

TREELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

PROLOGGER BASE CLASS GRADUATES IN KINSTON

The NCFA's ProLogger program, under the direction of the NCFA's Vice President Jack Swanner, graduated 40 new ProLoggers in Kinston in April upon completing the three day course that was based at Lenoir Community College.

"This was a great group of loggers," stated Jack Swanner. "We once again got great support from our training partners, making the class interesting and informative. Thanks to our sponsors, Weyerhaeuser and Georgia-Pacific, for helping make it a first-class event."

The first two days of the course involved classroom instruction and discussions from leaders in the insurance field, OSHA and representatives from the North Carolina Forest Service and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. During this time, ProLoggers are encouraged to participate with any questions they may have about current material being covered or previous experiences.

"Our loggers are generally not shy about asking questions," stated Swanner. "And, this crowd was no different. We had some good discussions."

After the two days of power points and lectures, the group visited an active logging job that was being harvested by Crawley Timber Company. On the logging deck, the group heard from OSHA personnel on logging deck safety, a FPG and BMP review as it pertains to water quality from North Carolina Forest Service, (continued on page 4)



Thanks to the crew from Crawley Timber Company and Steve Crawley for hosting the field portion of the ProLogger class held in Kinston.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR ELECTRONIC WEEKLY UPDATE? MEMBERS CAN SIGN UP TODAY AT WWW.NCFORESTRY.ORG

NCFA MEMBERS TRAVELED TO RALEIGH TO PARTICIPATE IN FORESTRY DAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

Over 100 NCFA members traveled to Raleigh to participate in the NCFA's Forestry Day in the Legislature. Members were briefed on the top issues prior to the luncheon by NCFA staff. Members then were released to visit with their elected officials.

"We had a strong turnout from the legislators, which is the key to a successful afternoon," stated NCFA Executive Vice President Bob Schaefer. "We were able to forward a couple of our top issues while raising the general awareness of forestry and the impact our forests have on our environment."

Shortly after noon, North Carolina's Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler, presented the Order of the Longleaf Pine to Linda Slocum as her sons and brother-in-law looked on.

"We really appreciate the opportunity to be a part of Forestry Day," said Linda Slocum. "It was Bob's favorite day. We are grateful to the membership for their support they have shown for our family. Thank you."

During the morning briefing, representatives from North Carolina State University updated the NCFA membership on the Bob Slocum Forestry Communication Scholarship. The fund is already over \$19,000 thanks to the generous donations of over 100 individuals, families and businesses across the state. The scholarship will be fully funded when it reaches the \$25,000 plateau. If you would like to contribute, you can mail a check to: NC State Natural Resources, Foundation, Inc, memo Slocum Fund, Campus Box 8010, Raleigh, NC 27695. ■



The Slocum family accepted the Order of the Longleaf Pine on behalf of Bob Slocum, who was honored with award in October, from NC Commissioner Steve Troxler at Forestry Day in the Legislature. Here, (l-r) Wes, Ryan, Linda, Matt and Bob's brother, Dave Slocum pose for a photo.

STUDENTS ENJOY FORESTRY CAMP IN GREENSBORO

The NCFA's Forestry Camp was held in April in Greensboro for three days, Monday through Wednesday, at Carolyn Allen Park.

Sixth grade students from Kernodle Middle School participated in two day of instruction and then put what they had learned to the test in a series of tests.

The Pecan Team clearly absorbed the most information since that class took first place honors.

"The teachers were really pleased with the camp," explained NCFA Executive Vice President Bob Schaefer. "This school has been a part of our program from the beginning and the teachers and students look forward to it each year. We appreciate all of our members who took time out of their schedules to volunteer to teach."

The NCFA is still working re-establishing the Forestry Camp in (continued on page 3)



(back row) Consulting Forester Bill Dryman was one of the volunteer instructors for the NCFA's Forestry & Environmental Camp that was held in Greensboro in April.

2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ashley Faircloth <i>Chairman of the Board</i>	Bernard Rose <i>Piedmont Vice President</i>
Allen Plaster <i>President</i>	Fred Hardin <i>Western Vice President</i>
Ray Allen <i>President Elect-Treasurer</i>	Michael Walters <i>Chairman of the Board</i>
Frank Rackley <i>First Vice President</i>	Forestry Mutual Insurance Bob Schaefer
Jim Durham <i>Eastern Vice President</i>	<i>Executive Vice President</i>

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Bardon, Bob	Listerman, Ed
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Beasley, Dianne	Long, Jim
Bissette, Scott	Lumpkin, Parker
Cain, Kenny	Marshburn, Charlie
Corey, Billy	McCollum, Keith
Culp, John	McLaurin, Boyd
Davis, Joel Henry	Newcomb, Stephen
Decker, Greg	Overbey, Bill
Doster, Tony	Owen, Wib
Durham, Jim	Pate, Greg
Evans, Joe	Phillips, Ron
Faircloth, Ashley	Plaster, Allen
Graham, Ted	Rackley, Frank
Gray, John	Raynor, Fay
Gray, Jim	Ricks, Riddick
Hanks, Jeff	Rose, Bernard
Hardin, Fred	Shaffer, Rodney
Hazel, Dennis	Snyder, William
Hendrix, David	Stuart, Ken
Henson, Steve	Teel, Jamie
Howard, Brad	Thompson, Marshall
Hulka, Bryan	Thrash, Dale
Hull, Maurice	Vollinger, Mark
Hunt, Perry	Walters, Michael
Inman, Tom	Watzin, Mary
Jackson, Jimmy	Wiseman, Mark
Kenley, Charles	

DO YOU HAVE A NEWS ITEM?

TreeLine is the monthly newsletter of the North Carolina Forestry Association. News items and photographs should be sent to Chris Brown 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 that actively promote healthy, productive forests by supporting the efforts of landowners and forestry-related businesses and organizations that responsibly manage or use forests.

NCFA, 1600 Glenwood Ave., Suite I, Raleigh, NC 27608. Telephone (919) 834-3943 or (800) 231-7723. ■



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS UP AND RUNNING AT TOP SPEED

The North Carolina General Assembly is almost at the midpoint of the session for 2013. The Governor has introduced his budget and both chambers will be presenting their own version as the legislative session continues. The crucial crossover date, May 16, is when any legislation that hopes to become law this year must clear either the House or Senate. Typically, there is a rush to pass legislation in each chamber prior to this date.

One issue that seems to be getting a lot of attention this legislative session is North Carolina's Present-Use Value (PUV) tax program. There have been no less than five bills introduced that seek to make changes to the state's PUV program this legislative session. The PUV program seeks to provide an economic incentive for working farms and forests to remain viable by taxing the land at its current use, such as a forest, rather than what the land could be used, sometimes referred to as the "best use" in terms of economic return for the owner such as a shopping mall, housing development, etc. The tax rate for a forest or farm is typically less than the standard tax rate.

The NCFA supports Senate Bill 384 that makes appropriate adjustments to the present-use tax program such as providing flexibility in the harvesting schedule in a management plan based on market conditions and also the explanation on how ownership titles may not be automatic expulsion from the program. This bill is sponsored by Senators Michael Walters and Tommy Tucker.

The other bill the NCFA has strongly supported is House Bill 628, titled Protect/Promote NC Lumber. The bill correctly identifies the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard as a discriminatory construction standard that refuses to recognize other certified systems such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) that are currently used by North Carolina landowners and manufacturers. As a result, the LEED standard discourages the use of North Carolina grown and manufactured products since less than one percent of the forests in North Carolina are under the LEED certification system, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

BILLS OF INTEREST

The following bills represent those that have impacts on forestry or the forest products industry.

HOUSE BILL 267 - NCGA PRIOR APPROVAL/ INTERSTATE TOLLING. This bill seeks to prohibit the imposition of tolls on existing interstates without approval from the North Carolina General Assembly. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill since it provides an opportunity for this issue to be discussed and decided by the people of North Carolina through their lawmakers. The does not support tolling on I-95 and if such tolling were to be put in place, the NCFA would seek an exemption for its members as well as for agricultural interests.

HOUSE BILL 298 - AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY ACT. This bill addresses the costs, time line and procedures as set forth in the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards. The bill hopes to change the time line and level of renewable energy for the state. The sister bill is SENATE BILL 365. The Senate version of this bill goes a step farther, calling for the elimination of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards. NCFA Position: Throughout the debate on this renewable energy standard, the NCFA has focused on the definition of renewable energy, particularly in regards to trees and biomass. The NCFA maintains that trees are our best renewable natural resource and should be considered a prominent solution in any discussion about renewable energy production standard. The NCFA is neutral on this bill.

HOUSE BILL 368 - AGRICULTURE FORESTRY/ NURSERY APPOINTMENTS. This bill seeks to provide representation of forestry and nursery interests on the North Carolina Board of Agriculture. The sister bill is SENATE BILL 381. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

HOUSE BILL 480 - ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING REFORM. This bill seeks to provide regulatory certainty and the development of minimum criteria for stormwater, erosion and sediment control permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The minimum criteria could pave the way for fast-track permitting. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

HOUSE BILL 586 - PUV/REPEAL FOREST PLANNING REQUIREMENT. This act seeks to eliminate the use of a sound forest management plan as part of the present-use program. NCFA Position: The NCFA is opposed to this bill. Landowners who use a sound forest management plan are more likely to generate income from their forests by growing a range of forest products while promoting wildlife, clean air and clean water.

HOUSE BILL 614 - NC AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ACT. This bill provides assurances that agriculture and forestry operations are not nuisances and to provide for the award of costs and

(continued on page 5)

NCFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING REPORT

The NCFA's Board of Directors met the day after Forestry Day in the Legislature at the North Carolina Farm Bureau. One of the top items on the agenda was an update from the membership task force.

The membership task force presented its report and progress on their review and potential revision to the association's membership categories. The task force is working on increasing the categories from 11 to 17 and is exploring a 10% increase across the board on dues in all categories. A final report from the task force will be made in October at the final board meeting of 2013. The NCFA has not had a dues increase in 13 years.

The meeting also included program reports, updates on NCFA activities, and updates from partners and affiliates.

The NCFA Board of Directors will meet next on October 4, 2013 at the conclusion of the annual meeting in New Bern. The Board will most likely hear the final report from the task force and vote on the group's recommendations. ■

Forestry Camp..(from page 1)

Wilkes County and will also coordinate a Forestry Camp in Wilmington. Both of those camps will take place in the fall.

If you are interested in joining the instructor ranks for one of these upcoming camps, please contact Bob Schaefer at (800) 231-7723 ext. 5 or at bschaefer@ncforestry.org. ■

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Alex Allen
Scott Askew
Nancy Blackwood
Mickey Blake
Adrian Blue
Shannon Buckley
Doug Burleson
Michael Byrd
Eddie Campbell
John Cecil
Chad Chriscoe
Josh Daniel
Bill Dryman

Bruce Evans
David Gladden
Stewart Gregg
Fred Hardin
Steve Henson
Roy Jarrard
David Johnson
David Masters
Chip Miller
Ron Phillips
David Ratliff
Eddie Swan
Marshall Thompson



The dynamic duo of Ron Phillips and Doug Burleson taught Wood Products and History during the Greensboro camp.

POINT OF VIEW

EXPLORE MY LAND PLAN TO PROTECT AND ENJOY YOUR WOODS

By Amanda Cooke, American Forest Foundation

Perhaps the most famous forest pest to ever sweep North Carolina is chestnut blight. In the last 100 years, the invasive fungus from Asia wiped out almost every chestnut tree in the Eastern United States.

The chestnut blight has already done its dirty work, but it is hardly the last invader to reach America's shores.

Another pest, the emerald ash borer, is approaching North Carolina's borders. It was first detected in North America in the Detroit area in 2002. It came from Asia, probably in packing material, and has spread as far as Virginia and Tennessee. The shiny green beetle is the size of a grain of rice, but it can wreak havoc on ash trees.

Woodland owners aren't helpless when it comes to forest pests and diseases. Proactive care can go a long way in protecting the woods you love.

Last year, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) launched My Land Plan to provide a one-stop-shop for woodland owners who want to protect and enjoy their woods. My Land Plan is a fun and interactive resource for people who own any amount of woodlands – whether it is one acre or 1,000 acres.

You can use My Land Plan to learn how to manage your trees – everything from information about enjoying your woods with your family to practical help with things like how to keep trees healthy and how to watch for signs of pests.

Nearly 2,300 woodland owners have already signed up for the tools and resources found on www.MyLandPlan.org, and 250 foresters have registered with the Forester Directory to help connect with landowners who seek professional advice.

My Land Plan's Protect It section provides you with tools and information you need to defend your woods from natural disasters, trespassers, and pests and weeds.

When the pests do show up, there are often early warning signs. With the help of My Land Plan and a local forester, your state forestry agency, or state department of natural resources, you may be able to identify the culprits and fight them off your land before they get established.

The website's section on forest health includes information on many different pests, from the southern pine beetle and hemlock woolly adelgid to weeds like bush honeysuckle and Chinese privet. The response isn't the same for every pest.

For example, if the southern pine beetle shows up on your land, you have to kill the affected trees immediately to make sure the beetle doesn't spread to the rest of your trees – or your neighbors' land.

But, once the emerald ash borer arrives, doing nothing is often your best option. It's OK

to wait for your ash trees to die, which could take years, or remove the ones that threaten to fall on buildings.

Keep an eye out for the warning signs of infections and infestations, like trees that look unhealthy or have spots on their leaves.

You can't know every sign of disease, but if you see something worrisome, a tree professional can help. While My Land Plan is designed to help you explore ways to keep your land healthy, we encourage all woodland owners to seek professional help, because disaster recovery isn't something you should do alone!

According to a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) assessment released last December, as many as 34 million acres of forestland could be lost in the United States during the next 50 years. The assessment predicts that all regions in the United States will experience increased stress from natural disasters and pest infestations. With the right information, you can keep your woods bug, weed, and disease-free.

Sign up for My Land Plan to be among the best informed forest stewards in your state. You can create your secure account today at www.MyLandPlan.org/signup.

If you have questions about My Land Plan, please contact the American Forest Foundation at info@mylandplan.org. ■



My Land Plan seeks to help landowners identify and battle pests and invasive plants such as Chinese Privet which is pictured here.

NC SAF MEETING ON HORIZON

The North Carolina Division of Society of American Foresters (NC SAF) has announced that registration is now open for the upcoming Summer Meeting, June 5-7, 2013.

If you are interested in hardwood forests consider joining the NC SAF at Warren Wilson College to hear some outstanding presentations focused on hardwood forest management.

Please visit
<http://www.apsaf.org/nc/meetings/2013/>
for more information.



MODULE 13 TRAINING UP AND RUNNING

There are only two months left for ProLoggers to take the required annual training for 2013, Module 13. A complete listing of classes is included in this issue and the most up-to-date list is emailed out weekly and posted on the NCFA's website under the ProLogger section.

ProLoggers are encouraged to check with their suppliers on when a class will be held in their area. Companies that are hosting classes are also encouraged to let the NCFA know when and where they are holding classes so they can be updated on the website and newsletter.

Module 13 Training Calendar

5/17 12:00 PM Domtar Paper Company, Bennettsville, SC
 5/21 5:30 PM McDowell CC, Marion
 5/31 11:30 AM Vance Granville CC, Louisburg
 6/25 6:00 PM Roaring River VFD, Roaring River

If you are hosting a class, please e-mail Chris Brown at cbrown@ncforestry.org so your class can be added to this list.

ProLogger Base Class

The Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee has established two dates for the ProLogger base course for 2013. June 12-14, 2013 at Forsyth Community College in Winston-Salem ■

ProLogger Base Class in Kinston...(from page 1)

and of course, a first class presentation by Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner on how to use a proper tree harvesting plan and the proper felling techniques within that plan.

The NCFA's ProLogger program started in 1994 in response to a record 13 timber harvesting fatalities in the state in 1993. Through a cooperative effort with NCFA, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina Department of Labor, the base ProLogger course developed to promote safety, business and environmental awareness.

NC SFI SIC Program designated ProLogger as a "trained logger program" as part of the certification process to meet standards and in 2005, the ProLogger program added continuing education element.

Currently, over 1,400 ProLoggers have taken the base class and have met their continuing education requirement. ■



(center) Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner fields questions ProLoggers after dropping a tree during the field day.



The ProLogger base course was held in Kinston in April, graduating 40 new ProLoggers.

MID-ATLANTIC LOGGING & BIOMASS EXPO SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2013



**MID-ATLANTIC
LOGGING & BIOMASS EXPO**

The 2013 Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo will take place on September 20-21, 2013 in the Smithfield-Selma area. The site will be close to where it was held in 2011. The SLTC will once again be supporting Expo partners North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers (NCAPL), Hatton-Brown Publishers and the NCFA in the hosting of the show. The goal in 2013 is to grow the show beyond equipment dealers to include more exhibitors of outdoors equipment, both recreational and business. ■

2013 WNC TIMBER CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE AT END OF MAY

The annual Western North Carolina Timber Conference will be held on Thursday, May 30, 9 AM to 5 PM at the Mountain Horticulture Research and Extension Center in Fletcher NC. The conference is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Forestry Association, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina State University Forestry Extension Service & North Carolina Tree Farm Program

PURPOSE: Provide a forum for updating and educating interested parties on the latest developments in local, state, regional and national timber related issues/programs impacting Western North Carolina.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Timber purchasers, wood processing facility operators/owners, loggers, landowners, foresters and other natural resource professionals.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CFE's): The meeting has been certified by SAF for (6) Category 1 CF contact hours for Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) units.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER: You may pre-register by contacting Steve Henson by phone 828-506-4786 or by e-mail shenson1@charter.net. The cost for the conference, which includes lunch, is \$20. ■

LOGGING COST ANALYSIS CLASS SET FOR JULY 30-31 IN TIFTON, GEORGIA

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Continuing Education Course titled, "Logging Cost Analysis," will take place in Tifton, Georgia on July 30-31 and will be taught by Dr. Dale Greene and Dr. Chad Bolding.

The course will cover how to perform real-world logging cost analysis. The instructors will use production and cost records to examine a range of harvesting configurations commonly in use today. The course is aimed at wood dealers, procurement foresters, logging contractors and others who service the timber harvesting industry. For complete information, please go online at:

<http://conted.warnell.uga.edu/courses/lca-tifton> ■

KLAUSNER LUMBER ONE SEEKS WOOD SUPPLY MANAGER AND FORESTER

Klausner Lumber One, LLC is seeking applications for two different positions, a Wood Supply Manager, and a Wood Supply Forester, to be responsible for timber supply activities for their sawmill in Suwannee County near Live Oak, FL.

The Wood Supply Manager will oversee and manage Wood Supply Foresters in the day-to-day operations, ensuring compliance with all company policies and procedures including contract administration, financial, safety, timber security and environmental policies. The successful candidate will establish performance goals, forecast wood delivery and production costs for the sawmill and implements corrective action as needed to ensure targets are achieved.

The Wood Supply Forester will report to the Wood Supply Manager and assist in the management of all procurement related activities including the purchase of standing timber and open market wood. The successful candidate will establish performance goals, forecast wood delivery production and costs for their procurement area and implement corrective action as needed to ensure targets are achieved.

All interested candidates locate and complete an application that can be found at www.klausner-group.com and submit it to Klausner Lumber One LLC via e-mail at job.application@klausner-group.com. ■

NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER	CITY
<i>Andrew B Byrum Trucking LLC</i>	<i>Merry Hill</i>
<i>Jason Cain</i>	<i>Harrells</i>
<i>S. Ellis Crew</i>	<i>Gaston</i>
<i>Adrienne Dorison</i>	<i>Riegelwood</i>
<i>James Eborn</i>	<i>New Bern</i>
<i>Timothy Garris</i>	<i>Pinetown</i>
<i>Shay Henson</i>	<i>Canton</i>
<i>Timothy Merritt</i>	<i>Harrells</i>
<i>Rowe Hunt Club</i>	<i>Hickory</i>
<i>Rene Van Der Merwe</i>	<i>Madison, MS</i>
<i>Woodland Insurance Group, LLC</i>	<i>Wilmington</i>

NCFS PROVIDES UPDATE ON LAUREL WILT

The North Carolina Forest Service has issued an update on Laurel Wilt in North Carolina. Since its initial discovery of laurel wilt in the state in March of 2011, NCFS staff has confirmed the disease in a total of five counties: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Pender, and Sampson.

No new counties were confirmed for laurel wilt during this winter's surveys. The vector for this disease, the redbay ambrosia beetle, can readily be moved to new locations in firewood and other wood products from affected host trees. The NCFS encourages anyone who think they may have found laurel wilt to not remove the affected trees from the site.

For information on the location of laurel wilt and other firewood-vectored invasive pests in relation to North Carolina, please refer to the Monitoring Invasive Forest Pests section of the NCFS' website, http://www.ncforestsERVICE.gov/forest_health/forest_health.htm.

Additionally, some of our most imminent invasive threats have been given a Frequently Asked Questions page within our website, including laurel wilt, thousand cankers disease, and the emerald ash borer. ■

UPDATE ON HOFMANN FOREST

The following is from an e-mail distributed on April 19, 2013.

Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Natural Resources,

The Board of Directors of the NC State Natural Resources Foundation has carefully considered offers to purchase the Hofmann Forest and found that at least one offer generally meets the price and other key terms and conditions important to it, including recognition of the legacy of the Forest with the College, maintaining the core of the property as a working forest, and retaining access to the property by faculty and students for research and demonstration.

Therefore, today, the Board of Directors of the Natural Resources Foundation unanimously recommended to the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of North Carolina State University, that they, as the owners of the Hofmann Forest, consider this offer and proceed to negotiate final terms for the sale of Hofmann Forest for the benefit of the College of Natural Resources.

We appreciate your patience and support and we look forward to sharing additional information when we are able.

Sincerely,
Brenda Brickhouse
President, NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.

Mary Watzin
Dean, College of Natural Resources ■

Legislative Update...(from page 2)

attorneys' fees to a prevailing defendant. The sister bill is SENATE BILL 509. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill. In particular, the proposed bill eliminates specific language that singles out sawmill operations.

HOUSE BILL 628 - PROTECT/PROMOTE NC LUMBER. This bill identifies the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard as a discriminatory construction standard that refuses to recognize other certified systems such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) that are currently used by North Carolina landowners and manufacturers. As a result, the LEED standard discourages the use of North Carolina grown and manufactured products since less than one percent of the forests in North Carolina are under the LEED certification system, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

HOUSE BILL 787 - PROTECT RURAL LAND USE RIGHTS. This bill clarifies that owners of farms may file a civil action for a regulatory taking if a owner can no longer use the land for a farm due to the imposition of some regulations/zoning. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

HOUSE BILL 874 - BROADEN AGRICULTURAL PRESENT USE VALUE. This bill seeks to reduce the requirement of land in production in agriculture such as crops, plants or animals from 10 acres down to five acres. NCFA Position: The NCFA does not have a position on this since it does not impact the forestry provision in the present use value program, which is 20 acres.

HOUSE BILL 938 - IMPROVE WETLANDS MITIGATION PROGRAMS. This act seeks to direct Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation to jointly petition the Wilmington District of the U.S. army Corps of Engineers to allow for greater flexibility and opportunity to perform wetlands mitigations. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

SENATE BILL 10 - GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT. This bill seeks to eliminate certain committees, state boards and commissions as well as reduce the size of some of the other commissions and boards. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill with the provision that forestry continues to have a position on the boards and commissions that may have an impact on forests and our ability to manage our forests.

SENATE BILL 114 - REPEAL THE ESTATE TAX. This bill seeks to eliminate the state's estate tax. The sister bill is HOUSE BILL 101. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

SENATE BILL 384 - PRESENT-USE VALUE MODIFICATIONS. This bill seeks to make appropriate adjustments to the present-use tax program such as providing flexibility in the harvesting schedule in a management plan based on market conditions and also the explanation on how ownership titles may not be automatic expulsion from the program. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill.

SENATE BILL 389 - LAND USE SURROUNDING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. This bill supports the activities of the armed forces efforts to maintain the proper training facilities in our state by regulating the height of buildings and structures located in areas that surround military installations. The sister bill is HOUSE BILL 433. NCFA Position: The NCFA supports this bill. The goals of this bill are matched by the Sentinel Forest project that the NCFA is guiding.

SENATE BILL 508 - ELIMINATE INITIAL OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR PRESENT USE VALUE PROGRAM. This bill seeks to eliminate the requirements for present use value property to be in the owner's name for three years before enrolling in the program. NCFA Position: The NCFA is neutral. The requirements encourage a long-term approach for landowners who are interested in this tax program and that fits the goals of most forest landowners.

SENATE BILL 511 - MODIFY PRESENT USE VALUE APPLICATION ON AG LANDS. This bill seeks to modify the definition of horses within the existing bill. NCFA Position: The NCFA is neutral. This modification does not impact forestry.

A complete listing of all of the bills filed this legislative session can be found online at: www.ncleg.net/gascritps/lastaction/lastaction.pl?Biennium=2013&SessionNumber=1. The bills are updated as they proceed through the legislative process. ■

LANDOWNERS' CORNER

USDA ANNOUNCES NORTH CAROLINA GRANT AWARD RECIPIENT

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, together with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, announces a \$1.2 million grant opportunity for North Carolina's Roanoke Rural Electric Cooperative and the Center for Heirs Property Preservation in Charleston South Carolina to help African American landowners in North and South Carolina improve their forestlands.

Over the next 30 months, the grant will support more than 50 African American landowners in North Carolina in their efforts to improve their forested lands. NRCS and the Forest Service will provide assistance for conservation planning and assist eligible landowners implement conservation practices such as forest stand improvement, tree and shrub planting, prescribed burning and fire breaks. The ultimate goal of the grant is landowners having greater resources to sustain and retain their economically and environmentally valuable lands.

"The landowners that this grant helps are the backbone of our agricultural, forested and natural resource economies," said NRCS Acting North Carolina State Conservationist Terrance Rudolph. "These landowners are in economically depressed counties, where land retention is challenging, having the resource to make necessary land stewardship improvements is difficult, and having a full understanding of the resources available to help is deficient -- through this grant our partners work together with these landowners to overcome these obstacles." ■

LANDOWNERS ARE REMINDED TO SIGN UP FOR CRP PROGRAM AT FSA OFFICES

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced the next general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup, entitled Signup 45, will be held from May 20, 2013, through June 14, 2013. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP, as well as land with a contract expiring on September 30, 2013, may be offered for enrollment during Signup 45. Changes to the national environmental benefits index (EBI) used in previous general signups are not expected. Conservation plans prepared by NRCS or Technical Service Providers will need to be completed at some date (yet to be determined) in order for the new contracts to become effective on Oct. 1, 2013. In terms of continuous signup status, the FSA has not authorized continuous signup enrollment at this time.

The FSA will provide further notification when its county offices are permitted to begin accepting offers under continuous signup criteria. Questions about the CRP signup can be addressed to Matt Flint, Assistant State Conservationist with USDA-NRCS, at (919) 873-2124. ■

CSP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in May that the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will provide nearly \$175 million in funding for up to 12.6 million additional acres of enrollment this year.

"The Conservation Stewardship Program is different than other USDA financial assistance programs," said Vilsack. "CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. It's about conservation activities on the entire operation focusing on multiple resource concerns."

Vilsack explained that although applications are accepted all year, farmers, ranchers and forestland owners interested in CSP should submit applications by May 31 to their local NRCS office to ensure they are considered for this year's funding. The voluntary program allows producers to go the extra mile in conserving natural resources while also maintaining or increasing the productivity of their operations.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types. For the checklist and additional information, visit the CSP website (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>) or visit your local USDA NRCS office. ■

USFS ANNOUNCES NEW DATES FOR INPUT TO NATIONAL FOREST PLANS

The U.S. Forest Service has announced the dates for the next sessions to be held as part of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests management plan revision process. Participants are encouraged to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to review materials prior to the meeting.

The meetings will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- **May 23 at Tartan Hall of the First Presbyterian Church**
26 Church St., Franklin, N.C. 28734
- **May 30 at the North Carolina Arboretum**
100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, N.C. 28806

During the sessions, more in-depth information on a selection of topic areas related to the existing condition of the forests will be shared. Participants will have the opportunity to share opinions and ideas on these topics. The tentative format will be concurrent sessions on selected assessment items, including some that were of high interest at the initial round of meetings.

Topic areas likely to be addressed include: 1) ecological restoration; 2) early successional and other habitats; 3) recreation access and scenery; and 4) designated areas. ■

JORDAN FOREST PRODUCTS SELECTS MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR EXPANSION

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Jordan Forest Products, a forest products manufacturing company, will expand its operations in Montgomery County. The company plans to create 31 jobs and invest more than \$1.4 million over the next three years in Biscoe.

"North Carolina is a strong producer of wood products," said Governor Pat McCrory. "It makes great business sense for Jordan Forest Products to expand here where they've been doing business for more than seven decades."

Jordan Forest Products, an affiliate of Jordan Lumber and Supply, has become one of the most respected mills on the East Coast and one of the largest privately-owned lumber companies in the country. With its headquarters in Mount Gilead, the company plans to expand its operations to produce wooden pallet components. Jordan Lumber and its subsidiaries currently employ 301 people in Montgomery County and also have a facility in Georgia.

"Jordan Lumber is pleased to again have the opportunity to expand in our great home state of North Carolina. The strong work force here and our positive working relationships with both local and state government are great contributing factors to our success in continuing to create new job opportunities," said Robert Jordan, IV, Vice President of Operations.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$43,600. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for a grant. ■



(center) Camp volunteer Roy Jarrard spent two days at the camp teaching dendrology and here he is teaching land measurement.

SPEAKERS AGENDA NEARLY COMPLETE FOR 2013 NCFA ANNUAL MEETING

The NCFA's Annual Meeting, titled, "Dynamic Markets & Sustainable Opportunities", will discuss how markets, both traditional and new, will be impacting the state's forests.

The meeting will follow the same format as previous years with recreational activities on Wednesday followed by a welcome reception for the membership, but with a special focus on recognizing the young professionals at the meeting.

Thursday will feature comprehensive presentations on forestry and forest products markets. Thursday evening will be the awards dinner followed by entertainment by the band, the Fantastic Shakers.

On Friday, the meeting will conclude with a board of directors meeting. Registration materials will be sent to the membership in June.

SPEAKING AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome
- 8:10 a.m. Are Markets Shaping Forest Management, and if so, How?
David Ashcraft, N.C. State University
- 8:30 a.m. Forest Planting : Are We Planting Enough?
TBD
- 9:15 a.m. Forest Resource: What is the Data? Where are the Markets?
Bob Apt, N.C. State University
- 10:15 a.m. European & Domestic Markets
John Keppler, Enviva's CEO
- 11:00 a.m. Energy as a Resource Consumer
Larry Richardson, ReEnergy CEO
- 11:45 a.m. Break prior to lunch
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Fracking: What is the Controversy?
Dr. Ken Taylor, NC DENR
- 1:30 p.m. Softwood Lumber Outlook
Jack Jordan, Jordan Lumber Company
- 2:15 p.m. Hardwood Lumber Outlook
George Barrett, Hardwood Market Review
- 3:15 p.m. How are Ports Adapting to Markets?
Lance Kenworthy, NC Port Authority
- 4:00 p.m. Protecting Soil Productivity During Harvest Operations
Bob Schaefer, NCFA

NEW EFFORTS UNDERWAY AT NCSU WOOD PRODUCTS EXTENSION

Harry Watt, a Wood Product Specialist at North Carolina State University's Wood Products Extension Service has created a new North Carolina Wood website to back his efforts in supporting the primary and secondary wood products businesses in North Carolina.

The website address is www.cnr.ncsu.edu/fb/extension/ncwood. This website contains information about business opportunities and other support for wood products businesses. The website is fluid and will have new items added on a weekly basis.

Additionally, Watt will be starting a Best Management Practices program for wood products. The idea behind the website is to offer a survey form for our wood products businesses to review their operations of improvement by comparing their operations to those that lead our industry. The BMP units also contain a listing of the common characteristics that the leaders in the industry have that others have that should be of interest to other companies in the industry that want to grow sales, lower manufacturing costs and grow profitability.

For more information on these efforts or any other general questions about the Wood Products Extension Service, please contact Harry Watt by e-mail at harry_watt@ncsu.edu or by phone at (704) 880-5034. ■



WHO SIGNS THE CHECKS? YOU DO!

There is absolutely no doubt that logging is an inherently dangerous occupation. It is a given that a manual felling/ cable skidder job poses ultimately more risk than a fully mechanized job. It should also be noted, that significant risk is present even on highly mechanized operations. Every different logging system has its own specific risks.

The common tool to fight risk is training and education. There are training programs designed to address specific risks that are present on different types of logging systems.

Case in point, the Virginia Sharp Logger program has one of the strongest logger training programs in the nation. In 2011, Virginia had eight logging fatalities.

Is there a problem with the program? NO!

Safety training programs and classes are

vehicles to deliver education and training to reduce risk. If the safety material isn't used, or is ignored, the risk level remains high. You may remember an old adage: "You can lead the horse to water, but you can't make him drink."

This is a bunch of BUNK! **YOU ARE SIGNING THE CHECK!**

The employer-employee relationship is very important in our line of work with the risks that are involved. It is the employer's responsibility both legally and morally to train his employees. The employer is responsible that the employee adheres to all safety rules and regulations. This project can't work, unless the employer is sold into the safety program or system.

Some recent incidents can be traced back to the lack of accountability, both on the employer and employee. Two fatalities have happened recently by the employees not wearing a hard hat. Both men were feller-buncher operators; they had to manually fell a few trees that couldn't be reached with the machine. Both men left the hard hat in the cutter and both men were killed by falling limbs.

How many times prior to their deaths did this happen? Was this a habit? Was the owner aware of this habit?

In another case, a timber-cutter with at least forty years of experience was killed. The man had lodged a tree into a "clump" of trees. The timber-cutter violated a serious basic logging rule; he cut one of the support trees. The result was; the tree barber-chaired and struck the man in the head, resulting in his death.

Again, how many times in forty years had this man violated this basic safety rule? Were other employers aware of their employees violating safety rules? If the employer witnessed a safety violation, what action did he take, if any? Or did they ignore it because they did not want to be the bad guy.

We have heard many times before, "I can't make him do this or do that." Yes you can, **YOU SIGN HIS CHECK!**

There are many different ways an employer can work with his crew to ensure their well being. The most important first step is that the employer must be sold on safety and buy into the safety program. Safety pays and accidents cost is a very true statement that should get attention in our current state of the forest industry. Once you are committed to your safety program, it is up to you to see that your workers adhere to it. Some employers use bonus systems to reward employees, other owners use disciplinary tactics, including termination to make sure things run right.

Whatever system you use, remember it is your job, **YOU SIGN THE CHECKS!**

For more safety information on this topic or others, please contact Forestry Mutual at (800) 749-7788. ■



Chuck Murdock with the NC DOL reviews log deck safety and other topics during the NCFA's ProLogger base class.

TRIPLE LINE

MAY 2013



Forestry Mutual's Bryan Wagner talks tree felling safety during the ProLogger class held in Kinston.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

North Carolina Forestry Association
1600 Glenwood Ave., Suite 1
Raleigh, NC 27608
919-834-3943 / 800-231-7723

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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May 2013
15 NC SFI SIC Meeting, NCEA Office, Raleigh, NC

August 2013
7 SLTC Meeting, Smithfield Chamber of Commerce, Smithfield, NC
21 NC SFI SIC Meeting, NCEA Office, Raleigh, NC

September 2013
20-21 Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo, Smithfield-Selma Area, NC

October 2013
2-4 NCEA Annual Meeting, New Bern, NC

November 2013
6 Drake Landing, Fuquay-Varina, NC
13 NC SFI SIC Meeting, TBD
13-15 NC Wood Exports Conference, New Bern, NC

December 2013
25-26 Christmas Holiday