

The Allegheny News

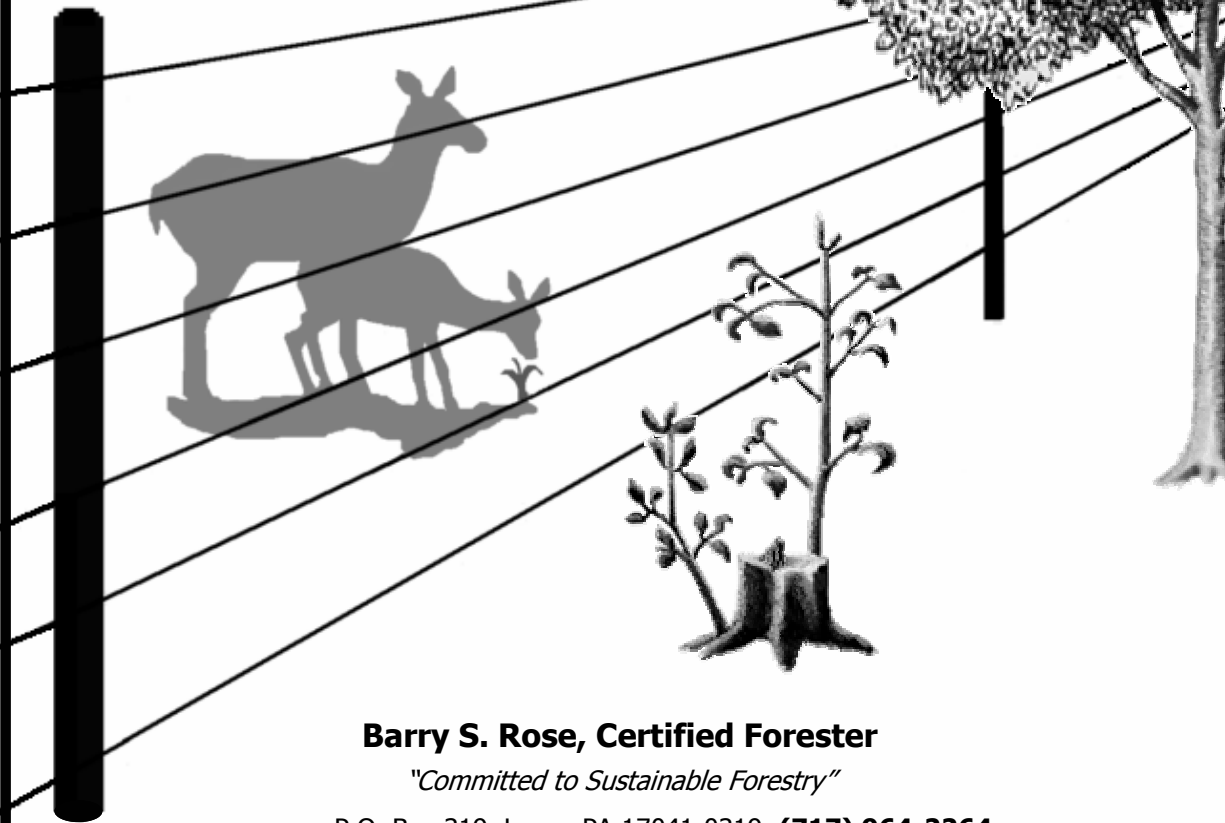


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The Allegheny News

Volume 15, No. 1

The Allegheny News is the official publication of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters. Published four times annually. Deadline for articles is December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15. Subscription rate included in the annual Allegheny Society dues.

The mission of the SAF is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry in America and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

The Allegheny News
P.O. Box 699 • Dillsburg, PA 17019-0699

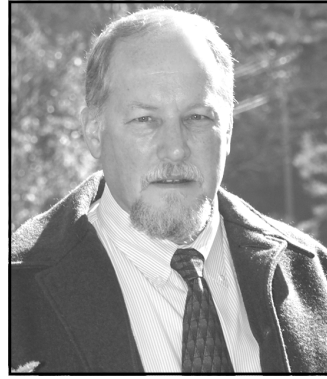
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Cover Photo

The PA Envirothon winning team from Penncrest High School. Read more about the event and the winners in the article on pages 6-7.



Chair's Corner

By Kim Steiner,
Allegheny SAF Chair

Folks, I honestly believe we are going to have, right here in our region... in Pittsburgh... this October, the best national convention in my experience, and I have attended more than a few. We have lined up one of the largest and strongest technical programs ever, a star-studded cast of plenary speakers, an interesting and attractive set of tours, and a venue that could not be topped anywhere in America. I think this convention is going to be talked about (favorably!) for years, and I think the regular convention-goers who don't come will regret it later.

But most SAF members are not regular convention-goers. In fact, I would hazard a guess that most of us *never* go to a convention... period. The reasons are easy to understand – money and time. Many of our members must attend conventions at personal expense and may even have to use personal vacation time. These are costs of time and money that the rest of the family might (understandably) prefer to see used for other purposes. But for those of you who have never been to a convention, *it will never be cheaper or easier to go than this year!* Nor, in my completely unbiased opinion, will there ever be a better convention to go to! I encourage all of our members to think seriously about going, if not to the entire convention then just for a day. The convention runs from Wednesday evening, October 25, through the following Sunday, and single-day registrations are available. A convention brochure and information about registration are available as links from SAF's Website at <http://www.safnet.org/natcon-06>.

I want to mention again that we have been using the email distribution list to keep in touch with members. The focus lately has been communicating information about our progress in planning the convention and about volunteer opportunities. However, I have also distributed information about an upcoming meeting of possible interest to members and about a legislative initiative for which our

(Continued on page 4)

Annual SAF Convention Highlights

- More than 240 speakers
- Over 125 hours of Science & Technical Sessions
- Ten sponsored Technology Tracks
- 70 Exhibitors
- Ten Technical Field Tours
- Eight Breakfast Roundtables by Industry Sector
- Three Leisure Tours for Companions and Guests
- 29 Continuing Forestry Education Credits
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(Continued from page 3)

national staff wanted some grassroots support. I believe that judicious, selective email communications like these can enhance the value of membership in SAF. Unfortunately, we have your email address only if you provided it when you last renewed membership. If you believe you are not on our email distribution list and wish to be, please send me your address. My email address is kcs@psu.edu.

See you all in October! ❁

Keystone SAF Chapter Visits Crop Tree Site

By Tom Wieland, Chair, Keystone SAF Chapter



District Forester Mike Kusko discusses crop tree selection plots

On the afternoon of June 13, 2006, Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Micheaux District 1, hosted 29 Keystone members and two visiting Polish forestry students on a tour of Crop-Tree Management sites on the Micheaux State Forest. District Forester Mike Kusko and staff led the tour, highlighting the planning, marking, and implementation of plots within a very successful, 18- to 20-year old reproduction clearcut.

An exchange of pointed questions was directed to the whole process by those in attendance, with alternative options discussed with the usual speculation of "what ifs?" and "why nots?" The field trip was followed by a "Fry-your-own-steak" picnic at the Mont Alto State Park Pavilion near the Penn State Mont Alto Campus. ❁

In Memoriam

Edward F. Kocjancic, 74, of Kane, PA, died May 9, 2006 at the Kane Community Hospital. He received a BS in Forestry from Penn State University (PSU) in 1954 and was a 50-year member of the SAF.



Ed served in the US Army for two years and worked as a logging contractor before forming Edward F. Kocjancic, Inc. in 1967, which he owned at the time of his death. Known internationally for his veneer expertise, especially black cherry, he conducted tours and programs on the Allegheny National Forest of Northwestern PA for professionals and students. His company, along with PSU, cooperated in the university's development of the latest computer technology for forest inventory and information gathering. He has demonstrated by example the importance of forest stewardship, sustainability and multiple-use in the management of private forest land.

Kocjancic was a life-time member of the PA Forestry Association, director and past president of the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, and board member of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters. A life-time member and strong supporter of the Penn State Alumni Association, Ed was named an Outstanding Alumni in 2002, a Centennial Fellow of Penn State Mont Alto in 2004, and an Alumni Association Fellow in 2006.

In community, Ed was involved as a member and past president of the former First Federal Savings and Loan, a very active member of KAIDC, on the advisory board of the University of Pittsburgh, first president of the Chestnut Street Elementary School and served as president of both the Kane Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. In 2001, he was chosen as Kane's Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Very active at St. Callistus Church, he served as a lector and commentator, and chaired the special gifts committee for the building project. Ed is survived by his wife Patricia, four children and ten grandchildren. ❁

Western Gateway Chapter Meets and Elects

By Kurt Gottschalk, Allegheny SAF Chair-Elect

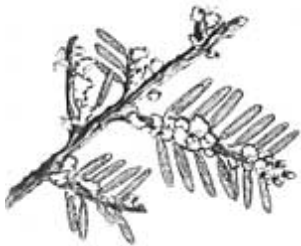
The Western Gateway Chapter of the Allegheny Section of SAF met on April 21, 2006 in Ebensburg, PA with 19 members and guests attending. Kurt Gottschalk, local arrangements chair, made a presentation regarding the upcoming national SAF convention hosted by the Allegheny SAF in Pittsburgh, October 25-29, 2006. After highlights of the meeting, such as speakers, field trips and fund raising activities for the Forester's and Science Funds were discussed, several chapter members offered services to assist with on-site and field lab volunteer duties.

In the business meeting, members unanimously approved a motion to donate \$1,000 toward the Pennsylvania SAF sponsorship of the Goddard Chair office in the newly constructed Forestry Building at Penn State. Chapter Officers were elected as follows: Robb Piper, Chair; Mike Wolf, Chair-Elect; Dave Babyak, Secretary; and Chuck Flinn, Treasurer. ❁



Gateway SAF officers (l to r): Piper, Wolf and Bayak (Flinn was absent at the time of photo). Photo by Dick Rossman

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – What does it Mean & What can You Do?"



Tionesta, PA – A coalition of concerned forest scientists, conservation groups, forestry professionals, and others are inviting the public to take a close look at an invasive insect that potentially threatens the NE Pennsylvania region's hemlock trees. This public informational meeting and workshop will be held at the West Forest High School in Tionesta, on Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with an optional field trip afterwards.

Recognized experts will discuss the importance of hemlock trees to area forests and wildlife and the threat posed by the introduced hemlock woolly adelgid's feeding on hemlock starch reserves – usually leading to the death of infested trees. Information will be geared toward homeowners, woodland owners, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts interested in species from deer to warblers.

Breakout groups that will focus on particular interests will follow morning presentation. The goal is to provide information that will help participants make informed decisions related to planning and action once the adelgid arrives. As of 2005, the insect had been found in Elk and Tioga counties, and is moving north and west. Hemlock trees in parts of eastern Pennsylvania have already been severely affected.

For more information please contact Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, 814-837-8555 or hardwood@penn.com. A fee of \$15 will cover the costs of the meeting and includes a buffet lunch. ❁



Forestry Forum Spotlights 2003 Storm

By Ted Lutz, Kane Republican Staff

A violent windstorm nearly three years ago has devastated many black cherry stands in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). As time goes on, the value of these fallen trees is expected to continue to decline. Timber sales have been under way to salvage as much value as possible. Furthermore, destructive insects such as the Peach Bark Beetle are making a foothold in the forest. The effects of the windstorm on July 21, 2003 were highlighted Thursday, April 6, 2006 by three panelists at the biannual Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum at Kane Country Club.

The speakers included Ann E. Camp, senior research scientist at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; Douglas Allen, forest entomologist with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science in Syracuse; and Jan Wiedenbeck, research scientist with the US Forest Service lab in Princeton, WV. Wiedenbeck has been conducting a study of 109 uprooted cherry trees on plots within the Kane Experimental Forest, a part of the ANF. The tract is near the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. According to her study, 10 percent of the cherry trees

had broken tops and 41 percent had dead tops in 2004, the first year after the storm. In 2005, her study showed 42 percent with broken tops and 49 percent with dead tops. This means 91 percent of the uprooted trees in the survey did not show a "leaf flush" last summer, she said. Wiedenbeck plans to complete her study within the next three or four months.

Kane's title as the "Black Cherry Capital of the World" was reinforced by Wiedenbeck. She said black cherry is the "hot high priced species" in the timber industry. "You [the forestry family in NEPA] really are the center of it all," she said.

Allen said his study of trees "on the ground" due to the windstorm shows the influx of insects "associated with the degrading of black cherry blowdown." The Peach Bark Beetle is present because this insect "breeds in slash, and there's lots of cherry slash out there," Allen said. The beetle is destructive because it "overwinters" in healthy trees in a "residual stand" near its breeding place. His study suggests that May and June appear to be the best months to harvest cherry to minimize the Peach Bark Beetle population. He, too, plans to continue his study this year.

Camp, who also is a forest health program director for the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry, said this part of the state appears "vulnerable" to "periodic windstorms." The 2003 storm produced at least one tornado which toppled the Kinzua Bridge. A tornado in 1985 killed three Kane area residents. The trajectory for both storms was similar, Camp pointed out. According to her studies, which include data from about half of the lands in the swath of the 2003 storm, an estimated 12,500 acres experienced moderate or severe blowdown. "Having high volumes of black cherry in a stand didn't make them more vulnerable," Camp said.

Ned Karger, a Kane resident who is the Silviculture manager at Kane Hardwood, is the chairman of the Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum. He introduced the guest speakers and later presented them with the traditional "Green Certified" black cherry Biltmore sticks.

With 120 in attendance, the turnout was the second largest in the history of the forums, Karger said. The next Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum will be held October 5, 2006 at Kane Country Club. ❁

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District VII Council Report

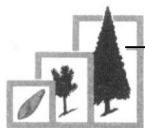
By Mary J. Coulombe, CF, SAF District VII Representative

One of my primary objectives for representation of District VII in the SAF Council is to provide our District membership with information about Council's activities. So, with that in mind, I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of the June 2-3, 2006 Council meeting:

- Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Mathai, will be the keynote speaker at the SAF National Convention. This is so exciting because she won this honor for her work in organizing women to plant trees in Africa. She has much to offer us in terms of community forestry issues in developing countries, as well as the important trees are to the health, peace and well being of the people. Please plan to attend the Convention in Pittsburgh, October 29-29, 2006!
- Roots of Forestry—go on line at www.rootsofforestry.org and register for your free access to over 80 years of Journals of Forestry. It should be a great tool for research and learning for your professional interests and work.
- Constitutional Referendum—Look for a ballot this fall to make some changes in the Constitution of SAF. Please take the time to study and vote.
- Membership—Our Society needs your help in retention of members 20-29 years old. This is the age group who are most likely to resign from membership. Also, look for ways to pass on information, both to members and potential new members like the E-Forester.
- Council decided that there will not be a change in the name of the Forest Science & Technology Board because of recognition that their duties and responsibilities are greater than a national committee.
- The new Fellows Process. We have a new District Fellows Committee. From Allegheny are Tim Kaden, Chair, Mark Vodak, Susan Stout, Roger Sherman, Jim Finley and from National Capital, Jim Culbert and Les Whitmore. My sincere thanks to these dedicated members for being willing to serve on this important committee. All other Districts have formed committees. Council will evaluate the process after one year.
- The Certification Review Board has been asked by Council to review the current CFE process and make recommendation to Council in October. There is a need to examine the process because of its importance to the CF process and licensing and registering of foresters in some States.
- The Forest Policy Committee has a full agenda to revise existing position statements and to develop several new ones. These are very important to the Society as they guide our work with federal and state agencies, Capitol Hill, and the media.

If you have any questions, concerns or input to the work of Council, please don't hesitate to call or email me. You can reach me at 703-980-2122 or at coulombe@cox.net

You all are SAF, a community of people interested in forests and forest management. Your volunteer time and involvement is so very important to your fellow members and yourself to share, learn and advance our profession. Please get more involved and look for opportunities to share the value of SAF with your colleagues and friends. ❄️



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2006 Pennsylvania State Envirothon Winners

High School students from 64 counties participated in the 23rd Pennsylvania State Envirothon held at Penn State Mont Alto, near Chambersburg, Franklin County, May 22 and 23, 2006. The champions of the competition were from **Penncrest High School** in Delaware County. Team members include **Michelle Henry, Amiee Davis, Emily Moberg, Vic Janmey, and Theresa Slifer** (see cover photo). **Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz** are the team's advisors. The team from Carmichaels Area High School in Greene County

captured second place. Teams finishing out of the top five were Northern High School in York County, Blue Mountain High School in Schuylkill County and Bald Eagle Area High School in Centre County.

The PA Envirothon awarded scholarships to the first, second, and third place teams. Scholarships were sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

A timed oral component consisted of team presentations to a panel of judges in a question/answer session testing a team's ability to consider and discuss water stewardship in a changing climate and its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, then make a presentation and answer judges' questions. Participation was mandatory but was not included in the overall competition score. The top five teams in the oral component: First Place, Bedford County; Second Place, Delaware County; Third Place, Beaver County; Fourth Place, Chester County; and Fifth Place, Warren County.

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other and human activities. They are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil/land use, wildlife, and the current environmental issue – Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate. Participating teams represent the best and brightest of the thousands of high school teens who have competed in local Envirothon competition.

Pennsylvania's 66 Conservation Districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the PA Association of Conservation Districts sponsor the PA Envirothon. A board of directors representing those sponsors manages the program. The PA Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources, the Game and Fish & Boat Commissions, and the USDA Natural Resources & Conservation Service provide technical expertise.

Financial sponsors of the 2006 Envirothon were Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corp., PA Outdoor Writers Assn., Nestle Water North America, PA Department of Education, Fish & Boat Commission, Bureau of Forestry, and the Growing Greener Program. The Hershey Company, Dwight Lewis Lumber, Lewis Lumber Products, and Cargill joined the 2006 Envirothon as Corporate Station Sponsors.

The champions will represent the Commonwealth at the 19th Cannon Envirothon North American competition planned for mid-July at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Pennsylvania

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has won the North American event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2005. More than 45 states and seven Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

For more Envirothon information contact your local conservation district or the PA Envirothon, Lorelle Steach, Coordinator, at 814-623-7900 ext. 111, e-mail to paenvirothon@pennswoods.net, or visit the website at www.envirothonpa.org.



Change in Allegheny News Deadline for Fall 2006

Mark your calendar now that there will be an earlier deadline for the Fall 2006 issue of *The Allegheny News*. Because of the National SAF Convention in Pittsburgh in October, news editor Jack Winieski would like to complete the Fall issue of the newsletter and mail it to members in plenty of time for last-minute Convention news. The final date for articles and photos will be September 1... email your newsletter contributions to ansaf@paonline.com.

The Allegheny News, Summer 2006



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Coming Events

July No Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting... see you in October at the National Convention in Pittsburgh!

September

1 ***Deadline for articles/photos for the Fall issue of *The Allegheny News****

23 PA Forestry Assn. presents "Forests for Life Jubilee," Benefits and Threats to PA Working Forests. Wyndham Hotel, Harrisburg/Hershey, Linda Finley at 814-234-9028

October

5 Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum, "Forest Oikonomos: Restoring Economic and Ecological Vigor to Penn's Woods," Dylan Jenkins of The Nature Conservancy, at Kane Country Club in Kane, PA. **Reservations required** through Sue Swanson, 814-837-8550.

25-29 **SAF National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by Allegheny SAF "Our Woods: Wild and Working"** theme will be reinforced by more than 200 oral presentations and 50 posters, including **Wangari Maathai**, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, and **Daniel Botkin**, Research Professor at University of CA, and Professor of Biology at George Mason University. There are **ten (10) planned technical workshops**, and **three planned trips**.

December

15 **Deadline for articles/photos for the Winter 2006-07, *The Allegheny News***

February 2007

13-15 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting hosted by MD/DE Division, Clarion Hotel in Hagerstown, MD. More information to come... Mark your calendars now!

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

Summer 2007 - NJ Division

Winter 2008 - Keystone Chapter

Future SAF National Conventions

2007 - Portland, OR, October 24-28

2008 - Reno, NV, November 5-7

*Earlier than normal deadline for the next newsletter

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