

# The **Allegheny News**



Allegheny Society of American Foresters  
**Spring 2010**



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# The Allegheny News

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*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**  
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## Cover Story

Not only was the ANSAF membership welcomed with genial hospitality and gourmet food, but an excellent review of current international forestry and white-tailed deer among a fresh snowfall. Photo by Sam Mace. See more photos by Sam, and other members who attended the meeting, on pages 12 and 13.

## Chair's Corner

By Mary Ann Fajvan, Allegheny SAF Chair



Cheers to Spring! I am an avid cross-country skier but as I watch the 3+ feet of snow slowly melting on my farm, I am not sorry to see it go. I appreciate the perseverance of our members who traveled the slippery highways to attend the Winter Meeting. Our West Virginia hosts did a great job organizing the international theme of the program and the food was incredible. I think the highlight of the meeting for me was learning the "logger's handshake" from one of our young 50-year members.

I am honored to join the ranks of the outstanding leaders who have served as Allegheny SAF Chairs and to wield the Wye Oak gavel. I propose another toast to our past-Chair **Kurt Gottschalk** for his dedication to SAF and his special attention to details on our assignments. I welcome **Rachel Billingham** as our new Chair-Elect with a special acknowledgement for all of her hours of financial toil with balance sheets and tax forms in her many years of serving as our Society's Secretary-Treasurer. Good luck to **Steve Resh** as he bravely assumes his new position of Secretary-Treasurer with much appreciation for all of his past efforts organizing many successful student quiz bowls. His sincere commitment to students has recruited many new members. I look forward to serving Allegheny SAF with such a talented, dedicated team.

(continued on page 2)

One disappointing aspect of the Winter Meeting was that we had no nominations for our two annual awards: **Forester of the Year**, and the **Robert W. Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry Award**. In an article in the Fall 2009 issue of the Allegheny News, our Awards Committee chair **Howard Wurzbacher**, wrote an article outlining the nomination process. Please make it a priority to refer to this article and submit some nominations to your Division or Chapter Chairs for our 2010 awards. We all know a forester who is deserving of recognition for their professional commitment and performance. Please join me in thanking Howard for his 6 years of leadership and his sincere dedication to the mission of this committee. Please contact me if you are interested in assuming the position of Awards Chair.

**Other breaking news:** Program Committee Chair, **Ned Karger**, had a meeting with the Pinchot Chapter and the Summer Meeting is back on schedule for June as originally planned. Please see the meeting schedule posted later in this Issue. Thank you to Ned, the Pinchot Chapter and other volunteers who are stepping forward to ensure that we have a quality meeting.

I joined SAF as a forestry student in 1981. In my career journey I have been a member of the Allegheny Society (New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia Divisions) and the New England Society (Yankee and Maine Divisions). Yet, no matter which SAF group I am associated with, I am awed by the wonderful people who work so hard to maintain our profession. A toast to you all! 🌿

## SAF Fellow Award

Two longtime members of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) were chosen as National SAF Fellows in 2009, **Robert W. Piper Jr., CF** and **George H. Pierson, CF**. The title of "Fellow" is a peer recognition award of the highest order. It is based on a nominee's demonstrated commitment to SAF volunteer activities and actions of leadership and advancement of the forestry profession at the local, regional, national or international level.

**Robb Piper** has been a member of SAF since 1976. He is a native of Duncansville, Pennsylvania, attended Hollidaysburg High and later Penn State where he earned a BS in Forest Science. After seasonal employment with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana, the PA Bureau of Forestry and the U.S. National Park Service in Cresson, PA, he was hired as a field forester by Kimball Forestry Consultants of Ebensburg, PA, in 1977. He worked in all phases of forest management. Projects included forest management plans, timber appraisals, timber trespass appraisals, timber marketing, urban forestry, and US Forest Service contracting for a variety of projects throughout the USA. He later became department head at the age of twenty-eight.

In 1984 he went to work for the Cambria Co. Conservation District as their first erosion control technician. He worked up through the ranks and was named District Manager in 1997.

Robb is SAF Western Gateway Chapter past and current Chair. He earned three continuing forestry education recognitions in 1987, 2004 and 2008 by completing at least 150 hours of continuing forestry education each time. He also had attended the SAF national leadership development conference.

Under his leadership, Cambria County established its first Geographic Information System (GIS) Center in 1994. Now managed by the County IS Department, he continues to serve on the County GIS Workflow Group. Robb has also established and contributed to the Conservation District Trust Fund through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. The 2002 and 2008 district strategic plans have been completed under his tenure. Both recognized sustainable forest management as a critical need for the county. Cambria County established the Agricultural Land Preservation Program in his tenure (1999-present.) The conservation district is responsible for administrative duties and has purchased easements on 1,690 acres (including woodland) for \$1.86 million.

He has been elected as a Pennsylvania Forestry Association Board member (Family Life member) since 1990, and was a recipient of their 2008 Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock-Conservationist of the Year Award; Past Chair of the PA Tree Farm Committee 1994-95 with nearly fifty tree farm certifications and was recognized by the State Committee for his contributions after twenty years of service.

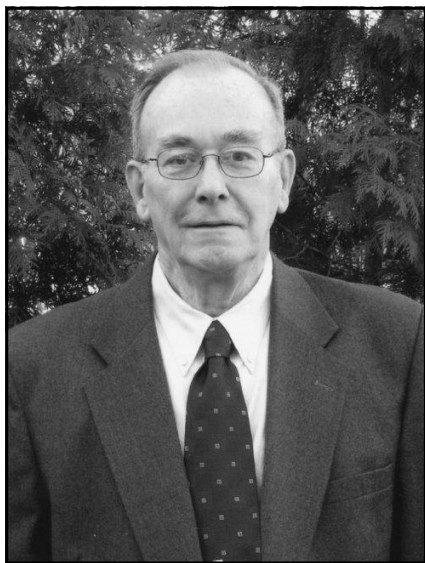
He has successfully managed three PA Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans to completion for Chest Creek-2002, Little Conemaugh River-2004, and Stonycreek River-2009 watersheds. Plan budgets averaged \$200,000 each, and included coordination with the DEP, several adjoining county officials and at times up to 36 municipalities simultaneously.

Currently, Robb is also the Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council Chair (three years) and served as a committee chair for many years before. The Southern Alleghenies RC & D Area (1990) consists of the PA counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset, representing 471,596 residents (2000 census.) Under his leadership the council has rewritten their last two five-year Area Plans, 2003 & 2008. This is a guidance document for funding, operations and programming, including forest management and urban forestry needs.

Robb continues to be active in the Pennsylvania community and is active in the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters. He is appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Eric Carlson of Dubois, PA in submitting his nomination for consideration as an SAF Fellow.



SAF Fellow Robb Piper and his wife, Pamela



George H. Pierson

**George H. Pierson CF** has been a member of SAF for 43 years. Pierson graduated with a BS in forest Management from North Carolina State University in 1955. After serving in the US Army with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry in Germany from 1956-59, Pierson began his 34-year forestry career with the (now) New Jersey Forest Service as a Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Forester.

In that capacity, he worked both with private landowners and on State Forest Lands. In 1970, He became the NJ Wood Utilization Forester, and in 1976 was promoted to Asst. Chief of the Bureau of Forestry and then to Chief of the NJ Forest Service in 1978. He retired in 1993.

George has been, and is an active volunteer in SAF and the NJ Forestry Association, providing personal and professional skills to several other forest resource affiliated organization. He served as Chair of the NJ SAF in 1969.

He has served on many SAF Committees and is author and co-author of forestry articles, including articles in the *NJ Outdoor Magazine*. Articles have included: *Restoring New Jersey's Atlantic White-Cedar* (with George Zimmerman), *New Jersey's Biggest Trees* (with Santiago Porcella), *Atlantic White Cedar- A Valuable and Historic Resource*, *Recycling Wood* (with Ed Lempicki), *New Jersey's Renewable Resource*, and *Forests for Today and Tomorrow* (with Deborah Boerner). Other articles have been published in the *Journal of Forestry*, *The Allegheny News* and *The Northern Logger*.

George was a founding member of the NJ Forestry Association in 1975 and serves on the Board of Directors to the present. He was also instrumental in founding the NJ Atlantic White-Cedar Research Committee, is the NJSAF representative on NJ Keep-It-Green, the NJ Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, and a committee member of the Lusscroft Farm, and Threeprong Membership Drive. George was an Adjunct Forestry instructor at Stockton College from 1974-1994.

He is a native of New Jersey and he and his wife, Shirley, have a son, a Professor at Bridgewater College, and a daughter who works for the State of New Jersey. 🌱

## District VII Council Report

By Kenneth Jolly, CF, SAF District VII Representative



I'm sure that this issue of the *Allegheny News* finds most of us pleased that the "extra-heavy" accumulations of snow that fell in the mid-Atlantic region over the winter are finally melting away! Before I get into providing you with an up-date of Council's recent activities, I would like to begin by commending the hard work of the WV Division in hosting this year's Allegheny Winter Meeting! The WV Division Planning Committee did an absolutely great job putting together a timely and informative agenda, full of highly knowledgeable speakers, and I was able to gain a much better perspective on the subject of international forestry as a result. In addition, the meeting facility was

wonderful and the snowfall made the WV landscape very picturesque, and as usual, the highlight of the meeting was the opportunity to re-connect with foresters from across the Allegheny area. So, if you missed the Winter Meeting, be sure to put the Summer Meeting on your schedule now - it'll be here before you know it!!

The first Council Meeting of the year was scheduled for February 6 and 7 at the SAF Headquarters Office in Bethesda, but was cancelled due to the 20+ inches of snow that blanketed the area that weekend. In its place, Council held a two-hour conference call on February 6; some highlights from the call are listed below:

- ◆ Membership: Renewals for 2010 were progressing well - the "Trees are the Answer" t-shirt incentive for timely renewal had a double benefit of encouraging renewal and "spreading the word" about the "Trees are the Answer" campaign.
- ◆ Revised Investment Policy: Council approved moving the management of SAF's investment funds to a "Unified Management Account." While SAF's overall management approach of "moderately conservative" stays the same, this switch will lower SAF's investment risk as the funds will be managed more closely. Additionally, this change will lower SAF's fund management expenses from approximately 1.5% to 0.7% annually.
- ◆ Committee Rosters: Council reviewed the various National Committee Rosters and will suggest additional members for those committees that are currently lacking members. Council subcommittee members for 2010 will also be finalized in the near future.
- ◆ Proposed Ring Program: Michael Goergen, Executive Vice President and CEO, described a proposed forester's ring program that could possibly be implemented by SAF, which would be modeled after a similar program that has been very successful with Canadian foresters for many years. The ring program would be intended to foster forester recognition and the commitment graduating foresters have made to their profession. SAF would provide each member of SAF graduating from university with a ring to recognize their commitment to earning their degree and their commitment to the profession of forestry. Current SAF members would also be encouraged to



purchase rings as well to honor their achievements. The rings would cost between \$50 and \$75. Proceeds and additional donations would provide funds to continue giving rings to graduating student members. The hope is that this program would build connections with student members and local units through formal ring ceremonies held to honor graduates (additional donations could be gathered through the ceremonies). SAF has found a ring made of tungsten carbide with a durable wood inlay. Tungsten rings are resilient, very hard and maintain a polish for a life time. At this time SAF has not formally decided to endorse the ring program, and I would like to hear your thoughts about this proposal as Council deliberates how to proceed with this idea.

♦ Proposed Haiti Reforestation Project: In light of the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti, many members of the international community have focused increased attention on the country. There also appears to be a good opportunity for SAF to work with several partners to initiate a reforestation project in Haiti, which would expand the “Trees are the Answer” message internationally. The potential Haiti project was communicated in more detail at the Winter Meeting by Michael Goergen, during his presentation on the importance of international relations to SAF. At this point, Council has agreed it would be worthwhile to pursue potential Grant opportunities to develop this project conceptually, but no decision has been made to fully commit to this project at this time. Once again, if you have any thoughts you would like to share with me concerning this proposal, please send me your comments.

♦ SAF revenues: The final item of discussion on the conference call was a discussion of several ideas to raise additional revenues for SAF. It was agreed that long-term financial planning needed to be institutionalized taking into account revenue and program costs for the short and long-term. Council will continue this discussion as the year moves forward.

In addition to the February conference call, Council will be holding two other conference calls in March and April to make up for the cancelled February meeting. The March call was scheduled too late to make the publication date for this issue of *The Allegheny News*, so I will be reporting on the March and April conference calls, and the June 12-13 Council Meeting, in my next Council report. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the items above, or if there is anything else that you want to bring to my attention. I greatly appreciate hearing from you with any comments and suggestions you may have for advancing the mission of SAF. 🌱

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# Allegheny Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 16, 2010

The Executive Committee of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters met at 3:30 pm on February 16, 2010 at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV.

Attendees included Kurt Gottschalk, Past Chair Allegheny SAF, Ned Karger, Program Chair and Allegheny Executive Committee member, Doug Tavella, N.J. Division Past Chair, Steve Resh, Secretary/Treasurer Allegheny SAF, Robert Beanblossom, WV Division Past Chair, Aaron Plaughner, WV Division Chair, Bob Webster, Allegheny Executive Committee, Rachel Billingham, Allegheny SAF Chair Elect, Kenneth Jolly, Council Representative, Mark Webb, Education Committee Chair, Alex Day, PA Division Past Chair, Jack Winieski, Executive Director Allegheny SAF. MaryAnn Fajvan, Chair Allegheny SAF.

Past Chair Kurt Gottschalk explained the history of the white oak gavel, which was produced from wood of the Wye Oak. Kurt then officially passed the gavel to Mary Ann Fajvan who assumes the duties of the Chair for 2010 and 2011.

Mary Ann asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Summer 2009 meeting. Ned Karger moved to accept the minutes as published in the Allegheny News; Bob Webster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fajvan asked that every Division and Chapter officer of the Allegheny SAF report their contact information to the national SAF office so that the lines of communication could be properly established. She also asked that members consider serving as either the Awards Chair or the Forest Science Coordinator, which are currently vacant. Howard Wurzbacher did an outstanding job as Awards Chair but has asked to be replaced and Mary Ann resigned her position as Forest Science Coordinator so that she could assume the Allegheny SAF Chair position.

## Treasurer's Report

Rachel Billingham presented the 2009 year-end financial report (presented elsewhere in the Allegheny News). Major expenses for the year include a Forester's Fund grant pass through as well as an Allegheny Educational Endowment grant of \$2,000 each which was awarded to the New Jersey Division in support of the development of a pop-up trade show display as well as the creation of "A Working Forest: It's Future with Fire, People, and Wildlife." The latter is a movie that is in the final stages of production and explains the need for management of our forests. The report shows that the checking account income minus checking account expenses is \$ 3,858.87 in arrears. Rachel explained that this deficit is really the result of the timing of dues payments from the national office and is not caused by overspending. She did however caution that the cost of producing each edition of the Allegheny News has increased beyond what was projected for 2009.

The Educational Endowment Fund has a balance of \$46,452.60. \$3,208.52 of the fund is available for approved educational projects within the Allegheny SAF.

Rachel also reported that several hundred dollars worth of checks written to the Divisions and Chapters have never been cashed. These checks will become void shortly as the accounts will be closed when the Treasurer's duties are passed on to Steve Resh, the new Treasurer. It was suggested that when the new accounts are established it may be helpful to include the statement "void after 90 days" on the checks so this problem is minimized in the future.

Ms. Billingham also reiterated the need for Chapter and Division Treasurers to follow the format she has established for their annual reports because these are used to create Internal Revenue Service forms each year. This process is greatly facilitated by the use of the standardized format.

Bob Beanblossom moved that the Treasurers Report be accepted, seconded by Kurt Gottschalk. The motion passed unanimously.



### **House of Society Delegates Report:**

Kurt Gottschalk reported that three items constitute the majority of the discussion by the HSD membership. The HSD asked SAF Council to create a consistent rationale to govern the awarding of the National Field Forester Award. The criteria for nominating a member for this award vary greatly among the Societies. The second action requested that SAF Council consider that the reduced membership fee granted to recent graduates during the five years following graduation be maintained even if the individuals had a lapse in their membership during that period. Finally, HSD requested that all nominations for HSD Awards be due 75 days prior to the National SAF Convention.

Kurt also reported that the Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum received one of the three HSD "Success Story" national awards at the SAF Convention held in Orlando, Florida.

### **SAF Council Report:**

Kenneth Jolly reported on recent action taken by Council. Council considered the requests made by HSD to more clearly define the Field Forester Award. Council wishes to maintain the flexibility that exists among the various districts with respect to the criteria for this award so that they will not standardize the award selection criteria. The SAF bylaws will be changed so that this award is listed as a national award. Nominations for this award will be due at the end of May for next year's awards. Francis Zumbrun was presented with this award at the National Convention in Orlando and was delighted to be an award winner. Please consider nominating a member for this award. The appropriate form can be found on the national web site.

Council would like to see more data before it acts on the HSD request to preserve the discounted membership rate for recent graduates if they drop their membership for a period of years following their graduation from forestry school.

Kenneth reported that the National SAF is projecting a deficit budget for the first time in many years. This shortfall is caused in part by reduced membership, the reduction in advertising within their publications and by a lower than expected number of attendees at the national convention in Orlando.

Council recently examined the requirements for the Fellow award. They tightened the criteria for this award by requiring that successful candidates show service in at least two levels of the SAF. For example, if a member was active only at the Division level of the organization, they would no longer be qualified for the award.

Council has taken a very preliminary look at establishing a reforestation program in Haiti. Grant funding would need to be secured to make this project a reality.

Finally, Council is considering the awarding of "Forestry Rings" to SAF student members upon their graduation from forestry schools. Kenneth would like to hear from the membership, especially the academic community, concerning their thoughts on the criteria for this program.

### **Executive Directors Report:**

Jack Winieski reported that a large majority of the Allegheny membership is able to receive the electronic version of the *Allegheny News* electronically, but currently 144 members are sent hard copies because they are unable to receive the electronic version. Our bulk-mailing permit requires that at least 300 pieces be mailed in order to receive the bulk rate. Currently copies are sent to individuals and agencies so that the minimum number is sent. Some committee members thought that a bulk-mailing permit would be available for a lower number of mailings or that the national office could help with distribution at a lower cost. Jack will investigate these possibilities.

Jack discussed the fact that he has submitted his resignation as Executive Director but will stay on the job preparing the newsletter and doing the job until the Executive Committee decides what is needed from an Executive Director and how they will fill his position. Mary Ann Fajvan will form a committee to investigate our needs within the Allegheny SAF.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Mary Ann Fajvan reported that as of January 2010, the Allegheny Society is comprised of 935 members. No members have been purged as of this date.

*(continued on page 8)*

*(continued from page 7)*

**Communication:** Rachel Billingham reported for Ron Farr, Chair of the Communication Committee, that the "Trees Are the Answer" campaign is moving forward and should result in some significant reforestation efforts.

**Nomination:** The Committee reported that sample position descriptions are available on the National SAF website. Divisions and Chapters are urged to make use of this resource.

**Program:** Ned Karger, reported that there is a problem with the 2010 summer meeting because of an inability of the Pinchot Chapter to recruit sufficient members for a planning committee. The Pennsylvania Division as well as the Valley Forge Chapter might be able to put a summer meeting together but it will not be held on the June date that was previously announced. A suggestion was made that the summer meeting should be informal and field oriented.

**Student Quiz Bowl:** Steve Resh reported for Mike Powell, that many schools were unable to send a team to this year's quiz bowl because of the very high fee required by the resort. Schools were unable to raise the \$65 per person per day fee and the resort was unwilling to waive the fee for students. During discussion, several members asked that a fund be established to help fund expenses for students to attend the Winter Meeting. Another alternative would be for the host Chapter or Division to carefully consider student fees when planning the meetings. Student chapters are able to raise some funds in order to attend professional meetings but many professional organizations ask their membership to contribute extra registration fees in support of students or the majority of the fee is waived for students. Penn State and WVU had intended to send teams for the competition but Penn State was unable to attend because of the winter weather.

#### **Old Business:**

It was reported that the most recent revisions to the Allegheny SAF bylaws were approved by the membership. Also, all future Fellow nominations must be a complete nomination consisting of all components as requested on the national SAF web site. Kurt Gottschalk (Mary Ann Fajvan) should receive nominations by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

#### **New Business:**

The 2010 budget was presented showing possible income of between \$13,601 and \$16,500 and expenses of between \$14,980 and \$15,980. Because of several uncertainties associated with establishing new bank accounts because of the change in Treasurers, Kurt Gottschalk made a motion, seconded by Rachel Billingham that the Treasurer be allowed to pay bills necessary to maintain operation of the organization until the budget could be passed at some future date. The motion passed.

#### **Division/Chapter Reports:**

The **Maryland/Delaware Division** has a spring meeting planned for the end of April and reported that they have elected an Awards Chair for their Division.

The **New Jersey Division** outlined a large number of legislative and educational initiatives they have undertaken. Members have conducted an inventory project at the Lusscroft Farm, reclaimed an old sugarbush, helped develop regulations concerning flood hazard rules, assisted with funding issues associated with the 2008 Farm Bill, encouraged more active management on State lands, strengthened their relationship with the NJ Outdoor Alliance and the Pine Barrens Stewardship Council in order to promote management, provided input through public hearings on Pinelands Forestry Rules, cosponsored the Ecological Forestry Workshop, completed a pop-up display, worked to grow the Forester's Free Firewood program which benefits needy homeowners, and has maintained a strong presence on the Allegheny SAF website.

Bob Beanblossom and Aaron Plaugher reported for the **West Virginia Division**. Much of their work has involved the planning of the 2010 Winter Meeting where approximately 80 members are expected. Additionally, they are working with mining companies to promote vegetation of mined areas using trees.

Bob also announced that the SAF is responsible for submitting names to the Governor for appointment to the State Forestry Registration Committee.

Rachel Billingham presented the **Keystone Chapter** report. She stated that the chapter has several new leaders in place and are currently planning two meetings under the direction of Chair Steve Wacker.

The **Northern Hardwood Chapter** is cooperating on an investigation of the recent Forest Tent Caterpillar outbreak within the region.

Mark Webb reported that the **Plateau Chapter** has begun planning efforts for the 2011 Allegheny Winter meeting.

Finally, the **Rothrock Chapter** held a summer meeting where forest restoration work of gypsy moth infested stands was investigated.

#### **Items from the floor:**

Prior to adjournment, some discussion took place concerning the possible realignment of the Pennsylvania Chapters. The PA Division in conjunction with the Allegheny Executive Committee and the PA membership will examine possible changes.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Allegheny Society of American Foresters Business Meeting Minutes February 18, 2010**

Mary Ann Fajvan opened the meeting of the Allegheny SAF at 8:30 am. Fifty-five members were in attendance, satisfying quorum requirements.

Rachael Billingham presented the 2009 financial report (this report as well as Rachel's comments are in the minutes of the Executive Committee).

The Allegheny SAF currently lists 935 members. The list has not been purged as of this writing.

Kenneth Jolly is our SAF Council District VII, which also includes the National Capitol Society. He reported that the national office passed a deficit budget for 2010, the first time in many years; income from all sources was lower than projected last year. He also reported on the Fellow nomination changes, which will go into effect this year as well as the discussion that took place within Council regarding the National Field Forester Award. Ken also asked for input regarding the possible new "Foresters Ring" proposal whereby the national office would design a ring that would be made available to graduates of forestry programs. Ken also described the very early discussions that are taking place in Council regarding a reforestation project in Haiti involving the SAF.

Jack Perdue presented several updates which he has undertaken to the Allegheny SAF web site. Jack hopes the membership will use this resource more and hopes to create a mobile site in the very near future.

Mary Ann Fajvan asked for a volunteer to accept the Awards Committee Chair vacated by Howard Wurzbacher, who has done an excellent job in that position for many years. She also reminded the membership to consider nominating a deserving member for 2010. Although an awards chair's job is heavily involved in soliciting nominations, it is up to individual members to take the first step.

Ned Karger discussed the upcoming Summer Meeting. The Pinchot Chapter is scheduled to host the meeting but is having some difficulty forming a program committee. The membership was encouraged to keep abreast of possible changes regarding the time, place and theme of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Resh, Secretary/Treasurer

# Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting a Success

By Aaron Plaughter

The 2010 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting made a snowy start on February 16 at the Stonewall Resort at Roanoke, West Virginia. The snowy weather didn't do much to deter the crowd as 78 SAF members, and 7 student members made the trek to central West Virginia for the meeting entitled "Beyond Our Borders: Building Awareness of International Forestry." The meeting kicked off with the Allegheny SAF Executive Committee meeting in the afternoon and a reception at TJ Muskies.



**Bob Beanblossom**, then Chair of the West Virginia Division SAF welcomed the attendees to West Virginia and Stonewall Resort on Wednesday morning and turned the meeting over to the meeting moderator **Jeff Kochenderfer**. The presentations started out with **Barbara Breshock**, State Lands Manager for the West Virginia Division of Forestry who described the state of forestry and the forest industry in West Virginia. Barb also gave us a look back at some effective modes of snow transportation! **Michael Goergen**, Executive Vice President of SAF then described the importance of international relations to SAF. **Dave McGill**, Professor/Extension Specialist with the WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources finished off the first morning session with a discussion of the Major Issues Facing Forests around the World. The group then went into the morning break where they could take part in the silent auction or find information on our exhibitor, Fountains Forestry who was displaying their TwoDog Forest Inventory Software.

Following the break **Urs Buehlmann**, Associate Professor at Virginia Tech revealed the direct link between the US wood market and the housing market when he gave an Overview of Solid Wood Markets: Global and Domestic. **Gene Walters**, General Manager of Rolling Ridge Woods, LTD, then gave a description of his experiences with wood exports to Asia and other areas, and discussed some of the secondary manufacturing that is still in the US in Amish made furniture. **Bill Ladrach**, President of Zobel Forestry Associates closed out the morning speakers and let us know where to expect the next pulp mill will be built, by discussing the Expansion of Pulp Production in the Third World.



After a delicious buffet lunch at Stillwaters Restaurant **Kurt Gottschalk**, then chair of Allegheny SAF, made us remember how young the United States really is when he discussed trends in European Silviculture, which can involve hardwood rotations measured in hundreds of years. **Glen Juergens**, Silviculturist with the USDA Forest Service described some of the lacking infrastructure and his other Experiences in Central America.

Following the afternoon break, **Dr. Eric Heitzman**, WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, discussed some intense inventory work and a light touch approach to harvesting at the Iwokrama International Center for Rain Forest



Conservation and Development with his presentation on Forestry and Ecosystem Science in Guyana. **Dr. Jingxin Wang**, Professor of Forestry at WVU then described the forests, reclamation projects, harvesting, and manufacturing in China with his presentation of Forestry and the Forest Industry in China.

The Wednesday evening banquet required us to “roll out the red carpet” as **Robert Williams** and **Doug Tavella**, Chair and Outgoing Chair of the New Jersey Division of SAF made the debut presentation of the DVD, “A Working Forest: It’s Future with Fire, People, and Wildlife.” The evening’s festivities also included the installation of new Allegheny SAF officers, the presentation of 50 year membership awards, and the announcement of winners in the Reginald Forbes Art contest.

The final morning of the meeting started out at 7 am with the Chair’s Breakfast. **Dale Parris**, retired Chaplin from United Hospital gave an inspirational start to the day with a positive outlook on life and our careers in natural resources. Separate business meetings of the WV and PA Divisions were followed by the Allegheny Section business meeting.

Two Regional Recruiters of the US Peace Corps started out the mornings presentations describing what the Peace Corps does, and what you could expect as a Peace Corps volunteer. They also noted that you shouldn’t count yourself out of Peace Corps volunteer work because of advanced age, as they have volunteers who are well into their 80s. Glen Juergens then filled in for **Liz Mayhew** to describe the Forest Service International Forestry Program, in which Glen has participated. This program sends Forest Service and other cooperating agency personnel to other countries to assist with sustainable forestry and biodiversity issues and for support following natural disasters.

After a mid-morning break, **Tom Fox** from Virginia Tech described some of the intensively managed plantations in South America. He spoke specifically about radiata pine and eucalyptus plantations and the work being conducted by the Forest Nutrition Coop to maximize the potential of those plantations.

**Henry Quesada**, also from Virginia Tech, then discussed Forest Certification, the different forms of certification, and some of the marketing of certified forest products.

**John Brissette** with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station closed out the speakers by reviewing the Forests and Forestry in Russia. John spent time in Russia as part of the Joint Russian–American Central Siberia Sustainable Forestry Project, and shared some of what he experienced during his time there.

The meeting then came to a conclusion with another wonderful buffet lunch at Stillwaters Restaurant in the Stonewall Resort. Most of the powerpoint presentations given by the speakers are available for you to view on the SAF website by going to the Chapter Site for Allegheny SAF

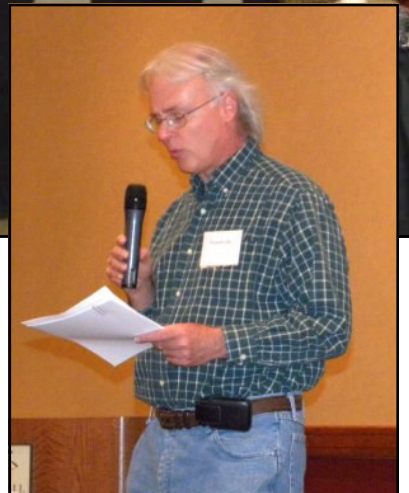
and then clicking on the Winter 2010 Meeting under “What’s New.” The West Virginia Division would like to thank everyone who attended and all of the speakers who helped to make the meeting a great success. 🌱



# Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting Highlights

Photo credits Dave McGill, Sam Mace and \_\_\_\_\_, and Melissa Stevens





# Allegheny Society of American Foresters 2009 Treasurer's Report

## BEGINNING BALANCES (on January 1, 2009)

1. Checking Account	\$17,679.79 <sup>1</sup>
2. Endowment Savings	\$48,219.72 <sup>3</sup>

## 1. CHECKING ACCOUNT

### CHECKING ACCOUNT INCOME:

2009 Allegheny Dues	\$ 9,735.50 <sup>2</sup>
2009 Div/Chp dues (pass-through)	\$ 4,310.75
Donation from Rothrock Chapter	\$ 1,300.00
Foresters fund grant fund pass-through	\$ 2,000.00
Transfer from Endowment for NJ Grant	\$ 2,000.00
Contributions to support the newsletter	\$ 352.50
Deposit of Science Fund Donations (pass thru)	\$ 1,460.00
Deposit of Foresters Fund Donations (pass thru)	\$ 76.00
Registration Fees for USFS meeting (pass thru)	\$ 285.00
Revenue donated from USFS meeting	\$ 15.00
Total Checking Account Income:	\$21,534.75

<sup>1</sup> There are several checks that have not yet cleared that were written a long time ago. This figure was calculated as if those checks had cleared.

<sup>2</sup> This amount consists of only dues that were collected for the dues year 2009

### CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENSES:

2009 Div/Chp dues (pass through)	\$ 4,310.75
HSD Assessment	\$ 513.88
Allegheny News	\$ 6,221.87
Executive Director Stipend	\$ 7,720.00
Awards	\$ 128.82
Student Travel	\$ 600.00
Foresters Fund grant fund (pass thru)	\$ 2,000.00
Endowment Fund Grant to NJ SAF	\$ 2,000.00
Website Expenses	\$ 77.30
Expenses for USFS Meeting (pass thru)	\$ 285.00
Science Fund Donation (pass thru)	\$ 1,460.00
Foresters Fund Donation (pass thru)	\$ 76.00
Total Checking Account Expenses:	\$25,393.62

<sup>3</sup> Note that \$5,025.64 of these funds were liquid as of 1/1/09

<sup>4</sup> Note that \$3,208.52 of these funds were liquid as of 12/31/09

### CHECKING ACCOUNT INCOME LESS EXPENSES:

\$ -3858.87

### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2009:

\$13,820.92<sup>1</sup>

## 2. ENDOWMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT

### ENDOWMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:

Beginning Balance	\$ 49,081.70 <sup>3</sup>
Endowment Fund Contributions	\$ 50.00
Return of Funds from Ethics Workshop	\$ 88.00
Interest	\$ 94.88
Transfer to Checking for NJ DVD grant	\$ -2,000.00

### ENDOWMENT SAVINGS BALANCE AS OF 12/31/09:

\$46,452.60<sup>4</sup>

Respectfully Submitted by:

Rachel R. Billingham, Allegheny SAF Secretary/Treasurer



# Allegheny Society of American Foresters

## Draft 2010 Budget Worksheet

(for discussion by the Executive Committee at the 2010 Winter Business Meeting)

### Projected Income:

	<u>Projection</u>	<u>Actual Received as of 2/16/10</u>
2009 Dues <sup>1</sup>	\$11,501.75	\$ 0.00
Section Meetings <sup>2</sup>	\$ 1,500.00 - \$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00
Newsletter Contributions	\$ 500.00 - \$ 1,000.00	\$ 85.00
<b>Voluntary Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 100.00 - \$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
Totals:	\$13,601.75 - \$16,501.75	\$ 85.00

<sup>1</sup> 2008 dues collection was used for the projection.

<sup>2</sup> This figure represents the range between the minimum contribution expected from the respective Division/Chapter that hosts the Allegheny Section Meetings (e.g. the minimum expected from the Winter Meeting is \$1,000 and \$500 from the Summer Meeting) and a guesstimated "maximum" (e.g., in the past, Divisions/Chapters have contributed significantly above the minimum level - in 2004, the Meeting Hosts contributed \$3,000). However, it should also be realized that on a few occasions when the Section meetings were not very profitable, or money was actually lost, no contribution has been made.

### Projected Expenses:

	<u>Projection</u>	<u>Actual Expenses as of 2/16/10</u>
HSD Assessment	\$ 514.00	\$ 0.00
Allegheny News	\$ 6,221.00 <sup>3</sup>	\$ 726.17
Exec. Director Stipend	\$ 7,720.00	\$ 1,930.00
Chair Nat. Convention Expenses <sup>4</sup>	\$ 0.00 - \$1,000.00	\$ 0.00
Student Travel <sup>5</sup>	\$ 900.00	\$ 0.00
Awards	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
Website	\$ 170.00	\$ 0.00
Administrative <sup>6</sup>	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
Totals:	\$14,980.25 - \$15,980.25	\$ 2,656.17

<sup>3</sup> 2009 expenses were used to estimate this year. This includes estimates for two print issues and two electronic issues of the *Allegheny News*. Note that in 2009, \$956 more than was spent in 2008.

<sup>4</sup> If the Chair can get his employer to cover travel expenses, this may not be needed.

<sup>5</sup> \$400 for Winter Meeting travel support (\$100 per school), \$500 for National Convention Travel Support.

<sup>6</sup> Postage, etc.

### Conclusion:

#### ► Remaining potential expenses for 2010 include:

3 issues of the <i>Allegheny News</i> (2 print, 1 e)	\$ 5,495.00
3 quarterly stipend/expense for Exec. Director	\$ 5,790.00
HSD Assessment	\$ 514.00
Chair Expenses for National Convention	\$ 0.00 - \$ 1,000.00
Student Travel	\$ 900.00
Awards	\$ 200.00
Website	\$ 100.00
Administrative expenses	\$ 200.00
Total	\$13,199.00 - \$14,199.00

► Remaining 2010 income as of 2/16/10: **\$13,516.00 - \$16,416.00**

# Rolling Back Clean and Green Rollback Taxes for Oil and Gas Operations

## Pennsylvania Senate Passes Amendment to Resolve Inconsistent Application of Rollback Taxes

With the flurry of activity related to the “gas rush” for drilling to the Marcellus shale geologic formation, there has been an inconsistent interpretation and application of rollback taxes under the Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, 72 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 5490.1-5490.13, also known as “Clean and Green”. The Pennsylvania Senate recently passed an amendment to Clean and Green that would limit the application of rollback taxes only to the percentage of acreage actually used for the well pad, as estimated from the operator’s drilling permit submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Clean and Green is a program that provides landowners with the ability to obtain a preferential property tax assessment based on the actual use-value of the property rather than the highest and best use value. The program is available to agricultural and forested properties and is largely based on the yield value of the soil rather than the development value of the parcel.

Clean and Green requires that the landowner continue to use the property for agricultural or forested uses in order to be eligible for enrollment in the program. If the landowner opts to withdraw from the program, the landowner may be subject to “rollback” taxes if the land use is converted to an ineligible use. Rollback taxes represent the seven-year difference between the tax rate paid by the landowner under the preferential assessment and the rate he would have paid if not enrolled.

The rollback provisions of Clean and Green were being applied inconsistently by municipalities as landowners sold leases to oil and gas companies for access to extract natural gas from the Marcellus shale geologic formation. Some municipalities were applying the rollback taxes on the entire parcel subject to the lease because, in their view, the property was not being used strictly for agricultural or forested uses. However, other municipalities were not applying rollback taxes at all because the use of the property had not changed, just expanded.

In an effort to clarify how to consistently apply rollback taxes under the Clean and Green program, the Pennsylvania Senate passed amendments that provided for the severance of the portions of the property that could no longer be cultivated. The amendments provide that portions of the property actually used for the well pad, or other alternative use such as cell phone tower, wind turbine or alternative energy source, could be severed from the portion of the property enrolled in Clean and Green, thus permitting the remaining land which continued to be cultivated or forested to be preferentially assessed and not subject to rollback taxes. The Senate amendments also explicitly permit portions of the property used for the transmission of oil or gas to remain eligible for the preferential assessment.

These amendments, if adopted by the Pennsylvania House and Governor, will help to clarify the treatment of rollback taxes for municipalities and landowners. It will also help landowners understand how their property taxes may be affected if they are still considering leasing their property to an oil and gas company. 🌱

Derald Hay is the author of *Rolling Back Clean and Green Rollback Taxes for Oil and Gas Operations*.

Derald is an attorney with the law firm Fox Rothschild LLP, 747 Constitution Drive, Exton, PA 19341.

Derald’s practice focuses primarily on environmental law and real estate

transactions, including negotiating oil and gas leases for landowners. Derald graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in forest science and a joint J.D. and M.S. in forest resources before joining Fox Rothschild. Derald can be reached at 610-458-2990 or [dhay@foxrothschild.com](mailto:dhay@foxrothschild.com).



# Biggest Challenge for 2010 Quiz Bowl: Weather or Funding?

By Steve Resh, Past Quiz Bowl Chair

No official Quiz Bowl was held during the Allegheny Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting on February 16-18 in the beautiful Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia. The weather kept several schools from making the trip while other schools were unable to come up with the necessary funding to send students to the resort. The program committee developed a wonderful agenda that would have been very interesting to our future members. Despite all their efforts, they could not come up with a reduced resort fee for students.

West Virginia University was able to send eight students to the meeting so the decision was made to have an "unofficial" Quiz Bowl where four students from WVU challenged four students from WVU. WVU got off to a fast start; quickly answering three straight questions correctly while WVU faltered a bit and went into the negative column. However, WVU made it interesting by answering several very difficult questions to challenge WVU in the middle of the round. In the end however, Mountaineer pride prevailed and WVU won the contest by defeating WVU in a very entertaining contest.

"It is always difficult to see a team with so much enthusiasm and intelligence like WVU lose to a slightly superior, quicker team like WVU" stated **Mike Powell**, Quiz Bowl Coordinator for the Allegheny Society, "but the entire membership felt as if WVU was the rightful winner of this very interesting contest."

We can only hope that next year's meeting will be blessed with more predictable weather as well as a more reasonable cost for students to attend. WVU was declared the winner by judges Mr. **Kenneth Jolly** and Mr. **Steve Resh**. The membership must eagerly anticipate the 22<sup>nd</sup> Quiz Bowl contest which will be held at the Winter Meeting in 2011. 🌱

## The next newsletter deadline is June 15, 2010

Send articles in Microsoft Word format and photos as JPG files to Allegheny News editor Jack Winieski at [ansaf@verizon.net](mailto:ansaf@verizon.net)

For newsletters, officer info, committees/chairs, important documents, etc., visit the website at [www.alleghenysaf.org](http://www.alleghenysaf.org)

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## 2010 ANSAF Summer Meeting Plans

Wednesday June 23 - Friday June 25, 2010 • Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
**The Poconos – Wildland Urban Interface: Forest values, uses and management in the WUI”**



Example of Wildland/Urban Interface in the Poconos  
View south of Long Pond from top of Dixon Miller Recreation area,  
former Scrub oak-pitch pine – heath and “barrens” area with long history of frequent fire

Plans are being finalized but here is what to expect at the Allegheny SAF Summer meeting. Information on registration will be coming at a later date.

The Central Pocono Mountain Region will be focused as an example of changes in forest land use and values in formerly remote forest areas that are now subject to rapid development and fragmentation.

The Pocono region is a forested area famous as a vacation destination since the late 1800’s to early 1900’s, mostly in scattered resort/hotel type developments with little other development other than scattered local residents. Until the late 1950’s the area was still very rural with low population. Only one small school serving grades 1-12, plus a one-room school in Long Pond, was all that was needed to serve two of the primary Townships we will visit. In more recent times, being only one to two hours from New York City and Philadelphia, the Poconos has been and is increasingly subject to development for residential and commercial uses. In addition to the large number of vacation home developments, many former New York – New Jersey residents have moved to this area permanently and commute to work in the New

York area. Two huge high schools with all the trimmings, along with elementary schools, have been built just to serve this central Pocono area we are visiting. The Pocono region is under extreme pressure for development.

The Pocono region is a great example of the intrusion of development into formerly remote forestland areas where not only are traditional types of forest management and timber production threatened, but even more importantly the ultimate loss of undeveloped forest land and associated ecological and biodiversity values lost or threatened. There are lessons to be learned here to forest regions that have not yet experienced this type of development, but also lessons learned on how to cope with emerging development.

Given the above, the summer program focus will be on the variety of values others see of the Poconos, the variety of land uses being carved out of the forest, fragmentation caused by various developments, protection accomplishments and plans, forest management activities on protected land and potential future values from the forest land base.

Check out the Woodlands Inn & Resort at [www.thewoodlandsresort.com](http://www.thewoodlandsresort.com)

# THE POCONOS - WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE: Forest values uses and Management in the WUI

Hosted by PA Division, Pinchot Chapter

Tentative Program June 23-25, 2010

## Wednesday, June 23rd:

Executive meeting in afternoon  
Registration  
Ice breaker/cash bar in evening

## Thursday, June 24th - Mostly field trips:

Opening remarks  
Keynote from Pocono Visitors Bureau  
Land protection activities in the Poconos

## Thursday's tour by bus primary venues:

### **Lackawanna State Forest:**

Gravel and dirt road maintenance/improvement; recreational use management; additional land protection - land acquisition; Former CCC Camp/Manny Gordon Recreational Area

### **The Nature Conservancy - Pocono Long Pond Office/Hauser Nature Center:**

Lunch stop-browse nature center; TNC prescribed fire program briefing; +Firewise Communities by DCNR  
Long Pond - an area that the TNC considers "the only natural community of its kind in the world" (and surrounded/impacted by development including the Pocono Raceway); trip to TNC prescribed burn areas to sustain ecology of pitch pine, scrub oak/heath habitat within the Long Pond vegetation community.

### **Delaware State Forest:**

Dixon Miller Recreation Area - A prominent elevation in the Long Pond area known as Pimple Hill with fire tower that was manned for several decades by Dixon Miller. The surrounding State Forest has been developed primarily as an ATV recreation area and named in honor of Dixon Miller.

Francis Walter Dam/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Flood control dam/reservoir also managed for recreation including releases into the Lehigh River Gorge Recreation area to support commercial rafting and other river recreation.

### **Other drive-by sites to be viewed along the way and described include:**

Travel through extensive areas of State Game Lands and State Forest

Wetlands - including boreal bog/formerly mined for peat before wetland regs, other wetlands and lakes including Long Pond

Large private undeveloped landholdings including silvicultural activities, many with protective conservation easements

Lands protected by municipalities, conservancies, etc.

Large vacation home/residential developments with recreational lakes

Resorts and other recreation developments

Commercial developments and industrial park

**EveningHours:** optional outdoor barbeque at the Woodlands (nearby venues offer opportunity for later evening entertainment, in addition to the Woodlands if you want to stay put, including horse racing, casino, and of course shopping malls).

## Friday, June 25th - Sessions at the Woodlands:

Business meeting

Forest & Environmental mgt in large forested residential developments

The Pocono Forest & Water Conservation Landscape Initiative w/DCNR

Global warming

Carbon offset

Working Woodlands (important new program by The Nature Conservancy for woodland owners to provide forest certification and marketing of carbon credits) see: [nature.org/working-woodlands](http://nature.org/working-woodlands)

Closing including silent auction settlement

Adjourn by 12:45

**Please bring items for the silent auction  
See you there!**

## In Memoriam:

### Rex Eugene Melton (1921-2010)

**Rex Melton**, died March 13, 2010 at the age of 88, after a heart attack. He was born in Ozark, Missouri and earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri. Following military service during WWII, he completed a Masters in Forestry at the University of Michigan. Rex was an active member of the Society of American Foresters for 62 years.

As a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant piloting a B-24 aircraft in the European and Mediterranean theatres, he flew 24 missions and was decorated with a Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal with two clusters. In 1947 Rex was hired as an Instructor of Forestry at Penn State Mont Alto, and until his death, maintained many friendships from the Mont Alto days. He transferred to the main campus of Penn State University in 1954, where he headed the Stone Valley Experimental Forest for a number of years and served on the faculty of the Forestry Dept. until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1988. During his years on the faculty he was known for the difficulty of his Dendrology course, and was recognized for Excellence in Advising.

He pursued many hobbies during his life. He tied his own fishing flies, hunted, played the

harmonica, and practiced beekeeping, woodworking and leather craft. In his later years he extensively recorded his favorite music from radio and TV sources, and maintained large gardens filled with lilies and iris. Birds found a steady supply of food at his feeders, including the dozens of hummingbirds who always summered at his home.

Rex was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Margie (Maddox) Melton and is survived by four children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Contributions can be made to the Rex Melton Memorial Fund, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, Penn State University, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669. 🌱



## SAF "Golden" Members

In recognition of 50 years of dedicated service to the Society of American Foresters and to the forestry profession, SAF Golden Members receive a certificate and letter of appreciation from the SAF National President, commemorating their career milestone. SAF also waives their membership in perpetuity. The Following members were recognized at the Allegheny SAF Winter meeting in Roanoke, WV at the Annual Awards Banquet.

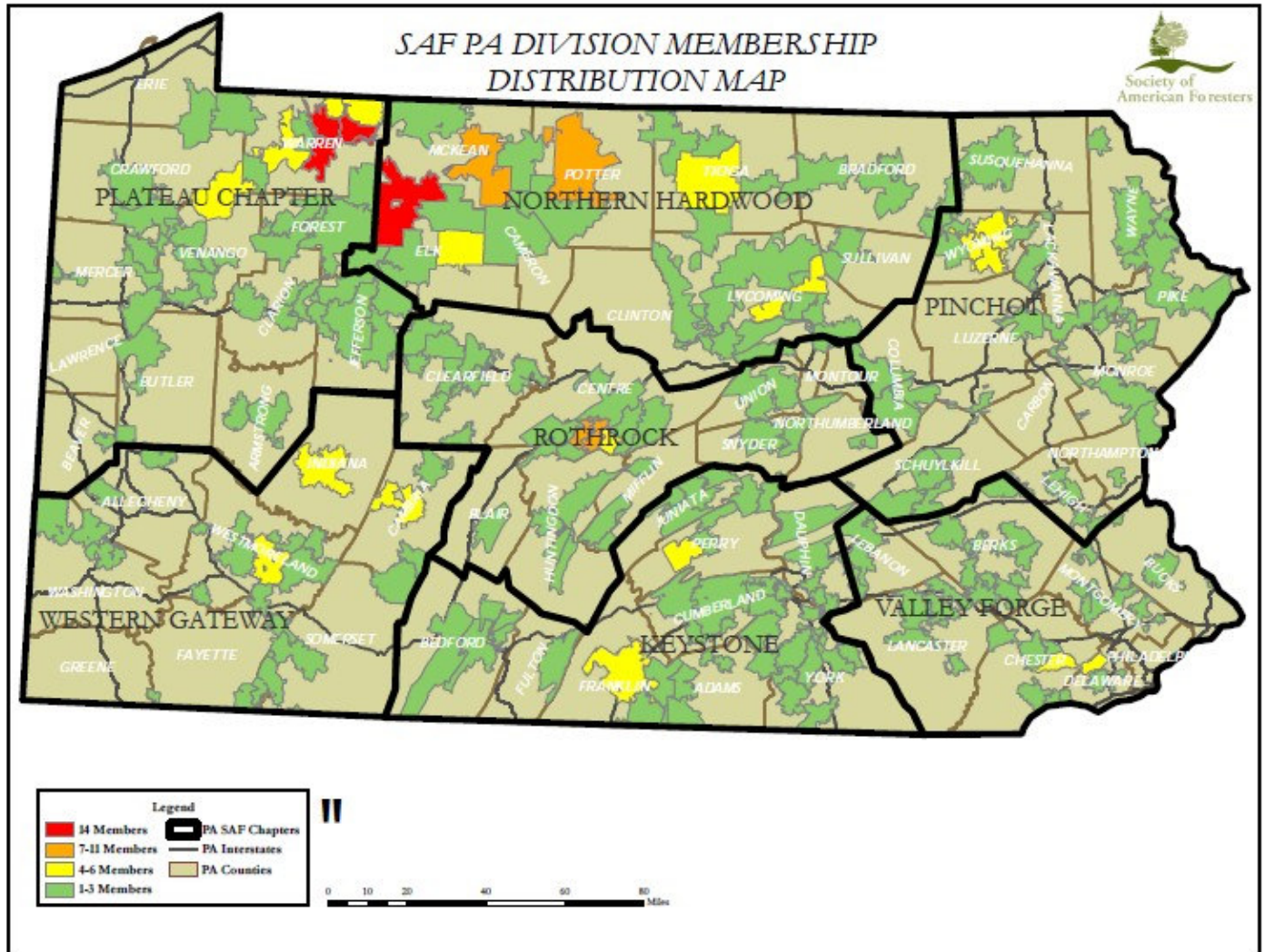
### Pennsylvania Division

William A. Fosnacht, Northern Hardwoods  
Robert E. Schweitzer, Western Gateway  
Kenneth J. Swisher, Keystone Chapter (seen at left)

### West Virginia Division

Bruce Beal Brenneman  
James N. Kochenderfer  
Everette D. Rast

# Allegheny SAF Considers Redistribution of Pennsylvania Division Chapter Boundaries



At the Winter Allegheny SAF Executive Committee meeting in West Virginia, the realignment of the SAF chapters in Pennsylvania surfaced for discussion. Several members – including Brent Harding, Kurt Gottschalk, Mary Ann Fajvan, and others – contributed to the construction of the above map, complete with a legend to show the distribution of membership within chapter boundaries.

Through a possible realignment of PA chapter boundaries, the objective would be to strengthen membership and stimulate more involvement in both chapter functions and regional events.

The newly elected Executive Committee requests that all Pennsylvania Division members take time to examine the map's current

membership allocation and contact any committee member with suggestions for a more even member distribution per chapter. Member input will be reviewed and discussed further at the summer meeting in Wilkes-Barre on June 23-25, 2010.

Remember that all chapter chairs are members of the Executive Committee, and their contact information can be found on the final page of this edition of *The Allegheny News*. Please include ANSAF Chair Mary Ann Fajvan in any electronic or hard copy suggestions.

*Please communicate your clearly expressed suggestions and ideas. Thank you!* Ed.

# On the road...again!

Afghanistan to Zambia: Chronicles of a Footloose Forester

By Dick Pellek

## Canyon on the Feather River, California

Of several trips to the large property on the Feather River, one of them turned into a real adventure. A land owner wanted his square mile of land (640 acres) in the Feather River Canyon to qualify for a state subsidy as a managed forest parcel, so Cal-Pacific Forest Consultants got the job to plant seedlings pursuant to reclaiming the land on this former gold mining claim.

The story has two or three parts. Part one is about the Feather River Canyon, itself. Of somewhat unique circumstance, the small canyon of perhaps five miles across, seemingly resembles a volcanic caldera. You gradually climb along mountain roads for miles then drop steeply beyond the crest into the canyon and down to the Feather River, at an elevation of over 5000 feet. The weather in the canyon is distinctly cooler than in the Sierra foothills ringing the canyon. That goes for both summer and winter temperatures, due to the fact that cold air descends. For the tree planting crew of Cal-Pacific Forest Consultants, that led to some memorable events.

In the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the typical tree planting season starts just as soon as the snow cover is off, and when the soil moisture is high, thus maximizing the chances for seedling survival. We got the assignment to plant in the Feather River Canyon in April, but got snowed out, so we returned in May. We got snowed out again in May, so made a plan to come back in June. In June we again got snowed out while we were planting, so reluctantly packed up to return to the sunny slopes beyond the canyon rim. Then, in July the same crew returned to finish the job we had almost completed in short stints during the previous months. We were determined to finish the job. Ol' Man Winter had a different idea. As the snow began to fall and as the planting sites quickly began to take on the appearance of a solid white blanket, **Footloose Forester** very reluctantly ordered the planting crew to pack up. We had a four-wheel drive Dodge Power Wagon with locking front hubs, but even that pulling power was no match for the steep road out of the canyon. **Footloose Forester** remembers locking those hubs beneath the surface of the snow before we reached

the top. Getting out, at all, was not a sure thing, but when we did, it was back to a world beyond the canyon where there was no snow at all. He will always remember the Feather River Canyon.

Another part of the story led to adventure during a pleasant period of warmer weather. There was still planting to do, and the crew returned with camping gear, planning to stay until the summer assignment was finished. Every crew member had his own sleeping bag and we bought supplies to last a couple of weeks. The boss in Sacramento had obtained permission for us to use an old line shack on the property that had stood silent since the gold mining days. We intended to use that as headquarters. When the crew arrived, **Footloose Forester** went in first to check out the place. It was mostly intact, with a single bed and mattress on the first floor, and a bare loft on the second floor. There was a pot bellied stove, and even a tea kettle on the stove. And there was something else on the stove. There, in plain sight, was a nearly full case of dynamite sticks and an open case of detonators. He had always been warned about the instability of old dynamite sticks that were damp, and especially about the instability of detonators. So before doing anything else, we made plans on how to dispose of the dynamite before we could occupy the shack. One of the guys came back in and announced that there was an old mine shaft about 50 yards behind the shack. Perhaps we could pitch the dynamite down the vertical shaft. We then set a plan into action.

As the crew chief, **Footloose Forester** took it upon himself to transport the dynamite and detonators for disposal. He had one of the men open the door to the shack and had two others walking alongside to spot exposed tree roots and stumps in his path. First came the more unstable detonators. The case was light and he did not stumble reaching the mouth of the mine shaft. Everyone backed away as he pitched the case of detonators down the shaft. No explosion. Next, he returned for the heavier case of dynamite sticks. No stumbles on the way to the mine shaft. We were all relieved when we heard the case of dynamite settle quietly at the bottom of the mine shaft, alongside a case of explosive detonators. 🌱



## Who is the Footloose Forester? Richard R. (Dick) Pellek

As a graduate student at the University of Florida, the **Footloose Forester** chose to declare a major in tropical forestry. To be a credible tropical forester, that meant knowing the tropics on a personal basis. The Peace Corps experience in Pakistan during the mid-1960s was perhaps the signal that he was keen on pursuing a career in international forestry, but as a country with a warm temperate climate in most of West Pakistan where he was stationed, that did not qualify as tropical experience. The nearly three years in Viet Nam may have tipped the scales toward credibility. So soon after he was accepted at Florida, he applied for a study program through the Organization of Tropical Studies. He was accepted for a three month course in Costa Rica, with extensive field work and 12 earned credits at the University of Costa Rica that were recognized by the University of Florida as counting toward a Masters degree.



*Dick Pellek is a member of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, and has been for close to 40 years. His forestry career has mostly been in International Tropical Forestry, if nothing else. Perhaps unlike most of us, he has written of his experiences and situational exploits connected with his travels around the world. The **Footloose Forester** has generously offered a few of his memoirs for publication in *The Allegheny News*. Ed.*

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**Society of  
American Foresters**

**National  
Convention**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**October 27–31, 2010**

## Coming Events

### April

15 Spring 2010 Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum at Kane Country Club in Kane, PA, 6:00 p.m. Contact Ned Karger at 814-837-0121 or [nkarger@collinsco.com](mailto:nkarger@collinsco.com)

### June

15 Deadline for the Summer 2010 issue of *The Allegheny News*. Send articles in Microsoft Word Format to [ansaf@verizon.net](mailto:ansaf@verizon.net)

23-25 ANSAF Summer meeting "The Poconos – Wildland Urban Interface: Forest values, uses and management" at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA See page 18-19 for information

### September

15 Deadline for the Fall 2010 issue of *The Allegheny News*. Send articles in Microsoft Word Format to [ansaf@verizon.net](mailto:ansaf@verizon.net)

### November

2-6 **National SAF Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii**

### Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

Summer 2010: June 23-25  
Hosted by PA Pinchot Chapter  
Winter 2011: Plateau Chapter

### Future SAF National Conventions

2011: Honolulu, HI – November 2-6



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