

The
Allegheny
News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Summer 2012

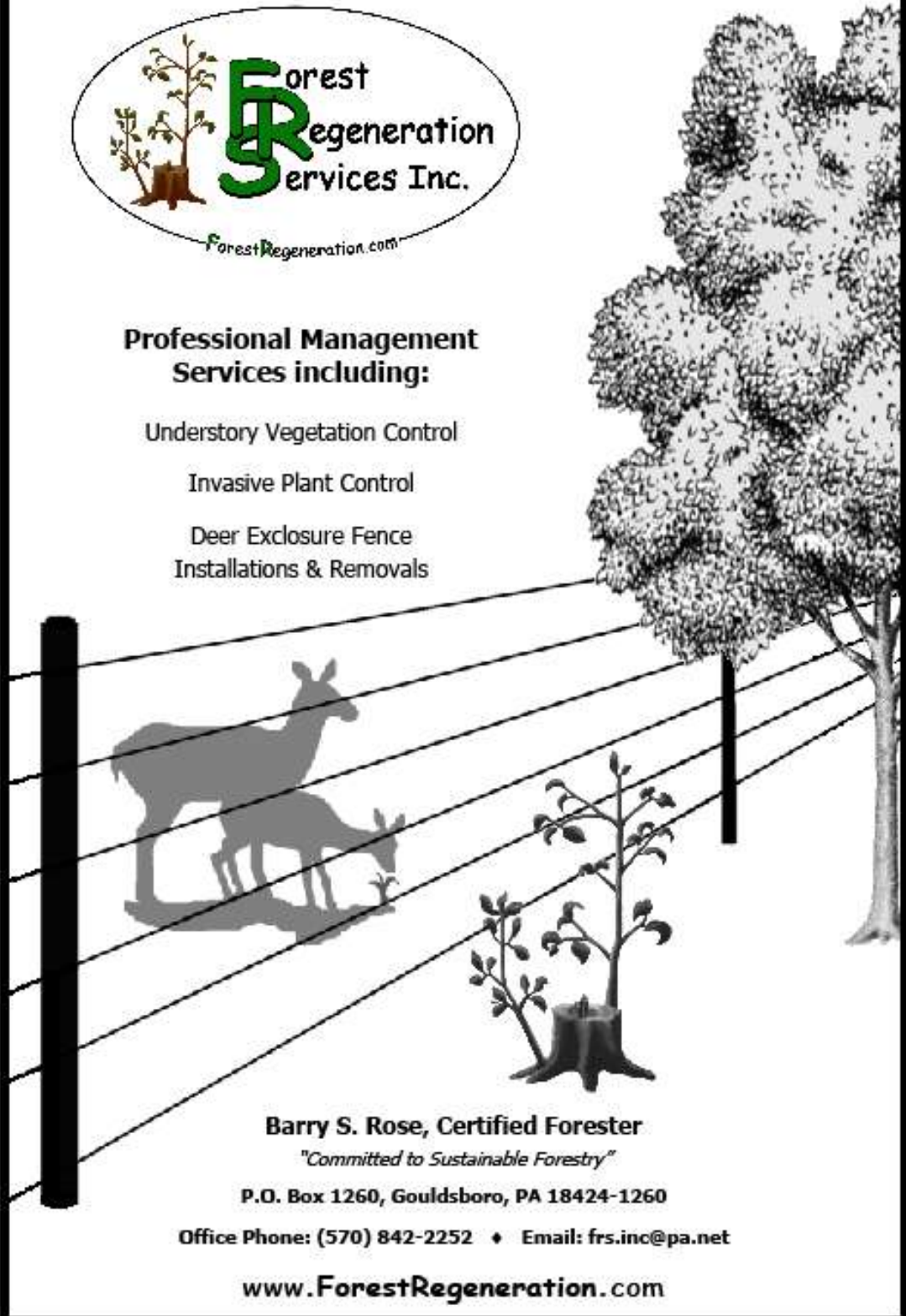


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The Allegheny News

Volume 21, No. 2

The Allegheny News is the official publication of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, published four times annually. **Deadline for articles and photos is March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.** Subscription rate is 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
PO Box 667 Honey Brook, PA 19344
www.alleghenysaf.org

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Cover Photo

Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

Photo by Bruce Lacy

Chair's Corner

Mike Kusko, Allegheny SAF Chair-Elect – Guest Columnist

Hello from the on-deck circle. I'm pitch-hitting for Rachel this issue since she is otherwise occupied with her wedding planning. Congratulations from all of us Rachel! June, of course, is the wedding month. I too just had a dose of wedding planning. My oldest daughter, Beth, was married this past weekend. Actually, I had little to do with the wedding plans. Beth, the groom, and my wife Rosemary did the planning. I just sort of stayed out of the way and made sure the checkbook was up to snuff!

The agenda for the upcoming summer meeting looks great. The mix of topics seems very interesting and timely. I am looking forward to the bus tour in particular. I would encourage you all to consider attending this meeting. There are lots of interesting things to see and do in this part of Pennsylvania. Don't forget your silent auction items! Jeff Stuffle and his committee have put together a top notch meeting. This does not happen without the significant input from a group of dedicated folks. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to help with the planning of several Allegheny SAF meetings. Each required considerable time and effort to successfully accomplish. However, the experience was always interesting, fun, and very rewarding. I encourage you to consider volunteering for a meeting committee when the opportunity arises. Remember, "Many hands make light work".

This afternoon I am planning to participate in a conference call concerning SAF membership. This continues to be a concern within all of SAF, and particularly within the Allegheny. Hopefully, we can make some progress on this issue.

I hope you all have a great summer, and look forward to seeing you at Valley Forge.

District VII Council Report

By Kim Steiner, District 7 Council Representative

Council held its second meeting of 2012 on June 1-3 at Wild Acres, SAF Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. The following is a summary of the main points of discussion and business:

- ♦ *Wild Acres National Office Property Update:* As you know, SAF has been trying for some time to sell an unused portion of the Wild Acres property, where SAF headquarters is located. The sale is all but completed, and members should expect to see an announcement in the July issue of *Forestry Source*. Council has voted to use the first proceeds from the sale to retire outstanding debt obligations.

- ◆ Policy: Council voted to approve revisions to a position statement entitled “Timber Harvesting on Federal, State, and Other Public Forest Lands.” On recommendation of the Committee on Forest Policy, Council also voted not to renew a position statement on “Use of Silviculture to Achieve and Maintain Forest Health on Public Lands.” The rationale for the second action was that the truly substantive portions of the statement are already covered by other position statements.
- ◆ SAF Budget and Finances: The budget is “on track” for the year so far, but that news is not so favorable when one recalls that the budget Council approved is a deficit budget. Significantly, membership revenues are ahead of this time last year, so the new dues structure has been a benefit to the organization. We appear to be on track to drop slightly in membership, continuing a 15-year pattern of dropping about 2% membership per year.
- ◆ Awards: Council approved nominations for National Awards and nominations for Fellow. The single Fellow nomination from District VII was Eric Norland, and his nomination was approved. Congratulations, Eric!
- ◆ Certification Review Board: Council approved funding a “job analysis” study as a first step toward adopting a Certified Urban Forester credential on the recommendation of the CRB. Because we would be taking over a certification program already developed by the California Urban Forest Council, which is willing to hand it off to SAF, this would be a relatively inexpensive credential to begin administering. Council also approved funding to perform needed maintenance on the Certified Forester exam.
- ◆ Terrestrial Ecosystem Management: Council accepted a report from the TEM Task Force and dismissed the committee. The report recommends that SAF develop an accreditation program for “ecosystem management” (the name remains unsettled). The report now goes to the Educational Policy Review Committee to develop the implementation language. It was emphasized that the Task Force recommendation describes a professional degree accreditation (the full report contains draft accreditation standards). It would not apply to most of the conservation and environmental studies programs that have emerged in the past couple of decades, and the number of degree programs that could qualify without modification is probably quite small.

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2012 Summer Meeting

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

The Valley Forge Chapter will be hosting the summer meeting on August 8-10, 2012 at the Wyndham Garden Exton Valley Forge Hotel, in Exton, PA. The theme for the summer meeting will be “Adapting Forestry to Environmental Changes”. Members, non-members, guests, families are invited to join us and to see what Southeastern Pennsylvania has to offer. There are many points of interest in the entire southeastern area including:

Philadelphia, including Independence National Historic Park, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, The Constitution Center, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Philadelphia Zoo – America’s First Zoo, The Franklin Institute, Masonic Temple and The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology.

Many world class gardens and arboretums including:

- Longwood Gardens
- Tyler Arboretum
- Chanticleer Garden
- Morris Arboretum

Within an easy hour drive in any direction see the Brandywine River Museum, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Washington Crossing Historic Park, Daniel Boone Homestead, Hershey Park, Hershey’s Chocolate World, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

Professional sports. See the Philadelphia Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

The Phillies will be playing home games on Wed. evening, Aug. 8th at 7:05 PM against the Atlanta Braves, and on Friday, August 10th at 7:05 PM against the St. Louis Cardinals. Contact the Phillies directly for tickets.

Visit scenic Amish Country in Lancaster County. Among the many points of interest are:

- Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum
- Wheatland, home of our 15th President, James Buchanan
- Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire in Manheim
- Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg
- The National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia
- Ephrata Cloister in Ephrata

So, bring the whole family and see more of Pennsylvania, while continuing to support our professional society and earn continuing education credits. We hope to see you in August!!

AUGUST 8-10, 2012
ALLEGHENY SAF SUMMER MEETING
“ADAPTING FORESTRY TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES”

Wyndham Garden Exton Valley Forge
815 N. Pottstown Pike, Exton, PA 19341
Telephone: 610-363-1100
Fax: 610-524-0639

(SAF 8.5 CFE Credits)

Wednesday August 8, 2012

2:00 PM Registration Desk Open – Hotel Lobby
2:00 – 5:00 PM Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting, Whitford Room
6:00 – 8:00 PM Icebreaker Reception (cash bar), Brandywine Room

Thursday, August 9, 2012

7:00 – 8:00 AM Registration Desk Open – Hotel Lobby
7:00 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast, Malvern Room
8:00 – 8:15 AM Welcome, Jeff Stuffle, Chair, Valley Forge Chapter
8:15 – 9:00 AM “What We Know About Climate Change”, Brenda Ekwurzel, Asst. Director of Climate Research and Analysis, Union of Concerned Scientist
9:00 - 9:45 AM “Creating Habitat for the Golden Winged Warbler”, Ben Jones, Habitat Planner, Pennsylvania Game Commission
9:45 – 10:00 AM Break
10:00 AM Buses leave for field trip
10:30 – 11:15 AM Marshlands. “Selection harvesting, hunting and conservation easement coordination”. Lloyd Casey, Consultant; Jim Moore, forest landowner; Brandywine Land Trust Representative
11:15 – 11:45 AM Drive to Birdsboro Watershed
11:45 – 12:30 PM “Management of a Watershed under a Forest Legacy Easement”, Aaron Durso, Birdsboro Town Manager; Jim Thorne, Natural Lands Trust; Lloyd Casey, Consultant; Rachael Billingham, PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
12:30 – 1:00 PM Lunch at Birdsboro Park along Hay Creek
1:00 – 1:30 PM Drive to French Creek State Park
1:30 – 1:45 PM “Management of French Creek State Park”, Eric Brown, Park Superintendent
1:45 – 2:00 PM Drive to Kurtz Tract
2:00 – 2:45 PM “Shelterwood cut”, Calvin and Ester Kurtz, landowner; Lloyd Casey, Consultant; Paul Schaffer, Gladfelder.
2:45 – 3:15 PM Drive to Tel Hai Community
3:15 – 4:00 PM “Development in Forested Landscapes”, Joe Swartz, Executive Director of Tel Hai; Mike France, Chair of the Honey Brook Township Planning Commission and Land Preservation Committee; Lloyd Casey, Consultant; Bob Girvin, Mt Airy Sawmill
4:00 – 4:30 PM Return to Wyndham Garden Hotel
4:30 - 5:15 PM Break and Prepare for Dinner
5:15 – 6:00 PM Bus Ride to Shady Maple Restaurant, East Earl, PA

6:00 – 7:00 PM Dinner at Shady Maple
7:00 – 7:30 PM “Amish Outreach in the Octorara Watershed”, Pat Fasono, Comprehensive Land Services
7:30 – 8:00 PM Walk around Amish Gift Shop
8:00 – 8:30 PM Return on bus to Wyndham Garden Hotel

Friday, August 10, 2012

7:00 – 7:45 AM Continental Breakfast and Browse Silent Auction Items
7:45 – 8:00 AM Division Meetings
8:00 – 8:30 AM Allegheny Business Meeting
8:30 - 10:00 AM Panel on “National Wood to Energy Roadmap”
“National Supply and Demand”, John Ferrell, US DOE
“Sustainability”, Bruce Arnold, National 25x25 Steering Committee
10:00 – 10:15 AM Break and final bids on Silent Auction
10:15 – 11:45 AM Panel on “National Wood to Energy Roadmap”
“Research and Development”, Dave Tenny, CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners
“Policy”, (Michael Goergen invited)
11:45 – 12:15 PM Questions of Panel Members
12:15 – 12:30 PM Closing Comments and Announce Silent Auction Winners

A block of 75 rooms are being held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Thirty-three rooms are standard, king, non-smoking; and 42 are standard, two double beds, non-smoking. Rollaway beds are available, based on availability, at an additional cost of \$15.00 per night. Please make your reservation directly to the hotel and tell them you are registering for the Allegheny SAF meeting. The block room rate is \$72.00 based on a single occupancy. All rates are subject to the prevailing state and local taxes which is currently 8%. The room rate block will be held until August 6, 2012. After that date, rooms will be available at the prevailing room rate, subject to availability.

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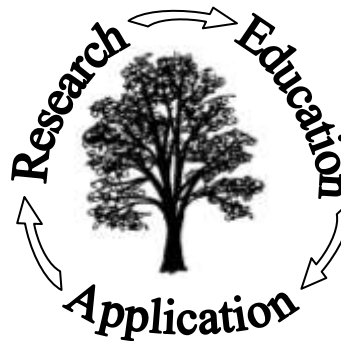
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Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum Examines Emerging Issues

By Ned Karger

**ROACH - BAUER
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*1984-2004
20th Anniversary*



The Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum held at the Kane Country Club on Thursday April 19, 2012, featured keynote speaker Dr. James Grace. His presentation addressed “Emerging Issues in Forestry and Land Management”. The Forum is a series of lectures on current forestry topics for foresters and related professionals in northwestern Pennsylvania and southwestern New York. Dr. Grace was named to the Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation at Penn State in August 2010. Previously, Grace had served in a variety of positions in state agencies including Deputy Secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and State Forester.

Grace stated that while serving as State Forester from 1994 to 2007, high quality hardwoods were in high demand and timber markets were strong. Black cherry was king and prices for standing timber kept going up every year. Annual timber revenue for the state forests soared from \$8 million/year in 1993 to a high of \$40 million/year in 2006. Million dollar timber sales became regular occurrences. All that changed when the housing bubble burst in 2007. With the collapse of the housing market came the collapse of lumber markets. US housing starts went from 1.7 million/year to 450,000/year. At the peak, about 1.6 billion board feet of timber per year was being harvested from public and private lands in Pennsylvania. Cherry saw logs were selling for over \$2 per board foot – veneer for two or three times that. The timber industry lost about 20,000 jobs in Pennsylvania and 294,000 nationally. Grace stated that peak harvest levels from 1995 – 2006 were not sustainable. While current harvest levels are well below those levels and can increase in the future, Pennsylvania is unlikely to return to those peak levels over the long term.

One issue that has not changed is that deer management continues to be a contentious issue. The Pennsylvania Game Commission instituted many new management techniques like antler restrictions and concurrent buck and doe seasons in the early 2000s. Significant improvements in deer herd health were observed from 2002 – 2007. Forest regeneration and wildlife habitat improved and sensitive species began to recover. A better balance of the deer herd with habitat developed in most areas. Since 2008, those trends seem to be regressing. “Nothing in my professional career has been more frustrating,” noted Dr. Grace. He believes that given the current structure of the Game Commission decision making process, this is unlikely to change. The commissioners and professional staff including the wildlife biologists don’t always work

well together. There is a lack of trust and good scientific data is not always used in the commissioner's decisions.

Dr. Grace stated he has met with many of the department heads in the new Corbett Administration. He believes they are good, dedicated professionals but many are not from this area and are not familiar with forestry and natural resource issues in this region. He encouraged the audience to invite them to visit and to learn about local forestry and management issues.

From Dr. Grace's perspective one of the most significant events in recent Pennsylvania history is the energy development in the Marcellus and other shale gas deposits. "It will affect us economically, socially, ecologically and politically for many years to come". These deep shale gas layers can be found in more than half of Pennsylvania. Since the first Pennsylvania wells were drilled in 2005, shale gas development has expanded at a furious pace. National and multinational companies have invested tens of billions of dollars in Pennsylvania, including purchasing gas rights from landowners. Currently landowners are receiving \$2-3 billion per year in royalties. This varies widely by region but is having a major positive economic impact on Pennsylvania as a whole. Also, natural gas is a very clean fossil fuel with lower emissions of carbon dioxide, sulfur and mercury than coal or oil. It is more reliable than solar or wind power and as a domestic energy source has positive impacts on energy security and jobs for the state and nation.

Some of the potential negative impacts include heavy truck traffic and the effects on roads. More weight-limited roads and road bonding are increasing costs for the forest products industry. Emissions are increased from compressors, trucks and drilling equipment. Issues associated with water quality and quantity used in fracking must be addressed. Other impacts are on recreation, timber harvesting and the regional skilled and unskilled workforce. One uncertain impact will be whether landowners receiving significant income from gas royalties will manage their forests and farmlands well for additional income and ecological benefits in the future.

Dr. Grace expressed pride in his tenure as the State Forester during which the state forest lands were certified as well managed. There was also heavy turnover in the Bureau of Forestry staff but many highly qualified, young professionals were hired. He feels that these things bode well for the Bureau in the future.

Many changes are also happening in the reorganization of the Penn State University College of Agriculture and the forestry school since he became employed there. He feels while some of these changes will be difficult, many are necessary in the current funding and economic realities and will have positive effects in the long run. The reorganization will be addressed during the upcoming October Roach Bauer Forestry Forum when Forestry School Director Dr. Mike Messina will be one of the speakers. Messina will team with David Newman Director of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for a presentation on "The Future of Forestry Education".

During the Forum over \$600 was raised from donations and a maple syrup sale for the Bob Bauer Scholarship Fund at Penn State.

New Resources for Women Forest Landowners

A Successful Retreat

By Amanda Subjin, Delaware Highlands Conservancy

On a colorful fall weekend in October, 2011, twenty-one women landowners headed out to Camp Susque in Trout Run, PA for the inaugural Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat. Most attendees hailed from Pennsylvania, while others made the trip from New York and West Virginia. The four-day retreat was facilitated by Allyson Muth, Forest Stewardship Program Associate at Penn State University, Amanda Subjin, Stewardship Coordinator for the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Nancy Baker, Pennsylvania landowner.



Attendees were selected through an application process focused on women willing to attend the retreat in order to become mentors for other women landowners across their regions. The women bunked together, shared meals and learned in group settings through dynamic and fun hands-on workshops and field trips. We were fortunate to have presenters representing diverse organizations as PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Penn State University, USDA Forest Service, Oregon State University and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The Retreat was the culmination of a series of prior workshops and events held across the state. In 2008, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy realized that due to demographic trends, more women were becoming owners and managers of forestland. Because women landowners often feel that they lack the knowledge to make informed decisions about land, the Conservancy, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers, began offering educational programs targeted to women forest landowners, and *Women and Their Woods* was born.

Post-retreat, participants are building on the momentum of the experience and employing the knowledge they have gained to increase education about the value of forest land and sound stewardship practices among other women forest landowners in their communities. The

Conservancy and Penn State University will continue to provide educational outreach to the women mentors and support them in creating their regional *Women and Their Woods* groups.

The 2012 Women and Their Woods Educational Training and Retreat are being offered to a new group of attendees from September 27-30. Applications can be downloaded from the website <http://extension.psu.edu/womenandtheirwoods> and are due by August 1. The cost to attend is \$130 and includes all meals, lodging and educational materials. Selected attendees will be notified by September 1. Hard copies of the application and more information about the event can be obtained by contacting Amanda Subjin at the Delaware Highlands Conservancy by phone (570-226-3164) or email at conserve@delawarehighlands.org.

In the meantime, you can view pictures of the 2011 Retreat and the recent 2012 Spring Workshop by visiting the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's Facebook page. And if you would like to hear more about the event, listen online to Kara Holsopple's NPR radio story at www.Alleghenyfront.org; search Women and Their Woods.

A New Website

In May, 2012 a new website, www.womenowningwoodlands.net was launched to provide women forest landowners across the United States with educational resources to help them better manage their forests. The website was created by the National Woodland Owners Association, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service.

Currently, website content is developed by a team of regional contributing editors from around the country – all women and all part of the forestry community as foresters, consultants, extension educators or landowners. Ultimately, the goal is to have one editor for each state. Posts on the site include technical information, event announcements, interviews with women landowners, and book reviews.

Check out this website and feel free to share your ideas, suggestions and information with any of the editors. We look forward to continually providing our audience with new and valuable information.

In Memoriam

William D. Scherer

William Donald Scherer, 78, passed away on February 1, 2012. Born in Long Island, NY, he was the son of William W. and Elsie D. Scherer.

Mr. Scherer retired from Mead –Westvaco in 1994 as District Manager, Wood Procurement at the Luke, Maryland paper mill. He received his BS in Forest Management from State University

of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University in 1956. He was a retired Lieutenant Commander in the US Naval Reserve where he served aboard destroyers as Gunnery Officer.

He was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters in 1990 and served as Chairman of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters in 1988-1989. He was appointed Chairman of the Maryland Board of Registration for Foresters under Governor Harry Hughes and chaired the Maryland Tree Farm Committee. A member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, he chaired the Forest Industry Committee and was a member of the Policy and Legislative Committee.

In addition to serving his profession and his country, he served his God in the local church as deacon, adult Sunday school teacher and youth director. He was a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church. Mr. Scherer is survived by his wife, Grace Nelson Scherer and two daughters, Karen Asire and her husband Jeff, Jennifer Conn and her husband Garry; and five grandchildren, Peter Shamblin and his wife Missy, Katie Shamblin, Daniel Shamblin, Tyler Conn and Ryan Conn, all of Greenville, SC.

Austin N. “Dick” Lentz

Austin N. “Dick” Lentz, 98, passed away on April 13, 2012 in Pompano Beach, FL. Mr. Lentz received his bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 1935 and did graduate work in forestry at Colorado State University.

He began his forestry career in forest pathology. During the late 1930’s, he joined the USDA Forest Service in land acquisition. He worked with the Maryland Department of Forestry in the Civilian Conservation Corps program and later joined the USDA Soil Conservation Service. For the last 25 years of his career, he was a member of the faculty at Rutgers University, where he was responsible for the Forestry Extension Education Program. He authored many publications in forestry and was the author of the book, “Common Forest Trees of New Jersey”. Mr. Lentz received numerous citations during his career. He was Chairman of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters in 1954 and was a principal in organizing the national Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Mr. Lentz was predeceased by his wife, Alice. He is survived by his son, Ned Lentz and his wife Mary; his daughter, Rebecca Lentz Gibbons and her husband Gerald; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John Kitch

John Kitch passed away on April 26, 2012.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

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Coming Events

June 15 Deadline for the Summer 2012 Issue of the *Allegheny News*. Send Microsoft Word articles and JPG photos to ansaf@comcast.net

August

8-10 Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting
Lionville, PA
Hosted by Valley Forge Chapter

September

15 Deadline for the Fall 2012 Issue of the *Allegheny News*. Send Microsoft Word articles and JPG photos to ansaf@comcast.net

September

27-30 Women and Their Woods Fall Retreat, Trout Run, PA

October

24-27 SAF National Convention
Spokane, WA

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

Winter 2013: Western Gateway, PA

Summer 2013: Keystone, PA

Winter 2014: Northern Hardwood, PA

Summer 2014: West Virginia

Future SAF National Conventions

2013: Charleston, SC – October 27-31

2014: Salt Lake City, UT – October 8-12

Allegheny SAF Committee Chairs

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