

# Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

## NEWSLETTER

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

Society of  
American Foresters



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

May 2009

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Allan Houston

I have heard many predictions about how the economy will recover, retract or react . . . and I've believed every one of them. Some say it will go up. Some say it will go down. I think so too.

The shotgun approach covers the whole board and pretty much assures a hit, eventually. But with the economy poking along like a bindlestiff with an empty sack, aiming low seems to assure the best chance of a hit. At least, with a target moving this slowly we do not need to lead it much.

But there are occasional good signs. I have often thought that the world economy could be gauged by the price of the #1 red oak lumber; and the price is holding fairly steady, if not stellar, it is not plummeting. Right now, the railway tie market is pretty good. But some aspects of our economy probably reflect a tie's view of the world. A tie must be unwrapped before it can be sold. That means the better lumber must be sliced away and sold before the tie can be exposed. Slowly, in a year or two, based on what I'm being told by people in the industry, the better aspects of the economy will begin to unfold and let all of us out.

Actually, as a forest ecologist and silviculturist, I am pretty much forbidden to take part in discussions about any facet of economics. As a tribe, silviculturists generally consider economists as being just so many fleas on the dog of good ideas. I have no patience with them, and that is only partly because I do not understand what they are saying, but also because economists, as a tribe, tend to be real smart and they see things, invisible graphs and figures that hover over their desk or follow them around like a halo.

I have several good friends who are economists and they also have tremendously inventive minds; so, once this is published I'll be opening my mail with a stick for several months. And, it is fair to say, that economists consider silviculturalists as just so many dogs with too many interstate highways to play in.

The upcoming summer meeting is going to be extraordinary and I encourage everyone to come. As I think about Urban Ecology and the theme of a forester coming to town, I am reminded that in some ways our profession has its roots in landscape architecture and horticulture. Carl Alwin Schenck recognized that his presence in this country was the result of Olmstead's, a famous horticulturalist, quiet insistence that Vanderbilt have a man come to the mountains who knew something of trees. In part, out of that vision our

profession arrived in the new world and its task has been one of a long line of stewardship. And, we deal with more than just the trees.

Aldo Leopold wrote, as part of his beautifully woven ethic, that "a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Leopold lived and wrote in a time when the country was largely rural and the great open spaces that lay naturally between farms was not yet seen as the last frontier. His vision transcended the norm and like all great artists, he could see what the blank spaces might someday hold.

The ideas of beauty and stability are things that we all might agree on. At the very least, being of the common ilk of the outdoors, we can all agree on concepts of the natural realm's splendor. Give me a high mountain valley, softened by the waving grass and ringed in white-capped mountains . . . and, we don't need to go there, you and me, to see it in our common mind's eye and approve of each other's contented sigh. The idea of stability is a bit more involved. And we'd need to talk a bit. But, a place to start might be Yellowstone's great fires with Smokey the Bear holding the match. We'd both know where to go after that.

When we get to the idea of ecosystem integrity things are more complicated and it comes down to the loss of the system's natural function and membership. We will be discussing all of these this summer and I am looking forward to hearing what can be done to preserve all three of Leopold's litmus tests as the new pioneers take back the land of their Grandfathers.

I will leave you with this, a plodding little poem that describes, for me, the great struggle of a previous generation on these same lands; indeed the very land that we will walk on this summer. These settlers also were pushed from places that were overcrowded and drawn to a place where open spaces still existed. They were not so much different than us, but they had more space to work with; but eventually their magnificent grip on the land lost for them what they loved, as it ran between their fingers. They wore a fertile soil down to the interface of the underlying sands that could not support them. They buried their hopes at that interface. Indeed, they were not so different than us, unless we've learned enough to do better. At least we can talk about the things that people want to hold so tightly nowadays, so tightly that they can disappear.

Leopold likely saw it coming long ago.

### Two Deaths Meet

Plow point knife  
carves the life  
from the face of every hill,  
and Rain's dark flood  
like living blood  
chokes the brook with earthy swill.  
Six feet deep  
there lies asleep  
another land  
of sterile sand,  
and nothing left to till.

A wrinkled land  
A work rough hand  
A baby's midnight cry.  
Muddy water  
Starving daughter  
Life's last breath a sigh.  
Work the ground,  
wear it down,  
make another crop,  
cannot ever stop,  
else we'll surely die.

Casket corner  
at the border  
of the place where two deaths meet.  
Father's girl  
and land infertile  
beneath the Pilgrim's feet.  
Make a crop  
don't ever stop,  
devour the land,  
build castles on the sand,  
in the place where two deaths meet.

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### SAF COUNCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Dale Weaver

An abbreviated Council Meeting was held Feb. 21 – 22 in Minneapolis and the following notes highlight some of the actions and discussions that took place. Some exciting activities will be forthcoming to improve membership services, especially to address our website and database records. Look for these changes coming soon.

1. **New Membership Database** – SAF will be purchasing a new database and migrating our current data during 2009. This new database will integrate directly with our accounting software, which will reduce workloads on staff. Some of the key advantages, members can easily renew their memberships online, Continuing Education tracking will be much easier, and new and improved website interaction.
2. **New Website** – A new look and functionality to our

SAF website will be rolling out very soon. A completed Online Dictionary of Forestry and Encyclopedia of Forestry are about finished. Look for announcements any day now.

3. **Financial Update** – 2009 will be a tough year, with more diligence and caution applied to budget decisions. The good news; more than 10,000 members have already paid their dues for the year, ahead of where we normally stand.
4. **Emergency Position statements** – A new procedure will be followed on emergency positions. The entire Committee on Forest Policy will be involved in adopting these positions in the future to make sure all interests are considered.
5. **High Grading position statement** – Council voted to send this issue to committee to study and better understand the definition before making a stand.
6. **International Trade in Forest Products position statement** – Council approved.
7. **Leadership Academy for 2009** – Due to low registrations, this has been cancelled. A new committee is looking at Leadership Development and will come out with plans soon. One idea is to incorporate the Leadership Academy and the House of Society Delegates together at the Convention. Look for more on this.
8. **2009 Convention at Orlando, Florida** – Early registrations are going well, with families looking at this as their vacations. Our keynote speaker will be Charles Mann, the author of "1491". A harvesting operation will be close by for tours. Room rates are around \$140 per night, or you can stay at the Disney Campground for \$45 per night and have room for 2 tents and 10 people, plus high speed internet for an additional charge. If you haven't attended a Convention, this is the year to do so.
9. **State Society Meeting registrations** – The National Office can provide services to conduct registrations for State Meetings. This is an outstanding benefit since it takes the burden of local volunteers in handling money, producing name tags, managing meeting lists, and improves the integration with the CE program. Those using this service give very positive feedback. Also, newsletters can be shipped out with the Forestry Source if needed.
10. **SAF Strategic Plan** – A new strategic planning process is in the works and will be rolled out with Council in 2009. This will help plan action steps and track performance and outcomes.
11. **SAF Communications Committee** – The new campaign, "Trees are the Answer" is off and running. Look for ways to get involved and promote.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about any of these issues. Also, if there are any new issues that need addressing, the next Council meeting will be held in Bethesda on May 30 – 31.

Thanks for allowing me to serve in this way.

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### **CREDENTIALING OF FORESTERS IN TENNESSEE – Dave Walters**

Forester registration is still alive and moving forward within the forestry community. During the April meeting of the Tennessee Forestry Commission, Chairman Bill Williams restated Commission support of the recommendation proposed by the SAF subcommittee. Several voices on the commission felt that formalized credentialing would be coming to the state in the future and foresters should be directing the process rather than being driven by it. Third party certification of land, carbon credit trading, and biomass to energy are all issues that will drive the need to have a formalized credential in place.

During the Commission's discussion, the group was informed that TFA had established an ad hoc committee to discuss the proposal with the SAF subcommittee on credentialing.

Even though the ad hoc committee has yet to meet, I have reason to believe that the necessary process of informing the forestry community is ongoing. I think our best shot to establish a Credentialing Board will be as partners with TFA and with the support of the Forestry Commission. I also think that Tennessee foresters must take steps to get Registration through the legislature and signed by the Governor which include promoting the proposal this summer/ fall while our legislators are back home campaigning, contributing money to support TFA's lobbying efforts, and promoting the proposal to colleagues and neighbors. Probably the most powerful voice we can have as supporters of Forester Registration will be forest landowners. Each of us must share our views with forest landowners and encourage landowners to promote Forester Registration.

I'm certain that foresters will be registered in Tennessee and I am committed to working to see that practicing foresters design the process.

### **PLT IN TENNESSEE NEEDS YOU! – Dave Walters**

How many of you K-T members have been trained as a PLT facilitator? You are needed. Tennessee PLT is rebuilding our facilitator list and we need a cadre of good forester facilitators. Tennessee is seeing an increased interest in PLT workshops for local teachers and we expect to see a boom as No Child Left Inside sweeps through Education.

Please, if you've been PLT trained and are interested, send your name, phone number & e-mail to [Dave.walters@tn.gov](mailto:Dave.walters@tn.gov), or call 615-837-5470.

Opportunities are blooming!

### **AWARDS**

- **Jeff Stringer** received his certificate for SAF Fellow. (photo: left - Ben Worthington, right - Jeff Stringer)



- **Allan Houston** has been honored with the prestigious National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal for his outstanding work in conservation and education.

### **KT SAF Awards Committee**

This is the time of the year to be thinking about nominating folks for the national and local SAF awards. There are 12 national awards. I will not list all the awards here. You can find them at the National SAF website:

<http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm>

Locally, for the KT SAF, we have several awards.

- Outstanding Member Service Award 35 years old and under
- Outstanding Member Service Award over 35 years old
- Outstanding Service Award to a Technician
- Herman Baggenstoss Forestry Recognition Award

The Herman T. Baggenstoss Forestry Recognition Award is for an individual or group where contribution to forestry has been beyond the demands of their regular employment. The recipient should not be a professional forester. The Herman T. Baggenstoss Forestry Awards will be presented to a recipient from Kentucky on odd years and a recipient from Tennessee on even years. This is the year for Tennessee to nominate for the award.

A nomination form for the KT SAF awards can be found at

the KT SAF at the following address:

<http://www.ktsaf.org/News/Committees/Awards/Year%202003/KT-SAF%20Award%20Nomination%20Form.htm>

There are 3 Ways to contact me. You can mail me the nomination forms at the following address:

Ben Worthington  
PO Box 889  
Winchester, KY 40392-0889

You can e-mail me your nomination at [benworthington@bellsouth.net](mailto:benworthington@bellsouth.net)

You can also contact me by phone at 859-749-6254

Please make my job tough. We have a lot of good people in the KT SAF doing excellent stuff. Send me their nominations.

Ben Worthington  
Awards Committee Chair

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### East Kentucky – Ben Worthington

We had an Executive Committee meeting on February 23. The meeting was open to all members of the East KY Chapter.

### **E KY SAF 2009 Spring Meeting**

The coming spring meeting will be at Robinson Forest on Thursday May 21st. The main topic for the meeting will be the Streamside Management Zone research project implementation at Robinson Forest.

### **KT SAF 2010 Winter Meeting**

The primary objective of the meeting was to initiate planning for the Winter 2010 KT SAF meeting. An organization structure of the meeting was set up:

The KT SAF Executive Committee will meet at 6 PM on Wednesday January 27. The Winter Meeting will begin on Thursday morning and end at noon on Friday January 29. The quiz bowl will be conducted after the Thursday session ends and before the banquet Thursday evening. We are still considering an optional field trip on Wednesday to look at industrial operations.

### University of Kentucky – Steve Bullard

The UK Department of Forestry will be welcoming Dr. Andrew Stainback to the faculty, beginning July 1. Stainback has a B.S. in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech, an M.S. in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana,

and a Ph.D. in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida. He also holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Florida State University. The faculty position to be held by Stainback at UK is 70% research and 30% teaching, and will be oriented toward forestry and natural resources policy. The Department has two open faculty positions, formerly held by Dr. Tammy Cushing (management-economics) and Dr. Dave Maehr (wildlife), and we have no word yet on whether approval will be received soon to refill. Steve Bullard will be leaving the Department on June 30, to become Dean of the College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University. The Department will have an interim Chair, and a national search will be conducted to fill the vice-Bullard position during the coming fiscal year.

The Department is waiting to hear from the university on whether a newly-designed undergraduate forestry curriculum will be approved for implementation in the fall of 2009. The undergraduate forestry program at UK will be reviewed for SAF accreditation in 2010 while in transition to the new curriculum.

### University of Tennessee – David Buckley

The UT student chapter of the Society of American Foresters/Forestry Club sent 15 competitors to the 52nd ASFC Conclave hosted by Alabama A&M in Huntsville, AL March 12-15. This year's conclave was one of the rainiest on record, but despite the wind, rain, and temperatures, the host club was able to hold all but one of the 22 physical and technical events.

Junior Austin Carroll took first place in compass and pacing, and senior Mike Carr took second place in timber estimation. Other noteworthy results included senior Hailey Moss taking 4th in women's bow saw, senior Mike Carr and junior Matt Carr taking 4th in log rolling, and junior Brandon Stephens taking 5th in axe throwing. Junior Adam Lethco competed in the Stihl Timbersports events, and held first place through the underhand chop and stock saw events, but was displaced from first after the standing block chop and 1-man buck saw events. Special recognition for competitive spirit also goes to sophomore Dillion Alley, who took several dips in the pond while competing in log birling for the first time, and tied for 7th place.

15 southern schools with forestry programs competed in the conclave, and the University of Arkansas-Monticello placed first, Stephen F. Austin University placed second, and University of Georgia placed third overall.



Members of the UT team this year were:

Cara Alexander	Justin Coffey
Jay Messer	Dillion Alley
Andrew Ellis	Hailey Moss
Matt Carr	Jonathan Harb
Kevin Pipkin	Mike Carr
John Johnson	Stephen Short
Austin Carroll	Adam Lethco
Brandon Stephens	

Founded in 1941, ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. ATFS promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. ATFS has enrolled 24 million certified acres of privately owned forestland and 910,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. Landowners manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation with assistance from 4,680 volunteer foresters.

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## OF INTEREST

News Update  
Friday, May 1, 2009

Contact: Brigitte Johnson, APR,  
Director of Communications  
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***The American Forest Foundation is now accepting comments on the REVISED Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands***

**Washington, D.C.** - AFF is now accepting comments on its revised Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands (2009-2013) beginning today, Friday, May 1st through Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:00pm (EDT).

The AFF Standards are the basis for its forest certification program, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The revised Standards were developed by the Independent Standards Review Panel.

All stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to comment on the revised Standards. For more information on the American Forest Foundation's standards setting procedures, please visit [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org).

During the review process, it is extremely important that the Panel hear from all stakeholders - family forest landowners, Tree Farmers, volunteers, natural resource and forestry professionals, conservation organizations, PLT coordinators, educators and volunteers, and other partners.

The 60-day public comment period begins Friday, May 1, 2009 through Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:00pm (EDT).

To submit comments on the revised AFF Standards, please visit [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org) or email [Certification@forestfoundation.org](mailto:Certification@forestfoundation.org) for more information.

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The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) conservation and education organization that strives to ensure the sustainability of America's family forests for present and future generations. Our vision is to create a future where North American forests are sustained by the public which understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits they provide to our communities, our nation, and our world.

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## FOR FUN

### **Broke Monks** (submitted by David Mercker)

Some monks were running low on funds, but didn't want to close up their monastery. After much consideration, they decided to start selling the flowers they grew. Soon after opening up shop, business boomed, much to their delight. They had plenty of cash now for burlap and oatmeal and everything else good monks need.

Unfortunately, the town already HAD a flower shop. The disgruntled owner of the rival store tried everything -- having discount sales, spreading slander about the monks, and even poisoning the monks' flower beds. Unfortunately, they'd been blessed and nothing could stop their little business.

Finally, the rival shop owner sought out a much-rumored-of man: Hugh. No one knew his last name, just that he got the job done, no questions asked.

After the appropriate amount of money had changed hands, Hugh went over to the friars' place, thoroughly beat them silly, and then destroyed their flower beds. The next day, the monks promptly boarded up the windows and closed shop permanently, thus proving that Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

**SUMMER MEETING – Nick Bridgeman**

The West TN Chapter is gearing up for the KTSAF’s Summer meeting here in Lakeland TN. The Meeting is on June 11th starting with registration at 12pm and speakers until 430pm, business meeting at 530 and dinner at 630. The next day June 12th starts with registration and silent auction from 7-8am with the first speaker beginning at 8am and last speaker finishing at 1030am.



The meeting ends with a tour and lunch from 1030am-200pm ending in settling of auction items. Our title for the meeting is “The Forester Comes to Town: Managing the Suburban Wilderness”. Topics range from Conservation and Urban

Growth Management to Ecology of Urban Wildlife as well as Non-Native Invasive plant presentation by Dr. Jim Miller. A block of rooms has been reserved just down the road from the meeting site. Early registration (before May 27th) will be \$85 and late registration will be \$95, with Students having a \$45 flat rate. If you have any question please feel free to contact me at [nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org](mailto:nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org), or David Mercker at [dcmercker@utk.edu](mailto:dcmercker@utk.edu).



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