

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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SAF COUCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Weaver

I attended the SAF Council meeting in Bethesda, MD on the weekend of May 30-31. This column will hit the highpoints of the meeting. Feel free to offer any comments, problems, concerns, or suggestions on the last few months of my term as your District 9 Council Representative. December 2009 will end my three-year term and a new Council Representative will step forward to take the reins. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. Thank you all for allowing me to serve you in this way.

SAF Headquarter Property: now designated as Historic Property on all the land except for 3.8 acres. This will make it harder to market the property if this is the direction SAF wants to pursue; it adds another layer of review. Our plans at this point are to wait several years then explore the possibility of selling the property and maximizing the value for the membership. Discussions are taking place with a real estate broker to look for opportunities. Bids are being taken to fix the roof of the caretakers house and paint the outside of all the buildings.

Financials: even though the Fall of 2008 hammered our investment funds, SAF made a profit for the year; small, but a profit. Revenue from the convention was down in 2008 as well in publication and merchandise sales. Most of this can be contributed to the overall economy.

Database Update: our current database is almost 15 years old and customized, and difficult to manage. By the end of July, a new system will be ready for testing allowing membership records available on-line with live data. Join, renew, purchase, registrations, etc. can be done on-line, reducing errors and problems.

Membership Records: the membership rosters are now available on-line to all Membership Chairs. Look for monthly reminders from Chris

Whited on how to access this real time information. If there are others who should be receiving these monthly reminders, contact Chris at the National office.

New Website: go to www.eforester.org

Check out our new SAF webpage, started in Mid-May. There are new student portions, local unit connectors, and topic pages just to name of few of the new features. If you are adventurous, sign up for Twitter to really be connected.

Fellow Nominees: District 9 has 5 new Fellows among our membership. Please congratulate:

- Craig McKinley from Oklahoma
- Michael Bentley from Arkansas
- Ron Abraham from Ohio
- Charles Barden from Kansas
- Dale Weigel from Indiana

New Accreditation: SAF Council approved a Task Force to look at evaluating the merits of SAF accreditation for Terrestrial Ecology programs being offered at several universities. This task force will provide recommendations for developing standards, procedures, and guidelines for this program as appropriate to become accredited.

Leadership Academy at HSD: the 2nd day of HSD at the Orlando Convention will be used for a Leadership Academy this year. This is a new approach and requires additional work to communicate and elevate as a working model for membership at large. Watch for more details as this project unfolds.

Strategic Planning Process: look for a new and improved process for Strategic Planning to come from Council activities in the months ahead. As this process is refined on Council actions, efforts will be made to push this tool to all the local units.

SUMMER MEETING - Nick Bridgeman

The 2009 KTSAF Summer meeting was a success. KTSAF members came from as far as Eastern Kentucky and as close as West Tennessee. Thanks to the silent auction, committee and members, we had a great turnout for the auction with a wide range of items (really couldn't have hoped for anything more). 50 or so attendees for the conference were made up of Traditional Foresters and Urban Foresters. Our speakers presented on a wide range of topics from Urban Ecology and Wildlife to a Non-Native Invasives presentation by Dr. James Miller.



Those who attended the meeting and tour witnessed issues facing both industries in the wildland urban interface. The attendees didn't just see the good, we saw the bad and the ugly also. We toured the learning process as indicated by the timeline of development. Traditional and Urban Foresters saw principles implemented from both fields. But most importantly, we saw where we have overlapping and common niches. As Traditional Foresters we learned how to look at the trees up close, how they affect residents and citizens, and most importantly how the citizens form their objectives about their community forests. As Urban Foresters we learned to look past the trees at the forest itself, the benefits of and threats to the forest, and most importantly the forest's function as a living entity. As we came together as stewards and managers of our natural resources, we found ourselves having more in common than

difference. Whether it's basal targets for optimal advanced hardwood regeneration or systemic treatment for bacterial leaf scorch, we all believe in proper management based on sound science. We are fully aware that our lives are not static. Forests and the trees within them are no different. The conference and tour ended with a call for all Foresters (Traditional and Urban) to be vocal and involved in resource protection and conservation where you work and where you live. If we don't we'll have neither.

MIDDLE TN CHAPTER MEETING - Kerry Livengood

The Middle Tennessee Chapter met on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Bruer Building on the Ellington Agricultural Center Campus in Nashville. Kerry Livengood, Forest Management Unit Leader for the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF), gave a 30 minute presentation describing features of the database/GIS software developed by the TDF to standardize and streamline the development of forest management plans. This was followed by an hour long seminar on forest valuation related topics presented by John Ross, a lawyer and Tennessee Forestry Commission member. John reviewed the different forms of land ownerships such as tenants in common, tenants by the entirety, LLCs, and trusts and how they affect forest management activities and estate planning. A lively discussion developed from John's discussion of Tennessee's Greenbelt law. John pointed out that the law is not a tax break as such for farmer's or anyone else, but that it is a compensation to landowners for retaining their lands in forest or agriculture when the land's market value is much higher if converted to commercial or residential uses. John recommended that the preparation of a forest management plan for each property should solve the controversy over determining whether lands actually qualify for the greenbelt designation.

The meeting concluded with a barbeque dinner laid out by Jeff Piatt, TDF Fire Program Specialist.

UT NEWS - Keith Belli**Investigation of Forestry Program Recruiting Across the South**

In a joint project between the University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky, we have been working to develop and implement a survey for southern forestry schools to use to identify factors that influence students to major in forestry, recruiting techniques that are effective in attracting students to forestry, and the demographics of students who are currently majoring in forestry. The first major stage in this process was to conduct focus group sessions among undergraduates enrolled in southern region forestry programs. This step was completed in May of 2009 and included student focus groups from a subset of southern programs, including Alabama A & M University, Louisiana Tech University, Mississippi State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, University of Arkansas - Monticello, University of Kentucky, and University of Tennessee. The results from these focus groups have been used to design a survey that will be implemented by all southern region forestry programs this fall.

Personnel Updates

Effective July 1, 2009, the following FWF faculty have received tenure and/or promotion:

Dr. David Mercker - promoted from Extension Specialist I to Extension Specialist II

Dr. Shigetoshi Eda - promoted from Assistant to Associate Research Professor

Dr. Jennifer Franklin - awarded tenure and promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor

Dr. Matthew Gray - awarded tenure and promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor

Dr. Joseph Bozell - awarded tenure and promoted from Associate Professor to Professor

Please join us in congratulating these individuals for their hard work and achievements.

KENTUCKY MAKING STRIDES IN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES - Leah MacSwords

As required under the 2008 Farm Bill Forestry Title, the Kentucky Division of Forestry is currently conducting a statewide assessment to identify critical forest resources, threats to forestlands and areas that are considered high priority. The findings of the assessment will help the division plan projects and seek funding which will promote sustainable forestry practices on state and private lands.

In January, the division developed and promoted an online survey for the citizens of Kentucky. The survey included a variety of questions for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing the most important forestry issues in the state. The top five forestry issues identified by the participants include:

- forest health
- water quality and quantity
- forest loss and fragmentation
- forest management
- and funding.

Other issues that were noted include public awareness, urban and community forestry, timber theft and trespass, wildland fire, forest economy, mountain top removal, public access, prescribed fires and corollary issues such as renewable energy, carbon sequestration and ecosystem services.

The division has an internal working team that has met weekly since June to review information and develop outlines for each of the issues. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is requesting proposals from qualified firms/consultants to write the Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy based on issues, an outline, template and GIS data provided by the state. Deadline for proposals is August 17, 2009. For further information, visit NASF's website at http://www.stateforesters.org/jobs/KY_RFP. The deadline for Kentucky's completion of the assessment and an implementation strategy to address issues is June 2010.

KTSAF 2010 ELECTION - John Rennie, Nominations Chair

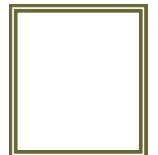
The 2010 KTSAF election will be part of the SAF election. In the KTSAF, we will be electing a chair-elect and a secretary. The 2010 chair-elect will be the 2011 chair and the 2010 secretary will be 2011 treasurer. This year all candidates are from Tennessee since we alternate between states.

In early June, I emailed the chairs of the four SAF chapters in Tennessee asking for suggestions of people to nominate. I received no responses. With suggestions from some of the long-time KTSAF members, I have recruited two people to run for chair-elect – David Mercker and Heather Slayton – and two people to run for secretary.- Nick Bridgeman and Kerry Livengood.

Their campaign statements and background information will accompany the ballot from SAF. Please take the time to read this material and vote for both SAF officers and KTSAF officers. Thanks to these four people for stepping forward to serve KTSAF.



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