



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS NEWS LETTER

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE



NO. 249

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Chairman's Corner

Richard Wilcox

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- 1 The public doesn't understand the need for Forestry.
- 2 Most of the articles I read attack good forestry.
- 3 The public is miss - informed about forestry issues.
- 4 Foresters are not consulted about Forestry issues.
- 5 I can't do anything about the problems above!

I am sure most of you agree with all of the above statements. The only statement that is totally false is the last one.

Understanding only comes with dialog and discourse between individuals. A person can be influenced by the printed word, TV or movies but that is not the same as understanding. The only way your ideas, opinions or message can be transferred to someone else is if you are one of the two or more people in the conversation or discourse. If you disagree with an article there is a good chance you were not one of the authors. You weren't asked to author the article? Do you know the author? Do they know who you are? How to get in contact with you? That you had valuable information?

Are you saying to yourself that "I am not an Expert! I don't know how to write a article or story!" Most foresters are not writers. Most writers are not foresters. In fact most writers, editors, news people don't know anything about what they are talking or writing about. They may have personal opinions about their subjects but they rarely know much about them. To sell their product (information) they must write about something that is controversial, has several points of view or will have a personal affect on the reader or listener.

If it is controversial there usually is more than one opinion. Note that it is opinion, rarely facts we are talking about. What happens if you provide your opinion and the topic happens to be in your chosen field and therefore you have some choice facts to support your opinion. Bingo! The media person has something they rarely get but constantly seek over all other opinions " A reliable source or expert".

KTSAF SUMMER MEETING READY WITH ITS TUNE to be played in townsend, 17&18 of June

You already have the program details expected to be played. It's my feeling that program chair, Larry Tankersley, may have an additional tune or two but I have nothing official. Join us at Townsend for a great summer meeting!

* * * *

Because you are who your are - A Professional Forester - doesn't make you better than anyone else or make your opinion more credible than someone else, unless it is based upon that professionalism.

Statements one through four above will not change unless you make item five false. The public continually seeks credible information. They don't get it if you choose not to provide your opinion.

A membership handbook has been printed for every member of the K-T Society. You will get your copy at your next chapter meeting if you don't already have a copy. Page 1 of section 2 covers Effectively Communicating The Need For Professional Management.

If you want something to happen you must:

- Make it clear it would be irresponsible not to do something.
- You have the information and professional expertise to know what is the right thing to do.
- What you propose to do will improve the quality of life of people affected. If there is a negative affect it is limited and you can spell out that affect.

This is not earth shattering stuff. You do it every day when you want a specific decision from your supervisor or you want a client to hire you. Think about how much better the place you live would be if your opinion was known or sought after. What you don't do may have a big effect on what you can do.

The handbook provides a source of information about the Society of American Foresters, how to be effective as a Professional Forester and where to get additional help when you need it.

That's what this organization is all about and that's why we need you as an active part of it.

FORESTERS MANAGE to SAVE the PLANET

KTSAF OFFICERS

Chairman.....Richard Wilcox
Chairman-elect.....Dave Walters
Secretary-Treasurer.....Grant Curry

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CHAPTER CHATTER

We don't have many details, but it is our understanding that John C. Rennie and Gary Schneider have joined the ranks of the retired staff and faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. We know that each of them have great plans for the future--we just hope that those plans include sticking to East Tennessee.

* * * *

June 16 and 17 we will meet on "The Peaceful Side of The Smokies" in Townsend, Tennessee. Most of the American public look at our National Parks as a hands off, preservation, no management organization. Some may realize that a great deal of management is directed at visitors, but few realize the extent of management directed toward the resources. We will be provided an inside look at some of the critical issues facing Smoky Mountain National Park. Air quality, fire management, wildlife management, vegetation management (exotics and diseases) and adjacent lands are critical concerns of the Park Service. I am sure this sounds familiar. The big difference is the setting in which it occurs. If people don't expect management how do you do it without upsetting the visitors. Learn about pending state legislation that may affect forest practices in your state. Join us in Townsend. Its a rare opportunity at a reasonable cost. Bring the family to unwind or get wound up. Whatever your main spring needs.

Richard A. Wilcox

East Kentucky Chapter News

Jeff Lewis, chapter chair, received injuries to his back and foot after falling from a tree he was trimming. He has come through surgery well and is recovering.

Our spring meeting was on April 8 at the Feltner 4-H Camp at London. We had various woodsmen's contests with prizes awarded for the winner in each contest. Everyone had a lot of fun.

The chapter is developing trails that members can use for "Walk in the Woods" events. Currently we are planning a trail at Tigert State Forest.

The chapter is also trying to get involved with a Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz by donating materials and volunteer labor. We are hoping to help with the Richmond/Berea Blitz when we find out the planned dates.

WILLIAM J. KARLING

On February 12, 1999, William J. Karling passed away. He lived in Cleveland, TN. If someone in the SE-TN chapter has obit information, we'd be glad to include it in the next issue of this Newsletter.

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FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES IN BIG STEW two-year study will tell 'em what to do

Federal and state agencies across the south-east have launched a joint study aimed at measuring whether the South's forests can continue to meet growing resource demands for the long term. The USDA Forest Service, EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority and individual state forestry agencies have initiated a two-year examination of the southern landscape. It will provide public land overseers and private landowners a firm foundation of information they will need to make decisions on how to address pressures facing the South's forests. The USDA Forest Service is leading the endeavor. The project got under way in March and is expected to conclude by 2001.

The study area's scope includes forests in Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Texas and Oklahoma.

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Nominations Open for Vice-President, Council and Fellows

By Barbara Weitzer, Executive Assistant, (301) 897-8720, ext. 121;

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The Society of American Foresters is now accepting nominations for SAF vice-president, Council and Fellow. Please note the following due dates:

May 31: Nominating petitions and accompanying materials are due for Fellow nominees.

July 1: Nominating petitions and accompanying materials are due for the office of vice president and four Council members (Districts I, IV, VII, and X will vote for Council representatives).

Nominating packets are available by contacting Barbara Weitzer via e-mail at weitzerb@safnet.org or (301) 897-8720 ext. 121.

STORM DELIVERS BLOW TO NATCHEZ TRACE STATE FOREST & STATE PARK Foresters to Begin Salvage Operations

LEXINGTON, TN -- A preliminary assessment by state foresters reveals that as much as 7,300 acres of trees were downed on Natchez Trace State Forest and State Park during heavy storms that swept the state on May 5. This represents about 15 percent of the largest forest in the state's public forestlands system according to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA).

The department is planning to initiate timber salvage operations immediately. "Our foresters estimate that several million dollars worth of timber is on the ground," said state Agriculture Commissioner Dan Wheeler. "We will be working closely with the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to ensure that streams, archeological sites and habitat for rare species are protected during salvage operations."

Approximately one-third of the damage occurred on the 11,000 acre state park, managed by TDEC. Two-thirds of the damage occurred on the 37,000 acre TDA managed state forest that surrounds the park.

"Natchez Trace is Tennessee's premier reclamation project," said TDA State Forester Ken Arney. "Much of this forest was planted in the 1930's on eroding wasteland. Now we face another large reforestation effort."

"Our conservative management program is designed to maintain a healthy forest made up of stands of diverse ages. Sometimes 'mother nature' decides to manage differently," added Arney.

Arney said that previously planned timber sales are on hold indefinitely. The salvage operation, which includes the removal of both hardwood and pine species that were affected, is expected to take 12 months to complete. TDA plans to devote additional forestry staff to evaluate progress and to closely monitoring tree removal. Forestry officials say that reforestation and recovery activities could take up to three years.

Residents in and around the Natchez Trace State Forest area wanting more information can contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, District Forestry Office in Lexington at 901-968-6676 or call TDEC toll-free from anywhere in Tennessee, 1-888-891-TDEC.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

LETTERS

1999 SAF Leadership Academy

During the first four days of June I had the opportunity to be a part of the SAF Leadership Academy in Potosi, MO. Being there with Chair-elects from all the societies and the Working Group Chairs was a bit humbling. The brainpower and the collective commitment of the group was impressive.

Besides learning about all the many things SAF does, and discussing leadership, I learned that each chapter across the country faces the same challenges as we in the K-T face. Promoting public respect and understanding of forest management and getting members motivated was a common quest. Some tips I collected are attached.

One other thing I learned is that several K-T members are working very diligently to serve SAF. Rick Wilcox is an integral part of SAF's House of Society Delegates, an advisory group to the Council. Wayne Clatterbuck is also hard at work as vice chair HSD. Gail Simonds, represents K-T admirably as secretary of the Soils Working Group. And our Council rep. Kerry Schell is doing an outstanding job of representing our views.

Lastly, I left pledging to drag the next person who asks me what SAF does for them into a leadership role. **GET INVOLVED...YOU'LL SEE WHAT SAF DOES FOR YOU!**

Dave Walters, K-T Chair-Elect

Society is still dependent on wood and its products

Editor, the News-Sentinel:

As we approach the new century, it might seem odd to pause and consider for a brief moment that wood for everyday products still comes from trees.

I recently got tied up in Interstate 40 gridlock on the way home from work. What caught my attention was the loaded log truck a short distance in front of me. The tree-length logs hung out the end of the trailer, marked on the end with a single red flag, probably bound for the pulp and paper plant about 60 miles down the road.

There were other tractor-trailer rigs nearby, probably carrying food, equipment, tools, clothing, electronics, auto parts and other goods for our consumption, but a semi-trailer is a common sight on our interstates and doesn't draw much attention. I mostly wondered what my car-bound colleagues thought of a load of logs in the middle of Knoxville in rush-hour traffic. I wondered if they even noticed.

Does anyone even care that wood for everyday products still comes from trees?

Data from this century shows that the best indicator of how much wood we consume is population, both in the United States and abroad. Trees provide wood for houses, furniture, flooring, paper and thousands of other goods we want and need each day. Trees and the wood they produce are an integral part of our entire economic infrastructure.

We recently completed a study for our state that shows about 70,000 people are directly employed in the forestry and wood products industries. These 70,000 jobs leverage almost 100,000 additional jobs throughout the states' economy.

The total economic impact of the forest products industry in Tennessee approaches \$18 billion dollars annually. These 170,000 jobs in our state all come initially from the logs on the truck in front of me.

I think we've lost sight of where our industrial materials come from. Nothing can replace the role that wood plays in our society, and recent scientific studies tell us that wood is the most environmentally friendly renewable industrial material we have. Funny what getting stuck on the interstate makes you think of.

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