

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING - CAMPAIGNING FOR FOREST HEALTH - OCTOBER 5-7, 2016

The NCFA's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville this year from October 5-7. *A schedule of events can be found on page five.* Appropriately in a presidential election year, this year's theme will be **Campaigning for Forest Health.**

The room rate at the Grove Park will be \$239. *The NCFA's room block ends on September 2, 2016 - please call the Grove Park at (800) 438-5800 to secure your reservation.*

Allen Nicholas, the new Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina, will be one of the featured speakers in the morning program that will address forest health. In the afternoon, Eric McConnell with North Carolina State University will detail his recent publication on forest inventory and the forest products industry in North Carolina. The speaking program will conclude with a presentation by James Lewis of the Forest History Society on the America's First Forest.

Registration for the meeting will be \$350 and \$250 for a spouse/guest. Meeting materials have been mailed and there is an option to register online.

The NCFA will once again be holding a silent auction to benefit the Forest Environmental & Conservation Foundation. The FECF supports the NCFA's education outreach programs such as the Forestry & Environmental Camps and the Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience.

The chairs of this year's silent auction committee are Greg Decker and Linda Holton. If you have an item for the auction, please contact Greg or Linda. Greg Decker - Columbia Forest Products, NCFA Silent Auction Chair, email: gdecker@cfpwood.com, Mobile: (828) 442-8508 or Linda Holton, NCFA Silent Auction Co-Chair, email: holtonlj@

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Sweetwater Junction will perform on Thursday night at the Grove Park Inn.

33 COUNTIES IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA EARN SENTINEL LANDSCAPE STATUS



North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler announced the official designation of the Sentinel Landscape for 33 counties in eastern North Carolina.

Steve Troxler, North Carolina's Agriculture Commissioner, announced in July during a formal ceremony in Goldsboro that North Carolina was now officially a participant in the Sentinel Landscape Partnership.

"The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has taken a leadership position in pushing for the Sentinel Landscapes designation because we believe it is a win-win for agriculture, our natural resources and open spaces and the military," stated Troxler during his opening remarks.

Troxler was joined during the speaking portion of the program by Brigadier General Thomas Weidley of the U.S. Marine Corps, Herbert Page, owner and operator of Guthrie Farm, Leonard Jordan, Associate Chief for Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Mary Watzin, Dean of the North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources.

The Sentinel Landscape program is a federal conservation effort that was begun in 2013 to improve military readiness, protect at-risk and endangered species, enhance critical wildlife habitat and restore working agricultural and natural lands in the Southeast and Midwest.

Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission-places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscape



The Sentinel Landscape designation spans 33 North Carolina counties.

Troxler was quick to note that the Sentinel Landscape effort is a volunteer program for everyone involved, especially the private landowners who own and manage these working farms and forests that will form the buffers around various military institutions and training grounds.

"On the state level, it's a partnership between the department of agriculture and consumer services, the federal agencies, each military base, N.C. State University College of Natural Resources, the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission, multiple non-governmental agencies, governmental agencies as well as private landowners across the state."

The designation provides access to funds and resources for the 40 various partners in eastern North Carolina.

Marine Corps Brigadier General Thomas Weidley thanked those who started the initial efforts in North Carolina for their pioneering efforts.

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NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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SUBMIT NEWS TO THE NCFCA

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

The NCFCA is the state's oldest forest conservation organization, consisting of 4,000 members with ties to forestry and the forest products industry. A private, non-profit organization, the NCFCA promotes healthy, productive forests by supporting the efforts of landowners, the forest products industry, and related groups that responsibly manage and/or use forests. ■

POLITICAL NEWS & REGULATORY ISSUES

QUICK SESSION SETS GROUNDWORK FOR NEXT YEAR

The North Carolina General Assembly short session lasted just 68 days. The last time the General Assembly completed a session in fewer days was in 2000. The NCFCA worked with its partners through the session on several bills, directly providing input on 25 or so that were either passed this year or deferred to the upcoming legislative session. In terms of appropriations, the NCFCA supported providing the North Carolina Forest Service with critical funds to address the shortfall in vehicles and equipment needed to fight fires as well as funding for the Forest Development Fund (FDP).

"We were encouraged to get funding for FDP back into the general budget," stated NCFCA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "It's an important first step towards returning to the level of support the General Assembly once provided to a program that has a real grass roots impact. This program puts trees in the ground - over one million since it's inception - and helps with other significant forest management activities. We appreciate the participation and support of our NCFCA members and our partners in forwarding a pro-forestry message in Raleigh."

The following is a list of bills of interest that passed in the 2016 Short Session of the North Carolina General Assembly.



Forestry Day in the Legislature is the best opportunity for NCFCA members to meet our state's lawmakers and discuss forestry issues.

HOUSE BILL 183 - REPEAL MAP ACT. This bill would repeal the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act, which authorizes the Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities to adopt maps for future transportation projects and places restrictions on properties within the mapped areas. (Note: The Map Act restrictions were rescinded in a separate bill, House Bill 959 - DOT Proposed Legislative Changes). *NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

HOUSE BILL 1030 - 2016 APPROPRIATIONS ACT. This bill makes adjustments to the state budget enacted last year and is the primary focus of the short session. It included:

- \$3 million to the Forest Service for firefighting equipment.
- \$1 million to the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for military buffers.
- Funding for four positions to the Natural Heritage Program.
- \$8.6 million to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.
- \$3 million to DuPont State Recreational Forest for improvements.
- \$75,000 to the Forest Development Fund.
- \$500,000 to the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWrap).

NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.

SENATE BILL 770 - NC FARM ACT OF 2016. This bill made several changes to the agricultural industry including:

- The expiration for the production credit for commercial facilities for processing renewable fuel would be extended from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2020.
- No permit would be required to conduct any construction, installation, repair, replacement, or alteration activities costing \$15,000 or less in residential and farm structures if the work involves: Replacements of windows; doors; exterior siding; or pickets, railings, stair treads, and decking of porches and exterior decks; Plumbing replacements that do not change size or capacity; Replacement of roofing.
- No permit would be required for: Replacement of water heaters in one- or two-family dwellings, if (1) the energy use or thermal input does not exceed that of the water

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The AENC honored the memory of Bob Slocum by instituting the Bob Slocum Award that recognizes excellence in government affairs and advocacy on an annual basis. Jim Ahler (with award) became the first recipient earlier this week in Williamsburg, Virginia. (l-r) AENC President Alan Skipper, Linda Slocum, Jim Ahler and incoming AENC President Joe Stewart posed for a photo after the announcement. The NCF staff would like to thank the members of AENC for honoring Bob Slocum and inviting Linda Slocum and staff to participate in the awards breakfast.

AHLER AWARDED AENC'S SLOCUM AWARD

This year, the Association Executives of North Carolina (AENC) introduced a new award for its membership in honor of Bob Slocum, long-time Executive Vice President of the NCF.

The Bob Slocum Award recognizes excellence in government affairs and advocacy at the state and federal level.

The AENC acknowledges that association professionals working in the political arena must maintain a personal and professional reputation for honesty, reliability and consistency with elected officials. The Slocum Award will be presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated a sustained tenure of outstanding professional conduct in government affairs.

The inaugural winner of the Bob Slocum Award is Jim Ahler, who has served the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants for over 27 years. A past AENC president, Ahler's service to his 14,000 members in the North Carolina General Assembly is a terrific testimony to how to represent a membership in an effective and positive manner.

Bob Slocum led the NCF for 24 years. After graduating from North Carolina State University, Slocum took a field forester job in Virginia for a few years before moving into the public policy realm with positions in Atlanta and then Washington, D.C.

He returned to North Carolina in 1988 to assume the helm of the NCF. Slocum set a high-standard for himself and the association as the NCF grew in membership across the state and in its influence with the North Carolina General Assembly. The NCF initiated several education initiatives, including the extremely successful ProLogger program, under Slocum's direction.

There now is a Bob Slocum Forestry Communication Scholarship Endowment at North Carolina State University. Please contact Jennifer Viets, Associate Director of External Relations & Development, at (919) 513-7734 or Jennifer_Viets@ncsu.edu for more information. ■

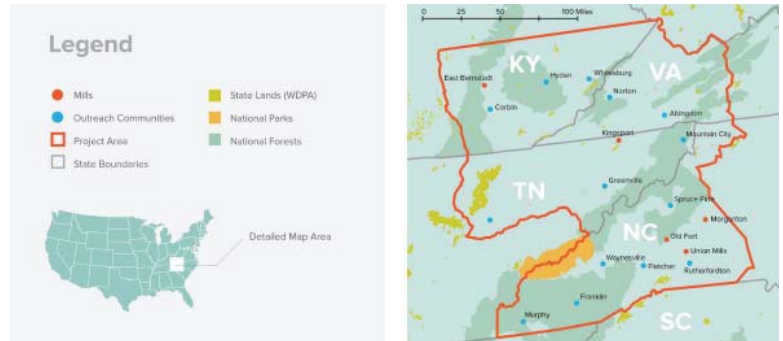
POINT OF VIEW

RAINFORREST ALLIANCE, US FOREST SERVICE, AND FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANIES PARTNER TO REWARD LANDOWNERS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Nearly sixty percent of the rich hardwood forests of the southern and central Appalachian Mountains are privately owned, whether in small parcels by individual landowners or by small companies. These forests are among North America's most valuable natural systems. Home to one of the most diverse collections of plants and animals in the world, the forests also generate billions of dollars' worth of forest products and related businesses each year, much of which is returned to the local area.

Changes in business patterns have increased industry dependence on these private forestlands. While many private landowners across the region have an excellent record of forest stewardship, opportunities remain for more sustainable forest management practices – and to make sure those landowners are rewarded appropriately.

The Appalachian Woodlands Alliance (AWA) is a partnership between Rainforest Alliance and forest products companies Avery Dennison, Columbia Forest Products, Domtar, Kimberly-Clark, Staples, and the US Forest Service. Working together, these partners aim to enrich the economic productivity and ecological health of the forests in the south and central Appalachian Mountains – one of world's most biodiverse regions and a globally important area for wood procurement.



The AWA will focus on strengthening sustainable forest management on privately owned land, beginning in the south and central Appalachian region of the United States. Funded by a \$1.4 million combined investment from the six project partners, the AWA will work to connect sustainably-minded landowners with the broader forest products market, providing them with financial recognition for efforts that enhance forest products industry.

"Adopting more sustainable forest management practices can help landowners get connected to bigger markets, and serve as an incentive to manage their lands the best way possible," said Andrew Goldberg, project manager of the Appalachian Woodlands Alliance. "Sustainable land-use practices and certification can also help protect natural resources, unique habitats, water quality, and biodiversity of the Appalachian region. We welcome private landowners and brands to work with us to create a forest legacy that will last for generations."

All AWA partners share a deep commitment to advancing sustainable management of the region's forests, backed up by significant efforts to procure responsibly managed timber. Through engaging the forest products marketplace, the AWA will work to meet and increase demand for sustainably harvested forest products from our project area – including local and international opportunities. By working closely with local groups, landowner associations, consulting foresters, and other stakeholders, the AWA will work to increase sustainable forest management of privately owned forests in western North Carolina.

For more information on the AWA, please contact AWA project manager Andrew Goldberg at agoldberg@ra.org or (828) 280-1793. ■



PRODUCTIVE PROLOGGER TRAINING YEAR CONCLUDES

The NCFA staff would like to thank all of our ProLoggers and our company volunteers for another great year of training. We finished the year with less than 85 ProLoggers failing to take the required module. When you consider there are close to 1,600 ProLoggers in the program, this is an impressive training figure. The guidelines for re-entering the program for those who may have fallen out of the program are listed on the ProLogger page of the NCFA's website. If you any questions about your ProLogger status, please call Eddie Reese (919) 834-3943 ext. 2 or Chris Brown at (919) 834-3943 ext. 3.



All ProLoggers are encouraged to log into the Members Only section of the NCFA's website to update their mailing information to ensure they receive updates on the program. ■

LOADER MAIN BOOM FAILURES REPORTED

A discussion item at the latest meeting of the NCFA's Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee was the failure of loader booms. There have been isolated reported incidents of boom failures in North Carolina. The committee suggests ProLoggers check with their loader manufacturer about their model and any possible safety issues. Thanks to Mike Worley of Weyerhaeuser Company for sharing a safety flyer on this issue.

Date of Incident: 4/14/2016 **Make:** Prentice Model: 2484C (579C Cat same loader) **Year:** 2013 **Hours:** 7100 **What Broke:** End of main boom

Description: On 4/14/2016, while delimiting a piece of 31 year old pine, the main boom broke off a Prentice 2484C (579C Cat is the same loader). Upon inspection of the break, we found that the loader uses an insert at the end of the main boom. This insert is pressed into the main boom and welded in. It is made of cast material and had not been welded properly and was not fused to the main boom. The only welds holding it in were the vertical stringers on the side and the welds on the top and bottom. The self-aligning bushings in the jib boom rod end had just been replaced and no cracks were seen. After it broke, the Caterpillar dealer was notified and found out that they had problems with the booms on these model loaders. The boom was not set up in the jig properly during the manufacturing process. Caterpillar believed that they had caught all the booms that had problems. These model loaders should be checked for cracks in the weld approximately 18" from the end of the main boom. If any cracks are found stop immediately and contact a Caterpillar representative.

Date of Incident: 6/22/2016 **Make:** Cat Model: 579C (Prentice 2484C is the same loader) **Year:** 2013 **Hours:** 4048 **What Broke:** End of Main boom

Description: On 6/22/2016, a loader operator was processing 28 year old pine and the boom on the Cat 579C (Prentice 2484C is the same loader) loader broke off near the end of the main boom. There were no injuries or other damages except for the loader boom itself. The hydraulic hoses did not break. The boom had been inspected shortly after 4/14/2016, because the recent boom incident that involved a Prentice 2484C. ■

LAST BASE PROLOGGER CLASS TO TAKE PLACE AT MONTGOMERY CC ON SEPTEMBER 14-15

The NCFA will conduct the third and final ProLogger Base Course of 2016 on September 14-15, 2016 at Montgomery Community College in Troy, NC. The class is open to all loggers who are seeking ProLogger certification. Please contact Eddie Reese at (800) 231-7723 ext. 2 or at ereese@ncforestry.org to pre-register for the class. You can register the day of the course by paying the \$250 registration fee at the door. ■

NCFA Annual Meeting...(from page 1)

gmail.com, Mobile: (252) 229-3101.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ann Harper at (800) 231-7723 ext. 1.

2016 Annual Meeting Sponsorship (as of 8.12.16)

Boise Cascade Wood Products
Canfor Southern Pine

Columbia Forest Products
Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency
Domtar Paper Co. - Marlboro
Domtar Paper Co. - Plymouth
Enviva LP

Farm Credit Assoc. of NC
Hartley Brothers Sawmill Inc.
H.W. Culp Lumber Co.

Kapstone Kraft Paper Corp.
McLaurin Co.

Resolute Forest Products
Resource Management Service, LLC
Shaver Wood Products

Tri-State Land & Timber LLC
Troy Lumber Co.

Uwharrie Lumber Co.
West Rock

If you would like to exhibit at this year's meeting, please contact Chris Brown at (800) 231-7723 ext. 3. ■

General Assembly Update...(from page 2)

heater being replaced and there is no change in fuel, energy source, location, capacity, or routing or sizing of venting and piping, and (2) the work is performed by a person licensed by the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors. Repair or replacement of dishwashers, disposals, electrical devices, or lighting fixtures in residential or commercial structures, if (1) the repair or replacement does not require addition or relocation of additional electrical wiring, and (2) the work is performed by a person licensed by the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors; Routine maintenance of fuel dispensing pumps and other devices.

- Activity that constitutes a bona fide farm use, including the production of mulch, ornamental plants, sod, and other horticultural products would be exempted from the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.
- An automatic contract renewal for the sale, lease of products or services for a term exceeding 30 days would be void and unenforceable unless the consumer is given written notice that the contract will automatically renew if the consumer does not cancel it, and would require the notice to be given no sooner than 30 days and no later than 15 days before the renewal.

NCFA Position: NCFA supported this bill.

If you have a particular questions or legislative issue, please contact Pryor Gibson at (800) 231-7723 ext. 5. ■

GUIDANCE ON TREE HARVESTING ON DAMS

Since over the past few months there have been some questions about cutting and removing trees from earthen dams, the North Carolina Forest Service met with the State Dam Safety Engineer and staff for some guidance.

The first step is to define what structure is legally defined as a dam. Under the General Statutes, a dam is regulated if it is taller than 25 feet, and has a holding capacity greater than 50 acre-feet of water or, if any structure is defined as a "high hazard" structure.

A structure is considered a "high hazard" if the following were to occur if it were to be breached or fail: 1) loss of human life downstream; or 2) economic damage more than \$200,000 downstream 3) the spilled water will cross a roadway that carries 250 or more vehicles per day.

While state law exempts an agricultural pond dam, if that dam/pond was constructed under the authority of NRCS or Soil & Water Conservation Division/District, there are no exemptions from a "high hazard" designation.

If that impoundment structure meets any of the three thresholds listed above, then it is "high hazard" and is a regulated structure.

This may happen when a new housing subdivision is constructed downstream from an old farm pond that may have been in place for decades. Now that the homes are in the potential flood zone, the original agriculture pond dam now becomes a "high hazard" structure.

If the impoundment structure legally is considered a "dam", can you cut trees off it? Trees that are six-inches in diameter or smaller can be removed but the stump should be left intact. In this case, no permit or engineering plan is required.

Trees that are larger than six-inches in diameter can be harvested, but an approved engineering plan is required before the operation can take place. The stump must be excavated and the hole backfilled with appropriate material to reinforce the dam. An engineer from DEQ-DEMLR would need to review and approve the plan.

NOTE: This six-inch diameter limit is a general accepted recommendation or guidance. It is not codified in rule or law. The six-inch diameter limit is generally believed to reference a six-inch at DBH. As a disclaimer, the North Carolina Forest Service is not the expert on this subject. If the logger or property owner have questions on whether they can harvest timber in the close vicinity of a dam, please advise them to speak with an engineer in the DEQ-DEMLR/Land Quality Regional Office.

Thanks to Tom Gerow with the NCFS for providing this guidance update. ■

FORESTREE EQUIPMENT TRADER LAUNCHED

Hatton-Brown Publishers, Inc., North America's leading publisher of forest industry trade publications, including Southern Loggin' Times, has launched Forestree Equipment Trader (FET), which is a first-of-its-kind online service dedicated exclusively to buying, selling and trading pre-owned forestry equipment, components, parts and related services. ■

PLT BOOTCAMP SCHEDULED

The North Carolina Project Learning Tree will be holding a training workshop designed for forestry professionals on November 7-9, 2016 in Fuquay Varina, NC. Participants will be trained in PLT, discover links between forestry and K-12 educational standards, and learn how to create dynamic presentations for K-12 students. To learn more or register, please contact Renee Strnad at renee_strnad@ncsu.edu. ■

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016

- 12:00 p.m. **Golf Tournament**, Grove Park Golf Course
- 1:00 p.m. **Sporting Clays**, Biltmore Inn Sporting Clays
- 6:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**, Grove Park Inn

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. **Welcome** - Marshall Thompson, NCFA President
- 8:10 a.m. **U.S. Forest Service Update/Forest Plan Revision**
- Allen Nicholas, Supervisor for NC National Forests
- 8:50 a.m. **Forest Plan Revisions and NC Gamelands**
- Gordon Warburton, NC Wildlife Resources
- 9:30 a.m. **Forest Certification in WNC**
- Andrew Goldberg, Appalachian Woodland Alliance
- 10:10 a.m. Break
- 10:25 a.m. **Forest Health and Current Threats**
- Fred Hain, Forest Restoration Alliance
- 11:05 a.m. **Cross Laminated Timber**
- Crawford Murphy, CLT USA
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch and Legislative Awards**
- 1:00 p.m. **Forest Inventory and Forest Products Industry**
- Eric McConnell, N.C. State University
- 1:40 p.m. **Working Forest Conservation Easements**
- Bob Schaefer, WLT Chair
- 2:20 p.m. Break
- 2:35 p.m. **Forest Management on Cherokee Forest**
- Tommy Cabe, Cherokee Representative
- 3:15 p.m. **First in Forestry Production**
- James Lewis, Forest History Society
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn Speaking program
- 6:00 p.m. **President's Reception**
- 7:00 p.m. **Awards Dinner and Silent Auction**
- 8:00 p.m. **Sweetwater Junction Band**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

- 8:30 a.m. **NCFA Board of Directors Meeting**

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ACTIVITY REMAINS LOW IN NC

In 2015, Southern Pine Beetle activity was again low with no confirmed spots reported in the state. Meanwhile, there was an increase in Ips engraver beetle activity for the second year running, causing scattered damage especially in the Sandhills region of the state.

This year, 2016 trapping data predicts another low year for SPB populations in most of North Carolina. The one exception is in Graham County, where trapping results indicate the state may see increasing/low populations of SPB.

To see the complete bulletin, go online at http://www.ncforests-service.gov/forest_health/pdf/FHN/FHN1601-SPB.pdf. ■

EMERALD ASH BORER IS ON MOVE

The Emerald Ash Borer is on the move this year! It has already been found in four additional counties so far: Davidson, Forsyth, Swain, and Yancey. The full report can be seen online at <http://files.ctctcdn.com/8297da3a201/5574ed9a-d52e-4e2d-af37-29de76aeb0c8.pdf>.

Thanks to Rob Trickel, NCFS Forest Health Branch Head, for sharing this update. If you have any questions, please contact Rob at 919-857-4858 or rob.trickel@ncagr.gov. ■



U.S. Army Brigadier General Thomas Weidley thanked North Carolina citizens for being a steadfast partner for the armed services and their forward thinking to make the Sentinel Landscape Partnership a reality.

“Who would have thought that the dreams and foresight of an initial few who dared to believe that this unconventional partnership linking working lands, conservation and the military, would become a reality,” stated Weidley. “Some determined North Carolinians thought it and believe it. They are to be commended for recognizing all the elements were in place to put us on the road to a fully realized Sentinel Landscape.”

In addition to being innovative, Weidley credits North Carolina for being a military friendly state.

“The patriotism of the people, the beauty of the resource and landscapes, and the willingness to remain a steadfast partner also add to what makes North Carolina a great place to call home,” stated Weidley.

North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources Dean Mary Watzin credited a diverse partnership for supporting a program that will benefit private landowners, our military and the biodiversity of North Carolina landscape in the eastern part of the state.

Dean Mary Watzin closed the speaking program, crediting the diverse partnership that has been assembled to earn this important national designation.

“There is absolutely no reason why conservation, working lands, and a strong military cannot coexist and in fact, leverage each other to be even greater than they would be working alone. We are excited to be a part of the team. We looking forward to the opportunity to take a landscape approach to what is possible in eastern North Carolina.”

The North Carolina Forestry Association is one of the 40 or so partners involved in the Sentinel Landscape Partnership, and certainly the NCFA’s former Executive Vice President, Bob Slocum, was one of those individuals Brigadier General Weidley referenced.

“It’s too bad Bob (Slocum) did not get to see this day,” stated North Carolina State University Extension Specialist and Associate Professor Dennis Hazel as he walked through the different vehicles that had been staged on the open field as part of the announcement. “He was such a big proponent for this program.” ■



North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources Dean Mary Watzin credited a diverse partnership for supporting a program that will benefit private landowners, our military and the biodiversity of North Carolina landscape in the eastern part of the state.

SFTE ENJOYS BANNER SUMMER AS PIEDMONT EXPERIENCE CONCLUDES

The Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience (SFTE) enjoyed one of its best years in recent memory with over 90 teachers participating in three different locations. Teachers traveled to New Bern, Asheville and Southern Pines for a multi-day workshop that took them into the forest and into the forest products industry – in most cases – on the same day.

This combination of tours illustrates the connection between the resource, the management of the resource, and how each forest products facility seeks its unique efficiencies in making and distributing various products.

This year the SFTE was under the direction of the North Carolina Forest Service’s Hannah Thompson-Welch and the NCFA’s Eddie Reese. Hannah and Eddie did a tremendous job of coordinating visits while incorporating the Project Learning Tree (PLT) curriculum and other educational elements into the workshops.

“We truly appreciate the efforts of the SFTE staff and the support from our participating companies and partners,” stated Pryor Gibson, the NCFA’s Executive Vice President. “Hannah and Eddie accepted the challenge of growing our program both in quantity and quality. This year, we had more teachers experience the program in one year than ever before. Our members and partners provided some excellent tours of their facilities. And, we will continue to evaluate and improve on the program going forward based on the feedback from teachers and our membership. Eddie and Hannah have already begun that process.”

The entire SFTE would not be possible if it were not for the support of the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee and the several companies that open their doors (and in many cases, their wallets when they support a luncheon or dinner during the week). **THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!**

Everyone involved in forestry and the forest products industry has positive and compelling story to tell about the positive impact forestry has on our state. The best audience in the world to spread this message is our educators, who are working with our next generation of foresters and forestland owners. The SFTE provides the ideal platform to bring these two groups together for a few weeks out of a given year.

“The biggest thing that impressed me was how intent the group was on learning something from the experience,” stated Ed Listerman who directed the tour of Culp Lumber Company. “No question, these people were there with the idea of taking something away from it. And, I got that feeling from the number of questions from the group and the interest in different things they saw.”

While some mills have been on the SFTE program for years, this was the first year Culp Lumber was on the visitation schedule. Listerman and his crew led the teachers through an extensive tour of the mill and allocated time to let the teachers interact with the individual operators of machinery.

“We took them through the mill,” stated Listerman. “They got to see it, touch it, kick it. We let them get in the cabs with guys. We had a good time doing it.”

In addition to Culp Lumber, the group visited Weymouth Woods where they had the opportunity to explore a Longleaf Pine forest.

The group also had the opportunity to visit an active logging job on the Jordan Lumber & Supply Inc. and Jordan Timberlands. Chip Miller with Jordan Lumber was the biggest advocate for adding a SFTE in the piedmont. Does Miller think his years of making a sales pitch for the piedmont was worth it?

“I think so,” stated Miller. “I really do. The more teachers we educate, the more children we educate.”

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(l-r) Chip Miller, B.J. Hill, Scott Askew, Justin Morris and Mickey Blake led a tour of Jordan Lumber & Supply and Jordan's timberlands where teachers witnessed a live logging operation.

SFTE Enjoys Banner Summer...(from page 6)

The group stopped at the active logging job after receiving a tour of the mill and a few stops at different age stands of company land. When the bus rolled up close to the log deck, some teachers initially thought they might choose to view the demonstration from the comforts of an air conditioned bus seat since it was hotter than hot. But, it didn't take too long before all the action on the ground brought them out of their seats.

"I thought it was the highlight of our part of the tour," stated Miller. "It was so hot - some really didn't want to get off the bus, but a group of them said yea I'll go. So I got off the bus and stated leading them down the road. The next thing, I looked back, and all of them had gotten off the bus. So, when we got out there, they were tickled to death."

The teachers never expected to see so much equipment moving on the landscape.

"They just couldn't believe how mechanized it was," stated Miller. "The logger had a fellerbuncher out there, and he cut some trees down for us. The teachers seemed to be really excited to see that. I had one teacher make a comment, "Good gracious, I thought they were still cutting trees down with a chain saw." She couldn't get over that fellerbuncher cutting that tree down, holding it, putting it where he wanted to put it."

Other forest products facility stops on the SFTE included Troy Lumber, Uwharrie Lumber, Lancer Furniture and Unilen US.

On the final day, Scott Smearman with Domtar and a member of the NC SFI SIC, provided an update on forest certification and the SFI program. Ready-made teaching kits were given to each teacher for use in their classroom next year.

With the SFTE year complete, the process of recruiting teachers for next year's three installments of this excellent program has begun.

"We have already started to create a new list for each region," stated Eddie Reese. "We are counting on our members to step forward to nominate teachers and actively promote the program with their friends, neighbors and local schools. It's a terrific program at a terrific price. The key is getting a new batch registered and ready to go."

If you have a teacher who might be interested in attending one of the SFTE's next year, please contact Eddie Reese at (800) 231-7723 ext. 2 or at ereese@ncforestry.org. ■



BACKING FOR LIFE

by Greg Plumley, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

Recently, we experienced a fatality to a spotter helping a spot truck driver that caused us to reassess what we can do to raise awareness about crew members on the ground and the large volume of vehicles backing up at a work site. Well, here is your opportunity to take the bull by the horns and educate your employees before you or they become victims of a backing accident.

According to the National Safety Council (NSC.org), one out of four vehicle accidents can be blamed on poor backing techniques. Backing accidents cause over 500 fatalities and 15,000 injuries annually. The actual numbers are likely four times higher due to those incidents that are never reported because they do not involve an injury or fatality. Think back! I bet you can recall a few backing incidents that have happened on the job. Maybe a few fenders, headlights, bumpers, tailgates, etc. have been damaged. Or have you heard on the news that a parent or grandparent backed out of their driveway on the way to get a loaf of bread or milk and backed over their child riding their tricycle. I hope I have made a case for you to become proactive in the safety awareness of backing. General rules are as follows:

- **Avoid backing if at all possible.** But if backing is necessary position the vehicle in the direction you need to go when leaving the location - in other words - BACK FIRST.
- **Always use a spotter when backing.** A spotter should always be in the view of driver.
- **Blow Horn.** Blow horn whenever you start to back, and continue to tap on the horn every 10 feet of backing travel.
- **All back up alarms must be operational.** A defective back alarm should be called to attention for immediate repair.
- **Size up the situation before backing.** Walk around the vehicle to examine the area and look for hazardous situations. When in doubt, get out and look.
- **Check the surface.** Note depressions, bumps, obstacles and any persons who might come into the line of travel.
- **Check top clearances.** Note how wide the vehicle is in relationship to the size of the space being backed into.
- **Analyze the situation.** After analyzing the situation, begin the backing maneuver immediately before the situation has a chance to change.

The use of good backing **HABITS** and continued vehicle backing education can help prevent backing accidents that can occur at anytime and anywhere. **PROACTIVE= GOOD BACKING HABITS - BACK FIRST - USE A SPOTTER AND DO A WALK AROUND** ■

ENHANCING WILDLIFE HABITAT WORKSHOP IN NEW LONDON, NC

The North Carolina Tree Farm program will be hosting a workshop on September 21, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New London Volunteer Fire Department. The workshop will detail balancing commercial production and habitat management to meet a variety of landowner objectives. To register or for additional information, please contact Leslie McCormick (919)917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com. ■

EXPORT CONFERENCE IN CHARLESTON, SC

The South Carolina Forestry Commission will be hosting the Southern Forest Products Export Conference on October 17-18, 2016 in the historic port city of Charleston. The focus of the two-day meeting will be on key global markets. For more information about the conference, please contact Tim Adams, Resource Development Director, South Carolina Forestry Commission at (803) 896-8802 or tadams@scfc.gov. ■

TREELINE

AUGUST 2016



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER STEVE TROXLER WELCOMES BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS WEIDLEY TO THE PODIUM DURING THE SENTINEL LANDSCAPE ANNOUNCEMENT.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- September 20, 2016, NCA Office, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.
Forest Management Committee
- October 5-7, 2016, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC.
NCA Annual Meeting
- October 22, 2016, Hill Forest, Durham, NC.
NC Tree Farm Program Annual Meeting
- October 27, 2016, Drake Landing, Fuquay-Varina, NC - 9:30 a.m.
Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee
- November 9, 2016, NCA office, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.
North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee

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



JUST ASK ROY

The NCA has added a new feature to its website - ASK ROY - as a way of reaching out with video productions that address questions about forestry. Roy Jarrard, a forester and long-time volunteer instructor at the NCA's Forestry & Environmental Camps, was recruited to bring his perspective and unique delivery to this new education initiative. The videos are now online under the 'Teachers' tab on the NCA's website. NCA staff would like to thank Roy for helping us out with this project! The videos are also on the NCA's YouTube feed. The goal is to add to this library of questions and answers in the coming year.

North Carolina Forestry Association
1600 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27609



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