

# Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters NEWSLETTER

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

**Number 288**

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

**February 2009**

## CHAIR'S COLUMN - Allan Houston

There is an old Chinese proverb that I've heard many times: "may you live in interesting times." I only recently learned that it was meant to be a curse.

Well, if nothing else, these are interesting times. And, true to their ancient meaning, the times ain't so good. Yet, and exhausting just about all I know about Chinese, the word "crisis" consists of two characters, one for danger and the other for opportunity. Each gives birth to the other. Many of you reading this will have had large transitions in your life. I would venture that everyone knows of someone who is suffering. For me, a quick 10-second count brings to mind a dozen friends who have lost their jobs. With the stock market's heart beating lower and lower, this count is likely to increase. Unless you witnessed the Great Depression, none of us have ever seen anything like this.

As KTSAF Chairman, I'd hate to think that I'm coming aboard as the ship is going down. In fact, I do not think that. Bye and bye, things will change and the economy will recover. But, based on what the pundits tell us, unlike the phoenix that rises out of the ashes good as new and with the same feathers, the economy will take on a new shape. That is a key thought and one that will probably influence our profession

. . . danger. It suggests also that our professional has a unique chance to become more influential  
. . . opportunity.

I wonder what will happen? As many of you know there is a new Tennessee law on the books that allows a motorist to take home any wild game animal that he happens to run over and kill, if he notifies TWRA. It has been called the "Road Kill Bill" and there is a song out about it that has a lyric something like this, "we were laughed at here in Tennessee, but when a buck can feed a family look who's laughing now." It seems to me to be a sentiment, of sorts, on a new set of environmental perspectives that might evolve out of all of this.

I wonder if a common-sensical attitude will become more prevalent among the general public and the environmental cognoscenti, the ones who foot the bills for the radical environmental agenda and its bureaucracy. Will they come to a reckoning of just how much extreme environmental attitudes really cost them?

You can read in the January/February issue of the *Journal of Forestry* how often U.S. Forest Service land management decisions are litigated. The Forest Service is a high-profile target and receives considerable hits; but in fact, the winds of extreme environmentalism have long been part and parcel of the cost of doing timber management in this country. If the costs of management cannot lean against that pressure, they topple backwards. Where? And, who eventually loses?

. . . . management certainly, the land likely, and the public's intent, eventually . . .

Unreasonable environmental pressures that make sound timber and land management overly troublesome, and expensive, might topple onto the folks who most aggressively push the agenda. Burdensome costs can drive land toward alternative uses, many that are not generally noted for considering how birds and water and pavement fit together to preserve some semblance of ecological integrity.

Our profession is dedicated to offer timber and land management solutions to a struggling country. We speak for more than just the trees. We are relevant. And, based in science, we are suited to raise our hands in public debate. Yet, even if set free in our science, we are oftentimes bound by a historic reticence.

A relatively new landscape is forming. It is the suburban and exurban fringe that is growing in rings around every metropolitan center. For example, the population of Atlanta is added to the south every year. They will find a place to live, somewhere

The coming summer meeting will examine these phenomena. It will focus on logical opportunities to impact this newly forming landscape and touch people who live on it with what, for them, might be radical, but perhaps suddenly sensible ideas. We have an opportunity to reach the voting centers, the people who, like it or not, have the power to adopt reasonable land-use ideas or to abandon them to the predictable knowledge and resulting attitudes of a people two, three and four generations removed from the good earth --and who are frightened.

Now, this is not to say that environmental vigilance has done no good. It has and, quite frankly, we should be at the forefront of genuine and practicable environmental philosophies. But, we should also be staunch in our ability to point out the spooks, those who hijack public fear to accomplish unreasonable goals.

We, as part of an honorable profession, are in the business of sound management and the advancement of an exciting science. We are stewards and stretch our minds and imaginations over multiple generations. We, of all people, are the ones with the most basic love of the land, practical as it may be. The opportunity exists now to share that vision with a people perhaps more sensitized to hear it because they are becoming more aware of the native fact that all owe their living to a thin layer of topsoil, a splash of sunshine on the ground and the rain that brings it all alive.

Perhaps more-so than any recent time, there exists a unique opportunity for our profession to present itself attractively in what has been our natural bent: logic, science and sound management, things that can be stolid, but if animated with our imaginations, also compelling. Maybe never in recent times can a *Walk in the Woods* be so profitable. People may be inclined to listen.

In many cases we must venture into an unfamiliar and here-to-for unfriendly land, the suburban centers, maybe now a bit more broad-minded, but also narrow in its scope, narrow in its experience and ability to understand. It is a place trapped between concrete and the city-lit death of the Pleiades. It is where environmental currency changes hands from the back alley's extremism and onto the front page. But, it is where the people are.

Danger and opportunity, side-by-side.

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Winter's hold on 2009 is beginning to break. But I like Old Man Winter. He brings the hunting season, Christmas, warm fires, and football. Of course, during the latter part of the season, most of this is gone and people are looking toward spring and summer. Well so am I, but I dread the spiders.

The little dudes have been holed up all winter plotting where best to put their webs to catch me across the face. They hide in their holes and giggle hilariously, slapping their sides with their little spider legs and thinking up good places in their little spider minds.

A web or two in my face and my eyes puff up and turn red. My glasses look like they've been rubbed with a doughnut and my whiskers look like they're loaded down with tinsel.

Snakes startle me. Ticks annoy me. But, I really dread the spider's snare.

## **TWINING OF THE TRAILS**

Spider webs across my path  
make me blink and back up fast.  
Weeping nearly in my wrath,  
I wipe away the gummy mask.

The spider lurks darkly hidden  
and plucks his broken strings.  
A guest too big and unbidden  
has ruined his deadly things.

In the grey of fading light  
he'll spin his ropes anew,  
anticipating that the night  
will bring prey of less sinew.

He is the patient personality,  
in an equilibrium of lives,  
for it is on the energy  
of others he relies.

For all who slowly wait,  
to balance Nature's scales,  
are those who fly to their fate  
at the twining of the trails.

## **Winter Meeting**

For those of you in Kentucky who could not get to the winter meeting because of ice . . . I hope you are not reading this by flashlight. I hope power has been fully restored.

You missed one of the very best meetings we've ever had. For me, it's been a like a catchy tune you heard and can't get out of your head. Without thinking you will find yourself whistling away. Several times since the meeting I've had occasion to utilize the information from the meeting. It was current and pertinent to these unusual times. It has been extraordinarily useful and the talks keep coming back to my mind.

Generally, I find that there is a talk or two that does not interest me so much as others. Not true here. From walking up to Everest or sliding down the economic graphs, to the Filthy Five and rattlesnakes, to Uranium in the sands, to bad bees and electronic gizmos, to carbon and ethics and forestry's statistics . . . it was all very good and with good speakers. To top it off Bernie Hubbard, SAF President was there, not only to make a presentation, but he suffered through our Executive Meeting as well.

Middle Tennessee pulled off an extraordinary piece of work. *Just excellent!*

Also, while I am at it, I want to thank all of you who have signed on to this year's responsibilities. And, a special thank-you goes along with Tammy as she begins her new responsibilities at Clemson.

**See the KTSAF website [ [www.KTSAF.org](http://www.KTSAF.org) ] for the final 2008 budget, the proposed 2009 budget and minutes from the KTSAF 2009 winter executive meeting and business meeting. Also see the KTSAF website for pictures from the 2009 KTSAF winter meeting.**

**SAF COUNCIL REP - DISTRICT 9 - Roger Dale Weaver.**

**Note:** Since the November KTSAF newsletter, Roger Weaver has sent out two reports to SAF

District 9 members. Those with email have received these reports. Both are presented here for those without email and for the archives. There is some repetition and some dated material. It does point out that using email for SAF information from is a good idea as it will keep you current. **November, 2008:** 2008 is winding down quicker than I had expected, and the start of my final year on Council is fast approaching. This means the door is open for a District 9 SAF Member to step forward and accept the challenge of Council representation for the 2010-2012 term. Please contact me if you have questions or desire to learn more about this opportunity, or go on-line at the SAF website to download the nomination packet for Council. It has been a very rewarding experience and I wish every member would get this opportunity to serve in this way.

The 2008 National Convention was successfully held last week in Reno, NV with an attendance figure around 1600. This was a great meeting and opportunity for networking with foresters from around the country. I hope you will consider attending the 2009 National Convention, held in Orlando, Florida at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, September 30 – October 4, 2009. Please watch for more on this convention in the publications ahead.

An abbreviated version of our standard Council meeting was held Wednesday afternoon last week, and the following report reflects issues discussed.

**Sale of National SAF Headquarters:** By now you should be aware of the failure to sale the National Headquarters to Nations Academy. Several reasons contributed to this result.

1. The credit markets put a squeeze on the funding for Nations Academy. All of their funding sources dried up.
2. Paying more for the property than the appraised value. This was quite a deal for SAF, but the economic pressure finally prevailed.
3. Montgomery County, MD officials delayed the plans through legal wrangling until the deal was missed.

The sale of the Headquarters is not off the table, but will be researched further.

**Introduction of new Marketing Manager with SAF, Christopher Whited:** Chris has hit the ground running working on recruitment and retention issues within SAF. Some of his ideas mentioned include getting resumes of foresters' online, assistance with local web pages for local units and foresters, and listing new member's names in the Forestry Source. Chris has many fresh ideas in bringing more value to SAF membership.

**Michael Mortimer, Policy Manager:** Mike left SAF recently to pursue another university position, leaving SAF again looking for someone to steer the policy team. Waiting for the election cycle to end, a search for a new policy manager is underway. Please forward resumes or ideas to the National Office.

**Student Report, Steven Purvis:** the main issue reported from the new Student Council team is member retention, especially with graduating students who leave for a new position; how do we keep them engaged when they go off to work. The Student Council wants to help with a new design for the SAF Website and make it more accessible for students, and work on ways to engage the students with local chapters.

**National Assoc. of State Forester's Sustainability Policy Task Force, Bernie Hubbard:** Bernie's team met with NASF to try to build a framework that both SAF and NASF could work with. An effort is underway to strengthen the relationship and join forces to work on this policy together.

**SAF Financial Report, Joe Roberson:** Our financial position took a hit as everyone else did with the fall of the stock market. Our prior year report showed \$4.4 million in assets compared to our \$3.9 million today. All of this drop can be contributed to the stock market decline. Membership dues rose slightly in 2008, but expenses also rose. Overall, in light of the current economic problems, we are sitting quite well.

**SAF 2009 – 2015 Strategic Action Plan, Roger Weaver:** a new strategic plan in both content and format will be forthcoming in 2009. This plan is meant to serve as an overall guiding document for all units and all levels of SAF. The Council will develop their strategic plan and action steps then share these with the State Societies to consider and draft their own. The main Strategic Plan document is only one page, listing only 5 Key Strategic Goals. A follow-up document then will take each Key Strategic Goal and list specific actions to accomplish that goal. Each action step will then have success indicators to measure how we are doing and a timeline. We are hoping that this will improve over the old process that was rarely used outside of Council.

The 5 Key Strategic Goals are:

1. Promote keeping existing forests as forests, conserving forests, and engage in cooperative efforts to achieve sustainable forestry and natural resource management.
2. Continue to gain support of the public and policy makers to enable SAF to fulfill its mission.
3. Increase coordination and relationships with state societies, working groups and partners and allies that will help SAF fulfill its mission.
4. Assess the activities, programs and operations of SAF and strive for continuous improvement in all facets of our organization.
5. Provide and promote superior educational materials, meaningful experiences, and credentialing resources to help members achieve greater professional competence and competitiveness in the marketplace.

**SAF Leadership Academy, Kirk David:** Council has approved a Leadership Academy for 2009, and the location and date have been set. The 2009 Leadership Academy will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Golf and Spa Resort in Coeur d'Alene, ID on April 3-7, 2009. Watch for more on this excellent training opportunity for young and old alike. Please plan on supporting this event by sending 1 or 2 from your membership.

As always, I appreciate your input on any Council directions or concerns. Thanks for allowing me to serve you on Council.

**December 2008:** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2008 is quickly ending and a new year is upon us, and ahead of us are many uncertain times. But, as our characters and experiences are tested, we grow stronger each and every time. May our 2009 bring stability and security to our country and our jobs.

The December Council meeting was held Dec. 7-9 in Bethesda. A quick snapshot of the agenda and discussions are: (let me know if you want further detail)

1. We welcomed 4 new Council members and 1 new President-elect.
2. Ratified our vote for the 2011 National Convention to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. Surprising, the total cost was cheaper there than the other locations considered.
3. Approved position statements on Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems and Urban Forestry, and discussed positions on Forest Management and Climate Change.
4. Report was heard from Michael Goergen on SAF's National Office performance for 2008.
  - a. Many changes and challenges took place in 2008. Pat Finn, the accounting manager, Amy Ziadi, database and IT, and Michael Mortimer, policy director, left

SAF. Turnover such as this is common for Washington, D.C., but does disrupt the flow of things.

- b. New hires include, Christopher Whited, marketing and membership. Chris brings innovative approaches and ideas to help grow membership and improve member value. Corey Hughley, database administration, has already started modernizing and simplifying the database. Rita Perchikova, accounting, also joins the team at the National SAF office. Erica Rhoad, the new director of forest policy. She comes from a law firm and worked with several clients on natural resource and forestry issues. The exact number of SAF staff is now 18.5.
  - c. Property management. Even though the sale did fall through with Nations Academy, this experience helped us understand the process and the value of this property. Hopefully this opportunity will again be available to SAF, and next time we will be more prepared.
  - d. A new Website design is being developed for rollout in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009. It will be better organized for members and non-members, with easier navigation and content.
  - e. The 2009 Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2009. Charles Mann, the author of 1941, will be the keynote speaker. Please make your plans to bring the family for a vacation.
5. District report “Success Stories”. Here are some great ideas to share with your local units.
- a. In Oregon, a local chapter invited High School students and their parents to a program about Forests and Forestry jobs. Over 50 students with their parents showed up for the meal and program.
  - b. The Student Chapter at Wisconsin, Stevens Point, hosted a meeting, “New Tricks for Old Foresters” showing new technologies to the older foresters in attendance.
  - c. At the Reno Convention, 75 students were interviewed for jobs for the Forest Service and 25 for BLM jobs. The Forest Service had 19 job offers accepted and BLM had 2 job offers accepted. This was such a success for those looking for job candidates; it will probably be continued at future conventions. All students should be encouraged to attend just for this purpose.
6. A new Strategic Plan is being developed, more user friendly and understood over the past versions. Look for this in 2009 to share with your local units.
7. During our Council meeting, Michael Goergen was asked to participate with the Obama transition team as a forestry expert. This is a big step for SAF recognition during this process. Hopefully we will continue to have some influence over policy directions of the new administration.
8. A long discussion was held concerning the Certified Forester test and certification procedures. The test is still in the infancy stage and some pains are being felt, but the main emphasis is to be accountable and professional. Efforts for improvements are still being considered and as the number of tests increase, more assistance will come forth.
9. The 2009 Leadership Academy will be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on April 4 – 7, 2009. Please spread the word and try to get leaders to attend this valuable training.

The last thing I want to mention is that 2009 is my last year on Council, so a slate of officers is

needed to run for the 2010 – 2012 term. This is a rewarding and fun experience and will expose you to a side of SAF that makes you proud of your membership. Please consider running for Council and if you have any questions, let me know. SAF pays for all expenses for these meetings, outside of your employer's contributions, and for 2 nights at the National Convention. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I've been associated with.

Your District 9 SAF Council Representative,

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**KTSAF Summer 2009 Meeting** - The West TN Chapter of KTSAF has been hard at work locating facilities and speakers for the 2009 Summer Meeting. The meeting will be held at International Harvester Park 4523 Canada Road (Exit 20 I-40), Lakeland TN 38002. The general plan is to start at 12 pm on Thursday, June 11th and end with a tour at 1-2 pm Friday, June 12th. The meeting will focus on the interface between wild and urban lands as well as the interface between conventional and urban forestry. If you have any questions please feel free to email Nick Bridgeman at [nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org](mailto:nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org).

**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

### **QDMA Announces 2009 Personal Certification Course Dates/Locations**

The Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) is pleased to announce their 2009 individual certification program dates and locations. This program includes three levels of potential achievement and each course takes interested foresters, wildlife biologists, and other resource professionals to the most advanced levels of deer management knowledge. Level I courses include nearly 20 presentations by the nations' deer management experts over a 2 ½ -day period followed by an optional half-day field trip at a nearby location. Level II courses are designed to emulate a hands-on experience for participants who have attained Level I status. The weekend activity schedule for these individuals will include sessions on aging deer jaw bones; aging deer fetuses; taking soil samples and interpreting soil test results; determining acreage of food plots and calibrating equipment for distributing lime and fertilizer; food plot planting techniques; prescribed burning; scoring deer antlers by the Boone & Crockett method; techniques for determining deer densities and sex ratios; and much more.

This year's Level I courses will be offered at Killens Pond State Park in Felton, Delaware on May 1-4; in Columbia, South Carolina on May 15-18; and at The Grigsby in Tallula, Illinois on August 14-17. Level II courses will be offered at the QDMA National Headquarters in Athens, Georgia on June 5-8; and at the Bastow Farm near Edinboro, Pennsylvania on September 11-14.

To keep the student:instructor ratio as low as possible, each course is limited to a maximum of 50 participants, so register early for your preferred course location and dates. Registration fees for both levels are \$800 for non-members, \$750 for QDMA members, and \$700 for Life and Sponsor members.

Certified foresters can also earn Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) credits by attending each course. Duane Means, a certified forester that attended both Levels I and II in 2008 recently said

"With 15 years experience in forest and habitat management I found the QDMA certification courses to be valuable learning experiences. They combined habitat, deer management, and deer hunting, together with organized and credible information, enabling me to better communicate with landowners about the connections between good forestry and deer management. I learned the latest information and techniques in deer management and am using them to help meet my clients' goals. Also, the professional instructors, QDMA staff, and fellow student managers have proven to be great colleagues in my resource network. I would recommend QDMA certification courses to anyone practicing resource management involving deer and wildlife habitat."

Details of each course will be posted at [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com), under the "REACH Program" button on the home page. Registration for both the Level I and II courses will begin on January 12th. You can register for the course of your choice through our website or by calling 800-209-3337 (DEER). For more information, please contact Matt Ross, QDMA Certification Programs Manager, at (802) 753-7614 or [mross@qdma.com](mailto:mross@qdma.com).

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Berea, Kentucky** - Seeking a highly motivated and experienced forestry manager. Central to this position is a commitment to sustainable forest management practices, experience with natural resource management issues and the desire to advance the economic and environmental benefits of quality forestry practices in the Appalachian region. Work will involve expansion of an existing Forest Opportunities Initiative leading to the development of new forestry program. The applicant need not be a forester. On-going application review process. EOE. For program and application details visit [www.maced.org](http://www.maced.org) From Geoffrey Willett, Consulting Program Development Coach

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

In accordance with KT-SAF Bylaws (Page 4, Article 7) I am reporting to you the following results from our 2009 election of officers.

| <u>Candidates</u> | <u>Votes Cast</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman-elect    |                   |
| Chris Osborne     | 21                |
| Ron Taylor        | 63*               |
| Secretary         |                   |
| Billy Thomas      | 81*               |
| Wright-in         | 0                 |

I certify these results as a true count of all ballots received in this election and declare **Ron Taylor** and **Billy Thomas** as the 2009 KT-SAF Chairman-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.

### Election Statistics:

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| KT-SAF Voting Members | 308       |
| Ballots Returned      | 89 (28%)* |
| Voted by email        | 59 (66%)  |
| Voted by Post-mail    | 30 (34%)  |

*\*Two ballots were returned with no selections marked and 3 post-mailed ballots were discarded for lack of a reconcilable voting member's name.*



## NEWS

### **Governor's 2009 Environmental Stewardship Awards – Dave Walters**

The Department of Environment and Conservation is inviting Tennesseans to submit nominations for the Governor's 2009 Environmental Stewardship Awards. The awards recognize Tennesseans who go above and beyond to protect the state's diverse environment.

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards cover 13 categories: Agriculture/Forestry; Aquatic Resource Preservation; Building Green; Energy Leadership; Environmental Education and Outreach; Green Schools; Greenways and Trails; Hazardous Waste Reduction; Solid Waste Reduction; Lifetime Achievement; Natural Heritage Conservation; Parks and Recreation; and Pollution Prevention.

Any individual, business, organization, educational institution or agency is eligible, provided it is located in Tennessee and its projects were completed during the 2008 calendar year. Nominees must have a minimum of three years of environmental compliance with the Department of Environment and Conservation to be eligible for consideration. Self-nominations are encouraged.

The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2009. Award recipients will be announced in May 2009.

For more information about each category, judging criteria and nomination forms, visit the Web site at [www.tn.gov/environment/awards](http://www.tn.gov/environment/awards).

### **KTSAF Winter Meeting: a Success - Dave Walters**

A hearty sigh echoed through the lobby of the Double Tree when Jeff Piatt and Tim Phelps finalized the financial picture the KTSAF winter meeting painted. \$172.48 in the black! Hand slaps celebrated the profit and the silent auction netted a hearty \$371. The ice storm that had our Kentucky partners pinned down made the Middle TN meeting planners sweat. Thank goodness that 66 members and 33 student members showed up along with the 7 non-members attending the show. Refunds are on the way to eight folks who preregistered but were frozen in.

Our excellent presenters came from Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. They covered topics on the financial aspects of forestry, reptiles and amphibians of the forest and on national forest policy. All were good but none better than our own Mike Martin, who inspired us with his stories and pictures of chasing Ivory Bills and walking to base camp at Mount Everest.

We also helped Mac McClure promote his wife's ([Tori Murden McClure](#)) soon to be published book *A Pearl in the Storm How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean* because Mac had to run home to receive great honors for his work in Louisville.

The Middle Tennessee Chapters wishes to thank the folks who attended and are extremely appreciative that they don't have to host for a while.

### **The University of Tennessee Student SAF Chapter - David Buckley, Advisor**

The Society of American Foresters Student Chapter/Forestry Club at the University of Tennessee began the 2008-09 academic year with approximately 25 members.

One Student SAF member was awarded a scholarship provided by Nick Bridgeman and Eric Bridges with the City of Lakeland, TN to attend the 2008 Annual Conference of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Knoxville.

Five Student SAF Chapter members attended the state-wide Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) Meeting on October 2nd, and two attended the TFA regional meeting on December 11th.

The Student SAF Chapter sent three members to the Society of American Foresters national convention in Reno, NV November 5-8. While at the convention, the students attended a variety of presentations on the current trends in forestry and forestry research, networked with forestry professionals, and attended a national job fair.

Several Chapter members also participated in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources fall ice cream social and Ag Day activities.

Several Student Chapter members and a couple of East TN Chapter members attended a joint get-together at Bailey's in Knoxville organized by Heather Slayton.

Student Chapter fundraising activities during this past fall term included firewood sales, selling polo shirts and hats bearing the FWF and club logos, and seeking donations. Activities in the coming weeks include continued firewood sales, preparations for this year's ASFC Conclave, and production of the 2007 ASFC Conclave yearbook (hosted by UT) for distribution to all ASFC member clubs. The Student Chapter will send a team to the 2009 ASFC Conclave March 12-15. This year's conclave will be hosted by Alabama A&M.

### **The University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries - Keith Belli, Head**

Dr. Don Hodges was recently named a "James R. Cox University Professor" for his distinguished service to the department. Don was one of only three faculty selected university-wide to receive this honor. He joins Dr. Scott Schlarbaum as the only other Cox Professor named within the Institute of Agriculture.

This year's spring camp classes have 14 forestry students and 27 Wildlife and Fisheries. We recently completed the "Fire Academy" portion of camp, with nearly 70 participants. Thanks to the ongoing support of the U.S. Forest Service, the Tennessee Division of Forestry, and Tennessee State Parks, the academy was a tremendous success. As part of the Forestry spring camp, we brought all 12 students plus 5 seniors who are members of the student SAF chapter to the KTSAF winter meeting.

The Southern Appalachian Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit, hosted by UT FWF, is undergoing its 5-year review. The SA-CESU was one of the original regional units in the CESU system, and has been functioning for over ten years. The mission of the SA-CESU is to promote and provide effective and efficient research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region. Currently, organizational membership includes 8 federal agency partners, and 13 university and other nonfederal partners, making it one of the largest regional CESUs in the nation.

### **Global warming threatens forests, study says**

- Forests in the Pacific Northwest are dying twice as fast as they were 17 years ago
- Scientists blame warming temperatures for the trend, according to a new study
- Data was gathered over a 50-year period at sites in the Western U.S. and Canada
- Scientists: study confirms the harmful effects of rising temperatures on ecosystems

**(CNN)** -- Forests in the Pacific Northwest are dying twice as fast as they were 17 years ago, and scientists blame warming temperatures for the trend, according to a new study.

The study, to be released Friday in the journal *Science*, is the first large-scale analysis of environmental changes as contributing factors in the mortality of coniferous forests.

The data for this research was [sic] gathered by generations of scientists over a 50-year period at multiple sites in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and southwestern British Columbia. Seventy-six forest plots, all more than 200 years old, were monitored by scientists doing some of the most rudimentary research -- counting trees.

"It's not a happy story, but, an important one," said Phillip van Mantgem, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and the lead author of the study. "These are beautiful places. They do change and respond to their environment, sometimes quickly."

"If in your hometown where you live, the death rates of your friends and neighbors doubled and there are no compensating birth rates, wouldn't you want to figure out what's going on?" said

Nathan Stephenson, research ecologist with the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) and one of the authors of the report.

The full story can be read here:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/01/22/study.forests.dying/index.html?iref=topnews>

From: Jeff Flowers, Wood Products Recruiter, The Woodproduct Group

#### **"Trees make a difference" Dave Walters**

A new specialty license plate honoring trees is now available for preorder. Sales of the plates, which bear the slogan "Trees make a difference," will benefit the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council's tree plantings and arboretum programs, as well as tree advocacy and education programs statewide. In turn, more trees would help curb carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere—levels that many scientists believe are contributing to global warming.

"We all know that automobiles can have an impact on the environment," said Elizabeth Didier, a Knoxville-area resident and chair of the council's public relations committee. "This is a way for people to contribute back." Granted, it takes approximately 17 mature trees to absorb the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by a single car each year. That's more trees and tree maintenance than could possibly be covered by the \$17.50 that the council would receive from the sale of each plate.

Council Executive Director Jennifer Smith hopes to multiply the effect of the money by using some of it on advocacy and education work. Some examples of the organization's outreach include promoting municipal tree ordinances and hosting the annual Urban Forestry Conference and Trade Show, held this year in Knoxville.

Smith also said money for the organization isn't the only motivation for the license plate project. "Just the plate itself is a salute to our trees," Smith said. "That in itself makes people think, 'Well ... how do trees make a difference?'"

She went on to cite shade, erosion control, storm-water management, habitat for wildlife and proven psychological benefits for humans as other examples of how urban trees can make a positive impact on communities like Knoxville.

Tree license plates can be ordered online at [www.tufc.com](http://www.tufc.com) or by calling 615-352-8985. TUFC needs to presell 1,000 plates by June 30, 2009, for the state to manufacture them. If the organization doesn't meet the quota, all money will be returned to donors, Smith said.

#### **CHANGES FOR THE KTSAF NEWSLETTER**

After nine years and 37 issues, John Rennie is turning the KTSAF newsletter over to Tim Phelps. Tim is the Information & Education Program Specialist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry. His contact information is [Tim.R.Phelps@TN.gov](mailto:Tim.R.Phelps@TN.gov), PO Box 40627, Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204, (615) 837-5543, Fax: (615) 837-5003.

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