

# TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

## TIMBER DEED SIGNED ON HOFMANN

The Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund of North Carolina State University and the Natural Resources Foundation today announced a new agreement for the timberlands on Hofmann Forest, ensuring long-term sustainability for the land and consistent annual income for the College of Natural Resources.

The Endowment Board and the Foundation signed a \$78 million, 50-year timber deed with Hofmann Forest Timberlands LLC, an entity managed by Resource Management Service LLC (RMS), which is a privately-held timber investment management organization known for its leadership in sustainable forest management practices. The timber deed gives RMS rights to sustainably grow, harvest and replant the timber on 54,334 acres of working forest with the North Carolina State Endowment maintaining ownership of the land.

The agreement also maintains access for students and faculty in the College of Natural Resources to teach and conduct research across the property and it requires RMS to manage the forest to meet sustainable forest management certification requirements and return an improved age class distribution of trees at the end of the 50-year contract. As a working forest, the majority of the 79,000-acre forest will remain dark and undeveloped, providing clear benefits for the military and economic prosperity in eastern North Carolina.

The proceeds from the contract will be invested in the Endowment Fund of NC State University and will provide a consistent yearly income of about \$3 million that will go exclusively to support the teaching, research and outreach programs of the College of Natural Resources. The consistent annual funds replace variable yearly income previously generated by the Foundation's management of the forest, enabling the college to better plan for and utilize resources to benefit its educational mission. The agreement also reduces the Endowment Fund's investment risks and gets the Natural Resources Foundation out of the business of managing a commercial forest and more focused on advancing the teaching and research mission of the college.

"This new agreement ensures the sustainability of the timberland for the long term," said North Carolina State Chancellor Randy Woodson. "It respects the needs of the military and is consistent with long-term economic development goals for eastern North Carolina. It's a win for the university, the timber deed buyer, and the community."

"RMS is pleased to acquire these timberlands as part of its southern U.S. investment portfolio

*(continued on page 5)*

## 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. Appropriately in a presidential election year, this year's theme will be *Campaigning for Forest Health*.

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.

The room rate at the Grove Park will be \$239. The Grove Park number is (800) 438-5800. Registration for the meeting will be \$350 and \$250 for a spouse/guest. Meeting materials will be online and mailed in July.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ann Harper at aharper@ncforestry.org or (800) 231-7723 ext. 1.

*(continued on page 4)*



*Teachers visited the Croatan National Forest part of the New Bern SFTE.*

## TEACHERS VISIT NEW BERN AND ASHEVILLE AS PART OF SFTE

Two sessions of the three scheduled Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience (SFTE) took place in June. The four-day workshop hosted teachers in New Bern and then in Asheville. The final workshop will be taking place in Southern Pines in July.

The SFTE is coordinated and hosted by Hannah Thompson-Welch with the North Carolina Forest Service and Eddie Reese with the NCFA. Thanks to Hannah and Eddie for their efforts on these comprehensive and energetic workshop for our educators.

The first field experience for the teachers in New Bern was a tour of Weyerhaeuser's forests led by Billy Tucker and his crew. The teachers then visited the company's facility in Ayden. It was obvious the teachers were surprised to see the level of high-technology involved in the lumber making process. It also proved to illustrate the connection between trees growing in the forest and the myriad of products that can be produced in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The second day started with a visit to the Croatan National Forest where teachers learned more about Longleaf Pine management and ecosystems, Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, and carnivorous plants on the property such as the Venus Fly-Trap.

In the afternoon, the teachers were treated with a trip to the North Carolina

*(continued on page 7)*



# 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/</i> <i>Treasurer</i>	Ron Heatherly <i>Western VP</i>
Boyd McLaurin <i>First Vice President</i>	Michael Walters <i>Chair of the Board</i> <i>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 NCFCA

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

The NCFCA is the state's oldest forest conservation organization, consisting of 4,000 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

## NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES SHORT SESSION

The 2015-2016 North Carolina General Assembly Session ended close to midnight on Friday, July 1st. The 68 day "short" session was the shortest one since 2000, primarily due to very few controversial issues being introduced. Any bill that did not pass will have to be reintroduced in 2017. The NCFCA will continue to work on the issues we supported that did not pass (see list below). Now that session is over, Governor Pat McCrory has until midnight on July 31st to either sign or veto the bills that passed the legislature in 2016, otherwise they will become law without his signature. Of the below passed bills, those with (S.L. 2015 or 2016) behind the title have become law.

### BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED IN 2015

**HOUSE BILL 97 - 2015 APPROPRIATIONS ACT (S.L. 2015-241)** This bill allocates funding for the state budget. It included:

- A new sales tax to services linked to product purchases, such as repairs, installation, and warranties. The revenue will go to rural counties and is a compromise to the Senate's original plan of changing the entire sales tax formula in order to send more revenue to rural counties.
- A decrease in the individual income tax rate from 5.75% to 5.499%.
- Around 30% increase across the board on DMV fees.
- The Department of Agriculture will be allowed to allot \$4 million to the North Carolina Forest Service Mountain Island Educational Forest-Visitor and Interpretive Center.
- A phase-out of the noncommercial Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund, which assist landowners with cleanups, in 2016.
- An increase of funding for bridge repair by \$57 million in FY15-16 and \$89 million in FY16-17.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported the final version of this bill.*

**HOUSE BILL 117 - NC COMPETES ACT (S.L. 2015-259)** This bill would have eliminated the state tax deduction for reforestation and cultivation of commercially grown trees, but that portion was removed from the final version that passed.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported the final version of this bill.*

### HOUSE BILL 318 - PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA WORKERS ACT (S.L. 2015-294)

This bill originally would have reduced the current threshold for businesses that are required to use E-Verify from 25 employees to 5 employees. This would not include farm workers, independent contractors, or an individual who provides domestic service in a private home that is sporadic, irregular, or intermittent. However, that section was removed in the final version of the bill. The final version requires E-Verify compliance in certain governmental contracts and states that consulate or embassy documents may not be used to determine identification or residency for law enforcement purposes.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA monitored this bill in case there was an impact to our small business owners, but became neutral once the provision was removed.*

**HOUSE BILL 640 - OUTDOOR HERITAGE ACT (S.L. 2015-144)** This bill allowed hunting with firearms on Sunday except for during church hours, 9:30am - 12:30pm and expanded outdoor youth opportunities through a newly created Outdoor Heritage Trust Fund. Hunters are able to donate \$2 to the fund during N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission license transactions to pay for the youth programs.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA has members who opposed and supported this issue, so remained neutral.*

**HOUSE BILL 765 - REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2015 (S.L. 2015-286)** This bill made a variety of regulation changes. Provisions of the bill included:

- Prohibiting implementation and enforcement of federal standards for wood heaters.
- Allows for construction to continue when an air quality permit has been contested

*(continued on page 3)*

by a third party,  
unless a judge orders otherwise.

- Allows companies to self-audit environmental regulations.
- Requires the Administrative Oversight Committee to make recommendations for the 2016 session on which, if any, licensing boards should be eliminated or consolidated.
- Reducing air quality monitors from 132 to 74.
- Mitigation requirements will not apply to impacts of intermittent streams.

NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.

#### HOUSE BILL 795 - SEPA REFORM (S.L. 2015-90)

This bill limited which projects are subject to the State Environmental Policy Act to projects involving more than \$10 million in public funds or that disturb more than 10 acres of publicly owned lands.

NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.

#### SENATE BILL 20 - IRC UPDATE/MOTOR FUEL TAX CHANGES (S.L. 2015-2)

This bill changes the gas tax revenue formula in order to stabilize transportation revenues. It calls for a gradual dip in gas prices - 36 cents per gallon began on April 1st; 35 cents per gallon will begin on January 1st, 2016; and to 34 cents on July 1st, 2016. Beginning on January 1st, 2017, a formula based on population growth would determine the tax rate.

NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.

#### SENATE BILL 513 - NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2015 (S.L. 2015-263)

This bill made several changes to the agricultural industry including:

- Oversight of deer farming will be transferred from the Wildlife Resources Commission to the Department of Agriculture. No deer will be imported into North Carolina until the USDA has adopted an approved method for testing Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Allows operation of an all-terrain vehicle or utility vehicle on a public street or highway while engaged in farming/forestry operations.
- Provides guidance for the use of Commercial or Noncommercial Leaking Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Funds for payment of compensation to third parties for bodily injury and property damage in excess of \$100,000 per occurrence.
  - The term "third-party bodily injury" is defined as specific physical bodily injury proximately resulting from exposure, explosion, or fire caused by the presence of a petroleum release and which is incurred by a person other than the owner or operator, or employees or agents of an owner or operator.
  - The term "third-party property damage" is defined as actual physical damage or damage due to specific loss of normal use of property owned by a person other than the owner or operator of an underground storage tank from which a release has occurred.
- The NC Forest Service will be allowed to accept a prescribed burner certification from another State or entity.
  - Reduces the penalty for failure to guard a fire by watchman from a Class 3 misdemeanor to an infraction.
  - Allows a farm building to be used for public or private events, such as weddings, without losing its

(continued on page 5)

# POINT OF VIEW

## PROCUREMENT FORESTERS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

By Charlie Marshburn, Tri-State Land & Timber

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a landowners workshop. The goal of the workshop was to inform landowners on selling their timber, various forest management practices, and an overview of the forest industry.

As a forest landowner, forester (not registered), and a partner in Tri-State Land & Timber, I have over 40 years of timber sales experience in the forest products industry. Our company is a major wood supplier to numerous facilities in Eastern North Carolina.

As you would expect, I have a pretty good understanding of the industry and have made many lifetime friends while providing forest management advice.

What I found extremely troubling, and the reason for my letter, was the tone and message during the timber sale portion of the program. The presenter told the audience: "You must hire a consulting forester because wood suppliers and procurement foresters are not trustworthy"

I am not sure I have ever been insulted worse in my life. I am sitting among forest landowners, and knowingly or unknowingly, this speaker basically stated I (or any of my colleagues for that matter) should not be trusted. I tried to figure out where this sentiment came from. Personal experience? Documented cases? No background information was provided to justify the blanket statement.

Upon further research, I found two more statements on websites from the North Carolina Forest Service and the North Carolina State University Extension Forestry. One stated "Avoid management advice from those who buy timber" and the second stated, "Do not rely on the timber buyer to assure you fair market value for your timber. Their interest are not in your best interests."

I understand these things have been said about procurement foresters in the past, but until I was actually sitting in the audience, it never really hit home for me until that moment. I really do not appreciate being called a crook!

So, here it goes. It's time for someone from the procurement side of the equation to have a word or two. I can assure you the statements made and the myths surrounding procurement foresters are false. Many of these statements are propagated by people who have extremely limited experience working in the procurement segment of our industry.

I personally believe 99% of procurement people I know are straight up and honest in their negotiations and dealings with landowners. We DO HAVE their best interests in mind.

Wood suppliers have a distinct advantage in the marketplace since we are not directly tied to any mill or facility. We know which markets are the strongest at certain times, allowing us to maximize the profits for landowners on their harvests.

We have a diverse logging force, giving us the flexibility to match the right logging crew with the best type of timber sale or field conditions.

For example, if we are logging a wet tract, then we will bring in a logger with the best equipment and experience for those conditions.

I would recommend to landowners that they need to research whoever they choose to deal with on their forest management decisions. I am proud of the references I have assembled over my years in the business. Our company has been, and will always be, in it for the long run. Our future depends on quality harvests - it is the source of repeat business and a healthy and productive forest down the road. Landowners should check references. I have learned that most landowners have a knack for choosing the best fit for their needs.

I appreciate your time in reading this letter and hope that it is beneficial when you consider your next forest activity. ■



Charlie Marshburn



## LESS THAN 100 PROLOGGERS MISS TRAINING DEADLINE

The ProLogger training year ended on June 30th. Less than 100 ProLoggers out of the 1,600 tracked by the NCFA failed to take Module 16. All ProLoggers are encouraged to log into the NCFA's members only section to check their status, make sure they have paid their dues, and update their information. ProLoggers can use their ProLogger number to sign in for their username and password initially.



NCFA member companies also can sign in initially with their NCFA membership number for both their user name and password to be able to see a complete ProLogger list.

It is important to note that there is an existing procedure for any ProLogger who falls out of the program to be reinstated. It is posted on the NCFA's website on the ProLogger page.

If you are having any difficulty logging on, please contact Eddie Reese (800) 231-7723 ext. 2 or Chris Brown at (800) 231-7723 ext. 3. ■

## EPA REINFORCES STANCE ON FOREST ROADS... EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS ARE APPROPRIATE

In June, the EPA posted its forest roads decision. The EPA's position on forest roads is in agreement with the forestry community - the existing best management practices, guidelines and performance standards are sufficient in addressing stormwater discharges from forest roads and protecting water quality. This is good news and hopefully the final chapter in the forest roads debate.

The following is an excerpt from the EPA's website:

- EPA has decided that no additional regulations are needed to address stormwater discharges from forest roads under the Clean Water Act at this time.
- State, federal, regional, tribal government, and private sector programs already exist nationwide to address water quality problems caused by discharges from forest roads. Many of these programs have been improved and updated in recent years. Program implementation rates are generally high and have been shown to be effective in protecting water quality when properly implemented. These programs employ a variety of approaches that are tailored to address regional and local differences.
- EPA has concluded that efforts to help strengthen existing programs would be more effective in further addressing forest road discharges than superimposing an additional federal regulatory layer over them.
- EPA anticipates the final notice will be published in the Federal Register in early July 2016.

*Thanks to Chip Murray with NAFO for sharing this information.* ■

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

If you would like to exhibit at this year's meeting, please contact Chris Brown at [cbrown@ncforestry.org](mailto:cbrown@ncforestry.org) or (800) 231-7723 ext. 3.

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 Decker - Columbia Forest Products, NCFA Silent Auction Chair, email: [gdecker@cfpwood.com](mailto:gdecker@cfpwood.com), Mobile: (828) 442-8508 or Linda Holton, NCFA Silent Auction Co-Chair, email: [holtonlj@gmail.com](mailto:holtonlj@gmail.com), Mobile: (252) 229-3101. ■

## NEW STATE RULING EXEMPTS LOW EMISSION FACILITIES FROM PERMIT & PAPERWORK

A new environmental ruling will reduce paperwork for more than 1,400 business owners while freeing up resources North Carolina will use to protect air quality. Some NCFA members will be among the business owners impacted by this new rule and some might have already received an e-mail or letter.

"This ruling is great news for many of our members and long overdue," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "Air regulations are some of the most difficult for our small businesses and owners because the documentation process is complicated, expensive and time consuming."

The facilities that qualify for the exception account for less than one percent of statewide emissions from factories and businesses. An additional 320 businesses would be required to register with the state but will not need a permit. The new rule does not remove or relax any existing emissions standards.

"We are giving these businesses relief from unnecessary regulation so they can focus on growing their companies and creating jobs," stated Governor Pat McCrory.

If you are a facility that now falls under this permit process and you would like to rescind your permit, you are going to have to submit a letter requesting to be removed from the program to the Raleigh Regional Office. The request must be signed by the responsible official / authorized contact of the facility.

If your facility does not qualify for permit exemption, but qualifies for registration, and you wish to be registered instead of permitted, you may complete the one-page registration application form, and submit it to the Raleigh Regional Office. The application must be signed by the responsible official / authorized contact of the facility.

No fee is required for any of these requests. The Division of Air Quality expects a large volume of requests and will be working on a first come first serve basis.

If you have a question on this new rule or the process of being removed or registered in the program, please contact Tony Pendola, Small Business Ombudsman, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service Department of Environmental Quality, at (919) or at [tony.pendola@ncdenr.gov](mailto:tony.pendola@ncdenr.gov). ■

## EXPORT CONFERENCE IN CHARLESTON, SC

The Southern Forest Products Export Conference will take place on October 17-18, 2016 in Charleston.

The focus of the two-day meeting will be on the key global markets where Southern forest products can compete. Please check out [www.http://southernforestproducts.org/index.htm](http://southernforestproducts.org/index.htm) for more information on this conference. ■

status as a farm building.

- Prevents a wildlife inspector, protector, or other law enforcement officer from inspecting weapons or equipment possessed incident to an activity under the officer's jurisdiction unless the officer has a reasonable suspicion that a violation has been committed, except to check whether a shotgun is plugged or unplugged.
- Prohibits wildlife officers from inspecting weapons, equipment, fish, or wildlife in the absence of a person in apparent control of the item to be inspected, with some exceptions.
- Any H-2A agricultural worker (alien) that is exempt from federal income tax withholding will also be exempt from state income tax withholding.
- If a landowner has land that qualifies for the present-use value tax in one county, an assessor can assume the tax qualification applies to that landowner's land in another county.
- Adds a procedure for termination of conservation agreements.
- Allows permitted oversize vehicles to operate from sunset to sunrise Monday through Sunday (Sunday is currently prohibited).
- Removes Labor Day, Memorial Day, and New Year's Day from the list of holidays an oversized vehicle may not operate on from noon on the weekday before a holiday until noon on the weekday after.
- Establishes a policy for supporting sustainable agriculture.

*NCFA Position: NCFA supported this bill.*

## BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED IN 2016

**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).*

*NCFA Position: NCFA 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 4 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).

*NCFA Position: NCFA 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

*(continued on page 6)*

# POINT OF VIEW

## OPEN LETTER TO NCFA MEMBERS

Dear Fellow NCFA Members,

The goal of all presentations given by the faculty and staff of Extension Forestry at North Carolina State University is to enable North Carolinians to make informed decisions concerning the management, enhancement, and enjoyment of their forest and other natural resources through sound, research-based information and education.



*Bob Bardon*

This includes encouraging landowners, who may only sell timber once or twice in a lifetime, to inform themselves about the value of their timber, how timber is sold, and how to seek assistance if they would like it.

Research conducted at NC State and elsewhere has shown that professional advice can be valuable for all timberland owners. In a 1996 study, landowners who received professional forestry assistance before harvesting timber averaged 23 percent more income per acre, received a 64 percent higher price per board foot, and had a projected income stream from future sales of 120 percent more as a result of improved regeneration and stocking.

In a more recent analysis of timber sales from 2010-2015, sale values from transactions involving consulting foresters exceeded those without consultants by at least 11 percent across all types of sales and tract sizes.

As a professional with 20 years of experience in forestry and education I have found that landowners are often the least informed when it comes to all aspects of forestry. The forest industry, like any other industry, is best served when all parties are well-informed. If at any time you would like to discuss matters related to Extension Forestry, please feel free to contact me directly at 919.515.5575.

Sincerely,

Robert Bardon

Ph.D., Associate Dean of Extension, NC Registered Forester #1182, Certified Forester #1755, Society of American Foresters ■

## Hofmann Update...(from page 1)

and looks forward to working closely with NC State University and the Foundation to continue forestry research and educational opportunities on the Hofmann Forest," said Ed Sweeten, Executive Vice President at RMS.

Hofmann Forest was purchased in 1934 by the North Carolina Forestry Foundation Inc. The Foundation, today known as the NC State Natural Resources Foundation, gifted the land to the NC State Endowment Fund in 1977 for the exclusive purpose of benefiting the College of Natural Resources. The NC State Endowment Fund, an entity that is separate from the university but exists to provide financial support to it, holds title to the property.

Founded in 1950, Resource Management Service LLC (RMS) is a global timberland investment manager with significant expertise in all phases of institutional timberland investing. RMS is a registered investment advisor managing \$4.4 billion in timberlands for retirement plans, endowments, foundations and other financial institutions. Owned and managed by forestry professionals, RMS is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, with offices across the U.S. ■

## NC General Assembly...(from page 5)

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 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 dispensing 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.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

## BILLS OF INTEREST THAT DID NOT PASS

**HOUSE BILL 378 - AMEND CRITERIA/CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAMS.** This bill would have changed the criteria for foresters to be eligible for two cost-sharing programs – the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) and the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP). ACSP provides financial and technical assistance for the installation of best management practices to address nonpoint source pollution. AgWRAP assists with water control, efficiency, storage, and efficiency issues. Under current law, a forester must have a sound management program and a copy of a sound forest management plan. The bill would change the eligibility requirement to only needing evidence of a forestry management plan.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

**HOUSEBILL 456-CLARIFYWEIGHTLIMITS/AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES,** which would have allowed any vehicle, including forestry vehicles, that is transporting water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste to or from a farm to qualify for the road weight limit exemption. Currently, the vehicle must meet certain criteria to qualify.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

**HOUSE BILL 532 - WC/TRUCK DRIVER STATUS.** This bill would have removed the requirement for employers to have workers' comp for independent contractors who are truck drivers.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*



*(l-r) Bernard Rose, Joanne Ross, Representative Michael Wray and Joe Ross pose for a photo during Forestry Day in the Legislature.*

**HOUSE BILL 763 - MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016.** The bill would have added approvals from the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to the permitting process for wind farms. The intent of the bill is to ensure that wind farms don't interfere with North Carolina military training.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA has members who opposed and supported this issue, so remained neutral.*

**HOUSE BILL 920 - OMNIBUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS.** This bill would have re-established the tax credit for forestry cargo loaded or unloaded at either the Wilmington or Morehead City port terminal.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

**HOUSE BILL 1007 - AMEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS STATUTES.** This bill would have eliminated any occupational licensing board with less than 1,500 licensees, which would have included the Board of Registration for Foresters.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA did not support this bill.*

**HOUSE BILL 1069 - 2016 NC EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ACT.** This bill would have reduced the number of employees an employer must have to be required to use E-Verify from 25 to 5.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA did not support this bill.*

**SENATE BILL 155 - REDUCE PUV ENTRY TIME FOR FARMLAND.** This bill would have reduced the entry time into the present-use value (PUV) property tax qualification.

*NCFCA Position: NCFCA supported this bill.*

**SENATE BILL 605 - VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE REVENUE LAWS.** This bill included a provision that would allow the sales tax exemption for items purchased by a contractor to apply to items purchased for the holder of a conditional farmer exemption certificate as well as the holder of a qualifying farmer exemption certificate. Also, qualified equipment used at ports facilities that is eligible for the 1%, \$80 cap excise tax rate.

*NCFCA Position: Neutral, but the NCFCA watched this bill closely since it makes various changes. ■*

## Teachers Experience...(from page 1)

Forest Service's Goldsboro Nursery.

"You will notice a lot of equipment and structures that you typically see on a farm out here and that's because a nursery is the best combination of forestry and agriculture there is," stated James West with the North Carolina Forest Service as he led a group of teachers through the nursery that covers 640 acres.

Through stops at the seed extractor area, the bare root seedling section, the container seedling area, and the seed orchard, the teachers learned firsthand how much work goes into creating the generation of trees for forest landowners.

The educators were amazed to learn how many seedlings (over 15 million!) and the variety (pines and hardwoods) of trees the North Carolina Forest Service generates annually.

One of the new elements of the SFTE from previous years is the Make and Take Kit for each teacher. During the week, the teachers were training in the Project Learning Tree curriculum. On the last day, each teacher was given supplies to create several projects on their own to deliver in the classroom next year.

"The teachers were extremely grateful to receive the ready to use materials for their classes at the end of the week," stated the NCFA's Eddie Reese. "Hannah and I were really impressed by the teachers' enthusiasm for the program all week, and especially at the end of the week, when we distributed the kits. They were discussing all the ways that they could use what they had learned in their classroom."

The NCFA would like to thank its sponsors and partners, including the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee, which provides significant financial support for the program in addition to providing guest instructors as part of the SFI certification overview on the closing day of the workshop. ■



Jim Sitts (center) leads teachers through a tour of Columbia Forest Products during the western SFTE.

## APPALACHIAN WOOD ENERGY INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

The Appalachian Wood Energy Innovations conference will be held on August 24-26<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville. Participants attending this event will hear from industry, federal agency and university experts on woody biomass policies and incentives, research and pilot projects underway. Please check out <http://www.cvent.com/events/appalachian-wood-energy-innovations-conference/event-summary-897a37e6f1524b94888f27842e543f95.aspx>. ■



## SAFETY IN STRAPPING LOADS

by J.J. Lemire, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

Safety is a key factor in our daily lives. As we get older, sometimes simple acts of movement can create a situation that can lead to injuries. Such is the case with several drivers across the Southeastern states. We have experienced a larger number of claims involving truck drivers injuring their shoulders while throwing straps across their loads.

There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions. So when it comes to a simple task of throwing a strap, why has there been an increase in injuries? And why are the folks suffering these injuries in their 40's, 50's and 60's? One thing that we need to understand is that what we did in our youth is not always simple anymore. So let us look at the dynamics of throwing a strap and why so many of the drivers are experiencing rotator cuff tears.

Once the load of logs, lumber, machinery, or equipment is completed, the next step is to secure the load. If you are chaining equipment, one of the most important issues is the weight of the chains and binders. Chain weight for grade 8 and higher chain can be between 1 and 7 pounds per foot based on the link diameter. For example, 3/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at a hefty 3.0 pounds per linear foot and 5/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at 3.5 pounds per square foot. Similarly, a 20 foot chain will weigh 60 and 70 pounds respectively. While we have some injuries when chain is used to secure logging equipment to low bow trailers it is rare since most drivers do not throw the heavy chain overhanded like a pitcher. Most often they have the loader operator pick up the chain and place it over the load.

However, we see an increasing number of shoulder injuries when it comes to strapping log loads. Straps normally weigh around 3 to 6 pounds each depending on the attachment provided. Straps with buckles weigh in at 4.5 pounds for a 27 foot strap compared to 6 pounds with a strap with a chain end. This weight when trying to throw it high over the logs can contribute to you tearing your rotator cuff.

For the majority of injuries involving rotator cuff tears, surgery is the only option to correcting the tear. Besides the surgery, you must factor in six to eight months of therapy as well. The recovery is long and tedious with physical therapy required to return you to a place where you will not reinjure your shoulder. The costs are large and can cost your employer and insurance carrier over 90 thousand dollars.

When investigating these claims we discovered that the majority of the claims were drivers throwing the straps overhanded. You add in their age and the risk for an injury increased. One of the recommendations we make is to swing it and throw it underhanded like a soft ball pitcher. Another recommendation is that the loader operator can pick up the strap and place it across the load of logs similar to how they do it when you have a heavy chain.

So throw the straps underhanded to reduce your chance of an injury.

Accidents can be prevented. Lowering risk through safety awareness reduces the chance of an accident. Taking the time to hold safety briefings with your trucking employees will demonstrate your concern for them. **\$AFETY PAYS\$** ■



# TREE LINE

JULY 2016



Teachers Visit  
Biltmore Estate  
during the  
SFTE

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- July 21, 2016, NCFCA Office, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.  
Forest Management Committee -
- July 28, 2016, Cabela's, Garner, NC - 9:30 a.m.  
Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee -
- August 10, 2016, NCFCA office, Raleigh, NC - 9:30 a.m.  
North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee -
- October 5-7, 2016, Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC.  
NCFCA Annual Meeting -
- October 22, 2016, Hill Forest, Durham, NC.  
NC Tree Farm Program Annual Meeting -

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

North Carolina Forestry Association  
1600 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27609



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Raleigh, NC  
Permit No. 459