Chairman's Corner
By John Perry

The East KY Chapter put together a fine summer meeting in Louisville. May’s roses had already been hung on a stallion and long faded when we toured stave production facilities, business campus, and distillery at Brown-Forman, as well as Bernhiem Forest. Great speakers filled the Friday session. Chris Reeves and his team deserve credit and thanks for an excellent meeting.

We found out just before the Summer Meeting that National is strongly considering postponement of the Louisville site for 2017 due to renovations scheduled for their chosen venue. Louisville may still be the choice. Other sites in the region are being considered.

In August, K-T members Greg Bailey, Tom Kain, Mackenzie Schaffer, Heather Slaton, Dave Walters, and I attended the Heartland Leadership Academy in Iowa. Mackenzie should get special mention as she was the only student member in attendance. As National President, Dave Walters was key to the organization and execution of the Academy. Leaders from 12 states attended, including former K-T members Matt Pelkki (now AR), Tammy Cushing (Speaker, now OR), and Vic Ford (Speaker, now AR). We met our new SAF CEO, Matt Menashes and participated in team building exercises and discussions. It was an excellent academy. In a busy schedule, we had plenty of time for fun. It was great to meet and get to know SAF leaders from other states. In future years, I urge you to consider attending one of these excellent workshops.

Please contact me with issues important to you where KY-TN SAF is concerned.

~ John
270-925-3683
john_perry@berea.edu

(left to right) Tom Kain, Dave Walters, Heather Slayton, Greg Bailey, John Perry, Mackenzie Schaffer
What’s Going On?

Fall Elections

At the time of this writing, we have no candidates for either Chair or Secretary/Treasurer for the fall election.

This year the candidates must come from Kentucky. Please consider serving your K-T Society.

Contact Nominations Chair, Mac McClure and throw your hat in the ring.

forefist@bellsouth.net
(502) 645-6800

Fellows

Three K-T members were recognized by our Society as Fellows for their contributions to SAF.

Jeff Holt
(ETN)
Doug McLaren
(EKY)
Dave Mercker
( WTN)

Congratulations to these individuals and thank you to all that participated in the nominations process.

Nominations for Awards are Needed

They are needed because all of you know someone who deserves and needs professional recognition. It is important to be able to stand in front of the professional society and have a moment where your peers say, “we noticed.” Give it a thought.

I plan to nominate Snerloop McNoodleski. Other than doing nothing notable that really qualifies him for recognition, there is the added inconvenience of him not even existing: but by virtue of not having any competition, he might win. McNoodleski’s acceptance speech will be 30 minutes of silence as he fails to speak or for that matter even show up. Although we will hand the award to him, it will repeatedly fall to the floor. This is all an embarrassing sort of thing and time consuming. Save us the pain … and should our esteemed SAF president attend, the mortification of having a fellow with no qualifications or particular worthiness win.

I for one, even though I have given a few, more than a few actually, dread a speech with no theme, topic or tale. So, ladies, gentlemen, hats off: think of someone who deserves the dignity of recognition as they pass this way.

Allan Houston
K-T SAF Award’s Chair

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Next NEWSLETTER Deadline is

Friday
November 7, 2014

Please supply NEWSLETTER information in Microsoft WORD format to:
Greg Bailey
greg.bailey@amforem.biz

• Articles on forestry related topics
• News and events from your Chapters
• Accompanying photographs are greatly appreciated!
The KT-SAF executive council appointed Richard Evans and Gary Schneider as representatives to the Tennessee Sustainable Funding Initiative Committee (SFIC). Concern regarding the ever-decreasing state appropriations to the three state conservation agencies (TN Div. Forestry; TN Wildlife Agency; and State Parks and Recreation) lead to the establishment of SFIC nearly six years ago.

As an example, The TN Division of Forestry, over the past six FYI’s, has had state appropriated budgets for operations decrease by nearly 21 percent. A steady decrease in both full and part-time personnel has also occurred. The demands made upon the agency to carry out its mission under these constraints are seriously stressed. It should be noted that Kentucky’s comparable conservation agencies have also experienced significant reductions in their annual operation budgets.

It is apparent that some sustainable funding mechanism must be found that annually provides an adequate budget to meet the needs and demands made upon each agency. The six professional organizations that are involved in bringing about such reliable funding are: KT-SAF, American Fisheries Society, TN Chapter of The Wildlife Society, TN Wildlife Officers Association, TN Park Rangers Association, and the TN Recreation and Parks Association. Furthermore, six NGO’s also joined in the effort: The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, TN Land Trust, TN Forestry Association, TN Wildlife Federation, and the TN Parks and Greenways Foundation.

An important step in these efforts is to commission a survey of Tennesseans to determine their willingness to provide for additional and appropriate funding for conservation in Tennessee. While the cost to conduct this survey is $30,000, over half of that amount has already been raised. Now, each professional organization cited above is being asked to contribute $1,000 to help pay for the survey. Any professional society’s responsibility certainly includes assessing what the public that it serves needs to know on important issues. For KT-SAF, that need is to determine the level of understanding and willingness that Tennessee residents have regarding their natural resources and the services its conservation agencies must perform to meet those needs.

The KT-SAF executive council’s opinion is that each of our members should have the opportunity to vote “Yea or Ney” to contributing $1,000 from our treasury (which has adequate funds to cover this amount). Please understand that this is NOT a vote to support any “yet to be determined” sustainable funding mechanism that may eventually come from this effort. The other mentioned professional groups have either already committed such funds, or will be voting to do so, in the near future.

**We ask that you vote “YES”** on the ballot to support the conduct of the survey. From that public survey, we hope to discern how the citizens of Tennessee view the importance of their natural resources environment, and their willingness to fund such an initiative.

Richard Evans and Gary Schneider

It is improper for the Society of American Foresters, as an organization, to work directly for political change or financially support a group that is supporting political change. The $1,000 that is being requested to support the Sustainable Funding Initiative (SFI) Committee effort is in my view a form of lobbying to support political change. As noble as some may feel the SFI is, it is at its core an effort to circumvent our legislators’ ability to affect and set public policy through appropriations. I believe that is improper and bad for the system. The needs and priorities of state government and the citizens of Tennessee are dynamic and the legislature should be free to respond to them. Make change through the ballot box.

Those who advocate for the SFI argue that revenues to support conservation are declining. I take that not as a sign that “special” privileges should be set up for conservation and those that work in it. One would be very naive to think that new sources of funding will not be viewed by those in the Legislature as a reason to continue to cut the affected department’s resources. I do take that as a sign the conservation community has failed to make enough of a case that sustained public conservation expenditures are worthwhile. Conservation funding should not become an entitlement and that is SFIs ultimate goal. Our participation in this effort weakens our voice as dispassionate professionals.

Jeff Holt and Mac MaClure
In Idaho and across the West, Aspen Trees Are Disappearing

Groves of aspen... the tall, skinny trees with telltale white bark and fluttering, glossy leaves... are unmistakable in east Idaho.

But look for the cone-shaped tops of conifers living among the smaller aspen, and juniper trees creeping closer to the perimeter of the grove. It’s not an example of species diversity; it’s a death sentence.

The most widespread tree in North America is disappearing. East Idaho’s aspen community, once estimated to cover 40 percent of the region’s forested areas, has declined by an estimated 60 percent in the past 100 years, while Arizona has seen a 90 percent decline in its Aspen during that time.

Idaho Statesman.com 8/11/2014

FWS Determines Wolverine Does Not Warrant Protection under ESA

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it is withdrawing a proposal to list the North American wolverine in the contiguous United States as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The wolverine, a large but elusive member of the weasel family found in the Mountain West, has made a steady recovery in the past half century after hunting, trapping, and poisoning nearly extirpated the species from the lower 48 states in the early 1900s.

FWS.gov 8/12/2014

Tree Shortage Could Affect Peak Flows in Appalachian Watersheds

According to a new study conducted by US Forest Service scientists at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in the community of Otto, North Carolina, the loss of eastern hemlock could affect water yield and storm flow from forest watersheds in the Southern Appalachians.

Waterworld.com 8/12/2014

NOAA Analysis Reveals Significant Land Cover Changes

A new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nationwide analysis shows that between 1996 and 2011, 64,975 square miles in coastal regions—an area larger than the state of Wisconsin—experienced changes in land cover, including a decline in wetlands and forest cover with development a major contributing factor. Among the significant changes were the loss of 1,536 square miles of wetlands, and a decline in total forest cover by 6.1 percent.

SpaceDaily.com 8/19/2014

POP QUIZ!!

Which State Forest in Tennessee is the smallest with just 1,287 acres?

FWS.gov Determines Wolverine Does Not Warrant Protection under ESA

Thinning Oregon's Dry-Side Forests Cuts Fire Risk

Scientific research and experience from recent wildfires show that carefully thinned areas experience lower-intensity fire and less tree mortality. A large body of evidence has emerged over the past 20 years that suggests that active management—done correctly—can reduce fire intensity and severity, increasing the chance that the forest overstory will survive a wildfire. There are other ecological benefits of active management, too.

Oregon Live.com 8/16/2014
Forest Research Overview Gathering (FROG)

**Purpose of FROG** – University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries faculty and students engage in natural resource research projects. The results of these works are published in various professional journals, but the results often do not reach field foresters, at least not without delay. Therefore, Forest Research Overview Gathering (FROG) has been developed as reoccurring field days. The intent is to offer high quality educational experiences and an opportunity for professional exchange and debate. The current FROG will occur on **September 16, 2014** at the Hobart Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, TN.

**Time:** 8:00 – 3:30    **Who:** Professional Foresters

**Where:** The Hobart Ames Plantation, Grand Junction, TN. (Meet at **Bryan Hall**, 3890 Buford Ellington Rd., Grand Junction - - about ½ mile south of the Ames Headquarters).

**Cost:** $25 (includes lunch - pay in advance and preregister to attend – see attached on next page)

This has been approved for 5.5 Cat-1 CFEs.

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Please register by September 12th.
Registration

Name _________________________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________
Phone _________________________________________________________________________
Email _________________________________________________________________________
Representing __________________________________________________________________

# attending ________ x $2500 = ______________ (enclosed)

Make checks payable to West Tennessee SAF and mail to David Mercker by September 12.

Dr. David Mercker
605 Airways Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38301
Dear Kentucky and Tennessee SAF members:

This letter is primarily targeted to those of you who are concerned about portions of the referendum that was presented in a supplement to the August *Forestry Source*. Here’s what I want to know as you consider the ballot.

In October, you and all other SAF members will vote on whether to revise our Articles of Incorporation and change our Constitution into a set of Bylaws, so that we will be in compliance with the new District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act. This is an opportunity to modernize our organization and position us for a strong future as a leader in American forestry. I encourage you to read and understand the choices presented on the ballot. I ask you to support the proposed changes of our Articles of Incorporation and to our Bylaws. When it comes down to it, there are really just a few significant changes, and Council strongly supports these modifications. We’re also in the process of developing a governance manual that lays out the procedures and processes for running SAF in one document. The governance manual, which we hope to complete by the end of the year, is like similar documents that a lot of companies and organizations have. It is intended to be the go-to guide for how we implement the requirements of our Constitution and Bylaws, and helps us move away from a reliance staff’s memories, scattered memos, and previous Council minutes for our day-to-day policies and procedures.

You’ll also be asked to vote on some changes to our mission statement. As you read about the changes, please consider which version best represents our Society to those 40-, 30- and 20-somethings who are managing lands with trees. Our challenge is to continue to make SAF relevant to us old birds while attracting and supporting not only the professionals who are managing forests now, but also those of coming generations. Our Society belongs to you and me — and to the foresters and land managers of the future.

Please be aware that the October ballot will be shorter and simpler than outlined in the recent Source article. After receiving many comments and concerns about the consequences of consolidating membership categories, Council has decided to withdraw the issue from the ballot. We realize that we need to spend more time talking about this with you, the members. We pledge to openly discuss Council’s aim to increase SAF’s relevance to every person who is managing lands with forests. We will actively seek your advice about the best ways to do that.

The products we produce from the forest will continue to shift, and the educational standards and processes we use to educate foresters will also continue to shift, but our commitment to advance forest management will be the same as that of the six men who established SAF on November 30 of 1900. Gifford Pinchot and five other foresters established SAF with the intention of changing the condition of America’s forests by establishing a profession in America that applied practical forestry. “The object of practical forestry,” they said, “is precisely to make the forest render its best service to man in such a way as to increase rather than to diminish its usefulness in the future. …practical forestry means both the use and preservation of the forest.”
Hopefully, our passion for forest management today will continue and even strengthen with a richer, more diverse membership. As you consider the changes we’ll ask you to support, remember that change is nothing new for SAF. Here’s how SAF member Char Miller, author of *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* and co-author with Rebecca Staebler of *The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America*, described SAF’s beginnings, in an essay for the Forest History Society a few years back:

*The Society of American Foresters, after all, was but a toddler in age. The nation’s first forestry schools — Biltmore (1898), Cornell (1898), and Yale (1900) — had barely opened (and indeed Cornell already had closed!). The lumber industry wasn’t instituting forestry on the ground and the federal government’s small Bureau of Forestry had no public lands to manage. In 1903, it wasn’t clear that this fledgling profession would take off.*

*But it did, and did so because of expanding educational opportunities, increased work prospects following the U. S. Forest Service’s establishment in 1905, and practical experience gained in public and private woods. These first professionals confronted and surmounted many challenges: fire and pest infestations led to scientific breakthroughs; overgrazing prompted research into grasslands’ carrying capacity; burned-over and heavily logged property became sites for reforestation experiments.*

*Yet their every action seemed dogged with controversy. Debates erupted when in 1907 President Roosevelt created the National Forests and then rapidly increased their acreage; protests occurred after the Forest Service introduced fees to regulate grazing, logging, and mining. For all their youthful enthusiasm, foresters were understandably shellshocked.*

*Contention died down during the 1920s, but public and industrial foresters faced new tests, among them wildfires and increased recreation. The uptick in tourism in the west then was reinforced during the Depression as the Civilian Conservation Corps began building cabins, trails, and other amenities. In response to the growing demand for new housing, which like recreation accelerated after World War II, forest scientists developed more efficient uses of timber (think plywood), revolutionizing the construction industry. The varied human benefits that derived from their efforts gave professional foresters, as they headed off to that global conflict, the confidence that they had earned Theodore Roosevelt’s precocious praise.*

*That’s one more reason why . . . SAF . . . should remember this history of its “great service” to the nation and recollect one of its most compelling lessons: change is the only constant.*

Change is what birthed SAF and change is what makes us interesting and relevant today and for the future. Thank you for helping us continue the evolution of SAF and forestry.

Dave Walters
2014 President
Lewis State Forest was purchased from the Chancery Court of Lewis County for delinquent taxes in 1933 and became a State Forest in 1936. It is on the Western Highland Rim in central-southwestern Tennessee, in Lewis County. There are no known cultural sites on the forest. There is a demonstration forest road, exemplifying the use of BMPs and appropriate engineering specifications. Other areas of the forest have served for past research studies. A small wetland occurs in the southwestern corner of the forest.

Most of the land (97%) is in forest cover and the remainder is open land. This Forest is somewhat unique in the Tennessee State Forest system in that about 15% of the forested area is in the southern yellow pine type.

Primary recreational use of the Forest is for hunting. All timber harvests include objectives for improving habitat for wildlife.
38 Months...
Till the 2017 SAF National Convention
Louisville, Kentucky