

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>

August 2008

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Tammy Cushing

It's August already! Incredibly the temperature feels like fall and it is about time for school to resume. With the start of school comes another class of foresters. Each year, the faculty advisors work to recruit students into the Society of American Foresters. It seems like a simple enough task, yet it isn't. I know all the benefits of being a member. So, I ask myself, why did I join as a student??

The answer is simple really. My professor told me I should. Funny, that isn't working for me. Ask yourself the same question. Why did you join SAF? Studies done by SAF have shown networking is one of the main reasons members joined the organization. Let's work on networking. When we go to an SAF meeting, we all talk to our friends and acquaintances, but who else do you speak with? I know from experience that our members reach out and make newcomers feel welcome. Who else? How about the students at the meeting? Do you talk to them? I make every effort to, but again, I'm one of the professors. Those of you who have "real jobs" (not my words, but student perceptions) are more likely to impact the students. If each of my students was to hear from a professional forester why they should join SAF, they would probably join.

For example, in the spring of 2007 I was in charge of a local chapter meeting and the subject was university education. The meeting was held so that we could visit a property belonging to a family that had allowed my capstone course to complete an inventory and management plan on their land. I asked my students if they would be willing to attend the meeting and present to the local chapter their experiences in the class. Out of 13 students, only four were members. One student (a non-member) took me up on the opportunity. He did a great job speaking with the professional foresters. At the end of the day he signed up for SAF. It took that meeting for him to see the benefit of becoming a member and taking advantage of the networking opportunities. It didn't hurt that he was the only student there and the professionals all wanted to talk to him.

Sometimes it is just that simple. Other times, it isn't. So what are some other barriers to students becoming members (and staying members after graduation)? Cash flow is a big reason. Membership in SAF is a real deal for students at \$35 a year. With the rising costs of EVERYTHING, students are not prioritizing their funds towards membership. This is a problem you can help. Around the country, some local chapters (and state societies) have chosen to sponsor a student membership. This is a fantastic idea. Going further on the sponsorship idea, whether you choose to attend the National Convention or not, you have the opportunity to Adopt-A-Student. Students who attend the National Convention are greatly rewarded through networking opportunities with professionals and students across the United States.

My final thought on student support is mentoring. A lot of forestry students aren't sure exactly what they want to do upon graduation. Foresters who are willing can meet with students at their leisure to discuss career paths. As a faculty advisor, I would appreciate having willing foresters to pair up with students for a day of job shadowing. This is just one more way members can introduce students to SAF.

Truth be told, most of these suggestions were done for me as a student. Once I joined because I was told to, I attended a state society meeting. I got a lot more out of the conversations with the foresters during the breaks and meals than I did out of the program. I can still tell you the names of the foresters I met there (13 years ago!). My membership has never been paid for by anyone else but my attendance as a student at meetings was. I'm pretty sure I'd be in a different place today without some of this assistance. In fact, I met several of the Tennessee members when I was a student in Mississippi. I have had several mentors so far in my career. They all have one commonality: SAF membership. Let me say they were not just members but committed members. Bottom line, you never know when you can make an impact on someone. My challenge for you is to reach out to our students. They are the future of our profession and of our organization. Make a difference! Tammy Cushing can be contacted at (859) 257-2149 or tamara.cushing@uky.edu

SAF COUNCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Dale Weaver

First off, I have now completed one half of my 3 year term as your Council Rep., and I cannot believe how quickly it has gone by. Starting in 2009, new candidates for Council will need to step forward and take on this challenge. I find it both fun and challenging and highly recommended. Please let me know if you have questions about running for this position.

Congratulations to our new slate of Fellows for District 9: **Robert Heinemann, James Foster, Thomas Hennessey, Bruce Wakeland, Pete Woyar, and Jeffrey Stinger**. Each of these nominees exceeded the high standards set by District 9's Fellows Committee, and the final approval by Council. A special Fellows recognition reception will be held at the National Convention this year for the first time to honor the new and current Fellows.

Congratulations also to the 2008 Field Forester of the Year from District 9: **David Allen**, a district forester with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. David will receive his award at the National Convention along with the other winners across the country. Thanks to all of the other candidates. We had a great slate to choose from, and any of these should be considered for future recognitions.

Here are the highlights from the June Council meeting held in Priest River, Idaho.

Endorsement of Policy Reports: Council approved the ***Task Force Report on Managed Forests and Climate Change*** after many revisions. Council was split on the underlying tone of the report; is global climate change man-made or cyclical, can we change the climate if we change our ways, etc. Once the tone was balanced out, the report was accepted by majority vote, and will be published in a book for policy makers in this time of debate. It offers forest management as a tool that needs to be considered if any cap and trade system is adopted. As a huge skeptic in this global climate change debate, I'm OK that the final product provides the guidance we need right now to be at the table in these debates. Look for the publication of this report in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Forestry*.

Wildland Fire Management and ***Using Herbicides on Forest Lands*** position statements were both approved by Council.

Testimony at Senate Committee on Appropriations was also a contested issue, particularly around the funding level recommended for State and Private Forestry. SAF uses many sources to develop testimonies, including input from the Council on Forest Policy who agreed with the 100% increase over the President's proposal. The enacted figure for 2008 was \$262.8 million, the President

proposed \$109.5 million for 2009, and SAF recommended \$207.5 million. This compromise was felt to compliment the proposal for the entire appropriations Council approved the testimony, and recommended that Staff get more input from the CFP in the future around this issue.

Comprehensive Field Trip Insurance: The additional cost for this coverage would be \$84,475. After reviewing this year's field trips that were pre-planned by the local units through the insurance broker, there were almost no additional costs associated with those field trips and meetings. Council voted not to purchase this additional insurance coverage and stress the importance of local units to contact the insurance broker as soon as they know the specifics about their upcoming meeting. Try to provide this information 60 days in advance of the meeting: copy of program; detail any travel plans for members, participants, and spouses; and if using contracted transportation, a copy of the contractor's evidence of insurability, certificate of insurance, and the SAF unit would need to be listed as an insured party. Avoiding guns, boats, alcohol, fun runs and other athletic events will further reduce the risk of additional insurance premiums.

National Convention at Reno, Nevada: you all should have received a copy of the early registration brochure for this meeting. This will be one of the cheapest venues that SAF has used in many years. The very competitive room rates, the cheaper flights into Reno, and the free shuttle to the hotel will make this a very affordable Convention. Please consider attending this year. The dates are November 5 - 9.

Draft Strategic Plan of SAF: the current SAF strategic plan is too long and not operational, so a new strategic plan will be forthcoming this year. I will be chairing this effort focusing more of the action plan for Council activities, then passing those action items down to the local units. Each local unit can then develop their own action plans using the strategic plan as a template. If there is anyone in the District that would like to assist with this effort as additional support, please let me know. Look for more on this in 2009.

Sale of National Headquarters: progress is slow, but steady. Any major real estate transaction is complicated, and this one is no different. Besides the normal processes with Nation's Academy, the purchaser, the good people of Montgomery County seem now to be overly concerned with this sale and are issuing nominations for green space and historical preservation with the idea to stop this sale from going through. Look for a new report on the progress coming out in the July *Forestry Source*.

Student Representative Report: Steve Purvis, the student representative to SAF Council, provided a report on their recommendations. They would like to see the student section of the SAF web-site improved; a Face Book site set up for students; and involvement with a plan for membership retention and recruitment. He also recommended that if the State Society Committees do not have the Student Chapter Chairs on the Executive Committee, they should be included as a non-voting member. I see this as a great idea.

SAF Leadership Academy: a very successful Leadership Academy was held at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD in May. Fifty three attendees completed the event and 97% rated their participation as good or excellent. A committee is working on the next Leadership Academy that will be held in 2009. The location and specifics will be conveyed at the National Convention in Reno.

As always, feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, arguments, and problems. Thanks for allowing me to serve in this way. Contact Roger Weaver at Phone: 740-772-0865 or 740-649-4069 or Roger.Weaver@glatfelter.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Forestry Field Day - Saturday, August 23, at Standing Stone State Forest in Overton County. This year's theme is "Forest Management for Non-game Wildlife," and will include speakers from TWRA, TDF, and UT Extension. A tour of the forest will be included. Each participant will receive (and learn to use) an authentic hard maple Biltmore stick. To register, contact TFA at 615-883-3832. From David Mercker, PhD., CF®. Extension Forester University of Tennessee 605 Airways Blvd. Jackson TN 38301 731-425-4703 dcmercker@utk.edu

2008 Central States Forest Soils Conference - October 14, 15, 16, 2008 in Bellville, Ohio. The theme for this year's conference is "Change." Early registration for the Forest Soils Conference is \$80 – after September 30th registration is \$95. For details, contact Kathy Smith, Extension Associate - Forestry, Ohio State University Extension, School of Environment & Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio 43210, 614-688-3136 (ph), 614-292-7432 (fax), smith.81@osu.edu

KTSAF Winter 2009 Meeting - The KTSAF Winter Meeting will be hosted by the Middle Tennessee SAF Chapter. Dates are January 28-30, 2009.

East Tennessee SAF Chapter - The East Tennessee SAF Chapter continues to meet at 7AM on the first Wednesday of each month. The location of the breakfast meeting is now at the Shoney's in **Oak Ridge**. It is located on Illinois Avenue

KTSAF Summer 2009 Meeting - The KTSAF Summer Meeting will be hosted by the West Tennessee SAF Chapter

NEWS

Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky - Steven H. Bullard • Professor and Chair

On Friday, June 20, Dr. Dave Maehr of the UK Department of Forestry faculty, died tragically in a single-engine airplane accident near Lake Placid, Florida. The accident occurred while Dave and the pilot were conducting aerial surveys of the black bear population in south-central Florida, a research project that was long-standing and that had direct ties to Dave's black bear research in Kentucky. Dave was a professor of conservation biology, and had been a member of the Forestry faculty at UK since 1997. He was a gifted naturalist, with many outstanding contributions to the wildlife profession and the conservation community, and will be greatly missed. Dave was extremely generous and giving of his time, talents, and energy, and we believe that his professional legacy will live on through the over two dozen graduate students he mentored while at UK. Dave is survived by his wife, Diane, and two children, Erin and Clifton, parents Robert and Carol Maehr, two brothers, Robert Brandt and Ted Maehr, and one sister, Jennifer C. Maehr. More information is available at the Department of Forestry's website <http://www.ca.uky.edu/forestry/>

Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, The University of Tennessee - Keith Belli, Professor and Head

Bill Moschler, long time FWF employee, instructor for the Wood Properties and Uses and Wood Identification course, retired this past spring. Bill joined the University of Tennessee in 1973 with an appointment as a Instructor. His title was changed to Research Associate several years later. Bill's early work at UT was in the area of wood anatomy and wood growth quality. As a member of the

Tennessee Forest Products Center within FWF, Bill worked for many years in the area of kiln drying research. Bill's expertise and knowledge will be sorely missed by faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Craig Harper was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Harper is responsible for developing wildlife-related programs for the UT Agricultural Extension Service and assisting Extension agents with wildlife-related issues throughout the state. Current Extension programming includes issues related to habitat management, population management, wildlife damage management, and the Tennessee 4-H Wildlife Project.

Five new adjunct assistant professors were appointed July 1, 2008: John Coulston, Thomas J. Brandeis, and KaDonna Randolph, all scientists with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit of the US Forest Service; Miriam L.E. Steiner Davis, a recent doctoral graduate from our department; and Gilles Sebe, a wood scientist with the University of Bordeaux.

Last month, DuPont Danisco and the University of Tennessee announced a partnership to construct a pilot-scale biorefinery and research and development facility for cellulosic ethanol. Site preparations are scheduled to begin this fall, and ethanol should be available from the pilot plant by December 2009. In 2007, Gov. Phil Bredesen proposed and the legislature set aside \$40.7 million toward the construction of a pilot biorefinery. Those funds will be combined with an investment from DuPont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol to construct the facility.

Enrollment in Forest Management Major at UT Increasing - Wayne Clatterbuck, Professor

After several years of having 10 to 12 forestry majors graduating each year, the present senior and junior forestry classes (excluding forest recreation majors) each have more than 20 students. If you are planning to hire new foresters within the next year, we will have several students seeking employment. Even the junior forestry students will be in search of temporary and summer employment or internships to broaden their forestry experience. If you anticipate hiring foresters within the next year or so, give a call or e-mail to Keith Belli, Don Hodges or me at the UT Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Dept. in Knoxville. The good news at UT-FWF is that we are at full faculty staffing (even though we desire more) and enrollment is high. More students are entering our curriculum probably due to the availability of student scholarships (HOPE) statewide. We are attracting many transfer students from two year schools who desire a forestry degree and forestry employment. However, with the increase in student enrollment, there has not been a corresponding increase in university infrastructure and funding. State contributions to the university and therefore budgets are decreasing and travel costs (price of gasoline, lodging) for field trips and teaching exercises are increasing. The faculty at UT-FWF is in process of formulating a new strategic plan and curriculum revisions to address some of these concerns. Our desire is to provide the best forestry education for students with the resources that are available. The department is always seeking input/comments from our constituents about how we can prepare students for the forestry profession. Feel free to contact us. Wayne K. Clatterbuck Professor of Silviculture, The University of Tennessee, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, Knoxville, TN 37996-4563 Voice: (865) 974-7346 Fax: (865) 974-4714, wclatterbuck@utk.edu .

POSITION OPEN - KTSFAF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The current KTSFAF Newsletter Editor is retiring after the February 2009 issue. We need a volunteer to become the next editor. The KTSFAF newsletter is published quarterly for KTSFAF members and other members of SAF. It contains information on meetings, news, opinions, and other items of interest to KTSFAF members. The position includes collecting material for each newsletter, organizing

and distributing the newsletter by email and USPS, and maintaining records related to the newsletter. The reward is the satisfaction of providing an important service to the KTSAF. For details of the position, contact John Rennie, Editor at 8665-577-6356 or nrandjr@comcast.net. If you are interested in being the next newsletter editor, contact Tammy Cushing at (859) 257-2149 or tamara.cushing@uky.edu , or Allan Houston at (901) 878-1067 or ahouston@amesplantation.org .

DEADLINES FOR UPCOMING KTSAF NEWSLETTERS

The KTSAF newsletter is an outlet for any member who has information, ideas or opinions of interest to the forestry community in Kentucky and Tennessee. Input by email is preferred, but FAX or USPS work also. MY USPS address is below and my other contacts are: nrandjr@comcast.net; 865-577-6356; 865-974-4714 (FAX). Items for the November should be submitted by November 3, 2008 and for the February 2009 newsletter by February 2, 2009. John Rennie, Editor

John C. Rennie, Editor
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