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You Need Professional Help!

When it comes to good stewardship of your property, this isn't an insult

You've heard the adage that if you act as your own attorney, you've got a fool for a client. Well, the same applies to forestry. While it's easy to make it so, it's not a "do-it-yourself" proposition.

Forestry is a multi-faceted field of endeavor. It's an art that is practiced using a number of sciences: botany, ecology, dendrology, silvics, statistics, plant physiology, soil science, hydrology, economics, entomology, plant pathology, mensuration, and business management to name a few. The bottom line is there's a lot more involved in forestry than meets the eye.

Savvy landowners with an interest in maximizing their land's productivity get the professional help they need from consulting foresters. A "consulting forester" is defined by North Carolina G.S. 89 B-2 as one who:

- is registered by the State Board of Registration for Foresters;
- is a technically educated professional forester who is a graduate of a forestry curriculum of a college or university and who holds a bachelor's or higher degree in forestry; or who has shown equivalent knowledge by passing the written examination administered by the State Board of Registration of Foresters as provided in this chapter;
- is governed by the Code of Ethics of the Society of American Foresters;

- is competent to practice forest management, appraisal, development, marketing, protection and utilization for the benefit of the general public on a contractual or contingency basis;
- has not engaged in any practice that constitutes a conflict of interest or in any way diminished his or her ability to represent the best interests of his/her clients;
- and has filed annually an affidavit with the State Board of Registration of Foresters attesting to his or her compliance with the conditions of this chapter.

A list of qualified consulting foresters is available from the **NC Cooperative Extension Service** or the **NC Division of Forest Resources**. Some consulting foresters on this list have exceeded these basic requirements and are members of the **Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF)**. ACF members all across the state are available to help you:

- Enhance the health and natural beauty of your woodlands;
- Improve wildlife habitat to increase wildlife viewing opportunities, increase hunting lease revenue, or improve hunting success;
- Save money through lower property taxes;
- Receive fair market value for your timber through expert marketing;
- Accurately assess timber when you buy property and settle estates;
- Improve your returns-on-investment through silviculture; and
- Manage your woodland to reduce the risk of economic losses and improper taxation of revenues.

Why ACF?

ACF is a private organization dedicated to advancing the practice of professional forestry for the benefit of society. Foresters with an ACF designation are professional, college-educated, experienced, and are governed by a strict code of ethics. ACF Foresters are obligated to work in the best interest of

their clients and *no one else*, including themselves and timber purchasing entities. In short, they're on YOUR side.

For more information or to speak with a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters at no obligation, contact:



**THE ASSOCIATION OF
Consulting
Foresters**

North Carolina Chapter
P O Box 18742
Raleigh, NC 27619

919-303-9957

www.acfnc.org

Practicing Forestry for the Long Term

By Brandon A. King, Robert E. Bardon, PhD, Mark A. Megalos, PhD

Understanding current laws and regulations that may affect forestry is important. However, forest landowners can encourage communities to allow forestry practices in the future by following these suggestions:

- Obtain an approved forest management plan.
- Follow the forestry best management practices outlined in that plan to comply with local ordinances.
- Understand and comply with all local, state, and federal laws or regulations that apply to your land and management activities.
- Get involved in the planning and zoning process within your local government before ETJs are created, before annexations occur, and before zoning regulations are adopted, amended, and enforced.
- Serve on zoning and planning boards or community advisory councils, which offer recommendations to

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local governments on zoning and regulations pertaining to community appearance and land use issues.

- Provide guidance to local officials about forestry management and about how local laws and regulations impact forestry in your community, when possible.

Forest landowners need to anticipate development as they plan future management. Land uses will change, and forestry may be in conflict with new uses as communities grow. The following indicators can help you predict where and how your community will grow:

Comprehensive land use plans—Plans for future municipal or regional development will determine where residential, commercial, and other development will occur.

Being involved with local planning and policymaking, while practicing good forestry management, will help encourage the viability of forestry as a land use option for future landowners

Extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)—Properties within or adjacent to an existing or planned ETJ are likely to be annexed by a municipality. Land use regulations may change in the ETJ, and new land uses other than forestry, such as commercial or residential development, will appear in the ETJ.

Municipal annexation agreements—Agreements made between cities will delineate areas that each city may annex in the future.

Ordinances—Zoning and other ordinances, as they are developed or modified, will shape future development and determine allowable land uses.

Sewer and water extensions—Cities may extend water and sewer services to undeveloped areas to encourage population growth and new development. Landowners may have to pay for these extensions even if they do not access these utilities—unless they are in a voluntary agricultural

district program that holds these fees in abeyance.

Transportation plans—Plans that guide the expansion of a city or county's transportation infrastructure will show where roads are to be constructed and improved years in advance. ■

Get Involved in Your Community

By Brandon A. King, Robert E. Bardon, PhD, Mark A. Megalos, PhD

Tree protection and tree harvesting ordinances preserve visual appearance, protect habitat for wildlife and plants, and preserve trees important to a community's history and heritage. Landowners need to recognize that community concerns about forestry may determine the practices allowed on their lands in the future. Involvement in the community and awareness of concerns is a first step. Once involved, landowners can offer expertise and guidance about the benefits of properly managed forestland to both local officials and fellow citizens.

Become a resource to your community and local government:

- Learn about city and county jurisdictions and regulations that apply to your land. Your city or county manager's office and the city and county planning, zoning, environmental, engineering, and inspection departments can provide this information.
- Look online at local government Web sites for zoning ordinances, tree protection regulations, and other land use regulations. Remember that laws and regulations made available through local government web sites are not the legally enforceable versions—they are provided only for general guidance and reference. Local departments, city clerks, or county clerks maintain the official enforceable text.

Note: The failure of a county or municipal official to provide you with the most recent amendments to an ordinance or rule does not relieve you of the obligation of complying nor does it result in the imposition of liability upon that official or that official's employer.

- Ask questions of local officials and government staff about zoning or tree protection ordinances in your community. Guidance and contact information are often available on a

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city or county's planning, zoning, or environmental department web page and may also be available through the Extension Forestry web site entitled *Ordinances, Laws, Regulations, and Programs Affecting Forestry in North Carolina*, available at www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/ordinance.

- Ensure that your forestry operation complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Achieving compliance with regulations must be a goal of your forest management plan. Referencing local regulations and permit requirements within the management plan is one way to accomplish this goal. Keep in mind that each time the plan is revised, these references must be checked and updated.
- Do not engage in any forest management practices without first consulting and receiving official guidance from local, state, or federal departments that enforce laws and regulations that may apply to your forestland. Obtain all guidance in writing.
- Participate in the various planning boards, citizen advisory councils, or other groups or committees to become aware of local policies that may affect the use or management of your forestland. When possible, offer your perspective—that of the forest landowner, consulting forester, or resource professional—to concerned citizens and local officials.

NOTE: The preceding two articles were excerpted from *Practicing Forestry Under Local Regulations - Woodland Owner Note No 41* published in 2006 by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

Oldest Living "Tree" Found in Sweden

What's this? Scientists have found that the world's oldest living tree isn't Bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*). The oldest one was growth ring dated to just shy of 5,000 years old. An article published on National Geographic's Web site reported that research from Umeå University in Sweden recently found a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) that is approximately 9,500 years old. The tree can't be dated based on its growth rings since the above ground portions of the tree die back to the ground about every 600 years (This means that this particular spruce tree has died back to the ground 15 or so times over the millennia).



This is a tree?

Photo courtesy of National Geographic

Instead, researchers radiocarbon-dated the root system. The current age of the tree's above-ground portion wasn't reported, but it's only 13 feet tall. If you ask most folks, that's no where near as impressive looking as the Bristlecone pines which are now the world's oldest continuously standing trees.

Another interesting point about this Norway spruce is that it's growing in an area over 7,000 years earlier than originally thought. Did deglaciation occur earlier, was the glacier thinner, or did plants move back north faster than originally thought? Who knows?

For more about this fascinating plant and see a photograph of it, visit National Geographic's Web site at: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/04/080414-oldest-tree.html>

In Memoriam



Stanford (Stan) M. Adams, 74, of Four Oaks, died December 10. He graduated from NC State in 1957 with a BS Degree in Forestry. He began his 44-year professional career with the US Forest Service, holding positions across the South and in Washington, DC. In 1991, he became Director of the NC Division of Forest Resources and served in this position until his retirement in 2006.

As state forester, he was instrumental in the formation of *NCWoodlands* in 2005 and later served as president. He was an active member of the Izaak Walton League of America for 30 years, serving in many capacities, including national president. He was also active in the National Association of State Foresters and the Southern Group of State Foresters, serving as president of both. Other memberships include Society of American Foresters, American Forestry Association, NC Forestry Association, Forest Landowners Association, Public Relations Society of America, and the North Carolina Forestry Foundation. He was NC Registered Forester #877.

Stan served the forestry profession with distinction and was recognized throughout his career with many awards, including Distinguished Alumni Award from NC State, Distinguished Service to Forestry Award by the Appalachian Society of American Foresters, Society of American Foresters Fellow Award, Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of State Foresters, US Forest Service Golden Smokey Award, and NC Forestry Association Outstanding Service Award. He also received the prestigious Governor's Order of the Longleaf Pine.

Stan also served his country admirably in the Navy—both on Active Duty and Reserve—retiring in 1988 with rank of Captain.

Memorials may be sent to the Stanford Adams Scholarship Fund at North Carolina State University, Campus Box 8010, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-8010.

—Dianne Beasley
Assistant Director
NC Division of Forest Resources

Quotable...

"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have."

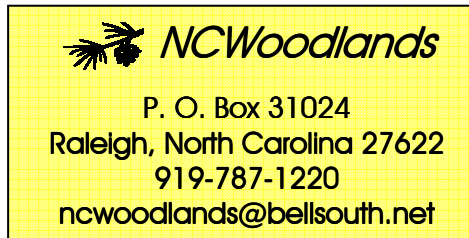
—Vince Lombardi


Stan Adams, *NCWoodlands*, and YOU

NCWoodlands has lost a good friend in Stan Adams. He recognized the need for an organization entirely devoted to the unique interests of private woodland owners and, in 2005, enthusiastically used the authority of his position as State Forester to help form *NCWoodlands*. That same year, he led a joint effort between the Division of Forest Resources, Cooperative Extension Service, and *NCWoodlands* to re-initiate a series of **Working Forest Summits** that attracted over 600 participants in three locations across the state. These summits helped jump-start membership in *NCWoodlands* and would not have been possible without his support. After his retirement, he willingly served as *NCWoodlands* President providing much wise counsel before the disease that caused his death overtook him. Were it not for Stan Adams, *NCWoodlands* wouldn't exist. Thanks, Stan!

For as little as \$15 per year, you can be a part of an organization that provides its members with a voice on national, state, and local issues affecting North Carolina's private woodland owners. *NCWoodlands* seeks to inform all North Carolinians on the benefits of forestry which include wealth creation, more wildlife, cleaner water, fewer wildfires, and healthier, more productive forests.

For a membership application to *NCWoodlands*, call, write, or email:



 **NCWoodlands**
P. O. Box 31024
Raleigh, NC 27622

Mission Statement of NCWoodlands:
To promote responsible stewardship of North Carolina's woodlands through sound and sustainable forest management.