

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

ROMR OFFERS NEW SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR LANDOWNERS

Founded in 2015, Romr is an online marketplace that allows landowners to simply and safely rent their land for recreational activities, like hiking, hunting, weddings, and even drone racing.

Landowners can approve every reservation and request, and set the price, availability, and permitted activities, while Romr handles everything else, from payment processing and insurance to monitoring, reporting and promotion.

Founder Brian Gullette describes it as, "a perfect way for landowners to earn passive income and for users to enjoy activities, like off-leash dog hiking, usually restricted or prohibited on public land."

The idea for Romr came about when Gullette realized that although there was plenty of undeveloped land around him, it was hard to find places to go mountain biking. He was convinced that with the right, easy to use platform, landowners would be willing to rent their land, and so far he seems to be right.

Over 500 users signed up for Romr when it went online just a few months ago, and landowners are already making anywhere from a few hundred to even a thousand dollars in a month.

A man recently used Romr to reserve a particularly beautiful piece of property to propose to his girlfriend, and across the triangle and campers paid for premium seats for the meteor shower last year.

"Everyone who signs up for Romr knows that these amazing experiences are provided at the pleasure of the owner, and in addition to paying for the privilege and signing a liability waiver, they exercise a higher level of care and consideration," says Gullette.

In addition to these new uses, Romr is making existing recreational uses, like hunting and fishing, safer and more profitable by giving landowners more control. Romr allows owners the flexibility to lease for a season, a month, or just a day, and to sustain hunting while still allowing off-season activities like camping.

Romr would be excited to talk with any landowners in North and South Carolina who are interested in earning additional revenue from their property. You can learn more at info@romr.com or by calling (919) 391-9164.

CAROLINA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION WELCOMES MEMBERS TO WILMINGTON



Perry Hunt

The Carolina Loggers Association (CLA) held its Annual Meeting at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington, North Carolina. Over 160 forestry professionals participated in the two-day event that focused on truck safety.

The meeting got underway on Friday night with a reception followed by a dinner. On Saturday morning, the CLA conducted a quick business meeting where Perry Hunt, the CLA's Treasurer, reported the association was on solid financial footing heading 2017.

The speaking program included talks from Nick Carter of Forestry Mutual, Randy Thompkins of Mayberry Safety Solutions, and Rick Cowan of Ag Carolina Farm Credit. Chad Porter shared a motivational address to round out the morning speaking program. Joanne Reese encouraged members

to be more involved in the Log A Load for Kids Charity that supports the Children's Miracle Network. The CLA would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the meeting:

Platinum

Forestry Mutual Insurance Company
CTW Equipment Company
Bandit Industries

Diamond Sponsors

BITCO Insurance
Backwoods Logistics
James River Equipment
Pinnacle Trailer Sales
Rob's Hydraulics
TIGERCAT Industries
(Bullock Brothers, CTW Equipment Company, Tidewater Equipment Sales)

Silver Sponsors

Gregory Poole Equipment Company

Supporting Sponsors

Enviva
Georgia Pacific
North Carolina Forestry Association
Vermeer



(l-r) Paula and Landis Bullock of Bullock Brothers were one of the sponsors of the meeting in Wilmington.



(l-r) Mac & Catherine McLaurin of James River Equipment pose for a photo with Bryan and Lois Wagner of Forestry Mutual.



(left) Donny Reeves and Richard Keith were some of the loggers in attendance. The meeting drew loggers from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

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 4,100 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

GOVERNOR STARTS BUDGET DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS PROPOSAL FOR STATE

As expected, Governor Roy Cooper released his budget proposal for the state for the next two years. Overall, the 23.4 billion dollar budget for this year represents a \$1 billion increase over the current budget. The House and Senate will also write their own proposals. By the end of the legislative session, a consensus budget will be written and agreed to, but that will be closer to July. Among the elements of Cooper's budget proposal of interest to our membership include more funding for the Department of Environmental Quality, the state's Clean Water Fund and the Parks Trust Fund. The following are some of the bills the NCFCA is monitoring closely at this point.

House Bill 3 - Eminent Domain (partner bill is Senate Bill 34)

This Eminent Domain Bill seeks to protect landowners and provide more options in the case where property is taken via eminent domain. The bill passed the House. It passed its first reading in the House and is currently referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations within the Senate. The NCFCA supports this bill at this point.

House Bill 10 - Eminent Domain Statutory Revisions (partner bill is Senate Bill 35)

This Eminent Domain Statutory Revisions Bill provides updates to existing public good projects to include natural gas and communications equipment. The bill passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The NCFCA supports this bill at this point.

House Bill 26 - Workers Comp/Approval of Disputed Legal Fees

This bill amends the process set forth currently in the payment of disputed legal fees by the industrial commission. This bill has passed the House. It passed its first reading in the Senate and has been referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate. The NCFCA is neutral on this bill at this point.

House Bill 56 - Amend Various Environmental Laws

House Bill 56 is a generic bill that addresses that an owner of a high-hazard or an intermediate-hazard dam shall develop an Emergency Action Plan that includes the involvement of a professional engineer or person under the responsible charge of a professional engineer to ensure it protects public safety and welfare. This bill passed its first reading. It has been referred to the Committee on the Environment. The NCFCA is neutral on this bill at this point. It's worth noting that this bill could include more provisions moving forward.

House Bill 80 - Bona Fide Ownership of Timber Parcels

This bill seeks to protect forest landowners from timber being unlawfully cut and/or removed from their property by mandating that the forest landowner obtain a survey of his/her property that clearly defines the property lines of his/her property. This bill has passed its first reading and has been referred to the committee on Judiciary III. It did not come up on the calendar last week. The NCFCA does not support this bill in its current form and continues to work with bill sponsors to amend it so it maintains private property rights without imposing an unnecessary financial burden on the landowner.

House Bill 81 - STI/Regional & Division Weighting

This bill seeks to adjust the weighting attributed under the transportation investment strategy formula to the department of transportation's division engineers, the metropolitan planning organizations, and the rural transportation planning organizations, when selecting regional impact and division need projects, as recommended by the house select committee on strategic transportation planning and long term funding solutions. The bill seeks to allow more input from local communities within the current priority system employed by the state for infrastructure projects within the state. This bill has passed the House. It has passed its first reading in the Senate and is now in the Committee On Rules and Operations. The NCFCA supports this bill at this point and will continue to monitor its progress.

(continued on page 3)

House Bill 142 - Increase Oversight of Occupational License Boards

This bill seeks to increase oversight and streamline existing licensing boards in the state. The State Board of Registration for Foresters is currently listed as one of the 58 boards that will remain active. This is a positive change from the previous versions of this bill introduced in the last legislative session. It has passed its first reading in the House. The NCFA supports this bill now that it includes maintaining the existence of the State Board of Registration for Foresters.

House Bill 168 - Study Damage from ATV Use

This bill would authorize a study of the damage caused to various types of properties from unauthorized use of all-terrain vehicles. The bill has passed its first reading in the House and has been referred to the Committee on Transportation. The NCFA supports this bill.

House Bill 171 - Change Exclusion for Solar Energy Systems

This bill to change the property tax exclusion for solar energy by lowering the percentage from eighty percent to sixty percent of the appraised value of a solar energy electric system. The NCFA is neutral on this bill at this point.

House Bill 218 - Prohibit Hunting From Right of Way in Buncombe County

This bill would prohibit hunting from the right-of-ways of public roads in Buncombe County. It has passed its first reading in the House and been referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The NCFA is neutral on this bill at this point.

Senate Bill 29 - ALJ Review of DPS Civil Penalties

This bill seeks to make changes act to revise the assessment of certain civil penalties by the department of public safety. The bill includes a local option for appeals in cases such as motor vehicle and/or trucking violations. This bill passed its first reading and has been referred to Judiciary. If it passes that committee, it will be referred to Rules and Operations of the Senate. The NCFA supports this bill.

Senate Bill 76 - Permit Nighttime Hunting of Coyotes

This bill directs the Wildlife Resources Commission to repeal its regulation banning night hunting of coyotes in certain coastal counties. This bill has passed its first reading and is being referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations within the Senate. The NCFA is neutral on this bill at this point.

Senate Bill 131 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2016

This bill amends certain environmental, natural resources, and other laws. The NCFA is neutral on this bill at this point but will continue to monitor it through the legislative process.

If you have a legislative question and/or concern about any of the bills listed above, please contact Pryor Gibson at pgibson@ncforestry.org or (800) 231-7723. ■

TAX TIPS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS FOR THE 2016 TAX YEAR

by Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist, U.S. Forest Service

This report provides up-to-date federal income tax information affecting timber transactions. It assists woodland owners, logging professionals, foresters and their tax accountants in filing the 2016 tax returns. The information presented here is for educational purpose only and is not intended for legal or accounting advice. It is current as of September 30, 2016.

Types of Timber Property

Income and expenses associated with timber property that is held for different purposes are subject to different tax rules. Timber property held mainly for personal-use purpose (personal enjoyment vs. income generation) may have little or no tax deductions. Property held as an investment (profit from growing timber or expectation of future profit from asset appreciation) is eligible for tax deductions. Property held as business is where your commercial timber activities are regular, active and continuous. Business expenses are deductible but are subject to passive loss rules (i.e., if your participation in the business is not material, loss deductions are limited). Which tax status your property falls under depends on the specifics of each case as the tax regulations only provide the general guideline. **Example 1:** Mr. Smith owned a 30-acre timber tract. The consulting forester he worked with helped him manage his timber for profit. This year, the forester administered a final harvest on his behalf and sold timber for \$10,000 profits. Smith report the transactions under the investment property. **Example 2:** Mrs. Thompson used her property primarily for family retreat and personal enjoyment. She treats her property as personal-use property. Gains from the timber sale are taxed as capital gains. Timber sale expenses may be subtracted from the gross sale proceeds to calculate the taxable gain. Property taxes paid may be deductible, however, timber expenses may not be deductible for personal-use property.

Timber Expenses

Expenses paid for timber management for profit-making purpose are deductible. Examples of such expenses are: firebreak maintenance, overnight travel cost, property taxes, fees to a consulting forester or accountant, cost for vegetation competition control, or for insects, disease and fire control, expense for precommercial thinning, and depreciation from equipment used. Investment timber owners may deduct expenses on Schedule A, but they are subject to a 2-percent of adjusted gross income (AGI) reduction (as "miscellaneous itemized deduction"). Business timber owners who are "material participants" deduct them in full on Schedule C. **Example 3:** You paid \$800 for firebreak maintenance and \$200 for a woodland management plan. Your timber is an investment property and your AGI was \$40,000. Your timber expense deduction is \$200 ($\$800 + \$200 - 2\% \times \$40,000$) due to the 2- percent AGI floor.

Timber Basis and Deduction

Basis is the amount of investment in the timber asset to the owner. Specifically, for purchased property, the timber basis is the amount you paid for it. For inherited property, the basis of timber is its fair market value (FMV) on the decedent's date of death. **Example 4:** You inherited a 98-acre woodland five years ago but didn't set up the timber basis at that time. Now you worked with a consulting forester who provided a retroactive professional appraisal of the timber quantity and value on the date of the decedent's death. Your timber basis was established to be \$25,000 of 100 thousand board feet of pine sawtimber and \$4,000 of 200 cords of pine pulpwood. If you receive the timber as a gift, the timber basis is the lower of its FMV or the donor's basis. Timber basis reduces your taxes because you can deduct it from timber sales (depletion deduction) or claim a timber loss deduction in the event of casualty. **Example 5:** You sold 50 thousand board feet of sawtimber in 2016. Your depletion deduction from the sale

(continued on page 5)



PROLOGGER MODULE 17 CLASSES

The module class for this year is Module 17. Please check the schedule in your area for the next offering of the course. We will continue to update this newsletter and our website with class offerings. If you are going to hold a class, please send Chris Brown an e-mail at cbrown@ncforestry.org so it can be added to the list.



Date	Time	Location
3/23/17	5:00 p.m.	Lucky Clay Farms, Norwood, NC
3/31/17	8:30 a.m.	McDowell Tech, Marion, NC
3/31/17	1:00 p.m.	Halifax CC, Room 401, Weldon, NC
4/11/17	6:00 p.m.	Domtar, Plymouth, NC
4/25/17	6:00 p.m.	Forsyth County Ag Center, Winston-Salem, NC
5/4/17	5:30 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser Timberlands Bld, New Bern, NC
5/17/17	6:00 p.m.	College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City, NC
Please call Renee' Winslow (252) 771-2497 before 5/11 to attend class.		
6/28/17	6:00 p.m.	Roaring River VFD, Roaring River, NC

PROLOGGER BASE CLASS SCHEDULE

The NCFA will be hosting three offerings of the ProLogger Base Course in 2017. The base course is a two-day program that is mandatory for all professional loggers who would like to earn ProLogger status.

If you are interested in becoming a ProLogger, you must complete this course and then maintain in good standing by taking a continuing education component, namely training modules. Please send Chris Brown an e-mail at cbrown@ncforestry.org if you would like to register for the next class.

Date	Location	City
March 15-16, 2017	Martin CC	Williamston, NC
May 24-25, 2017	Montgomery CC	Troy, NC
October 11-12, 2017	McDowell Tech CC	Marion, NC

NEW CONTACT INFO FOR SAF CREDITS

Ed Pomeroy, who issues SAF credit certificates, has recently retired from Georgia-Pacific. If you would like to request SAF credits for a workshop, you can e-mail your request to Pomeroy at ibforester@gmail.com.

NOMINATE A TEACHER FOR THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TEACHERS EXPERIENCE

Registrations for the Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience (SFTE) are already rolling into the NCFA's office, but it is not too late to nominate a teacher from your area.

If you know a teacher who may be interested in participating in the best hands-on experience with the forest products industry, please contact the NCFA office for a registration form or download one from the website. The SFTE includes continuing education credits and Project Learning Training. There will once again be three tours: Mountains (June 26-29), Piedmont (July 18-21) and Coast (June 19-22). This program is generously supported by NCFA member companies and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee. ■



LOG A LOAD EVENTS IN 2017



Sporting Clays Miracle Shoot -
August 4-5, 2017 at Rose Hill Farm in Nashville, NC

Golf Tournament at River Landing -
October 19, 2017 at River Landing in Wallace, NC

FORESTRY DAY & REVERSE RAFFLE - MAY 2, 2017

The NCFA's Forestry Day in the Legislature will take place on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 on the Halifax Mall in Raleigh. Forestry Day is a great opportunity for NCFA members to reach out to their elected officials about the important role of forests and the forest products industry. The day begins with a briefing at 9:30 a.m. from NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson on the important issues facing forestry during the session. Traditionally, Steve Troxler, North Carolina's Agriculture Commissioner, will provide a quick update on agriculture and forestry in the state based on his schedule. Troxler is invited to speak again this year.

The Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will once again be conducting a reverse raffle at the Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Crabtree, which is located on 3912 Arrow Drive, Raleigh, NC on the evening of Forestry Day. In addition to heavy appetizers and beverages, there will be a special door prize raffle for those in attendance. You can make your reservations by calling (919) 703-2525. The NCFA has secured a limited room block for a rate of \$129. The NCFA's second Board of Directors Meeting will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Crabtree on May 3, 2017. ■

HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING COURSE OFFERED

North Carolina State University will be hosting a Hardwood Lumber Grading Course on June 13-15, 2017. The three-day workshop will include a thorough study and explanation of the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) Rules Book, emphasizing the basics of hardwood lumber inspection. It gives yardmen, sawyers, edgemen, sales and office staff, as well as management level personnel an introduction to lumber inspection.

This course is designed as an introduction and a refresher course of the NHLA Rules. The course will cover the fundamental of hardwood lumber inspection and will give the attendees the opportunity for hands-on application of the rules. Seating is limited to 25!

Please contact Phil Mitchell at phil_mitchell@ncsu.edu or by calling (919) 515-5581. ■

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

High & High, Inc, a grade hardwood sawmill located in Vaughan, NC, is seeking to fill two positions, including a Head Sawyer to operate a circle saw. Preferred candidate will have two or three years' experience. In addition, High & High is seeking a millwright who must be proficient in welding, mechanical, electrical, hydraulics and pneumatic maintenance. Please contact Robert High at (252) 257-2390 (day) or (252) 432-1807 (night).

If you would like to share a job opportunity, please contact Chris Brown at (800) 231-7723 ext. 3 or cbrown@ncforestry.org.

Tax Tips...(from page 3)

is \$12,500 (\$25,000 of total timber basis ÷ 100 thousand board feet of total volume x 50 thousand board feet of timber sold).

Timber Sales

Sale of standing timber. Sales of standing timber held as an investment for more than 1 year qualify for long-term capital gain, which is taxed at lower tax rates than ordinary income. Report the sale of standing timber held as an investment on Form 8949 and Schedule D. **Example 6:** In 2016, you sold standing timber owned as an investment. You report it as a capital gain on Schedule D and Form 8949. Sales of standing timber by a business qualify for long-term capital gain (Sec. 1231 gain) if the timber has been held for more than 1 year (Sec. 631(b)). Report the sale on Form 4797 and Schedule D. Form T, Forestry Activity Schedule may be required (see "Filing Form T" below). Sale of products cut from timber held for use in a business (Sec. 631(a)). If you cut your own timber or have it cut by a contractor working at your direction, either for sale or for use in your business, the gains are ordinary income unless you elect to use sec. 631(a) on Form T, Part II. **Example 7:** The FMV of your standing timber was \$24,000 on Jan. 1 and your basis in it was \$2,000. You paid a contractor \$3,000 to cut standing timber held for business use for over 1 year into logs and you sold the cut logs to a mill for \$29,000. If you elect to use Sec. 631(a) on Form T, report a \$22,000 long-term capital gain (\$24,000 FMV - \$2,000 basis) on Form 4797 and Schedule D, and \$2,000 ordinary income (\$29,000 sale price - \$24,000 FMV - \$3,000 contractor fee) on Schedule C. Without the Sec. 631(a) election, however, all \$24,000 profit will be ordinary.

Net Investment Income Tax

Only for single taxpayers with AGI over \$200,000 (or 250,000 for couples), investment timber sales and passive business timber sales are subject to a 3.8 percent net investment income tax. "Material participants" in timber business are not subject to this tax. **Example 8:** Mr. and Mrs. Walter's AGI is \$270,000, including a \$40,000 capital gain from their investment timber sale. The timber gains of \$20,000 (the lesser of the excess of their AGI of \$270,000 over the \$250,000 threshold or the capital gains of \$40,000) are subject to the 3.8-percent tax (\$760 tax), in addition to the capital gain tax on the sale.

Installment Sales

An installment sale is a sale in which you receive one or more payments in a tax year after the year of timber sale, allowing you to defer tax by spreading your gain over 2 or more years. Interest is charged on deferred payments and is ordinary income. **Example 9:** You sold \$10,000 of timber (\$7,500 after deducting timber depletion and sale expenses) in 2016. Your gross profit percentage is 75 percent (\$7,500 ÷ \$10,000). The buyer paid you \$6,000 in 2016 and you took a note payable in 2017. Report a \$4,500 gain (\$6,000 x 75%) for 2016, using Form 6252.

Reforestation Costs

Reforestation costs are direct costs incurred to establish commercial timber stands. Taxpayers may deduct up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 for married couples filing separately) per year of reforestation costs per qualified timber property (QTP). Any amount over \$10,000 per year per QTP may be deducted over 84 months (amortized). Trusts are eligible for amortization deduction only. **Example 10:** If your reforestation cost was \$8,000 in 2016, you may deduct it fully in 2016 for your married filing joint return. If you spent \$17,000 to reforest, deduct \$10,000, plus 1/14th of the remaining \$7,000

(\$500) in 2016. Deduct 1/7th of the \$7,000 (\$1,000) for 2017-2022 and the last 1/14th (\$500) in 2023. For investment timber, report the reforestation deduction as an adjustment to gross income on the front of Form 1040. For business taxpayer, report it on Schedule C. Elect to amortize and take amortization deductions on Form 4562, Part VI. Attach a statement to your return showing the date, location and amount of the expenditure.

Depreciation and Sec. 179 Expensing

For timber held to produce income, depreciation allows a tax deduction that is based on the cost (basis) of assets used: tractors, machinery, computers, cars, logging equipment, bridges, culverts, fences, temporary roads or the surfaces of permanent roads. For example, logging equipment and light-duty truck are depreciated over 5 years. Land, however, is not depreciable. Also, business taxpayers may deduct up to \$500,000 in the first year for qualifying property in 2016, subject to a \$2,010,000 annual phase-out and business taxable income limitation (Sec. 179 expensing). Separately, business tax payers may take bonus depreciation equal to 50 percent of the cost of qualifying new business property.

Cost-share Payments

If you receive a payment from a qualified program, you may exclude part or all of the payment from your income if the cost share is used for capital expenditure. Otherwise, it is ordinary income. Qualified federal programs include the Forest Health Protection Program (for southern pine beetle and mountain pine beetle), Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Security Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program (discontinued Feb. 7, 2014). Several state programs also qualify for exclusion. The excludable amount is the present value of the greater of \$2.50 per acre or 10 percent of the average annual income from the affected acres over the last 3 years. **Example 11:** The total qualified capital expenditure for your 200-acre woodland was \$10,000. The Conservation Reserve Program paid \$6,000 and you paid \$4,000. If you had no income from the property in the last 3 years, you could exclude up to \$9,785 ((\$2.50 x 200 acres) ÷ 5.11%) from your income. The interest rate is from the Farm Credit System Bank. If you had \$9,600 of income from the property in the last 3 years, you could exclude up to \$6,262 ((10% x (\$9,600 ÷ 3)) ÷ 5.11%). Attach a statement to your tax return describing the cost-sharing program and your exclusion calculations.

Timber Casualty and Theft Losses

Loss of timber from a casualty—a sudden, unexpected and unusual event such as a fire or severe storm—may be deductible from your taxes. The deduction is the lesser of the decrease in the fair market value caused by the casualty or your basis in the timber block (the area you use to keep track of your basis). A competent appraisal usually is required. Similarly, a theft loss deduction is limited to the lesser of the decrease in fair market value or your basis in the stolen timber.

Conservation Easement

Donors of qualified conservation easement can take a tax deduction. The deduction is up to 50 percent (or 100 percent for qualified farmers and ranchers including forest landowners) of the taxpayer's AGI in a year. Any excess donation over the 50- or 100- percent limit may be carried forward to 15 years.

Filing Form T (Timber)

You must file Form T (Timber), Forest Activities Schedule, if you claim a timber depletion deduction, sell cut products in a business (under Sec. 631(a)), or sell outright timber held for business use. However, if you only have occasional timber sales (one or two sales every 3 or 4 years), you are not required to file. ■

Sign up for the NCFAs weekly e-mail newsletter by typing in your e-mail on www.ncforestry.org.



TEAM SAFE TRUCKING MEETS IN MYRTLE BEACH

The Team Safe Trucking (TST) organization met in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, earlier in the week to provide an update on its recent reorganization and rededication to its commitment to improve truck driver safety in the forest products industry.

“This is a reboot, if you will,” stated newly elected President of Team Safe Trucking Jeremiah O’Donovan. “We have all the pieces in place. We are just simplifying things in an effort to generate information, training materials, and other deliverables to our participating groups by the third quarter of this year.”

O’Donovan leads an executive committee that includes Richard Schwab, vice president; Joanne Reese, Treasurer; J.J. Lemire, secretary; and Keith Biggs, special adviser. And of course, there is Jimmie Locklear, the unofficial spokesman for TST who have never met a stranger in his life.



Jeremiah O’Donovan

TST has applied for non-profit status and hopes to earn it by May of 2017. The staff is entirely volunteer. All donations to TST are appreciated and used for program implementation.

The top takeaway from TST is its composition and mission. It is comprised of the four groups that are most impacted by a well-trained and focused forest products drivers - loggers, insurance companies, forest products companies, and various forestry state, regional and national organizations. One of the basic rules with TST is that there are now competitors in the room once the meeting starts. It’s all about teamwork. It’s all about inclusion.

Every committee that is established has representation from each group to ensure that every initiative is team-oriented. Each group is asked a basic question, What can my segment (logger, insurance company, etc) bring to the table to make things better?



Tom Buckingham shared a positive message on improving truck safety.

Doing it right saves money for everyone, but more importantly, the proper attitude will reduce accidents and save lives.

There is no better example on what the power of approach and attitude can do for our forest products truckers than Tom Buckingham with the Forest Insurance Center. Three years ago, Buckingham reported that his loss ratios for trucking had consistently been 100% for five years straight. This trend was a road to doom and gloom.

Buckingham and his staff set forward to change the attitude within their own ranks first, and then they went after their policyholders’ outlook by presenting significant changes as an opportunity to

make their business better, more profitable.

“It came down to a basic change in attitude,” stated Buckingham to a well-attended TST meeting. “We convinced ourselves that we can raise the bar. We can make a difference.”

Among the new requirements, Buckingham led his policyholders through a general review of the hiring practices for truck drivers, equipment maintenance, load securement procedures and weights, pretrip inspections and on-road responsibilities. For those companies that wanted to jump on board, it has been a great ride so far. For others, not so great.

“I’ll be honest with this group,” stated Buckingham. “I lost some friends over this, but we need to engage people who are going to take the steps to make the roads safer.”

He also reached out to establish partnerships with state authorities and state safety oriented organizations to run a truck safety continuing education program. The attitude change has produced results.

This past year, Buckingham saw the loss ratios on his trucking accounts drop significantly, recording loss ratios as low as 13 percent.

In addition to the example presented by Buckingham, the TST group heard several updates from other members who are working on TST initiated projects or their company’s truck safety initiatives.

Mark Britton of Kapstone shared his company’s Truck Driver Day held at his facility last year where the company along with representatives of the Carolina Loggers Association and the Virginia Loggers Association reviewed safety tips with drivers. The drivers were appreciative of the special recognition and the information that was shared throughout the day.

Scott Barrett with Virginia Tech shared some preliminary results from a survey project on log truck accidents listed by the federal government.

While Barrett reminded the audience he had just started on the project and certainly needed to be reviewed further, it was interesting that the data appears to show that the fewest log truck accidents occur on the highway as opposed to a different category road such as a side road, etc.

This certainly lends credence to the argument that log trucks should have access to state and federal highways with the existing state weight tolerance to improve the overall safety of our roads.

The meeting wrapped up with a review of general impressions from the participants in the room. Some were making their first meeting while others have been involved since the program’s inception three years ago. The comments varied in terms of content, but the overwhelming sense of optimism for the Team Safe Trucking program was obvious. This is a program that can make a difference! ■



LANDOWNERS

NORTH CAROLINA TREE FARM INSPECTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS SET FOR 2017

The North Carolina Tree Farm Program is offering three Inspector Training Workshops for forestry professionals who are interested in volunteering with the program. CFE credits will be provided. Prior to registering to attend, please review the eligibility requirements for the academic and/or experience credentials required to be a Tree Farm Inspector.



March 24 - 9:00 a.m. Haywood Community College
3300 Building/Natural Resources Building
185 Freedlander Drive, Clyde, NC 28721
Register By March 15 at 919-917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com

March 29 - 10:00 a.m. Person County Cooperative Extension
304 S. Morgan Street, Room 155, Roxboro, NC 27573
Register By March 20 at 919-917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com

April 6 - 10:00 a.m. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center
2900 N.C. Highway 125 South, Williamston, NC 27892
Register By March 27 at 919-917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com

FORESTRY LICENSE PLATE "First in Forestry" license plates are available for purchase from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles online and at offices throughout the state. \$20 goes toward forestry education programs



HUNT CLUB CORNER



Abby Kidd, 12, tracked this deer by herself through thick cover. The photo was submitted by her dad who commented, "She made a good shot and was very proud of her."

The NCFA's Hunting Lease Liability Insurance program continues to be popular with landowners and hunt clubs.

Currently, the program has a total of 593 hunt clubs and 605 landowners enrolled in the program. This covers over 343,211 acres.

The policy runs from August 1 to August 1 and hunt clubs sign up continuously throughout the year. The policy only runs for the calendar year. You can find an application online at www.ncforestry.org or by calling the NCFA office.

We want to showcase our hunt clubs each month in our newsletter with a photo.

Please submit your photo to Chris Brown at cbrown@ncforestry.org for a chance to be featured in our Hunt Club Corner! ■

NEW DISTRICT RANGER SELECTED FOR UWHARRIE

The U.S. Forest Service announced that Mike Spisak will oversee management and operations as the new District Ranger on the Uwharrie National Forest, starting March 6, 2017.

"Mike has demonstrated an ability to overcome challenges with strategic and creative thinking," said Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina. "His capacity for continual learning will help him work effectively with the multitude of great partnerships that already exist on the Uwharrie."

Spisak was most recently the Timber and Fuels Program Manager on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) in Fort Collins, Colorado. On the ARP, he worked with fisheries, hydrology, botany, range, planning, archeology, and wildlife program managers to accomplish restoration work. He served as Acting District Ranger on the Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District of the Salmon Challis National Forest in Idaho in the fall of 2016. Before working in Colorado, he spent 6 years on the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania working as a silviculturist and timber management assistant. Spisak started with the Forest Service in 2002 as a forestry technician on the Fishlake National Forest in Utah.

"My family and I are very excited to relocate to the Uwharrie, given the diversity of the landscape and quality of life the region has to offer," said Spisak. He added, "I look forward to working proactively with the public, partners, and local government. I also look forward to advancing partnerships that continue to improve recreation opportunities for the public to enjoy as well as collaborative work that expands restoration efforts across the Forest."

Spisak is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has a B.S. in Forest Management from Penn State. He spent four years living and working overseas in Germany, including three years in the United States Army and a year of study at Julius Maximum University in Wuerzburg.

Special thanks to Cathy Dowd with the USFS for sharing this information. ■

FULL SPEED AHEAD!



**NCFA ANNUAL MEETING
HILTON RIVERSIDE
WILMINGTON
OCTOBER 4-6, 2017**

TREE LINE

MARCH 2017



Billy Corey, the President of the Carolina Loggers Association, opened the association's Annual Meeting in Wilmington. Corey encouraged his membership to stay engaged in the political process since it impacts everyone within the forest products industry.

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Month	Date	Event	Location	
March	3/1	Landowner Workshop	Jackson, NC	
	3/8	Tree Farm Forest Summit Meeting	Rural Center, Raleigh, NC	
	3/15-16	ProLogger Base Course	Martin, CC - Williamson, NC	
	3/18	NC SU Arbor Day Celebration	Farmers Market, Raleigh, NC	
	3/29-31	American Logger Council Fly In	Washington, DC	
	27	SAF - National Firewood Workshop	In Statesville, NC	
	Tbd	NCA Forestry & Environmental Camp	Greensboro, NC	
	May	5/2-4	FRA Meeting	Charleston, SC
		5/2	FFAC Reverse Raffle	Raleigh, NC
		5/3	NCA Board Meeting	Raleigh, NC
5/6		NC Tree Farm Breakfast Tour	Trenton, NC	
5/9-10		FMIC Board Meeting	Myrtle Beach, SC	
5/10		Tree Farm Forest Summit Meeting	Rural Center, Raleigh, NC	
5/17		NC SFI Site Meeting	Raleigh, NC	
5/18		SLTC Meeting	Cabelas, Garner, NC	
5/24-25		ProLogger Base Course	Montgomery, CC - Troy, NC	
June		6/5-9	FMIC Loss Control Meeting	Lake Gaston, NC
	6/7-9	NC SAF Annual Meeting	Dunn, NC	
	6/19-22	Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience	New Bern, NC	
	6/26-29	Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience	Asheville, NC	
	6/30	ProLogger Module 17 Class And Dues Deadline		
	July	7/18	Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience	Southern Pines
		7/19	NC SFI SIC Grant Committee Meeting	Raleigh, NC
		7/31-4	OSH Training With FMIC And NCA	Howell Woods
		8/1-4	OSH Training With FMIC And NCA	Howell Woods, Smithfield, NC



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