

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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2010 KTSAF Chairman-Elect

David Mercker

2010 KTSAF Secretary

Kerry Livengood

2010 - 2012 District 9 Council Member

Dave Walters

***Congratulations to all who ran and put forth
the effort to serve our Society.***

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - Allan Houston

Election Process

As I pondered the slate of people running for K/T SAF positions I was truly enthused. My thought then was that regardless of who won, KT wins. The only poor thing in the whole process is that someone must lose, sometimes only by a vote or two, and sometimes for very little reason other than the name does not ring someone's bell.

The message that I would like to send to the people who did not make it this year is: don't be afraid to run again. Do not take a loss as an indication of a lack of confidence from the Membership. Trust me when I say that having your name on the ballot means that trust is conferred.

I am absolutely sure that this slate of young professionals have stars that will continue to rise. I say congratulations to them for being in the running and congratulations to K/T for having such a good set of candidates to have chosen from.

And, thanks to John Rennie for his work in getting us such a winning set of combinations.

SAF National Convention

I have just returned from Orlando, Florida where I attended the Society of American Foresters National Convention. The theme for the meeting was survival in the global forest,

continued on page 2

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS - Daniel Bowker

Please make plans to attend the 2010 winter meeting. The meeting will be held January 27-29 at the Lexington Downtown Hotel and Conference Center in Lexington, Kentucky, and hosted by the East Kentucky chapter. Registration before January 15 will save you \$20, so go ahead and register as soon as you can.

KTSAF Winter Meeting 2010



11 CFE credit hours available
Hosted by East Kentucky Chapter

**Certification for Forests,
Foresters, Loggers, and
Wood**

**Biomass and Renewable
Fuels**

Farm Bill Programs

Carbon Markets

**Invasive Species in Kentucky
and Tennessee**

January 27-29, 2010
**Lexington Downtown Hotel
and Conference Center**
Lexington, Kentucky

Several issues that we all need to be aware of will be covered during the meeting, including certification schemes, biomass and carbon markets and opportunities, exotic invasive species in Kentucky and Tennessee, what's going on with Farm Bill forestry programs, and the state of the forest industry as affected by the recent recession. Details on who will be speaking about these topics will be made available soon.

Your attendance will be worth 11 CFE credits.

Online registration for the 2010 Winter KTSAF meeting is available by visiting:

<http://www.safnet.org/calendar/index.cfm>

Just look for our meeting listed along others on the right side of the webpage. If assistance is needed with online registration feel free to contact Carlton Gleed (GleedC@safnet.org) or Christopher Reeves(cdreev2@uky.edu).

See you there!

continued from page 1

a forest where America's markets and production are very much at risk. Midst all of the graphs and charts was a clear message that keeping forests as forests will become an increasingly focused challenge in the future and may, in time, become critical to the point of our forests unable to sustain themselves as a natural resource and being assigned the level of a strategic resource. This will be followed either with increased legislative mandates or economic recompense for the people who own forests and provide a host of ecological services: wildlife, water quality, aesthetics, carbon sequestration . . . and so on. We can hope for the second scenario.

The question becomes how to value forests and what alternative values can we assign?

I was astounded to see a presentation from a paper company in South America. Their growth rates for pine make ours look puny, about like a race between a greyhound and a beagle. Increased wood production around the world, transgenic trees, wood using efficiency, urbanization . . . another list that goes on and on, directly affects our southern forest.

I've noticed this global alchemy since the beginning of my career and the trend was slowly bearing out, only to be brought to an ugly, nearly overnight head with the economic fallout. As a result, this year, if China had not been in the market for white oak, we would not have been able to sell timber for anything like what it was worth.

An undercurrent that ran through that meeting is that Alternative Resource Enterprises will become more and more important. This means lots of things, but it also means that wildlife will increasingly be a source for private lands income through hunting leases, fishing or wildlife viewing (such as bird watching).

In an interesting twist, the whitetail deer, an animal whose abundance was partially responsible for the successful establishment of America, once again finds the fortunes of men laid across his back or maybe more to the point - his rack. In a manner of thinking and contrary to what some car insurance companies might say, TWRA's successful restocking efforts may place them as being one of the greatest venture capital investment bankers of our time. The trend for lease arrangements will not become less over time, but more. Those who wish to live the rural experience and who depend on income from their land will have increasing needs to explore alternative income streams. Market forces will bring about competitive programs that vie for this or that improvement where hunting is concerned. You've already seen these: fences, genetic manipulations, guided hunts, gizmoism, and all manner of combinations. This will become more prevalent and maybe, like any increased economic benefit, will come with the risk of losing some basic element that makes hunting enticing. I fear

this and most likely because it is such irresistible ground, essentially a vacuum that will suck us in. We are moving toward elements of risk and benefit that have not been rigorously explored.

Does hunting always get better as it gets easier and bigger and more involved?

On the other hand, are we building market niches around hunting where newly discovered kinds of interest and excitement are a form of sustainable currency?

Here at Ames, not being rich enough to separate ourselves from our economic surroundings, we are part of the wave, and perhaps by nature of our profession, we are also relatively better informed, and as a result a bit ahead of the curve. We've put the ducks, quail, deer and dove to work for us and raised income streams from those venues by 700%. For example, Quality Deer Management represents not only sound biological management but also adaptive economic management. So far we're having fun with the combination of a wilderness experience and the sure-fire knowledge that trigger control brings dividends of reasonable expectations for a date with a bull-buck and a dream day in the woods. It also pays pretty well, enough to stay in business.

I doubt very much that the cover-page bucks of Ames give a flip about economics, except so far as acorn trees and persimmons might be involved, but they are part and parcel of a new paradigm, and one that China cannot make. Any decision becomes an experiment the moment it is launched. I believe that with every heart thumping rustle in the leaves and data-point that illustrates the herd's health, the Ames Experiment is playing out to a good end. Other places, just the regular rural places where people hope to keep the farm, can launch similar experiments.

The next time you are in your favorite deer stand try to imagine all of the market forces leaning against what you see and hear around you, what you desire always to see and hear. They are real and they are increasing. Your deer stand exists more-so in the global forest than you might ever be able to imagine. That big buck and his associates, are surely among the currency that us hunters use to say we've had a good life, but he is also a speck, a pixel, in the charts and graphs that predict the world's wealth and the sustainability of the southern forest.

Good hunting. It is more precious than we know.



Speaking of hunting and by inference the hunting season, it reminds me that the winter meeting is not so very far away. The "black hole" that falls between Thanksgiving and Christmas is nearly on us and during that time, things go by very fast. Make plans now to attend. Perhaps at no other time in the past several decades is it so important that

our profession rendezvous to compare notes and, more importantly, keep abreast of what will surely be a quickly changing world. The changes that will come will be in tectonic shifts, sometimes jarring. The worldwide continental drift in demand and supply will continue to move inexorably, there will be a rising technological grip on our profession, and with it the subduction of occasional old ways. Volcanic eruptions of scientific advancement are coming to the surface.

This will mean perhaps a little less need, as a profession, to be understood and a little more need to understand, to partner and to think creatively. And, so it is that the winter meeting fills that need. Be there, if at all possible. I will ask the Executive Committee to consider making a change in how we disperse the Forester's Fund. My request will be for them to consider taking at least half of the proceeds, for all meetings following the Winter Meeting, and send that amount to National. If you have thoughts along these lines, I would like to hear them; and if you have thoughts that need to be expressed at the meeting, send them to me.

What follows is the muse of a hardwood forester who has been on the ground long enough to watch brambles turn to timber.

COUNCILS COLUMN - Roger Weaver

The 2009 SAF Convention in Orlando, Florida was a success from the standpoint of program content and attendance. Over 1300 SAF members attended the event surpassing the goal of 1200 to cover expenses. This is always a great opportunity to network with friends and colleagues, listen to forestry leaders around the country, pick up tips or learn something from the many exhibitors present, earn CFE credits at many of the technical breakout sessions held over 3 days, visit with your college alumni at the socials, and take informative tours associated with your field of expertise. If you haven't attended a National SAF Convention, I would encourage you to make it a priority in the future.

My last Council meeting will be in Bethesda on December 4 – 6. I will provide a more complete Council report at that time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way.

The Shadow Farmer

*Tree limbs and briars forage for light
in my slender lane like fearless deer
waiting to gore me as I walk
to meet the mail truck.*

*I herd them back
with my pruning shears
and for a season
have the satisfaction of seeing
their white rumps run away
into the brush.*

*Yet, knowing all the while
that they will breed in
the thickets and come again
to graze the fresh sunshine.*

*Every year I am able
to weed out some
of the sunlit patches
as I shoo the growing
herd upwards
to eat the light.*

*In time, they over-graze
their perpendicular fields,
reaching for their golden food
as they steal it one from another.*

*Now, there are only a few strays
that sometimes appear
in my lanes - lazy, poor little fellows
that don't amount to much
and only wave as I go by to
remind me of the hard times.*

*I have tall and straight oak fences
lined up along my path
to keep the herds up high
content to feast on the sun.*

*I travel the old roads
and feel the cool air.*

I am a farmer of shadows.

EKSAF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - Daniel Bowker

EKSAF held a very successful gathering late October with a business meeting at the Salato Center in Frankfort and a field tour of an emerald ash borer infestation site in northern Franklin County. Thanks to everyone who attended and who took part in the good discussion we had during the business meeting.

I'm mainly writing to say thank you to the KDF folks who helped with the EAB presentation and field tour. **Stewart West** did an excellent job getting the meeting details arranged, including reserving the room at the Salato Center, and scheduling the presentation and field tour. **Jody Thompson, Sara Johns, and Ben Lyle** all did a great job both with the presentation and with the field tour of the infestation site. Thank you all very much for your efforts.



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