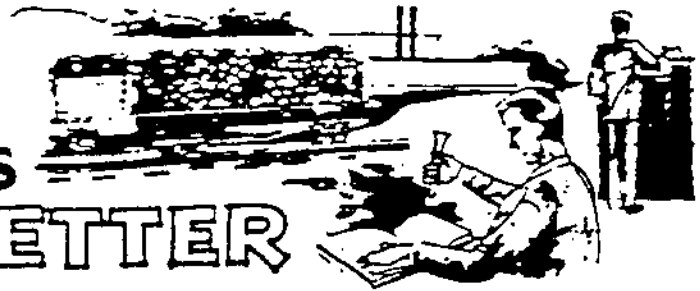




SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS NEWS LETTER

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE



NO. 250

AUGUST 1999

Chairman's Corner Richard Wilcox

What has K-T SAF done during the past 100 years. We haven't built any big buildings or set aside any large tracks of land for forest management in the name of the Society. So what have we done? Has the Society managed land? Made laws or enforced laws to protect the forests? Has the society converted trees to wood products? If we haven't done any of these things what have we accomplished over the years? What has been done for forestry in Tennessee and Kentucky in the last 100 years?

Since the turn of the century the Daniel Boone National Forest, Smoky Mountain National Park and the Cherokee National Forest were established, not by the Society but by congress. The Kentucky and Tennessee Division of Forestry were established by the States, not by SAF. Westvaco, Bowaters and other large companies obtained land and entered into long term forest management agreements for long term forest management. This was not done by SAF but by companies.

Companies, governments, and individual land owners hired professional Foresters to meet their objectives. The Society of American Forester was formed to share professional knowledge and improve the practice of forestry in Kentucky and Tennessee.

A simple analogy is the development of automobile brakes. Scientist and researchers developed the automobile brake and sent it out to the public for use. It worked fine. You slam on the brake and the car stopped. Then it rained, the operator slammed on the brake but the car skidded instead of stopping. Some figured out how to stop by pumping the brakes. If your parents told you how to pump your brakes you were less likely to have an accident. The brakes were still good they just needed to be used differently in different environments. Recently the scientists figured out how to have the breaks pump themselves. Works great unless your in the habit of pumping your breaks or didn't get the word not to pump your brakes.

Foresters are scientists and practitioners that apply good science to meet objectives. Unfortunately

KTSAF WINTER MEETING GETTING RIGHT
all set to go at mammoth cave site

West Kentucky chapter will host our KTSAF winter meeting at Mammoth Cave the last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Jan.2000.

Meeting theme may not be completely nailed down but it will likely be close to "Forest, Field and Water Management in the Next Millennium." Or, how about "Strategies for the New Millennium." Registration fee will be about \$35. Rooms will be available at the Park Lodge for about \$40 for a double.

Gail O'Neill is Program Chair aided by Gerald Crowe, Pam Snyder and John Woods. Larry Doyle is Arrangements Chair.

* * * *

good science is always improving and every scientific principle works under some situations but not necessarily under all conditions. Foresters also work in a political and social environment. Land is needed for different reasons, management meets multiple objectives. Common sense must prevail. Common sense improves with common knowledge and understanding.

The Society of American Foresters does not manage the National Forests, Bowaters land, Westvaco land, other company land or state and private land, but it has played a significant role in improving the professional management of these lands. The Society has not made significant scientific discoveries but it has been a catalyst for ideas and adjustments to improve scientific discovery. The Society has never manufactured a tree into a wood product but it has been a moderator of ideas that have improved the Forest products industry throughout this century.

There are no pictures of the SAF making a significant contribution to our society. There are pictures of significant contributions that have been made to society through the efforts of professional foresters. These foresters may have been more effective because the Society was there as a catalyst for information sharing.

Con't next page

KTSAF OFFICERS

Chairman.....Richard Wilcox
Chairman-elect.....Dave Walters
Secretary-Treasurer.....Grant Curry

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Bob Schnell.....Norris, TN 37828
Doug McLaren..Lexington, KY 40546

CHAPTER CHATTER

Eric Schmeckpeper, according to Gail O'Neill, has really left Land Between the Lakes and the KTSAF area. He has moved lock-stock-and-barrel to Columbia, SC to work for the US Forest Service. Eric's new address is 242 Bishopgate Road, Columbia, SC 29212.

* * * *

SE TN chapter met August 3, in Cleveland, TN. John Mullins, Forest Inventory Analysis Coordinator, discussed TN's forest inventory and health monitoring programs. Contrary to what some groups believe, his data show that our forests are in good health and we are still growing more wood than is harvested....Looking ahead, the chapter discussed plans for the coming summer meeting in June of 2000. Tentative theme is "Changing Management Strategies/Goals of the Cherokee National Forest." Clint Strohmeier is the Program Chair and is being assisted by James Anderson, SETSAF chair-elect.

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SAF's 1999 "Walk in the Forest Kit" is filled with information on how to plan and conduct a walk and includes a sample invitation, press releases, a letter to local media, etc. The kit is available from C. J. Hall at (301) 897-8720, ext. 155; Fax (301) 897-3690; or e-mail: hallcj@safnet.org.

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Chairman's Corner (con't)

Our Universities produce Foresters as the seed. Employers provide the food and water for the Forester to grow. The Society of American Foresters is the vitamins and nutrients to keep the forester healthy.

1999 Election Information

two vice-presidential candidates:

- John F. Heissenbuttel, National Capital SAF
- Michael D. Moore, Michigan SAF

43 candidates for election to Fellow, including George Eopper and John Rennie. There may be other KTSAF candidates that I do not know about! George and John need your approval to be elected! Both of them! Look for your national ballot and remember to vote!

KTSAF SUMMER MEETING IN TOWNSEND QUIET about 60 members decided to try it

Thanks to Larry Tankersley (Program) and John Rennie (Arrangements) KTSAF held its summer meeting June 12-13, 1999, in Townsend while it was still billed as "The Peaceful Side of the Mountain." If they'd waited, that side of the mountain might no longer be peaceful! In fact a multi-lane highway is already taking shape right through the middle of things. I may be wrong, but I get the feeling that another Pigeon Forge is getting ready to "bust out" on the scene!

If you were at the meeting you now know that Foresters are on the Park Service payroll and what they are doing is very relevant to our profession. Many of us realize that our National Parks are under constant attack by both man and Nature. This is no different than private land, state land, industry land or national forest areas, but the legal and political constraints are quite different and the ultimate objective or desired future condition is significantly different.

Some Sixty foresters received a first hand look at the challenges facing the Smoky Mountain National Park. Some of the challenges are similar to our own and some we can see are coming in the future to our location.

It was refreshing to see a wide variety of foresters at the meeting. Students from the University of the South and University of Tennessee were there as were five SAF members that have received their 50th Golden Membership Certificate (Doug Boardman, John Hasek, Ed Ellenburg, Wilber Hitchcock, Bob Schnell).

ROPE 'N LADDER NEEDED TO WORK IN A TREE but just be careful, say Jeff and Larry

Jeff Lewis, Morehead, KY and Larry Hamner, Clinton, TN are experts on the subject. Jeff says you never cut your safety rope while up in a tree--on purpose, that is. But accidents do happen and you are forced to come down--fast. Jeff hurt his back and a heel. He is on the mend and is getting around now on crutches. And he says that he is learning to walk all over again.

Larry leaned a ladder against a tree and got up in the atmosphere to help a cement truck back in under a low hanging utility line. The truck made it OK but Larry did not. The ladder slipped and Larry fell to the ground--soft ground so he didn't get hurt. But then the ladder decided to fall, too, and it broke his ankle before it stopped falling. Larry spent a couple of months on crutches while his ankle mended.

* * * *

Good advice comes from odd places

By Dave Walters, KT Chair-elect

I often find useful advice in unusual places. Most recently that place was the *Tennes-Sierran*, the newsletter of the Tennessee Sierra Club. Each of the last three issues has excellent advice for SAF members.

They are hiring a full-time staffer to stop logging on the Cherokee. Ending commercial logging on public lands is one of their 4 national priorities for 1999. They are "thinking big and starting small" and focusing their resources on their goal.

I propose we adopt their battle tactics and educate the people of Tennessee and Kentucky that forest management has changed our forests from poorly stocked, burned over, grazed-over and cut-over lands to the beautifully valuable ecosystems they see today. We do this one county newspaper at a time as each of us takes responsibility to publish an article on forest management over the last one hundred years (read Centennial Celebration!). You gather the information about your county's history and we'll find a writer. Big project, small start with focused resources.

Another article implored members to photograph clearcuts hidden behind roadside buffers, then publish them.

What a champion idea for the K-T!
There are dozens and dozens of places in each county that were slicked-over at the turn of last century. The charcoal industry in the highland rim, the coal fields of the Cumberland mountains, Copperhill, the Cherokee, & Smokies!

We need do little more than simply remind people of the condition of these areas before forest management (read Centennial Celebration!). Beautiful pictures of familiar local forests juxtaposed to old photos of the same areas when they were cut over...

The last article from which I'll lift advice outlined the three phases of grassroots organizing. It encouraged readers to

- 1) create demand i.e. translate positive support into active participation
- 2) establish accountability i.e. hold decision makers responsible by thanking them for support or chiding them for their opposition
- 3) taking delivery i.e. reaching the well defined goal

K-T members can create demand for forest management by telling the success stories of forest management at home. We can hold newspapers accountable by thanking them for their coverage of our successful centennial celebration. We will take delivery of slightly increased support for forest management in Kentucky and Tennessee through the Centennial Celebration.

Richard Evans is the K-T Centennial Celebration coordinator but each of us is responsible for the success of the Centennial Celebration.

NATCHEZ TRACE STATE FOREST & STATE PARK

NTI UPDATE 8-25-99

I suppose the big question in everyone's mind these days is, "How much longer will the NTI last?" That same question is in our minds too, because even though salvage operations are slowing down, more is yet to be done. So frankly, we don't have the answer.

Here is what we know. Harvesting peaked at 88 loads/day, but has subsided to a daily output of about 30-35 loads. Over 3,400 haul tickets have been written to-date. We dropped from a high of 34 loggers on site to 18 still currently working. Many of those still here are low production operators, although at least 2 high production crews are still with us. More crews plan to leave within a week or so.

Slightly over 5,000 acres have been salvaged, and we estimate about 600 acres remain before we walk through it all. Most that remains is in category 3 damage areas with low volumes to remove. So, there is a finite amount of wood yet to be salvaged, but whether it is done by several crews in a short time, or just a handful over a longer period is yet to be seen.

We reduced the number of foresters per rotation from 8 to 4. We also reduced the Ticket Writing Techs from 5 to 3. Virtually all of the recon is done with the exception of some scouting for SPB's.

We have agreed to State Park's request that we stop logging during the Labor Day weekend in the same manner as we did for the 4th of July. Logging will cease at the end of the day on the 3rd, and will not resume until the morning of the 7th. Since we have no more recons to do, there really won't be anything for the foresters or Techs to do from Saturday until Tuesday morning. Therefore, we have slightly modified the rotation schedules accordingly. Foresters on rotation 12 will be held over until the morning of the 4th, and rotation 13 will check in on the afternoon of the 6th (which means no overlap). Likewise, Techs on rotation 9 will leave on the morning of the 4th, and those on rotation 10 will also check in on Monday p.m. (again no overlap). So, we need experienced people coming in on the 6th who simply need to know which loggers they are seeing after and go to work.

We plan that the dozer/rehab crews will work throughout the holiday weekend to catch up on closing areas. Therefore, that schedule will remain as it currently stands. However, we anticipate needing fewer personnel in those capacities soon. I know that is good news for those of you who are as dry as we are and need your people home.

In like manner, we intend to keep the Safety and Security team intact for the time being. So far, injuries have been kept to a minimum, no vehicle accidents have occurred, and no vandalism has been inflicted on our contractor's equipment. Reportedly, 200 gallons of diesel were stolen from one site, and even if that one incident is true, then we still feel the efforts of our S&S people have been incredibly successful.

What will happen in terms of silvicultural applications after the salvage is completed is still yet to be determined. Roy and Jay have begun putting together a map made from foresters "post-op" reports which should paint a final picture of the extent of the damage and the opportunities we have, if any, for further management. We have no solutions about controlling the kudzu in sight either. We know how to kill kudzu, but many unresolved issues are swirling around the process of doing so.

The NTI is, and will remain, profitable. As previously reported, we eclipsed the \$1mm mark in income. In fact, we have made more than that since July 1st. The final revenue picture is murky, but income will far outdistance spending.

Oh yes, in the continuing saga of logger lore, the story going around on the Trace has it that Dirk recently got stung by a bee, so Lance was able to reciprocate with the same electrifying sting kill treatment. So, perhaps it's true that "what comes around, goes around." Seriously, we had our second notable injury to a logger this week when a chainsaw operator was knocked unconscious by a "widow maker." An update on his condition is unavailable at this time. The first injury to a logger was a severely broken leg which occurred a few weeks ago.

So, how much longer will the NTI last? If many of the loggers stay with us, and if their production stays at a reasonable rate, and if Dirk doesn't electrocute Lance, and etc., etc., etc., then maybe two weeks, or maybe two months.

RAPPIN' WISE OUR COUNCIL REP

Council met June 11-14, 1999, at the Manitou Forest Service Research Forest about 40 miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. They spent 2 days in a bunkhouse setting, cooked group meals and met almost non-stop. At our SAF summer meeting, Kerry Schell, fresh from the Rockies did little more than list some of the many actions that Council took. He included such items as Cultural Diversity; Centennial Celebration plans; Code of Ethics; Mission Statement; Certification of Foresters; Defining Forests, Forestry and Foresters; Competency Test of Students (talking stage only); Forestry School Accreditation; the RNRFF situation; and "Forests of Discord" which is now available in paperback. I think he had some other items but I was lucky to get this much down.

Expanding a little, starting at the bottom, "Forests of Discord" is the report of council's Federal Land Management Task Force. It's a thorough look at federal forest land issues and comes to the conclusion that our "national forests are broken and Congress needs to come up with a fix and soon." A task force report on Forestry Education Accreditation needs to be finalized and approved. Defining the "Broad Field of Forestry" still can't be tied down and needs more investigation (that really bugs Kerry). The SAF Mission Statement was reviewed and found wanting. It's still subject to modification. The Code of Ethics is getting close but needs a little revision before submission to the membership.

The Portland Convention is just around the corner and planning for the Centennial Convention in Washington, DC next year is moving along. SAF and our profession are making progress--it's slow but its real. Our second century will soon be dawning with as much promise as our first (Ed)



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HAROLD K. ALLEN, EDITOR

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

The TN Department of Environment and Conservation recently reported that of 53,507 miles of rivers and streams surveyed in the State, only 0.11 percent of those miles were adversely impacted by logging activity. Even that may be more than we'd like but according to Paul Davis, Director of Water Pollution Control for the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, "Forest land in Tennessee continues to be a source for clean water in our State. Overall, forest industry is doing a good job controlling pollution and should be commended for its efforts." The Tennessee Forestry Association notes that the 870 Master Loggers (there may be more by now) could have had something to do with this good record.

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Do you ever get the feeling that there's not much going on out in the woods? Get a copy of "The Tennessee Forest Health Monitor" and you'll be amazed at all the activity. To get on the mailing list, check with Forest Health Specialist, Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry Division, PO Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204.

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In the July/August 1999 issue of Forest Landowner, you will find a featured article by Matt Bennett entitled "What is the Logwood Alliance?" It's all about what landowners (and others) should know about environmental groups. Matt was KTSAF chair some years ago!

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Understanding Forest Certification; Handbook and Workshop Offered to Landowners and Resource Managers.

In recent years, "green certification" has gained attention as a means of promoting sustainable forestry practices and marketing wood products from sustainably managed forests. Certification is a non-regulatory means of ensuring that the methods and materials used to make a product meet predetermined social, economic, and environmental standards. For a free copy of the handbook or for more information on certification workshops, contact Shoana Eumphries, The Forest Management Trust, 6124 SW 30th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32608; phone: 352/331-2007.

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Dates for Leadership Academy Set for 2000

By Jennifer Plyler, Communications Manager, Communications Manager, (301) 897-8720, ext. 117; Fax (301) 897-3690; or e-mail: plylerj@safnet.org

The dates for the 2000 Leadership Academy have been set. All state society and division chair-elects and working chair-elects should mark your calendars for May 6-10, 2000. Held at the YMCA of the Ozarks in Potossi, MO., the 2000 Leadership Academy promises to be informative, educational, and a rewarding experience for attendees.



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