



Volume I, Issue I

Casey & Company Forestry

# FOREST FOCUS

*With the threat of southern pine beetles on the rise, please keep an eye on your pine trees this year.*

## Inside this issue:

Good Decisions..	2
Project Bog Turtle	2
Southern Pine Beetles	3
Who We Are	4

## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of FOREST FOCUS.

The purpose of FOREST FOCUS is to provide the private forest landowners of northwestern North Carolina with a source of information about their forests. Working with private landowners, we realize you have a wide variety of objectives for owning your forests. While most of you are interested in growing and selling timber, almost all have additional reasons for owning forestland. Some are hoping to grow and harvest that record whitetail buck, others are more interested in observing wildflowers during quiet walks. We will try to cover all bases in this newsletter. There will be information on growing and selling trees, forest economics, and forest taxation. There will also be information on wildlife, wildflowers, birds, and probably even politics. Of course, there will also be information about our firm and the services we provide. We work very hard at continually improving our services to give you the information you need to make decisions about your forest.

Right about now I imagine you are asking just what is Casey & Company Forestry?

Casey & Company Forestry is a consulting forestry firm. We assist private forest owners with managing all aspects of their forests. We provide landowners with timber inventories and timber appraisals. We conduct timber sales. We help develop and implement forest management plans. We also provide technical support with geographic information systems, global positioning satellite systems, and assistance with forest taxation.

## Web Watch

What is our favorite Web Page? Why our own of course! Please add [www.caseyandcompany.com](http://www.caseyandcompany.com) to your favorites and check in on us. We pledge to keep it up to date and informative at least on rainy days. Bear with us as we work to fill in the gaps. If you are interested in learning more about the southern pine beetle that Colby writes about in his article, click on the southern pine beetle information center. In the future we hope to provide you with information on forestry and on current events that will affect you and your forest.

## Good Decisions Make Dollars and Sense W. Andrew Casey, RF, ACF, CF

As forest landowners you have to make decisions about your forest. I often observe landowners making poor decisions because of a lack of good information concerning their forestland. Many of these decisions have long lasting effects on their forest and on their pocketbooks.

What do you base your decisions on? As a professional forester, I suggest you start with an inventory of your forest. For foresters, a forest inventory is the same as a physical for doctors. An inventory allows us to assess the current condition of the forest and gather baseline information so we can monitor change. The basic information gathered should include forest types found on the property, timber volumes, tree quality and health, tree age and size, tree growth rates, and site quality. The inventory could involve gathering a wide range of additional data depending on your objectives

Once the inventory is completed an appraisal can be done to provide you with timber values. Some forestry terms and concepts are difficult to understand, but I find everyone understands dollars.

Now you have good information about your forest and will be able to make informed decisions. Questions such as: Should I sell timber now or wait ten years? Should I invest in crop tree management or leave that hardwood stand to grow? As with most things in life there is usually no one right way to manage the forest. If you like, a complete forest management plan can be developed from this information. If you would like more information about a forest inventory please call 336-838-5766 or e-mail [acasey@caseyandcompany.com](mailto:acasey@caseyandcompany.com).

## Project Bog Turtle

W. Andrew Casey, RF, ACF, CF

The bog turtle is the smallest known North American turtle. Most measure less than four inches in length. Bog turtles live in relatively open, spring-fed wetlands. They are found from New York State to Georgia and are currently listed as a threatened species on the federal list of endangered species. Project Bog Turtle is an initiative of the N. C. Herpetological Society with the goal of protecting the bog turtle and its habitat. Major objectives of the project are: 1) protection of habitat through leases, purchases, or easements; 2) habitat restoration and management; 3) surveys for new populations and sites; 4) continued monitoring and study of known populations; 5) landowner education and involvement; and 6) cooperation with federal, state, and local conservation agencies.

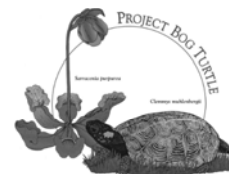
All members of Project Bog Turtle are volunteers. The organization itself is a non-governmental organization. Funding is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various foundations, and private contributors.

Currently, the primary means of protecting habitat is through lease agreements with private landowners. Approximately 50 acres are currently leased with a goal of 400 acres by 2004.

If you would like more information on Project Bog Turtle you can visit [www.projectbogturtle.org](http://www.projectbogturtle.org), go to the links page at [www.caseyandcompany.com](http://www.caseyandcompany.com), or give us a call at 336-838-5766.

### References

Personnal communciation with Dennis Herman Project Bog Turtle Coordinator  
Beane, Jeff. 2001. The Stick People. *Wildlife in North Carolina*



## Southern Pine Beetles Colby S. Lambert

The southern pine beetle is one of the most damaging forest pest in the southern United States. It's native to the United States and is about the size of a grain of rice and is brownish black in color. The range of the southern pine beetle extends south from Delaware to Florida and west to Texas. The primary hosts of the southern pine beetle are loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), but they do attack all native pine species in North Carolina including Virginia pine (*Pinus Virginiana*), and Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*).

The life cycle of the southern pine beetle from egg to adult is about 30 to 40 days and five or more generations per year are common in the southern United States (NC Forest Service). When the beetles select a host, the females attack the tree first followed by males, which are attracted, to the females' pheromones. The beetles bore through the inner bark into the phloem where they excavate winding "S" shaped galleries where the females lay eggs. Then the adults reemerge from the tree and attack other trees. The eggs hatch into larvae, which excavate at right angles away from the egg galleries where they mature and pupate. After pupation, the adults emerge from the tree and attack other trees. It is common to find reemerged and emerged adults attacking the same trees, due to the short life cycle of the beetle (Fred Hain, 1999).

There are several ways to identify southern pine beetle activity on pines. Infested trees will usually show yellowing of the foliage in a new infested tree, which will appear sooner in southern yellow pines than in eastern white pine. After two to three weeks of infestation, the tree foliage will turn brown (NC Forest Service). Along the trunk of the tree "pitch tubes" which look like popcorn are visible where the beetles bore into the bark and emerge from the tree. Reddish brown boring dust can also be seen around the pitch tubes or at the base of the tree.

In the southern United States, the southern pine beetle has caused an estimated \$901.8 million in damage due to lost timber from 1960 to 1990 (Price *et al.*, 1992) and losses in 1995 alone where estimated at \$305 million (USDA Forest Service, 1995).

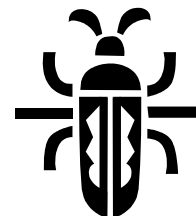
According to the NC Forest Service who completed an aerial survey of the number of southern pine beetle spots in North Carolina at the end of September 2000, the western NC is still battling the southern pine beetle. They reported 1951 spots in 32 counties, which has affected 1.5 million acres and the amount of timber lost has been estimated at \$12.4 million. According to the NC Forest Service, the cold temperatures experienced in January and February have not been cold enough to cause significant mortality within areas of high SPB activity. Increased mortality has been noted in higher elevations and on northern aspects but not widespread mortality. The NC Forest Service published a map with the newsletter that shows Wilkes and Ashe having an endemic (decreasing) SPB condition and Caldwell, Avery, and Watauga having an epidemic (increasing) SPB condition (NCFS Forest Pest Newsletter, Volume 42, No. 3, July-December 2000).

Prevention is the best means to control southern pine beetle attacks. Thinning dense stands is the best preventative measure. Properly thinned stands are not as susceptible to southern pine beetle and attacks are not as intense as in unthinned stands (NC Forest Service). Infestations with no fresh attacks or with 10 or fewer currently infested trees may die out and should be monitored before action is taken. The infested trees can be felled inward into the spot and left as a means of control. However, complete removal of all infested trees is the most effective way to reduce spread to healthy pines. All infested trees should be located and removed ideally before the adults emerge in the fall of the year. A buffer strip of about 100 feet around the spot should also be removed as a precaution against future spreading of the beetle spot. Environmental factors can also be effective in controlling beetle populations. Extreme cold temperatures can kill over wintering beetles and high temperatures can slow spot growth (NC Forest Service). The presence or absence of natural predators of the southern pine beetle can also affect populations.

For more information go to the Southern Pine Beetle Information Center at [www.caseyandcompany.com](http://www.caseyandcompany.com) or call 336-838-5766.

### References:

- Doggett, Coleman. NC Forest Service, *Southern Pine Beetles*, Brochure
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- USDA Forest Service. 1995. Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the United States, 1995. Forest Pest Management, Washington, DC.
- NC Forest Service. 2000. Forest Pest Newsletter, July-December 2000, Vol.42, No. 3.



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**Who we are**

**W. Andrew Casey**

Graduated from N.C. State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Worked in Wilkes County with a forestry consultant immediately after graduation, then went to work for Georgia-Pacific Corporation in Wake County, N.C. Moved back to Wilkes County in 1995 to work for a privately owned sawmill. Established Casey & Company Forestry on February 17, 1996. Currently living in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

North Carolina Registered Forester # 798

Member Association of Consulting Foresters

Member Society of American Foresters

Society of American Foresters Certified Forester

North Carolina Real Estate Broker # 141025

**Colby S. Lambert**

Worked with Willamette Industries, N.C. State Forest Nutrition Coop, and Casey & Company Forestry before graduating from N.C. State University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management and a Minor in Environmental Science. Began full time employment with Casey & Company Forestry in May of 2000. Currently living in Laurel Springs, North Carolina.

Member Society of American Foresters