

The Allegheny News



**Allegheny Society of American Foresters
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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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Chair's Corner

Cecile Stelter



Happy late spring/early summer to all ANSAF members! Many thanks to the New Jersey Division for hosting the Winter Meeting in February. The agenda was very interesting, timely and informative and the opportunity to meet and visit with other professionals and colleagues is always a high point of our meetings.

As is customary at Winter Meetings, we held the ANSAF awards ceremony during the evening banquet. Congratulations to all those who were recognized for their service and dedication to our forestry profession.

Participating in the awards ceremonies is perhaps on the most rewarding and humbling activities as Chair. I am always so impressed and appreciative for all the time, dedication and work that the awardee's have demonstrated in both their professional and personal circles. I am sure if you look over your division and/or chapter membership lists, you will discover several deserving individuals. Why not nominate that person for an ANSAF (or National) award? ANSAF award nominations are due in early December, so there is about 6 months to work on a nomination packet. Although you might like it to be a surprise, the process goes much smoother if you involve your nominee and they help you accurately capture their biographical information. It is a true compliment to be recognized by your national professional society and your peers. Please consider nominating someone that you feel has made a difference for forestry. For more specific information about each award, check out the following web locations:

ANSAF Awards: <https://alleghenysaf.org/awards>

National SAF Awards: <https://wwwforester.org> Under "Community" tab --- "Awards & Fellows"

Thank you for your consideration and in advance, for your nominations.

The ANSAF Summer Meeting will be hosted by the Pinchot Chapter on September 13-15, 2023, at Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, PA. If you haven't ever been to Grey Towers (Gifford Pinchot's Estate) or it's been a while --- you won't want to miss this unique opportunity and outstanding program sponsored by the Pinchot Chapter. Hope to see many of you there.

If I can be of any help to you in any way, or if you have any ideas for the Allegheny that you would like to discuss, please always feel free to reach out to me. Wishing you and yours a safe and enjoyable spring and summer season.

**Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
Somerset, NJ
February 15, 2023**

Attendees: Cecile Stelter, Susan Lacy, Mike Huneke, Champ Zumbrun, Riley Pierce (student member, virtual), Steve Resh, Brad Elison, Joe Glover, Bryan Rose, Dave Trimpey, Richard Schwab, Bud Reaves, Steve Kalleser, Bryan Seipp (at-large), Calvin Norman, Jonathan Kays, Sara Fitzsimmons (minutes)

**Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
February 15, 2023**

1. Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2022
2. Welcome – Student Member, Executive Committee (virtual attendees & in-person)
3. Treasurer’s Report and 2023 Budget
4. Executive Director’s Report
5. Incorporation of Allegheny SAF
6. Membership Committee Report
7. Program Committee Report
8. Leadership Academy Update
9. Awards Committee Report
10. Hall of Fame Committee Update
11. Other Committee Reports
12. 100th Anniversary Update – video, booklet, etc.
13. Discussion of Open Member-at-Large Seats
14. Committee Structure and Leadership - vacancies
15. Chapter/Division Reports – including any changes to officers
16. Old Business
 - Any Outstanding Issues from National Convention
17. New Business
 - Boy Scout Jamboree – co-sponsor

1. Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2022

Dave Trimpey wants to correct a note regarding his report during the August 17, 2022 meeting. While he did say that the meetings are set up for the next 10 years, he meant to say that they are planned out for the next 10 meetings, which would equate to a five year span.

Steve Resh makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Joe Glover seconds. Approval was unanimous.

2. Welcome – Student Member, Riley Pierce, Executive Committee (virtual attendee)

Riley Pierce is a Junior at West Virginia University (WVU), and is the new student member of the executive committee. The committee welcomed Riley, and all attendees gave brief introductions.

Previous student member, Sam Gardener, has graduated from Allegheny College. He wrote a letter to the Executive Committee recommending: 1) a document defining the role and expected duties of the student member; and 2) subsidizing or paying in full the travel and meeting costs meeting attendance. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

3. Treasurer's Report and 2023 Budget

Treasurer's Report

Opening checking balance for 2022 was \$6,910.79. The Book Ledger shows deposits down the right-hand side, including money for convention for \$5K and includes dues. All payments are itemized by check number through 2022. Overall, ANSAF spent \$27,020.44 but only brought in \$23,555. As has been the trend for several years, ANSAF has overspent through the year.

The opening balance for 2023 should be \$3,445. Steve has sent out dues to the state divisions under ANSAF, but those checks haven't been cashed. Should there be any action items taken regarding long outstanding checks? No specific action was recommended or taken.

The endowment stock account began 2022 at \$81,911.80 and ended at \$78,733.45. As of January 2023, it was about back up to \$82,000. Although a recommendation was made to close the Student Account, that was not done and it continues to stand at \$8,845.27

There was an HSD assessment this year even though there was not last year. Susan Lacy asked how HSD assesses those dues, why, and when? No one knows, but Cecile will inquire. Steve went through an itemized list of the various expenses for ANSAF.

There is supposed to be another \$5,000 of income from SAF for the National Convention. Both Cecile and Steve have asked about that money and no answer has been forthcoming at that time. Should we get a second signatory on the checking account? This will likely be Steve Resh's last year as Treasurer for the ANSAF. Steve is working on a replacement, as well as to get a secondary signatory to take over for him as necessary. Dave made up the point that some banks ask for official resolutions within meeting minutes assigning new signatories for a checking account.

Regarding the outstanding check for NJ, Steve will write out another check to replace what is likely a no longer valid.

Mike Huneke motions to accept the Treasurers report up to and including the end of 2022. No further discussion. Unanimously passes.

Budget Discussion

Dick Schwab asks about the standing savings account for student funds and if that can be used to help student representatives on the Executive Committee. Can we designate the funds in that savings account for that purpose? Mike Huneke proposes making a line item in the budget, and then using the savings account to cover that. Steve says the savings account of \$887+ has been spent out. We gave \$500 to Allegany College, but didn't take it out of that savings account. There is a balance in it, but there's really no "real" money in it. Everyone supports students to come to this meeting; but, our only income right now is dues. We bring in about \$10,000 in dues, then request \$1,000 from whomever sponsors the Winter meeting and \$500 from the summer meeting. So \$11,500 is our income, when we pay \$10,000 for the Executive Director, leaving little discretionary income.

The by-laws state that each school can request \$100 for each meeting to support student travel. How do we raise more funds? If we don't bring in more, we can't spend more.

Quiz Bowl plaque expense should be carried by the hosting Chapter.

Chair Stelter recommends pausing discussion and approval of the budget so that additional discussion can be had through the remaining agenda which may impact the budget.

---- Back at 5:54pm after other agenda item and discussion.

Current proposed budget is balanced. Forgot \$500 for tax prep. Expenses are likely to be \$16,000. PO Box rental needs to go up. If we raise expenses, we have to raise income.

Mike asks what we've declared as appropriate expenses for the endowment. Can we take student travel out of there? The account cannot benefit individuals. It has to benefit the organization as a whole. The move would have been a good expense to come out of the endowment. Who is the chair of the endowment?

If there's a gap, we need to increase donations. Can we ask for donations at this meeting? What are the Allegheny's dues per member? We get \$20/member. We have the option to raise that, which we did a couple years ago.

We're starting the year w/ \$4,000. We don't have enough to bail out other Chapters. We couldn't help out NJ cover the \$10K. What are the stipulations on the endowment? Can't we use that to pay \$10K for executive support?

Add funding on there for the student executive committee member? Move that up to \$1,000 on student travel awards and consider a cost-share.

We should look at an increase for the Executive Director stipend. The position was started in 2011 at \$7,500. It's been at \$10K for awhile. Susan doesn't bother to ask. Looking at PNW office, that person is actively involved in planning state society meetings which are given to divisions and chapters. They have \$40 in dues just to support that position from each member. For the budget: Increase \$10,250 for Executive Director. Stamps need to be increased to \$100. Add tax prep to \$500. Balance on income is to add up to the expense.

Steve Kallesser moves to accept the balanced budget as amended. All in support? Unanimously approved.

4. Executive Directors' report – Susan Lacy

a. Chapter Reports

Still need tax information from NJ, WV, Keystone, NHW, and Western Gateway. Susan is recommending that ANSAF use a CPA to eFile the taxes rather than eFiling herself. The CPA will ensure that that cost will be no more than \$500.

ANSAF has never filed state taxes. This will happen in 2023 as SAF requires Divisions to Incorporate. Will need to file taxes in PA as well as “foreign” taxes in MD, DE, NJ, and WV. Susan will explore all options with her CPA.

Everyone needs to file their Local Unit Roster (LUR). Susan says only two chapters in ANSAF have completed that spreadsheet. Susan will be sending out reminders on that to them.

Steve Resh asks – are there any consequences regarding insurance or liability if a Chapter does not upload and LUR? Susan doesn't know but will inquire.

b. Leadership Academy Updates

Originally slated to happen in March in New England. Both the NY and New England representatives to the committee have suffered extreme health concerns. As such, the date needs to be moved from March. NY has nominated a new representative for the committee. This gives everyone more time to make nominations for the Academy. The price was likely going to be \$400 - \$500 per person. Last year only 4 people from ANSAF went to the Academy. The first year there were 8-9, the second year a 12-13. There are likely people who are interested, and we might go back to fall dates.

Cecile suggests that, based on Chapter meeting schedules, more nominations would be likely to be gotten by holding the event in the Fall.

Cecile proposes there be an official MOU between the three units, ANSAF, NY, and New England, to make sure the intentions of the Academy are being filled in the future. Make sure that's down on paper so it can be passed on into the future. Maybe 1-2 pages with the Objective, who was/is involved, and the ongoing intention and purpose.

5. Incorporation on Allegheny SAF

Susan is trying to boil down the needs of ANSAF. According to the lawyers, because we are incorporating as a non-profit corporation, Delaware does not provide any advantages. Because the “tax responsible party” (Susan) is in PA, and most ANSAF members are in PA, the lawyer recommends incorporating in PA. Once the officers of the EC fill out the necessary information, they all need to virtually sign.

Foreign entity filing – this will be required in DE, MD, NJ, and WV. Each one of those four states will require different paperwork, and Susan will need that information. Reports will need to be filed with the state of PA. Each time officers are switched, a report needs to be filed with the state of PA.

The overall cost of incorporation is being taken by SAF, but there will be ongoing paperwork filing costs.

Charity Registration: Department of Revenue and files: based on your level of income and expense, you don't need to file for charity registration. According to SAF, ANSAF is already registered as a charity in PA. Is this also necessary in all the other states? Susan suggests her job could expand exponentially based on this incorporation.

Once incorporated, they will need to create new by-laws. SAF will provide a template. There will be affiliate agreements to outline who does what. SAF will also distribute a Business Operations Handbook. This was started by Appalachian SAF to address the many things which are/were not following "Best Business Practices".

The name of the organization will officially be "Allegheny Society of American Forests, Incorporated". Some states require that name be used in the foreign filings. You don't have to get all new checks, etc. made.

Tax ID: all units need to use the ANSAF, Inc tax ID. MD's tax ID is only 2 digits off from ANSAFs. Need to have a vote of the membership to either approve or disapprove the incorporation. I have 30 votes and I will be presenting this on Friday morning during the business meeting. We have to have in the meeting that they were given the option.

6. Membership Committee report – Bud Reaves

Figures from SAF Leadership Central, 578 members as of this morning. Up 12 members since last year, which is not huge, but going the right direction. 24% of members are eligible for senior discount for McDs coffee. Members in danger of not-renewing: Some familiar names are on there.

SAF has revamped their membership levels, combining levels and hopefully making it easier to understand. Looking to reduce the dues for "core members". Reduce rate for recent graduates right out of college.

How do we get more members? Maybe we picked up some at the convention? Need to reach out to students, high school students? MD Forest Service used to say "we expect you to be part of a professional organization". They promoted SAF. Selling points for the state to support it was for training, and justifying the expense. If you have licensing in your state, like MD does. But PA does not. How many people are coming to meetings and getting benefits but aren't members? Trainings is the best way to get CEUs.

Most of us can remember an individual who took an interest and brought us in. A professor or colleague – there was a person. That person-to-person connection needs to be better made. You can spark and develop interest in forestry, but you have to invite people to the meeting(s) and get people involved. The plateau Chapter has a free picnic in early August so interns, technicians, etc. are still working and can attend.

Riley outlines the “bottleneck effect”. Only a few folks pick forestry, only a few come to programs in the region, then only a select few in forestry will join ANSAF. Need to increase benefits to the members. If you show young folks that it’s worth it through networking and fellowship, they’re more likely to come. But if it’s too old-fashioned, the organization will have a hard time attracting people.

7. Program Committee – Dave Trimpey

Dick Schwab states that there is a Save-the-Date for the ANSAF Summer meeting. It will be at Grey Towers, probably focusing on Forest History. There will be a tour of Grey Towers, not sure if we will also get a tour of Milford Experimental Forest. Many other ideas floating around. Want to focus on development of history over the years, past, current, and future. Dave asks that Dick and Brad get him a theme once it’s established show he can add it to the list that dates back to 1973.

Trying to resurrect the 2020 pandemic meeting, taking as many of the ideas from there as possible.

Been in contact with folks from Northern Hardwood who will host the next Winter Meeting. Ken Kane is working with those folks on that one.

On the ANSAF website, under documents, there is a PDF called “ANSAF Program Schedule” which projects upcoming ANSAF program through 2027.

WV will be on-deck for 2024 Summer meeting. By 2027, we’ll be back to NJ. If we stick to the current line-up, it would be

8. 2023 Leadership Academy Update

- *Covered under the Executive Director’s Report*

9. Award Committee – Calvin Norman

Three awards winners, Calvin custom made them all with laser-cutting and etching onto Basswood. Candidates can finish them as they wish. The nominators can talk for two minutes about their nomination and give the plaque as well.

Considering adding a “Forestry Educator of the Year” award. Cecile encourages such an award to include both education and outreach. Could be professor, education, community educator, nature center education, etc.

Susan asks - how can we bump up nominations for these awards?

Calvin will help anyone who wants to submit a nomination for a National Award.

10. Hall of Fame – Champ Zumbrun

Thanks the MD/DE Division for submitting Terri Batchelor. She was nominated and is now posthumously entering the Foresters Hall of Fame. She was a pioneer as the first female forester employed by the State of MD in the 1970s.

Clay, her son, will be accepting the award in her honor. ANSAF and the MD/DE Division are helping to pay for Clay’s attendance to the meeting. Cecile suggests there be standards for spelling out the defrayed costs. Each Division can submit someone to the Hall of Fame. Mike

suggests the that Division nominating the person cover travel costs and that ANSAF cover dinner costs for up to two attendees. The Unit nominating the person will coordinate travel and help defray the costs for the nominee.

Steve Resh motions that ANSAF pay for up-to-two dinners and the plaque. Steve Kallessen seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

11. Nominating Committee, Committee Structure, and Leadership Vacancies – Mike Huneke

Mike will discuss with everyone their current positions and working with folks to fill any gaps. Need someone to fill the Chair-elect position. And other vacancies as well, like the Treasurer spot. New members will be voted on in Fall 2023 to start their term January 1, 2024. Electronic balloting is the most convenient, allows more members to vote, and gives more time to seek nominations.

There are 4 members at large, only two of which are filled.

Are we going to seek Chairs of other committees? Cecile and Mike Huneke will work together to seek nominations for open-positions.

Auditing, Communications, Education, Education Endowment, and Forest History. Some committees were named in the by-laws. Also need to have people understand what their role is. If we don't have a mission for the committee, do we need to still have that committee? Since the by-laws have to be redone anyway, let's take the chance to redo the committees written into them. Cecile, Bud, and Mike will work on this for revision recommendations. ANSAF has current openings on the committee for the following committees: Educations, Forest History, Endowment, and Communications, and two member-at-large positions. Steve Resh will do Audit as long as there's a new Treasurer.

12. 100th Anniversary Update

Paid for a professional to create a video to be used at the opening ceremony of the National Convention. Also created to promote ANSAF. With that, we voted to update the 75th Anniversary booklet. Cecile wanted to get that done last year, but it didn't happen. Did get the 75th Anniversary booklet transcribed. An envelope for each division and Chapter with a thumb drive and a copy of the video which they can make use of, along w/ the 75th Anniversary Word Doc. Want all units to get edits and updates back to Cecile to her by June 30. Update the last 25 years. Get that in a final format and see if we want to print or just put on the website. Link to the video on the MD Extension Website. Need to get it onto the ANSAF website.

13. Chapter/Division Reports – including any changes to officers

- PA – Not much to report. Will probably have a virtual meeting in the spring. Looking at membership numbers, we'll need to discuss how far Valley Forge has dropped, now only at 25 members. Both Valley Forge and Rothrock have dropped significantly.
- MD/DE –Had a legislative meeting with MD Forest Association (MFA) in Annapolis. Talked about forester opportunities and market. Both Jonathan and Bryan were there and report that it was an excellent meeting. Jonathan said it was the best one of those meetings ever.

MFA did a great job coordinating the event which included landowners, practitioners, legislators, etc. Forest Conservation Act – how forests are treated during the development process. Following that very closely.

- WV – No representation
- NJ – Division currently in flux. 100 tickets for SCD. Stopped at 1000 mid-year. too many people having violations during the pandemic. Lost their Chair. Private sector trying to save jobs. NJ Division went downhill. Got a new Chair in 2022. His wife became seriously ill and he can't do anything for this meeting. Went from picking up the pieces to "we're toast". Fell on Steve Kalleser to pull the whole thing together. Treasurer who hasn't been elected, the only people technically in office are chair and immediate past chair. Just saying he was appointed. He's losing some stomach lining. Had retired in the middle of all that and moved to Williamsport, PA. Chris. NJ is using Federal ID number and Chris is submitting that. Trying to bring things back up to speed. The larger consultancies in NJ are "put up or shut-up" or your brother foresters won't let you live it down. Special election to be held in March to take care of remaining terms. Get 2024 elections done in November. Doing this meeting has sucked a ton.
- PA – *Keystone*: No report
- PA - *Western Gateway*: No report
- PA- *Northern Hardwoods*: A recent meeting was held to elect a new secretary/treasurer
- PA - *Pinchot*: Need to rebuild leadership. Pinchot State Forest has some great new foresters who are SAF members and Dick is cultivating them to bring them into the Chapter.
- PA – *Rothrock*: No updates
- PA - *Valley Forge*: No updates. Owen Martin is the Chair. Susan is the treasurer by default to not let the Chapter default. Owen is going to try and re-up the Chapter.
- PA – *Gateway*: No updates
- PA – *Plateau*: Meeting next month on lumber trends and the hardwood market

14. Old Business

Cecile will look into \$5K we haven't yet gotten from National.

15. New Business

a. Boy Scout National Jamboree

The Boy Scout National Jamboree will be held from 7/19 – 7/29, 2023. Jeff Kochenderfer has been attending the meetings. Want to co-coordinate w/ ANSAF, WV Division, WV DOF. Exhibit space = \$3K for 10days. Forestry professional and forestry merit badge. Great opportunity. Want to ask that we ask for \$3500 for background checks for the volunteers who attend and will need to get background checks. Pays for booth, tent, and wrap-around services. Asking for \$3500 out of the educational endowment for that. ANSAF can vote to give money from the endowment. This committee absorb this by virtue of that committee being defunct. Do we need any sort of formal process for a request? This should be documented. Supposed to do a write-up. It's on the website. We don't see it referenced in the bylaws. Twice a year will take

applications.

Do a resolution and vote on it Friday morning. That is definitely an appropriate expenditure. Do this every 4 years and it's in our territory. Cecile will leave time during the business meeting to cover the vote.

Need volunteers to staff and work with youth. Trying to get WVU grad students to have a separate booth. Getting WVU Davis School and UMD to have a booth.

Should Susan create and pass around a recruitment flyer for volunteer? Mike says Susan should work w/ Jeff Kochenderfer to do that. SFI, USFS, BLM, USFWS – lots of people there with different exhibits. Have the support from the committee. We will make it official on Friday. Will need the money around March. "Request for Proposals" at the end of the ANSAF website.

Dave motions to adjourn the meeting. Everyone seconds. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 6:23 PM

APPENDIX 1: Letter from first Executive Committee Student Representative, Samuel Gardener

22 December 2022

To whom it may concern:

As the year winds to a close, I recognize my tenure on the executive committee is also nearing its end. It has been my honor to serve as the first voting student representative on the Allegheny Society of American Foresters Executive Committee. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for allowing me this opportunity, and for welcoming me into the world of SAF. In particular, I would like to thank Chair Cecile Stelter, former chair Mike Huneke, and Treasurer Steve Resh for their part in bringing me into this committee. I would also like to thank Professor Marie Miller of Allegany College of Maryland for nominating me for this position and encouraging me to take it.

I would like to take a moment and make a few final remarks which I hope the committee will consider. First, I hope I have met your expectations as your very first voting student representative. To be perfectly honest, I am not sure how I have performed, due in large part to the newness of the position and the relatively undefined nature of its duties. Although I did have an initial phone call with Mike Huneke regarding the position, I never felt like I knew exactly what the Executive Committee wanted me to be doing with my position. Beyond attending the meetings & voting on resolutions, I did little else in my role. Perhaps this is my own failing or perhaps this is precisely what the committee intended, but either way I would suggest that a defined statement of duty be made available to future student representatives, so they will understand what is expected of them.

Second, I would like to suggest that in the future, ANSAF covers the costs of attending and

potentially the lodging for the student representative to attend the spring & fall meeting. College students like myself are not known for having deep pockets, and lobbying our individual schools to pay those costs seems like more trouble than it need be. ANSAF choosing to cover those costs would alleviate that stress (financial & otherwise) from the student representative, making it far easier for the student to attend what could potentially be their very first SAF meeting.

I hope these comments are received with the same intended helpfulness and gratitude with which they are offered. It was my honor and my pleasure to serve on the executive committee as a student, and I hope to potentially return one day in the near future as a young professional.

Thank you for your time & happy holidays,

Sam Gardner
samuelgardner444@gmail.com

2023 Allegheny SAF Summer Training Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford PA

*“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future”
~ Theodore Roosevelt*



The Pinchot Chapter is working hard on finalizing the agenda and program for the 2023 Summer Training to be held on September 13th (Wednesday), 14th (Thursday) and 15th (Friday), 2023. A focal point of the training this year will be a day-long program to be held at Grey Towers National Historic Site (Grey Towers) <https://www.fs.usda.gov/greytowers> . Grey Towers, the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, is located in historic Milford, Pennsylvania <https://milfordpa.us/about-milford/>. As a Forester and member of the Society of American Foresters, a visit to Grey Towers may be on your bucket list. Why not make the visit this September.

The Program Committee is compiling topics and speakers relating to the theme: *Our Growth Curve: Beginning from Yesteryear, Challenges of the Present, Strategies for the Future*. The program will kick off September 13th with a social reception and business meeting at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in Matamoras, PA. For those who can arrive early on Wednesday, we are planning a hike within the Milford Experimental Forest

<https://greytowers.org/milfordexperimentalforest/>. The next day,

September 14th, will be a day-long program to be held at Grey Towers. We will gather in the Pool Terrace, a covered meeting area, for tours in the morning, for lunch around noon, and then speakers in the afternoon. Grey Towers Heritage Association <https://greytowers.org> has offered to cover costs of tours and meeting space as well as help with refreshments. We will end the day with a barbeque at nearby Lily Pond Picnic area, which is located within the Delaware State Forest. We are looking into providing a flyfishing program at Lily Pond to add to the day. We will finish up the program on September 15th at the Best Western with programs ending at noon.



For those who can extend their visit, there is plenty to see and do in the area. Grey Towers is in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania along the Delaware River. The Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area <https://scenicwilddelawareriver.com/about> are local attractions. The Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing Matamoras/Milford has easy access to these areas as well as High Point State Park (NJ), Lake Wallenpaupack, Bushkill Falls, and Milford Beach. Recreational activities include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and many trails for hiking. Golfing is close by at the Lynx Golf Club in Port Jervis (NY) and historic Cliff Park Golf Course near Milford. We hope you can join us for what we hope will be an educational and enjoyable program. We expect to complete the agenda and get the registration form available shortly.

Lodging and Room Reservations - A block of rooms is reserved at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing, 120 Rtes 6 & 209, Matamoras, PA. Please make your reservation directly to the hotel and tell them you are registering for the Allegheny SAF meeting. Block room rate is \$139.00/night (plus taxes). Rooms will be held at the above rate until August 13, 2023. Room availability and rate is not guaranteed after this date. For room reservations, call the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing (570) 491-2400, <https://www.bwhuntslanding.com> .

*"I have... been a governor every now and then," Pinchot wrote in his memoirs,
"but I am a forester all the time.*

Science Update

Contributed by Melissa Thomas Van-Gundy
USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

The findings and conclusions in this publication are those of the authors and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.

Review of *An Active Hand: Fundamentals of Restoration Forestry* by Peter P. Bundy

I picked up a copy of *An Active Hand: Fundamentals of Restoration Forestry* at the national convention in Baltimore last fall. Published in 2019 by Society of American Forester (SAF), Peter P. Bundy explains the ecological foundations of forest restoration through his personal and professional life as a consulting forester. I love the first line of the introduction “Welcome to a disturbed and degraded landscape, one that is at once wounded and yet full of potential.” This sentiment describes many of the forests we work in and captures some of our experiences. I’m sure we’ve all had those discussions with landowners who were happy with a harvest where trees were left (so it must be good!) but we have to tell them all their high valued oaks are gone, and it will be a struggle to get them back. Foresters recognize the subtle clues of past disturbances but also the potential for recovery and restoration.

Bundy continues his description and personal and professional journey of forest restoration with another excellent first sentence in Chapter 1 “Restoration begins with pain.” (I swear I read more than just the first lines of each chapter in this book!) This first chapter sets the stage, describing forest change from post ice age to European settlement. Early on, Bundy reminds us that restoration forestry does not mean returning the forest to precise presettlement conditions but rather, it is the art and science of returning forests and woodlands to healthy conditions. Restoration forestry means returning historic function. Forests are, in large part, disturbance driven. However, alterations to the historical severity and extent of a disturbance can degrade a forest stand. The personal thread of the book is introduced here as we learn how a windstorm flattened Bundy’s mature hardwood stand, this making the idea of disturbance more tangible. Time is a major component in the ideas of degradation and restoration and is a variable foresters know well. We may not view time as deeply as geologists perhaps, but we take a longer view than many other professions.

Definitions and descriptions of terms continues in Chapter 2, where sustainability is introduced, and the ecological underpinnings of restoration are discussed. With forestry being applied forest ecology, these roots should be no surprise to the seasoned forester. The time scale of our profession is brought up again – “From a geologist’s point of view, most forestry practices will never be sustainable.” Ideas of sustainable forestry and restoration also include ecological forestry; however, ecology is only one side of the restoration triangle, the other sides are economics and culture. I find it interesting that Bundy describes this as an equilateral triangle right from the start. (Side note – what is it about forestry that demands three-legged stools and triangles as metaphors?). That all three sides are of equal length is important in that historically, forest management or mismanagement has chosen one side over the others. This triangle reminds me of a statement on the early criticism of American forestry. In an extended essay on *The Role of Research in the Development of Forestry in North America*, Bailey and Spoehr (1929) write –

“Most of the criticism of the profession, for not having applied European systems of

forest management or for failing to develop ‘truly scientific’ methods, is based upon misconceptions. It is not clearly recognized that an intensive silviculture can evolve only under highly favorable political, economic, and industrial conditions, and that European silviculture developed gradually through a prolonged process of empiricism and of adaptation of methods to meet the requirements of specific local complexes of natural and economic factors.”

Admittedly, the triangle or three-legged stool of ecology, culture, and economics distills their idea on the evolution of silvicultural practices rather well. In *An Active Hand*, Bundy rounds out this emphasis on the ecological basis for restoration forestry with a reminder of the importance of soil and water in a forest and the other life forms that depend on forested habitats.

Throughout the book, Bundy adeptly weaves in examples from his personal and professional life. We learn how the first land purchase made early in his career set him on a restoration path. In the economics chapter, he doesn’t try to hide the fact that many restoration actions will not return immediate revenue for a landowner. The economics discussion flows into the social and cultural components of restoration (remember our triangle). At times the audience for this book seems to be landowners interested in restoration but the section on culture seems targeted to professional foresters. Bundy recounts a cautionary tale of planned prairie restoration through removing established forests in Chicago. The classic mistake of not involving and listening to affected people early in the process resulted in zero acres of restored prairie. Bundy cautions the professional forester to not assume we know best or to think that we just need to educate people. This admonishment hit home with me, as I do find myself thinking this when discussing forestry with non-foresters.

Challenges beyond economics are also discussed in *An Active Hand*, including the usual list of suspects – legacies of past land use, climate change, and invasive species – but Bundy brings in another tie to culture, one he calls the “paradox of preservation”. This idea acts as a bookend to the discussion that restoration is not an attempt to hold a forest in some presettlement ideal and we are reminded that forests are dynamic systems. There are some pleasingly descriptive phrases in this section such as “Preservation is fiction for a living forest...” and that the idea of nature as an ideal and perfect state only serves as an attempt to “embalm nature”. While I agree with much of his thinking on preservation, I find it interesting that throughout the book Bundy refers to natural forces as Mother Nature which I generally see as very similar to the ideas of nature as sacred and in need of preservation.

The challenges chapter ends with suggestions for dealing with skeptics and general inertia we might face when undertaking restoration. Some phrases that struck me include “...pessimism impedes a creative response” and “It is the rebirth that interests me.” Both emphasizing the need for creativity and curiosity in our work. I think there is a veiled reference to the movie *Animal House* here that made me smile. Bundy invokes some historic events as examples for not giving up or falling into despair, including - “Was Franklin Roosevelt despondent after the attack on Pearl Harbor...”.

Bundy closes his book, but not the conversation, by looking toward the future, well, eventually. First, he takes a detour to the past and the development of even-aged management. We know the story well, even-aged practices were developed in response to the mismanagement seen in high

graded stands. Simplified even-aged management borrows ideas from agriculture and attempts to simplify stand characteristics of age and species composition, allowing for predictable growth and yield. The downside of this is a lack of diversity and complexity, especially when compared to uneven-aged or mature forests. Bundy calls these veteran forests but stresses, these are not set aside or non-managed forests. This last chapter is the weakest part of the book for me. It reads as four separate thoughts that possibly did not fit elsewhere in the book. The last short essay uses the slow onset of Spring as a metaphor for restoration. That seems a little trite and easy after deeper thoughts expressed earlier.

However, this criticism of even-aged forest management lacking complexity reminds me of another book on forestry, *A Critique of Silviculture: Managing for Complexity*, by Klaus Puettmann, K. David Coats, and Christian Messier, published in 2009 by Island Press. Given the small-world nature of forestry, it's no surprise that Dr. Puettmann reviewed and contributed to *An Active Hand*. There are some interesting ideas in *A Critique of Silviculture*, but the conclusions in the managing forests as complex adaptive systems chapter dovetails nicely with themes in *An Active Hand*. The authors offer four key principles to modernize silviculture and work with complexity rather than attempting to simplify forests. The first suggestion is to consider a wider variety of ecosystem components and functions beyond trees and wood products. Secondly, silviculturists are asked to abandon command-and-control approaches and accept variability. The third suggestion relates back to criticism of even-aged management as we are tasked with actively maintaining and developing heterogeneity within and among stands. Along those lines of fostering diversity and change, the final suggestion is to change our view of success from the stand to landscape scale.

I recommend *An Active Hand* and *A Critique of Silviculture* for challenging some concepts we were taught and possibly habits we have fallen into in forestry and silviculture. Both are relatively short, and *A Critique of Silviculture* reads a bit more like a textbook in comparison to *An Active Hand*. However, both are grounded in forestry as applied forest ecology, adapting our actions to changing conditions and society's values while continuing to actively manage forests.

References

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- Puettmann, K.J.; Coates, K.D.; Messier, C. 2009. A critique of silviculture: managing for complexity. Island Press, Washington DC.

The History of the Allegheny SAF Quiz Bowl During the First Century

By Steve Resh

One of the more recent, and many would say the most positive addition to the annual Winter Meeting of the Allegheny SAF has been the initiation of the Student Quiz Bowl which began at the Annapolis, Maryland meeting of 1988. This very entertaining component has given the next

generation of foresters a reason to attend this most important event and be introduced to a professional organization which all hope will become a cornerstone of their careers. Eight colleges from the Allegheny region have participated in the Quiz Bowl. They are: Allegany College of Maryland (formally Allegany Community College), Glenville State College in West Virginia, Pennsylvania State University, Penn State Mont Alto, Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Rutgers University in New Jersey, West Virginia University, and most recently, Penn State Dubois.

Interesting quiz bowl history includes the facts that only Allegany College of Maryland has attended every contest. The largest number of contests have been won by Penn State University (13). West Virginia University, Allegany College of Maryland, and Mont Alto, have all won the event 6 times, and Rutgers once. Five college students have been a part of multiple winning quiz bowl teams: Mike Powell, Alex Storm, and Andrew Peets all from PSU. Shane Stommer has been a member of three winning teams from two different schools (Mont Alto (2x) and PSU) and Broc Bowers (ACM and WVU). Since 1988, there have been three years when a quiz bowl was not held. In 2007, an early Thursday morning ice storm discouraged all schools from attending the Hagerstown, MD meeting. In 2010, West Virginia hosted the meeting at a State Park facility that did not allow any discounted entry for students. The very high cost deterred students from making the trip. Finally, in 2021, COVID prohibited an in-person meetings from taking place.

The idea for the quiz bowl began in the fall of 1986. Steve Resh was hired as a member of the ACM forestry faculty. He arrived from the New England SAF where he had helped to conduct their college quiz bowl. His attendance at his first Allegheny Winter Meeting held in 1987 disappointed him because there were very few students in attendance and there was no quiz bowl. Luckily, Resh had copies of the questions used at the New England SAF meeting, and in conjunction with Bill Cones of ACM sought permission to hold a contest at the 1988 meeting. Resh and Cones wrote rules, invited schools, and conducted the first quiz bowl contest. It took place in a suite of the hotel where spectators were few and far between. Allegany Community College defeated Rutgers University in the finals of this historic event.

The table below summarizes the winners of the event as well as the members of the winning teams. Let's hope that the next 100 years of our SAF history will include this most memorable event.

Allegheny SAF Student Quiz Bowl Winners 1988-2022

Year	Quiz Bowl #	Location	Winning School	Winning Participants
1988	1	Annapolis, MD	ACC/ACM	Dave Wagoner, Monte Mitchell, Mike Harden
1989	2	Johnstown, PA	Rutgers	Terrence King, Mike Lamana
1990	3	Atlantic City, NJ	ACC/ACM	Darwin Bergdoll, Scott Burroughs, Rodney Lipscomb

1991	4	Morgantown, WV	WVU	Unknown
1992	5	Lancaster, PA	PSU	Thad Yorks, Ray Nelling, Charles Engel
1993	6	Wilkes-Barre, PA	PSU	Gary Gilmore, Mark Potter, Charles Ruffner
1994	7	Ellicott City, MD	PSU	Curtis Hollabaugh, Mary Sisock, Shawn Lehman
1995	8	State College, PA	Mont Alto	Richard Nichols, Jamey Schwartz, Brian Stone
1996	9	Ocean City, MD	PSU	Matt Keefer, Joe Glover, Mike Powell
1997	10	Matamoras, PA	WVU	John Stephens, Jonathan Spinks, John Mowrey
1998	11	Atlantic City	PSU	Jamie Leary, Francis Beck, Mike Powell
1999	12	Berkeley Springs, WV	WVU	Dawn Meyers, Juli Swisher, Sam Fisher
2000	13	Titusville, PA	Mont Alto	Patrick Miller, Christy Naugle, Mitchell Pennabaker
2001	14	Atlantic City, NJ	WVU	Tony Scardina, Dawn Meyers, Ben Parsons
2002	15	Hagerstown, MD	PSU	William Harlon, Brent McNeal, Brock Shanner
2003	16	Williamsport, PA	ACM	Justin Wilson, Eric Carbaugh, Dirk Hillegass
2004	17	Dover, DE	PSU	Jamie Murphy, Pete Kilpatrick, Chris Dahl
2005	18	White Haven, PA	PSU	Bob Lindermuth, Amanda Subjin, Carson Engelskirger
2006	19	Lancaster, PA	PSU	Kimberly Linett, Aaron Cook, Benjamin Gamble
2007		Hagerstown, MD		Ice and snow, no contest
2008	20	Carlisle, PA	Mont Alto	Chance Yeckley, Eric Monger, Frank Grano
2009	21	State College, PA	ACM	John Brundege, Matt Delimont, Michael Mohl
2010		Roanoke, WV		No contest, expense
2011	22	Clarion, PA	Mont Alto	Derek Furry, Michael Trisket, Shane Strommer
2012	23	Clinton, PA	Mont Alto	Madeline Erickson, Andy Gundlach, Shane Strommer
2013	24	Johnstown, PA	PSU	James Altemus, Shane Strommer, Andrew Peets

2014	25	Williamsport, PA	PSU	Andrew Peets, Adam Wentzel, Nick Wingerter
2015	26	Wilkes-Barre, PA	PSU	Alex Storm, Tim Ackerman, Coby Salmon
2016	27	Timonium, MD	PSU	Alex Storm, Brady Byers, Seth Yoder
2017	28	Wyomissing, PA	ACM	Kevin Schaus, Broc Bowers, Josh Booth
2018	29	Gettysburg, PA	WVU	Eric Yetter, Broc Bowers, Preston Pennington
2019	30	Cheat Lake, WV	WVU	Noah Smith, David Riley, Preston Pennington
2020	31	Boalsburg, PA	Mont Alto	Jake Jeffries, Chris Sabol, Jacob Sunderland
2021				No contest, Covid
2022	32	Clarion, PA	ACM	Sam Gardner, Dylan Lang, Daniel Hickle

In Memoriam

Melvin Clausen

Melvin D. Clausen, 88, of Williamsport passed away Friday, February 3, 2023 at The Williamsport Home. He was born in Traer, Iowa May 11, 1934 a son of Henry and Lillian Clausen. He was a member of Fairlawn Community Church in Cogan Station. He was a forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry for over 37 years, retiring in 2000. He was also a United States Army Veteran.

His survivors include his daughter Sherry Clausen of Canton, OH, along with siblings Robert Clausen and Reva Cox (Harold) all of Traer, Iowa.

In keeping with Melvin's wishes there will be no services and interment will be private in Highland Cemetery in Lock Haven. You may plant a tree in memory of Melvin.

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Coming Events

July, 2023

9-19 Scout Jamboree
Beckley, WV

September, 2023

13-15 Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting
Milford, PA

November, 2023

15-17 Allegheny/NY/New England
Leadership Academy
Milford, PA

February, 2024

21-23 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Red Fern Conference Center
St. Mary's, PA

Summer, 2024

Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting
West Virginia

Future SAF National Conventions

2023: Sacramento, CA
October 23-28

2024: Loveland, Colorado

2025: New England

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