

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

JULIANA NAMED NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS MANAGER

The North Carolina Forestry Association is pleased to announce that Amy Juliana has accepted the position of education programs manager. She started in her new role this week.



Amy Juliana

Juliana will direct the NCFA's education initiative, including the successful Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience and the Forestry & Environmental Forestry Camps.

"We are really excited to welcome Amy to our staff," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Pryor Gibson. "She has an excellent background in one of our core missions - education. We are confident that this experience combined with her passion for the field will enhance our programs going forward."

Juliana is a North Carolina Certified Environmental Educator, a Project Learning Tree Facilitator and a Project Wet Facilitator. Juliana joined the NCFA after spending five years leading the natural history public education programs for two Wake County Public Parks - Crowder District Park and Historic Yates Mill County Park.

Juliana graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and from North Carolina State University with a master's degree in Natural Resources. It's worth noting that in addition to her existing relationships with environmental educators through her last position, Juliana also collaborated with the North Carolina State University Forest Education and Outreach Program (FEOP) and the North Carolina Forest Service through her master's degree work at N.C. State University.

NOMINATE A TEACHER FOR THE SFTE

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 (continued on page 5)



FORESTRY DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE IS CHANCE TO PROMOTE FORESTRY

The NCFA encourages its members to take the time to support their forestry interests by traveling to Raleigh for Forestry Day in the Legislature on May 2, 2017. The day starts with a briefing at 9:30 a.m. under the tent set up on the Halifax Mall. NCFA staff will highlight and provide guidance on any bills that may impact forestry, the forest products industry and/or private property rights. Members then meet with their elected officials and invite them back for a luncheon that starts at 11:30 a.m. *The dress for this event is business attire.*

The Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will be hosting a reverse raffle at Hilton Garden Inn Raleigh Crabtree Valley. The event starts at 6:00 p.m. and concludes by 9:30 p.m. A reverse raffle is when the last ticket pulled is the winner. The eventual winner(s) of the raffle typically claim up to \$5,000. Dress for this event is casual. You can purchase tickets in advance from a member of the NCFA's Board of Directors or by calling Chris Brown at the NCFA at (800) 231-7723.

If you would like to book a room for the evening of the Reverse Raffle and/or the NCFA's Board of Directors meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, the NCFA has secured 20 rooms at a rate of \$129. The cutoff is April 10, 2017. The hotel number is (919) 703-2525. ■



(l-r) North Carolina Representative Michael Wray and Bernard Rose at the Northampton County Forestry Association Meeting in February.

CHIPPING FOR ANSWERS

Chris Hopkins, a research associate with North Carolina State University, is pretty good at finding partners when he sets his sights on a new project. His latest research revolves around energy efficiency in wood chips made for energy production.

Hopkins' own tests demonstrated that drier chips produce a higher energy value. So, he thought, how can we ship the driest chips from the woods to the end point facility? Could you stack the trees and residue targeted for the chipper on site and effectively dry them out? And what would be the best way to do that? These were all questions Hopkins sought to discover.

The research study focused on the benefits of drying wood on the job designated for the energy market before chipping it. Peterson Corporation provided its newest chipper, the 6300B Drum Chipper, and J & J Logging provided the crew support.

First, he need a willing landowner. Enter David Schnake, who works for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. One of the properties Schnake manages is the Picture Creek section of the Umstead Research Station located in Granville County. Schnake was looking to reduce the basal area within the stand by removing the existing Loblolly Pines on the mixed hardwood/pine stand.

Hopkins utilized about 60 acres of the 230 acre tract. Schnake states the tract is registered with the Natural Heritage Program due to the significant array of unique plants, including the Smooth Cone Flower.

So, for Schanke, the research project would provide an excellent chance for him to utilize fiber that ultimately would have just been harvested and left on the forest floor as he worked towards restoring the property to its former landscape of years ago of Oak mixed (continued on page 7)



(l-r) Joey Ross provided manpower to Chris Hopkins for his latest research project.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN HIGH GEAR - BUDGET PROPOSALS STILL ON THE HORIZON

The bill count continues to rise as the North Carolina General Assembly continues to roll along in 2017. The NCFCA continues to track a healthy list of legislation. The NCFCA's Zipline, an electronic newsletter, contains links to all bills listed. *You can sign up for that newsletter by calling Chris Brown (800) 231-7723 ext. 3 or by plugging your e-mail into the home page newsletter box.*

NCFCA staff has invested a considerable amount of time in working on House Bill 80, which seeks to make improvements in the boundary keeping procedure when it comes to timber harvests. The NCFCA has offered several suggestions to the bill sponsors and several NCFCA members have contacted their elected officials on this bill. The NCFCA is confident that a new bill will emerge that will enhance forestry operations in North Carolina without adding a substantial price tag.

Governor Cooper has already released his view of what the North Carolina budget should look like for the next two years. The House and Senate have yet to release their versions. When this occurs, the focus of this session will most certainly turn to budget negotiations.

If you have a particular issue or question on any legislation listed or would like to learn more about any legislation not listed, please contact Pryor Gibson, the NCFCA's Executive Vice President at (800) 231-7723 or pgibson@ncforestry.org.

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

House Bill 95 - Truck Deliveries to Port/Night Travel would authorize permitted oversized or overweight vehicles to travel after sunset when transporting and delivering
(continued on page 3)

General Assembly Update...(from page 2)

cargo, containers, or other equipment to or from international ports. This bill has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate. *The NCFCA supports this bill.*

House Bill 142 - Increase Oversight of Occupational License Boards 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. The bill has passed the House and was sent to the Senate where it has passed its first reading. It is now in the Rules and Operations Committee of the Senate. *The NCFCA 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 authorizes a study 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 NCFCA supports this bill.*

House Bill 309 - Responsible Deer Management Act imposes a duty to avoid wanton waste on persons taking wildlife under a depredation permit. This bill has passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture. *The NCFCA supports this bill at this time but will continue to monitor its progress.*

House Bill 363 - The Pollinator Protection Act provides provisions to protect bee populations. This bill has passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House. *The NCFCA supports this bill.*

House Bill 379 - Task Force on Regulatory Reform establishes the North Carolina Joint Legislative Task Force on regulatory reform. This bill has passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform. *The NCFCA supports this bill.*

House Bill 467 - Agriculture and Forestry Nuisance Remedies seeks to clarify the remedies available in private nuisance as it pertains to agriculture and forestry. This bill has been filed. *The NCFCA supports this bill.*

Senate Bill 29 - ALJ Review of DPS Civil Penalties 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 NCFCA supports this bill.*

Senate Bill 131 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2016 amends certain environmental, natural resources, and other laws. Bill passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. It has passed its first reading there and is now referred to the Committee on Finance. *The NCFCA is neutral on this bill at this point but will continue to monitor it through the legislative process.*

Senate Bill 203 - Establish Ownership of Mineral Rights seeks to establish a uniform procedure to determine title to oil, gas, or mineral rights. It has passed its first reading and has been referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate. *The NCFCA supports this bill.*

Senate Bill 371 - Building Code Reform seeks to make various changes and clarifications to the statutes governing the creation and enforcement of building codes. This bill has been filed. *The NCFCA is neutral on this bill at this time.* ■

POINT OF VIEW

HEALTHY MARKETS ARE KEY TO FOREST HEALTH

By Pryor Gibson, NCFCA Executive Vice President

I recently saw a posting from the Dogwood Alliance, a group that advances its agenda based on misinformation, political hijinks, and alternative facts about North Carolina's forestry products industry. It would be a chuckling read if the stakes in conserving the health of our state's forests and our state's rural economies were not so important.

In the new world order of hurl and swirl with hand-held one-liners, there is still a simple, powerful, basic truth: You can sound sincere and still be very wrong. The Dogwood Alliance has been using the same playbook to advance its fund-raising falsehoods since the organization's inception. The group makes false, alarming claims about the forest products industry, seeking to gain new counterproductive regulations on forestry.

In the 1990's, the Dogwood Alliance claimed that chip mill facilities would result in the "rapid snowballing of forest destruction" in North Carolina and the southeast. The alliance embarked on a full-scale marketing campaign that produced a series of statewide public hearings and eventually, an academically researched and state government sponsored chip mill study. The study did not substantiate the Dogwood's claims, concluding the biggest threat to North Carolina's forests was the loss of forestland due to the population growth and overall urbanization of the state.

So what has happened on the ground since then? Thanks to the stewardship of the over 500,000 private forestland owners in cooperation with forest products professionals, North Carolina boasts some 18.6 million acres of forestland. This is an amazing achievement considering the urban growth in our state over the past 30 years! Over 85 percent of North Carolina's forests are still privately owned, and over two-thirds of those forests are owned by private, non-industrial landowners. Our forest not only provide the starting point for our state's top manufacturing industry, forest products, but these forests produce clean air, clean water, and a myriad of outdoor recreation activities and economic opportunities for North Carolinians.

Today, the Dogwood Alliance is trying to resurrect its false rhetoric about chip mills and apply it to the wood pellet industry. So, we have to repeat ourselves as well. The key to healthy forests is healthy markets, and the more the better. In the forestry cycle, trees are planted and harvested at different times with various methods to ensure the landowner is meeting his/her forest management objectives. For some landowners, the top priority may be creating habitat for wildlife, or for outdoor recreation, or maybe just for the aesthetics, but in the end, a landowner paying taxes on his/her property will look to generate some financial returns on the investment of owning the land.

Incentivizing landowners to plant trees on their land is our best and often only sustainable model for increasing the amount of healthy forests in our state. The present-use value tax system and cost-share programs are terrific public policy measures, but in the end, the marketplace provides the best and highest return to forest landowners. We need healthy markets, and we need as many as possible during the forestry cycle. Wood chips used in the production of paper or pellets are produced from small diameter, low value trees that a landowner may have growing on his/her land. The removal of smaller trees is a forest management practice known as thinning, and it creates more space for the remaining trees to grow. A landowner makes the majority of his/her profit on a timber sale of the larger trees on the property that are manufactured into dimensional lumber products.

We have heard the same claims from the Dogwood Alliance before, and each time, their claims have be refuted by academic studies, U.S. Forest Service statistics, and on the ground results. Instead of the blame game, the Alliance should be heaping praise on our forest products professionals and forest landowners for one of the state's best success stories. Our forests and our rural communities deserve better. ■



The NCFA's ProLogger program graduated 55 from its base class program at Martin Community College in Williamston, NC in March.

BASE CLASS GRADUATES 55

The awesome North Carolina blue sky and Steve Tarkington's log deck provided the background for our ProLogger group photo in Williamston.

"We would like to thank all of our volunteer instructors this week," stated Chris Brown, the NCFA's Senior Director of Communications. "Our students were engaged the entire two days. We appreciate their participation in the program and their resiliency on our windy field day. Thanks to Hugh Kennedy and Steve Tarkington of T & T Timber for hosting our class. Special thanks to Chuck Daniels of Domtar for his assistance over the two days as Domtar provided snacks and lunch during the training."

The base class is now in its second year of its two day format. On Wednesday, participants received information from the North Carolina Forest Service, the North Carolina Highway Patrol, North Carolina Department of Labor and NCFA staff. Thursday the group heard from Forestry Mutual Insurance in the morning before heading to the field for live demonstrations on chain saw felling from Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner.

The highlight of every base class is the Bryan Wagner show. His tree felling talent is only surpassed by his enthusiasm for logger training. Wagner did not disappoint, felling three trees and reviewing the tongue and groove notch.

The NCFA would like the following people for their efforts over the two days including from the North Carolina Forest Service: Mike Hoggard, James Caddy, Tom Gerow, Jr., Paul Mowrey and Vance Coker; the North Carolina Highway Patrol: Officer Matt Bunn; North Carolina Department of Labor: Eric Smith; Forestry Mutual Insurance Company: Chris Huff and Bryan Wagner; and Domtar: Fay Raynor and Chuck Daniels.



(l-r) Chuck Daniels and Hugh Kennedy pose for a photo.

It is also worth noting that Steve Tarkington was gracious enough to once again host our ProLogger class. Between North Carolina and Virginia training programs, Tarkington has hosted four classes in the past three years. We certainly appreciate his support of ProLogger training! ■



(right) Bryan Wagner led the felling instruction during the ProLogger class.

PROLOGGER MODULE 17 CLASSES

The module class for this year is Module 17. 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
4/11	6:00 p.m.	Domtar, Plymouth, NC
4/11	4:30 p.m.	CNS Training Room, GP Dudley, NC
4/25	6:00 p.m.	Forsyth County Ag Center, Winston-Salem, NC
4/28	1:00 p.m.	Chatham County Ag Center, Pittsboro, NC
4/28	12:00 p.m.	Liberty Sawmill, Liberty, NC
5/4	5:30 p.m.	Weyerhaeuser Timberlands Bld, New Bern, NC
5/12	11:30 p.m.	Vance Granville CC, Louisburg, NC
5/17	6:00 p.m.	College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City, NC
<i>Please call Renee Winslow (252) 771-2497 before 5/11 to attend class.</i>		
6/28	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

LOGGING COST ANALYSIS COURSE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

The UGA-Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources' Continuing Education Program will be sponsoring their Logging Cost Analysis course on June 7-8, 2017 at the Alabama Forestry Commission in Montgomery, Alabama. The course will be taught by Warnell Assistant Professor Joe Conrad, Associate Professor Chad Bolding of Virginia Tech and Professor Mathew Smidt of Auburn University. Go online at <http://conted.warnell.uga.edu/courses/lca2017>. ■

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. ■

NC ADAPT WORK GROUP RELEASES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION REPORTS

While the history of North Carolina agriculture and forestry is a tale of adaptation and progress in the face of numerous challenges, recent years have demonstrated just how vulnerable production systems are to shifting climatic conditions and unpredictable, damaging weather.

Strong tropical systems have adversely impacted North Carolina in back-to-back years, just as the row crop harvest was hitting its stride, while drought conditions in other parts of the state contributed to costly wildfires.

The North Carolina Agriculture and Forestry Adaptation (NC ADAPT) Work Group, a coalition of leaders from the agriculture, forestry and livestock sectors, along with partners from the business, academic, research and government communities, convened to explore the threats and impacts of increasingly extreme and erratic weather events and changing climatic conditions on North Carolina's agriculture and forestry sectors.

Basing its decisions on the best available science, the NC ADAPT Work Group concluded that climate variability is a threat to agriculture and forestry in North Carolina, preparation is needed, and the state would benefit from the development of a comprehensive adaptive management strategy.

Adaptation represents a powerful tool in addressing many of the uncertainties facing producers, value chain partners and supporting entities.

Adaptive management strategies come in many different forms, ranging from minor adjustments designed to protect the existing production system to major changes in production and marketing practices. With good planning and through proactive management, North Carolina's agriculture and forestry producers can remain productive and provide many benefits beyond food, feed and fiber.

The NC ADAPT Work Group's most recent reports - focused on commodity crop, specialty crop, livestock and forestry - identifies sector-specific recommendations for adaptation practices, policies and programs that producers can use to build operational resilience and reduce risks to not only meet future challenges, but thrive in the midst of them.

The report, *Keeping North Carolina's Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilient through Adaptive Management: Priorities and Recommendations for Advancing Adaptive Management on Forest Lands*, can be reviewed online at http://www.sfldialogue.net/files/sfl_keeping_nc_f_f_resilient.pdf.

The NC ADAPT Work Group feel that these recommendations should mark the beginning of new conversations around resiliency and adaptive management planning to mitigate future risks. ■



(left) Brian Council and Ted Garner (right) of West Fraser presented a \$5,000 check to support the NCFAs Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience in 2017 to the NCFAs Senior Director of Communications Chris Brown. There will be Experiences in Asheville, New Bern and Southern Pines this year.

Nominate A Teacher for the SFTE...(from page 1)

the best hands-on experience with the forest products industry, please contact the NCFAs 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 NCFAs member companies and the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee. ■

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY WELCOMES BIG CROWD AT FORESTRY MEETING

The Northampton County Forestry Association, founded in 1971, continues to set the standard for forestry clubs as it continues to bring out a tremendous crowd each year for its annual meeting.

Under the direction of Rodney Black and his top-quality staff, the meeting attracts landowners, forest products sponsors, and as with every meeting, an excellent speaking program.

This year was no different as Bill Pickens and Ron Myers of the North Carolina Forest Service provided an update on the current situation of the Forest Development Program and the benefits of using herbicides in forest management activities.

This year's Landowner of the Year was Paul Boone, who reluctantly accepted the surprise award from Black. Boone is the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administrator and had previously reported on the programs NRCS had sponsored in the county through landowner outreach programs in 2016.

The meeting was sponsored by over 20 forest products companies.

Chris Brown, the NCFAs Senior Director of Communications, provided a quick update for the Northampton Forestry Association on legislative and regulatory issues at the state and federal level that may impact forestry and/or the forest products industry. ■



(l-r) Paul Boone was presented with the Northampton County Forestry Association's Landowner of the Year by NCFAs County Ranger Rodney Black.

**FULL
SPEED
AHEAD!**

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



DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC

By J.J. Lemire, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company

One item released from the United States Federal Highway Administration each year tells a chilling story about driver safety: *Every 21 minutes a road departure fatality occurs!*



Each day across America millions of truck drivers haul products to support our economy. Trucking plays a huge role in the wood products industry from logs to finished furniture. Trucking is the way our industry moves its products to market. Once the truck leaves the logging job, warehouse, plant or mill, drivers are on their own and away from direct supervision. There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions.

Recently a number of truck wrecks, some proving fatal, have occurred. Each driver that was killed was a family member that did not go home at the end of the workday. The most common causes of accidents involve driver distractions such as talking on a cell phone or CB radio, becoming sleepy from long hauls, and boredom.

In order to reduce the number of road departure fatalities, we recommend that you hold regularly scheduled safety meetings to help keep safety awareness at a high level. Some topics to discuss include:

- Make sure all medical requirements are met for drivers with commercial licenses.
- Do a thorough pre-trip inspection of the truck and trailer.
- Has scheduled maintenance been completed?
- Are the brakes and tires serviceable?
- Check the load often. Tighten binders and chains frequently.
- Know your load. A double bunk load of cut logs pulls and handles differently than a load of tree-length wood. Pallets and finished furniture handle differently than wet or dried packs of lumber or chips.
- Use your seat belt.
- Drive alert and avoid distractions - Do not use cell phones while driving.
- Constantly scan your mirrors. Be aware of blind spots.
- Adjust your speed for the driving conditions you encounter.
- Do not do anything that can impair judgment before or during your trips.
- Be aware of following distances, your truck doesn't stop on a dime.

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. Let's get everyone home safe each day. Drive safely - make safe driving a lifelong habit. ■

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



FRIENDS OF FORESTRY PAC UPDATE

The FFPAC is not party specific. The priority is given to those candidates who have demonstrated a record of supporting forestry, forest products industry, and private property rights and/or are in leadership positions.

- Ashley Faircloth and John Gray co-chair of the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee.
- The 2016 Reverse Raffle sold over 800 tickets, totaling over \$27,000 dollars.
- In the 2016 election cycle, the FFPAC supported 44 candidates, distributing close to \$50,000. The FFPAC supported 17 candidates in the primary and 16 of those candidates won their primary.
- Primaries take on more significance in districts that are biased towards one party or another.
- The primary essentially is the election. Two primary winners later withdrew before the general election. Just one FFPAC supported candidate lost in the general election.
- The FFPAC named Senator Tom McInnis and Representative Susan Martin as the 2016 Friend of Forestry Award winners. The award is presented annually to those elected officials who support forestry, the forest products industry and private property rights.
- The FFPAC will meet next at the NCFPA's office on April 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. All FFPAC supporters are welcome to attend the meeting. ■

HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING COURSE OFFERED BY N.C. STATE

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 provides gives yardmen, sawyers, edgermen, sales and office staff, as well as management level personnel an introduction to lumber inspection. 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!

Registration closes June 6th. Go online here: <https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/sites/pronr/event/hardwood-lumber-grading-course/> ■

FORESTER WORKSHOPS

Loblolly to Longleaf Workshop April 11, 2017 - The Longleaf Alliance is hosting this workshop in collaboration with some local North Carolina groups. The workshop will be at Jones Lake State Park and Bladen Lakes State Forest. 5.5 CFEs available. Go online: <https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/sites/pronr/event/loblolly-to-longleaf-workshop/>

Managing Longleaf for Ecological Benefits May 3, 2017 - The North Carolina Forest Service is hosting this one-day workshop focused on Longleaf management for multiple benefits. The workshop will be in Aberdeen, NC with an afternoon field tour and is geared toward private landowners and natural resource professionals. 5 CFEs available. Go online: <https://research.cnr.ncsu.edu/sites/pronr/event/workshop-on-managing-longleaf-pine-for-ecological-benefits/> ■

Chipping for Answers...(from page 1)

in with Shortleaf Pine and savannah grasses.

Schnake pointed out that the goals of the Department of Agriculture involve different projects - research, production and in some cases, restoration. This project falls in the restoration bucket. He hopes to achieve the landscape through harvests and a burn schedule.

In June of 2014, trees that were to be left were marked and the harvesting began.

Hopkins had specific plans for the wood earmarked for energy and where they would be left on the tract. In some spots, he had the logger leave a clump typically left by one skidder grab. In other spots, he developed windrows, which look like man-made hedges of small diameter trees along the sides of the tract. His was trying to discover how quickly the trees reduce moisture and does placement and structure make a difference.

"We measured all the dynamics we could while they were drying," stated Hopkins.

He would test them shortly after harvest and then revisit the tested spots for follow-ups. Hopkins also took the time to cut three-foot spaces between the windrows to increase air movement.

"Everything we tried early on really didn't work," stated Hopkins. "We expected better results from the windrows."

In the end, Hopkins learned a few things. First and foremost, the small piles left by the skidder actually were the optimal drying of the woody material and small diameter trees. Hopkins surmises that the air flow was greater than that of the windrows. He also discovered that the trees lose moisture from the butt of the tree rather than length of the tree exposed to the wind.

"The bark is a blanket," stated Hopkins. "The bottom line is that we learned that you can dry wood out with a lot less effort than we expected."

Crowder Logging did the initial harvest of the property, but after letting the wood targeted for the energy market sit for two years, Hopkins needed a partner on the production side.

Enter Joey Ross of J & J Logging. J & J Logging had assisted Hopkins about six years ago with another other research project so it seems once you end up in this researcher's rolodex, you are there for life.

"He is persistent," stated Joey Ross with a smile. "He will call, and keep calling, and if he doesn't catch up with me, he'll get my dad. And then, my dad will say, hey, sort this out. So yes, we help him out when we can."



But on a more serious note, Joey Ross likes to help out where he can because he believes breakthroughs in research could pay dividends in new markets or higher returns on existing markets for his company and the logging world in general. He likens it to medical research where new medicines take years to develop.

"If I didn't believe that something good would come out of this, I would have quite fooling with it a long time ago," stated Ross. "As long as it doesn't cut into our production too much, we do whatever he needs."

"We really appreciate his willingness to work with us," stated Hopkins. "It's invaluable to our projects."

The final element of the partnership for this study was the chipper equipment. Enter Gregory Poole Forest Products and Peterson Corporation. Hopkins reached out to Peterson inquiring about some help with his demonstration.

Hopkins' sales pitch must have been good. The Peterson Corporation and Gregory Poole Forest Products people delivered Peterson's newest machine, a 6300B Drum Chipper, which can produce a bunch of wood chips in a range of sizes of 1/8 inch (typically requested by pellet markets) to 2 inches (typically requested by fuel markets) depending upon the setup.

"It's our newest machine," stated Steve Jones with Peterson. "It is a designed for high volume that you would find with large land clearing operations and/or right of way clearings."

While everyone in the forest products supply chain was willing to get onboard to make this research a reality, Hopkins struggled to find the end consumer who would be willing to install the proper equipment to test the wood chips for moisture as they came into the facility. There are a few options for sensors in existence, but the time and capital associated with the project proved to be too big of an obstacle to overcome.

"The entire project really hinges on being able to place a premium on drier wood chips at the mill, but since the sensor equipment is an apparent road block, it looks like it will not happen in the near future," stated Hopkins.

From his research, Hopkins concludes that wood loses over 10 percent of its moisture in just one week in a small pile. If left on the jobsite for eight months in a windrow, it loses slightly more, closer to 20 percent.

Hopkins sees the efficiencies in terms of logistics that could be created in the future by a larger amount of lighter, more efficient energy wood chips being transported to a facility with the expectation of a premium for those wood chips, but that is not how the marketplace is set up currently. ■



Field Day Time! (l-r) Ray Pippen, Jr. and Douglas Barham of Gregory Poole Equipment Company were joined by Steve Jones of Peterson Corporation and Chris Hopkins of North Carolina State University for a quick photo opportunity during the demonstration.

TREE LINE

APRIL 2017



Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner led the tree felling training during the NCFA's ProLogger base class in Williamston.

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

- April**
- 20 Forest Management Committee Meeting, Raleigh, NC
 - 21 Friends of Forestry PAC Meeting, Raleigh, NC
 - 26-27 NCFA Forestry & Environmental Camp, Greensboro, NC
 - 27 SAF - National Firewood Workshop In Statesville, NC
- May**
- 5/2-4 FRA Meeting - Charleston, SC
 - 5/2 NCFA Forestry Day - Raleigh, NC
 - 5/2 FFPAC Reverse Raffle - Raleigh, NC
 - 5/3 NCFA 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 SIC 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**
- 7/18-21 Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience, Southern Pines
 - 7/19 NC SFI SIC Grant Committee Meeting - Raleigh, NC
 - 7/31-8/4 OSH Training With FMIC And NCFA, Howell Woods
- August**
- 8/1-4 OSH Training With FMIC And NCFA, Howell Woods, Smithfield, NC
 - 8/17 SLTC Meeting at Mid-Atlantic Logging Expo Site - 9:30 a.m.
- September**
- 9/15-16 Mid-Atlantic Logging and Biomass Expo, Smithfield/Selma, NC
 - 9/28-30 American Loggers Council Meeting - TBD
- October**
- 10/4-6 NCFA Annual Meeting, Wilmington, NC



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