Chairman’s Corner

By Ken Smith

In case you missed it, there were a couple of interesting items in recent issues of the Forestry Source. Well, there were more than a couple of items, but in the interest of conserving space and avoiding Greg Bailey’s editing knife, I will limit myself to two. The first was about shifting trends and demographics in the US, and what they mean for the education of our next rotation of foresters. What really caught my eye was a table listing issues of importance by forestry employers (many of you) and forestry faculty (people like me). The top three for forestry employers were communicating effectively in the workplace, behaving ethically, and listening effectively. For the faculty, water issues, sustainable forest management and forest ecology placed in the top three. All six of these items are important, and it is interesting that the education sector emphasized natural sciences and concepts, while the business sector recognized communication and behavior. Clearly, all of us need to constantly practice and polish our communication skills, whether it is by writing, speaking or just listening. Hopefully, KTSAF will continue to find ways to have our students speak during our winter meeting; that is a great experience for them and a good way for us in the audience to better understand our younger cohort.

The second item that caught my eye was an article about the northern long-eared bat and its listing as a threatened species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The bat lives throughout the eastern hardwood forest, and its numbers are in serious decline due to the exotic white-nose syndrome. I first heard of this proposed listing over a year ago, and a colleague in Minnesota told me that some of the original proposals had language that limited forest management up to a mile around known bat roosts and hibernacula. Luckily, SAF and other natural resource organizations have been closely monitoring the situation, and as it currently stands, forestry activities will be exempt if they comply with three habitat conservation measures. These include limiting harvesting activity a quarter-mile from known hibernacula (caves and mines) and roost trees (particularly during the pup season in June and July) or avoiding the destruction or disturbance of roost trees during pup season. Personally, I will be happy to avoid roost trees and to buffer hibernacula near our management areas here at Sewanee, but for us and for most private forest landowners, we will have trouble figuring out which bats are roosting where and for how long. Roost trees may change from year to year, so even if you get one identified, it might not be used again the following year. So this is life in the 21st century: an exotic fungus leads to massive mortality of a key group of animals which leads to federal rulings that impact private and public forest management in ways that could be very restrictive. Sounds like a good reason to support the Society of American Foresters. We all need our voices represented in the meetings and legislative hearings that many of us can’t attend on a regular basis.

I will see you all in Jackson, Tennessee on June 10 and 11 for the summer KTSAF meeting. David Mercker and crew have set up a nice event at the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge where we will learn something about monarchs, beavers, and bottomland forests.

Regards, Ken
MARK your calendar

38th Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) Annual Meeting

*Engineering Solutions for Non-industrial Private Forest Operations*

July 19 – 22, 2015 - Hilton Hotel Downtown - Lexington, KY
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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2015 Annual Meeting
Walnut Council & Missouri Society of American Foresters

*Managing Fine Hardwoods: Seedlings to Certification*

June 14 – 17
St. Charles, Missouri
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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Professional and Student Mixer

The Middle TN Chapter is teaming with Lousiana Pacific and the University of the South to host ‘Mentoring and Music’ sometime during the fall semester. LP has graciously agreed to host the event in their Nashville HQ. Finger food will be available during a presentation designed to highlight the natural resource careers available with LP and other organizations. There will be a Q & A session for the students before everyone walks to a music venue for continued networking and time for the students to speak individually to the professionals.

More information will be posted when a date is selected.

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What’s Going On?

News and updates about

YOUR KTSAF Chapter
could go here!

*Please send news, articles, pictures and updates to:*

Greg Bailey
greg.bailey@amforem.biz
(865) 248-8315

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From Dr. Red Baker

Introducing the Forest Health Research and Education Center

Forest resources and natural landscapes are critical components of local communities. However, they face mounting threats from a variety of invasive insects and pathogens. These pests have the potential to decimate our foundational tree species and degrade the ecosystems that depend on them.

Threats on our doorstep – the potential for catastrophic economic loss

Experts believe that the invasive insects emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid will continue to spread, killing most ash and hemlock trees across the eastern U.S. These follow in the wake of the invasive pathogens chestnut blight and dutch elm disease, which have effectively eliminated chestnut and elm trees from our landscapes.

If these and other invasives continue to spread, the resulting losses to woodland owners, wood manufacturers, homeowners and municipalities will be devastating. In addition, such losses will forever change forest and streamside ecosystems, including the habitat of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife that depend on these key tree species.

Trees and forests are under attack – affecting people, their communities, and the environment

Forest-based economies throughout Kentucky, and the eastern hardwood region in general, largely depend on a handful of foundational tree species and the disappearance of these trees would have catastrophic socio-economic impacts, hurting the communities and people who depend on them.

One of the most worrisome threats is that an invasive insect or pathogen could decimate populations of key oak species. Oaks comprise nearly 50% of hardwood sawtimber volume in Kentucky and are the cornerstone of local forest-based economies, which contribute more than $12 billion to the Commonwealth’s economy. For example, Kentucky’s hallmark distilling industry, which has grown from $1.8 to $3 billion in the last two years, is dependent on white oak for bourbon barrels.

Current threats to our oaks include the disease sudden oak death, which has killed millions of oaks on the west coast over the past 20 years and has been repeatedly introduced to the area through the nursery industry. Although it has yet to establish in the east, the eventual arrival of sudden oak death seems imminent and its impact could be severe.

Regaining the initiative– a proactive approach to solving tree and forest health challenges

Scientists across the region, country and world have turned a keen eye to these forest threats and are developing new strategies to address their impacts. However, so far these efforts have failed to produce strategic and comprehensive initiatives to protect our imperiled trees and the forests they support.

Unless we act decisively, these invasive insects and pathogens will result in the loss of additional foundational forest tree species, which will be harmful, if not catastrophic, both economically and environmentally.
The **Forest Health Research and Education Center**—a collaborative center, combining biological sciences, social sciences and education

To address this challenge, the University of Kentucky (UK), the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (USFS), and the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) have partnered to form the “Forest Health Research and Education Center” (FHC).

Through regional, national, and international collaborations, the FHC will conduct:

1) Biological research to understand and enhance genetically-based tree resistance and thus improve forest ecosystem responses to biotic and abiotic stressors
2) Social research on the economic and cultural impacts of tree, forest, and ecosystem loss, as well as the factors affecting the adoption of new approaches to improve forest resilience
3) Education and outreach programs to inform stakeholders, researchers, and the general public about forest health issues and to connect them through participatory research networks

A USFS grant ($350,000), UK and KDF institutional resources ($210,000) and private gifts ($300,000), are currently funding the FHC for an initial two-year period. However, to put the FHC on a financial foundation necessary for accomplishing the objectives outlined above, the FHC is requesting additional recurring federal support. With these resources, the FHC will be able to push forward as a research hub, solidifying its core of scientists, fostering collaborations and developing sustainable solutions to increasingly prevalent forest health threats.

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**Forest Health Research and Education Center**

Dr. Xiaoshu Li (Social Sciences), Dr. Ellen Crocker (Education and Outreach), Dr. Anna Conrad (Biological Sciences)

Postdoctoral Scholars with the FHC
The 2017 SAF Convention will NOT be held in Louisville

The Louisville CVB has informed SAF that they will be closing the convention center for two years for renovation. SAF will be finding another city in the next couple of months. SAF is still interested in holding the convention in Louisville, perhaps after 2018...

The Conservation Fund Chosen to Manage NCSU's Hofmann Forest

The Endowment Fund of North Carolina State University has chosen the Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit organization based in Virginia, to handle land-use negotiations for the 79,000-acre Hofmann Forest.

The organization was one of 14 entities that sought the contract after NCSU officials announced in March that they would keep most of the forest and seek to generate income for the College of Natural Resources by selling various rights and easements.

The university had earlier agreed to sell the property in Eastern North Carolina for $131 million to a group that included timberland investors and agribusiness officials. Now university officials say they want to conserve as much as 70,000 acres and maintain access for students and faculty.

Resolute Forest Commits $270 Million for Tennessee Tissue-Making Operation

Resolute Forest Products is entering the paper towel and bathroom tissue business as it continues to seek ways to offset decreasing demand for newsprint and commercial paper.

The Montreal-based company said it is making its largest investment since it exited bankruptcy protection five years ago by spending $270 million at its pulp mill in Calhoun, Tennessee.

The company's strategy is to use money from its traditional operations to diversify into paper markets that are gaining strength.

Forest Service Sees Hope in Battle with Bat Disease

Officials with the US Forest Service are cautiously optimistic that a new treatment may help bats survive the disease known as white-nose syndrome that has killed millions of bats.

About 60 brown bats found with the disease last fall were successfully treated and released back into the wild at the Mark Twain Cave complex near the northeast Missouri town of Hannibal.

Scientists believe native soil bacteria produce natural volatiles that inhibit growth of the fungus and field trials treated diseased bats with compounds produced by the bacteria.
KTSAF Summer Meeting 2015 Registration Form

Early (by May 30)  Late (after May 30)
☐ $85  ☐ $95

Non SAF Members  Student Flat Rate
☐ $110  ☐ $50

Name(s):__________________________________________
Address:__________________________________________
Email:__________________________________________
Phone:__________________________________________

Please enclose a check payable to “West TN SAF” and send it to:
Dr. David Mercker
605 Airways Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38301
(731) 425-4793
dmercker@utk.edu

“Bottomlands, Beavers, Board Feet & Butterflies”

Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

June 10 & 11, 2015

Earn SAF CFE Credits
This program has been approved for 5.5 CFE credits

Agenda

Wednesday, June 10
4:00  Registration
6:00  Depart for Jackson Generals Minor League Baseball Game
6:30  Business Meeting
9:00  Registration Closes

Thursday, June 11
6:00  Continued Registration
6:30  Breakfast at Old Country Store
7:30  Return to Hotel to Checkout & Registration Closes
8:00  Depart for Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge
8:45  Arrive

9:00  A Driving Tour & Welcome...............................Brian Roberts, Manager
9:30  The Hatchie River - History & Heritage...............Harbert Alexander
10:30  Logging in the Bottoms - Looking Back
      Looking Forward............................................Dr. Alton Honton
11:30  Working Lunch—How Foresters can Partner with Monarchs ....TBD
1:00  A Lesson in Old Growth..............................Eric Bridges & Dr. David Mercker
2:00  Beating the Beavers.......................................Brian Roberts

Hotel Reservations
All Suites Hotel
541 Carriage House Dr.
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 668-6000
www.allsuitesjackson.com

40 Rooms have been reserved for $70 until June 1. After that, rates increase to $85. Block is reserved under Society of American Foresters.

Note: Participants must drive to the HNWR and back again. Ride sharing is encouraged. Busses will be available on site for the tour.

Driving directions to HNWR from All Suites:
Travel West on I-40 to exit 36.
Take Hwy 76 South approximately 2 miles.
HNWR entrance is on left. Follow to main office.
Us foresters, you and I, we came to our profession largely out of a love for wooded places, lonely places where we can have the sense of ownership attending the steward, and a rare feeling, long ago lost for most people; it is the sense of discovery as we experience the land, of owning moments strung together in well-walked but secret places. We, you and I, speak a common language, one part coded in the basics of our science but another embedded in the passion of our art. It comes in many forms but has the persona of rare and common experience. Listen. You have been there, at the end of those pastures and the edge of your woods. Most folks have not been there. We, you and I, can sing these songs, free, glorious and glad our profession takes us to the lonesome places.

Coyote Song

I made my evening walk among the pastures until the edge of darkness caught me at the far end of it and the coyotes began their meat drunk songs

It always makes me pause as well it might and perhaps it should to listen to a sudden impulse so simple, savage and sublime

Their voices split and climb and pile one shrill upon another until they seem to crowd the night like crippled fireworks quickly lit

I test the winds and shadows with an eager anxious ear-cupped query but even-so, I can never clearly tell where the voice tossers are coming from or how far away they might really be

When their song is done I quite my reverie and begin my homeward steps in the growing dew, and hushened dark alone in lonesome thoughts and sure their silence is suddenly aware of me
Green River State Forest consists of 1,106 acres located about five miles northeast of the town of Henderson in Henderson County. Originally acquired by the Kentucky Center for Research in 1978 to build a synthetic fuels research and production site, the property was never used as intended. It was transferred to the Division of Forestry in July 1998.

Special management goals are to re-establish as much bottomland hardwood forest as possible, both for research purposes and to maintain wildlife habitat, as well as to protect the unique habitat of the baldcypress swamp located near the river. Slightly more than half of the property consists of bottomland, which includes about 65 to 70 acres of swampland, while the rest is gently sloping uplands.

The forest is the site of Kentucky’s first carbon sequestration project. More than 500 acres of agricultural land have been planted in hardwood seedlings. As time goes on, more and more of the agricultural land will be turned back into bottomland hardwood forest. This is the only state forest that has significant amounts of bottomland hardwoods and swampland, which makes it a valuable addition to the state forest system. This property is also important habitat for the Copperbelly water snake, which is fairly rare. Part of the management of the property will be to expand and improve this habitat.

The Green River State Forest is managed under the same general guidelines as the other state forests. It is managed for multiple uses and is open to the public for most recreational uses including hiking, hunting and fishing. Off-road vehicles, including ATVs are prohibited.
Next NEWSLETTER Deadline is
Friday
August 14th, 2015

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!