

# 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

Number 296

[www.ktsaf.org](http://www.ktsaf.org)

February 2011

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER - David Mercker

### Cruising for New Members

In 1943, a handful of professional foresters had the foresight to begin the K-T SAF. For nearly 70 years, our chapter has stood stalwart meeting the needs of its members and serving as a voice for forestry throughout the region. As the profession gained in prominence, we grew too. More recently the membership trend has made a disturbing reversal. In the last six years, numbers have declined by approximately 1/3, losing 30 members last year alone.

This is not good, but lamenting does nothing to improve it. We need action. This is a call for "all prisms on deck." In 2011, our collective goal is to recapture the 30 lost members plus. The strategy is simple and two part:

1. The Executive Committee is composing a list of prospects unto which a personal invitation will be sent. The invitation will consist of a cover letter/application/copy of the *Forestry Source* and program of the upcoming summer meeting.
2. Step two involves YOU. We are embarking on an Each One Reach One growth campaign. Everyone is asked to pull out your prism and put in some plots. Seek out your forestry friends and give a personal invite for them to join us. We'll finish the cruise quicker with everyone involved. Remember too, with every new member that you recruit, your annual dues will be lowered by \$10 next year. Now that's an incentive!

As you visit with prospects and share your SAF experiences, there are some common criticisms that you will counter. Remembering these rebuttals will bring greater success to our campaign:

- dues can now be paid monthly or quarterly,
- the *Forestry Source* is a user-friendly publication with less academic focus, and
- annual meetings are valuable for networking and continuing education.

You can print off a membership application to share with other foresters at: <http://www.safnet.org/join/memberapp.pdf>

On another pleasing note, hat's off to the SE Tennessee Chapter for hosting a memorable and informative winter meeting. Good job! From the presentation on poplar bark siding to the field tour, it was well organized, strongly attended, and full of fine eats. The Middle Tennessee Chapter has promised an equally triumphant summer meeting in June. Titled, "A Taste of Tradition," we are anxious to treat our new SAF recruits. Please, plan on attending and bring a colleague.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2011 Chair. It is a humbling responsibility, one not taken lightly, and one worth embracing. In the words of an aged widow client of mine years ago, "Once a job has begun, never leave it til' it's done." Let's not tire on our membership drive. This IS our sputnik moment.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Still haven't renewed your membership? Make sure you renew soon so you won't miss out on member benefits such as the next *Forestry Source*. Don't forget you can now sign-up to pay your dues in monthly or quarterly installments.

Member benefits include:

- Building your knowledge base through reading the latest research and ground-breaking science in SAF's peer-reviewed journals. *Forest Science* and all regional journals now accessible on-line as part of your standard membership.
- Stay abreast on trends, influencers, policies, and news with the *Forestry Source*. This is also an excellent source for job searches, events and how-to guides.
- Speaking of jobs, you'll maintain access to SAF's online Career Center.

- Become a Certified Forester and take advantage of the nation's largest calendar of forestry and natural resource meetings and seminars that can contribute to your Continuing Forestry Education credits.
- Participate in an SAF sponsored Leadership Academy where you can learn more about communications, management and leading organizations.
- Better yet - **Play a Part** - and help make SAF what you want it to be. National and local units need your help — giving you the chance to build connections, develop new skills and broaden your influence.

Renew today online here:

<http://www.eforester.org/join/renew.cfm>

Prefer to mail in your application, print out this form:

<http://www.eforester.org/join/memberapp.pdf>

## COUNCILS COLUMN - Dave Walters

**Happy New Year!** Some folks are celebrating the Year of the Rabbit, some are celebrating the Year of the Forests...I hope you are celebrating the beginning of a new and productive year where we invite hundreds of foresters to join our SAF. Please ask your colleagues again!

**Proposed 2012 Dues Increase:** After careful consideration and strong input from HSD, Council chose not to act on the dues increase without further consideration. I expect that we'll spend much time discussing SAF revenues and finances this year. I promise to post you on decisions as quickly as possible. The budget Council adopted for this year projects a \$250,000 deficit and staff are working hard to cut costs everywhere possible.

**Forester rings** will be presented to all student members of SAF who are graduating this spring. SAF staff will be working with faculty advisors and society chairs to make this process of recognizing forestry students' transition into the professional ranks memorable. Look for more information on how the process will unfold quickly.

**Districts IX and V are hosting a leadership academy** for incoming society chairs, chapter chairs and student leaders on July 15- 17, 2011 near Carbondale, Ill (a lovely 8 hour drive from Idabel, OK). State Society leaders will soon receive a letter from Joe Friend, our Communications chair, soliciting nominees to participate. Our Heartland Leadership Academy team is hustling to provide our members an excellent program. My job in the operation is soliciting sponsorships so the participants just invest their brainpower, time and commitment to SAF. If you have leads for me to pursue, please send a note or call.

**We need a District Student Representative** to participate in the national student congress at convention, initiate communication between schools within our district, and communicate with the National Student Representative who is a non-voting member of Council. To apply, submit a paragraph describing the student's current activity in SAF and why the student wants to take on the leadership role. The application and a letter of recommendation from the Faculty Advisor should be submitted to me by March 15. Remember the convention is in Hawaii.

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MAY 6, 2011

Send in an article on a forestry related topic in your area. Articles should be sent in Microsoft Word format. Accompanying pictures are highly preferred.

Send to:

Tim.R.Phelps@tn.gov

**The National Convention was a big success** with some 1,500 folks attending. Our 2011 convention will be an opportunity of a lifetime. Join us in Honolulu on November 2-6. Looks like a round-trip flight from Nashville will run some \$700. You'll save money by not taking many clothes!

**Member get a Member** can net you \$10 per member you sign up. If you get 14 folks, your membership is free. Also check out the opportunity to pay your dues monthly or quarterly! Contact SAF offices to make it easy on you.

### Dates to remember:

**January 31** Nominations for Fellows were due to District Fellows Committee

**February 15** Forester's Fund Application Deadline

**February 28** National Award Nominations Due

**March 15** Applications for District Student Rep due Council rep.

**May 1** District Student rep takes office

**May 15** Field Forester Nominations Due to Council reps

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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## A Ring of Distinction

You are one of the select few who have graduated with the distinction as a forestry professional. Now is your chance to display this honor with pride.

### Introducing the SAF Ring for Graduates

The SAF ring program is designed to honor forestry graduates and create a tradition to last for generations. Whether you are 22 or 92, if you have graduated with a forestry-related degree, you can commemorate your accomplishment with the SAF Forestry Ring.



Every ring purchase demonstrates your pride but also salutes the work of next year's graduates from SAF-accredited programs because a portion of the purchase price goes towards recognizing 2011 graduates with a ring - FREE of charge.

### Pre-order Your Ring Today for Just \$65.00

The ring is made of tungsten carbide with an SFI supplied veneer. Engraving is free.

For bulk orders, please call (866) 897-8720 x110.

## TENNESSEE TREE FARM AUDIT - Kerry Livengood

As a globally endorsed certification system, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) must undergo third-party certification audits. Every year, twelve State Tree Farm Committees participate in these certification audits to ensure conformance to the American Forest Foundation (AFF) Standards. In the southern region, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana will be inspected by Joann Cox, representing PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). She will assess twelve tree farms selected during an audit planning meeting held as a webinar on January 24, 2011. Actual site visits will be held in May. The assessment will look at how Tree Farmers are meeting the 2010 Standards and how the state committee and ATFS staff can support Tree Farmers.

For the field visits, the auditors will look at management plans and how the landowners are meeting their objectives and the AFF Standards. The assessment also provides the ATFS with valuable feedback on how Tree Farmers are doing in the program.

The auditors' observations across the South are summarized into official findings that guide the ATFS in improving the program. There are five categories of findings; major non-conformance, minor non-conformance, opportunity for improvement, conformance, and good management practices. The committee's role in the assessment process is to develop the field visit schedule and work with Tree Farmers and inspectors to gather the information needed to show that Tree Farmers are in conformance with the AFF Standards.

The TN Committee is sponsored by the Tennessee Forestry Association and partners with a wide variety of organizations including UT Extension, TN Division of Forestry, industry, consulting foresters, wildlife organizations and the American Chestnut Foundation. Committee members meet together several times a year. In 2010, they met three times and had two conference calls. In 2010, they focused primarily on conducting inspector training and preparing the program for the transition to the 2010 Standards. Usually, the committee is active in conducting landowner education workshops and field days for which they partner with UT extension and other outside groups. The Committee also works with the Tennessee Healthy Hardwood program hosted by extension, sponsoring some materials and supplying a presenter to talk about Tree Farm. Extension puts on this program around the state. The Committee distributes a semi-annual newsletter and works on projects that will educate the general public about the program and good forestry. TN Tree Farm participates in a teachers' conservation workshop where teachers are invited to tour Tree Farms. The Committee also hosts a website through the TFA website which had 2,100 hits in 2010.

The State Committee will be organizing the visit by the auditors to each of the Tree Farms that were selected during the webinar. The auditor will receive a packet for each Tree Farm which will include a management plan, map and the PWC pre-planning management activity form. If possible,

each landowner will be available on site to talk with the auditors along with the forester who developed the plan and the logger or contractor who implements management activities.

The field visit to each Tree Farm will begin with a brief introduction to the assessment process. The auditor will discuss the process in a way that opens an informal dialogue with the landowner (or knowledgeable representative)

about the management of their property. During this discussion, the auditor will be gathering information about how the landowner is meeting the AFF Standards by asking about different resource elements such as invasive species, prescribed fire, special sites, harvesting, etc. Following the informal interview, the auditor will ask to see some recent activity or an interesting site on the property. At the end of the 45 minute – 1 hour long visit, the auditor will give the landowner (or knowledgeable representative) a review of what they observed.

Some of the documents that will be reviewed during the assessment include (when applicable):

- Copy of forest management plan with checks to see that it meets AFF standards
- Maps prepared of the forest and related activities
- Harvest plans
- Use of chemicals and controls
- Regeneration activities
- Examples of incorporation of conservation of biodiversity into forest management activities
- Evidence of actions taken to protect special sites
- Evidence of actions taken to locate and protect endangered species
- Evidence of forest contractor training, insurance and compliance with BMPs
- Examples of actions taken for compliance with applicable forest management laws or responses to non-compliance.



Runner-up TN Tree Farmer of the Year Dennis Benjamin and his wife meet with TDF Area Forester Terry Tynes during a Tree Farm Inspection.

Sources: excerpts from ATFS Sightline Express January 2010, Tree Farm Audit Planning Committee Meeting Notes and Notes from Victoria Lockhart, ATFS and Candace Dinwiddie, TFA were used in the drafting of this article.

K-T SAF WINTER MEETING RECAP IN PICTURES



The Coveted K-T SAF Quiz Bowl Trophy



University of Kentucky team



University of the South team



University of Tennessee team



Banquet Speaker Charlie Harris talks SE TN history and about his impressive gun collection



University of Tennessee was this year's Quiz Bowl Winning Team



Doug Lynn, TDF Forestry Technician, receives the Outstanding Service Award from Ron Taylor



Ed Smith, TDF Area Forester, receives the Outstanding Member Award from Ron Taylor



Mary Motlow was awarded the Baggentoss Award. It was received by Alex Richman, Mrs. Motlow's niece and UT Grad Student, from David Mercker



Jacob Beard receives the Outstanding Forestry Student at the University of Kentucky Award from Terrell Baker



Bradley McQueen receives the Outstanding Forestry Student at the University of Tennessee Award from David Buckley



Mary Elizabeth Watson receives the Outstanding Forestry Student at the University of the South Award from Karen Kuers



Chapter Chairs were recognized for their service - (from left) Todd Berman (not pictured), Chris Reeves, Larry Doyle (not pictured), Andy Norris, and Amy Morgan (not pictured)



Executive Officers were recognized for their service - (from left) David Mercker, Kerry Livengood, and Billy Thomas



Roy Taylor was recognized for his service as K-T SAF Chair. Incoming Chair David Mercker presents Ron with the certificate.



Field stop #1: Sequatchie Handle Works



Field stop #2: Battle Creek Log Homes



## CLASSIFIEDS

### Center Director

University of Tennessee

Forest Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC)

Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (UT AgResearch)

#### POSITION DESCRIPTION and RESPONSIBILITIES

The Center Director is a full time employee of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station (UT AgResearch) and is responsible to the Dean of UT AgResearch. The Center Director is responsible for the comprehensive administration and management of this independently funded field laboratory including the UT Arboretum. The Center Director is expected to exert visionary leadership and serve as a catalyst for implementation of innovative research projects; direct the execution of research workplans developed by UT faculty and other scientists; recruit and promote the professional development of a qualified staff; manage finances and assets; nurture productive relationships with the local community, a wide variety of entities across the Institute of Agriculture and the broader University community, as well as other constituents external to the University. The Center Director will provide for the stewardship of approximately 11,500 acres of forest land. In addition, the Center Director is responsible for community outreach activities including the planning, development, and execution of educational activities for the UT Arboretum, UT students, and other school systems. Information on UT AgResearch may be found at <http://taes.tennessee.edu> while information specific to FRREC may be found at <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/>. More information regarding the Knoxville area may be found at <http://taes.utk.edu/upload/AgRsch/Knoxvilleinfo.pdf>.

#### MINIMUM REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must have a graduate degree in a field of agricultural science and/or natural resources, or a relevant field and an established capacity to conduct and/or direct agricultural and/or natural resources research, and leadership, communication and other personal attributes necessary to manage and direct a research and education center. Candidates must also have a demonstrated commitment to and knowledge of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

#### PREFERRED/DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Preference will be given to those who have an earned doctorate, have a demonstrated ability to administer budgets and manage personnel in an academic research environment, and have a research background or experience in forest and natural resource management and community outreach.

#### COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation is competitive and will be based on education, experience and qualifications. UT offers a comprehensive benefits package to all regular employees, including health

and dental insurance, life insurance and multiple retirement plans.

#### NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee will review and continue to receive applications until an appointment is made. Nominations of qualified individuals are sought and should be sent via electronic means to the Office of the Dean at the address shown below. Applications will be reviewed beginning March 15, 2011. Applications must include: (1) a letter of application summarizing the applicant's qualifications, (2) a complete curriculum vitae, and (3) names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of at least five references. Females and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Nominations, applications and other inquiries should be addressed to:

UT AgResearch, Office of the Dean  
Attn: Micki Heatherly  
103 Morgan Hall  
2621 Morgan Circle  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
Phone: 865-974-7121  
email: [mheather@utk.edu](mailto:mheather@utk.edu)

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

Eligibility and other terms and conditions of employment benefits at The University of Tennessee are governed by laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee, and this non-discrimination statement is intended to be consistent with those laws and regulations.

In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University.

Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.

### **Botanist**

USDA Forest Service

GS-0430-05/09

Job Announcement Number: 11-11080400002-01103DP-MW

Open Period: Feb. 16 - March 3, 2011

Location: Throughout Tennessee

#### Job Summary:

Performs duties such as surveying for threatened, endangered, sensitive, and rare plants, recommending mitigation measures, monitoring selected populations, or developing conservation plans.

Prepares reports, analyses, and biological evaluations and assessments of botanical resources or conditions.

Provides advice, guidance, and information as a member of an interdisciplinary team or to other agencies, state and local governments, and the public on botanical resource issues.

Studies, inventories, and investigates botanical and ecological conditions in support of botanical projects.

Direct link to USAJOBS announcement: <http://bit.ly/emIDEA>

**KTSAF WEBSITE REDESIGN - Christopher Reeves**



Is getting meeting registration and agenda information the only purpose of KTSAF.org? How often do you go to the website? Would you visit the website more if there were content or information about forestry news? KTSAF leadership wants to know your ideas!

Within the next few weeks a small committee formed at the winter meeting in Chattanooga will begin to address issues regarding the redesign of KTSAF.org. Your input and participation are extremely important and necessary to get what you want! Membership always wants more benefits for the money that they pay in dues to the

National Office and to KTSAF and this is a method to get what you want! You will receive an online survey in March asking what you go to KTSAF.org looking for (if at all) and your ideas for the future of the website.

Would you visit KTSAF's website if forestry news from Kentucky and Tennessee was listed? What do you want on the website? Do you like the current format of just detailing winter and summer meeting information? Would you want a listing of jobs open in the area? Is the website the place to have a local calendar of events? I have my ideas but I want everybody to have their say because it is your website.

Please respond to the online survey when you receive it to get your voice heard!

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Vacant

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# SAVE THE DATE

Kentucky - Tennessee  
Society of American Foresters  
Summer Meeting

June 15 - 17, 2011

Manchester, TN

## A Taste of Tradition

Featuring a behind the scenes tour:  
"the Wood Behind Jack"  
at the Jack Daniels Distillery



hosted by the Middle Tennessee Chapter

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

## 2011 National Convention

Honolulu, Hawaii  
November 2 - 6, 2011

### 2011 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience as we celebrate the Year of Forests during the 2011 Society of American Foresters National Convention. The 92nd National Convention will offer a cutting-edge program on the science and changing elements of world forests providing learning and sharing for all foresters and natural resource professionals.

<http://www.safnet.org/natcon11/>

