



Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

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

Number 272

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

February 2005

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Jerry Crow

It's been a pleasure serving you as the KTSAF Chair for the past year. I enjoyed the opportunity to be represent you and speak on your behalf as one of the links between KTSAF and the National office, and to help "run the ship" for a short while. I appreciated all of the good work the Chapters and the Society have done and continue to do in our two states to promote professional foresters and forestry, and to be the "voice of forestry". Most of all, I enjoyed maintaining the friendships and camaraderie and professionalism that have been the heart of the KTSAF for my 15 years of participation. I feel the time has been too short to accomplish all I wanted to, but I know that Don Hodges will very capably carry on with the KTSAF and SAF missions. Thanks again.

Forester Certification

As many of you heard during the winter meeting, Professional Forester Certification in Tennessee is one step closer with a draft position statement developed by the West Tennessee Chapter of KTSAF, and the approval from the Executive Committee to prepare a KTSAF position statement through the Policy Committee. The intentions are to utilize SAF's Certified Forester program as the standards by which professional status is attained. For additional information on the Certified Forester program and National SAF's position paper on forester credentialing, visit the SAF website at www.safnet.org. Tune in to the May KTSAF newsletter for an update on the progress towards forester certification.

Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS)

If you attended the winter meeting, you heard the Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Report mentioned, or you may have heard or read about it on the SAF website or in one of the SAF publications. I would strongly encourage everyone to visit the SAF website and review the VOS report. It is a long report, but if you are interested in the future of SAF, you need to know what is being proposed. The VOS Task Force was chartered in December 2002 to "examine a variety of internal and external challenges that face SAF and the forestry profession". The Task Force's objectives were, "1) To evaluate the implementation success of the 1994 VOS TF report., 2) To evaluate the effectiveness of the current organizational structure in meeting the mission and strategic direction of the Society of American Foresters., 3) To recommend changes to improve the vitality and effectiveness of the organization." The Task Force prepared a report for Council in December 2004 (view it on the website), presenting trends, evaluations, and recommendations to Council for changes to stabilize and improve the organization and profession. Fifteen recommendations were made, and if adopted, will certainly change the landscape of SAF. Our Council Representative, Bob Cunningham, is looking for comments regarding the report which will be discussed at the next Council meeting this spring. If you have a comment, thought, or idea you would like to contribute, please contact Don Hodges or Jerry Crow before February 22nd. We will be gathering and summarizing them for Bob's use at the Council meeting.

Presidential Field Forester Awards

It's not too early to consider and begin preparing a nomination for the 2005 SAF Presidential Field Forester Award. Each year, one forester from each of the 11 SAF Districts is recognized with this award. The purpose of the award "is to recognize foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies. The Presidential Field Forester Awards will be presented to individuals who have displayed uncommon talent, skill, and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management." KTSAF can submit one nomination to their Council Representative. Chapters should nominate an individual and submit to Don Hodges who will make the choice of the KTSAF representative. Nominations should be in the form of a statement, no longer than two pages, which outlines the nature of the candidate's accomplishments. A photo of the nominee should also be included. Nominations should be in to Don Hodges by no later than mid-May as the deadline for submission to National is June 15th. More information is available on the SAF website.

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

VOS Report

If we were asked to create the Society of American Foresters today, what would it look like? This is the central question from the SAF Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force Report presented at the December, 2004 Council meeting. In 2002, Council chartered the VOS Task Force with three objectives:

!To evaluate the implementation success of the 1994 VOS TF report.

!To evaluate the effectiveness of the current organizational structure in meeting the mission and strategic direction of the Society of American Foresters.

!To recommend changes to improve the vitality and effectiveness of the organization.

Some may ask why SAF is undertaking this effort. It is because we must recognize the rapid changes in the realm of forestry and the profession that happened over the past decade, and realize that more changes are in store. So for the future, the key challenge is to determine "who we are" and "what we want to be" as professional organization.

The 2004 VOS TF report is lengthy but nevertheless deserves your full attention and consideration. The recommendations are grouped into three types: 1) changes to the national structure of the Society, 2) changes within individual units of the Society at the national level, and 3) recommendations and comments to Council that were received and/or discussed by the task force during the deliberations.

Council will begin its evaluation of the VOS TF report at their March, 2005 meeting. The House of Society Delegates has already begun a similar review through the convener process. The general membership is requested to provide input by the end of June, 2005. Council is expected to take action this fall. A full copy of the report can be seen at <http://www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf>.

2005 Presidential Field Forester Award

Since 2000, fifty-four SAF field foresters have received the prestigious Presidential Field Forester Award. The purpose of this Award is to recognize foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies. Since its inception, the award was granted at the discretion of the President. Recently Council voted to continue the award yearly, as a permanent recognition category.

Nominations are currently open for the 2005 Presidential Field Forester Award. Once again, each of the eleven SAF Voting Districts is eligible to have one recipient. Please forward your nominations through your state society's executive committee and then to me before the end of May. A complete explanation of the award can be found at <http://www.safnet.org/who/ffaward.cfm>.

Journal of Forestry

SAF wants to know what you think about the Journal of Forestry. Is this publication meeting your expectations? How can it be improved? Let me know what you think. Your feedback is immensely important.

Membership

Membership is an issue that must see positive change in 2005. Last year, SAF's total membership fell by 627 with Voting District IX losing 91. Great Plains was the only state society in our district that met their goal. Please remember that your goal is to increase your state society's membership on 12/31/05 by one more member than 12/31/04. Be sure to stress SAF's values and what you can do together when contacting prospective members.

As always, please feel to contact me with your questions or concerns: P. O Box 138, West Plains, MO 65775; 417-255-9561 x 225 (work); bob.cunningham@mdc.mo.gov

WEST TENNESSEE SAF CHAPTER - David Mercker

Recent events including elevated legislative pressure on forest landowners, actions by the SAF to develop the certified forester program, and the recommendation by the Tennessee Forestry Commission for credentialing foresters, lead the West Tennessee Chapter of SAF to aggressively pursue credentialing foresters in Tennessee.

This opportunity was discussed in a meeting of the West Tennessee SAF Chapter held in 2003. The results of that meeting were then presented to the KT SAF Executive Committee during the Winter 2004 SAF Annual Meeting in Kentucky. The Executive Committee subsequently challenged the West Tennessee Chapter to develop a formal position statement toward the establishment of a registered forester program in Tennessee. The Chapter was directed to (1) prepare a formal position statement on the subject, (2) get majority approval on that position statement by the West TN Chapter, then (3) submit the position statement to the K/T SAF Executive board at this winter's meeting. These have been done.

Subsequently, the position statement was shared with the KT SAF members who were present at the annual winter meeting (January 27, 2005) in Kingsport, TN. Dr. Don Hodges, current chair of the KT SAF, asked for a motion that was confirmed by vote, for the KT SAF Policy Committee to "develop a formal position statement representing the entire KT SAF."

The position statement that was developed and ratified by the West TN Chapter follows. It is understood that the Executive Committee will use this as a guide, with the final statement amended as per suggestions from the membership.

Position

The Kentucky-Tennessee State Society believes that Tennessee's woodland owners, forests, environment and general public as a whole can be better served through the establishment of an effective and efficient registration program for professional foresters. Non-industrial woodland owners

must rely on the advice, knowledge, and experience of career professional forest managers and scientists to carry out forest resource planning, practices and procedures. SAF believes that those who provide these services on Tennessee's estimated 11 million acres of non-industrial forest lands must be professionally qualified through both education and experience to fulfill their responsibilities. Sustainable management of the State's forest resources for the benefit of both current and future generations requires competent career professionals who have been prepared for their responsibilities through education, experience and demonstrated abilities in the broad field of forestry.

The State Society further believes that the process can most efficiently be affected through adopting the SAF Certified Forester® Program as the official credentialing process for registration. Furthermore, it is suggested that the Tennessee Forestry Commission, as an established entity of State government with responsibility for forestry issues, can establish a liaison with the SAF National Headquarters to provide the needed oversight and management of the registration program.

UK DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

New Chairman

In the November 2004 KTSFA Newsletter, we indicated that Dr. Steven Bullard has been appointed chairman of the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry. Here is a press release from UK by Aimee Heald-Nielson about Steve Bullard.

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Nov. 17, 2004) – The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's Department of Forestry is entering a progressive and innovative era. The man recently chosen to lead the department in this mission is Steve Bullard.

Bullard recently made the move to Lexington from Mississippi, where he served as professor and interim department head for the Mississippi State University Department of Forestry. He also was a research scientist in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center at MSU, where he conducted research in the economics of commercial timber production

"Steve brings experience and leadership in various programs related to this department, including forestry, forest products, and furniture," said Nancy Cox, UK College of Agriculture associate dean for research and chair of the search committee. "In addition to his leadership skills, he conducted a very successful research program on forest economics. He has expressed both a broad vision and commitment to growth of forestry and natural resource programs for Kentucky, and he has hit the ground running, both in the college and in the state."

Bullard received his Ph.D. in forest management economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute after completing a M.S. in the same and a B.S. in forestry from Mississippi State University. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific and technical articles related to forestry and given more than 80 presentations at professional meetings. He also is the author of the text "Basic Concepts in Forest Valuation and Investment Analysis" and has served as editor of three professional journals including *Forest Science*, *the Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, and *the Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*.

Cox said the search process was unique because it included forestry industry professionals, government officials and members of related departments at UK.

"The college wanted to show a commitment to the future of forestry in Kentucky by including some key stakeholders in the process," she said. "This allowed us to consider candidates from the

perspective not only of academic excellence, but also by their ability to contribute to economic development and quality of life in Kentucky.”

Bullard will provide direction and leadership for the Department of Forestry, which means furthering a vision that includes enhancing a strong core program in forestry and developing national prominence in research and graduate education, as well as addressing a broader range of biodiversity conservation, environmental and natural resource issues.

“This state is blessed with very rich assets of natural resources,” Bullard said. “There are many ways to enhance the benefits those resources provide. I see that as a fundamental role of the program. At the University of Kentucky, we need to research ways to increase landowners’ opportunities to market forest products and enhance income opportunities associated with forest production. At the same time, we need to study ways to increase environmental sustainability and keep forest production beneficial not just to Kentuckians, but to the region and to the country.”

Faculty Positions

The UK Department of Forestry is searching for two faculty positions in Management/Economics and Biometrics/Spatial Analysis. Both of these positions will play critical roles in our B.S. and M.S. degree programs. These searches are a part of filling 5 vacant positions that will occur over the next several years.

CLOSED TRAVERSE

Dr. Thomas H. Ripley, 77, former manager of natural resources for TVA and deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Conservation, died February 8, 2005, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. A Vermont native, Mr. Ripley was nationally known in the fields of wildlife management, forestry and conservation. Mr. Ripley spent 12 years with the U.S. Forest Service, ultimately serving as the federal agency's chief of range and wildlife research in Washington. He joined TVA in 1969 and led its natural resources operations until retirement in 1983. He then served seven years as the state's deputy commissioner of conservation in Nashville.

Mr. Ripley earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and master's from the University of Massachusetts. He returned to Virginia Tech and received a doctorate in wildlife biology in 1958. He was president of the American Forestry Association 1981-82 and served as adjunct professor at both the University of Tennessee and Virginia Tech.

A Navy veteran, Mr. Ripley had a lifelong interest in sailing. He built many of his own boats and frequently sailed in the waters of Tennessee, the Caribbean, Chesapeake Bay and Florida. In addition, he was an accomplished game bird and deer hunter. [From Knoxville News Sentinel]

TCL BECOMES TWF

After nearly 60 years the Tennessee Conservation League (TCL) announced that it has changed its name to the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF) to better reflect the organization’s mission, programs and broad audience.

The decision to make this change was not taken lightly, and while this decision marks the close of an era, it also launches our organization into an exciting and new time. Yes, our name and logo have changed, but our mission, methods and vision for conservation have not. We deeply believe that these changes will only strengthen TWF’s ability to accomplish its mission. [From the TWF website]

THE 1890 AGROFORESTRY CONSORTIUM TAKES OFF

The 1890 Agroforestry Consortium recently met for the first time in Atlanta, GA October 1-2, 2004 since inception and is excited to announce the development of the group's draft mission, vision, and strategic directions. The draft mission is "to develop and advance agroforestry research, teaching, and extension among the 1890 Land-grant universities and Tuskegee University using multi-disciplinary teams of faculty and staff working in partnership with government agencies and other entities." This initiative will significantly expand 1890 university agroforestry partnership opportunities with CSREES, Forest Service, and NRCS.

The Consortium includes an enthusiastic group of partners, including **Joshua Idassi**, Chair, CSREES Summer Fellow, and Tennessee State University Extension Forester, **James Hill**, 1890 SARE Liaison - Fort Valley State, **Fulbert Namwamba**, Southern University, **Gwendolyn Boyd**, Alcorn State University, **Rory Fraser**, Alabama A&M University, **Rao Mentreddy**, Alabama A&M University, **George Brown**, Alabama A&M University, and USDA Forest Service and NRCS representatives. CSREES representatives include **Catalino Blanche**, National Program Leader for Forest Biology, **Eric Norland**, National Program Leader for Forest Resources Management, and **Christy Pereira**, Program Specialist for Natural Resources and Environment.

The Consortium's next steps are to develop a Business Plan, and to layout their communication strategy and organizational structure. For more information, contact Joshua Idassi, jidassi@tnstate.edu.

NWTF PROGRAM IN NASHVILLE

The National Wild Turkey Federation is presenting "*A Day with the Wild Turkey*" at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center on Thursday, February 17, 2005. This program is part of its 29th Annual Convention and Sport Show. This program is designed to introduce educators and their students to the world of wildlife through the greatest wildlife conservation success story of all time...the return of the wild turkey! It also addresses the Tennessee Life Science Academic Content Standards.