

# TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TEACHERS EXPERIENCE SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

The NCFA and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee are hosting three Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experiences (SFTE) in 2016 with stops on the coast, piedmont and mountains.

"Our goal is to invite 120 teachers annually to a quality, informative, and comprehensive program that share's North Carolina's forest and forest products tradition," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson.

"In addition to earning professional development credits, teachers have a unique opportunity to meet with the individuals managing forests and forest products companies, seeing the operations in action."

The Sustainable Forestry Experience is a multi-day residential program that demonstrates all elements of forestry in North Carolina through in depth tours of forests, types of forestry, and wood products facilities. The Coastal Experience is scheduled in New Bern, NC on June 20-23. The Mountain Experience in Asheville, NC occurs on June 27-30. The Piedmont Experience takes place on July 19-22.

The costs for the entire week of lodging and food is only \$50. Teachers may request registration vouchers from NCFA members in their community.

The goal is to have 40 participants at each location. Registration for the program is first-come-first serve basis based on qualifications.

"We encourage our membership to reach out to educators in their area to advertise this great program," stated Gibson. "It is an easy one-page application. In many cases, our members are covering the cost of the registration fee."

There is information on the NCFA's website on the program along with registration information. For further questions or assistance, please contact Eddie Reese at the NCFA (919) 834-3943 ext. 2 or at [ereese@ncforestry.org](mailto:ereese@ncforestry.org). ■



(right) Greg Decker provides teachers with a tour of Columbia Forest Products.

## NCFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAKES FINAL PAYMENT ON RENOVATION LOAN

The NCFA's Executive Committee met in December to review the association's end of year financial report and make recommendations on a 2016 budget to be presented to the full Board of Directors on February 4, 2016.

One of the top action items for the committee was to pay off the existing renovation loan from the remodeling efforts on the second floor of the NCFA offices in 2007. The NCFA Board of Directors approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to use \$256,767 in the association's checking account to pay off the balance at the fall meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC.

The NCFA transferred the funds to the Forest Education and Conservation Fund (FECF), which holds the deed to the office building, so it could complete the transaction with Paragon Bank.

With the new renovations to the first floor and the exterior of the building nearly complete, the association's building is now an "A" office space in the heart of Raleigh.

Overall, the NCFA and the FEFC will complete 2015 on budget while managing to expand programs and services at the North Carolina General Assembly and across the state.

"We truly appreciate the efforts of our members, partner organizations, volunteers, and our staff in 2015," stated Ray Allen, the NCFA's Chair of the Board of Directors. "We accomplished great things in 2015 through expanding some existing programs and streamlining others. Our membership has remained stable and supportive of our mission, and for that we are thankful. We look forward to an even better year in 2016." ■

## NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD SELECTED FOR 2016

The NCFA's Board of Directors will meet on February 4, 2016 at the North Carolina Farm Bureau. The meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

In 2016, the proposed Executive Committee is led by Board Chair Frank Rackley, who served as our President in 2015. Marshall Thompson steps up to the role of President, and Bernard Rose moves up to the President-Elect/Treasurer position. Boyd McLaurin is the new First Vice President. These positions rotate upwards on an annual basis to keep continuity within the executive board.

The NCFA's Executive Committee also includes three regional Vice Presidents that are one-year appointments. Perry Hunt is the Eastern Vice President. Bruce Evans is the Piedmont Vice President. Ron Heatherly is the Western Vice President.

Michael Walters continues his tenure on the executive committee as the Chair of Forestry Mutual.

The Executive Committee will be confirmed by a vote of the NCFA's Board of Directors. ■



The NCFA's Executive Committee completed the payment on the remaining balance on the renovation project dating back to 2007. The Board approved the move at the October meeting. (front, l-r) Ray Allen, Frank Rackley. (second, l-r) Scott Brewer, Patrick Parton, Marshall Thompson. (third, l-r) Bernard Rose, Boyd McLaurin.

# NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Frank Rackley <i>Chair of the Board</i>	Perry Hunt <i>Eastern VP</i>
Marshall Thompson <i>President</i>	Bruce Evans <i>Piedmont VP</i>
Bernard Rose <i>President Elect/ Treasurer</i>	Ron Heatherly <i>Western VP</i>
Boyd McLaurin <i>First Vice President</i>	Michael Walters <i>Chair of the Board Forestry Mutual</i>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tommy Adkins	Robert Jordan
Marvin Bagwell	Kenneth Lin
Bob Bardon	Robin Little
Billy Barnette	Chris Logan
Keith Biggs	Parker Lumpkin
Scott Bisette	Charlie Marshburn
Jay Boyette	Keith McCollum
Scott Brewer	Stephen Newcomb
Doug Bureson	Wib Owen
Kenny Cain	Patrick Parton
Mark Church	Allen Plaster
Billy Cipriani	Fay Raynor
Greg Conner	Jim Reavis
Rudy Daughtry	Riddick Ricks
Tony Doster	Bernard Rose
Rob Elliot	Russell Strong
Ashley Faircloth	Jack Swanner
John Fletcher	Charles Taylor
Jeff Hanks	Jaime Teel
Fred Hardin	Nancy Thompson
Dennis Hazel	Mark Vollinger
Thresa Henderson	Michael Walters
David Hendrix	Mary Watzin
Brad Howard	Aaron Welch
Maurice Hull	Allen Whitesell
Tom Inman	Lori Worley
Charles Jones	

## SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFE

TreeLine is the monthly newsletter of the NCFE. 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 NCFE 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 NCFE 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

## NCFE PROVIDES OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING ELECTION YEAR IN NORTH CAROLINA

Joe Stewart with the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation provided an excellent overview of the upcoming 2016 election in early January. Stewart, who was a featured speaker at the NCFE's 2015 Annual Meeting, highlighted in his presentation at the North Carolina Farm Bureau that changing demographics continue to shape future North Carolina elections as the state's urban centers continue to grow.

These population increases are the result of people moving into the state from other parts of the country so it is natural that this impacts the voting tendencies of these counties.



Joe Stewart

Stewart believes the growth or drain rate for each county is a key factor in forecasting potential winners in the 2016 election.

As an example of how population growth can impact voting trends, he noted that in 1988 the Republican Presidential candidate, George Bush, defeated the Democratic candidate, Mike Dukakis, by a 60-40 percentage in Wake and Mecklenburg counties. Both of these two counties have enjoyed tremendous population growth since then. In the 2012 presidential election, those two counties voted by a 60-40 percentage for President Barack Obama over Republican challenger Mitt Romney. As a side note, it also shows that former Massachusetts Governors don't fare well in the Tar Heel state.

While urban counties continue to grow, there are roughly 49 rural counties that are actually losing people. This also impacts voter preference. This growth and drain at the county level will also make drawing new voting districts even more complicated going forward. The district maps in place now were drawn in 2010. They are scheduled to be redrawn again in 2020.

One dramatic change for North Carolina's election scene is the new, early Primary Date of March 15, 2016. As it stands now in the Republican race may feature a high-profile, advertisement rich showdown between Republican candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. This would energize the primary and increase voter turnout for the Republican races. On the Democratic side, it seems Hillary Clinton will clinch her party's nomination. While the presidential primary is the top billing, the interest could draw more voters to the voting booth for the congressional and statewide elections.

At the Congressional level, Senator Richard Burr appears poised to be reelected. Of the 13 House of Representatives seats, the incumbents appear to be on the road for reelection. Of the 13 states, Stewart considers three seats as considered strongly Democratic, seven are considered strongly Republican, and three are leaning Republican. In a Presidential election year, a high-margin of turnout for one party over the other could have some influence on our congressional races.

In terms of the state elections for Senate and House of Representative seats, while Stewart was not prepared to name primary winners and/or final winners, he was fairly confident that the numbers would be pretty much the same as they have been over the past two election cycles.

These numbers will remain relatively stable in spite of a number of retirements by officials on both sides of the aisle. This past session, the Republicans held an unprecedented majority of power

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## FORESTRY DAY AND REVERSE RAFFLE - MAY 3, 2016

The NCFE's Forestry Day in the Legislature takes place on May 3, 2016 on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh. More details are to come, but this is the best chance for members to meet with their elected officials and advocate for forestry and the forest products industry. That evening, the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will be holding its reverse raffle event at the Brownstone Hotel. This is the FFPAC's most effective fundraiser! Please plan on purchasing tickets for your chance at the jackpot. ■

## NCFA MOVES TO NEW MEMBERSHIP SOFTWARE

The NCFA is transferring its member database over to the Memberclicks software system. You can also find this Members Only link under the Members tab on our main website.

All members can login and access their information by signing in with their NCFA membership number as his/her username and password. All ProLoggers can use his/her ProLogger number as the username and password. Once logged in, you can update your information.

The NCFA has moved all links that were traditionally linked to payment options or list options to automatically go to the opening page of the Members Only webpage. All of the ProLogger lists/search engines have been moved to the new Members Only section.

Again, your NCFA membership number is the initial information needed for the username and password. If you do not know this information, the NCFA staff can help you.

Individual ProLoggers are able to access their own profiles and update their information in terms of mailing address, etc. They will also be able to see where they stand in the program in terms of payment of dues, status of module and when certification expires within their profile.

The NCFA will continue to make updates to this Members Only section as it pertains to registration for events and other features offered by the new Memberclicks software. ■



*The Men Behind the Oysters! Travis Hughes and Mitchell Brendle were hard at work preparing food for Resource Management Service's Annual Oyster Roast!*

## ENVIVA LAUNCHES \$5 MILLION FOREST CONSERVATION FUND

*Comprehensive Initiative to Conserve Bottomland Forests in NC, VA*

Enviva, the world's largest producer of wood pellets, announced last December that it is establishing the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund.

It is a \$5 million, 10-year program designed to protect tens of thousands of acres of bottomland forests in northeast North Carolina and southeast Virginia.

The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, administered by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, will award matching-fund grants to nonprofit organizations to permanently protect ecologically sensitive areas and conserve working forests. The \$5 million Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will focus on the Virginia-North Carolina coastal plain, an area that is home to three wood pellet production facilities and a deep-water marine terminal owned by Enviva.

"With the launch of the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, Enviva will work with leading conservation organizations to identify areas of special concern and provide grants to permanently conserve thousands of acres of this forestland," said John Keppler, Chairman and CEO of Enviva. "Enviva has always believed there are special places in the forest that should remain so. For instance, we have never harvested nor have we accepted wood from old growth forests."

"Although we are small - in 2014 our entire industry accounted for less than one-tenth of one percent of America's forest inventory - as a young company in a new field, we want to be known for always doing the right thing," Keppler added. "We are deeply committed to keeping America's working forests healthy and growing, and protecting our forests for our families and future generations. That's what the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund is all about."

In addition to the sizable grant program, the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund is underpinned by two bottomland forest stewardship pillars that expand Enviva's commitment to protecting the region's forests and environmentally sensitive areas:

First, the Endowment has identified four specific types of sensitive bottomland forest

ecosystems through consultation with leading independent academic and environmental organizations. These areas will be priority conservation targets for the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund. Although the vast majority of Enviva's wood comes from areas other than bottomland forests, Enviva will work with the Endowment to catalog and protect these four sensitive habitats, and to document the company and its suppliers do not cause them harm.

Second, the Endowment will appoint a science-based review team to develop enhanced forestry practices for working bottomland forests, building on the generations-old tradition of sustainable forestry for these lands. This "blue-ribbon committee" will recommend specific additional measures to define and protect sensitive areas, which Enviva will incorporate into its wood supply practices.

"Southern forests help clean our water, shield us from storms, and serve as home to many species of wildlife, while at the same time providing jobs and economic opportunity for rural families and private landowners," said Carlton N. Owen, the Endowment's President and CEO. "The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will permanently protect some of the most sensitive bottomland forests in Virginia and North Carolina and will improve the sustainable management of others. We are especially pleased to be working with Enviva to advance these important goals."

The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will focus on about 35 North Carolina and Virginia counties that include about 6 million acres of forests of all types. Of this total, about 20 percent are bottomland forests

Although the vast majority of Enviva's wood supply does not come from bottomland forests, the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund is targeting these areas because they offer a wide range of environmental and economic benefits. They also face a number of potential threats, including conversion to other uses.

The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund Permanently protecting  
*(continued on page 5)*



## PROLOGGER MODULE TRAINING UNDERWAY

Training for the NCFA's ProLogger program has begun in earnest in the new year with several classes being posted to the schedule. The complete schedule as of the end of January is listed on this page. As a reminder, all NCFA ProLoggers must take Module 16 and pay membership dues of \$110 by June 30, 2016.

ProLoggers should consult the list that is posted on the NCFA's website. The list is updated as new classes are posted. The list is also included in the NCFA's weekly e-mail, ZipLine. ProLoggers can also consult with who they supply for when they might be hosting a class.

All ProLoggers are encouraged to log onto the NCFA's new membership section of the website and update their personal information, including an active e-mail account. The Members Only section can be found under the Members tab on the NCFA's website. Initially, ProLoggers should use their ProLogger number as the username and password. Once a ProLogger is signed in, he/she can update his information and check on his current status in regards to the completion of the current model and payment of dues. ■



## CLA TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN WILMINGTON

The Carolina Loggers Association will be holding its Annual Meeting on February 26-27 at the Hilton in Wilmington. The meeting gets underway on Friday night with a reception, dinner and entertainment. On Saturday, the speaking program will deal with truck safety issues followed by a luncheon. Module 16, this year's ProLogger Annual Training module, will be offered at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting registration is \$150 for members and just \$50 for a member's guest. Registration is online at [www.ncloggers.com](http://www.ncloggers.com) by clicking on calendar function or call Jack Swanner at (828) 421-8444 or the CLA office at (252) 432-1903.

The room rate at the Hilton is a special negotiated rate of \$99/night per room. The reservation code is CLA. Call (910) 763-5900. ■

<p><b>CLA CAROLINA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION</b></p> <p>Please plan to attend the CLA Annual Meeting February 26-27, 2016 at the Hilton in Downtown Wilmington, NC. WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!</p> <p>Registration for Members is \$150 and Member Guests \$50. To register for the event, visit <a href="http://www.ncloggers.com">www.ncloggers.com</a> and click on calendar. Or call Jack Swanner at (828) 421-8444 or the CLA office at (252) 432-1903.</p> <p>There is a special negotiated rate of \$99/night per room. The reservation code is CLA. Visit <a href="http://www.wilmington.com">www.wilmington.com</a> to make reservations or call (910) 763-5900. When you enter the meeting class a screen will come up with a box for the code.</p> <p>Cutoff Date for special hotel rate is Tuesday, January 26.</p>	<p><b>Annual Meeting 2016 FEBRUARY 26-27</b> Hilton Wilmington Riverside</p> <p><b>Friday, February 26, 2016</b></p> <p>5:00pm Registration Desk Opens 6:00pm President's Reception 7:00pm Dinner 8:00pm Entertainment</p> <p><b>Saturday, February 27, 2016</b></p> <p>8:00am Buffet Breakfast 9:00am Welcome Address 9:00am Truck Accidents in North Carolina - State Highway Patrol, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Break 10:15am TEAM Log/Chip Truck Safety 10:15am Updating Formed Lockout - Forestry Mutual Inc. Co. 11:00am Trucking Liability - Smith, Moon, Leatherwood, LLP 12:00pm Business Lunch/Board Elections 1:00pm Equipment Financing, Tony Fitzgerald 2:00pm ProLogger Module 16</p>
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## MODULE 16 SCHEDULE

The annual training module for 2015-2016 is Module 16. The topics include Logging Costs Analysis, Biodiversity, Truck Safety and PPE. The class will be scheduled throughout the state at local facilities and community colleges. If you are hosting a class, please send the details and flyer to Chris Brown at [cbrown@ncforestry.org](mailto:cbrown@ncforestry.org).

Date	Time	Location
2/8	5:00 p.m.	Lampe & Malphrus, Smithfield
2/9	5:00 p.m.	DTOC Building, Domtar, Plymouth
2/11	5:30 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser, New Bern
2/13	7:00 a.m.	Timber Office, GP, Dudley
3/1	6:00 p.m.	Roaring River FD, Roaring River
3/31	6:00 p.m.	Lucky Clay Farms, Norwood
4/8	1:00 p.m.	Room 401, Halifax CC, Weldon
4/12	5:00 p.m.	DTOC Building, Domtar - Plymouth
4/14	5:30 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser, New Bern
6/28	6:00 p.m.	Roaring River FD, Roaring River



Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner demonstrates the benefits of wearing PPE in a segment of Module 16.

## PROLOGGER BASE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Location
2/9-10	Community Center, Brasstown, NC
4/13-14	Southeastern CC, Whiteville, NC
9/14-15	Montgomery CC, Troy, NC

## FOROP EQUIPMENT SCHOOL ENDS YEAR ON HIGH NOTE WITH GOVERNOR'S GRANT

The Forest Equipment Operator Training School (FOROP), located in Franklin, VA, was selected among 27 applicants to receive a Governor's Competition for Talent Solutions grant from Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. The grants were awarded to those programs that are recognized as representing the very best in workforce development partnerships between business and the public sector. The competition winners will each receive matching incentive grants to design and deliver training for new and existing workers to close the skills gap and support the growth of the Virginia economy. The FOROP program originated in North Carolina is under the direction of Doug Duncan, who formerly served as the director of the Carolina Loggers Association and as the NCFA's logging, safety and transportation director. David Meiggs and Aaron Barbolish are the program's instructors. ■

## DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 34TH FOREST PRODUCTS MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT EXPOSITION

The Southern Forest Products Association (SFPA) has announced that its 34th Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition - EXPO 2017 - will be held June 14-16, 2017 at Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center. The show's theme: Blueprint for Success.

Sponsored and conducted by SFPA every two years since 1950, this event has traditionally included many of the biggest names in the business displaying everything from sawmill machinery to materials handling equipment, attracting key representatives from the nation's largest wood products manufacturers. Click here for more information.

"Many exhibitors from the 2015 show have already expressed plans to expand their displays for the 2017 event," reports SFPA's exposition director Eric Gee. "With the housing market turnaround in motion, next year's Expo is the best place to be for companies wanting to showcase equipment, products and services for the wood industry," he adds. Expo 2015 featured 188 exhibitors, with a total attendance of more than 2,200.

For questions about EXPO 2017, contact Eric at 504/443-4464 (option 3), or e-mail him at [eege@sfpa.org](mailto:eege@sfpa.org). ■

## ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE WILL BRING NEW NATURAL GAS LINE INTO NORTH CAROLINA

Staff members from the NCFA and the North Carolina Forest Service met with officials from Dominion Power Company and The Conservation Fund met in Raleigh to hear an update on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The pipeline will start in West Virginia run through Virginia into North Carolina.

According to Dominion, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will draw from one of the largest natural gas supplies in the world located in Harrison County in West Virginia. Dominion has been meeting conducting surveys along the pipeline's proposed path to identify the best possible route with the greatest environmental, cultural and historic protections possible. The company continues to reach out to landowners along the route with information about the project and in some cases, signing easement agreements with landowners who will host a portion of the pipeline route. A typical easement will stretch 110 feet during construction and dwindle down to 50 feet once the construction is complete. It was noted that limited native herbaceous vegetation will be allowed to grow in the easement. The company hopes to join in an effort to increase habitat for pollinators if the landowner is interested.

Once completed, the pipeline would improve the supply of natural gas to utilities looking to meet the EPA's clean air regulations, local gas utilities searching for new, less expensive supplies for residential and commercial customers, and industries interested in building or expanding operations.

The project is a partnership between Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources. Once completed, Dominion will operation the pipeline and subsidiaries of all four partners will use the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to meet the area's energy needs now and into the future. ■



## FOREST RESTORATION ALLIANCE NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

The Alliance for Saving Threatened Forests changed its name to the Forest Restoration Alliance. The name change represents an expansion in the organization's outreach and leadership, not a change in mission or activities.

This year the Forest Restoration Alliance established a Board of Advisers: a diverse body of community, industry and scientific leaders who will shepherd growth over the next decade.

The goal of the Forest Restoration Alliance is and has been to create forests and landscapes with resilient trees that support the ecological, commercial, recreational, and aesthetic values of eastern America. To achieve this goal, we research and breed hemlocks, firs, and other native trees that are resistant to invasive forest pests.

In 2015, the Alliance completed its first planting of hemlock trees in a

natural setting. This successful planting indicates the silviculture resources necessary to restore resistant hemlocks in areas decimated by the hemlock woolly adelgid.

At the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville, the Alliance expanded its capacity to raise rooted cuttings and seedlings and to maintain a consistent source of insects to test our trees for resistance.

In 2016, the Forest Restoration Alliance will continue these ongoing projects as well as finish renovating an existing building on the Waynesville Station to screen young trees for resistance. This climate controlled facility will also be used to research improved propagation techniques for potentially resistant trees.

To learn more, contact Fred Hain at (919) 515-3804 or Fred\_Hain@ncsu.edu at or online at <http://www.threatenedforests.com/> ■

## Enviva...(from page 3)

sensitive bottomland forests is the cornerstone of the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund. Enviva will contribute \$5 million to the fund in annual installments over 10 years. The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund's goal is to be a catalyst that will attract other conservation investments to the region, with the goal of conserving 35,000 acres of bottomland forests.

Each year, the Endowment will solicit grant applications, asking qualified organizations to identify specific bottomland tracts that are eligible for protection. Grants will be awarded annually, starting in 2016. The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will consider a variety of protection strategies, including purchasing land via fee or conservation easement, and grant making priority will be given to organizations that bring matching funds.

**The Enviva Bottomland Stewardship Program** - To produce wood pellets, Enviva does not use high-grade wood (also called saw logs) that could be milled into furniture or lumber. Enviva uses only low-grade or leftover materials such as crooked or diseased trees, limbs, tops, chips and sawdust, and where markets allow, pulpwood. Enviva does not accept wood that is harvested from old growth forests or other sensitive areas.

To prioritize grant-making opportunities for the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, the Endowment identified four distinct ecosystems worthy of conservation: cypress-tupelo swamps, Atlantic white cedar stands, pocosins and Carolina bays. In developing its recommendations, the Endowment consulted with a range of other organizations, including state forestry agencies in Virginia and North Carolina, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and land trusts in both states.

These four wetland ecosystems and forest types contain some of the most unique plant and wildlife communities found across the Atlantic coastal plain. They provide a range of important environmental benefits, including improving water quality and maintaining wildlife habitats. Additional forest types or landscape features may be added to this list as a result of the science-based management practices review. Enviva's proprietary "track and trace" system, which utilizes tract-level, GPS coordinates to trace every wood delivery to the company, will be used to verify that the company's sustainability policies are observed.

**The Endowment Review Team** - To continue its work identifying sensitive bottomland forest tracts, and to develop enhanced sustainable management practices for bottomland forestry, the Endowment will appoint and administer a science-based review team composed of environmental and forestry experts. The committee will be funded by the Endowment and Enviva. This "blue-ribbon committee" will begin work in 2016. The Endowment will seek committee members from state forestry and wildlife agencies, universities and conservation groups to build on Best Management Practices that protect water quality and go further to address a broad range of ecological attributes.

For more information on the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund, [www.envivaforestfund.org](http://www.envivaforestfund.org). ■



# LANDOWNERS

## TREE FARM TO SPONSOR FOREST TRANSITION WORKSHOPS

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program will sponsor three forestland transition planning workshops designed specifically for private, non-industrial landowners in March.

The workshops will be held in Wilkes County on March 1, 2016; Stanly County on March 2, 2016; and Craven County on March 4, 2016. Topics Include: Estate and Succession Planning: Who Will Run the Farm, Business Entities for Forest Land Transition and Estate Planning, Landowner Legacy Communication program, and Breakout Session with host Tree Farmers focusing on implementing strategies and facilitating family discussion. Registration is limited to 50 people per workshop.

If you have questions, please contact Leslie Purcell McCormick at (919) 917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com. ■

## ARBORGEN SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE

Arborgen is pleased to announce that this has been an outstanding year for reforestation in the South, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic States. Planting numbers are higher than the last several years and, with that, comes rapidly shrinking inventories of seedlings from all suppliers for the remainder of the 2015-2016 season. In fact, several ArborGen seedling categories are already sold out.

For North Carolina, Arborgen still has a limited supply of Atlantic Coastal North Loblolly seedlings in the Elite Open Pollinated product category. These trees are the top 3% of our Open Pollinated and offer a great level of increased growth and additional log quality for North Carolina.

Arborgen also has a limited inventory of Shortleaf and Pitch x Lob hybrids. All of these seedlings have been grown at the South Carolina SuperTree Nursery and can be shipped by refrigerated truck to ArborGen's distribution points.

Current availability includes: ArborGen Elite (Top 3%) Open Pollinated, Atlantic Coastal North 732,000; MCP® Container, Atlantic Coastal North 23,000; MCP® Container, Piedmont 13,000. ■

## NCFEF Provides Political Overview...(from page 2)

by having more numbers in the Senate (34R, 16D), House (74R, 45D, 1UNA) and the Governor's mansion.

The Governor's race between challenger Roy Cooper and incumbent Pat McCrory is extremely competitive. The factors listed above certainly will impact the race that is surely going to intensify in the coming months. A stronger turnout for either party might be the difference in this race.

On the cabinet level of interest to the NCFA membership, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler enjoys a lead in the polls in what should be a competitive race from Democratic challenger Walter Smith. The same can be said of Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry who holds a similar lead on former Raleigh Mayor, Charles Meeker, who is the Democratic candidate.

The NCFA will continue to participate in these informational workshops, meet-and-greet forums with candidates, and other activities to learn more about the candidates running for office this year. If you have a question about a particular race in your area or information you would like to share about a race, please contact the NCFA's Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson at (800) 231-7723 ext. 5 or at pgibson@ncforestry.org ■

## ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The next general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on December 1, 2015 and ends on February 26, 2016. The federally funded program assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in CRP, providing protection for more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers.

"Over the past 30 years, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts have made CRP one of the most successful conservation programs in the history of the country," said Vilsack. "Today, CRP continues to make major environmental improvements to water and air quality. This is another longstanding example of how agricultural production can work hand in hand with efforts to improve the environment and increase wildlife habitat."

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

At times when commodity prices are low, enrolling sensitive lands in CRP can be especially attractive to farmers and ranchers, as it softens the economic hardship for landowners at the same time that it provides ecological benefits.

Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

Since it was established on Dec. 23, 1985, CRP has:

- Prevented more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks;
- Reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively;
- Sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road
- Since 1996, CRP has created nearly 2.7 million acres of restored wetlands.

For more information FSA conservation programs, visit a local FSA office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation). To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

Northampton County Landowners Association - February 18, 2016, at Cultural & Wellness Center, Jackson, NC.

Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Project - Forest Markets: A Guide for Landowners Selling Timber, February 24, 2016, Cultural & Wellness Center, Jackson, NC

Wildlife Habitat Management on Privates Lands - February 25, 2016, Little Swift Creek Fire Department & Weyerhaeuser Cool Springs Education Center, Askin, NC.

Managing Your Land and It's Legacy Landowner Workshop - March 4, 2016 - Jones County Civic Center, Trenton, NC.

Working Forest Summit for NC Landowners - March 16, 2016, Sampson County Exposition Center, Clinton, NC

Arbor Day Celebration - March 19, 2016 - There will be a seedling giveaway along with activities for kids, Farmers Market, Raleigh, NC. ■



## MONROE HONORED BY NC ACF AS FORESTER OF THE YEAR

The NC Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters selected John W. Monroe as their 2015 Forester of the Year. John has a BS in Forestry from Southern Illinois University and has practiced forestry for over 30 years with experience in both industry and private consulting.

He formed Monroe Timberland Consultants in 1994 working with private landowners in all aspects of forest management. John recently closed his business due to medical reasons but still enjoys any interaction with clients and fellow foresters across the state.

He is married to Jean (32 years) and has two married sons. He enjoys working in the yard, exploring the family ancestry, and driving his restored '57 Chevy.

The award was presented in Raleigh, NC at a local restaurant. A group of fellow foresters attended to participate in the celebration.

*Thank to In Bill Lock with the NC ACF and the National ACF for sharing this story. ■*

## OLD TIME WOODSMAN SKILLS ON DISPLAY AT 84TH ROLLEO



*The 84th Annual Rolleo Event was held November 14 at Schenck Forest and included six university and college teams, including North Carolina State University, Clemson, Virginia Tech, the University of Tennessee, Warren Wilson College and Haywood Community College. The N.C. State Alumni also fielded a team. Overall the event hosted over 73 contestants. The event drew over 250 spectators. Thanks to N.C. State's Anna Giuli and Jennifer Viets for sharing this information ■*



## PROTECTING YOUR VALUABLE ASSETS - YOUR EYES

Each day employees working in the wood product industries encounter many hazards. Sometimes the most serious injuries occur to the area that comprises one of the smallest portion of a person's body, the eyes. Accident data collected in recent years shows that eye injuries in the workplace are exceedingly common. In the United States, there are more than 2,000 eye injuries each day with over 10 percent of those eye injuries resulting in some temporary or permanent vision loss. Additionally, 1 out of 10 eye injuries require employees to miss one or more missed workdays to heal. In recent cases investigated, safety experts believe that the proper eye protection would have lessened the severity or even prevented more than 90% of all these eye injuries.

**What causes eye injuries?** In the workplace eye injuries can occur from many types of sources. Some of the most common we see are: wind-blown particles, flying objects (bits of metal, wood, glass), tools, chemicals, etc.

**What is my best defense against an eye injury?** In the logging and sawmill arenas, there are several things to do that help prevent an eye injury. Each employer must determine the hazard and then provide the proper protection to prevent injuries from those hazards.

First, know the safety hazards - complete an eye hazard assessment of all areas of operations. Then eliminate the hazards before starting work. Secondly engineer the problem out. In a manufacturing operation, machine guarding, screens, or other engineering controls should be the first choice to prevent the flying debris and dust from injuring an employee. And third, when all the controls are in place, make sure employees use proper eye protection.

At the logging site, eye protection is a must for chainsaw operators. OSHA requirements are for safety glasses to be worn even if you use a mesh screen. Do not trust the mesh screen to protect your eyes. They are flimsy and many saw hands have been injured using only the mesh screen.

One very important tip for your employees - remember, safety glasses go on the eyes and are not a decoration for top of the head. Remember that anyone working in or passing through areas that have eye hazards should wear protective eyewear.

**What type of safety eyewear is available and what should I wear?** Each employer has a variety of styles and options for safety eyewear. Some forms of protection includes:

- Non-prescription and prescription safety glasses
- Goggles
- Face shields
- Welding helmets

The hazards in your workplace will determine the eye protection you should wear. If your work area has particles, flying objects, or dust, you must at least wear safety glasses with side protection or side shields. In some cases, face shields may be required. If you work with chemicals, you should wear goggles. If you are working near hazardous radiation, such as welding, lasers, or fiber optics, you need special-purpose safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or helmets designed for that task.

Lens materials are a matter of personal choice. Glass is less scratch resistant but heavier than plastic or polycarbonate lenses. Plastic and polycarbonate lenses offer light weight options but scratch easier. It becomes a personal choice as long as they have the ANSI stamp to show they are safety lenses and are impact resistant.

According to recent changes to OSHA standards, employers are required to provide proper personal protective equipment for their employees. Eye protection definitely falls into this category. Your eyes are a valuable asset and you should take steps to protect them. Do not be one of the thousands of eye injuries reported each year. ■

# TREE LINE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016



(l-r) Representative Jimmy Dixon, a co-chair of the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Committee, welcomes the NCFA's incoming President Marshall Thompson to the first meeting of the committee. The NCFA has a position on this study committee that includes members of the General Assembly and the general public.

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee - February 3, 2016, NC Farm Bureau, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.

Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee - February 3, 2016 - NC Farm Bureau, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.

NCFA Board of Directors - February 4, 2016 - NC Farm Bureau, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.

Friends of Forestry PAC Meeting - February 17, 2016 - NCFA Office, Raleigh, NC - 10:00 a.m.

Forest Management Committee - April 19, 2016, NCFA Office, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.

NC Tree Farm Program - April 28, 2016, NCFA Office, Raleigh, NC - 10:00 a.m.

NCFA Forestry Day in the Legislature - May 3, 2016, Halifax Mall, North Carolina General Assembly, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.

The Friends of Forestry PAC's Reverse Raffle - May 3, 2016, Sheraton, Raleigh, NC - 6:00 p.m.

NCFA Annual Meeting - October 5-7, 2016, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC.

North Carolina Forestry Association  
1600 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27609



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