



Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

Professionals advancing the science, technology, practice and teaching of forestry to benefit society and the environment.

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Up-to-date news on the Web at <http://www.ktsaf.org>

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Don Hodges, KTSAF Chair 2005 is shaping up to be an interesting year for SAF. One issue that you will be hearing a great deal about in the coming months is the Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Task Force report issued in December 2004. The VOS Task Force was chartered by the SAF Council to "evaluate the effectiveness of the current organizational structure" of the Society and recommend changes for improvement. The report has generated a great deal of debate and is a document that all members should review. Several of the more notable recommendations include changing the current Council from 11 districts to 7 regions (KT would be in a region with North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), providing students with a larger role in SAF, and reformulating the present working group structure. The Task Force and Council are seeking input from all members regarding the report and suggested changes or improvements.

You can find the report on the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf>. After you have reviewed the report, please feel free to contact the national office, our Council representative Bob Cunningham, or me (dhodges2@utk.edu). You may use the web to comment directly to the national office at the following address: www.safnet.org/members/member-pw/comments.cfm?requestedDoc=/members/member-pw/comments.cfm&. I will be attending the House of Society Delegates meeting in October in Texas and we will be spending a great deal of our time discussing the report and developing recommendations for the Council.

I look forward to an exciting year as we consider this issue as well as a number of other challenges for foresters in our Society. I also am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Meeting June 7-9 at the University of the South.

KTSAF SUMMER 2005 MEETING

The KTSAF summer meeting will be from June 7 to 9 in Sewanee, Tennessee. The theme is *Hardwood Silviculture and Conservation Issues in Upland Oak/Hickory Forests*. Registration material has been mailed to members. It is also on the KTSAF website (<http://www.ktsaf.org>) or available for those without Internet access from Ken Smith at (931)598-3219.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE SAF CHAPTER – Brant Miller, Middle TN SAF Chair

On April 15, 2005, the Middle TN SAF Chapter held its spring meeting, with lunch and business meeting taking place at Chad's Restaurant in Collinwood, Tennessee. Eleven Middle TN SAF members from five agencies and companies attended, as well as one guest from the Tennessee Department of Education.

New chapter chair Brant Miller thanked member Johnny Heard for setting up the meeting place, as well as for arranging a tour of the Hassell and Hughes Lumber Company sawmill and flooring mill after lunch.

The meeting focus was forester registration/licensing in Tennessee, which Dave Walters agreed to moderate (Dave sits on the National SAF Board on Forester Certification).

Although there were varying opinions expressed on how forester credentialing should be approached, the eleven members present unanimously agreed that some kind of forester registration/certification or licensing, if not both, was needed in Tennessee (one other member not present had e-mailed the chairman before the meeting expressing his support as well). Requirements should include graduation from an SAF-accredited college or university and a certain amount of continuing education each year. Under this system, practice standards will be established and a State Board appointed to review complaints against foresters, who will be held accountable for their actions. The Middle Tennessee Chapter believes that such a system will increase the professionalism and public image of foresters in Tennessee.

Dave Walters asked who, in addition to himself, would be interested in participating on a proposed statewide SAF committee to pursue the issue of formal credentialing of foresters in Tennessee. David Todd, Kim Rohr, and James Hancock volunteered. This committee would delve into the finer details of what credentialing should entail.

Other Business: It was brought to the Chapter's attention that Cheatham County is not included in the Chapter by-laws. The motion was made and passed to add Cheatham County.

Future Meetings: The Chapter will hold its summer meeting Wednesday evening of June 8th at the K-T SAF Summer Meeting at Sewanee, and will hold its fall meeting on Friday, October 14th at a location to be determined at a later time.

After the business meeting was adjourned, Johnny Heard led an interesting and informative tour of the Hassell and Hughes flooring mill and sawmill.

SOME THOUGHTS ON KTSAF DUES – John Rennie, KTSAF newsletter editor

The February 2005 KTSAF newsletter contained an end_of_the_year budget report for 2004, and a projected budget for 2005. The projected budget had expenditures exceeding income by \$3550 (\$6605 versus \$3055). This level of deficit concerned Gary Schneider, and led him to ask about the advisability of raising dues to help maintain a sufficient reserve.

In response, I prepared a history of KTSAF budgets back to 1943 using the archives compiled by Rick Wilcox, KTSAF historian and Ed Smith, KTSAF treasurer, obtained the schedule of current state, division and chapter dues from the SAF National Office. These are available as attachments to this newsletter.

[SAF2005 Dues Schedule](#)

[K-T SAF Finances](#)

What is evident from the graph is that our balance has fluctuated greatly over the last few decades. For example, in 1973 it was near zero; two years later it was up to about \$3000; by 1986, it was back to near zero, only to climb almost steadily over the next near several years to be at \$13,000 in 2003.

There are several possible reasons for such fluctuations in the balance. For one thing, some income sources, such as meeting revenue, can be near zero in some years and quite high other years; it depends on meeting attendance. Expenditures can also vary from year to year. In some years, we support projects, such as the SAF Leadership Academy, that require a major outlay. Other years may not have projects that involve large expenditures. Also, Ed Smith thinks that our not getting expenses submitted in the year in which they are incurred may have an effect.

What is the history on KTSAF annual dues? In 1991, we voted to increase KTSAF annual dues to \$7.00, effective in 1992. KTSAF dues were \$5 from 1967 to 1992 and \$2 from 1959 to 1967. Furthermore, two chapters have dues: East Kentucky at \$1 and Southeast Tennessee at \$2. In 2004, dues made up about 20% of KTSAF's total income. Other major sources of income were silent auctions (26%) and meetings (25%).

How do KTSAF dues compare to those in other parts of the country? State society annual dues range from \$4 to \$25. At \$7, KTSAF is in the lowest quarter (7 state societies are lower and 25 higher). Thirteen divisions [these are within multi_state societies] have dues ranging from \$1 a year to \$10. One hundred chapters [out of 350 in SAF] have dues; these range from \$1 to \$15 per year and average close to \$4.

My personal thoughts are that we are doing a good job with the resources we have. That is, we have been doing what KTSAF members want with their current dues and other sources of income. A dues increase is not needed unless we have some new, long_term program that needs additional support. For example, such a program could be one that promotes forestry to the public.

What do you think? Are you concerned about how KTSAF money is being spent? Do you have suggestions on how to better manage our revenues, on new programs, or other activities related to forestry in Kentucky and Tennessee, and to KTSAF? If so, let your chapter or state society officers know your ideas, or, better yet, get involved or more involved with KTSAF. Many members will welcome your involvement.

INTERMEDIATE WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR _ S290: A comment to the Editor

An announcement was sent to KTSAF members with email about this course being offered in a computer-based format. I received the following response from an on-the-ground forester with major responsibility in fire control.

Can't help but pass along a comment... I have some trepidation with the S290 being 'computer_based'. This course is more effective when done within a traditional pupil/instructor environment. For students who want to get the S290 course 'checked_off' it may suffice. However, for those who are involved in fire suppression or prescribed burning the lack of interaction leaves a bit to be desired. Some of these issues are: content inflexibility, eastern vs. western context, agency safety standards and instructor personal experience.

EAST TENNESSEE FORESTER HONORED BY TWF SAM BROCATO, FOREST CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR From the *Chattanooga* March 3, 2005

Sam Brocato, former USDA forester, has been chosen as the Forest Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. He was nominated by the Cherokee Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation. See http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_63467.asp for details.

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST 2005 KTSAF NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1, 2005