

# Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

## NEWSLETTER

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

Number 284

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

February 2008

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Jeff Holt

Looking back on my year as Chair of the KTSAF there are many things to be thankful for and proud of on behalf of the SAF. The first of these was three great meetings that helped to fulfill two of our primary missions. The first of these missions is education for foresters to help us stay current and refresh our knowledge and understanding of forestry. The second is getting to spend some time with other foresters for educational and social purposes. It is good to remember our organizations first name is "Society". The winter meeting in Jackson provoked much good discussion and many thanks to the hard work of the West Tennessee Chapter. The summer meeting on exotic invasive plants featured a tour of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and highlighted that even those areas we think of as untouched are threatened by invasive plants. It was heartening to see that the Park's sustained effort is paying off in reducing the incidence of invasives. Thanks there to the members of the East Tennessee Chapter who brought this meeting about. The recent winter meeting displayed a future with new demands on forest productivity and new challenges for foresters as our nation (our middle name) undertakes to increase the use and availability of renewable energy sources. One speaker reported on research and planning that would like to see 18 inch diameter trees grown in five year rotations on up to 20 million acres (that is more than current acreage of loblolly pine plantations). Members from Western Kentucky Chapter pulled together this meeting that surely let us look a bit into our profession's future.

Other achievements this year included an intensive and very well thoughtout effort by the Tennessee Certification Committee to develop a standard means of forester certification in Tennessee that was voted on positively by our Tennessee members and can now move forward into the political process in Tennessee. We also began a program of voting electronically for all members that use e-mail. I encourage those who read this and don't use email for SAF business, to consider it as a means of rapid and less costly communication with the SAF and KTSAF. Thank you for having confidence in my ability to chair the KTSAF. As a last word, I encourage you to get and stay involved in SAF. If your chapter isn't meeting - START something.

### SAF COUNCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Dale Weaver

The final SAF Council meeting for 2007 was held December 1-2, completing my first year as your Council Representative. Even though I'm proud of the accomplishments, the slow process of change is quite frustrating. There will be some big issues that all of you will be involved with in 2008, i.e. membership classifications, etc. and other big announcements as well coming out soon. Overall, the rewards from being a Council member truly outweigh the efforts needed to make sure the District is represented well.

First off, congratulations to our new Fellows in District 9: **Tom Kuzmic, Wayne Geyer, and Dan Yaussy**. To be recognized by your peers and pass the tight standards set by our District Fellows Committee is truly an honor.

Now a recap of the December Council meeting:

Five new Council members were introduced.

1. Rod Brevig, District 4, filling the Council role for Lyle Laverty who has resigned due to a new job appointment.

2. Joann Cox, District 8

3. Jan Davis, District 11
4. Greg Russell, District 5
5. Clark Seely, District 2

We were also introduced to the new Student Representative to Council, Stephen Purvis, from the University of Georgia. This is the first time that a Student Rep. will be included in Council meetings.

**Electronic Balloting:** the electronic balloting was a success for SAF, both nationally and locally where it was used. Overall, the balloting represented only 35% of our membership, compared to 40% in 2006. This is probably due to the new process, a higher than normal turnout on previous elections, a poor job by the National Staff on communicating the new process, and the untimely death of a candidate thereby changing the print materials that usually precede the ballots. It will work better next time and continue to save us dollars.

In addition, six state societies held their votes through the national electronic election system: Mississippi, Ouachita, Allegheny, South California, Kentucky/Tennessee, and the Inland Empire. Allegheny did report that they doubled their participation in voting this year.

**Portland Convention:** overwhelming success. The total registration was 2,284, about 15% of the SAF membership. Also, 566 student members were in attendance.

**Financial Shape:** SAF has been in the black since 2003 and in great financial shape for 2007, up around \$600,000 in net revenues.

**Foresters Fund:** We are looking at about \$40,000 available for projects in 2008. Just to let you know, every submitted request in 2006 and 2007 received partial funding from the Foresters Fund. So, submit your projects for funding help.

**Membership Survey:** survey results show the overall value of SAF was high, but tended more toward moderate than high. Most likely, this is at least partially driven by discontent over the cost of membership by a fairly large number of members, in the younger and less experienced subsets. Some of the others findings: accreditation is important; the members are split on Certified Forester; members use the website but feel it could be improved; the working groups need to be reestablished; members like the lobbying effort and the networking provided by SAF; and feel getting Continuing Education at the local level is important. A plan to address the results in the membership survey will be develop and implemented during 2008.

**Group Forester Certification:** SAF is proceeding with a group certification model to expand the reach of the Tree Farm System and help expand the role of family forests in the marketplace. If we succeed, more acreage will fall under sustainable forestry certification.

**Membership Classifications:** this issue will be discussed at our next Council meeting, preparing a resolution that will be voted on by the membership. Look for these changes coming out soon.

Thanks for allowing me to serve in this way. I'm always available to take questions, comments, or concerns you have about SAF issues: Glatfelter Woodlands, PO Box 2500, Chillicothe, OH 45601; Phone: 740-772-0865; Mobile: 740-649-4069; Fax: 740-772-3670; [Roger.Weaver@glatfelter.com](mailto:Roger.Weaver@glatfelter.com)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **KTSAF Summer 2008 Meeting**

The KTSAF Summer Meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the Southeastern TN SAF Chapter. Dates are June 11-13. Anyone interested in helping with this meeting or with suggestions should contact Tamara Cushing [[tamara.cushing@uky.edu](mailto:tamara.cushing@uky.edu), (859) 257-2149] or John Rennie [[nrandjr@comcast.net](mailto:nrandjr@comcast.net), 865-57-6356].

### **East Tennessee SAF Chapter**

The East Tennessee SAF Chapter continues to meet at 7AM on the first Wednesday of each month. The location of the breakfast meeting is now at the Shoney's in **Oak Ridge**. It is located on Illinois Avenue

### **Central Hardwood Forest Conference, in Lafayette, Indiana.**

The **16th Central Hardwood Forest Conference** will be held in Lafayette , Indiana April 7-9, 2008. The objective of the conference is to bring together forest managers and scientists to discuss research and issues concerning the ecology and management of forests in the Central Hardwood region. Details can be found at:

<http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/CHC2008/registration.htm>

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### **Flood Plain Ecosystem Symposium**

The **Flood Plain Ecosystem Symposium** is intended for natural resource professionals interested in floodplain ecosystems. It will be March 4 -6, 2008 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Details can be found at:  
<http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/floodplainsymposium>

### **RESULTS OF KT-SAF ELECTION - Richard M. Evans, KT-SAF Teller**

In accordance with KT-SAF Bylaws (Page 4, Article 7) I am reporting to you the following results from our 2008 election of officers.

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>
Chair-elect	
Johnny Heard	35
Allan Houston	88*
Secretary	
Brent Lecher	31
Heather Slayton	93*

I certify these results as a true count of all ballots received in this election and declare **Allan Houston** and **Heather Slayton** as the 2008 KT-SAF Chair-elect and Secretary, respectfully.

Congratulations and thanks are extended to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve our professional society and their recognized leadership abilities. Special thanks go to the nomination committee for their dedicated service to KT-SAF.

### **TENNESSEE SAF MEMBERS SUPPORT PROPOSED REGISTRATION - Dave Walters, Tennessee Forester Credentialing Committee Chair**

On January 21, Richard Evans, KT SAF Teller reported that 81% of SAF foresters in Tennessee support the proposed registration of foresters. Surveys were mailed to all Tennessee foresters on the SAF roles (210 members) and 69 ballots were returned (33%).

Along with their ballots some folks chose to add comments that outlined their opposition to the proposed credential. Comments opposing forester registration included concerns that qualified and ethical

foresters who have not been actively practicing forestry for a number of years will not be eligible for registration, the grandfathering process will enable all jack-legs to practice forestry, and registration will serve no purpose other than to protect the interest of a few individuals.

The committee on credentialing foresters reported their findings at the KT SAF winter meeting in Bowling Green and was thanked for their excellent work. The proposed registration document is on the KT SAF website [www.ktsaf.org/current\\_issues.html](http://www.ktsaf.org/current_issues.html)

Next steps in the forester registration process will be establishing an implementation committee that includes folks who have an interest in forestry and who are savvy in the political process in Tennessee.

Formalized credentialing of foresters in Kentucky and Tennessee has a long history going back to 1952 when the KT SAF established a committee to examine licensing foresters in Tennessee and Kentucky. KT SAF voted to support registration of foresters in Kentucky in 1960 and planned to present a proposal to the Kentucky Legislature in 1964 then to the Tennessee legislature in 1965. Legislation failed in Kentucky and the KT SAF subsequently decided not to pursue licensing in Tennessee. In 1974 forester licensing passed the Kentucky House but was killed in the Senate.

Like sprouts from a chestnut tree, the 1984 KT SAF Legislation & Policy committee was charged to study the certification of professional foresters and report their findings at the summer meeting. A Licensing & Registration committee was reestablished in 1987 then declared inactive in 1989.

Outside of the KT SAF, the 1998 Tennessee Forest Management Advisory Panel, established by a Senate Joint Resolution recommended registration for professional foresters adding, "*As society expects better and more sustainable forest management, it becomes increasingly more important to ensure that professional foresters are adequately trained and registered. The Panel recommends that the Tennessee Forestry Commission consider developing a registered forester program for Tennessee*". House Joint Resolution 189, passed in 2003, tasked the Tennessee Forestry Commission to evaluate the Southern Forest Resource Assessment and make recommendations to address those issues pertinent to Tennessee. One issue raised by citizens during the public input sessions was a call to certify foresters in Tennessee to ensure quality and professional standards.

If we are lucky, a bill establishing forester registration will be introduced next legislative session and we'll harvest the efforts of our predecessors.

## **2008 TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS - Dave Walters**

Nominations are currently being accepted for the **2008 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards**, and I am asking you to draw on your knowledge to help us identify those organizations and individuals taking action to improve the quality of land, air and water in Tennessee. In the past few years few forestry projects have been submitted!

Award winners will be selected for the following categories this year:

- Aquatic Resource Preservation
- Agriculture/Forestry Stewardship
- Building Green
- Energy Leadership
- Environmental Education & Outreach
- Green Schools (K-12 and Higher Education)
- Greenways & Trails
- Hazardous Waste Reduction
- Solid Waste Reduction
- Lifetime Achievement
- Natural Heritage Conservation
- Parks and Recreation
- Pollution Prevention

Information regarding eligibility requirements, judging criteria and nomination forms are available on the Awards Web page at [www.tdec.net/awards](http://www.tdec.net/awards). The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2008, and

winners will be announced by May 2008. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Glapa at 615-253-8780 or [kathy.glapa@state.tn.us](mailto:kathy.glapa@state.tn.us).

## NEWS

### **East Kentucky SAF Chapter**

A big thanks to the West Kentucky SAF Chapter and all those that helped with the 2008 KT SAF Winter meeting—it was nicely done.

#### East Kentucky SAF Web Presence

Pictures and minutes from the 2007 East Kentucky SAF Chapter's fall meeting have been posted to the KT SAF website. The EK SAF executive committee will be making a concerted effort to keep the EK SAF portion of the KT SAF website as current as possible with all the EK SAF information you need so stop by and check it out at <http://www.ktsaf.org> – many thanks to Mark Young for his efforts in updating the website. If you have suggestions for content please let Mark know.

#### East Kentucky SAF 2008 Fall and Spring Meetings

Ideas and plans are currently being considered for the 2008 spring and fall EK SAF Chapter meetings. The spring meeting/business meeting will be held in April or May and the fall meeting will be held in September or October. Stay tuned for more information and send in suggestions.

#### East Kentucky SAF Newsletter

Doug McLaren has graciously agreed to serve as the chair of the EK SAF newsletter committee and is currently working on an issue that will be coming out soon. In addition to emailing and mailing it to EK SAF members it will be posted on the KT SAF website.

#### East Kentucky SAF Committees

The EK SAF executive committee is in the process of filling standing and ad-hoc committees for 2008. Serving on a committee is a great way to get involved in your SAF chapter and make a positive difference. If you would like to serve on a committee please let us know.

#### East Kentucky SAF Awards

Doug McLaren was selected as the KT SAF Outstanding Service Award for over 35 yrs of age recipient for his outstanding efforts in the promotion of forestry through voluntary service to the SAF by a member of KT SAF. Congratulations Doug!

Dr. Louis Shain received the Golden Membership award for 50 years of membership in SAF. Thank you Dr. Shain!

Suggestion and comments related to EK SAF are always welcome and can be directed to [billy.thomas@uky.edu](mailto:billy.thomas@uky.edu) or by calling 859.257.7597

Billy Thomas, East KY SAF Chair

### **University of Kentucky Department of Forestry News**

At the University of Kentucky [UK], we continue to work on enhancing both the numbers and the diversity of our undergraduate enrollment. Forestry programs at UK and at the University of Tennessee are working together to sponsor a south-wide discussion on enrollment and diversity. Dates haven't been scheduled yet, but we're hoping to have the meeting in mid-to-late March, so that action items can be presented at the next meeting of southern forestry deans and department heads, which is set for April 9.

As reported in previous newsletters, the undergraduate forestry major at UK is being significantly revised, in a process that has involved many external stakeholders in addition to our own faculty and staff. Our current goal is to submit the full revision to our College/University before the end of the spring semester '08; if approved we will implement the new curriculum in the fall of '09, prior to our next SAF accreditation visit.

We've recently received some good news about property acquisition. In the '08 federal budget, a request was approved for approximately \$500K to purchase about 250 acres of forest land near Lexington and that has significant frontage along the Kentucky River. This land is being purchased for ownership by

UK's College of Agriculture, with primary use by the Department of Forestry in teaching, research, and outreach programs.

Steven Bullard, UK Forestry Dept. Chair

### **Tree Farm Inspectors training**

The Tennessee Tree Farm Committee held an "Inspector's Training" on Wednesday, Jan. 23 as part of the KT-SAF winter meeting in Bowling Green, KY. Sixteen people completed this program and were certified as Tree Farm Inspectors.

Potential new Tree Farm Inspectors and existing inspectors who have not had updated training since 2004 are required to complete inspector's training as part of the growing forest certification program. Contact David Mercker at [dcmercker@utk.edu](mailto:dcmercker@utk.edu) or (731) 425-4703 about future training sessions

The American Tree Farm System is expected to receive international certification recognition through the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) by March 2008. When this occurs, all American Tree Farms will be third-party certified.

### **THOUGHTS ON ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY - Larry Tankersley, Extension Specialist, Forestry**

This type of forestry generally analyzes forest resources from the standpoint of conserving natural biodiversity and ecological productivity. Ecological forestry emphasizes natural patterns and processes – understanding these, working with them and maintaining their integrity, even when it is inconvenient or financially difficult. Natural disturbance patterns and processes show the way.

A central theme of ecological forestry is that manipulations should work within established natural disturbance patterns that occurred prior to extensive human alterations. Developing native species under these circumstances and maintaining a full range of similar conditions under management offers the best assurances against loss of biodiversity.

A disturbance is any event that disrupts the ecosystem, community or population structure. It changes resources, substrate availability or the physical environment. Fires, floods, wind, insect/fungi outbreaks, ice storms and landslides would all be considered disturbances.

To describe a specific disturbance regime we measure three things:

1. Return interval: The average time between occurrences in a given stand. It is also sometimes expressed as a frequency. For instance, if a disturbance occurs once every 100 years, we say that roughly 1 percent of the area will be disturbed in any given year.
2. Severity: The intensity of the disturbance.
3. Spatial pattern: Distribution of the disturbance at various scales from the stand to the landscape.

Theoretically, a large number of disturbances could affect any stand or forest over the course of its life. When we consider the array of possibilities for a disturbance it can be overwhelming. Often, a few types of disturbances dominate the formation of a local forest. In Tennessee, fires, wind and ice storms have dominated the disturbance process of most of the state. Floods have affected forests in West Tennessee and other areas.

Increasingly, a general strategy for forest management is to follow natural disturbance processes.

Although landowners will continue to tailor management to their particular objectives, disturbance concepts provide a broad template to manage forests where native species and ecological productivity are important values.

For more information contact Larry Tankersley at 865-973-7346 or [ltanker1@utk.edu](mailto:ltanker1@utk.edu)

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### **HOW MANY PRACTICING FORESTERS ARE THERE? - John Rennie**

A recent issue of *Tools of the Trade*, a magazine for the building industry, had a note indicating that there are about 70 carpenters and 40 lawyers per 10,000 people in the United States. This lead me to wonder how many practicing professional foresters we have. As of December 31, 2007, SAF had 9869 professional members [this includes professional members, professional members - fellow, lifetime members and conditional professional members]. If we use the percent of lawyers in the US that are members of the ABA, about 1 in 3, as the number of practicing foresters in SAF, we come up with about 30,000 practicing foresters. Using this estimate and the estimated population of the us in January 1, 2008 [303.15 million], we come up with about one practicing forester per 10,000 people in the United States.

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John C. Rennie, Editor

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