Chairman’s Corner
By Heather Slayton

Welcome to a brand new year for K-T SAF! I would like to start by thanking you all for providing me the privilege of leading our organization for the 2017 K-T year. I have served in various roles throughout K-T and every time it is an honor to give back to the organization that has given me so much. So thank you again!

These next couple of years are going to be very exciting for K-T in so many ways and we certainly did well to kick it off in Chattanooga this past January. It was a great opportunity to have Matt Menashes, CEO of SAF, join us and I hope that many of you found the time to visit with Matt and discuss the role SAF plays in your professional lives. I sat down with Matt for about an hour and it would have been impossible to cram any more content into that hour than we did. Matt discussed with me the changing demographics of SAF and clearly articulated SAF’s goals and priorities of focusing on attracting, supporting, and maintaining young professionals in the organization. He challenged me, and the K-T membership, to examine our own division and develop strategies to do the same at the state and local levels. As a starting point, I will visit with each of our student chapters to provide them a platform to state their requests of K-T as their professional society. What I will bring back to the K-T leadership will help guide us in sharpening our own strategies to attract, support, and maintain young professionals in the organization. If you have not already done so, please check out the demographic breakdown (along with a ton of other cool stuff) on the Leadership Central page under the Membership tab on www.safnet.org.

Another exciting thing that is happening to K-T is the upcoming 2019 National Convention in Louisville, KY. We are ahead of the curve by already forming a planning committee and reaching out to past hosting state societies to learn from their experiences and prevent reinventing the wheel. As Chris Reeves begins a new chapter in his professional career in Pennsylvania, we are in search for a new committee chair. This is a unique opportunity to not only serve your professional society but to acquire and hone a new set of leadership skills. Please contact me if you are interested in this opportunity.

I would like to end with a challenge to our membership. Lately, we have experienced difficulty in filling officer roles due to lack of willing volunteers to serve. I challenge each of you to reflect on how K-T SAF has benefited you, has served you, and has provided you with opportunities that led to career advancements or new doors opening. I further challenge you to step up and give back to the organization that has given you so much. Currently, our Membership Committee Chair position is vacant and would be an ideal place to begin your service. Each year, we have opportunities for members to serve as Secretary/Treasurer (2 year position), Chair Elect (becomes the Chair in year 2), or other committee chairs on the state level. But beginning your service with your local chapter is always a good way to gain experience and begin to understand that K-T SAF is built on members volunteering to give back to their professional organization.

I look forward to serving you and this amazing organization and thanks again for giving me this opportunity!

Heather
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MARK your calendar

2017 Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Field Days
April 22 - Chester Co. (Henderson, TN)
Chickasaw State Forest

May 20 - Anderson County (Oak Ridge, TN)
UT Forest Resources Center / Arboretum
More info HERE

White Oak Conference
April 4, 2017 - 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY
Cost: $25

More Info:
Visit www.ukforestry.org or call
859.257.7597

19th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference
March 13-16
Blacksburg, VA
More info HERE

2017 K-T SAF Summer Meeting
June 8 – 9
Focusing on the recent fires of Gatlinburg, TN
More info to come!

2017 KENTUCKY WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
and FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING
March 28 – 29, 2017
Natural Bridge State Park
More info HERE

TFA Regional Meeting
Montgomery Bell State Park
Thursday, March 16
Social - 5:30 p.m. Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m. CT

"Healthy Forests…..Healthy Wildlife"
Dr. Brian Flock, TWRA Biodiversity Coordinator/Landscape Ecologist
$15.00 pay at the door
Please RSVP with TFA staff

What’s Going On?

Next NEWSLETTER
Deadline is
Friday
May 12, 2017

Please supply NEWSLETTER information in Microsoft WORD format to:
   Greg Bailey
   bailey@forestlandgroup.com

- Articles on forestry related topics
- News and events from your Chapters
- Accompanying photographs are greatly appreciated!

Well... they never were away but as we all know, the West Kentucky (K-T SAF) Chapter became inactive about 3 years ago. However, the Chapter has been activated as of Friday, February 17th!

The new Chair for that Chapter is John Paul Hart. His contact info is provided in the back of this newsletter.

We are still in the process of designating a Vice-Chair and a Secretary/Treasurer. If you or anyone you know might be interested in filling these positions, please contact someone from the Executive Committee.
AWARDS FOR 2016
Presented at the 2017 Winter Meeting

Outstanding Student Awards

Sewanee, the University of the South – Logan Stockton

Logan Stockton is from Estill Springs, TN. He is a senior Forestry major and will also earn a watershed science certificate when he graduates this spring. While at Sewanee he has done research in dendrochronology, dating logs on a historic cabin that recently burned down on campus. He is also active in the University’s prescribed fire program, and works as one of the University’s pool managers. He is currently a captain on the varsity cross country and track and field teams. Upon graduating he hopes to work as a wildland firefighter in the Western US.

University of Kentucky – William Dixon

William Dixon is a Junior at the University of Kentucky, studying for a B.S. degree in Forestry. William was raised in Kempton, Pennsylvania, where he developed a love for hunting, fishing, trapping, and the great outdoors. He began competing in blackpowder, muzzleloading, smallbore, and air rifle competitions at the age of 8, where he went on to win state, national, and international championships, and is the holder of 4 standing NRA national records in the smallbore discipline. William came to UK on an athletic scholarship with the University’s rifle team, but left the team his sophomore year to devote more time pursuing his education, and his future career. William is an emergency type 2 firefighter with UK’s Firecats crew, employed by the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and is also employed by the University of Kentucky’s Department of Forestry as a wildlife technician. William’s hobbies include hunting, fishing, and trapping, playing the fiddle, mandolin, and banjo, collecting World War 1&2 firearms and memorabilia, collecting late 19th and early 20th century firearms, and reading books about American history from the 18th-early 20th centuries.

University of Tennessee – Jeremy Chase Grisham

Jeremy Chase Grisham was originally a wildlife major, but changed his major to forestry after enrolling in dendrology and discovering he was most interested in tree species. Chase has worked as a field assistant and work-study student for Dr. Buckley, and has participated in data collection and other research efforts in studies located on state land in Michigan and in East Tennessee at the Forest Resources Research and Education Center. Chase has a very strong work ethic and takes a great deal of pride in accomplishing high-quality work. He is interested in pursuing a career path involving elements of silviculture, forest ecology, and dendrology.
AWARDS FOR 2016
Presented at the 2017 Winter Meeting

Outstanding Membership Awards

Outstanding Member Service Award over 35 years old – Rance Frye

Rance is very active in K-T SAF, currently holding the Chair for the Middle Tennessee Chapter. He has contributed his time and efforts in several activities throughout his membership with K-T with dedication and a contagious sense of enthusiasm.

The latest contribution by Rance is the undertaking of a program to bring forestry and natural resources students together with established and experienced professionals, all within the ranks of the K-T SAF state society. Only in its second year, MUSIC AND MENTORING, has flourished into an annual program that meets in Nashville for a day and encourages the interaction between students and professionals. A variety of speakers are brought in for the entire group and in conclusion to the day, a group meal with live music helps the participants to better know each other, both professionally and personally.

Another aspect of this program is that it brings together several different entities of the Forestry community together with a common goal of mentoring students. The program has been hosted by the corporate L.P. office for both years. Of course, the students are brought together but also represented are the professors and administration from these local Universities. The professionals that contribute their time come from many corners of the forestry community as well, including state agencies, consultants, industry, TIMOs, mills, and others. This program, while still young and forming, has caught the attention of the National SAF membership and is already being mimicked by other state societies.

This program would simply not have taken place nor succeeded without the tireless efforts and dedication of Rance Frye. While Music and Mentoring is a current success, Rance is constantly working towards making it even better and always has next year’s program in his sights. Rance’s devotion to this program, his attention to detail, and coordinating the efforts of so many involved is a reflection of his professionalism as a forester, his leadership among his peers, and dedication to the Society of American Foresters.

Outstanding Member Service Award 35 years and under – No Award Presented

Outstanding Service Award to a Technician – No Award Presented

Herman Baggenstoss Forestry Recognition Award - No Award Presented

College Quiz Bowl – University of Tennessee
QUIZ BOWL 2017

By Doug McLaren

The Little Engine That Could

The Winter Meeting of the Kentucky/Tennessee Society of SAF was held at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. The students from the three university forestry schools proceeded down the hall just prior to the annual awards banquet to the music and glitter ball lights of the annual Jeopardy style Forestry Bowl event. The event tests the skills of these students on 10 different categories and two rounds of forestry/natural resource questioning.

The game began and quickly "coming out of the station" was the University of South's team members leading the other two schools by answering correctly many of the category questions. It looked like the University of Tennessee and University of Kentucky students were being left at the "station". It looked like, in the early scoring, that it was going to be a "runaway train" engineered by the students of the University of the South. The momentum continued, question after question, category after category, with the University of the South continually moving on down the track leaving the University of Tennessee and Kentucky as if they were still "sitting at the station".

After 25 questions and 5 categories were fully played out it was break time. Session one ended with the University of the South well ahead of the other two schools and session two was about to begin. This break time provided each of these teams an opportunity "to refuel and take on some water". Out of the gate in the second half the University of the South continued to dominate. There was a great deal of territory that had to be covered to catch up with, let alone, over take the lead that the University of the South had built up. But wait, what was happening. The University of the South was looking in their review mirrors and there was a train with a lot of smoke belching from the fire box that was quickly approaching from behind.

At point mid through the second round, the University of Tennessee was able to make a very quick and speedy transfer to a siding that provided the opportunity to not only catch up with but pass the University of the South and Kentucky's answering of questions. Question after question was being delivered to and answered correctly by the University of Tennessee team members.

Without question, it was like the old story that is used to teach children the value of optimism and hard work, The Little Engine That Could, and they did. Congratulations to the members of the team representing the University of Tennessee. What a great come back! As always, the opportunity to defend each school will again prevail itself next year at the Kentucky/Tennessee SAF Winter Meeting.

Again I want to take time to thank the members of the "train yard crew" that keeps the tracks clear for each of the school team members and makes all the appropriate "All Aboard" maneuvers to keep the game moving. Billy Thomas for controlling the "switches" (running the computer), Laurie Thomas for keeping the "schedules up to date for the trains" (score keeper), and Chris Reeves, "chief engineer" (who keeps us all on track as to what we are doing). Chris, you will be missed in future Jeopardy events. Best of luck in the Allegheny Society of SAF.
Form the Headlines...

US Forest Service must place greater emphasis on scientific management, including more timber harvesting, to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk, Arkansas Congressman testifies, noting 2016 harvest of 3 bbf is quarter of volume sold 30 years ago.

Office of Congressman Bruce Westerman

FSC reportedly plans to revise rule barring plantations in areas converted from natural forests after 1994 from FSC certification; director general is said to recognize rule as inappropriate for Indonesia and a major obstacle to FSC certification there.

Mar 1, 2017 – International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Human-caused wildfires accounted for 44% of area burned by all 1.5 million US wildfires that required fighting from 1992 to 2012, tripled length of fire season and dominated area seven times greater than that affected by lightning-caused fires: study.

Feb 28, 2017 – University of Massachusetts Amherst

West Virginia agriculture commissioner backs bill to transfer forestry division from commerce to agriculture dept., saying move would restore jobs of 37 foresters laid off in 2016, and calls for 'commonsense regulation' to help timber industry flourish.

Feb 27, 2017 – The Charleston Gazette

We recently learned at the Winter Meeting that the tree species, Liriodendron tulipifera, is being marketed as “Tulip Wood” in the World market.

How many other common names are there for this species?

Check out the list to see if you missed any!

We are sad to inform you that the following members will be leaving the K-T family soon but we wish them all the best!

Red Baker, Department Chair and Professor at the University of Kentucky will be heading back closer to home as he becomes the Director of the University of Florida’s School of Forest Resources and Conservation in Gainesville, Florida. Red takes on the new position April 1st.

Chris Reeves will be leaving the University of Kentucky and taking with Ikea as their North American Forest and Wood Specialist. Chris and family have already moved to the town of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

David “Hud” Hudnall, Sustainable Forestry and Public Policy Forester with the L-P Corporation is hanging up his spurs and heading back to Texas. David and his wife will be living in East Texas, somewhere around the Tyler/Jacksonville area. They look forward to being closer to their parents and 3 rowdy grandchildren, and David is looking forward to being able to hunt and fish for as long as he wants to without having to worry about being anywhere on a Monday morning. Live the dream for us Hud, we’re not far behind you! The Hudnalls don’t have a Texas address just yet but can be reached at thehudstx@gmail.com.

This year’s meeting raised $210.00 for our treasury. Great job to the Southeast Chapter for hosting and for all the hard work you put into it!

The Silent Auction raised only $486.00. Thanks to all the members that donated items and also a thanks to those that were the highest bidders!

2017 Winter Meeting

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Student Projects and the Awards and Rewards that Follow

Contributed by Greg Bailey

It was about this time in 2015 that, while doing some mapping work in my office, I got a call from my girlfriend, Kathy. She asked, “Do you know a guy in forestry named Kevin Hoyt?” Among the several jobs that Kathy performs, her favorite is teaching children to play the violin in her private studio. One of her teen-aged guys was there for his lesson when they got to chatting about his search of a project that would satisfy his Eagle Scout Award. Her student, Nicholas Kiss, had been in touch with Kevin and was told that he could set up a project to repair a Forestry Measurements Demonstration Area on the grounds of the Oak Ridge Forest Resources Research and Education Center. I replied to Kathy, "Well sure I know Kevin. The forestry profession is a ‘small world’. But I'll 'up this' even more, a friend and I worked there one summer and we created that area as a student project." Yep, small world.

At the time I couldn't help but reflect back to the summer of 1998 when several of us college and high school students were working at the UT Arboretum as Summer Interns. One day Richard Evans, the superintendent at the time, brought Christa Furtsch and I together and told us that he had a special project for us that would take most of the summer. He wanted to set up an area to demonstrate how forestry measurements are made and he had some great ideas. We got to work right away, first surveying out a one acre square in a forested setting and placed bright yellow posts in each corner. Richard was right. Most people can envision what an acre looks like in the setting of a yard, but in the forest, it has a much different appearance.

Next, we placed a short, red post in the center of the acre and labeled it as Plot Center. Around plot center we then embarked on setting up a demonstration of how both a fixed- and variable-plot radius is used to sample trees in a forest. Small white stakes were placed 58.9 feet away from plot center to show the ¼ acre plot. Trees that fell into the fixed plot were painted a white band and trees that were "IN" using the prism of a variable plot radius were painted with a blue band. You guessed it, some trees were inside the fixed plot but didn’t have a large enough DBH and too far from center to make in into the variable radius plot. And we even had one large tree that was "IN" with the prism but was just outside the ¼ acre circle. Okay, enough forestry nerd talk. Not only did we paint up the Demonstration area, we also created small information kiosks mounted on posts and positioned these in stations throughout the acre. These helped explain the different sampling techniques as well as DBH, plot center, tree grades, measuring heights, size of a cord of wood, as well as many other procedures used in forestry.

That was a great project. We learned quite a bit about the subtle art of presenting something that we knew like the back of our hand and into "layman’s terms" for the general public. Think that is easy? Stop someone on the street corner and describe how a BAF prism works and why we use it. See? We were all taken in as “family” there at the Arboretum office and shop. We were provided a small, orange Kubota tractor with a cart to go back and forth to the work area. Of course we had to take turns riding in the cart with the tools. Humility is always a good lesson at any age. I become good friends with “Furtsch” and her family and we even did a road trip to Florida, interviewing for permanent jobs. Richard kept two positions open for that fall and Christa and I welcomed a bit more income as recent graduates. Just as 1999 rolled around, we both found jobs and were well on our journey into the forestry profession. It’s interesting looking back, but at that time, the “forestry world” seemed to be pretty huge.

Fast forward to fall of 2016. I was invited to a Saturday workday for Nicholas’ project and told the gate would be open and I could drive right on up to the site. It was a beautiful day with a welcome chill in the morning air that helped relieve the warm, drought. I proceeded through the gate and selfishly took a slow and scenic tour of the property. I was fortunate to be driving a company truck up the woods road, but dang if I wouldn’t have been smiling ear to ear if I had been on that small tractor with tools (and Christa) bouncing around in the cart. It had been 15-plus years since I had been back to the Forest Measurements Area and to my astonishment, I remembered the way back to it.
There were about ten teenagers and several adults already busy cleaning up the area. I said hello to Nicholas' mom and dad, Susan and Stephen. I saw Kevin Hoyt and thanked him for making this project possible for Nicholas. And to some extent, making it possible for me to rumble down “memory lane.” I made my way over to Nicholas and “Nick” dove right into picking my brain about the different demonstration stations. Most of the kiosks that had dotted the lot had fallen down over time and there was some uncertainty as to where each belonged. We walked to the Plot Center and I pointed out all of the different features to the entire Demonstration Area and figured where all the kiosks belonged. I mentioned the large yellow posts that were placed in the corners of the forested acre and how Furtsch and I had always laughed at how they had looked like giant #2 pencils stuck into the ground. Most of those had fallen too so I set out to locate them.

Nick, a current senior at Bearden High School, spent about 6 months planning out the Eagle Scout project and creating the accompanying report. "It took about three full [work] days to complete the project and I had around thirty workers at the site", explains Nick. When asked what his biggest challenges were, he replied, "Managing the workers, because I had a fairly large age group of workers I had to make sure every worker was given the appropriate task and that they were efficiently working."

Like Richard before, Kevin has hosted several Eagle Scout projects over the years. Recent projects installed within the Arboretum have included constructed wetlands, a forest access road demonstration, and a white oak expanding gap regeneration plot area. The newly refurbished Forest Measurements area is hoped to entice those walking by to meander through the stations, and Kevin hopes that 4H kids will use it as well.

After finding the corner posts, I walked up to where a few of the helpers were using only rakes to spread a huge pile of mulch out and into the designated walkway. I looked around and saw several pitchforks leaning against a tree and two wheelbarrows on their sides. "Hey, come here", I spoke out to the sweaty volunteers, "let me show you how we can make this job a little easier." We filled the wheelbarrows and started spreading the mulch. Some of the teens were introduced to the one-wheeled contraption for the first time and I witnessed some awkward and wobbly balancing acts, a humorous side-perk that can only come with maturity I guess, but before too long everyone had gotten the hang of it.

Kathy is proud to claim several Eagle Scouts from her violin studio over the past years, and she attends every ceremony. This year, I'll join her to congratulate Nick’s hard work, leadership and determination to his project. A work deserving of the coveted Eagle Scout Award. His next project? He plans to attend the University of Tennessee for a major in Biochemistry, with aspirations of attending medical school.

As I helped the young people work on that mulch pile, I realized that the “torch” had been passed to me. I thought back to how Mike Terrelle and Robert Lee Duncan, both past employees at the Arboretum, had taught me several things while I worked there. Richard Evans became a great mentor to both me and Christa. These are just a few of the people in which I carry an arsenal of stories, experiences and knowledge with me every day, helping me with those daily challenges. Some of them are even reading this story now. Maybe that is what makes our forestry profession such a "small world". An entwinement and network of people and relationships that nurtures comfort and contentment. The Forest Measurements Area, my student project, was a meaningful work. While there was no award, it did provide me with many rewards that have amplified my professional career and personal life. And that's just fine with this forester.

Nicholas Kiss and Greg Bailey
Liriodendron tulipifera  Generally known as “Yellow-Poplar” is the Western Hemisphere representative of the two-species genus Liriodendron, and the tallest eastern hardwood. It is native to eastern North America from Southern Ontario and Illinois eastward to southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and south to central Florida and Louisiana. It can grow to more than 160 ft in virgin cove forests of the Appalachian Mountains, often with no limbs until it reaches 80–100 ft in height, making it a very valuable timber tree. It is fast-growing, without the common problems of weak wood strength and short lifespan often seen in fast-growing species. April marks the beginning of the flowering period. The flowers are pale green or yellow (rarely white), with an orange band on the tepals; they yield large quantities of nectar. The tulip tree is the state tree of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Other common names for Yellow-poplar:

- Tulip tree
- American tulip tree
- Tulip-poplar
- Poplar

White-poplar  Fiddle-tree  Blue-poplar  Yellow wood

Whitewood  Popple  Canoewood