Right of Ways/Overhead Hazards
Duke Energy Representative
- 4:35 p.m. NC Tree Farm Update
Bryan Hulka, Weyerhaeuser
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn speaking program ■

Trucking Summit...(from page 5)

machine maintenance, and fleet management. How is the average logger able to achieve all of this in one work week, which for many covers six days?

It is pretty easy to see all the elements are in place for the "perfect accident conditions" for the forest products industry.

Biggs acknowledges the realities of the situation, but he remains adamant the time to act is now. After hearing reports from every representative from every segment touched by this issue in the room, he had one simple question.

"Okay, guys," asked Biggs, "What are we going to do about it?"

Weighing all the facts, figures and testimonies, the group concluded the top priority for the task force was to concentrate on improving the training for drivers, regardless of their experience level. To achieve this, the group developed the following mission statement:

Mission: To reduce accidents through effective fleet management, increasing the number of safe, qualified drivers in order to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.

The group plans to achieve this by developing specific subcommittees that will tackle the topics of Awareness, Education & Training, and Accountability. Each subcommittee will develop specific action items and potential deliverables to forward the group's mission.

The first meeting was a success, but as Forestry Mutual's Jimmie Locklear reminded the group near the conclusion of the meeting, this process will take time and the active participation over everyone in the room for the program to achieve the goal of reducing the amount of log truck accidents. ■

FIRES BURN AT BALD KNOB AND WOLF CREEK

The Southern Area Gold Team and the North Carolina Forest Service are now in unified command to manage the Bald Knob and Wolf Creek Fires in western North Carolina.

Both the Bald Knob Fire (confirmed lightning start July 17) and Wolf Creek Fire (likely lightning start July 31) started on the Pisgah National Forest. The cause of the fire was likely lightning, although the ignition source remains unconfirmed.



The team will continue to use a “confine and contain” strategy to manage both fires for multiple objectives. Limited access, rough terrain and heavy fuel loading make direct access difficult for firefighters on the Bald Knob Fire. Firefighter crews will work to construct and enforce fire lines using dozers and hand crews

where they have access.

The Wolf Creek Fire received almost an inch of rain on August 10th, while the Bald Knob received scattered, trace amounts. Isolated, scattered showers and increased winds will persist over the fires. The concern remains that the a drying trend will result in more favorable activity for the fires.

Air quality remains good over both fires since being addressed. The Bald Knob Fire has produced little smoke in the last few days, while the Wolf Creek Fire continues to produce smoke from smoldering leaves and ground fuels. The town of Old Fort will continue to see light smoke. If dry weather continues, an increase in smoke would occur.

Resources	Bald Knob Fire	Wolf Creek Fire
Acres	1,019	305
Percent Contained	0%	60%
Total Firefighters	163	47
Dozers	4	1
Engines	5	1
Helicopter	2	1

Fire officials will continue to update the fire information boards at the Woodlawn Roadside Park area off of State Highway 221, Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Department, Grandfather Ranger District office in Nebo and Black Bear Access area on Lake James. (Information is also available on the sites listed at the top of this update.)

Cooperating agencies include the North Carolina Forest Service, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, McDowell County Emergency Management, and The Nature Conservancy. ■

FIRST IN FORESTRY SHOW HEADING TO PUBLIC TELEVISION

The Forest History Society is airing a program on the history of forestry in North Carolina online at <http://www.firstinforesry.org/>. The production is scheduled to be aired on public television in 2016. ■



HAZARDS ARE PLENTIFUL AROUND THE INDUSTRY

By J.J. Lemire, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

Each and every day, tens of thousands of individuals head to work in the forest product industries. Hazards abound whether you are in the woods, at the landing, driving a truck, at the mill or whatever position your job entails.

One area that gains negative attention both locally and nationally is when a “log truck” is involved in an accident.

Sometimes, the accidents are a result of another driver causing the incident, sometimes, it is the truck driver themselves. No matter who is at fault, the news will always describe it as “a log truck” accident.

Every time a loaded log truck drives on a public highway, it is an advertisement for your company. Have you put your best foot forward? Is the truck clean and debris removed so it does not get flung at other vehicles? Do the tires have adequate tread so they do not disintegrate and become airborne projectiles? Is the load secured and trimmed properly to prevent limbs or other objects from falling off in transit?

If you as a truck driver, or employer, or loader operator takes a few seconds to look over the loaded truck before it departs the job, some of the horrific accidents we have all seen on television might not have occurred.

A simple check to help put your best foot forward could include:

- no loose debris,
- no free hanging limbs,
- no excessive mud,
- no logs over the standards,
- all loads chained or strapped,
- and proper flagging and/or lights.



Once the driver leaves the rutted woods area, it is recommended that he or she stop and check the load securement. Imagine your family member in a car following this log truck. What if it happened to be your truck that you loaded out earlier?

Each person on the logging crew should be aware how simple it is for one thing to be overlooked.

Loader operators must be aware that the logs they load will shift in route to the mills. Drivers must inspect their loads and not take loads that are unsafe. Employers must instill a safety mindset that a few extra minutes to fix this type of error could be a lifesaving step.

Unfortunately, if it is not fixed, it could be a devastating loss of life or property, or be a legal nightmare. Take time to check it before it leaves your control. **PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS BE THE NEXT NEWS CAST.**

TREELINE

AUGUST 2015



The Mid-Atlantic Logging and Biomass Expo takes place on September 18-19, 2015 in the Smithfield area. Tickets are \$15 online and \$20 the day of the Expo.

Sign up for the NCF's weekly e-mail newsletter by typing in your e-mail on the home page of www.ncforestry.org!

September 18-19, 2015 - Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo, Smithfield-Selma area.
October 7-9, 2015 - NCF Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC.
October 26-30, 2015 - Forestry & Environmental Camp, Wilmington, NC

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

MEETINGS

North Carolina Forestry Association
1600 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27609

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