

Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

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

Number 278

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

August 2006

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Doug McLaren

What I did on my summer vacation

How many times when returning to grade school did your teacher present you this statement and asked you to do a small writing? It seems like light years since my last encounter but after my vacation this summer I see that life's learning opportunities can come in small and strange ways and places. It also showed me the large learning opportunities that we in natural resources are confronted with. Many people are not involved in our subject matter on a daily bases and obvious choices to us are not always perceived by others in the same light.

A "life learning opportunity" presented itself while I was resting my feet in a lake of one of Kentucky's neighboring states (name will be withheld to protect the innocent).

A family unit was splashing in the water close by when the older of the two girls, probably the age of five, began running after a butterfly splashing and screaming to stay away from her sister. I, as did the parents, watched as this scene continued for several minutes. Finally the older sister, probably due to the lack of continued interest, went back to swimming while the younger girl, probably no more than three years of age, picked up a stick and continued the pursuit. Again, the parents and I watched as this event unfolded.

This event could have had numerous outcomes. The older sister could have rejoined the quest to capture this butterfly. The parents could have interceded or I could have spoken up as to why you should not harm a butterfly and quoted in eloquent natural resource terms the merits and values of a butterfly. All of these were options as the butterfly darted along the beach but it was a fourth option that placed me squarely in the middle of the developing event. Effortlessly the butterfly landed on my arm. Luckily, by instinct or by an earlier event in her life, the young girl did not hit the butterfly while on my arm. The young girl stopped in stride. The parents and sister and I continued to watch to see what this young girl would do with stick in hand. My immediate mental reaction was, "When and how do youngsters of this age formulate attitudes like this towards butterflies and other natural resources."

Some of life's best lessons are taught – and learned – in the blink of an eye. I quickly took the opportunity to ask the young girl to come and look at the wings and colors of the butterfly and asked the question, 'Did you know that butterflies help flowers to grow?' The stick slowly came down and the older sister moved in so that we could all investigate the butterfly together. What an immeasurable lesson this butterfly was providing in learning about an event in natural resources. It might have been that these two young ladies had heard of hands-on education or it was just the sense of curiosity but the desire to touch the butterfly was a signal for it to move on. The butterfly had provided the life learning opportunity. The eyes of the youngsters, as well as the parents, watched as the butterfly continued to dart along waters edge.

What I did on my summer vacation? I hope that I raised the bar of exploration in natural resources for this family of four. The optimist in me says they will. The pessimist continues to ask, "Where do you learn to chase butterflies with sticks?"

We as natural resource managers and educators find it easy to speak to our peers and landowners who have a mutual understanding of the values provided by our nation's natural resources. Hopefully more butterflies come along for all of us to provide a "bridge" directing people to better understand the issues that are center stage to the community of forestry and natural resources and to everyone that uses these products.

I wish that I could revisit my fifth grade teacher and have the opportunity to rewrite the essay that we all wrote the first day back to school so many years ago. Our teachers were providing us a great learning opportunity to reflect on some of life's greatest lessons that we are able to learn outside of the classroom during those hot and lazy days of summer.

I pose the question to you now that you have some time to reflect, "What did you do on your summer vacation?" Are we embracing and utilizing all the skills that we can to be the best natural resource educators in today's social climate?

SAF COUNCIL REPORT - Bob Cunningham, Council Representative, Voting District IX

Roots of Forestry

During my past 34+ years of involvement with SAF, I have accumulated an unimaginable number of *Journal of Forestry*, *Forestry Source*, and the various forest science related periodicals. Hopefully, some of you are better organized than me because finding my collection in its entirety is another matter. The Roots of Forestry Program offers hope to us packrats and pardons anyone that "accidentally" threw away elements of our personal libraries.

The Roots of Forestry provides Internet access to over 100 years of the *Journal of Forestry*, and every copy of the forest science periodicals. There is a catch; only members of SAF can receive free access.

Gaining access is as simple as logging onto to SAF's website (www.safnet.org), clicking on the Roots of Forestry link, and following the instructions for a free online subscription. I registered this past spring and found myself pouring over JOF articles written in the first quarter of the twentieth century. I was amazed by the philosophy and insight offered by SAF's earliest leaders. Moreover, their natural resource and management issues were so close to ours. So go ahead and make time for checking out your Roots of Forestry.

Our Woods: Wild and Working

Come one, come all to SAF's 86th Annual National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 25-29. Here is your chance to listen to any of 240 speakers, learn the latest alumni news, choose between 10 technical field tours, meet some very interesting people, or just have some fun. Full details can be found on SAF's website (www.safnet.org) or by reading the *Forestry Source*.

Are you a first-time convention attendee? Your name can be entered into a special drawing for a complementary registration. To enter, you have to let me know by September 8th. Acting now could save you over \$400.00.

National Elections

In addition to SAF's annual election for its Vice President, my replacement for Council will also be on the ballot. I know the candidates for each position and can vouch equally for their dedication and abilities. This is your society and it behooves you to learn about your future leaders and by all means, vote!

A Job Well Done

Kentucky-Tennessee SAF should take pride in the efforts given by their own Dave Walters as he co-chaired SAF's National Certification Review Board (CRB) with Carol Redelsheimer of Orono, Maine. Dave and Carol jointly made a presentation on their committee's progress at the June Council Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. The CRB has without a doubt, one of the most challenging responsibilities of all SAF's committees as they work to elevate our professional recognition within society. Thank you Dave and Carol for your leadership!

NOMINATIONS FOR KTSAF AWARDS

Now is time to nominate those deserving professional colleagues to honor them at the upcoming winter KTSAF meeting in January 2007. The award categories are Outstanding KTSAF Forester over 35 Service Award, Outstanding KTSAF Forester under 35 Service Award, Outstanding Forest Technician Service Award, and for the Tennessee KTSAF members only (for 2006) - the Herman T. Bagenstoss Forestry Recognition Award. Please get your nominations to Doug McLaren, KTSAF Chair, 1226 Cooper Dr., University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 by December 1, 2006. The award nomination form is available on the KTSAF website [after September 1], or from Doug McLaren [dmckaren@uky.edu] or John Rennie [nrandjr@comcast.net].

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SAF National Convention

SAF's 86th National Convention is scheduled from October 25 – 29. Whether you're a consultant, field forester, researcher, student, forest manager, or industry forestry professional – there's something for you. Build Your Own Program by Choosing from: 240 speakers, 125 hours of science and technical sessions, 70 exhibitors, 12 sponsored technology tracks, 10 technical field tours, and 8 breakfast roundtables by industry sector.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate will talk about how she launched Kenya's Greenbelt Movement which transformed local communities through tree planting.

Day Rate: Can't attend the entire convention – then take advantage of our day rate!

More detailed information on session topics, technical field tours, exhibitors, and more at www.safnet.org/natcon-06 .

KTSAF Winter Meeting

The KTSAF winter meeting will be hosted by the West Tennessee SAF Chapter January 24-26, 2007 in Jackson, Tennessee, at the Old English Inn. The meeting theme is "Woodscaping and Landcarving: A Forester's Role in the Fragmenting Environment." See West Tennessee Chapter news below for details.

KTSAF Summer Meeting

The KTSAF summer meeting will be hosted by the East Tennessee SAF Chapter. tentative dates are June 6,7 and 8, 2007.

NEWS

The West Tennessee Chapter

The West Tennessee Chapter recently met and elected Dr. Allan Houston as chair for 2007. Under Dr. Houston's leadership, the chapter will host the KT SAF winter meeting on January 24-26, 2007 in Jackson, at the Old English Inn (featuring the world famous Cajun' Cookers). The meeting theme is "Woodscaping and Landcarving: A Forester's Role in the Fragmenting Environment." Among the featured speakers are: Dr. George Hopper (Dean, Mississippi State), Dr. Jim Byford (Dean, UT Martin), Dr. Scott Schlarbaum (Geneticist, UT Knoxville), Dr. Robert Bardon (Extension Forester, NC State), Dr. Skip Shelton (Wildlife Consultant, Colorado), and more. Details will follow. We look forward to a strong attendance at a worthy program.

David Mercker, West Tennessee SAF Chair and UT Extension Forester

The University of Kentucky

The UK Department of Forestry is currently advertising to fill two faculty positions at the assistant professor level – one position in silviculture and one in forestry and natural resources policy. Both of these positions are 12-month, tenure-track, and 70% research, 30% teaching. Full descriptions of these positions are at the Department's website www.ca.uky.edu/forestry, then click on "Links and Opportunities" – Job Listings.

In the Extension area, working in partnership with Diana Olszowy of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Jeff Stringer and Billy Thomas recently produced the first issue of a new magazine titled *Kentucky Woodlands*. The primary goal of the full-color magazine is to promote stewardship and sustainable management of Kentucky's non-industrial private forests. The inaugural issue of the quarterly magazine was published in May 2006, and is mainly focused on forest health issues in the Commonwealth. This issue is available online at www.ca.uky.edu/forestry, then click on Extension.

Also in the Extension area, Doug McLaren was awarded the M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension by the Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals at their spring 2006 meeting in Lexington, and Deborah Hill was presented with the President's Award by the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals at their national meeting in Park City, Utah in May 2006.

On the academic side, the Department is currently in the middle of a lengthy process to revise the undergraduate curriculum. The revision is a "major overhaul", involving many constituents, internal to UK as well as external. The primary goal is to produce more "society ready" graduates while continuing to exceed SAF accreditation standards for both general and technical competencies. Our current plan is to implement the fully revised curriculum in the fall of 2008.

UT Forest Resources Center Receives Governors Award

Tennessee's Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke presented the 2006 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards to the University of Tennessee's Forest Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC) whose achievements were recognized for their positive impact on the state's natural resources in agriculture and forestry. The awards ceremony was held at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards program recognizes exemplary voluntary actions that improve or protect our environment and natural resources with projects or initiatives that are not required by law or regulations. The excellence in Agriculture/Forestry was awarded to the University of Tennessee Forest Resources Center's Hornyhead Branch Creek Restoration in Morgan County, Tenn. Forest Resources Center Director Richard Evans and Forest Manager Martin Schubert represented the University of Tennessee.

The restoration of Hornyhead Branch in Morgan County utilized six different streambank stabilization methods, including traditional and innovative approaches, that improved the water quality and habitat for 3,100 feet of creek bank while also providing better access to forestry operations. Project improvements have not only raised the water quality of this key tributary to Crooked Fork Creek but serve as an effective demonstration, training and outreach tool for forest managers, land owners and the public at large.

Grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, TVA and the Morgan County Soil Conservation District as well as contributions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service made this project possible. More details may be found at the UT Institute of Agriculture's website <http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/news/> or by contacting the UT FRREC at (423)324-4925.

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CLOSED TRAVERSE

Arnold Louis Mignery, 88, of Sewanee, died on May 12, at his residence. He was born in West Unity, Ohio, and attended M.I.T. before receiving his B.S.F. and M.F. degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan. He was a member of Phi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi honorary societies.

Mignery served in World War II from 1941-1946. A Pearl Harbor survivor, he also served in the European theater. He went to Sewanee in 1956 to open a new research center in cooperation with the University of the South. He retired after 34 years with the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition to being a member of the SAF, Mignery was active in a number of church and civic organizations.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Gertrude French Mignery; four daughters, four grandchildren and his brother.

From: Winchester [TN] Herald-Chronicle

William "Bill" Grieve, 91, a longtime TVA employee and naval reserve commander, and a former mayor of Norris, died June 18. A Penn State University graduate, Grieve was a World War II Navy veteran who served as a U.S. Naval Reserve commander for 28 years. He also worked for TVA forestry division for 38 years, the Norris Water Commission for 17, and served as the mayor of Norris from 1981 to 1982.

Grieve also served as the president of the Friendship Force of Knoxville, a group that hosted international exchanges. With the group Grieve and his wife of 68 years, Geraldine, visited Russia, England, China and Korea.

Grieve is survived by his wife, Geraldine; and sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Nancy Grieve of LaFollette and Duane and Marsha Grieve of Knoxville.

From: The Knoxville News Sentinel

SAF'S 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

SAF's 2005 Annual Report is on its website for your review at www.safnet.org/who/SAFar.pdf . We are proud of the work our Society is doing at the local and national level. And we recognize it is the commitment and support of our members and volunteers that create a strong society.

The Annual Report is full of excellent information. Be sure to notice some new additions: National Award Winners, Chapter Highlights, Student Award Winners and Student Chapter Highlights, New Resources – The Roots of Forestry™, Certified Foresters – New Developments, Working Group – Highlights and Actions, and Members in the News.

NEW SAF GROUP INSURANCE WEBSITE

The Society of American Foresters is happy to announce the launch of a NEW SAF Group Insurance Program Website. Click on www.safinsurance.net for instant access to:

Plan Information and Rates;

Download an application 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Request additional product information online

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