THE NCFA HEADS TO NEW BERN TO PUT “A FOCUS ON ENERGY”

The NCFA’s Annual Meeting - “A Focus on Energy” - will explore the role our only renewable natural resource, trees, will play in future energy strategies in North Carolina and the United States. The meeting is scheduled for October 10-12, 2007. Registration materials are on the NCFA’s website, www.ncforestry.org.

Two days before the NCFA meeting, The North Carolina Tree Farm Program will also hold its Annual Meeting in New Bern that will be highlighted by three different tours.

In addition to the NCFA’s traditionally strong speaking program, the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee will be holding its reverse raffle on Thursday evening while the membership is entertained by The Attractions. The 11-member band that has been making music on and off for the better part of the last 30 years plays a wide variety of music and will surely keep this moving during the evening festivities. You can check out their music at www.attractionsband.com.

A new feature to Thursday’s speaking session will be a special business luncheon where NCFA staff will review the previous year for the membership. Also during this luncheon, NCFA members will hear from North Carolina’s new state forester, Wib Owen. Owen will provide an update on the Division of Forest Resources.

Other topics on the program will be:

**Bio-fuels:** The Hype and the Reality - Steve Kelley will focus on the production of bio-fuels, particularly from cellulose, detailing what we know now, what do we need to know to make it work and what it will take to get there.

**Biomass Energy:** Where do Trees fit in - Al Lucier will discuss potentially available biomass supply, the potential impacts of the Kyoto Agreement on foreign demand for the United States’ forest resources and the economics of biomass energy.

**Carbon Credits:** What is the Market - Michael Walsh will discuss carbon credits as applied to forests/forestry and how it will figure into energy issues.

**North Carolina’s Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership:** Norris Tolson will outline this new plan for North Carolina.

The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS): A panel of Gene Upchurch, Ralph McDonald and Paul Garrett will explore what a renewable portfolio standard for energy means, how it impacts costs to consumers, how power generators can meet the requirements and what this may mean for forests.

For those spouses who wish to pass on the speaking program, two separate trolley tours of New Bern will be offered. The narrated tour that will detail historic downtown New Bern will start at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately 90 minutes. A second tour will take place aboard a ghost trolley which will stop at a haunted house. This tour will start at 2:30 p.m. Guests for both tours will be picked up and dropped off at the front entrance of the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center.

On Friday, the NCFA, Forestry Mutual and the North Carolina Tree Farm Program will present their annual awards. North Carolina State Treasurer, Richard Moore, will open the awards breakfast on Friday morning. We look forward to seeing you in New Bern!
HUNT CLUB PROGRAM APPLICATION NOW ONLINE

The NCFA’s popular Hunting Lease Liability Program will once again be available to NCFA members in 2007. In an attempt to provide its members with the best possible programs, this year’s policy will be more comprehensive than in the past. Accordingly, there will be a new fee structure based on the acreage covered. The standard fee for the landowner and hunt clubs will remain the same.

The new program application was mailed out in May and is available on the home page of the NCFA’s website, www.ncforestry.org. NCFA members are encouraged to review the new plan and return the application with the appropriate payments.

If you have any questions on the hunt lease program, please contact the NCFA at (800) 231-7723.

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TreeLine is the monthly newsletter of the North Carolina Forestry Association, 1600 Glenwood Ave., Suite I, Raleigh, NC 27608. Telephone (919) 834-3943 or (800) 231-7723. Fax (919) 832-6188.

News items and photographs should be sent to the TreeLine Editor at cbrown@ncforestry.org.

The NCFA, the state’s oldest forest conservation organization, is a private, nonprofit partnership of forest managers, landowners, mill operators, loggers, furniture manufacturers and others concerned about the long-term health and productivity of the state’s forest resources and the industries they support.

Politics

14 COUNTIES PLAN REFERENDUM ON LAND/REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX

So far, 14 North Carolina counties plan to put a local land transfer tax on the ballot for November. In some cases, the county will propose approval of both a land/realestate transfer tax and an increase in the local sales tax. However, the county may implement only one of those options – not both. Those counties holding referendums this year are: Brunswick, Chatham, Davie (both transfer and sales), Gates, Harnett, Henderson, Hoke, Johnston (both transfer and sales), Macon, Moore, Pamlico (Spring ‘08), Pender, Polk, Union (may include both sales and transfer tax), Washington.

The counties received authority to place these tax increases on the ballot this year when the General Assembly passed the state budget. The maximum land/realestate transfer tax allowed is 4% and the maximum increase in the local sales tax is 25%. Of concern to forest landowners and forest product companies is the fact that a real estate transfer tax would apply to timber transactions. In North Carolina, timber is considered real property until it is cut.

The NCFA joined with home builders, realtors and others in opposing the imposition of additional taxes on real estate. Although unsuccessful at the state level, the maximum allowable tax was reduced from 1% to 4%.

MAJOR EXPANSION OF CLEAN WATER ACT PROPOSED

Legislation designed to extend the national government’s power over isolated local bodies of water is being pushed by environmental activist groups in the weeks leading up to the 2007-2008 U.S. House of Representatives session, which begins in September. Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) is leading the effort to pass H.R. 2421, the Clean Water Restoration Act, which would give federal agencies unprecedented authority to regulate what were previously state and local issues.

The bill was introduced in May and is likely to be hotly debated in Congress this fall. It currently has approximately 160 co-sponsors including Rep. David Price and G.K. Butterfield from North Carolina.

IMPACTS

The most significant effect of HR 241/S 1870 would be the elimination the term “navigable” from the statute and replace it with a new definition of “waters of the United States” that includes all “intrastate waters” and all “activities affecting these waters.” Unlike the existing Clean Water Act that is based on Congress’s Commerce Clause authority to regulate “navigable waters,” HR 2421/S 1870 would exercise all of Congress’s authority under the Constitution including the Necessary and Proper, Treaty, and Property Clauses.

Although proponents say the bills “restore the original intent of Congress and clarifies jurisdiction,” the reality is that the bills would grant EPA and the Corps of Engineers for the first time ever jurisdiction over all “intrastate waters” – essentially all wet areas within a state. This would include ground water, ditches, pipes, streets, municipal storm drains, gutters, and desert features subject to only undefined constitutional limits.

The bills would also grant authority for the first time ever over all “activities affecting these waters (public or private), regardless of whether the activity is occurring in water or whether the activity actually adds a pollutant to the water.”

Even though the bills maintain the existing agricultural, silvicultural and ranching exemptions, they appear to only exempt these activities from being considered a “discharge.” For example, maintenance of an irrigation ditch would not be considered a discharge, but the ditch itself would still be a jurisdictional water such that all other activities affecting the ditch would be regulated.

Such an expansion of regulatory authority would impose a huge unfunded mandate on States by increasing the number of waters subject to water quality standards, effluent limitation guidelines, the setting of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL’s) and expanding the permitting workload under various aspects of state-administered programs.

COURT LIMITED FED POWER

The act’s supporters admit it is aimed at invalidating a U.S. Supreme Court decision that defined the limits of federal authority over isolated bodies of water.

Under the 1977 Clean Water Act (CWA), Congress gave the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authority to regulate pollution in “navigable waters.” The scope of the CWA was defined in 2006 by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled “navigable waters” include not only those that are navigable but also any waters that share a common nexus “to perform important functions for an aquatic system incorporating navigable waters.”

While the Court expanded the definition of “navigable waters” beyond a face-value reading of the term, it nevertheless put the brakes on attempts by federal agencies to regulate isolated bodies of water that have little or any meaningful connection to navigable waters.

The Court justified its ruling by noting that pollutants reaching a non-navigable stream or watershed can still affect a navigable waterway if the stream or watershed discharges into the navigable waterway. By contrast, the Court ruled, isolated bodies of water with little or no meaningful interaction with navigable waterways have little impact on such waterways. The key to determining whether federal authority extends to such non-navigable watersheds is whether a non-navigable watershed performs important functions for the navigable waterway, the Court ruled.

(continued on page 3)
NORTH CAROLINA TAKES BIOFUELS LEADERSHIP

Catalyzing an entire new industry for North Carolina is the long-term task of the newly established Biofuels Center of North Carolina, which moved to reality today following its first board of directors meeting.

Funded with a $5 million initial appropriation from the 2007 General Assembly, the non-profit corporation will in coming years implement North Carolina’s Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership. The Plan was mandated by the General Assembly in 2006 and presented to its Environmental Review Commission in April of this year.

The Plan offers a challenging goal: by 2017, 10 percent of liquid fuels sold in North Carolina will come from biofuels grown and produced within the state.

At current usage rates, production of almost 600 million gallons will be required.

“Meeting this bold goal will require enormous commitment, new resources, and untold acres of energy crops across the state,” said W. Steven Burke, chair of the Biofuels Center’s board of directors. “Meeting the goal will also yield a sector of impact state-wide that is especially vital for rural and agricultural communities. How often does a state have opportunity to create a large new industry with widespread benefit?”

The Strategic Plan was shaped by a 24-member steering committee and more than 80 public and private participants from across North Carolina. Six months of discussion and ideas yielded 9 strategies to ensure that the state gains biofuels capabilities and benefit over the next 10-15 years. Key among the strategies was establishment of a neutral catalyzing and assisting agency to work with researchers, growers, production facilities, educators, and policy-makers.

Establishment of the Biofuels Center of North Carolina moves that key strategy to quick reality. The non-profit corporation will be headquartered at the newly established North Carolina Biofuels Campus in Oxford. The site is the former U.S. Department of Agriculture tobacco research facility that was turned over in 2005 to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Goal By 2017, North Carolina will supply 10 percent of its liquid fuel needs with biofuels produced in the state.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and his department see biofuels as an increasingly important sector for the state’s agricultural economy and have designated the campus for biofuels development activities.

“The Biofuels Center is the right idea at the right time,” said state Rep. Jim Crawford, representing House District 32 and Granville County and a lead advocate for the Center. “It’s valuable for (continued on page 5)

Major Expansion of Clean Water Act...(from page 2)

IRE IN CONGRESS

Some members of Congress, upset the Court did not interpret the term “navigable waters” to grant the federal government full authority over the most isolated waters and wetlands, have vowed to render the decision moot by new legislation. Led by Oberstar, they contend the CWA intended to give them such power.

“This bill is designed to restore the authority of the Clean Water Act so it has the same effect it had prior to the Supreme Court’s rulings,” said Oberstar in a May 22 press statement. “This legislation will not create onerous new rules or regulations.”

NEW POWERS SOUGHT

Linda Runbeck, a former Minnesota State Senator who now serves as president of the American Property Coalition, says the proposed legislation extends federal power far beyond any rational reading of the Clean Water Act. Proposed legislation “puts the federal government in control of all ‘waters of the United States’ — a very broad definition — and newly regulates activities affecting these waters,” said Runbeck. “It also strikes the word ‘navigable’ wherever it appears.”

Pacific Legal Foundation attorney James Burling agreed, saying, “If our constitutional system of limited federal powers means anything, we have to win on this issue.”

The bill mustered the support of approximately 160 House members in the spring, but it still must overcome some principled opposition. Richard Baker (R-LA), the ranking Republican on the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, has called the bill “the largest-ever expansion of federal powers over private property.”

National Forest Products Week...(from page 1)

The necessary equipment to build a new home for the feathered friend of your choice.

This year’s theme of Build Good with Wood is a continuation of the NCFA’s Goods from the Woods campaign that strives to help people make the connection between our forests and forest products. Each year, the NCFA produces collateral materials such as posters and “Goods from the Woods” boxes that are available to teachers free of charge. The NCFA also conducts camps, entitled Forestry and Environmental Camps, throughout the state and is one of the sponsors of the Sunlight Forestry Teacher’s Academy that is run annually in New Bern and Asheville.

The items in the Build Good with Wood boxes are just a few examples of the over 5,000 forest products that have been developed through research and technological advances. Americans rely on many of these products every day with little knowledge that they were once part of a tree. Thousands of forest products are produced from various parts of a tree, essentially growing numerous Goods from the Woods.
A PAST CHAIRMAN’S REFLECTIONS ON THE TREE PROGRAM

by Bob Cooper, NC Tree Farmer and former NC Tree Farm Program Chair

At times, as a Tree Farmer and an active member of the North Carolina Tree Farm Program, I am tempted to feel like the Greek fable character, Sisyphus.

In the fable, Sisyphus was the founder and king of Corinth. He cunningly triumphed over death and was consequently punished by the gods to an eternity of hard labor. Sisyphus was forced to roll a great boulder to the top of a hill. Yet each time he attained the summit, the rock rolled back down the hill again.

We paraphrase this fable by saying that we take one step forward and two backwards. And, I must admit that I have these doubts when I consider our new forest realities.

As Tree Farmers, we cultivate a valuable, renewable, multi-purpose resource that is poorly understood by the public and thought to be within the private domain of the forest. Tree farmers and foresters know that this resource must be managed to maximize its productivity, effectiveness, and survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival. In contrast, there are powerful economic and social forces which advocate that our forests should be for spectator survival.

In addition, many in the general public have no idea who actually tends our state’s forests. Surveys show that the public thinks the government owns the majority of forestland in this state, but that is not true.

In a 2002 survey conducted by the Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis Work Unit, timberland owned by non-industrial private individuals in North Carolina totaled 13.8 million acres and accounted for 78% of all timberland in North Carolina. Further, timberland owned by non-industrial corporations totaled 1.5 million acres and accounted for 11% of all timberland. Together, individuals and corporate timberlands account for 89% of the state’s forests.

The burden of ownership continues to evolve as our forests are becoming more fragmented by urban growth, forest landowners’ succession to multiple heirs and forest product companies selling their timberlands.

A national woodland ownership survey in 2005 conducted by the Forest Service indicated that there were 479,000 family forest owners in North Carolina. However, only 213,000 of these owners have tracts ten acres or larger, only 16.9% own 50 to 99 acres, and 29.4% own 100 to 499 acres.

An increasingly important question is who represents these tree farmers and what is the degree of representation? Several groups are vying for ownership of this representation. Each has its own program and voice of advocacy. Further, some of these voices become more self-interested in trying to justify their own survival.

Interestingly, the North Carolina Forestry Association has been subject to some criticism in that there is a perception from one group that its interests are related to those of industry, whereas some individuals believe that the emphasis is on landowner issues. It is obvious that a healthy future depends on both a healthy forest industry and landowner program, for one without the other would not survive. It is our forests that provide the raw materials for the manufacture of wood and paper products. When one end of the boat leaks, the whole boat leaks.

Let us be aware that in the myths and fables of our past and from our current criticisms come opportunities for the reality of truth and the expression of Tree Farm values. As owners of our land we do have a passion for our Tree Farms. The fact that we believe in sustainable forestry management, which is economically sound and ecologically verifiable, gives legitimacy to Tree Farmers, which places us in an advantageous posture for the future.

Since 1941 we have endorsed a certification program which is becoming global in its recognition of the quality of management by forest owners in the Tree Farm Program.

We are seeking the same level of credible certification that is increasingly diverse group of forest owners have come to expect from a number of groups representing the “rights” of public domain. As owners of our land we do have a passion for our Tree Farms. The fact that we believe in sustainable forestry management, which is economically sound and ecologically verifiable, gives legitimacy to Tree Farmers, which places us in an advantageous posture for the future.

NC TREE FARMERS MEETING IN NEW BERN

The third annual meeting of North Carolina Tree Farmers will be held in New Bern on October 9-10, 2007 at the Sheraton New Bern Hotel & Marina. Once again, the annual meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the North Carolina Forestry Association (NCFA). The NCFA’s meeting will begin on October 10th and continue through Friday.

The Tree Farmers’ meeting will feature a morning indoor session on both days followed by a field trip to Charles Jones’ Tree Farm in Jones County on October 9th and field trips to Craven Wood Energy and Weyerhaeuser’s Cool Springs Environmental Education Center on October 10th.

On the Jones’ Tree Farm, participants will visit four specific areas as the group rotates through the farm.

- Tour Stop #1 features a mixed pine-hardwood stand being managed as a natural stand; prescribed fire utilized for fuel reduction and control of undesirable species; flashboard riser installed in road ditch to control water level; recent timber sale conducted in one segment of stand. Tour guide: Jimmy Franks
- Tour Stop #2 highlights a wildlife food plot established adjacent to helicopter dip pond for fire control; adjacent stands are Loblolly Pine Plantations of various ages, one of which has a serious fusiform rust problem. Tour guides: NC Wildlife Commission Biologists
- Tour Stop #3 demonstrates a Loblolly Pine stand established in 1979; prescribed fire utilized; fertilization/herbicide treatments; second thinning planned in near future; next treatment planned will be final harvest followed by regeneration. Tour guides: Bob Kellison at site A and Pete Steponkus at site B within easy walking distance of each other
- Tour Stop #4 features a recently regenerated area on wet site; nearby Loblolly stand where an old burn has hurt the growth rate; also a nearby natural stand of Longleaf Pine with mixed Loblolly Pine natural regeneration present. Tour guides: Charles Jones and Lauren Hillman

Following the tour of the Jones Farm, the group will return to the hotel for a reception and dinner.

On Thursday, the tour destinations will be the Craven Wood Energy facility in the morning and a stop at Weyerhaeuser’s education facility, Cool Springs Educatio Center. Lunch will be served at Cool Springs prior to the tour.

While all NC Tree Farmers are encouraged to attend this meeting, the meetings are open to all forest landowners. Registration materials are available online at www.nctruefarm.org or from Chris Brown at the North Carolina Forestry Association by calling 800-231-7723 ext. 25.

NORTH CAROLINA TREE FARM INSPECTOR COORDINATORS

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D-11 Dave Gunderson – Georgia Pacific
D-12 Ed Listerman - H.W. Culp Lumber Company
D-13 OPEN
D-14 Neal Mills - Bowater Inc.
704-434-9441 office or millscn@bowater.com
WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU HAVE AN OIL SPILL?

Every logger has been through it: a hose breaks, an accidental fuel spill, small leaks from a hydraulic cylinder, etc. You know you’re supposed to clean it up, and many loggers do the right thing in doing so. But, do you know what the reporting requirements are, and what to do in case you have a major line break and release a LOT of oil at one time? Hydraulic tanks and saddle fuel tanks can easily hold 100 gallons or more, and if a major line breaks in the wrong place you can lose the whole tank.

Here are the guidelines for reporting oil (fuel oil, diesel fuel, hydraulic, etc.) or other spills:

Regardless of the amount of a spill, take immediate action to control and contain the spilled fluid.

You should notify NCDENR within 24 hours of discharge or spill if:

- Amount is 25 gallons or more
- Spill causes a sheen on nearby surface water
- Spill occurs within 100 feet of any surface water

You do not have to notify NCDENR of a spill (cleanup must still occur, obviously) if:

- Amount is less than 25 gallons, and
- No sheen is produced on nearby surface water, and
- The spill is located more than 100 feet from surface water.

You must notify NCDENR immediately if:

- Amount is less than 25 gallons
- You cannot effectively clean it up within 24-hours of spill
- Spill causes a sheen on surface water.

You can call 1-800-858-0368 – the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management if you do not have your regional number handy. You should call your NCDENR Region office first; there are regional offices in Asheville, Fayetteville, Mooresville, Raleigh, Washington, Wilmington and Winston-Salem.

With small spills, you should take care of that day (if not immediately) by keeping a drum on site that is labeled specifically for them that day (if not immediately) by keeping it out of sight visit your site.

Here are some of the actions you can have in place in case you have a major spill (over 25 gallons):

1. Remove the contaminated soil and place it on an impermeable tarp. Do not remove it from the site. If you do move it, keep in mind that the material must be manifested, documenting the generator and source of the waste material.
2. Take some 10-10-10 fertilizer and mix it into the soil over with another tarp.
3. Every few weeks, turn the soil and add more fertilizer.
4. After six months, spread the soil on the ground and mix it in with surrounding soils.
5. All of these actions must be permitted by the Underground Storage Tank section of DENR.

Another method is to remove the soil and take it to a remediation site. Some landfills may take it, but they must be permitted (Subtitle D) accordingly. Some remediation sites may also require testing of the material before they take it.

Following are some locations across the state that will accept oil-contaminated soil:

- Soil Works, Zebulon, NC 919-366-1500. Cost: $10/ton, + $37 for tests
- Soil Solutions, Winston Salem, NC 336-725-5844. Cost: $25 for a five-gallon bucket (small spills); $50.00 for 55 gallons.
- Carolina Environmental Specialists, Boonville, NC 336-367-4767. Will clean up spills, cost according to size of spill and transportation to remediation facility.
- Highlands Environmental Solutions, Inc. Raleigh, NC 919-537-1355 (emergency number is 919-414-7081) Spill Cleanup, Remediation and Reporting Services
- Southeast Response & Remediation, Wilmington, NC 1-800-310-6757. Will accept small quantities (55 gallon drum costs $125) and remediate larger spills
- Noble Oil Services, Inc. Sanford, NC 27330 1-919-774-8180. $180.00/hour for on-the-road services; $167 for 55-gallon drum disposal
- Environmental Soil Services, Hertford, NC 27944 1-252-264-3027. Can take manifested quantities of contaminated soil to be remediated.

Further waste sites can be found at: http://www.wastenotnc.org/nc/SoilSites.html

SONOCO PRODUCTS SEeks INPUT

Sonoco Products Company of Hartsville, SC is currently evaluating the construction and operation of a biomass boiler to support its Hartsville location. Essential to the evaluation is the availability of fuels in the Hartsville region. Sonoco is therefore requesting information for biomass fuels including, but not limited to forest residues, industrial mill residues, fuel chips, and urban wood waste. This evaluation phase of the project will conclude on 12/31/2007 to support a target date of plant operation of Jan 1, 2011. Interested parties should call Ronnie Byrd at 843-383-7779 in order to participate.

Biofuels Leadership...

Granville County and people in Oxford but also for people across North Carolina. After all, we all need more biofuels."

Though many states are aggressively pursuing biofuels development, North Carolina is believed to be the first to establish both a central targeted agency and a central campus for support of biofuels activities. The catalyzing agency is patterned on the state’s bold leadership move in 1984 to establish the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in nearby Research Triangle Park.

The Strategic Plan focuses the state’s biofuels future on products made not from important food and feed crops such as corn but rather from cellulosic feedstocks such as wood waste, animal wastes, and high-yield plants and grasses. With its rich forestry and agricultural resources, North Carolina is well suited to develop and grow such biomass.

Initial board members of the Biofuels Center are:

a. W. Steven Burke, Chair, senior vice president, corporate affairs with North Carolina Biotechnology Center
b. Billy Ray Hall, president of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center
c. Ghasem Shahbazi, Ph.D., professor and director of bioenvironmental engineering at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University
d. Norris Tolson, Secretary and Treasurer, president and CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center
e. Johnny Wynne, Ph.D., dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University

"The growing biofuels industry offers enormous opportunities for creating new jobs, adding to North Carolina’s economy and helping America’s dependence on foreign energy," said Congressman G.K. Butterfield, whose 1st District includes Granville County.

"It also provides the potential for strengthening our farms and rural communities by offering them a strong, sustainable and important long-term stake in America’s energy strategy. The Biofuels Center of North Carolina will help to ensure that these possibilities and opportunities become realities."

A complete copy of Fueling North Carolina’s Future: North Carolina’s Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership is available on the Web at www.ncbiotech.org/biofuels/

A Past Chairman’s Reflections...

woodland owners.

The energy crunch and the media attention to global warming is presenting Tree Farmers with new opportunities.

Currently ethanol appears to be a promising source of alternative energy. Yet there are concerns that shifting our emphasis from oil or fossil fuels to corn also has its limitations. The energy return on energy invested for ethanol made from corn in the United States is about 1.34, which tells us that we obtain only 34% more energy than it takes for production. Further, the amount of ethanol needed to run the United States is greater than its own farmland can produce not to mention the ramifications of targeting the use an agricultural food stock such as corn purely for ethanol. Ethanol made from cellulose is the same as that produced from corn. Intense research is currently in place in learning how to convert cellulose with its myriad of sugars to ethanol. More recently a group of scientists at Purdue University have been able to genetically alter this yeast, which can convert some of the sugars in cellulose to ethanol. Technological improvisations in the production of energy from cellulose will eclipse some of the arguments against corn as a major source of energy and lead to increased markets for our trees.

Trees remain one of our top assets when it comes to global warming since carbon dioxide is a fertilizer for trees. Studies have shown both recently at Duke and a decade earlier at N.C. State University that trees grow more when they are exposed to higher levels of carbon dioxide. In addition to providing oxygen through the process of photosynthesis, the trees store the carbon in the wood of their trunks and limbs. This fact has lead to the market of carbon credits and the establishment of carbon credit trading on the Chicago Climate Exchange.

As Tree Farmers, we must participate in and encourage the efforts of various landowner groups and the forest products industry to achieve our vibrant future. We must recognize the changing patterns of forest ownership, our current and future markets and investigate the scientific opportunities for trees that are being developed in terms of future products. We have made a lot of progress in the last few years. Collectively, we may just get that rock over the summit, which would benefit all North Carolinians for generations to come.

Biofuels Leadership...
Recent events across the state and country have spurred a lot of interest in truck weights. The recent bridge collapse in Minnesota, the escalating costs of road and bridge repair, and high-profile accidents involving transport trucks have brought pressure upon the State Highway Patrol to rigidly enforce truck weights. When Troopers check commercial vehicles, they are not only checking for compliance of the size and weight laws, but other safety regulations as well.

We believe it's important to update you on how the patrol operates their weighing checkpoints and the procedures they follow.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

If they stop your truck, they will check for the operators CDL, truck and trailer registration, and fuel decal. They will try to locate a public area where trucks can pull off safely and not become an obstacle or safety hazard. Sometimes the Trooper may set up on a space that is not a public space – a mill annex area for example, and they may not be aware that it is part of mill property. If you (as a mill owner/operator) do not want them on the property, ask them to relocate. It will not jeopardize any relationship or future inspections.

However, please be aware that if the driver pulls on to mill property prior to stopping for the Trooper, they may be asked to drive off of Mill property for the purpose of the being weighed or inspected.

WEIGHING TRUCKS

When you are weighed, it is the Trooper’s choice whether to use portable scales or certified platform scale that are within five miles from where your vehicle is stopped.

If the driver does not agree with the Trooper’s scale reading then he/she has the option to ask to be re-weighed at a platform scale that is certified by the Department of Agriculture with the five mile radius. However, if the scales chosen by the driver are at a mill, the Trooper may be reluctant to agree to this because of the appearance that the Trooper has “followed” the truck to the scales to weigh it.

LOGGERS

Some mill owners are not comfortable with the Highway Patrol on the mill site and may deny access for a follow-up weighing. Check with the individual mills to know what their policy is before you request a second weighing from the Trooper.

It may seem that log trucks are weighed more frequently than other trucks. This perception may be true if you travel on a road that leads to the mill. In these locations, a large percentage of trucks are hauling wood. If a Trooper stops ten log trucks and finds that six are overweight, then naturally more log trucks will be weighed. Remember, their job is to make sure the law is followed. Overweight trucks not only impact highway maintenance costs, but pose safety issues as well. Keep your truck within the legal limit! Buy a set of scales to weigh your load before you leave the woods, or you run the risk of getting an overweight ticket.

HAULING LOGS IN DUMP TRUCKS

Using a dump truck to transport logs may or may not be a significant means of moving logs in your area. Recent load securement regulations passed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration have reduced or eliminated that option. Logs must be secured; they cannot extend beyond the end of the truck bed (meaning the tail gate must be closed), and no debris can blow out of the top of the dump body (it must be covered.) This long standing practice – hauling logs in dump trucks – is not recommended.

LOAD SECUREMENT

One of next year’s training topics for ProLogger will address load securement – but to reiterate the standard:

Longwood (over 16 feet, commonly known as tree length) must be cradled between two bunks and be secured by at least two (2) tie-downs, or by at least two wrappers that encircle the entire load. Typically the tie-downs are between the first, second, third, and fourth standard/bolster if on a log trailer. A pole trailer requires two (2) tie-downs between the bolsters.

Shortwood (16 feet or less) loaded lengthwise must be secured by at least two (2) tie-downs, or if all the logs are stacked and blocked by a front-end structure (rack) (or another stack of logs) and a rear-end structure (or another stack of logs), only one (1) tie-down is needed, approximately midway between the stakes; a headache rack mounted on the truck does not qualify as securement for the logs.

Summary: Tree-length wood hauled on either pole trailers (two sets of standards) or log trailers (four sets of standards) must have two tie-downs. Double-bunked wood must have two (2) tie-downs per bunk unless the trailer has a front rack that prevents the logs from moving forward. If that is the case, you can get by with one (1) tie-down on the front bunk but need two (2) tie-downs on the back bunk.

So – what to do when you are pulled over and the blue lights are flashing in your rear view mirrors?

First of all, the most important rule to follow is to pull over in a safe area, as soon as it is reasonable and safe to do so. Don’t pull over in a place that is going to put you or the Trooper in danger – like a narrow shoulder on a highway. But, pull over as soon as is safely possible.

Don’t coast for several blocks before pulling over. If you just keep coasting, the Trooper may think you’re stalling or trying to get away with something. Again, pull over in a safe position.

Keep your hands on the wheel as the Trooper approaches your vehicle. Troopers need to know that you’re not reaching for something they can’t see. Wait until they ask for your license and registration before you open up a glove compartment and they can watch what you’re doing. Most Important - Stay In Your Truck! This will eliminate two obstacles that motorists have to drive around and it allows the Trooper to focus their attention on one single area (the cab).

Being polite to the Trooper isn’t necessarily a pre-requisite but may certainly help. Your attitude can help or hurt. Abusive or aggressive behavior will only bring you more problems.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding patrol procedures, regulations, etc., we suggest that you contact your industry contacts to learn when training will be available to your general public sometime in October of 2007.

If you are calling in regards to a complaint, ask for the motor carrier supervisor. They will need to know specific information such as Troopers name, location, time of day, etc. The State Highway Patrol will be able to respond to your complaint in a more reasonable time frame.

The NCFA and the State Highway Patrol is committed to working together to make our states highways safe.

MODULE 8 WILL BE THE LONE REQUIRED CLASS FOR 2008

The NCFA’s ProLogger Program recently completed the renewal of the 2006-2007 year with a total of 1,567 loggers in the program. In 2008, ProLoggers are required to take just one required class, which will be Module 8. Module 8 will detail the latest changes to the North Carolina’s Best Management Practices. The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) is currently printing a pocket field guide that will be available to the general public sometime in October of 2007.

All ProLoggers must complete the 2008 required course, which is Module 8, by July 31, 2008 and pay their $00 dues to the general public sometime in October of 2007.
**U.S. FOREST SERVICE PUBLISHES TWO PROPOSED RULES**

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is providing public notice and opportunity for comments on proposed rules for National Forest System land management planning and the Forest Service NEPA procedures. Both proposals have 60-day comment periods.

“The proposed rules create better ways for the Forest Service to protect the environment in an efficient and inclusive manner,” said Chief Gail Kimbell. “The first rule improves land management plans by making them more adaptable to changing conditions and the desires of the American people. It ensures that the public continues to be involved in our land management planning processes and the disclosure of our environmental performance continues to be improved.”

Key elements of the rule include a strengthened science role in land management planning; assurance that the public has access to planning information and is heard throughout the process; an assessment of environmental conditions and trends; and the requirement that proposed desired conditions be sustainable.

The second proposed rule moves the Forest Service NEPA implementing procedures from the Forest Service Directive System to the Code of Federal Regulations — allowing for more public collaboration and responsiveness to new information and ideas. This updates our procedures and makes them consistent with other agencies and reflects guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality.

**WORKFORCE BENEFITS PARTNERS WITH THE NCFA TO OFFER INSURANCE PROGRAMS**

Workforce Benefits is pleased to partner with the NCFA to create and promote additional insurance programs to provide for the financial security of NCFA members. Life is full of surprises, and accidents happen on and off the job. Many employers have had to increase deductibles and co-pays, to control health care costs, and workers have to deal with more out-of-pocket expenses.

Workforce Benefits’ Accident Expense Plan offers an inexpensive way to budget for expenses related to a family members accidental injury, paying up to your chosen limits of coverage for Accidental Injury Medical Expense, Ambulance Benefits, Hospital Confinement, Accidental Death Benefit, Dismemberment and Loss of Sight.

The Accident Expense Plan offers:
• Pays regardless of any other medical coverage
• Benefits are paid directly to you
• It protects 24 hours a day on or off the job
• Family members receive full benefits
• There is no limit to the number of accidents covered
• Issue ages 18 to 65
• Renewable up to age 70
• An Accident Disability Income Benefit and a Total Disability-Sickness Rider may be added to protect your income from being unable to work following a covered accident or sickness.

A 12 month maximum benefit period is available.

The Accident Expense Plan comes in four units of coverage per accident from $500 per accident for one unit to $2,000 per accident for four units.

Premiums start at around $11.00 per month for one unit of coverage for an individual. A $500 per month Accident Disability can be added for an additional $12.50 per month and $500 per month Sickness Disability may be added for an additional $10.75.

Another stand-alone program from Workforce Benefits is the Cash Back Cancer Plus Plan. The Cancer Plus Plan pays a one-time lump sum cash benefit upon the first diagnosis of internal cancer or malignant melanoma.

• You select a benefit amount from $10,000 to $50,000
• Cancer Plus pays in addition to any other insurance
• No hospitalization or treatment is required to receive benefits
• You may use the benefit for any purpose you choose
• Policy benefit paid directly to the insured
• If policy is in force and no claims have been paid, you get a 100% refund of all premiums paid, and the policy paid up for life

Family cancer benefits for a $20,000-limit are $22 per month for 24 year old parents and $70 per month for 54 year old parents. The benefit applies to both spouses and all dependent children. The other reasons to buy are there are no deductible, simplified underwriting, level premiums and the policy can be paid up in 20 years, providing lifetime protection.

For more information or a free quote, call Workforce Benefits at 828-625-9163 or check out www.myworkforcebenefits.com.

**FOREST CAMPS IN THE FALL**

The NCFA’s Forestry and Environmental Camps will continue its 2007 schedule with stops in Wilkes and Wilmington. Camp volunteers earn CFE credits and are essential to this education outreach program that directly reaches students, teachers and parents.

Wilkes Camp ........................................... 9/17/9/21......... Fort Hamby Park
Wilmington Camp .................................. 10/22-10/26........ Hugh McRae Park
September
3   SLTC Meeting in Troy
22  Carolina Log’N Demo, Candor, NC

October
9-10  NC Tree Farm Annual Meeting in New Bern
14-21 National Forest Products Week
10-12 NCFA Annual Meeting in New Bern
24-26 ProLogger at Craven CC, New Bern

November
7   SLTC Meeting at Mush Island
14  SIC Meeting at NCFA Office

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YMCA Camp Blazing Trails attendees are dressed up as trees as part of a Project Learning Tree activity during Wacky Plant Week held at Blue Jay Point in Raleigh.