

Kentucky - Tennessee Society of American Foresters

NEWSLETTER

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

Society of
American Foresters

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February 2010

TENNESSEE DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS – Steven Scott

The current economic downturn is affecting forest industry and forestry organizations in many ways. The Division of Forestry is no exception. The Division of Forestry has undergone base budget reductions during the current budget cycle and the previous budget cycle. We've made adjustments in our operating expenditures and organizational structure.

Governor Bredesen presented his proposed FY2011 budget to the General Assembly on Monday, February 1, 2010. The Governor's budget provides for the preservation of 29 forester positions within the Division of Forestry through a proposed technical corrections bill. The full text of the Governor's budget is available at www.TN.gov.

Many of you are already well aware of the technical services provided by the Division of Forestry staff and field foresters, and I won't begin to restate them here. Just let me say that all 29 of these positions are critically important in the delivery of technical forestry assistance to the forest landowners and citizens of Tennessee. As you might expect, foresters at all levels within the Division are involved in the protection of our forests from a growing list of threats such as insects, disease, wildfire and invasive plants. I know that our forest resources are healthier and more productive because of these 29 forester positions.

If I can provide you or anyone else with information regarding the importance of these 29 positions to the forest resources of Tennessee please don't hesitate to contact me.

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE KENTUCKY/ TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

REGARDING: REDUCTION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT STAFF IN THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF FORESTRY

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) promotes science-based forest management. With a forest resource as vast, varied and valuable as that which is held by Tennessee's private landowners, **it is the position of the Kentucky/Tennessee Chapter of SAF that any significant lowering of the forest management services provided by the State of Tennessee would be detrimental to the long-term sustainability of this natural resource and the amenities that it supports.** In Tennessee, 11 million acres of forest land, or 79% of all forest lands, are owned by an estimated 530,000 non-industrial private landowners (Butler 2008). Typically these landowners are not well-versed in forest management science. Without technical help, they often default to no management or the application of poor practices, especially at harvest. If landowners lack efficient access to, or they are economically deterred from, seeking adequate and effective forest management advice, then forest management and planning will suffer. Forests are a long term enterprise. Poor practices applied in the short term have lasting affects that can be catastrophic and will accrue to inhibit the sustainability of Tennessee's forest. A significant decrease in TDF staffing will lead to a greater likelihood of poor forest management of Tennessee's privately held forest, and a potential loss of access to federal cost share programs for landowners.

Forest industry is very important to the economic vitality of Tennessee. Menard, et.al. 2003, noted that the forestry sector accounts for \$22.8 billion (5.9 percent) of the state's \$388.2 billion economy. That study reported that the workforce in this sector directly employed 58,900 people, including those in logging, pulp/paper/sawmills, and forestry. When added to secondary and supplier industries, employment exceeds 148,000 workers. The primary industries account for 23.6 percent of the forestry workforce, while the secondary industries employ 76.4 percent. A new study conducted by Forest2Market, Inc., a consulting firm located in Charlotte, N.C., showed that private, working forests generate an average GNP of \$277,000 per 1000 acres whereas, in comparison, public forests generate \$41,000 per 1000 acres. These forests provide family waged jobs, a strong tax base and the economic foundation for the forest products industry.



TDF Area Forester Jeff Thompson assists landowner by providing forest management advice

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Approximately 90% of Tennessee's forest land is occupied by hardwoods, a relatively complex resource that requires particularly knowledgeable management. Tennessee's forest lands provide wildlife, scenic, recreational, carbon sequestration and timber values. Poor management practices contribute to the degradation of these values and, with any devaluation of the forest, increase tendencies for forest land to be utilized for alternative uses, often developed in such a way that the land will not or cannot be returned to a forested condition.

Forest pathogens, such as disease or the southern pine beetle, along with potential, destructive invaders into the state, like the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer, threaten Tennessee's forests. Technical help is required to keep private landowners aware of such threats and what to do when they strike.

Forest certification is an important part of the competitive status of Tennessee's forests and the various certification programs are becoming increasingly vital as ways to keep markets open. The American Tree Farm System is one certification program and it has been supported by Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) with inspections to re-certify individual landowners. In a recent study 56% of the forest landowners say they received forestry advice. Forest landowners indicated they were more trusting of TDF foresters to certify their forests. Twenty-six percent of these landowners had participated in government cost share assistance programs (Mercker 2006). With the assistance of TDF foresters, approximately \$700,000 was acquired for landowners through cost share programs in 2009.

Therefore, **the Kentucky/Tennessee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters stands opposed to the potential loss of TDF positions.** Such action will result in potentially irreversible harm to the sustainability of the state's forest resources and to the detriment of the states private forest landowners and citizens at large.

FORESTERS FOR THE FUTURE - Dr. David Mercker

Tennessee owes much of its identity to trees. Our land, with its rolling hills, striking mountains, and impervious swamps, is well suited for the growth of trees. It's what we do in Tennessee; we grow trees, harvest and convert them into products, then we grow more. We have done this for centuries and because trees are remarkably renewable, we'll continue doing it.

Over one-half (53 percent) of our landscape is covered with trees. That's even more -much more - than covered the state in 1900. It was in that year that the Society of American Foresters formed, birthing the new profession of forestry. Since then approximately five million acres of

highly erodible farm and pasture land have been restored to forest in Tennessee, bringing the state-wide forest total to 13.9 million acres. Many of these new forests have been harvested numerous times and are still growing trees for tomorrow.

Through efforts of professional foresters, harmful forest practices have been reduced or eliminated. Forest health has been improved by controlling fires, fencing out livestock, eliminating non-native exotic plants, deadening culls, thinning to encourage more rapid growth, and administering timber harvests in ways that encourages forest renewal. Foresters are required to obtain continued education in a range of subjects, including: soil and water protection, wildlife management, ethics and more.

While traditional uses of the forest continue, future demands on the forest will increase. The role and focus of foresters will change too as the 21st century may bring innovative and exciting opportunities. Three of the most prominent are: (1) Forest Certification, (2) wood as a source of energy, and (3) forests as a sink for carbon. With the first, wood markets are developing for lumber that originates from forests that have been certified as being sustainably managed. Foresters will be heavily involved in both managing certified forests and in auditing them. With the second, foresters must become expert in growing short-rotation trees to produce fuel for electricity and even automobiles. With the third, as part of mitigating global warming, forest landowners could be paid by outside sources to sequester (or absorb) carbon. Foresters will participate by auditing the amount of carbon forests sequester from the atmosphere.

For Tennessee, trees are the answer, not the problem. A large portion of commerce activity in Tennessee centers on forests and the forest products industry. Within the state, this industry directly and indirectly employs 148,300 people and has a total annual economic contribution of \$22.8 billion. It will be vital to continue supporting such an important and sizable industry. Foresters will be key in this process and will focus on techniques for planting, growing, marketing, harvesting and processing trees. All this will ensure that the "T" in Tennessee continues to stand for "trees." For a list of professional foresters operating in Tennessee, contact your local County Extension Office or the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

MEMBORSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Wayne Clatterbuck

The KTSAF Memorial Scholarship Fund recognizes the outstanding undergraduate forestry student in each of our KTSAF student chapters at the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee and the Univ. of the South. A \$200 check is given to the student and their expenses are paid to attend the KTSAF winter meeting.

The scholarship recipients for 2010 and receiving their scholarships at the 2010 Winter meeting are:

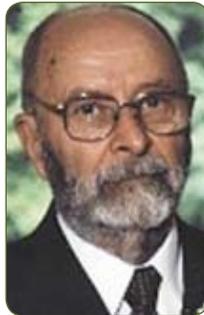
Ellery Watson, University of Kentucky

Johnson B. Jeffers, University of the South

John E. Johnson III, University of Tennessee

The funding of the scholarships is from memorials contributed in memory of deceased members of KTSAF. In 2009, we had a vibrant member of KTSAF depart --- **Dr. Kerry F. Schell** (81).

Dr. Schell was a 51-year member of SAF and remained active in the society until his death. He served in the Korean War; graduated with a BS and MS from Penn State University and a PhD from Duke, was an economist with the Tennessee Valley Authority and served 25 years on the forestry faculty at the University of Tennessee. Kerry was always committed to forestry students and was instrumental in creating the KTSAF Student Development Fund. He was elected the District 9 Council member with SAF. We will all miss his professionalism, knowledge, and camaraderie within KTSAF.



Consider making a memorial contribution to the KTSAF Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Dr. Kerry Schell. A letter from the committee will be forwarded to the family of Dr. Schell acknowledging your memorial contribution as well as a letter to the donor thanking them for the contribution.

Presently, we have a principal of about \$17,000 in the fund with investment/interest income each year of about \$600 annually. That income is used to fund the student scholarships each year. We would like to grow the principal of the fund so we do not dip into the principal with our annual expenses and perhaps increase the amount of the student scholarship. Contributions to the KTSAF Memorial Scholarship Fund are encouraged.

If you would like to make a contribution, mail a check to the address below or contact Wayne Clatterbuck, the committee chair.

Wayne Clatterbuck
602 Hawthorne Dr.
Maryville, TN 37803
Voice: 865-974-7346 (office)
E-mail: wclatterbuck@utk.edu

I believe that all of us who knew Dr. Schell would agree that any chance meeting would be worth the telling afterwards. Kerry was a force, always vigilant for the traditions of K/T and a keen student of its policy and protocols. I have been in many a meeting, many a time, when that gravelly voice would chime in with something that made my eyes roll at first, then, invariably, engaged my attention as his razor focus brought to light something significant that we'd all overlooked. That's what I will miss, his ability --always-- to make me think things anew; and even if I did not agree, he had the unique gift of making me touch up an old, and well worn, idea with a new coat of intellectual paint. Kerry provoked . . . not in a combative way, not in a harmful sense . . . he provoked genuine thought. That is why any chance meeting would be worth the telling afterwards. You could not come away from Dr. Schell and not spend time later evaluating what he'd said, what he'd thought, what he'd done. It was the mark of a great teacher. He engaged you and you were forced to deal with his full attention and a lively opinion. K/T is better for having Kerry's involvement. One of Kerry's lasting influences will be his insistence that professionalism is as much decorum as decree. It is why he insisted that we look the part of professionals when we were placed in a position to act the part. A host of students and a collegiate department are better for having Kerry's wisdom. All of us who knew him are better for having his unflinching challenge to think things everyday anew. We are all lessened by his departure and in his absence, as is true with all who make a difference, comes the passing of many torches.

Allan Houston

He was a man of words and thought. Kerry always was engaged in the conversation and listened closely to your response. I'll never forget his lesson on economics... "Economy is about values not money." He did more for diversifying our forestry program at UT than anyone has ever done; many of his African American students are located throughout the US.... What a legacy!

George Hopper

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Ron Taylor

To me the goals of the Society of American Foresters is about maintaining and improving this nation's forests especially in the area where we work. Our Society is about setting a high bar of professionalism through our initial education and by continuing to maintain or improve our skills. We are about providing forestry education. The Society is also about networking and working as a team for together we can accomplish much more. Finally we must enjoy our work to do really well and a bit of socializing is often necessary.

Winter KT-SAF Meeting at Lexington – superb, reenergizing, and useful -- The KT-SAF summer and winter meetings, and chapter meeting help achieve our SAF goals. This past winter meeting at Lexington was another example of an outstanding meeting provided by the East Kentucky Chapter. Our thanks goes to all those who contributed to that effort. Three levels of certification were discussed: Forest, Forester and Logger. I learned how each of these programs are improving and becoming more useful. The Certified Master Logger Program is to me one notch above the Master Logger Program. NewPage Corporation has successfully utilized this program. I was impressed with the professional standards being implemented with our Society's Certified Forester (CF) program. Several states have replaced or supplemented there states credentialing program with the CF Program. With each level of certification, foresters are interacting with landowners, loggers, business manufactures and fellow foresters discussing BMP's, laws and safety, harvest or land management planning, harvest operations and professional viability. The complexity of the carbon off-set credit program was explained in detail and it fits in the certification scheme. It seem to me to be a viable, win-win investment program for all sides in that it provides incentive to reduce carbon omissions on one side, while it requires forest certification on the other where the landowner interacts with foresters demonstrating good forest practices. It also has the potential to improve the value of immature and logged over forest land. Part of the meeting program updated us on the trends and issues impacting forests, manufacturers and forestry agencies. The difficult fight to slow down the progression of non-native evasive species was also explained. Finally we can not leave out the other amenities that the winter meeting provided such as good food, the QUIZ BOWL, silent auction, business meeting and the Freeman Veneer tour.

Tennessee Division of Forestry Budget Crisis – Both the Kentucky and Tennessee Division of Forestry are facing severe budget cuts. However the Governor of Tennessee wants to expand a communication tax or slash 29 forest management positions from the Division of Forestry leaving it functioning as basically a resource protection agency. KT-SAF staff feels that the alternative of cutting 29 forest management personnel is unacceptable. Therefore the policy committee developed a position statement (found on

page 1 of this newsletter), with National SAF approval, to address the issue. The position statement was reviewed and approved by our twenty-two member Executive Committee. I feel that the reduction alternative would set back forest management in Tennessee for many decades. Follow-up information will be posted on the KT-SAF Web Site. The best way for us to prevent this alternative from being implemented is by speaking out and talking with landowners, fellow foresters, forest industry and especially state congressmen.

KT Summer Meeting June 2,3 &4th – “Ten years of US Forest Service Management of the Land Between the Lakes & The Effects of the 2009 Ice Storm” these are the planned topics for the Summer Meeting hosted by the West Kentucky Chapter this June 2,3 and 4th. This should be a great meeting. **Larry Doyle** could use a few helping hands from the West Kentucky membership. I wonder if I can volunteer to be a “Clinker Knocker” again. Maybe we'll all get a chance as we did last time!

Volunteers Needed - KT-SAF needs to fill four committee chairman positions for Program, Public Affairs/ Communications, Auditing, and History Committees. The charters for these positions are available on the KT-SAF Web Page. In addition, each committee (except the executive) needs additional members from both Tennessee and Kentucky. I can guarantee that there are also local chapter committee positions likewise available for your energy and talent.

2009 KT SAF Award Recipients – Congratulations to the award winners recognized this year.

Baggenstoss – **Dr. Greg Kuhns**

Technician - **Jonathan Watts**

Outstanding Member - Under 35 - **Chris Reeves**

Outstanding Member - Over 35 – **Dr. David Mercker**

Student Awards Scholarships:

Ellery Watson, University of Kentucky

Johnson B. Jeffers, University of the South

John E. Johnson III, University of Tennessee

**K-T SAF 2010 WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
 LEXINGTON DOWNTOWN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER; LEXINGTON, KY
 JANUARY 29, 2010
 DRAFT MINUTES - SUBMITTED BY BILLY THOMAS**

Call to Order

Allan Houston called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM

K-T SAF Winter Meeting Report

- Chris Reeves reported that 145 people attended the meeting in the following categories: regular SAF members, student members, Kentucky Division of Forestry (non-SAF members), USFS, non-SAF attendees. Silent auction brought in \$795. He indicated a full report would be forthcoming.
- Chris received an ovation for all the hard work he and the others had put into a very successful 2010 K-T SAF Winter meeting.

Review and Acceptance of 2009 Summer Business Minutes

- The membership reviewed the minutes from the summer 2009 K-T SAF business meeting.
- Charles McClure motioned to accept the minutes. Kerry Livengood seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

New District 9 Council Representative

- Dave Walters was acknowledged for winning the election for the 9th District of the SAF Council

Treasurers Report

- Heather Slayton reviewed the budget report that was approved by the Executive Committee.
- Budget Amendments
 1. Jeff Stringer motioned to increase the amount of money available to students to \$2,500. Ron Taylor seconded it. Motion passed.
 2. Leah MacSwords motioned that the Executive Committee explore how to clearly show the amount of money available in the student development line on the budget. Ron Taylor seconded it. Motion passed.
 3. Heather Slayton explained the recommendation from the Executive Committee to support the National SAF Foresters Fund in the amount of a new line item of \$200. There was some discussion on the use and value of the Foresters Fund. Amos Stone motioned to accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee to create a new line item of \$200 to support the national SAF Foresters Fund. Wayne Clatterbuck seconded it. There was some brief discussion. Motion passed.
- Dave Walters motioned to pass the amended budget. Leah MacSwords seconded it. Motion passed.
- Allan Houston explained that the "treasurer's books" were less than perfect when Heather Slayton received them and acknowledged her contribution in getting them in an improved situation. He also said there was challenges with the institutional memory of K-T SAF and suggested that Book of Motions be developed as far back as possible to help retain our institutional memory.

Old Business

- Report on Forester Credentialing: Dave Walters reported that the effort was moving very slowly.

Committee Reports

- The Education Committee is exploring how to reinvigorate the Student Development Fund and generate more interest from student chapters. The Education Committee also approved a \$1,000 request by the UT Student Chapter to support them for attendance at conclave and the 2011 K-T SAF Winter Meeting.
- The currently approved meeting hosting schedule is as follows...

Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
06 East KY	06 Middle TN	07 West TN	07 East TN
08 West KY	08 SE TN	09 Middle TN	09 West TN
10 East KY	10 West KY	11 SE TN	11 Middle TN
12 West KY	12 East KY	13 East TN	13 SE TN
14 East KY	14 Middle TN	15 West TN	15 East TN

Chapter Reports

- It was reported that the West Kentucky Chapter will be hosting the 2010 Summer K-T SAF meeting June 2-4, 2010. More information to follow.

School Reports

- UK Forestry: Jeff Stringer reported that UK Forestry is currently searching for a new chair. The budget is bad and there are currently two open faculty slots.
- UT Forestry: Wayne Clatterbuck reported that UT Forestry was fully staffed with more students than ever.
- Berea College: It was reported that there would soon be an opening for the Berea College Forester position.

2010 K-T SAF Officers Announced

- Ron Taylor, Chair
- David Mercker, Chair-Elect
- Billy Thomas, Treasurer
- Kerry Livengood, Secretary

Adjourn

- Charles McClure made a motion to adjourn. Dave Walters seconded it. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned approximately 11:25 AM.

AGAINST THE NIGHT - Allan Houston

This is my last gasp in the written corner as K/T SAF Chair, and, as such, fully vulnerable to a good old fashioned rambling. It has been a year unlike any I've seen in my career. Many of the initiatives that might have been launched were laid aside in recognition that many folks were necessarily prioritizing the increasingly tough struggles of everyday life. For some of you it has been a life-changing year.

Progress was accomplished. Credentialing continues to take shape. SAF helped SFI and Habitat for Humanity build a home in Nashville. Some policy puzzlements were addressed. A great summer meeting was conducted. And an equally great winter meeting has just past us.

I look forward to the fresh new leadership coming onboard. It will be a new year with hopefully increased opportunities to take on the initiatives that they bring before us.

The economy is starting to get a little wind in its sails, and while we are not back to smooth sailing we are at least moving. Some things, traditional markets or funding sources, may never be the same. Other things, new markets or funding strategies, will arise.

Timber markets are up and they are down, depending on what you are trying to sell or buy. This is the year when the economy should begin to gain traction. A few more corporate bad apples probably will fall out of the tree and there will be some fits and starts, but – if the system actually bottomed out at a natural point – the worst may be over.

The need for us as professionals to get together periodically reminds me of something I was involved in a few years ago. As part of a research project, during a brief period in October we were able to get an estimate of the quail population by getting up very early; and just at dawn listening for individual coveys to call. For some unknown reason coveys would give away their location with their haunting and unmistakable 3-part call. By using electronic collars on birds in some coveys, and by using a small army of listeners armed with compasses and posted geometrically on known acreages, we could do some statistical arithmetic and get a good notion of how many birds were out there.

It was a unique experience, standing in the first crisp air of fall, knowing for certain that a covey lay unseen in the brambles, bunched up in a their roosting circle, warm against each other, like old men warming themselves around a burning barrel and waiting for the work'a'day dawn.

A covey might call and might not. But when they did I always wondered why? Why tempt the fate of a thousand listening ears, some hungry and nearly all an enemy?

A quail covey is an ephemeral sort of thing anyway. It is not particularly territorial and members from one covey might find themselves casually incorporated into another, if two coveys feed close enough together during some portion of the day. Is the call some type of communication among old comrades suddenly separated? Is it a careful, but insistent, and maybe even a brave statement against the fading terrors of the night?

The birds remind me of us a bit. As a profession, as a Nation, we went through a time of great and unparalleled growth. We are coming out of a time of great and nearly unparalleled spiral.

Economics are the great leveler among both human and wild populations, an exorable math that totes up the particulars of the livings among us all. For quail it is the sum of each day's desperations in staying alive and making a living, while the night, the circle of unquiet, is the time when they lean against their neighbors for support and wonder about what is out there.

The call, that first word among quail for the coming day, may simply be the dull establishment of a proprietorship among resources for survival of the fittest. Then again, perhaps there is a society of quail that extends beyond the individuality of home ranges.

I think it likely that our societal meetings do something similar. In part, they bring us together to see how we all are faring. It's a good thing.

An Early rise and a coat-rack rattle
then down through the dew wet grass
to listen to the morn and cricket's gabble
and waiting for sun to begin its pass.

For a magic moment and for just a bit,
there comes the Bobwhite's call
as every covey tells the others where they sit
and where their boundaries fall.

They call to see if they are alone,
although their cries are peril laden
for now their position is known
by those who spent a hungry night waitin'.

But as the sun burns along its path
their call mends a broken clasp
and like stars returning behind the fading wrath
we reach across every danger to touch a living grasp.

AGAINST THE NIGHT (cont.)

For some of you, the rhymes I've shared this year have been a dreary exercise in noting what not to read in the newsletters. It could have been worse. I could have told jokes.

I've shared the muses not for their merit of which certainly there is little enough; instead I shared them early on with the thought that I might share this with you now. When I took office, many of the initiatives that I had in mind went right down the drain with the economy. This year, the year's trouble was enough for most of us and it stole away the need for some decisions.

However, I expected, and my trip to the National Convention convinced me that the economy's dive was simply a harbinger for the changes that are coming. For us as individuals, each on our own home range, and for us as a profession, we will need to embrace the creativity of flexible and adaptable management. This will require some risk. This will require each to put themselves forward and perhaps in places where it is uncomfortable, at least initially, to be; and, as with my rhymes, risk the ire of professional, public and peer critique or, worse, mirth. And, it will require us to continually define – and redefine – our profession in a new and shrinking world.

So, I leave you with this, the challenge to grasp at your chances and ideas while you may. Not only is change a'coming, it is coming quickly.

Little rhymes
come sometimes,
and linger in the air,
like sweet perfume
from fragile bloom
or maiden passing near.
Lovely presence,
effervescence,
something truly fair
is almost nigh
is passing by
when little rhymes disappear.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

K-T SAF Summer meeting - June 2-4

Ten years of US Forest Service Management of Land Between the Lakes & the Effects of the 2009 Ice Storm



Make plans to attend the K-T SAF Summer meeting hosted by the West KY Chapter. The event is planned to take place at the beautiful Kenlake State Resort Park near Aurora, KY from Jun 2 - 4.

More information will be available soon. Stay tuned to ktsaf.org for more details.

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COUNCILS COLUMN - Dave Walters

District 9 Council Communiqué
January 22, 2010

SAF District 9 members;

I'm honored to begin serving as your representative on Council. My goal is to represent you and your ideas when Council decides on issues, and keep you informed of issues upon which Council plans to deliberate.

Council's next meeting is February 6 & 7. The agenda is currently being developed but I expect the weighty issues Council will discuss are budget and opportunities for increased revenues. At the December meeting I learned that it appeared SAF's 2009 expenditures will likely exceed revenues. This will be the first deficit year under Michael Goergen's leadership. Three principle reasons for the deficit were given:

- Advertising revenue was lower than expected... SAF was in the same boat as many other organizations...economy down, vendors reduced advertising
- Convention attendance was lower than expected, enough participation to break even but did not generate the revenue planned
- Legal costs were higher than budgeted. Fees spent trying to avoid Historic Designation of SAF properties were higher than anticipated

In managing the 2009 SAF budget, staff dropped their office cleaning service and began hauling their own trash and cleaning their own bathrooms. Staff was furloughed for a few days and received no pay raise. Current staffing is 17, down from a high of ~30 people.

The good news includes membership renewals are coming in quicker than in previous years and 30 booths have already been sold for the exhibit hall in Albuquerque.

In December, Council adopted a 2010 budget with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$188,000. Council committed to identify and implement actions that would insure the 2010 budget closes in the black even though the conservative budget passed was red. Council also set into motion the required process to consider a dues increase for 2011. If Council decides to pursue a dues increase, it will have to be considered by HSD. I therefore am expecting that our February meeting will be choosing between revenue enhancement strategies and opportunities for enhanced services to our members.

Other Actions Council approved in December:

- Changed the Student Rep's term on Council to correspond to Convention
- Modified the Ethics Case process
- Changed Fellows guidelines slightly
- Approved Spokane as convention site 2012
- Approved position statements on Loss of Forest Land 7 Roads in Managed Forests
- Approved charter for Task Force on Terrestrial Ecosystem Mgmt.
- Approved a transfer of \$50,000 from endowment fund to maintain SAF HQ & be repaid

Please give me your input via phone or e-mail.

Invite a colleague to join SAF today!

Dave Walters
District 9 Council Representative
O 615-837-5470
C 615-556-0529
Dave.walters@tn.gov

UT CHAPTER UPDATE - John Johnson and Dr. David Buckley

The group is affiliated with both the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Association of Southern Forestry Clubs (ASFC), and Club and Chapter are used interchangeably.

The UT SAF Chapter has seen an increase in student participation over the past year and a half. Many more sophomores and juniors have joined the club. We have grown from a core group of about 10 students and one advisor to almost 20 participating students with two advisors. Our new advisor is **Dr. Jason Henning**, Assistant Professor specializing in biometrics and mensuration. **Dr. David Buckley**, Associate Professor specializing in forest ecology, remains our steadfast supporter and advisor. Departmental enthusiasm and support for the Club remains high, even though University budget cutting has decreased official financial support of our activities. The 2009-10 Chapter has worked diligently to raise funds needed to participate in both SAF and ASFC activities through dues collection, firewood, t-shirt and hat sales. We set a fundraising goal of \$4000 but only succeeded in raising \$3000. We will continue to explore different options for raising funds. Funding is needed to cover transportation costs for SAF and ASFC events, seed money for investment in product sales, and the purchase and maintenance of Conclave and firewood gear.

The Chapter sent 15 competitors to the 52nd ASFC Conclave hosted by Alabama A&M in Huntsville, AL on March 12-15, 2009. This year's conclave was one of the rainiest on record,

but despite the wind, rain, and temperatures, the host club was able to hold all but one of the 22 physical and technical events. Junior **Austin Carroll** took first place in compass and pacing, and senior **Mike Carr** took second place in timber estimation. Other noteworthy results included senior **Hailey Moss** taking 4th in women's bow saw, senior Mike Carr and junior **Matt Carr** taking 4th in log rolling, and junior **Brandon Stephens** taking 5th in axe throwing. Junior **Adam Lethco** competed in the Stihl Timbersports events, and held first place through the underhand chop and stock saw events, but was displaced from first after the standing block chop and 1-man buck saw events. Special recognition for competitive spirit also goes to sophomore **Dillion Alley**, who took several dips in the pond while competing in log birling for the first time, and tied for 7th place. 15 southern schools with forestry programs competed in the conclave, and the University of Arkansas-Monticello placed first, Stephen F. Austin University placed second, and University of Georgia placed third overall.

In addition to Conclave, the Club has had some fascinating guest speakers and engaged in other activities. In the Spring of 2009, several juniors and seniors participated in **Dr. Don Hodges** wood procurement class where we learned some of the intricacies of the wood trade and junior **Jay Messer** earned a reputation as a hard-nosed bargainer. Later that spring, SAF members and foresters **Heather Slayton** of Fountains Forestry and **Greg Bailey** of American Forest Management led members of the Club into the wilds of Anderson and Campbell Counties. We enjoyed a day long trip that involved a look at an OSMRE reforestation project and comparison of SFI and FSC compliant timber harvests on the Smokey Creek watershed of the North Cumberland Mountains.

In the fall of 2009, **Wade McMahan** of Tennessee Timber Consultants gave a very enlightening power point presentation to a standing room only crowd of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. Mr. McMahan delivered an excellent talk and discussion on what is involved with private forest management with a focus on what it takes to be a Consulting Forester. His detailed talk was most informative and included brilliant sections on ethics, real estate and taxes. He challenged and welcomed us to enter the competitive world of Consulting Foresters. Also last fall, former conclave chair and senior Adam Lethco gave a detailed presentation on chainsaw use, safety and maintenance. We had a huge turnout for the annual East TN SAF Chapter's "dinner with the students" at Barley's Taproom and Pizzeria in Knoxville's Old City where we had many informative conversations with practicing foresters **Heather Slayton, Amy Morgan, Jeff Holt, Greg Bailey** and **Brent Galloway**. We really appreciate these opportunities for interaction with professional foresters and we are grateful for the awesome dinner as well. Towards the always hectic end of the fall semester, United States Forest Service Researcher and UT Graduate **Dr. Stacy Clark** presented her research on the reintroduction of the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) in the Appalachians to about 10 of us. Her presentation was very informative and students also benefited from the opportunity to learn about part time research employment. Three club members including Vice President Matt Carr and Treasurer Austin Carroll attended the

Tennessee Forestry Association's annual east TN dinner and heard a talk comparing different forest certification programs. Again, the opportunity to interact with professionals is always appreciated. Over the winter, we geared up for our annual firewood sale. This was a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts and leadership of Adam Lethco, Conclave chair **Justin Coffey** and almost every club member was involved in chopping, stacking, loading and delivering firewood at some point. We actually ran out of seasoned wood by late December and had to suspend the sale. In January, we continued our safety training program. Adam Lethco led a tree-felling demonstration that earned the club a substantial sum for dropping dead and dying oaks, hickories and a black locust on private property in the hills of South Knoxville.

Currently we are gearing for more Conclave practices in preparation for the 2010 ASFC Conclave at the U of Arkansas – Monticello at the end of March. We will also be hosting a mini-conclave and forestry field day at our practice site on UT Plant Science property in South Knoxville on Saturday, February 27th. This event will be to determine who will represent the club in the different physical and technical events in Arkansas. We also hope to demonstrate forestry techniques to prospective students and solicit donations in support of our trip to Arkansas. The event will be open to the public and friends, families, alumni, professionals and more are invited to enjoy our friendly in house competition.

We are also looking forward to a sustainable forestry techniques workshop in Sequatchie County on April 18th that will involve proper use of a chainsaw, directional felling, skidding with a winch and tractor and use of a Wood Mizer portable band sawmill. This workshop is being designed for the club, but will be open to members of the public as well.

We continue to raise funds for the club through hat and t-shirt sales and are also looking for sponsors for our Conclave team. We are always looking for guest speakers to widen member's perspectives on our chosen profession. We would welcome guests from TFA, SAF, TDF, the consulting community and we are particularly interested in having someone from the management side of the USFS come and speak.

We would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all the professional foresters, professors, and more who have supported the Club over the years.



Congratulations to the UT Chapter who recently won the Quiz Bowl competition at the K-T SAF Winter Meeting

TENNESSEE FORESTER REGISTRATION –TIME OUT FOR A HUDDLE - Dave Walters

We've been kicking forester registration around in Tennessee since the 1950's. SAF members inflated the ball and moved it forward a few yards in January of 2008 when they supported their sub-committee's proposal for registration. The Tennessee Forestry Commission advanced it further when they enthusiastically endorsed the proposal in April of '08. Subsequently, the Commission re-endorsed it and even implored the subcommittee to move on quickly as late as January 2010.

Our next play was to hand it off to the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) to take it in for the score. After huddling with TFA's board and slightly amending the proposal, TFA called an offensive huddle, studied the issue, polled their board and it appears they've decided not to run it now. It appears that the disadvantages of this proposal outweigh the advantages for TFA at this time. My understanding is that some TFA members feel registration is unnecessary because loggers and timber buyers might be restricted in giving forest management advice, that landowners might be restricted in getting advice from anyone they chose, that registration may be unnecessary because landowners aren't asking for it now, and that a sagging economy may be a poor time to increase fees on anyone.

While the advocates for registration of foresters in Tennessee are currently huddling, we're strongly opposed to punting. It seems that now is a time when we decide between taking some action to introduce legislation or to increase our educational efforts and convince landowners, NGO's, Farm Bureau members, and the TFA board members that they should support forester credentialing. No matter what route we take, we're certainly in need of strong landowner support.

Until now I've assumed that once registration was enacted landowners would understand the choices between credentialed and non-credentialed forest management advisors. But now I'm thinking that perhaps we first must work to inform landowners of the choices and expect them to ask for registration.

No matter what play we break this huddle with, I think its time to strap on the gear. Our team needs some big blockers and some running backs!

TN GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT - TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke

The annual Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards recognize outstanding achievements that protect and enhance Tennessee's natural resources. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2010 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.

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
- * Lifetime Achievement
- * Natural Heritage Conservation
- * Parks and Recreation
- * Pollution Prevention
- * Solid Waste Reduction

Information regarding eligibility requirements, judging criteria and nomination forms are available on the Governor's Awards Web page at www.tn.gov/environment/awards. The deadline for nominations is March 31 and winners will be announced in May. You may contact Kathy Glapa at (615) 253-8780 or kathy.glapa@state.tn.us in the Office of Environmental Assistance if you have any questions about the 2010 Governor's Awards process.

Nominating individuals and organizations for their environmental accomplishments is a great way to promote effective conservation. I hope you can make time to nominate deserving Tennesseans for their commitment, hard work and results. Thanks for your support of this important department activity.

WINTER MEETING

The East KY Chapter hosted a great meeting in Lexington at the end of January. Jeff Stringer, Ben Worthington, Daniel Bowker, Christopher Reeves, Billy Thomas, and others really put on a top notch show with a full slate of highly qualified presenters speaking on emerging issues. 145 Attendees learned about forest, wood, and logging certification, biomass and renewable fuels, carbon markets, and trends and issues impacting forests and forestry agencies in our region.

Awards were presented to outstanding K/T SAF members. These included: Outstanding Forestry Student at UKY - **Ellery Watson** (middle-right), Outstanding Forestry Student at UT - **John Johnson** (bottom-left), Outstanding Forestry Student at the University of the South - **Johnson Jeffers** (bottom-center), Outgoing Chair - **Allan Houston** (bottom-right). Award recipients not pictured are: Baggenstoss - **Dr. Greg Kuhns**, Technician - **Jonathan Watts**, Outstanding Member (Under 35) - **Chris Reeves**, Outstanding Member (Over 35) - **Dr. David Mercker**



KTSAF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS - 2010

Ronald L. Taylor, Chair
830 Copperas Hollow Rd
Morehead, KY 40351
Phone: (606) 356-4999
rtaylorforestry@yahoo.com

David Mercker, Vice-chair
605 Airways Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38301-3201
Phone: (731) 425-4703
dmercker@utk.edu

William R. Thomas, Treasurer
UK Forestry Department
214 Thomas Poe Cooper Bldg
Lexington, KY 40546-0073
Phone: (859) 257-9153
Fax: (859) 323-1031
billy.thomas@uky.edu

Kerry Livengood, Secretary
PO Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: (615) 837-5437
FAX: (615) 837-5003
kerry.r.livengood@TN.gov

Allan Houston, Policy Chair
4355 Ellington Rd
Grand Junction, TN 38039
Phone: (901) 878-1067
Fax: (901) 878-1068
ahouston@amesplantation.org

Wayne Clatterback, Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair
UT Forestry Wildlife & Fisheries
274 Ellington PSB
Knoxville, TN 37996-4563
Phone: (865) 974-7346
FAX: (865) 974-4714
wclatter@utk.edu

Richard Evans, Teller
The University of Tennessee
901 South Illinois Ave
Oak Ridge, TN 37830-8032
Phone: (865) 483-3571
FAX: (865) 483-3572
revans6@utk.edu

Dwayne Turner, Membership Chair
117 Blue Sewanee Rd
Dunlap, TN 37327
Phone: (423) 554-3617
FAX: (423) 554-3569
dturner@smurfit.com

Tim Phelps, Membership Information Chair
PO Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: (615) 837-5543
FAX: (615) 837-5003
Tim.R.Phelps@TN.gov

John Rennie, Nomination Chair
3715 Timberlake Drive
Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone: 865-577-6356
nrandjr@comcast.net

Laurie Smith, Education Chair
1056 Big Ridge Rd
Oneida, TN 37841
Phone: (606) 376-5323
FAX: (606) 376-3734
lauriesmith@fs.fed.us

Karen Kuers, Student Development Chair
The University of The South
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383-1000
Phone: (931) 598-1421
FAX: (931) 598-3331
kkuers@sewanee.edu

Ben Worthington, Awards Chair
PO Box 889
Winchester, KY 40392
Phone: (859) 737-5154
Fax: (877) 737-1881
benworthington@bellsouth.net

Ronald L. Taylor, History Chair
830 Copperas Hollow Rd
Morehead, KY 40351
Phone: (606) 356-4999
rtaylorforestry@yahoo.com

Ward Tarkington, Continuing ED.
PO Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: (615) 837-5097
Ward.Tarkington@TN.gov

Auditing, Program & Communication Chairmans -- Vacant

East Kentucky SAF Chapter
Daniel Bowker, Chairman
617 Clemons Fork Rd.
Clayhole, KY 41317
Phone: (606) 666-5034
Fax: (606) 666-9995
danielbowker7@hotmail.com

Christopher Reeves, Secretary-treasurer,
2374 Allen Dr
Lexington, KY 40505-1956
Phone: (859) 257-0174
cdreev2@uky.edu

West Kentucky SAF Chapter
Larry M. Doyle, Chair
103 S 14th St
Murray, KY 42071
Phone: (270) 753-8250
Fax: (270) 753-8250
sldoyle@newwavecomm.net

East Tennessee SAF Chapter
Amy Morgan, Chair
8112 Sharp Rd.
Powell, TN 37849
423-715-3119
amorgan@coalcreekcompany.com

Heather Slayton, Treasurer
149 Russel Lane
Harriman, TN 37748
Phone: (865) 719-4665
heather.slayton@fountainsamerica.com

Gregory Bailey, Secretary
702 S Illinois Ave., Ste B202
Oak Ridge, TN 37830-7975
Phone: (865) 481-3696
Fax: (865) 481-0228
greg.bailey@amforem.biz

Southeastern Tennessee SAF Chapter
Benjamin Myers, Chair
311 W Colville St
McMinnville, TN 37110-3212
Phone: (931) 507-3744
benmyers@panthercreekforestry.net

Todd Berman, Chair-elect
2608 Arbor Creek Way
Hixson, TN 37343
Phone: (423) 365-5556
FAX: (423) 365-0659
todd.berman@huber.com

J. Stephen Smith, Jr., Secretary/treas
104 Ross Ave
McMinnville, TN 37110-1935
Phone: (931) 259-0210
stephensmith@panthercreekforestry.net

Middle Tennessee SAF Chapter
Kerry Livengood, Chair
PO Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: (615) 837-5437
FAX: (615) 837-5003
kerry.r.livengood@TN.gov

Andy Norris, Chair-elect
321 Cannonade Circle
Franklin, TN 37069
Phone: (615) 599-6366
andy@forestlandgroup.com

Jeff Piatt, Treasurer
PO Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: (615) 837-5091
FAX: (615) 837-5129
jeffrey.piatt@TN.gov

West Tennessee SAF Chapter
Nick Bridgeman, Chair
10001 US HWY 70
Lakeland, TN 38002
Phone: (901) 867-2717
FAX: (901) 968-2063
nbridgeman@lakelandtn.org

Wade McMahan, Treasurer
PO Box 191
Lexington, TN 38351
Phone: (731) 968-2953
FAX: (731) 968-7888
wade@tennesseetimber.com

Tom Cunningham, Secretary
PO Box 879
Paris, TN 38242-0879
Phone: (731) 642-3888
FAX: (731) 642-3892
tcunningham@fwforestry.com

University of Kentucky Student Chapter
Jeffrey Stringer, Faculty Representative
UK Forestry Department
213 Thomas Poe Cooper Bldg
Lexington, KY 40546-0073
Phone: (859) 257-5994
FAX: (859) 323-1031
stringer@uky.edu

The University of Tennessee Student Chapter
David S. Buckley, Faculty Representative
UT Forestry Wildlife & Fisheries
274 Ellington PSB
Knoxville, TN 37996-4563
Phone: (865) 974-7978
FAX: (865) 974-4714
dbuckley@utk.edu

The University of the South Student Chapter
Karen Kuers, Faculty Representative
The University of The South
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383-1000
Phone: (931) 598-1421
FAX: (931) 598-3331
kkuers@sewanee.edu



Tim R. Phelps, Editor
Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters
7329 Althorp Way
Nashville, Tennessee 37211



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code