

Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

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

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

November 2006

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Doug McLaren

Ah – the holiday greeting card season!

It is getting to be that time of the year when we sit down and attempt to fill that empty portion of the holiday greeting card. Luckily the right side of it has a nice holiday greeting with some beautiful landscaped picture usually draped in snow. But there on the left is that huge blank space that we feel necessary to jot a few lines to family and friends. We usually fill the space with comments, both family wise and professionally, that will bring them up to date as to what we have been doing for the last several months.

So here goes my attempt at filling that left section of the KTSAF greeting card. First – “Where did the year go?” (This is usually how most of us start out the holiday card.) After we left Prestonsburg, Kentucky last January from the winter KTSAF meeting, we all headed back to our respective homes and work locations until we gathered again for the June/Summer KTSAF meeting that was sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Chapter. The program was held at the Paris Landing State Park with business meeting (the official segment) and an outstanding field program. I was unable to attend this program due to a summer forestry program commitment but Jeff Holt, KTSAF, Vice Chair, reported the successes of the event. Jeff reported that the executive meeting was hailed as one of the shortest held. He is hoping that this process continues into his tenure as chair.

October always brings the national SAF convention. This year it was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Early reports were that it was one of the largest attended meetings. I had the pleasure to attend the House of Society Delegates meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the regular sessions. The discussions held at this meeting are suggestions and recommendations that are sent to the Council for discussion and voting. I will list a few things that were discussed. (This is usually the part in the holiday card that we brag about ourselves and family)

Marvin Brown – SAF President – has four key points he is striving to discuss during his tenure. 1. Certified Forester Program. 2. How to engage membership. 3. Effective policy in Washington DC. 4. Student involvement.

Mike Georgen – Executive Vice President – he discussed many points that we, KTSAF, have previously discussed at local meetings. One which we have heard so many times, “What does national do for us?” Two mentioned were searchable journals from 1902 – 1999 and return of the Foresters Fund (\$40,000).

Dave Walters - great deal of discussion on the Certified Forester. I do hope that Dave will be able to “replay” this at our winter session.

Local Unit Assessment – a national committee bringing more paper work to the local chapters. Bring it on!

Membership Dues – lots of discussion here! I will bring you up to date on this one in West Tennessee in January.

Farm Bill – it is up again for review. The word “collaboration” was used extensively here. (New buzz word you know!) SAF has a website for those of you interested in policy.

Students – again a topic on everyone’s mind. General membership is continuing to fall but there are 1200 student members nationwide and nearly 400 were at the national convention, 1/3 of the students nationwide. The concern is why we lose them after graduation. I would challenge each of the schools in KTSAF, both advisors and students, to bring one positive initiative that we could send to national SAF about this issue.

State Initiatives – many states bring to the table programs and accomplishments that they wish to vocalize to the group. Mention was made from one state to move from the 3 ring binder to a CD with all their society information – chairs, minutes, documents, etc. The hope is to move to a website. I sat there and reflected on how KTSAF has had this luxury for many years providing its membership with information about the events of our society and web links to much more. I want to take this time to thank Mark Young and John Rennie and anyone else that is involved with all the work provided to keep this membership informed of KTSAF and SAF activities.

Bob Cunningham – Council Representative IX- thanks for being present at HSD and absorbing and facilitating all the information that was discussed. Hopefully it helped in any discussion and votes that followed in Council.

Awards – (this is the part in the holiday card where we ask. “How did your kids do over the year?”). Annually KTSAF provides the opportunity for all of us to step back and look at the individuals that we work with on a daily bases and those that we hear about during our discussions concerning forestry and natural resources throughout the Tennessee/Kentucky region. Following, in another section of this newsletter, you will find a list of awards that KTSAF uses annually to recognize those individuals that have done an outstanding job in making forestry work. Please, fill my mail box, either emails or snail mail, with potential award winners. The deadline is December 4th and there is a wide variety of categories. Tennessee, you even have an extra person/group to recognize with the Herman T. Bagenstoss award.

Elections – you will see, coming to by way of email or the USPS, a list of candidates for the upcoming year – Chair Elect and Secretary. Mark your ballots and get them returned in the appropriate time. Provide Richard Evans an opportunity to make use of that calculator on his desk.

With best regards and hope to see you – (normally this is how we end our holiday greeting cards. Wishing the best for everyone and hoping that we don’t go long with out seeing one another. I too will approach the end of this Chairman’s Corner holiday greeting card with the same note). Hopefully everyone will take the time to consider attending the Winter Meeting of KTSAF. It is being held in Jackson, Tennessee. The group has been working on the program for months and the theme of, “Woodscaping and Landcarving: A Forester’s Role in the Fragmenting Environment”, makes for a valued opportunity to learn more about this important topic and to see old, and make new friends. Please make very attempt to attend.

Again, thanks to everyone that has made 2006 a success for KTSAF.

Famous Cajun Cookers. All are welcome to CRUISE to west Tennessee for this exciting and informative meeting.

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.

UT FORESTRY CLUB WILL HOST 50TH ASFC FORESTRY CONCLAVE

With the help of faculty in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, student members of the University of Tennessee Forestry Club/Student SAF Chapter will host the 50th Association of Southern Forestry Clubs (ASFC) Conclave to be held March 15-18, 2007 at the Clyde M. York 4-H Center in Crossville, TN.

The University of Kentucky Forestry Club was recently voted into the ASFC during the 2006 Conclave, which has expanded the total number of schools participating in Conclave to fifteen. Approximately 300 undergraduate forestry club members and their faculty advisors are expected to attend, and will represent Alabama A&M, Arkansas-Monticello, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana Tech, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Oklahoma State, Stephen F. Austin, Tennessee, Texas A&M, and Virginia Tech.

The students put their forestry knowledge to the test in eight technical events, and hone their physical skills by competing in fourteen physical events. Technical events include: Compass and Pacing, Dendrology, DBH Estimation, Photogrammetry, Pole Classification, Timber Estimation, Wildlife Identification, and Wood Identification. Physical events will include: Archery, Axe Throwing, Chain Throwing, Jack & Jill Crosscut, Knife Throwing, Log Birling, Log Chopping, Log Rolling, Men's Bow Saw, Men's Crosscut, Pole Climbing, Pole Felling, Women's Bow Saw, and Women's Crosscut. The framework for conclave and rules of competition are dictated by the ASFC Constitution, which has been written by the students and is amended by vote as needed.

The students and faculty advisors at the host university are responsible for renting the Conclave site, providing room and board, setting up all events, and procuring the wood and other supplies required for each event. Conclave has grown substantially over its 50-year history, and the full cost of holding this event is expected to approach \$50,000. ASFC membership dues and registration fees cover a portion of this cost, but donations and additional fundraising by student members of the host club are critical for covering the full amount. For more information, or to make a contribution to the students, contact Dr. David Buckley, Faculty Advisor, at 865-974-7978 or dbuckley@utk.edu

NEWS

The **SE Tennessee SAF chapter** meet on August 22 at Mike Cardin's sawmill near Jasper. Twelve members attended and we discussed forester certification, the potential funding of local teacher training for Project Learning Tree, wildland_urban interface issues in the region, and John Kunz spoke about developments on the Franklin _ Marion State Forest.

Ken Smith, Chair, SE TN SAF

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