



Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

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

Number 269

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

May 2004

FROM THE CHAIR - Jerry Crow

Recently, in filling out a questionnaire provided as a pre-attendance exercise for the upcoming SAF Leadership Academy, there were several very thought-provoking questions regarding leadership and personal goals. In pondering my own motivations and involvement in SAF and KTSAF, I remembered the words of an older friend given to me many years ago, "Don't matter what it is you do, just do your best and put your heart into it, and you'll never have any regrets." Over the years I've tried, as I know many of you have, to heed this sage advice and apply it in my own life and in my chosen profession of forestry. I feel I've been successful at it more often than not, but have been humbled from time to time when I've given less than my best, or when events took an unexpected turn. In attending the Leadership Academy, my goal is to gain new insights and knowledge, and hopefully hone my skills in order that I might give my best in service to KTSAF, not only for the short-term but in the long-term as well. While my position as Chair will last for only one year, I hope to remain an active, participating, contributing KTSAF member for many years to come. I hope you too will make it a personal goal to give your best to serve your profession and your professional society.

Volunteers Still Needed

Looking for a way to help KTSAF? We are still in need of volunteers to fill vital roles and assist in the 2004 KTSAF organization. A **Nominating Chair** is needed to help identify candidates for the election this fall. As it will be Kentucky's turn to provide a Chair-Elect and Secretary, the Nominating Chair should be from Kentucky. Other KTSAF committees as well as chapter offices are in need of rotation and help. Contact Jerry Crow for additional details.

GRC7@meadwestvaco.com , or 3901 Mayfield Rd., Wickliffe, KY 42087

Officer Updates

Rick Wilcox has offered to continue to perform duties of the **History Chair** with some logistical and computer assistance from the KTSAF Secretary.

Lloyd Foe has assumed the chair of the **FFA Convention committee**. As most of you are aware, the National Future Farmers of America annual convention has been held in Louisville for many years. 40,000 - 50,000 FFA students from all across the USA attend the convention. KTSAF has organized and staffed a forestry information booth as an annual project and service there at the convention, and has received Forester's Fund grants to assist with the expenses. Having a presence there is an opportunity for KTSAF to present the forestry profession to many of these youth and perhaps ignite a spark of interest for the future of our profession as well as contribute to their understanding of the role forests and forestry play in our lives. Contact Lloyd [PO Box 353, La Grange, KY 40031; lloydfoe@aol.com] and offer to volunteer a few hours of your time and help staff the booth during the October convention. This is your opportunity to help sustain SAF and KTSAF.

Just in case you weren't aware, **Red Anderson** is the 2004 KTSAF Treasurer. Red capably filled this office a few years ago and graciously offered to fill the slot this year when events prevented the incoming Treasurer from continuing with the position. Many thanks are offered to Red for his unselfishness and dedication to continue to serve KTSAF.

Leadership Academy

KTSAF will be well-represented at the SAF Leadership Academy May 22-25 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Jerry Crow and Don Hodges will be attending as officers of KTSAF. **Anne Ulrey** was selected as the third KTSAF-sponsored attendee. Anne is a forester at Fort Campbell (as well as a University of Kentucky graduate!) and is excited about attending the academy and becoming an active and involved member of KTSAF. A fourth KTSAF member hailing from the East Tennessee Chapter will also be attending. KTSAF will certainly benefit from the new training and skills these individuals will experience.

Field Forester Nominee

Kevin Belt of the East Tennessee Chapter was selected as the KTSAF nominee for the District IX Presidential Field Forester Award. Kevin's application was forwarded to Bob Cunningham, our Council Rep, and will compete against the other nominees in District IX.

Summer Meeting

Make sure you plan to attend the **Summer 2004 KTSAF** meeting scheduled for June 10th at Ames Plantation and Jackson, Tennessee. The West Tennessee Chapter is planning an interesting and exciting full field day for us. See details under **UPCOMING MEETINGS**.

SAF COUNCIL NOTES - Bob Cunningham, Council Representative, District IX

Greetings to all SAF members in District IX:

My term as your Council representative officially began in January 2004. Activities during the past few months have been quite interesting. I have a lot of confidence in the leadership of President John Bueter, and vice-president John Helms after attending my first Council meeting as a voting member in February.

Council duties typically involve a variety of responsibilities beyond the interactions with the state societies. Starting with 2004, I will be serving on the Council Strategic Planning Committee. Each year, Council reviews the SAF Strategic Plan for its effectiveness and amends it as necessary. For those of you that are unfamiliar with the plan, I urge you to take a look at it. It has appeared a number of times in the *Forestry Source* and can so be seen on SAF's website, www.safnet.org. I welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can make the plan more effective.

So why is the plan so important? It is a mechanism to help unite all entities within SAF under a common goal of achieving SAF's Mission. Currently, the plan contains six strategic outcomes: 1) A strong, forward-thinking organization, 2) Enhanced services to landowners and employers, 3) Enhanced service to society at large, 4) Effective engagement in forest policy, 5) Enhanced professional education, performance, and leadership capability, and 6) Development of sound stewardship of SAF's resources. All of Council's agenda items are developed around the strategic outcomes. The House of Society Delegates organizes their efforts in the same fashion. I encourage each state society within District IX to use the plan to focus their annual activities.

There are a number of challenges facing SAF. Most of us have either felt or seen the adverse impacts caused by a slowed economy. Forest industries are downsizing their forester numbers as they sell off timber holdings. State and federal agencies are struggling with reduced budgets. Student enrollment in natural resources fields continues to drop. SAF membership fell by over 500 in 2003.

What can be done? Changing the economy is beyond our control. In difficult times, those who search for opportunities rather than problems will attain the most success. If SAF's membership is declining, then do not ask yourself why. Ask the member that dropped out instead. A personal contact is still the best tool for building membership and great programs.

The Presidential Field Forester Award is another great opportunity that no one should miss. Since 2000, one field forester has been recognized annually from each of the eleven voting districts. Please take time to nominate someone that has dedicated his/her career to the application of forestry on the ground. All recipients will be recognized at the SAF National Convention in Edmonton. The deadline for submitting applications is May 31st. Additional information is available at <http://www.safnet.org/who/ffaward.cfm>.

After a one-year absence, the SAF Leadership Academy is returning this May to the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Having attended several past academies, I can attest to the excellence of this program. Some of you may be reading this after the registration deadline has passed. Note however that Council is encouraging future academies and they are open to all SAF members. Ask a Leadership Academy graduate if it was worthwhile. Most will tell you that it was one of the best experiences of their SAF career.

Do you have any thoughts or comments about SAF? Send a note to Bob Cunningham, P. O. Box 138, West Plains, MO 65775, or bob.cunningham@mdc.mo.gov. If you do not have time for letters, then give me a call at 417-255-9561, extension 225. Take care.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF SAF - Gary Schneider, ETn-SAF & immediate past HSD chair

In the last issue of the KT-SAF newsletter, I had a column titled "Task Force On Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS)." Over the next 6-9 months a group of SAF members will review the entire way our professional society, as a volunteer organization, operates. The review of "how we do things" has been done before, the last time in 1994. Such assessments need to be done about every 10 years since advances in technology, societal demands, and forestry issues are ever-changing.

Having been an SAF member for 48 years (and looking forward to that "golden" 50 year mark), perhaps the most recurring comment that I have hear from fellow members over this time is: "I seldom read or see articles in the SAF Journal that interest me/or I understand." The second common complaint seems to be related to attending local and regional SAF meetings, and the national convention. Members say that the topics are often not what they want to hear, and therefore they simply do not attend. You may share these same views and attitude, or know of others who do.

If that is the case, what can we do about that? Obviously, we can inform our local SAF chapter officers about how we feel. We can pass our views onto our SAF council representative, as well as contact the national SAF office. We can provide frequent suggestions for topics we wish to hear discussed, speakers that we want to listen to, and articles we wish to see written. Program chairs and committees constantly seek ideas from our members, but far to often receive little or no input.

Do you think that the SAF, as it is now structured and operates, is relevant to our profession, as well as important to the welfare of our citizens? If not, why not? What needs to change so that we are a dynamic and vital organization? If we are, how can we become even better at what we are trying to accomplish?

The Task Force on Volunteer Organizational Structure considers nothing "sacred" in our desire to make SAF the best it can be. All of us are guilty at times of complaining that SAF is not responsive enough to change, but doing nothing about it. Now we have an opportunity to make the changes that we think are needed. Please take the time to respond to the

challenge, and make your ideas and suggestions known to your local and national leadership. Let us hear from you. You can indeed make a difference!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

EKy-SAF Spring Meeting

Forest Conservation Act and Bad Actor Designation - May 19, 2004
Southeastern District Office of Kentucky Division of Forestry, Pineville, KY

9:00-10:00 Executive meeting at Pineville office
10:00-10:30 General session: Overview of Forest Conservation Act and Bad Actor designation
11:00-1:00 Field visit 1
1:00-1:30 Lunch - sandwiches will be catered for \$5 for those who preregister by May 14. Preregistration with Hagan Wonn [htwonn@somersetwood.com or 606_305_7526] or Kevin Black [kevin.black@weyerhauser.com or 606_524_6444].
2:00-4:00 Field visit II
4:00 Meeting adjourns

KT-SAF Summer Meeting in Jackson, Tn. June 9 and 10, 2004. Registration 5-8 pm, June 9 and 7-7:45 am, June 10 at The Old English Inn, Jackson, TN. Executive meeting 7-9pm, June 9.

On Thursday, June 10, there will be a field tour:

Theme: "Precision Wildland Management"

Location: Jackson, Tn and the Ames Plantation. CFE's: 6 CFE's in Category 1

Subjects include: Shackleford Hardwood Seed Orchard, Enrichment Plantings in Group Selection Openings, Economics of Hardwood Crop Tree Enhancement, Design of Group Selections for Enrichment Plantings, White Oak Planting in Group Selections, Mammalian Predator Ecology, Quality Deer Management, and Quail Release Program.

Contact The Old English Inn at 1-713-668-1571 for room reservations. \$55 per night until June 1.

Contact: David Mercker, UT Extension Forester, for details (731_425_4703) or dcmercker@utk.edu

ETn-SAF Monthly Meeting

The East Tennessee SAF Chapter meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7am for breakfast at the Shoneys on Clinton Highway in Knoxville.

The preliminary schedule for meetings of the **Southeast Tennessee SAF Chapter** for 2004 is:

KJune 3rd: Herbicide use in Pine and Hardwood Stands held near Soddy_Daisy, TN

KEarly August: Tour of Cardin Sawmill in South Pittsburg, TN

KMid_ October: Walls of Jericho Visit in Southern Franklin/ Marion County, TN

Contact Benjamin Myers with any questions or comments at benjaminlmyers@hotmail.com .

A **Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the UT Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Department** will be on Oct. 22 and 23, 2004 in Knoxville for all alumni , friends and families. Mark this date on your calendar now! The celebration and reunion will include a professional continuing education conference for natural resource managers on "Invasive Plants" for Friday ,Oct. 22, a dinner on Friday evening to reminisce with present and retired faculty, alums, and students and a breakfast on Saturday morning with an overview of current FWF teaching, research and Extension programs, a tour of new facilities and buildings and dreams for the future. You

may attend all or any of these events. More information will be forthcoming via mail and on the FWF website [<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/>].

DEADLINES

Nominations for SAF fellow - **May 31, 2004** - see the SAF website for details

Items for the August KTSAF Newsletter - **August 2, 2004**

NEW FOREST SUPERVISOR SELECTED TO HEAD TENNESSEE'S CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST - USFS News Release

A 24-year USDA Forest Service veteran has been tapped to oversee the 640,000-acre Cherokee National Forest, agency officials announced today.

Tom Speaks, 46, Deputy Regional Director for the Lands and Minerals Unit of the Southern Region headquarters, returns to the Southern Appalachian Mountains to lead the Cherokee, which is headquartered in Cleveland, Tenn. A professional forester, Speaks replaces Anne Zimmermann who recently accepted a Deputy Director's post in the Forest Service headquarters, Washington D.C.

Speaks reports for work July 26th.

Excited about the new assignment, Speaks will work to immediately engage citizens and forest partners in addressing the array of challenges facing the Cherokee National Forest.

"I'm extremely excited to return to the Southern Appalachians where I've spent a large part of my life," said Speaks. "It's an honor for me to work with the outstanding employees and partners of Cherokee. I would like to build on the leadership and legacy of Anne Zimmermann, especially in implementing the new land management plan, while contributing to the overall health of the Cherokee."

Southern Region leaders are confident that Speaks will ably apply an array of natural resource expertise and management skills to his new assignment.

"Tom knows the Southern Region—particular Southern Appalachians Forests—extremely well," said Bob Jacobs, Regional Forester for Southern Region. "He has been a staunch advocate for and a major contributor to mountain forest management over the years. His experience with mountain forests will be critical to addressing the many challenges facing the Cherokee. Not only is he a skilled forester, he's well respected among his peers. He has worked hard to build strong relationships with many people and organizations throughout the South. His relationships have led to on-the-ground projects that have enhanced the overall conditions of national forests. I'm pleased with his selection."

A native of northern Virginia, Speaks earned a bachelor's degree in forest resource management at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., in 1979. He launched his career with the agency in 1980 as a forestry technician on the Jefferson National Forest in Southwest Virginia. Since then, his career has traversed the Southeast, with stints in various positions at the ranger district and supervisor's office levels. He is most renowned for his successful efforts to complete land acquisitions for the famed Appalachian Trail.

In 2000, he was selected to serve as the Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

For the last two years, Speaks has served in the National Legislative Fellows Program where he earned Capitol Hill experience working as a legislative staff member for the chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. That knowledge will be invaluable in his position, he said.

"These last few years have offered me a unique opportunity to fully understand the inter-workings of the Congress and the appropriations process. I am grateful to the many committee staff members who so willingly shared their extensive savvy and experiences to help me better grasp the magnitude of effort it takes to manage the national budgetary demands for resource agencies."

Throughout his career, Speaks has maintained ties with a myriad of professional wildlife, natural resource, and conservation organizations. He expects to build on those partnerships in his new post.

NEW FORESTER AT LBL

Steve Hanna reported to Land Between the Lakes on April 19. He transferred from the Fishlake National Forest, in Utah. He worked at LBL early in his career. Steve has had assignments on the Nantahala, Shawnee, Monongahela, Superior, Nez Perce, Umqua and San Bernardino National Forests. He also was the Nursery Manager for the Tennessee State Nursery at Pinson Mounds.

KTSAF WEB SITE <http://www.ktsaf.org> - J. Mark Young, Web Master, KTSAF

The Members Only portion of the KTSAF website has a new username [WSH115\forester] and a new password [saf1900]. Please keep these confidential. The username must have the forward slash. Also, this portion of the web site is being revised so check back regularly for updates.

UT-FWF - George Hopper, Professor and Head

The University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries will host our 40th Anniversary Celebration (1964 to 2004 and still growing) , October 22 to 23, 2004. We will have an all day conference on the Invasive Species on the 22nd with a celebration dinner on the evening of the 22nd, and breakfast and tours of new programs and facilities on the morning of 23rd (that is the Alabama week end so plan now to attend, and return to the mountains of east Tennessee to see old friends and professors and get all caught up on your Alma Mater while you renew old friendships.

We have hired two new faculty:

Dr. David Harper, Assistant Professor in Wood Chemistry in the Forest Products Center. Dr. Harper received his PhD from Washington State University. and joined the faculty on March 29th.

Dr. Matt Gray as Assistant Professor in Wildlife Management and Wetlands Ecology. Dr. Gray received his PhD from Texas Tech and will join the faculty on June 1st.

Our spring camps have been busy this year. We have 26 students in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and we have 14 students Forestry. The WFS students went to Tall Timbers , South Carolina marsh country, and west Tennessee bottomland hardwood wetlands. The Forestry camp went to South Carolina Meade_Westvaco research center, US Forest Service Francis Marion for prescribed fire, Ames Plantation (three weeks) and to

Manitou Springs , Colorado. Our camps are focused on techniques but also on teamwork, problem solving, and experiential learning.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the relationship with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Headquarters is growing stronger. This year we have placed eight students with the Lab in various support roles and summer jobs in six southern states. Two PhD candidates from the USFS are working with our on their degree and three coop projects are under development .

For more information about our programs visit our web site: <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu>

HANDBOOK HELPS AT_RISK COMMUNITIES BETTER PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES - SAF News Release

A coalition of organizations concerned about protecting communities from catastrophic wildfires has released a step_by_step handbook that guides local communities in wildfire prone areas to better prepare and reduce the future risks of catastrophic wildfires. The handbook, developed jointly by the Society of American Foresters, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Western Governors' Association (WGA), and the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress, and endorsed by the Southern Governors ' Association, offers a detailed description of how to create a community wildfire protection plan as allowed by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA).

For a copy of the handbook, titled "Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities" and other resources for developing community wildfire protection plans, visit the SAF website <http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpp.cfm>

Please keep your information on file with SAF up-to-date. Provide changes to: Amy Ziadi, data systems administrator, SAF National Office, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 897-8720, ext. 102, ziadia@safnet.org .