

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

May 2010

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Ron Taylor

In reading "The Forestry Source", I came across an article promoting a new formula for determining DBH from stump measurements developed in the Northeast. I am not satisfied with the old conversion charts, which are very general. Using the comparative tree method is great, but it is time consuming and comparative trees are not always available. Even though I have had several good computer programming courses, I do not have the skill to develop a time efficient stump to DBH conversion program for use in my hand-held computer. What I need is an application to incorporate the research formula into my "Two Dog" cruise program - iPhone: do you have an app. for that?

On another note, timber trespass is occurring and is a common problem. As you know, many landlines are not marked or surveyed. Many landowners are absentee or are just not familiar with their property boundary, which adds to the problem. I received a call today from a landowner in Carter County who discovered two to three acres of his property cutover. The cost of properly investigating a trespass can be high, so many cases just are not pursued. I feel the market for Consulting Foresters would increase if productivity increased. I feel with reduced costs more customers would utilize our services.

Increased productivity is doing more with less. These past few months both Kentucky and Tennessee State Governments are having trouble passing budgets that fully finance their respective State Forestry Programs. Tax payers have little stomach for increasing taxes, so instead they are calling for increased productivity. This means that we have to effectively use the technology, sampling techniques and skills that we have as well as utilize proper marketing and advertisement of our services. Foresters with specialized skills have to depend on other foresters and resources to get the job done efficiently.

The Society of American Foresters is a place that brings foresters together. Our biannual meetings, annual convention, chapter meetings and publications are tools where foresters can network, share ideas and learn about new resources. I am looking forward to attending the Summer K-T Meeting June 2, 3 & 4 at "Land Between the Lake" at KenLake State Park Lodge. Larry Doyle and the West Kentucky Chapter are putting together a great program about 10 years of Forest Service Management of LBL. Also coming up May 25th is the East Kentucky Chapter meeting in Fleming County on Lloyd Tree Farm concerning Certification of Family Farms and Carbon Accounting, which is especially interesting for

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.

Program features a bus tour June 3rd of management activities dealing with Elk/Bison, prairie restoration, fire and wildlife with indoor follow-up on the morning of June 4th. Executive meeting 7:00 PM June 2nd.

Visit ktsaf.org for more details and registration form.

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me. Finally, June 28, 29 & 30 is the Association of Consulting Foresters annual Conference being held in Louisville, Kentucky. I will be taking a much needed two day training course on the Practice of Consulting Foresters. So, I encourage you to get together with fellow foresters, share ideas, and keep abreast with our rapidly changing profession of forestry.

COUNCILS COLUMN - Dave Walters**Communique - April 22, 2010**

E-mails and conference calls have been the order of business for Council as the spring meeting was snowed out. I continue to be impressed with the hard work and commitment of SAF staff and the intensity of Council members. I appreciate hearing from the state societies and am thankful to the Great Plains SAF for inviting me to participate in their conference call. SAF work in Nebraska & Kansas is impressive, especially the Walk in the Woods efforts. I'm most appreciative of the District IX Fellows committee and Rachel Allison who chaired the group. Our District submitted two excellent candidates for Fellow.

Please remember that Field Forester nominations are due to me by May 15. Criteria for the award is at http://www.safnet.org/about/field_foresters_criteria.cfm.

SAF budget for 2009 has been closed and despite making some very tough choices, we finished in the red by \$281,830. (Total SAF revenues \$3.33MM, total expenses \$3.61MM)... Decreased revenues in advertising, smaller than expected convention attendance in Orlando, higher legal costs than budgeted, and a drop in returns from investments were the reasons presented for the budget shortfall. 2009 is the first year since 2003 that SAF has run in the red. Council has plans to discuss budgets in an upcoming conference call and will likely debate revenue strategies at the June meeting. You might have already received a letter from Michael Goergan asking for donations. Please do what you can to support our society with your time, enthusiasm, and your money.

I understand that our membership is approximately 14,000. We purged more members this year than last year and will hold our phonathon in May. With the help of Chapter chairs, we hope to get some 500 members back. Rosters and former members are on the web at: http://www.eforester.org/members/member_central.cfm.

SAF staff has been changing since last fall so be patient as they do more with less and shift responsibilities. Several folks on staff left just as the new membership database and electronic communications systems were brought on line. The accounting staff is new and functioning well, Michael's assistant recently left and a couple of folks in advertising are pursuing other opportunities. Some vacancies are being filled by contract workers and other positions are being covered by current staff.

SAF is working for you. SAF, as part of the Coalition of Natural Resource Societies, a body that includes the American Fisheries Society, The Society for Range Management, and The Wildlife Society, recently sent letters to all 50 governors, supporting natural resource professionals. The letter is accessible on the SAF website under the Featured Articles heading. Also in the "Featured Articles" section is a video of Michael addressing the Orlando convention on the State of

SAF. If you want to be inspired with some of the work SAF does for our profession, take a look.

Michael has written & published an OP-ED on LEED certification in several newspapers across the country.

The Insurance Trust has authorized a new program for SAF which is professional liability insurance for consulting foresters and will even cover prescribed burning. We will soon begin offering this new program. SAF will also begin to purchase one year of life insurance for SAF members who maintain their membership for five consecutive years. This program has three goals; providing membership benefits, reducing the average age of insured members and enroll some of these members to keep their insurance beyond one year. By lowering the average age and increasing the number of insured, we should see lower premiums.

In addition to the outstanding policy work, SAF now offers several new services to state societies including conference call services, registration support for meetings, opportunities for CFE's via webinars, Dictionary of Forestry online, a forestry encyclopedia online, and my favorite, the member look up function. Spend some time viewing the SAF website!

Providing silver rings with wood inlays for graduating SAF student members is an idea that is still being evaluated. Several of you sent me your comments and that information has been added to input from members across the country and is being evaluated by Staff and Council. What I gathered from District IX input is members generally thought doing something for graduating students is a very good idea. Even though the rings look good, many members do not wear rings and you think that this program should be self sustaining.

Dates to remember:

Nomination for Field Forester Award due May 15
Send to Dave Walters PO Box 40627, Nashville, TN

Foresters Fund Applications due June 15
Send applications to SAF HQ

Outstanding Student Chapter & Website Nominations due June 20
Send applications to SAF HQ

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

Invite a colleague to join SAF today!

Dave Walters

District 9 Council Representative

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UT FORESTRY CONCLAVE RESULTS - David Buckley

The UT Forestry Club/Society of American Foresters Student Chapter sent 20 members to the 53rd Association of Southern Forestry Clubs (ASFC) Forestry Conclave March 25th-28th. This year's Conclave was hosted by the University of Arkansas – Monticello and began with events held by Stihl Inc. as part of the Stihl Timbersports collegiate series. UT Forestry Club member **Adam Lethco** competed in the Stihl Underhand Chop, One-man Buck Saw, Stock Saw, and Standing Block Chop events. Adam turned in very strong finishes in each event, and was described in a press release as the closest competitor to the first place winner. Unfortunately, Adam lost considerable ground in the final standings due to momentarily leaving his visor up at the start of his Stock Saw run, which led to a disqualification. In the ASFC events, **Luke Dittrich** won first place in Compass and Pacing, and other members of the UT team earned several fourth and fifth place ranks in other technical and physical events. **Austin Carroll** took fourth place in Timber Estimation, **Steve Mollish** tied for fourth place in Knife Throwing, and Adam Lethco took fourth in Pole Climbing. **John Johnson**

took fifth in dendrology, **Cara Jones** placed fifth in Women's Bowsaw, **Morgan Sharp** and **Amanda Wimbish** took fifth in Women's Crosscut, and **Dillion Alley** placed fifth in Pole Felling. Although it was frustrating for these competitors to be eventually edged out of first, second, and third places by competitors from other schools, their efforts contributed substantially to an overall ranking of 8th out of 15 schools. The most significant honor for the UT team was receiving the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for spirit, cooperation and brotherhood. The team that receives this award is selected based on a vote of all ASFC Club Presidents present at the Conclave. The University of Arkansas – Monticello won first place overall in this year's Conclave, followed by Stephen F. Austin University in second place, and the University of Georgia in third.

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit our website for more details on these events:

<http://www.ktsaf.org/meetings.htm>

May 25 - EKSAF Spring Meeting, Fleming Co.

June 2-4 - K-T SAF Summer Meeting, Kenlake State Resort Park (near Aurora, KY)

June 26-29 - Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), Louisville, Kentucky www.acf-foresters.org



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