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**serving and protecting the people and forest resources of Mississippi**

from the *Chair*

As incoming Chairman of the Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters, I am pleased to inform you of important changes to the foresters registration law of 1977 related to the practice of forestry in Mississippi. During the 2007 Mississippi Legislative session, the law was amended to allow prosecution of individuals providing the services of a registered forester without holding a license.

As many of you know, the state law that has governed our profession since 1977 contained vague language that resulted in unlicensed individuals providing forestry services to paying clients. These individuals avoided prosecution by never referring to themselves as a forester or registered forester. In some cases this left landowners who were the victims of malpractice and/or unethical behavior with diminished legal recourse. The landowner could pursue civil suits in cases of malpractice, but the offender did not face the oversight or penalties of a regulatory board. With the passage of House Bill 1077, this loophole has been closed.

The majority of the law has not changed, and qualified individuals who are not registered foresters may still provide support services such as tree planting, pesticide application, timber cruising and prescribed burning. For a complete list of services exempted from registration as a forester, please see the Mississippi Code 73-36-5. Likewise, graduates of the state's two-year forestry programs are still permitted to provide the services for which they have been trained.

I urge you to familiarize yourself with the amended law, which is available on the board of registration's Web site [www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf), and to report any violations you witness to the board of registration. The board will follow up with an investigation of cases warranting such action.

The board of registration is thankful for the efforts of the Mississippi Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, the Mississippi Forestry Association, which

alongside the Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters, lobbied the legislature for passage of House Bill 1077. In addition, support from leaders of the state's two-year forestry programs was vital, and the board thanks the education community for its willingness to participate in crafting the legislation in such a way as to preserve the professional privileges of two-year graduates.

Also in 2007, the board rescinded its sponsorship program. In the past, the board has allowed registered foresters to formally agree to sponsor an unlicensed individual in performing work that would otherwise require licensure. In filing an official letter of sponsorship with the board, the registered forester accepted liability for any malpractice or unethical behavior on the part of the individual being sponsored and notified the board of the arrangement.

Unfortunately, a great many individuals claiming to be "sponsored" by a registered forester had never filed formal paperwork with the board and were simply operating under an informal agreement with a registered forester. Board records indicate that there are only six individuals who have actually filed for sponsorship with the board.

Because of the widespread confusion over and abuse of the sponsorship program, the board will no longer be approving sponsorships. The six individuals who were documented as working under sponsorship in 2007 will be allowed to practice until their current licenses expire on December 31, 2009. This change in board policy does not affect individuals exempt from licensure because they are employed by or are under the direct supervision of a registered forester.

We at the board of registration look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Randy Rice, Chairman

# Law of '77

## The Code of Ethics and The Registration Law

The Board strongly adheres to the belief that being licensed is a privilege. By accepting the licensure, a registered forester agrees to practice forestry according to the Law and to abide by the canons of the Code of Ethics.

**The Code of Ethics** is an integral part of our Law. The Code of Ethics and The Law work together to help to distinguish the profession of forestry and protect the people and natural resources of our state from those who would misuse the profession.

The Board encourages each registered forester and the general public to become familiar with the Code of Ethics, as well as the Registration Law.

## Sponsorship and The New Foresters Registration Law

As of April 24, 2008, the Board of Registration For Foresters will no longer allow the Sponsorship of non-

registered persons. On July 1, 2007 the Mississippi Legislature passed into law changes to The Foresters Registration Law of 1977 that require anyone who practices forestry in Mississippi to be registered under the Law. This legislation and the resulting changes to the Law provide greater benefit and protection to the people and the forest resources of our state by requiring those who practice forestry in Mississippi to be registered under the Law.

It is the position of the Board of Registration For Foresters that the Law should govern and speak for itself, that the Board members should administer the Law, and those who practice forestry should abide by the Law. With this understanding, there is therefore no further need for **sponsorship** under the Law. **73-36-5 (c)** states this chapter shall not be construed to prevent or to affect the work of an employee or a subordinate of any forester holding a license under this chapter; if that work is done under the direction, supervision and responsibility of a person holding a license under this chapter. **73-36-5** states that in order to benefit and protect the public and the forest resource, no person in either public or private capacity shall practice or offer to practice forestry, unless he...is registered.

Therefore, the Board recognizes that any person who offers professional forestry services, as defined by the Law, to any person should be the registered forester and not his unregistered employee or subordinate. Field work can be performed by the unregistered individuals under the supervision of the registered forester. Persons working under a licensed forester are to be an employee or a legally recognized subordinate. They should be able to provide proof upon request of this relationship with appropriate employment paperwork as provided under the employment laws of the state. As an employee or subordinate of a licensed forester, the work performed will be in the name of the licensed forester who will be responsible for all activities and performance results of that person. The subordinate can not work under his own name and can only receive compensation from the licensed forester who is his legal employer. Any and all work performed will be on the registered forester's letterhead and under the licensed forester's signature.



Governor Haley Barbour signs House Bill 1077 as Randy Rice, John Mitchell, and David Moody witness.

# meet the *State Board*

The State Board of Registration for Foresters of the State of Mississippi was created to safeguard forests by regulating the practice of forestry and requiring that persons practicing or offering to practice forestry to be registered. The board is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. One member is appointed from each of the six forestry commission districts, and one member is appointed at large. The State Forester of Mississippi serves as an ex officio member of the board. Each of the members is a registered forester with at least three years' experience in forestry, and a resident and citizen of the State of Mississippi at the time of his appointment.

Randy Rice	Chairman	Sumrall, MS
John Mitchell	Vice-Chairman	Corinth, MS
Jeff Stewart	Secretary	Carrollton, MS
Scott Smith	Complaint Chairman	Collinsville, MS
David Moody	Past Chairman	Philadelphia, MS
Clint Rounsaville	CFE Chairman	Brookhaven, MS
Buddy Lewis	At large member	Gloster, MS
Charlie Morgan	State Forester	Jackson, MS

Board member phone numbers and e-mail addresses are available on the web site at [www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf).



Kathie Parker is the Executive Assistant for the Board. She grew up in Foley, Ala. Her father was a spray pilot who flew Stearmans, a biplane used in the First and Second World Wars. While attending Auburn University she met

Robert Parker (Yes, he is the Dr. Parker who could have taught you at MSU's Forestry Summer Camp). They married in 1964 and had three sons: Robert II, Chris, and Daniel. Kathie has lived in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia before coming to Mississippi in 1974. Now Starkville feels like home. It seemed an easy transition for Kathie to take the job as Executive Assistant with the MS BORF Board in 1998, after working with Bob in their consulting business, Resource Consulting International, Ltd. and also working with ACF and the LA-MS Christmas Tree Association. When not in the BORF office, Kathie likes to quilt, work in her flower gardens and visit the children and two grandchildren.

## BOARD PROFILE



Randy Rice is the owner of Forest Owners Inc., a consulting forestry firm in Sumrall. He began his career as an employee of Forest Owners after his 1972 graduation from the School of Forestry at Louisiana Tech University. In 1986, he became the sole

proprietor of the business and in 1995 moved its operations from Yazoo City. In addition to being a registered forester, Rice is licensed by the State of Mississippi as a real estate broker. He is a member of the Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of American Foresters, Mississippi Forestry Association, the Longleaf Alliance and the Realtors Land Institute. Rice and wife Debbie live in Lamar County and are the proud parents of five children and a grandchild. Their daughter, Haley R. Wachdorf and husband Daniel live in Albuquerque, NM, with their ten-month-old daughter, Kate. Ryan Rice is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University and is preparing for a deployment to Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. Aaron Rice is a graduate of Mississippi State, a Purple Heart recipient and a first-year law student at the University of Mississippi. He and wife, Kelly Maxwell Rice, live in Oxford. Hannah Rice is a student at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Audrey Rice is a nursing student at the University of Southern Mississippi.

## BOARD PROFILE

**We want to hear from you!**  
**Contact the Mississippi Board of Registered Foresters at any time**



**BY WEB**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf)

**BY E-MAIL**

[borf@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:borf@cfr.msstate.edu)

**BY MAIL**

Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters  
 Box 9681  
 Mississippi State University, MS 39762-9681

**BY PHONE**

662.325.2772

**BY FAX**

662.325.5500

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday and Thursday  
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Welcome New Foresters 2008

Registration #	Name	Location
2428	Casey Benedict	Hattiesburg, MS
2429	Robert Rogers III	Russellville, AL
2430	Harold Quinney III	Demopolis, AL
2431	Mark Bedsole	Demopolis, AL
2432	Adam Wyers	Iuka, MS
2433	Brandy Bennett	Duck Hill, MS
2434	Jeremy Stokes	Vicksburg, MS
2435	David Wall	St. Francisville, LA
2436	Jamie Houston IV	Jackson, MS
2437	Will Pearson	Baldwyn, MS
2438	Fred Floyd Jr.	Florence, MS
2439	Joshua Thornton	Hattiesburg, MS
2440	Justin Hughes	Fulton, MS
2441	J. Brandon Renicker	Starkville, MS
2442	J. Clint Iles	Starkville, MS
2443	Brian LaBarre	Leland, MS
2444	Gilbert DeHuff	Columbus, MS
2445	William Taylor	Wetumpka, AL
2446	Merrill Nall	Waynesboro, TN
2447	Kevin Philley	Vicksburg, MS
2448	Jaysen Hogue	New Albany, MS
2449	Jason Hood IV	Vicksburg, MS
2450	Joelle Carney	Starkville, MS
2451	Richard Ladner	Petal, MS
2452	Cullen Dendy	Houlka, MS
2453	James Herndon	Camden, AL
2455	Joshua Moody	Kenner, LA
2456	Garret Nowell	Starkville, MS
2457	B. Landis Herrin	Starkville, MS
2458	Kevin Browning	Winona, MS
2459	Austin Shelby	Flowood, MS
2460	Jared Everitt	Pelahatchie, MS



# COMPLAINTS COMPLAINTS COMPLAINTS

### Scott Kelly RF #1971

Complaint: Unethical Conduct

Resolution: License Suspended

### Joe Stringer

Complaint: Practicing without a license

Resolution: Found guilty; ordered to cease and desist immediately.

### Starr Timber Company

Complaint: Offering services without licensure

Resolution: Agreed to cease and desist immediately.

Two other cases pending.

The Board of Registered Foresters takes your complaint very seriously. The practice of forestry without a license is prohibited by law and is a criminal offense. Unprofessional or unethical conduct in the practice of forestry by a Registered Foresters is prohibited. In order for the Board of Registration for Foresters to investigate an alleged violation, a complaint form should be completed in full, signed by the person making the complaint and notarized.

# Expired licenses as of 12/30/07

Mark A. Anderson	Hattiesburg, MS	Everett E. Johnson	Andalusia, AL
J. Doug Baldwin III	Brandon, MS	Scott M. Kelly	Clinton, MS
David O. Bennett	Baton Rouge, LA	Robert N. Kirkland	West Monroe, LA
Jacob M. Bird	Center, TX	Jason N. Kutack	Hattiesburg, MS
Tympel S. Blansett	Bruce, MS	Jack D. Leake Jr.	Collierville, TN
Timothy B. Boggan	Braxton, MS	Thomas C. Lines	Birmingham, AL
Daniel E. Bollich	Baton Rouge, LA	C.F (Trey) Littlepage III	Butler, AL
Howard T. Bonds	Fayette, MS	Mitchell C. Malone	Pontotoc, MS
W. Micah Boozer	Enterprise, AL	Robert C. Matson	Noxapater, MS
Robert T. Branton	Natchez, MS	Patrick W. McGough	Mobile, AL
Eddie M. Burris Jr.	Smithdale, MS	James F. McNeil	Philadelphia, MS
Eric E. Clark III	Denham Springs, LA	Mark R. Meagher	Albany, GA
Matthew T. Clarkson	Starkville, MS	S. Scott Milburn	Monticello, AR
James M. Cook	Columbia, MS	A. Scott Moore	Kosciusko, MS
Brian K. Darr	Northport, AL	Zachary A. Parisa	Phenix City, AL
James E. Davis Jr.	Mobile, AL	Thomas F. Pelletier	Old Town, ME
Scott T. Delaney	Bellamy, AL	Kenneth W. Rester	Baton Rouge, LA
Robert N. Eddy III	Hattiesburg, MS	Robert M. Rikard	Duckhill, MS
Edward E. Faurot	Louisville, MS	Michelle D. Rivers	Eastover, SC
Michael E. Fisher	Tyler, TX	David W. Senn	Madison, MS
William R. Gallagher	Kentwood, LA	R. Ben Shelton	Columbus, MS
Mitchell N. Garlington	Baton Rouge, LA	Kevin R. Stewart	Tupelo, MS
Robert A. Gilbert	Vicksburg, MS	Walter L. Stokes	Baton Rouge, LA
Stephen S. Gover	Eufaula, AL	John L. Sullivan	Baton Rouge, LA
Aaron R. Guillory	Greensboro, AL	Gary K. Swain	Hickory Flat, MS
John M. Gunn Jr.	Jackson, AL	L. Frank Walburn	Birmingham, AL
Richard N. Hagenson	Purvis, MS	W. Tyler Walker	Ralph, AL
Richard L. Harrington	Vicksburg, MS	Richard W. Whitney	Natchez, MS
John D. Hodges	Ashland, MS	H. Philip Wilson	Waynesboro, MS
Richard L. Hollis	Northport, AL	J. Tobey Wright	Alto, GA
Michael W. Hutcheson	Vredenburgh, AL		

## Changes in SAF Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) Credits

The Society of American Foresters has recently approved new CFE guidelines that will provide higher standards and accountability for CFE credits.

The MS BORF recognizes events with CFE hours assigned for meeting the continuing education requirements for registered foresters in Mississippi. However, the Board reserves the right to assign CFE hours to non-SAF approved events, or to not allow hours from SAF-approved events.

It is requested that courses be submitted to the State Coordinator for review to determine the hours of credit approved prior to the event. If pre-approval is not obtained, you only have 10 days from the date the event was taken to submit the event for credit approval.

For pre-approval of an event or questions about Continuing Forestry Education credits contact Clint Rounsaville at 601-384-5826 or [Clint@franklintimber.com](mailto:Clint@franklintimber.com).



# JUST THE FACTS

- There are 1,181 Mississippi registered foresters.
- There are 839 Mississippi registered foresters that reside in the state.
- The new SAF CFE changes will not affect the credits needed for renewal. Mississippi Foresters will still be required to have 16 CFE hours, which includes one hour of Ethics, every two years for renewal.

Please check the web site to make sure the office has your best mailing address (business address will be used unless notified). If your address is NOT correct, e-mail [borf@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:borf@cfr.msstate.edu) with your name, address change, and RF#.

**Congratulations to Stephen Emerson of Philadelphia, Mississippi. He chose the name of the newsletter, "The Mississippi Forester." Stephen won his renewal fee for 2009.**



**Did you know you can find a forester in any county in the State of Mississippi at the Board of Registered Foresters web site?**

**[www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf)**



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