

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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February 2007

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Doug McLaren

New Years Resolutions

It is already February and just like myself you have broken some of your new year's resolutions that you set for yourself only a few days before the end of 2006. Sometimes it takes a "spark" of some sort to see our resolutions through to completion with success.

Hopefully some of your resolutions for 2007 will be directed toward KTSAF – I am sure that after attending the KTSAF Winter 2007 meeting in Jackson, TN a fire could possibly have been kindled. How about a resolution for the future entitled, "I can pull a truly successful meeting together for professional foresters". Thanks very much for **Dave Mercker and "Team"** for following through on this resolution from last year making the 2007 Winter Meeting a success. Thanks again to all that were involved.

There is also the resolution regarding leadership on the local chapter level. Thanks again goes out to all the chapter chairs (**Tammy Cushing**, EKSAF, **Larry Doyle**, WKSAF, **Chris Oswald**, ETSAF, **Ward Tarkington**, MTSAF, **Ken Smith**, SETSAF, **Dave Mercker**, WTSAF) for leading your chapter in 2006.

"I resolve to write it all down!" was seen by the work of **Diana Gennett** for being the secretary for the organization while **Ron Taylor** resolved to keep us "a float" in 2006 as the treasure. Resolving to "extend leadership in 2007" was seen by having **Jeff Holt** take over the reins as chair and **Tammy Cushing** become the vice chair for 2007. Jeff has already resolved leading KTSAF into 2007 by naming several new committee chairs at the end of the Winter Meeting.

Hopefully all of you will resolve to nominate great people for next year's awards. What a great group we had for this year. **Donald Youngblood** who has worked for the Tennessee Division of Forestry for 27 years in McNairy County, was presented the technician award. **John Ross**, an attorney from Savannah, Tennessee and the owner, with his family, of 7500 acres of forested land in Hardin County, received the Herman Baggenstoss award. Within our own membership **Tammy Cushing** was presented the Outstanding Forester under 35 year award for her quick and tireless energies shown since coming to UK while **J. Mark Young** received the Outstanding Forester over 35 partly for his continued effort in seeing that the web page of KTSAF is operational and informative. How about the resolution to be a "diligent member" of SAF over the years. Both **Charles "Gene" McGee** and **George Gibbs** were award the SAF Golden Member Certificate for being a SAF member for 50 years.

Hopefully all the students will resolve to be more involved in the Society's programs in the years to come. Thanks again for all of those students that attended this past meeting. Congratulations to **Doug Godbee** from the University of Tennessee, **Brian Emerson** from the University of Kentucky

and **Joseph Conrad** from the University of the South for receiving this years Outstanding Student Award.

After nearly seven years of an informal approach to the student quiz bowl – Jeopardy Style – the stakes were raised this year with the introduction of a traveling trophy. After a few minutes of intense wagering of “points earned” in the Final Jeopardy segment, the University of Kentucky’s student team came away with the first win of the trophy. Thanks also to **Nick Bridgeman and Eric Bridges** for putting all the effort into making the traveling trophy a reality. Thanks also to **Phillip “Alex Trebek” Smartt** for being the host of the Jeopardy game.

The year has ended for my tenure as KTSAF Chair. It has been a very quick year. It seems that it was over just before it started. Being chair provides you the opportunity to see all the individuals that work extremely hard to keep KTSAF viable. It seems as the year goes on each of these individuals comes to the fore front to add his or her contribution. It has been a joy to have represented you all in the workings of KTSAF. Please continue to support the newly elected team that will continue to represent you and the SAF foresters in Tennessee and Kentucky.

May all your resolutions for 2007 be easily fulfilled.

☺☺ Please see the KTSAF website for pictures of the award recipients provided by Jeff Stringer.

SAF COUNCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Dale Weaver

It is indeed a pleasure to be elected as the District 9 Council Representative. Our professional society relies on volunteer commitment and grassroots effort to make an organization worth belonging to. I’m proud to be a member of SAF and honored to be in this role. I pledge to work hard to represent your interests on the national level and to share the thoughts and concerns from the Council to the membership. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, comments, concerns, or questions. Over the next three years, I would like to see more interaction between the State societies within the district and more effort made on establishing local chapters where the foresters are located. I’m currently working on state membership demographics to understand the distribution of members and the reasons behind the loss of student memberships when they venture into the workplace. The student members need to feel connected to our organization when they leave school.

After each Council meeting, I will be sending an email out to the total membership with Council directions and upcoming concerns. Hopefully this will keep you informed on the direction and actions taken by the leadership. I challenge each one of you to push your local leadership for programs and activities to keep you engaged with this great society.

Thank you,

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

KTSAF Summer Meeting

Is the “Do-Nothing” option or the “Wait-and-see” option a viable forest land management alternative today? Come and discuss the idea this summer in Gatlinburg, TN at the KT-SAF Summer Meeting. The KT-SAF Summer Meeting will be headquartered at the Best Western Twin Islands Resort in Gatlinburg, TN from June 6th – 8th. The theme of the meeting revolves around the idea that nonnative invasive plants are changing the way we manage both private and public forest land. Invasive plants are altering the landscape and the options that foresters have available. A new toolbox is being developed to combat nonnative plants by public land managers, researchers, landowners, industry foresters and private consultants. Come meet with us and share your experiences, your frustrations and your successes as we discuss nonnative invasive plants and visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to see how they are combating these new problems. In addition, Dr. John Rennie will be hosting a discussion on Forestry Ethics to help meet the requirements of registered and licensed foresters. Please come join us. Contact Chris Oswalt at coswalt@fs.fed.us for further information.

Preparations Underway for 50th ASFC Forestry Conclave Hosted by UT

Student members of the University of Tennessee Forestry Club/Student SAF Chapter continue to work with UT faculty in preparing for 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.

Approximately 300 undergraduate forestry club members and their faculty advisors will arrive in Crossville on Thursday, March 15th, 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.

Funds and commitments to donate competition wood of various sizes and species are beginning to come in, and the UT forestry students are grateful to KTSAF and the West Tennessee KTSAF Chapter for providing funds for this event, and to members of the Middle and East Tennessee KTSAF Chapters for lending valuable assistance and suggestions. Mr. Richard Evans at the UT Forestry Research and Education Center, Mr. Brian Roberts with Indiana Hardwoods, Mr. Dean Neely with Neely Lumber Co., and Mr. Dwayne Turner with Smurfit-Stone have made commitments to supply the logs and cants needed for the sawing, chopping, felling, and pole climbing events. Funds have also been donated by individuals such as Dr. Gary Schneider, companies such as Hanafee Brothers Sawmill Co., and organizations such as the Marion County Forestry Association.

Stihl Inc. is in the process of signing on as a major sponsor, and will be running three additional timbersports competitions during the Conclave. ESPNU will be taping the Stihl events for broadcast on ESPN, as well as other Conclave events.

The full cost of holding this event is expected to approach \$50,000. ASFC membership dues and registration fees will cover a portion of this cost, but additional funding donations are critical for covering the full amount, and making registration fees reasonable for the students who will be competing. The UT students have set up a giving plan, and will acknowledge all donors in the following ways:

\$1000 and above: Listing as a Black Walnut Donor and printed ad with company or organization logo in The 2007 Southern Forester conclave yearbook (sent to all conclave participants), and name on banner for sponsored conclave event on site.

\$500-\$999: Listing as a Northern Red Oak Donor in The 2007 Southern Forester yearbook, and name on banner for sponsored conclave event on site.

Up to \$499: Listing as a Yellow-Poplar Donor in The 2007 Southern Forester yearbook.

Donation checks can be made payable to "The University of Tennessee" and sent care of David Buckley, Faculty Advisor, Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, 274 Ellington Plant Sciences Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4563.

Several professionals have also expressed interest in donating their time during the conclave by serving as an event judge, or helping in other ways. Although the students currently have a couple of leads, they are seeking someone who has experience in classification of southern pine poles for use as utility poles, and might be willing to serve as a judge for this pole classification event. Another requirement for this event is a surviving stand of loblolly pine (at least 10 trees) with large enough diameters for holding this event within a reasonable drive from Clyde York 4H Center in Crossville. A minimum DBH of 7.1 inches and pole length of 20 feet are required, but trees in the 10-20 inch DBH range would be best. Competitors classify these trees while still on the stump. To provide information on this particular event, or for further conclave information, contact Dr. David Buckley, Faculty Advisor, at 865-974-7978 or dbuckley@utk.edu.

NEWS

University of Kentucky Student SAF Chapter - Tamara Cushing

The chapter has 21 members and is working on recruiting more members from the junior class. The current officers are John Towles, President; Courtney Mastin, Vice President; Stu Lansing, Secretary; and Brian Emerson, Treasurer.

Several students were able to attend the National SAF meeting held in Pittsburgh. Students attend presentations, networked and were interviewed for jobs. All students had an enjoyable time.

UK became a member of the ASFC in 2006 and students are currently practicing for the 2007 Conclave.

Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky - Steven Bullard

An assistant professor of silviculture position at the University of Kentucky has been filled. Dr. John Lhotka will be joining the UK faculty on June 1. John has B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and he recently completed his Ph.D. in silviculture at Auburn University. John's initial appointment is 70% research and 30% teaching. This spring we will also be conducting interviews to fill a research/teaching assistant professor position in forestry and natural resources policy.

A team of forestry students from UK finished in the "final four" at the national student quiz bowl at the SAF national Convention in Pittsburgh in October '06. These students were Courtney Mastin, Chris Reeves, Brian Emerson, and Chris Osborne. A total of seven students attended the national convention from UK, and seven student members attended the KTSAF meeting in Jackson, TN in

January – where the UK team of Brian Emerson, Keith Ellum, Chris Osborne, and Chris Millay won the student quiz bowl. UK students are looking forward to the southern conclave hosted by UT this spring.

Among many other activities, the Extension faculty and professional staff have produced a second issue of Kentucky Woodlands magazine – a four color publication with information to help ensure that woodland owners make the best possible forest management decisions. A PDF copy of both issues of Kentucky Woodlands is available at the Department's web site www.ca.uky.edu/forestry (then click on Extension).

The Department of Forestry recently received an endowment to help cover the significant expenses of the senior-level, capstone course "Integrated Forest Resource Management." The Taylor Family endowment was established in recent months with specific dedication to the work provided in this important course. In the spring 2007 semester, students in the course are developing a forest management plan for the Taylor properties in Boyle and Casey Counties, Kentucky, with direct input from the family on management objectives for their 900 acres. In the future, the course will be dedicated to other nonindustrial properties in Kentucky, with partial expenses covered by the long-term endowment of the Taylor family.

Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, The University of Tennessee - John Rennie

The UT Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries has one new forestry faculty member on board and a second expected in late spring. Jason Henning is an assistant professor in forest biometry. He and his wife Katie and their son Nate, arrived in Knoxville in early January. Jason received his BS in Natural resources Management from Rutgers in 1998, a MS in Forestry from the University of Minnesota in 2002, a MS in Statistics from Virginia Tech in 2003, and a PhD from Virginia Tech in 2005. He came to Knoxville from the University of New Hampshire where he was a postdoctoral teaching associate in silviculture. Jason's research interests include growth and yield hybrid process models, canopy structure measurement, and model evaluation. In his free time, he enjoys golf and outdoor activities such as hiking and fishing.

Dr. Keith Belli will be joining the department in late spring as department head. Keith is currently Associate Dean of the College of Forest Resources, the Associate Director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and serves as Interim Head of the Forest Products Department at Mississippi State University [MSU]. Keith received his Ph.D. in forest biometrics from the University of Minnesota, his M.S. in silviculture from Michigan State University and his B.S. in Forest Science from Pennsylvania State University. After a short time on the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, he joined the faculty at MSU where he has been for the past 18 years.

East Kentucky SAF Chapter - Tamara Cushing

Chapter officers for 2007 are Tamara Cushing, Chair; Billy Thomas, Chair-Elect; and William Knott, Secretary/Treasurer.

The fall meeting of the chapter was held in October at Lilley Cornett Woods with speakers addressing the topic of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. We had attendance of approximately 50 members. Robert Watts, superintendent of Lilley Cornett Woods led a field visit.

East Tennessee SAF Chapter - Heather Stayton

Welcome to a new year, KTSAF! I hope that a fresh start will bring new ideas, new activities and certainly more opportunities for everyone to get involved in their local SAF chapter. Down here in

East Tennessee, we have started things off in a grand ole fashion by electing a new chair person at the first chapter meeting held on January 3 at Shoney's on Clinton Highway. I, Heather Slayton, was unanimously elected to be the 2007 ETSAF chapter chair (probably because I was the only person in the room who had not served the position at least once in the past 15 years). Nonetheless, I look forward to serving the chapter well and I hope to bring in some new ideas and activities to boost membership and camaraderie. Briefly, I graduated from Va. Tech in 2002 (B.S. Forestry), afterwards worked in the private sector in eastern NC, finally moving to Oak Ridge to work for Fountain Forestry.

On to other news, in honor of our recently deceased friend, Edward Buckner, the East TN chapter voted to donate half of the treasury to the Edward R. Buckner Endowment for Forest Ecology Graduate Students. Along those same lines, the chapter also decided to help the UT students, through a multitude of ways, to successfully host Conclave in March. Dr. David Buckley is the contact person for this event. Monetary contributions, volunteer efforts, and resource provisions are among the many ways we all can chip in to support our students and this extraordinarily fun event.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those who helped to make the KTSAF winter meeting in Jackson a great success and thanks to all who attended and showed support. I hope to see everyone in Gatlinburg for the summer meeting. In the meantime, it was discussed at the last breakfast meeting, which is always held on the first Wednesday of every month at Shoney's on Clinton Highway (7 am.), that we should rejuvenate and nurture the relationship between seasoned professionals and young professionals/students. This can be accomplished by holding several more evening socials throughout the year. In addition to these "meet-n-greets", we would like to take a stab at holding evening meetings with informative speakers and healthy discussions about the current events that are shaping our forestry universe. These meetings would serve as opportunities for other members who may find it difficult to attend the early morning breakfast meetings to become more involved with the chapter. Bringing in a variety of speakers will not only keep us up to date on the happenings of our chosen profession but also inspire us to come "out of the forest" and engage in topics about which we may know little.

Of course, it takes an array of efforts and a healthy budget to make all this happen; therefore, I am open to suggestions for topics, speakers, and ideas for fundraising in order to secure these events. Feel free to contact me at heather.slayton@fountainsamerica.com at any time. I am always looking for feedback and inspiration for better ways to bring us all together and make us better professionals. Thanks again for your support and I look forward to meeting everyone throughout the year.

West Tennessee SAF Chapter - David Mercker

The West Tennessee Chapter elected new officers for 2007 as follows: Allan Houston, chair; Eric Bridges, Vice chair; Wade McMahan, Treasurer; Tom Cunningham, secretary. We have seen an influx of members transferred in to serve with IP at the Memphis headquarters. Efforts over 2006 have been the planning and coordination of the 2007 KTSAF Winter Meeting. No future activities are planned at this time.

☺☺ Please note that the complete annual report that was submitted by each chapter and each committee in KTSAF is on the KTSAF website. The minutes from the executive meeting and business meeting held at each KTSAF meeting are also on the KTSAF website.

CLOSED TRAVERSE

Carl L. Marsh, 80, of Berea, Kentucky, died April 30, 2006 at St. Joseph Berea. Born in Columbus, Indiana, Mr. Marsh received a BS in Forestry & Range Mgt. and a BS in Wildlife Mgt. from Montana State University [now the University of Montana]. He held numerous positions with the USDA Forest Service starting with summer employment in 1948 on the Flathead NF and progressing through several professional positions on the Flathead, Helena, Gallatin, and Lewis & Clark national forests.

In 1980 he moved to Berea, Kentucky, as a consultant, and was the Berea College Forester from 1983 to 1991. He continued to work 20 hours a month in the Berea College Forestry Department from 1992 to 2000.

He served in the U. S. Army Air Corp in South Pacific during WWII, was a 2nd LT. U. S. Air Force in Korea, and retired from active duty in the USAF as Capt. in 1953; he spent 34 years in the USAF reserves.

Marsh joined SAF in 1948. He was also a member of a number of other forestry, fraternal and church. He is survived by his wife Harriet Freeman Marsh of Berea and three children: Daniel Marsh, Great Falls, Montana, Mary Marsh Seattle, Washington, Robert Marsh of Morehead, Kentucky; Preceded in death by one son, Joe Marsh.

Edward R. Buckner, 77, of Knoxville, died January 1, 2007 at St. Mary's Residential Hospice. Dr. Buckner received his BS in Geology from the University of North Carolina, his MS in Forestry from Duke University and his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. He was Overton Professor of Forestry, Emeritus, The University of Tennessee, where he taught dendrology and silviculture for 41 years. In recent years he had become passionate about the importance of fire in eastern US forest ecosystems, giving workshops and presentations on the topic across the US.

Buckner joined SAF in 1956 and was elected Fellow in 1996. In 1993 he was presented the Carl Alwin Schenck Award by SAF in recognition of his outstanding work in forestry education. In 2006, he received the Herbert Stoddard, Sr. award from the Association for Fire Ecology. This award recognizes significant lifetime contributions to fire ecology and management in the United States. Dr. Buckner was recognized for his contributions in research, teaching, and technology transfer.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Caroline Boyd Buckner; daughters, Rebecca Buckner of Alexandria, Virginia, Mary Beth "MB" Buckner of Covington, Georgia; sister and brother in law, Elizabeth Gash and husband Robert of Brevard, North Carolina; brother and sister in law, Robert Buckner and wife Sally of Raleigh, North Carolina; one niece and several nephews.

Contributions in memory of Dr. Buckner may be made to: The Edward R. Buckner Endowment for Graduate Research in Forest Ecology, The University of Tennessee Development Office, 600 Andy Holt Tower, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996.

John F. Dinwiddie, 59, of Cedar Hill, Tennessee, died January 22, 2007. Mr. Dinwiddie was the husband of Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director of the Tennessee Forestry Association. He is also survived by their daughter Laurel. The Tennessee Forestry Association Executive Committee along with the TFASWCG Trustees has set up an account to assist Laurel Dinwiddie. Contributions will be designated for educational purposes. The account will be at Hilliard Lyons, an investment company that has assisted TFA for many years. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to Hilliard Lyons and mail to 3401 West End Ave. Suite 160, Nashville, TN 37203. Simply reference on the check the Laurel Dinwiddie account.

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