



SFI UPDATE



North Carolina Forestry Association
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INTRODUCTION

This report details the North Carolina Forestry Association's involvement in projects, programs and outreach activities that are in direct support of the goals and ideals of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Some of these programs are done with the financial support of the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee. All of the efforts are carried out through the generous donation of time and effort by NCFA members who are determined to promote sustainable forestry and keep North Carolina's forests healthy and productive. The North Carolina Forestry Association (NCFA) staff is dedicated to providing guidance and support for all of these programs. If you have specific questions that are not addressed in this report, please contact Chris Brown with the NCFA at (800) 231-7723.

LANDOWNER OUTREACH

SFI 8.1.1 & 17.1.2

SIC Core Mission: Landowner Outreach

The NCFA participates in landowner education through direct phone contact, involvement in various state and national landowner groups, interaction with government agencies and services, other non-profits, and publication of electronic and printed materials.

A Landowner's Guide to Forestry in North Carolina is a NCFA publication that involves a collaborative effort among forestry professionals, the North Carolina Forest Service, SFI member companies, and other landowner interests. The goal of the publication is to give forest landowners in North Carolina a complete overview of forestry in North Carolina and the key steps each landowner should take in properly managing their forests to their management goals. The guide is now in its fourth edition, dating back to 1995. With each revision, the key elements of the SFI standards are addressed in addition to updates to any new regulatory or tax oriented changes in North Carolina and in the nation. Aesthetics, Best Management Practices (BMPs), critically imperiled and endangered species, management plans, reforestation and wildlife are some of the featured topics. These brochures are distributed by the NCFA and members whenever they interact with forest landowners, including personal visits, workshops and meetings.



A Landowner's Guide to Forestry in North Carolina

The NCFA's Landowner's Guide to Forestry in North Carolina is updated to the current SFI standards.



The NCFA is an annual sponsor of the Northampton County Forestry Association's Annual Meeting. The meeting includes tax and cost-share updates, regulations update, and a featured speaker. In addition to a great barbecue dinner, the presentation of the forest landowner of the year is the highlight of the event.

The NCFA attends landowner workshops throughout the state hosted by the North Carolina Tree Farm program, individual county landowner workshops, sponsored events by the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) and Society of American Foresters (ACF), North Carolina Farm Bureau, and county soil and water conservation organizations just to name a few. In each case, the NCFA sets up a booth that contains valuable information on forest management plans, forest inventory data, and informational resources for landowners such as posters. In some cases, the NCFA is asked to present an overview of the forest products industry, the forest resource as a whole in the state, and the legislative issues that might impact a forest landowners' right to execute their forest management plan.

PROMOTING WORKING FORESTS

SFI 17.1.4

N/A

The NCFCA successfully sponsored the “Right To Practice Forestry” legislation that was passed into law in 2005 by the North Carolina General Assembly. The protects forest landowners’ right to manage their forests as set forth in their management plan. This law became a necessity in North Carolina as the urban pressures grew as the state continues to rank in the top five of fastest growing states in population. Specifically, the legislation trumps any local city or county ordinance that includes a ban on “clear cutting” as long as the landowner has a forest management plan and the harvesting is part of that forest plan.



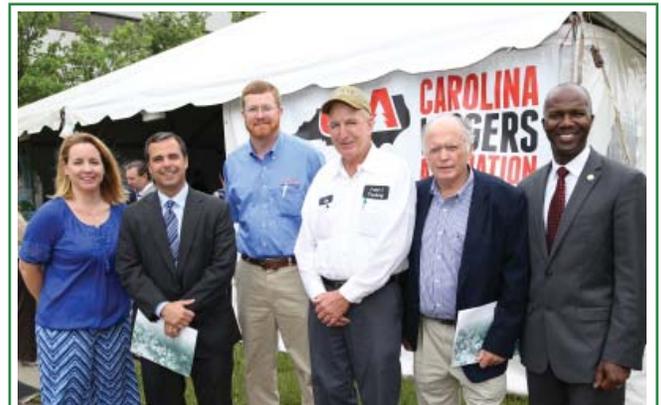
The Right to Practice Forestry Legislation in North Carolina provides protection to forest landowners following their forest management plans.

Staff from the NCFCA are part of North Carolina’s Present Use Tax Technical Committee, providing guidance for the state program that allows lands that are in agriculture, forestry or horticulture production to be taxed at the level the land is being used for and not its best market value use. In areas of a growing urban center, the difference between the present-use value and best market value may be very significant. It may be less of a savings in a rural area. The NCFCA initiated a review of the procedures of this program in 2013, resulting in a clarification memo to all county tax assessors on this program from the governor’s office. The NCFCA also promotes tax issues as they are delivered from the United States Department of Agriculture in all of its communications.



In November of 2010, the NCFCA developed a DVD highlighting working forest conservation easements. The DVD is available online under the Landowners tab of the NCFCA’s website or can be found on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbYVdjiqQmM&feature=youtu.be>. There are also supporting materials to go along with this production. It is available to landowners, land trusts and other state agencies.

The NCFCA is also a stakeholder in North Carolina’s Forest Development Program (FDP), which provides cost-share assistance for forest landowners for reforestation and timber stand improvement. Supported by NCFCA members, the FDP is funded through a severance tax based on consumption by forest products companies, generating close to \$1.6 million dollars annually for the state’s forestland owners. It is administered by the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS). The association provides updates on the availability of funds and progress of this program as they become available from the NCFS to its membership. The NCFCA maintains a task force to provide input from its membership on the program.



NCFCA members pose for a photograph before lunch at Forestry Day in the Legislature, which is an annual event bringing NCFCA members and elected officials together.

a grant project on developing education materials for landowners on working forest conservation easements and the DVD is highlighted earlier in this report. The grant also included funds to explore the establishment a working forest conservation easement entity in the state.

The NCFCA supported the development and establishment of a new land conservation trust, called the Working Lands Trust (WLT) aimed at providing landowners with the option of signing conservation agreements specifically designed for working farms and forests. The Working Lands Trust is an independent land trust with its own tax identification and board of directors. The WLT assists landowners throughout the state, but has a focus on the Sentinel Landscapes project.

STUDENT & TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SFI 17.2.1

N/A

Each year, the NCFCA and its membership reach out to teachers and students through two extremely popular programs. The Forestry & Environmental Camps are currently conducted in Greensboro and Wilmington and have taken place in as many as seven different locations in a given year. The camps provide hands-on instructions to students in dendrology, forest ecology, silviculture, tree measurement, land measurement, forest products history, and wildlife. These camps are staffed by NCFCA member volunteers and staff from the NCFS. Grants, many of which come directly from the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee, provide the funding for these education projects.

The NCFCA also sponsors the Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experience (SFTE), which is a four-day residential program that focuses on the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable forestry. During the SFTE, teachers visit a variety of forests and mills learning about forest management and the manufacturing of various wood products such as paper, furniture, plywood and lumber. Teachers participate in tours and hikes in



NCFCA member companies open up their doors to teachers to give them an up close look at the forest products industry during the Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Academy.

forests under various types of ownership and management plans. The SFTE takes place in Asheville, New Bern and Southern Pines.

The NCFCA also develops and maintains a supply of education tools for teachers such as “Goods from the Woods” boxes and posters that are available upon request. All materials are free and are distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

The NCFCA also participates in the North Carolina Science Teachers Convention that is held every two years in Greensboro. Loaded with Goods from the Woods boxes and posters, the NCFCA staff distribute materials and information about forests, forestry and the forest products

industry. These materials are also used by individual members on a regular basis when they are asked to speak to a classroom, Boy Scouts, or youth oriented groups.

The NCFCA also provides financial support for the Project Learning Tree (PLT) program and coordinates its PLT efforts through North Carolina State University.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

SFI 16.2.1

SIC Core Mission: Training & Education

The NCFA continues to work with its members to create the best professional development programs for our forestry professionals, including foresters and loggers.

The ProLogger Program was officially started in 1994 in response to a record 13 timber harvesting fatalities in North Carolina in 1993. In cooperative effort directed by the NCFA, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, the North Carolina Department of Labor and the North Carolina Forest Service share teaching responsibilities during the base ProLogger course. The base course promotes safety, business and environmental awareness. All loggers who want to become a ProLogger must take this base course that includes 1.5 days of classroom instruction and one field half-day session. A course schedule is listed on the final page of this report.



In addition to the base course instruction, which is supported by a comprehensive workbook, several guest instructors are invited to address the group on their specialty. Instructors include representatives from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, the North Carolina Tree Farm program, North Carolina Forest Service, including the area water quality forester, and the North Carolina Department of Labor.



The NCFA's ProLogger program teaches loggers to be safe, smart and environmentally aware while working in the woods.

On the second day of the class, the ProLoggers visit an active logging job where they see much of what they have been taught over the past two days demonstrated out in the field. ProLoggers are taught proper felling techniques, OSHA compliance for safety and environmental issues, and the importance of effective stream crossings from a NCFS water quality forester. During this field session, many of the courses topics are tied into the session as it pertains to the logging site. For example, if the track has a special site, it will be highlighted and visited.

In 2005, the ProLogger program added continuing education element where as all ProLoggers must take an annual class to remain a ProLogger in good standing. The

annual classes are referred to Modules. The ProLogger year runs from June 30th to June 30th. Currently, over 1,500 ProLoggers have taken the base class and have met their continuing education requirement. This year, all ProLoggers must take the Module course and pay their ProLogger dues by June 30th to remain in good standing.

The ProLogger database is maintained during the year and is reset annually in the fall to reflect a new training year. Since the training year runs from June 30th to June 30, a complete year starts and ends in June. This year's information now reflects the new ProLogger year, 2016-17. The complete list of ProLoggers and their status is available to NCFA member companies. Each ProLogger will show whether he/she has taken the class, paid dues, and status end date. Once a ProLogger has a "Yes" and "Yes", the expiration date will run to 8/1/2018.



A NCFS Water Quality Forester is one of the featured speakers during each field day of the base ProLogger course.

All ProLoggers are listed as being certified until 8/1/2014. This date provides the NCFA with the time necessary to process class registrations and dues payments received by the deadline of June 30.

If, by the end of the ProLogger year, a ProLogger misses the module deadline (*meaning he will have a "NO" under his name next to module*) of June 30, he/she will be removed from all listings until he/she has successfully been reinstated to the program. The program's guidelines can be found online at www.ncforestry.org under the ProLogger page.

The topics for the modules developed annually are put together in a collaborative way with input from several



Special sites come in all shapes and sizes. Some are original homes like this one and others can be found deeper into a forest track such as a burial site or former homestead site not quire preserved to the level of this house.

PROLOGGER MODULES OVER THE YEARS

Module 1: Water Quality: Harvesting Regulations.

Module 2: Water Quality: Stream Identification; Keeping North Carolina Green and Growing Video.

Module 3: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) for Loggers; Forest Aesthetics; BMPs for Land Management Contractors.

Module 4: Equipment Operations: Feller Buncher, Skidder and Chain Saw; Knuckleboom Loader Training; Oil Spills/Hazardous Communications.

Module 5: 4x4 Off Road Driving; In the Company of Trucks; FRA's Coaching the Professional Logger; Loss Prevention Control for Loggers.

Module 6: Slips, Trips and Falls; Stream Crossings; Planning, Conducting and Completing a Timber Sale

Module 7: Log Deck Safety; BMPs for Skid Trails; Equipment Maintenance; OSHA Regulations and Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Module 8: North Carolina BMP's to Protect Water Quality.

Module 9: Skidder Safety; Insurance for Loggers; Load Securement; Threatened and Endangered Species.

Module 10: Storm Damage Salvage Safety; Safe Operating Near Overhead Power Lines; Wood Chipper/Grinder Safety

Module 11: BMPs for Sediment & Erosion Control; Better Stream Crossings Using Portable Skidder Bridges; Truck Cost Efficiency; CSA 2010; New Entry DOT Audits; Invasive Species.

Module 12: Operation Lifesaver; Be Seen, Be Alive; Storm Damage Salvage; Special Sites; Field Technology; Fire Safety; PPE Review

Module 13: In The Company of Trucks - Survivor Run; Green Light to Home; Rules and Regulations for Forest Trucking; BMP Review; NC Tree Farm Overview.

Module 14: Rutting Prevention; Emergency Action Plans; Overhead Hazards; Technology.

(continued next page)

stakeholders, including the NCFA's Safety, Logging and Transportation Committee, the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, North Carolina Department of Labor and the North Carolina Forest Service. These different groups bring topics to the table they believe need to be reviewed by our ProLoggers. Consequently, important elements of the SFI standards have already been addressed in individual modules over the years and have been incorporated into the base ProLogger class curriculum.

Another element of the NCFA's professional development for its members is the association's Annual Meeting, which typically occurs in the fall. The three-day meeting features one day devoted to a speaking program that brings in a wide range of experts to address the top issues facing North Carolina's forests and the forest products industry. Membership has the opportunity to get the latest information on what may impact their decisions in the future.

PROLOGGER MODULES (Continued)

Module 15: Insurance Premiums - Math not Magic; MSDS TO SDS; Temporary Road Access Procedure; Logging Cost Analysis; Navigating NCFA's Website.

Module 16: The Basics of Logging Costs Analysis; Balancing Biodiversity on the Landscape; Log Truck Safety; PPE Maintenance & PPE Use

Module 17: Forest Health; Atlantic Coast Pipeline; Commitment to Compliance - Buffer Rules, FPG's Review; Storm Damage Harvests; Log Deck Appearance and Oil Spills; Open Face Felling.

BMP COMPLIANCE SURVEYS AND REPORTS

SFI 15.1.1b

SIC Secondary Mission: Forest Management

The NCFA actively monitors Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Forest Management Guidelines (FPGs) reports that are issued by the North Carolina Forest Service. The NCFS produces a quarterly electronic newsletter that is focused on regional BMPs. It is shared with NCFA members through its electronic weekly newsletter.

The link for the NCFS newsletters is: http://ncforestservice.gov/water_quality/bmp_newsletter.htm.

The NCFA actively seeks input from NCFS staff in the production of all training materials and ProLogger Modules. Topics covered in the modules are typically developed on problem areas the NCFS staff has witnessed in the field and needs to be addressed.



North Carolina Forest Service personnel inspect over 4,000 sites annually to monitor BMPs and FPGs. North Carolina loggers score extremely well. ProLoggers score higher on the average than a non-ProLogger.

AMERICAN TREE FARM & NC TREE FARM SUPPORT

SFI 8.1.3

SIC Core Mission: Landowner Outreach

Since the North Carolina Tree Farm Program (NCTFP) was resurrected in North Carolina in 2001, the NCFA has been a strong supporter of the program through financial contributions and staff support. NCFA staff developed several communications tools for the NCTFP, including the development of a newsletter, website, and promotional materials in the formative years. Currently, the NCFA provides sponsorship of the NCTFP Annual Meeting and continued staff support. Several Tree Farmers have served on the NCFA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee over the years. The NCFA is on the NCTFP newly formed Board of Directors.

STATE FAIR/LANDOWNER WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATION

SFI 8.1.1 & 17.1.2

SIC Core Mission: Informational Resources



The NCFA's promotes SFI and the NC SFI when it displays at workshops. Here, it is the Arbor Day Celebration at the Farmers Market in Raleigh.

The NCFA partners with the North Carolina Forest Service to have a display in the area that the NCFS calls home during the North Carolina State Fair, which typically reaches the one million mark in attendance by the end of the fair. The NCFA shares SFI materials on sustainable forestry as well as general forestry facts, *A Forest Landowner's Guide to Forestry in North Carolina* publication, and posters.

The NCFA also participates in numerous landowner workshops in a given year. Some of the groups are organized such as the Northampton County Forestry Association and other workshops are sponsored by the North Carolina Forest Service or other partner organizations.

INVASIVE SPECIES

SFI 8.1.1f

N/A

The NCFA also works closely with the NCFS and USDA on invasive species and pests that threaten North Carolina. The pests include Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, Laurel Wilt Disease and Thousand Cankers Disease. Information on quarantines and other precautions are delivered to members via workshops, electronic and mailed newsletters.

Module 17 includes a comprehensive segment on forest pests. It is hosted by North Carolina Forest Service and USDA personnel as well as one of the NCFA's ProLoggers.

The NCFA supports full funding for invasive species research and eradication by the North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina State University.



A look at a Emerald Ash Borer gallery under the bark of a tree. The galleries are small, but help to identify an infected tree.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM/WORKSHOP SPONSORS

N/A

SIC Core Mission: Landowner Outreach & Informational Resources

The NCFA speaks to various forestry groups during a given year. Several counties maintain forestry clubs or associations and the NCFA is asked to provide an overview of the forest resource, the marketplace, and the political and regulatory climate. The NCFA also uses this opportunity to update landowners on any key tax issues.

The NCFA also addresses forester groups such as SAF and ACF and works closely with the North Carolina Tree Farm Program with their workshops.



March 17, 2017

ZipLine

North Carolina Forestry Association

The NCFA is the state's oldest forest conservation organization, tracing its roots back to 1911.

GOT NEWS, EVENT, OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE?

Please send to Chris Brown by [clicking here](#) or call (800) 231-7723 ext. 2.

[l-r] Joey Ross of J & J Logging and Chris Hopkins of N.C. State University pose for a photo during a demonstration of a research project that Hopkins is leading in Granville County through funding provided by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Chipping for Answers

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

The NCFA sends out a weekly e-mail newsletter updating members on latest issues and upcoming events. The NCFA also prints a monthly publication that is mailed to its membership.

SFI AND TREE FARM CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

N/A

SIC Core Mission: SFI Program Integrity

The NCFA strongly encourages the recognition of all forest certification systems available for forest landowners by building codes such as the LEED standard. The NCFA made this issue one of its top legislative priorities in 2014 with its support of House Bill 628, Protect/Promote North Carolina Lumber. The bill encourages the use of locally sourced raw materials. It also calls for the end cost of a certification building code to be cost effective, meaning state buildings cannot commit to a standard that will not pay for itself in savings down the road. The NCFA continues to support a revision of the LEED standard at the national level.

THE NCFA

The NCFA, the state's oldest forest conservation organization, was established in 1911. Today it is a private, non-profit partnership of over 4,200 forest managers, landowners, mill operators, loggers, furniture manufacturers, educators and others concerned about the long-term health and productivity of the state's forest resources and the industries they support.

Mission Statement: The North Carolina Forestry Association actively promotes healthy, productive forests by supporting the efforts of landowners and forestry-related businesses and organizations who responsibly manage or use forests.

The NCFA seeks to serve its membership through four major programs – Legislative Affairs, Training for Forestry Professionals, Education and Communications. The NCFA provides support for the North Carolina SFI State Implementation Committee by hosting meetings, providing staff for meetings, and providing technical guidance on website development and maintenance. In addition, the NCFA assists in the collection of information for NC SFI SIC member companies when a third party is required.

PROLOGGER BASE COURSE SCHEDULE

Main Auditorium - Martin Community College - 1161 Kehukee Park Road, Williamston, NC 27892

----- Hard Hats and Boots are required for Field Day Session -----

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

Welcome, Registration & Introductions	8:00 a.m.
<i>Chris Brown, NCFA Staff</i>	
Forest Management & Environment	
• Chapter 1: Forestry Appearance & Perceptions	8:30 a.m.
<i>Mike Hoggard, NCFS Bertie County Ranger</i>	
• Chapter 2: Soil Health – The Importance of Rutting Prevention	9:00 a.m.
<i>James Caddy, NCFS Assistant District Forester, Elizabeth City District</i>	
• Chapter 3: Harvest Planning	9:30 a.m.
<i>Tom Gerow, Jr, Water Resources Staff Forester</i>	
Break	10:00 a.m.
Temporary Road Access Permit	10:15 a.m.
<i>Chris Brown, NCFA Staff</i>	
Forest Management & Environment	
• Chapter 4 Forest Health and Threatened & Invasive Species	10:30 a.m.
<i>Paul Mowrey, Water Quality Forester</i>	
• Chapter 5 Water Quality Regulations	11:00 a.m.
<i>Tom Gerow, Jr, Water Resources Staff Forester</i>	
Lunch on Your Own	12:00 p.m.
North Carolina Highway Patrol – Regulations & CSA	1:00 p.m.
<i>NCHP Officer Matt Bunn</i>	
OSHA Safety & Compliance	2:00 p.m.
<i>Eric Smith, NC OSH</i>	
Break	2:45 p.m.
Best Business Practices (Contracts, Company Types, Accounting, Truck Safety)	3:00 p.m.
<i>Chris Brown, NCFA Staff</i>	
Forest Certification – Why is it important?	4:00 p.m.
<i>Chris Brown, NCFA Staff</i>	
Biodiversity Video Production	4:30 p.m.
<i>Chris Brown, NCFA Staff</i>	

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017

Working Smart and Safe - Accident Reviews/PPE/Safety Logging Checklist	8:00 a.m.
<i>Chris Huff & Bryan Wagner, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company</i>	
Break	10:00 a.m.
Emergency Action Plans	10:15 a.m.
Forestry Mutual Insurance & NCFA Staff	
Working Smart and Safe - Insurance Basics/Safety Meetings	10:30 a.m.
Depart for Lunch and Field Day	12:00 p.m.
Review Deck Inspections – Eric Smith, NC Department of Labor	1:00 p.m.
Water Quality Review – Vance Coker, Martin County Ranger/ Paul Mowrey, WQF, NCFS	1:30 p.m.
Special Sites/Biodiversity – Chris Brown, NCFA Staff	2:00 p.m.
Chain Saw Safety/Proper Felling Technique – Bryan Wagner, Forestry Mutual	2:15 p.m.
Conclusion of Field Day	4:30 p.m.