

The Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
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The Allegheny News

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Cover Photo

We introduce a bloodhound pup, "Redwood," to the Allegheny SAF. He and Forest Ranger Don Kelley work together investigating wildfires suspected to be of arson origin in West Virginia (see page 9).



Chairman's Corner

By Timothy A. Kaden,
Allegheny Chair

Rain, rain, and more rain. If it were not for a few days of sunshine, one would be prone to start building an ark. Listening to the Weather Channel, the greater portion of the Allegheny Society area has had record rain fall since early spring. Coupled with the snow fall and blizzard of '96, this has been quite the winter and spring to remember.

The Allegheny SAF membership is now more than 1,200 strong. It has been more than eight years since our membership has been this high. The Maryland/Delaware Division and the West Virginia Division have the most members, each with an equal number of 208 members.

The *Forestry Source Newspaper* has a number of articles about which we all need to be concerned. The first on the **Maine Referendum on Clearcutting**. This act would eliminate clearcutting in Maine, period, exclamation point. I do not like to think as a pessimistic person, but if this act becomes law, look out, in time similar legislation could trickle down the east coast. We must be prepared, and daily promote and continue to implement sound forest management practices — we must build the public's confidence in our ability to be trusted with their resource.

The second article that needs our attention is the **Forest Health Bill**. We have been debating this within the profession for some time now. Now it is in the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee. I suggest reading the *Forestry Source* article and react by calling your Senators and Representative — as the commercial states, "just do it," but do it now!

Lastly is the announcement that the National Office has the Ethics Guide for Foresters and Other Natural Resource Professionals ready for distribution. If you recall that at our Ocean City, MD meeting, **Bill Banzhaf** gave a three-hour workshop on ethics, with over 100 Allegheny members in attendance. The Guide picks up on Bill's presentation and adds hands-on reference material for every resource professional. Order your copy from the national office today.

The National Convention in Albuquerque, NM is fast approaching. I want to wish the Penn State Forestry students and **Kim Steiner** the best of luck in the National Student Bowl competition. Allegheny members at the convention come join me — this is the year the Allegheny SAF is "We are Penn State." We hope to see members of other

Members and Views

(continued from page 1)

Allegheny colleges in the national competition in the future.

Just a reminder, that our own **Steve Jones**, Allegheny Program Chair, is running for National Council Dist VII Representative in this fall's election. Our District includes both the Allegheny and the National Capitol Society. Please take the time to send in your ballot, it shames me to remind you that the National Capitol members cast more votes than the larger Allegheny membership.

As **Dwight Fielder's** Council term winds down, I publicly thank him for a job well done. Dwight, alias Dr. Crayola of Leadership Training, always represented the interests of our membership with conviction and diplomacy.

Don't forget the Summer meeting in Warren, PA, October 1-2, 1996. And as mentioned elsewhere in the HSD article in this issue, let me know of any items or issues you, as a member, would like me to pursue in conjunction with the House of Society Delegates meeting (302) 739-3423 or Email at Tkaden@state.de.us ♠



Kurt Gottschalk Appointed Editor of Northern Journal of Applied Forestry

SAF President **Robert Bosworth** has appointed Allegheny SAF member **Kurt W. Gottschalk** of Waynesburg, PA as editor of the SAF regional Northern Journal of Applied Forestry. He replaces **Harry Wiant, Jr.**, who vacated the position held since 1985 in order to serve in the elected office of SAF vice-president. Kurt's appointment began May 1, 1996 and will extend through April 30, 1999.

The Northern Journal of Applied Forestry is one of three journals published by SAF that cover applied forestry on a regional basis. The other two are the Southern and Western Journals of Applied Forestry.

Kurt is currently Chair of the Allegheny SAF (ad hoc) Forest Health and Productivity Committee. He is project leader, director's representative, and research forester at the NE Forest Experiment Station in Morgantown, WV. ♠

National Honor Society Installs ACC Students

By John Jastrzembki, ACC Forest Faculty



Flanked by forestry faculty members **Steve Resh** (l) and **John Jastrzembki** (r) are the five ACC forestry students recently inducted into the National Honor Society for Forest Technology (l-r): **Ron Showalter**, **Eric Gloffelty**, **Chris Smith**, **Trent Martin**, and **Adam Harper**.

Five Allegheny Community College (ACC) forestry students have been inducted into the National Honor Society for Forest Technology, a select group of students in the United States and Canada. Established over 10 years ago, the National Honor Society has only 258 members.

To be eligible for membership, students must maintain a minimum 3.25 grade point average in forestry courses and at least a 3.0 GPA overall course average. They must also have the endorsement of a faculty member. The five ACC students inducted are: **Eric Gloffelty** of Oakland; **Adam Harper** of Riverton, WV; **Trent Martin** and **Ronald Showalter** of Bedford, PA; and **Christopher E. Smith** of Joppa. These recent inductions bring to seven, the total number of ACC student members of the National Honor Society for Forest Technology.

Allegheny Community College, the only Maryland college or university offering forestry programs, has two associate-degree forestry curricula: Forest Technology, a career program that readies graduates for the workplace, and Forestry Transfer, which prepares students to pursue a bachelor's degree in forestry at other forestry schools. ♠

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History Alert! Allegheny 75-Year History to be Published

Ron Sheay and Bill Corlett, co-chairs of the ad hoc Allegheny SAF History Committee, have been directed by the Executive Committee to proceed with updating the Society's History for publication. That means bringing the existing Allegheny SAF "Fifty Year History, 1922-72" publication up to the present 75th year of service to the membership and to society.

An additional feature of the 75-year history will be the publication of individual unit histories (four Divisions, seven Chapters, and Student Chapters). Ron and Bill have set a goal of August 1, 1996 for all SAF unit information to be received by them in order to meet printing deadlines.

In an attempt to simplify the gathering of local unit information, a prepared list of questions was sent to the chair of each Allegheny Division and Chapter. Plans are to have the updated histories available for the 75th Anniversary celebration at the February 12-14, 1997 Allegheny Winter Meeting sponsored by the Pinchot Chapter in NE Pennsylvania.

If you, as a member, not necessarily on the local history committee, have information relative to: the date your unit was formed, first meeting minutes, records of early officers, issues of concern as the unit evolved to the present, accomplishments within and without the organization, mergers with adjoining units, or anything else that should be recorded, get them to Ron. Don't forget old photographs, meeting programs, newspaper or magazine articles, awards, badges, pins, or other interesting "stuff."

Perhaps you have been the recipient of one of those "boxes" of records passed on with office changes in the past, and may still have it in your clothes closet. Please get it to your Chair or History Committee. Ron would like to hear from you directly, information or ideas (609) 771-8301. ♣

Certified Forester Directory Available in August

SAF is publishing its first-ever Directory of Certified Foresters (CF's). It is expected to be available (for a nominal fee) to members, landowners, and interested parties for use in locating SAF-credentialed foresters.

The term "certification" is reserved for a nongovernmental association. SAF's CF program has received permission from the Federal Government Patent and Trade Office to use the Designation "certified forester" as a registered certification mark. SAF CF's may choose to publicize their certified status by using the official "CF" certification mark, or "logo," on business cards, personal stationary, etc.

Greg Smith, SAF Director of Science and Education notes, "There are currently 35 states that don't have any legislative means to verify that a practicing forester has appropriate education, experience and up-to-date continuing education, the three main requirements of SAF's Certified Forester program. If a state is in the credentialing business, it is usually referred to as "registration," which is voluntary, or "licensing," which is mandatory.

SAF CF's follow published Standards of Professional Practice, agreeing to conduct forestry activities according to nine attributes of professional practice, ranging from understanding local and regional regulations governing environmental quality, to refraining from misrepresenting one's ability or for providing a professional opinion for an area of expertise for which the individual is not qualified."

Under U.S. Government anti-trust regulations, SAF forester certification is available to any professional meeting the qualifications. A free instruction booklet and application for the SAF CF program is available from Program Assistant Pat Cillay at (301) 897-8720, ext. 122. ♣

Article extracted from the May 1966 issue of The Forestry Source by Jack Winieski, CF.



Richard R. Thorpe 1929 - 1996

Former Pennsylvania State Forester, Richard "Dick" Thorpe, died June 22, 1996. Dick was Director of the Bureau of Forestry from 1977 until his retirement in 1989. He received his BS in Forestry from Penn State University in 1952 and served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp.

A long time member and supporter of the Society of American Foresters, Dick was also a member and past president of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. He was active in the PA Wildlife Association, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Safari Club International, Keystone Trails Association and the Ward Foundation.

As a management forester and later District Forester in several districts, Dick was an ardent supporter and steward of the two million acre State Forest system in Pennsylvania. Most recently, Dick served on Governor Ridge's Transition Team on the Environment, and advised the governor on the splitting of the the Department of Environmental Resources into the Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. An avid hunter, nature lover, and wood carver, he was in the process of writing a comprehensive history of the PA Bureau of Forestry at his death. He was eulogized by family members and colleagues in a memorial service at the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church on June 27. ♣



PFA First "Log a Load for Kids" Charity Shoot

By Patrick Sherren, PFA Industry Committee Shoot Organizer

The Industry Committee of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association held its First **Log a Load for Kids Charity Shoot** at the Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve on May 18, 1996. Westvaco Forester **Pat Sherren**, PFA Chairman of the Industry Committee and Shoot Organizer, deemed this first annual shoot a success. "We had 34 station sponsors (SAF Keystone Chapter and Pennsylvania Division included) and 61 shooters, and raised over \$4,000 for the Rehabilitation Institute of Pittsburgh, St. Vincent's Health Center in Erie, Children's Hospital at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, and Penn State University Children's Hospital in Hershey. We had fun and a lot of fellowship. A big thanks goes out to our station sponsors, those who donated prizes, the PA Game Commission personnel, and the many other individuals who donated personal time and effort."

The **Log a Load for Kids** is a nationwide, forest industry sponsored program to raise money for kids at Children's Miracle Network Children's Hospitals. The unique thought of donating the value of one load of roundwood going to the mill as a standard resulted in the program name and logo. State programs have introduced many novel ways of raising funds and associating logger, forester and industry members in supporting children's hospitals in their own state.

Sherren sees, "this fund raiser growing with time as more forestry-allied industry and private organizations become aware of the benefits to the children of Pennsylvania." ♠



Scott Cary of the Glatfelter Pulpwood Company waits for a shot at the "Gravity Rabbit" station.

Lewis Class Trophy winners you ask? High Overall: Mark Kane (49 LR-45), Class AA: Don Stoner (47 LR-29), Class A: Keith Miller (42 LR-20), Class B: Ken Linamen (38 LR-17), Class C: Gene Doran (36 LR-13), Class D: Scott Cary (26 LR-3), Lady Champion: Rose Stoner (44), Junior Champion: Cole Kimball (21).

Allegheny Summer Meeting "Regeneration: Everybody's Problem"

By Doug Ostergard, SAF Plateau Chair

The Allegheny SAF will meet October 2-3, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in Warren, PA for its summer meeting, hosted by the Plateau and Northern Hardwoods SAF Chapters. The focus, in presentations and field tours, will be on regeneration problems connected with management practices on public, industrial, and non-industrial private forest lands. Negative influences on regeneration, from the invasion of interfering plants to deer will be addressed, with counter measure management practices presented and field-demonstrated.

Wednesday afternoon, October 2, will feature presentations by foresters representing the USFS Forestry Research Lab in Irvine, International Paper Co., DCNR Bureau of Forestry, PA Game Commission, consulting foresters, and the Allegheny National Forest. **Dave Marquis**, retired project leader of the Forestry Research Lab, will be featured as the keynote speaker for the program. A buffet banquet will cap Wednesday evening.

Thursday, October 3, there will be a field tour to view sites on various ownerships within the Bradford, PA area, with a chicken Bar-B-Que concluding the day's activities.

Complete information and registration materials will be mailed in early August, but reserved room rates look good: \$45 for a single, \$51 for double, triple or quad occupancy. Mark your calendar now - to meet with friends in Pennsylvania's "Great Northwest" and accumulate some Continuing Forestry Education Credits. ♠

John Berst Named Chief PA Forest Fire Warden



Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary John C. Oliver has appointed SAF member **John Berst**, as Chief Forest Fire

Warden of Pennsylvania. John will serve as Chief of DCNR's Division of Forest Fire Protection. He holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Penn State University and has been with the Bureau of Forestry for 26 years, serving in field-forestry line positions and staff in the Harrisburg office.



The Division of Forest Fire Protection staff, personnel in the 20 State forest districts, and volunteers of the 75+ year-old Forest Fire Warden system are responsible for fire prevention and suppression activities in the state. They conduct wildfire prevention educational training, monitor forest conditions for wildfire risk, establish patrols, fire tower and aerial surveillance, and organize and initiate ground and aerial suppression activities. ♠

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Councilman's Corner



By Dwight Fielder,
SAF Dist. VII Council Representative

It's raw sewage..., it's nuclear waste..., no — it's private property rights! And, to ensure that we didn't "get any on us," the Council is passing this one to you, the membership. That's right, our national task force on private property rights has drafted a position statement on "Private Property Rights and Responsibilities" that Council has decided to send to national referendum this fall. The statement is undergoing minor editing and should appear in its entirety in the Journal of Forestry or the Forestry Source very soon.

Private property rights was just one of many issues that SAF Council discussed on June 1-3, 1996 at Wild Acres in Bethesda, Maryland. Since the Forestry Source provides excellent coverage of council meetings, I will defer to the "Source" for details and only mention a couple of issues.

The Committee on Forest Health and Productivity delivered its long awaited report to Council after spending nearly two years of discussing, debating and incorporating membership input. After extensive discussion, Council accepted the final report of the committee as it is a unique body of work that contributes to the continuing dialogue on this issue. After some minor edits, the report will be sent to your state and local SAF leadership asking them where they would like to see SAF go with this report in terms of whether to develop a position statement.

Special thanks go to Steve Jones, who represented Allegheny and National Capital SAF on this committee.

Upon the request of the organizers of the Seventh American Forest Congress, SAF has agreed to host the Seventh American Forest Congress Forest Management Committee. Although there was consensus that the Congress was a successful event and there is great value in continuing the momentum, there was hesitancy among many Council members to assume responsibility for such a committee unless the purpose was more clearly defined. Therefore, Council agreed to host the Management Committee through December 16, 1996 provided that the President appoint an advisory board outlining in detail: the composition, role and activities of the Committee, and the expected role of SAF for hosting the Committee in the future — subject to external funding. Additional details on this Committee should appear in a future edition of The Forestry Source.

The last issue I want to mention is the upcoming referendum on membership categories. The referendum language and explanation are printed on pages 4-5 of the May issue of The Forestry Source. Basically, the issue started as a voting rights issue for Affiliate members and turned out to be much broader. This matter has consumed an inordinate amount of Council's time over the past two years and it's time to put this issue to rest!

Please keep in mind when reviewing and voting on the referendum question that the language represent a consensus of all Council representatives, and is the best possible compromise to move SAF forward on the issue. I strongly urge you to support the referendum so that we can put the matter behind us and focus our attention on the really important forestry questions of the day.

My line is always open for questions or comments, (202) 452-7758 or home at (703) 908-9488. ♠

Ben Roach Forum Stresses Logging Aesthetics

By Mike Bleech, Freelance Outdoor Writer

"The eyes of the world are on the forests of the Northeast," stated Geoff Jones during the April 11, 1996 Benjamin A. Roach Forum.

Jones, a director of land management for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), said that the news media generally presents the management of forests as an either/or situation, in which forests are either preserved or destroyed. However, SPNHF looks for the middle of the road by protecting forests.

"Preservation means we lock it up and don't use it," he said. "Protection means we take care of it."

Founded in 1901 as a non-profit organization devoted to the wise use of the state's renewable natural resources, they started with two basic strategies: to start with a base of facts by gathering data, and to change logging practices. SPNHF now owns and manages over 22,000 acres for multiple uses. This includes some preservation, while recognizing the importance of the timber industry to the state economy.

Since it began, SPNHF has protected almost one million acres, or about one-fifth of New Hampshire. With 72% of the state's forests privately owned, this has required extensive cooperation between government and the private sector.

"Protecting the forests and respecting private ownership is a delicate balance," Jones noted.



Geoff Jones, Director for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, receives the coveted "Ben Roach" black cherry Biltmore Stick.

SPNHF has pursued legislation which encourages long term ownership of the land and discourages premature logging. The state motto of New Hampshire, 'Live free or die', is indicative of their attitude about government interference.

"The spirit of cooperation was a vital key to success," Jones emphasized.

Jones has written a booklet titled 'A Guide to Logging Aesthetics' with practical tips for loggers, foresters and landowners. It is published by the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-5701.

This booklet offers guidelines for making timber harvesting less offensive to landowners and the general public. In it Jones states "If the forest industry wants to minimize unnecessary regulations, it must take a more active role in protecting non-timber values and in addressing aesthetic concerns."

The next meeting of the Benjamin A. Roach Forestry Forum will be October 17, 1996. Steve Jones will speak on 'Timber Harvesting Assessment in Pennsylvania.' The Forum is an alliance of forestry organizations that promotes talks of interest to foresters, research professionals and land managers twice each year. ♠

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Book Review

There's a Fox in Pinchot's Forest

By Robert LaBar, Chair-elect, PA SAF

There's a Fox in Pinchot's Forest, a current (April 1996) soft cover book by Aileen Sallmon Freeman, is a refreshing look at the individuals and events that shaped the early conservation movement — both regionally and nationally.

Ms. Freeman, an author who lives almost in the shadow of Gifford Pinchot's Grey Towers home near Milford, PA, provides some unique insights concerning Teddy Roosevelt, William McKinley, Grover Cleveland, Carl Schurz, Gifford Pinchot, Mark Hanna, Franklin Hough, Sir Dietrich Brandis, Bernard Fernow, John D. Rockefeller, Rev. MacArthur and the Fox family to name a few.

Allegheny SAF members will recognize and relate to many familiar local places mentioned in the book, including such Pennsylvania locations as the Pocono Mountains, Titusville, Blossburg and Gettysburg. In Maryland there is Antietam; in New York, Cornell, Gen Cove, Gangs Mills and the Adirondack Preserve. Curious places for foresters, yet they are all interwoven in this conservation story. As to how and to what degree they may have a bearing, you have to read the story and come to your own conclusions.

The author admits starting out studying only Colonel William F. Fox, New York's early Superintendent of State Parks, and in the process becoming intrigued by "others in the wings," so to speak. She thus expanded her research to paint a fascinating picture of select men dedicated to Conservation.

According to Ms. Freeman, President Teddy Roosevelt, in 1913, forever bound together his work with that of Pinchot, Newell, and the State of New York and the Conservation movement in the U.S. by the following words: "All that I later strove for in the Nation in connection with Conservation was foreshadowed by what I strove to obtain for New York when I was Governor; and I was already working in connection with Gifford Pinchot and Newell."

Why New York and Newell? Without giving away the story and some interesting reading, it appears that the Fox family of five brothers shared a common interest in the lumber industry. Several were also Baptist pastors, and all served together in the Civil War. They learned the hard way, as did Teddy Roosevelt, that if not managed properly, our forested resources were not inexhaustible. Roosevelt attempted to experiment with forestry in the Adirondacks of New York and turned his attention to the national level when the preservation movement took hold. Interesting details of the men, whom we as foresters have come to know so well, and their accomplishments in the early conservation movement, are revealed in this easy-to-read account.

This book is a great companion to the recently published The Legacy of Penns Woods, both of which we hope to have for sale at the Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting, February 12-14, 1997. If I've whet your appetite, and you can't wait to read There's a Fox in Pinchot's Forest, it is available for \$14.95 from FOSI, Ltd., Paupack, PA 18451-0184. ♠

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Michael Kuriga, Master Falconer, with his hunting partner, "Botchus."

Falconer Demonstrates for Penn Tech Students

By Don Nibert,
Assistant Professor, Penn College of Technology

Mr. Michael Kuriga, Master Falconer from Williamsport, PA, presented a program on the birds of prey, their value and place in the natural world for the students of Penn Tech. The focal point of the presentation was a demonstration in the art of falconry with his Harris hawk "Botchus," a species endemic to the Sonoran Desert in southwestern United States.

Mike and his specially trained hunting dog, work a field while "Botchus" follows from tree top to tree top until a planted ring-necked pheasant is flushed. "Botchus" attempts to strike and kill the bird in mid-air. Over the years, she has had a better than 50% success rate.

This year — Mike has been demonstrating falconry for the students for several years — the snow and cold weather presented problems for "Botchus." She perched on a tree limb and refused to hunt or leave the tree. After three hours, near dusk, she finally decided to return to the falconer. ♠



Botchus finds refuge from the cold weather.

Pinchot Chapter Introduced to SFI in PA

By Mike Lester, Pinchot Chair

At the April 12 meeting of the SAF Pinchot Chapter, **John Skovran**, Chair of the Forest Industry Committee for Sustaining Pennsylvania's Forests presented an overview of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) in the state.

The SFI is a program authored by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). The basic premise of the program is that "sustainable forestry is the ability to meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Members of AF&PA must abide by the principles of the SFI as a condition of membership, agreeing to implement the principles on their own lands, and promote the principles for other woodlands.

Skovran indicated that much of the early work in Pennsylvania involved getting interested parties together. The stakeholders included folks from forest industry, state government, loggers, and conservation groups. This effort led to the establishment of the Forest Industry Committee for Sustaining Pennsylvania's Forests.

The Committee realized that the most significant impact on sustainability is timber harvesting. Furthermore, only about 20% of harvesting decisions involve foresters working with landowners. As a result, landowners make 80% of harvesting decisions with the advice of loggers. Therefore the Committee recognized that the greatest opportunity for improving sustainability is in the area of logger training.



Consequently, the first focus of the Committee is on developing basic training programs for loggers. The training will include areas such as environmental logging, sustainable forestry (including wildlife management and silvicultural systems), logging safety, and business management. The curriculum for further elective training, which will cover subjects in more detail, is still under development.

After a question and answer session and business meeting, the members toured the Deer Park Lumber Sawmill owned by **Ron Andrews**. Ron had made significant improvements in the mill, making Deer Park one of the most sophisticated mills in Northeast Pennsylvania. **Jeff Nichols**, Deer Park's Chief forester led the tour. ♠

“Redwood” — West Virginia’s Four-footed Fire Inspector

By Don Kelley, WV Forest Ranger



Redwood with “co-worker” Don Kelley

If you journey to the old fire tower on Tams Mountain, the serenity of the woods is often broken by the sound of a baying hound. This is the home of “Redwood,” West Virginia’s four-legged forest fire inspector. Redwood, or Red as he called, is a 17-month-old chestnut bloodhound. He was acquired in March of 1995 as a puppy to help combat the number of arson wildfires in southern West Virginia. **Bill Maxey**, Administrative Forester (State Forester) of the West Virginia Division of Forestry, worked with **James Garner** of the Virginia Department of Forestry to implement the bloodhound program in WV.

For years, arson fires have been a major problem in southern WV and southwest VA. Of the fires that burn on the average of about 33,000 acres annually in southern West Virginia, approximately 40% are believed to be of arson origin. By pooling resources and exchanging information, the two states have worked together to make the bloodhound program a success. **Arthur Cox**, the bloodhound handler from Virginia, has been instrumental in Red’s training - in fact, he chose Red as a puppy for West Virginia’s program.

Much of Red’s time is spent in

training with his handler, Forest Ranger **Don Kelley**. This training involves tracking in all kinds of weather on all kinds of terrain and involves a scent or scent article (everything has a distinguishing scent to a bloodhound).

In a training exercise, Don will have someone “lay” a trail and he and Red will return hours and sometimes days later to run the trail. When Red first leaps from the back of the truck, Don gives him time to look around before following the scent. Red is then shown the article with scent from the person who laid the trail, and Red goes to work immediately — his tail curled over his back and his nose to the ground. Occasionally he will lift his head high and sniff above the ground. The trail may go for miles, but Red never tires. At the end of the trail, he makes his identification by planting both front feet on the suspect’s chest.

Red trained the past two years at the National Policeman’s Bloodhound Association week-long training center in Maryland. He trained impressively. Both he and Don gained a lot from the hands-on, and paws-on, experience in training; they continue to learn as they review and work together daily.



Red’s primary job is forest fire investigation, but he also works in search and rescue and other criminal investigations. He has worked with volunteer fire departments, the Fire Marshall’s Office and police agencies. The cooperation of these agencies has been an asset to the WV program.

Red nailed his first arsonist in Logan County, WV this past spring. The fire was set late one Sunday evening near Cherrytree, WV in Logan County. Red and Ranger Kelley were on site Monday morning and after picking up the scent, Red led state forest rangers to a house trailer. The suspect who was visiting in the community was questioned later in the day by rangers, a state trooper, and an assistant state fire marshal and admitted setting the fire — plus an additional fire the previous week. He was charged with two counts of “setting fire to lands of another”, which is a felony in West Virginia.

When Red is not working on fire investigation he is busy at prevention work, visiting schools, 4-H clubs and other community events getting the word out on fire prevention. He’s a big hit with the kids, if they don’t mind a little slobber from Red’s hanging jowls. When he’s not in his work harness, he’s a 125 pound gentle giant.

Arsonists should be aware and beware of this new tool added to the WV fire prevention team. ♠

SAF and RNRF Letter Exchange

The following letters are being printed in this issue of the Allegheny News for the membership to read and be informed of a recent Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) events letter sent to SAF leaders, and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) response. Ed.

**Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
5430 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2193**

April 25, 1996

Timothy A. Kaden
724 Green Winged Trail
Camden, DE 19934

Dear Mr. Kaden:

I take the liberty of contacting you out of frustration over the ongoing disagreement between the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF). As you may know, I represent RNRF in that disagreement.

A chronology of events in the conflict between the two organizations is enclosed. It records the exchanges between the two organizations since late 1993. I hope that you will give the chronology enough attention to verify that RNRF offered SAF fairly substantial sums of money in August and October of 1994, in hopes of meeting SAF's need for a financial return on its holdings in Bethesda.

The chronology tells only part of the story, however. It omits what the continuing dispute has cost both organizations in legal fees. RNRF's legal costs since 1993 now exceeds \$50,000. SAF's legal fees can be little less than RNRF's, and may well be greater. Both RNRF and SAF have much better uses for the funds they have spent on litigation.

Although those of us associated with the foundation deeply regret the waste of resources that has occurred already and that seems unlikely to diminish, SAF's position and its recent legal attempts to overturn the special zoning of the entire property leave RNRF no choice but to defend its interests to the limit of its resources. SAF formally challenged RNRF's zoning in 1986, and the Montgomery County, Maryland attorney determined then that SAF's challenge was without merit. SAF's second challenge, filed in September, 1995 was dismissed *with prejudice*, which was the judge's way of telling SAF to quit wasting the court's time. In the highly unlikely event that SAF prevailed in its current appeal of that dismissal, RNRF would not and could not accept that outcome.

SAF's current attack on the special exception zoning is an unequivocal breach of the Settlement Agreement SAF signed on December 30, 1983. It follows a long series of violations of that agreement over dates for which the statute of limitations for recovery has expired. Given the expenses it has now incurred, RNRF will be considerably less tolerant of these renewed violations than it was of the previous infractions.

Are you satisfied with the way SAF is being represented in this matter? Is it in SAF's interest to continue its assault on the zoning exception under which both RNRF and SAF occupy the Grosvenor estate? SAF has lost its previous challenges to the special zoning exception. What is the likelihood it will prevail this time? More broadly, RNRF and SAF are both obligated to advance the sciences of natural resource management and preservation. They have now diverted at least \$100,000 from those goals, with no end in sight. Should not both organizations be about their business instead of squandering funds collected for their missions on endless legal fees?

Sincerely,

Ronald F. Abler, Chair,
Committee on Ten-Year Review of Center Development

SAF and RNRF Letter Exchange

Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2198

MEMORANDUM

TO: SAF Leadership

FROM: Robert W. Bosworth, President
Harry V. Wiant, Jr., Vice-President

William C. Siegel, Immediate Past President
John W. Moser, Jr., Past President
William H. Banzhaf, Executive Vice-President

DATE: May 13, 1996

A recent letter to SAF's leadership and others, from Mr. Ron Abler, representing the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF), asks SAF members to question the manner in which they are being represented in the review of development matters associated with the RNRF Center. We wish to assure the SAF's membership that on matters of SAF/RNRF negotiations, Council has long maintained an explicit goal — to obtain a win/win situation for both organizations while being ever mindful of its fiduciary responsibilities to protect financial assets of SAF's membership in the substantial investment in the RNRF Center. That investment is no insignificant amount! The SAF possesses development rights for 179,500 square feet in Phases I and II of the Center. Depending upon Washington area commercial real estate values, SAF has a potential capital asset between 2.7 and 5.4 million dollars.

The 1983 SAF/RNRF Settlement Agreement grew out of litigation over complex conflicts of financial interests and rights with respect to the Wild Acres property; it mandates a 10-year review in 1994 to ascertain (1) if RNRF has exercised due diligence in Center development and (2) if further physical Center development is viable. The agreement is acutely void of criteria and procedures to ascertain and evaluate both "due diligence" and "further viability." Those shortcomings became abundantly clear when SAF reviewed RNRF Chairman Hendee's 10 December 1993 and 9 March 1994 letters to assess the status of future viability. He wrote:

"As I wrote in my letter of December 10 to Jane Difley, we are experiencing a significant change in the market. Early last year we were receiving less than 10 follow-ups to our promotional mailings. A mailing in November yielded more than 30 inquiries, and several are still being pursued. One prospective member organization currently is exploring the feasibility of locating to the Center but is not ready to announce its plans until a final decision is made. Also, one of RNRF's current members is considering new locations and the Center is an option." ... "We are poised for development." ... "the future viability of the Center has never been greater than it is today."

In view of the fact that, under RNRF's development plan, Phases I and II should have been completed in 1978 and 1983, respectively, and that SAF should have received substantial payment for a portion of its development rights, Council's position is that an acceptable statement of future Center viability must contain significantly greater detail on market and client potential, developer plans of action, and anticipated financial return to SAF which is the major holder of development rights. Chairman Hendee's above words were written more than two years ago — still no additional progress on Center development has occurred!

The RNRF letter stated that, in the course of negotiations, they offered SAF "substantial sums of money" in August and October, 1994. In reality, RNRF offered at that time \$137,500 to purchase 10,000 square feet of future development rights and to purchase in 1998 an additional 30,000 square feet at a price to be determined at the time of purchase, if and only if, RNRF had developed that amount of space by 1998. While \$137,500 represented an extremely small return on SAF's actual property investment, we agreed to accept RNRF's proposal if they would agree to an interim Center development viability review in 1999. In view of RNRF's development history, SAF remained strongly concerned that future income would not materialize. RNRF rejected SAF's counter proposal. One must ask why RNRF is intent on eliminating the review process. On the basis of RNRF's inability to provide a continuous income on our investment and the complete lack of positive development prospects, SAF chose to pursue the panel review process specified by the settlement agreement.

The settlement agreement specifies a three-person panel consisting of a SAF representative, a RNRF representative and a jointly selected third member — there are no guidelines or procedures specified for panel operation. Since the agreement's purpose was to provide an amicable and cooperative framework for both organizations to succeed in their goals and prosper in a mutually beneficial coexistence, one could assume that both parties would desire to jointly pursue an open and independent process that is free of any real or perceived bias. That has not been the case. RNRF would not agree to a process that would jointly seek and review a list of qualified potential candidates for the third panel member. Their only interest was to name one individual — retired judge James Miller. SAF Council did not concur that that represented a process which would be equitable to both organizations. Therefore as 1994 neared a close, in order to break the impasse and assure that the review specified in

SAF and RNRFF Letter Exchange

the settlement agreement would not be jeopardized, SAF was forced to pursue legal recourse. As a result, the court has designated retired Judge William Cave as the third panel member.

The decision by Council to use litigation was not an easy one. It was entered into with full knowledge that money for legal fees could potentially be used for professional activities to support SAF's mission. Another consideration, however, was that present legal expenses have the potential to expedite a very substantial financial return on our capital investment in Center real estate for continuous program enhancement. The major consideration is and always has been the protection of member assets. We would like to reassure you that SAF's effort to pursue a fair and equitable review process has not impacted member programs. To the contrary, since 1994 SAF membership and program activities have steadily increased. We now have a leadership academy, a greater presence on the "Hill" in policy matters, a new broad based communication initiative (*The Forestry Source*), upgraded computer and information systems technology and a certified forester program.

It should be noted that SAF is not attacking the special zoning exception granted for Center development, as stated in Mr. Abler's letter. Rather, we are asking for a judicial determination of its current status; we are concerned that it very possibly no longer exists. The Circuit Court did not rule on its status, only on the timeliness of SAF's bringing the action. SAF believes a determination of this matter is crucial to a clear understanding of future development options.

Because Mr. Abler has chosen to write his letter as a form of communicating his perspective and RNRFF's "spin" on the review process to SAF membership, we have taken this opportunity to clarify SAF's position. Further, we strongly believe that his action is counter-productive to the three-person panel process and contrary to the cooperative intent of the settlement agreement. During the past two years, SAF Council and National Officers have striven to keep the membership apprised of the review process and their strong desire to begin, after 23 years, receiving a return on SAF's investment. Finally, we strongly resent and are disappointed by the threats made by Mr. Abler, and feel this is just another indication of RNRFF's negative communication style.

At the heart of the entire conflict is a disagreement between RNRFF and SAF as to the continued viability of a development concept prepared over 20 years ago. SAF strongly believes that the 20-year-old dream can still be achieved but only if downsized to reflect current and future realities. RNRFF insists that the original vision must not be changed. Essentially, they are insisting your assets be held in place with the little or no return until they can achieve their vision — no matter how long it takes. On your behalf and in the best interest of the joint RNRFF/SAF dream, we believe it is time to face realities and move forward; RNRFF does not. That is the heart and soul of this conflict. ♠

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Penn Tech on the Fire Line

By Don Nibert,
Assistant Professor, Penn College of Technology

Students at the Pennsylvania College of Technology recently assisted personnel of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in conducting a controlled burn on 25 acres of State Game Lands #252. This annual burn in switch grass food plots controls invading woody vegetation, particularly multiflora rose. Nutrients stored in the dry plant material are released in the burn and act as fertilizer to the new growth of grass. The alternative, applying herbicides to control invading woody vegetation, is thus avoided and the food plots remain productive.



David Gephart, Penn Tech student, stands ready with Indian fire pump.

Working with experienced members of the Game Commission's Management Division, the students gain hands-on experience in fire control principles which can be applied also to fire suppression. The pressures of fire line activity and organization provide excellent teaching opportunities.

Assistant Professor Don Nibert said, "I instruct the students on the importance of not leaving the fire until they're sure all hot spots are out; the school administration has informed me that I should not return to campus if the fire gets out of control. I think I am under the greater pressure!" Δ



WV Public Radio Members Support Reforestation

By Greg Proctor, WV Public Radio

More than 350 black walnut trees will be planted in West Virginia's forests thanks to the WV Division SAF involvement in WV Public Radio's "Spring Green" new member drive. The drive coincided with its broadcast of the National Geographic series on biodiversity, Radio Expeditions. A majority of the 279 New Friends of WV Public Radio enlisted during the drive opted to have a tree planted in their honor. Many renewing members, and those making additional gifts during the drive, also became involved because of the tree-planting offer.

The WV SAF Division, which donated the trees, planted them in several areas of West Virginia, and provided the new friends of public radio with certificates attesting to their contribution, as well as information about the important wood and wildlife values of this native tree species.

Dan Parker, WV SAF Chair, became involved with the public radio campaign when the network approached the foresters for help in raising environmental awareness as part of a community outreach project. The WV SAF has been a program underwriter of WV public radio for several years.

Radio Station general manager Frank Hoffman commented, "this was a good thing for us, our listeners and the environment. We got a lot of new members and we're helping to increase the native black walnut species in the bargain — thanks to the West Virginia Society of American Foresters." Δ

Recently Certified SAF Foresters

The following Allegheny SAF Foresters recently received certification under the SAF Certified Forester (CF) program.

Maryland/Delaware:

Joseph P. DiModica
Peter Smallidge

New Jersey:

Kathy Swigon

Pennsylvania:

S. Gayley Atkinson
William P. Bleckley
Lloyd R. Casey
George R. Cline
Mark W. Freeman
Pat T. Hill
Stephen E. Jaquith
Kevin B. Munley
Jeffrey S. Nichols

Richard H. Nichols
Roxanne S. Palone
Richard Pellek
Robert E. Schweitzer
Mark O. Sickler
R. T. Stanford
Daniel C. Swift
Malcolm D. Waskiewicz
Mark R. Webb

West Virginia:

Barry F. Clutter
Steven J. Hollenhorst
Mark Honosky

Joseph E. Tekel
David A. Warner
Harry V. Wiant, Jr.

Toward the Practice of Sustainable Forestry: An Industry Commitment

By John Heissenbuttel, Senior Director of Forest Resource Programs and Policy, AF&PA

The close of 1994 marked the end of one era and the start of another for members of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). On January 1, 1995 adherence to the AF&PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative™ (SFI™) became a condition of continued membership in the association. The SFI is the product of more than two years of deliberations among hundreds of professional foresters, loggers, woodland owners, state and federal officials, conservation groups, and academia. Most important, the SFI constitutes AF&PA members' commitment to sustainable forestry.

The goal is simple: ensure that future generations of Americans have the same abundant forests that we have today. Toward achieving this goal, the SFI is intended to measurably improve the performance of member companies, set new management goals for the entire forest industry and other landowners, and enhance public confidence in forest management.

Embodied in the SFI Principles and Implementation Guidelines document is a process to promote, monitor, and report continuous improvement in the management of all forestland in the United States. These guidelines establish clear objectives and performance measures by which the public itself can evaluate whether AF&PA members are meeting their commitments.

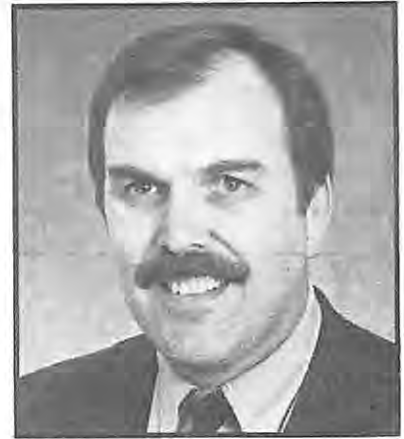
Additional guidelines obligate AF&PA members to outreach beyond their own forests by supporting efforts to educate loggers and nonindustrial landowners of the benefits of sustainable forestry. Moreover, the guidelines require each member to report annually to the association, commits AF&PA to an annual public report on the progress of its members, and independent third-party review of this report.

On April 11, 1996 AF&PA issued the first annual SFI Progress Report detailing both the accomplishments and

the challenges reported by its members in the first year of implementation as well as the comments of the independent panel of experts who reviewed the report. A few of the highlights of the first year of implementation include:

- Some 200 member companies of AF&PA, representing approximately 84% of paper production, 50% of solid wood production, and 90% of industrial timberland in the U.S., complied with the SFI.
- 17 member companies were suspended for noncompliance.
- Members contributed \$52.8 million to support forestry, wildlife, and biodiversity research.
- Members reported that 34% of forest fiber used to make paper and solid wood products was delivered by loggers trained in sustainable forestry.
- Member companies trained some 17,000 employees in SFI Principles and Implementation Guidelines.
- Member companies established broad based committees in 31 states (including PA) to foster sustainable forestry practices on all lands.
- These committees raised more than one half million dollars for sustainable forestry training and landowner outreach — training more than 3,300 loggers and foresters.

AF&PA and the leaders of its member companies recognize that the goals of the SFI™ cannot be achieved through their efforts alone. Success depends on state- and company-level action by member companies in cooperation with state, national, and regional forestry and logging associations; state and federal agencies; academia; professional and conservation organizations; and private and public sector technical assistance programs. Tremendous progress has been made in the first year of implementation in developing partnerships to advance the SFI. Some of the organizations involved include SAF, USDA Extension Service, Conservation Fund, Izaak Walton



League, National Association of State Foresters, Tree Farm, Association of Consulting Foresters, and USDA Forest Service.

Sustainable forestry is a dynamic concept that will evolve with experience and new knowledge gained through research. AF&PA views the SFI as the latest of many steps in the progressive evolution of U.S. industrial forest practices. Through the SFI, the forest products industry and professional foresters have an opportunity to prove their leadership and commitment to continuously improving forests and forest management to a skeptical American public.

The expert review panel said it well in their statement included in the First Annual SFI™ Progress Report: "We are aware that the final evidence of successful management is not produced in corporate boardrooms or company reports. It is produced on the land, in the forest, by hardworking people whose labors on the land reflect what they know, how deeply they care, and what they believe to be most important in their work. As more and more of those people proudly display their work to embrace the quality of the forest environment — providing wildlife habitat, clean water, and meeting public expectations of good forestry — the true impact of the SFI will become apparent." For more information about the SFI, and a copy of the first annual SFI™ Progress Report, contact AF&PA at 1111 19th Street, NW; Suite 800; Washington, DC 20036; (800) 878-8878.

John is a candidate for SAF Council Voting District VII.

Ed.

Sustainable Forestry — Hollow Rhetoric or Solid Commitment?

By Steve Jones, Region VII Candidate for SAF Council

On October 4, 1994, after 18 months of study and deliberation, the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) Board of Directors approved its landmark Sustainable Forestry Principles and Implementation Guidelines. Scott Wallinger of Westvaco presented the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) background, purpose, and strategy in his January 1995 *Journal of Forestry* article. Scott made it quite clear that the industry is serious about its commitment to sustainable forestry, which the AF&PA defines as, "management of forests to meet the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic which integrates the growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, and wildlife and fish habitat."

As a member of the Forest Industry Committee on Sustaining Pennsylvania's Forests (SFI Committee), I can vouch for the absolute sincerity of co-chairman John Skovran, Proctor & Gamble, and Dave Haag, International Paper. The Pennsylvania SFI vision statement (where we want to be) is simple and direct: "Pennsylvania's forests are healthy and productive, supplying world class, high quality products and values for all citizens now and into the future." The vision and the education and information-based steps to achieve it are in harmony with both Penn State's long standing Cooperative Extension outreach mission and the US Forest Service's five-year-old Forest Stewardship Program. And, perhaps most importantly, we as a professional society can embrace the SFI, because it resonates to the very core of what defines forestry — managing forest resources to assure goods and benefits for the long haul.

John Stanturf, Bill Ticknor and I co-authored a November, 1993 *Journal*

of Forestry article challenging the US forest industry to lead the charge to sustain forest resources: "The forest products industry plays a major role in shaping forest management practices in the United States, in its dual capacity as land manager and timber buyer. The industry presence is felt, directly or indirectly, in the management of virtually the entire private commercial timberland base — which comprises 347 million acres or 72 percent of the US total. It is certainly a force to be reckoned with and to be directed into constructive avenues."

Foresters must indeed do all we can to ensure that AF&PA's SFI meets with success. One example of a successful partnership is Pennsylvania's Timber Harvesting Assessment, an effort to "determine whether and to what extent current timber harvesting practices are affecting timber resource sustainability." Jim Finley and I outlined the assessment in a May, 1994 letter of intent to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania (CRP). The forestry community greeted the prospective project with feelings ranging from hostile resistance to enthusiastic encouragement. What began as somewhat stormy posturing within the forestry community nearly one-half year before AF&PA adopted the National SFI, has evolved to nearly tranquil cooperation. CRP provided primary support and several AF&PA companies and other firms contributed additional resources to the assessment. We completed field work last summer, sampling 97 randomly selected tracts harvested from 1992-94. Now, we and our Timber Harvesting Assessment Advisory Team are classifying the tracts as Sustainable, Unsustainable, and Undetermined, on the basis of the six timber harvest assessment criteria that we collaboratively derived. Pennsylvania's SFI committee views the Assessment as a baseline from which we can demonstrate improvement and track progress as a result of



implementing the SFI.

Significantly, the industry can not achieve success by acting alone. John, Bill, and I noted in the 1993 article that industry words, absent meaningful action, would be viewed as hollow rhetoric: "The forest products industry has little credibility with the general public. Public and media attitudes toward industry range from mild cynicism to open hostility. To change this negative view will require a shift in corporate attitude and communications style — from guarded, self-serving hyperbole to a genuinely open, vulnerable model that sincerely seeks to serve the broader interests of society and the environment." The wood industry needs help to make SFI positive in the eyes of many.

We foresters require more than SFI to fulfill our commitment to sustainable forestry. Foresters' partnership with industry, while necessary, is not sufficient. There are many other stakeholders — people who own forests, consume forest products, visit forests, or otherwise feel some strong connection to forests. We must continue to sing the virtues of sustainable forestry to all who will listen. It is not enough to tell our story only to those who are listening, for we are ineffective when we perform for only the choir. We should do all we can to assure that SFI succeeds, and as we do that, use SFI to help the profession's story of sustainable forestry. As a candidate for SAF Council, and as a forester, educator, and researcher, I am committed to championing the cause of sustainable forestry. ♠

What and Who is SFI?

By Paul A. McGuinness, Resource Forester, Georgia-Pacific Corporation

The conversation went like this:

"Have you heard?"

"Have I heard what?"

"A new strategy being implemented on forest industry lands."

"I've heard rumors."

"It's happening ... and fast."

"So what is SFI anyway?"

And the rumor began! But it is no rumor. SFI is here in Pennsylvania!

SFI is an acronym which stands for the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative**. This is a national program developed through the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA). SFI's intent is to apply forest sustainability principles on industry owned lands. The forest products industry owns approximately 6% of the forest land in PA. It is hoped that private non-industrial landowners, that own approximately 68% of PA's forests, will adopt some of the practices

that are implemented on industry lands. An SFI Executive Council has been formed to guide these efforts in PA. Within Pennsylvania's forest products industry the pulp and paper segment represented by International Paper Co. and Proctor & Gamble are directing this effort. In addition there are over 600 sawmills that produce hardwood lumber, most of which do not belong to the AF&PA and many do not own forest lands. Many of these sawmills are not required to adhere to SFI but are members of the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association (HLMA). The SFI Executive Council has asked HLMA to run the program in PA and they have agreed. HLMA hopes to entice sawmill owners into adopting and implementing SFI principles.

It is typical that new programs have inherent challenges built into them. The challenges that face the SFI program in PA include: obtaining support of the hardwood lumber industry, applying sound, scientifically sustainable forestry practices to company lands; educating private landowners; supporting biodiversity on a landscape level and implementing best management practices. It will be a challenge for the 600 sawmills in PA to apply SFI principles to private lands. Another challenge outside of SFI but related to sustainable forestry are the efforts by the PA Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF) that would require the registration and licensing of foresters in PA. If successful, this effort by PCPF would help ensure that sound forestry practices are applied on privately owned forest lands only by those who are qualified in education, experience, and continued training to prescribe such activities. HLMA does not support the proposed required licensing or registration of foresters.

At Georgia-Pacific (GP), we operate two hardwood sawmills in PA and support SFI. We have developed a strategy that will help promote sustainable forest management on company and private forest lands. This plan involves training loggers and other

land operating contractors that we have an interest in. GP will require that best management practices (BMP's) be applied on all lands and refuse to purchase timber from landowners that refuse to follow BMP's. This action will, as intended, protect water, soil and forest stand quality for the future while providing necessary raw material. Landowner education is important and we are seeking ways to enhance landowner involvement in workshops. GP foresters are trained in: best management practices; wildlife enhancement considerations; endangered, threatened, and rare species identification; stand regeneration techniques; appropriate silvicultural treatments and many other aspects of forest management activities to assist landowners in meeting their objectives.

SFI will also require the consideration of biodiversity at some landscape level. Biodiversity is a buzzword that scares those that do not understand its meaning. It can be intimidating and misunderstood. Professionals struggle daily to balance the needs of man with nature, knowing well that healthy habitats and functioning ecosystems are necessary for sustaining any environment. Trained and experienced professional foresters involved in management decision making are an essential component in maintaining sustainable forests. They not only know trees but also how and why forests function and react to management practices. In practicing the applied science-based art of forestry, foresters are able to balance landowner objectives (economic return, wildlife considerations, aesthetics, etc.) with the sustainable capability of the land base. SFI professionally-managed members' lands will be strong examples of science-based forestry in practice — a role model for stewardship standards on private forest lands.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a comprehensive program that will work in Pennsylvania. Accepting the inevitable "bugs" to be worked out as in any new program, it is a positive step by the forest products industry to promote proper stewardship of our most renewable resource: Penn's Woods. ♠

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Brief History of the House of Society Delegates (HSD)

Prepared by Adela Backiel, Past National Capital Chair with assistance of Donald R. Theo, SAF National Historian; updated April 1996 by Tim Farnham, SAF Support Manager

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) was established in 1900 by a small group of foresters led by Gifford Pinchot. From the beginning, it has been directed by some type of governing board, initially composed of officers and an executive committee which evolved into a governing Council. The Council is composed of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and 11 representatives elected from voting districts throughout the country.

As the Society grew, communications became more complex and local SAF leaders wanted another avenue, in addition to Council, through which the ideas and concerns of SAF members could be voiced. A meeting of local leaders to accomplish these goals was envisioned and its organization debated for a number of years prior to its official establishment. During the mid-1960s, informal meetings with no prepared agendas took place among the leadership of the

Sections.

In 1965, the Western Forester reported that William H. Larson of the Puget Sound Section (now the Washington State Society) suggested, at the 1965 National Convention in Detroit, a "two-house system of Society government" for SAF. On September 14, 1965, the House of Section Delegates was officially established, and that year, at the SAF National Convention in Seattle, Washington, the first meeting of all the Chairs of the SAF Sections was held. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, as various Sections voted to become individual State, multi-State or intra-State Societies, the name was changed to House of Society Delegates.

The goals and objectives of the HSD have varied slightly over the years with some broadening of the issues it addresses and the depth at which they are discussed. Generally, the goal of HSD remains the same: **to facilitate communication between the State**

Societies and local SAF units with the Council Staff.

Now, thanks to new technology, communication among the HSD members occurs not just once at the annual meeting, but throughout the year. However, the greatest evolution of HSD is how it is viewed within the Society. What began as an isolated discussion group has become an integral part of SAF. Since the mid-1980's, SAF leaders from all segments of the Society come early to National Conventions to observe and listen at the HSD meeting. The SAF Council and Staff are present to hear personally what the grass roots of the organization is saying. What is discussed and recommended at these meetings is considered seriously at all levels of SAF decision-making. HSD is truly the voice of SAF local organizations. ▲

How the HSD Works at the Grass Roots Level of SAF

The "Brief History of the House of Society Delegates (HSD)" article above traces the evolution of HSD. We know that it is an advisory board with the purpose of communicating information, opinions and ideas from the grass roots of the organization to the SAF Council — to assist Council members in deliberations on forest issues and policies.

The HSD is a collection of the Chairs of the 34 SAF State Societies, or their representatives, plus the Chair and Vice Chair of the HSD - who served on HSD the previous year and were elected at the end of that meeting by their peers.


With one voice, the HSD body provides a "sense of the membership;" it makes suggestions on SAF programs, activities, problems, policies and administration for Council consideration. Remember that it is an advisory board. The HSD meetings provide a forum which fosters communication and ideas among the State Societies.

Prior to an HSD meeting, an agenda is decided upon through a "Convener" structure made up of five groups of State Society representatives - your HSD members. For instance, Chair **Tim Kaden** represents the Allegheny SAF in the HSD and has been asked by Group 1 leader, **Dave Cleaves** to help set priority items for the HSD Agenda in Albuquerque, NM; Tim is reacting to a list of suggested agenda topics as well as making suggestions provided by the Allegheny membership (you). Group 1 agenda priorities will be considered along with the other four Convener Groups, in a process which will set the agenda for the November 7-8, 1996 HSD meeting in Albuquerque.

Contact **Tim** at (302) 739-3423 with issues you wish to have considered. ▲

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A Landowner's Look At Foresters

By Al and Eleanor Maass*

The first individual of the species "forester" that we met, shortly after we purchased our original 170 acres in 1962, was the then Pennsylvania state Service Forester. He appeared on his first visit to us wearing high-top laced boots, and carrying a .38 in a holster on his hip — because of rattlesnakes common in the area, he said. Not a reassuring statement to parents of three small boys. In spite of his fears, we have yet to discover a venomous species on the farm.

However, even though he was mistaken about snakes, he gave us invaluable advice which we still use as a practical guide for our forest management activities: 1) determine your boundaries and mark them; 2) improve your young stands by selecting the best trees of the most valuable species and designating them as crop trees; and 3) give them more room to grow by removing defective trees and low value species around them.

Since our first forester, we have met many, enjoyed their company in the woods, shared a few cups of coffee and a few beers with them, listened to their words of advice, made good friends among them and even nurtured one of our own in our family. We have yet to meet one that doesn't share our love of the forest and our desire to leave it in better shape than it was before we came.

But since we met our first forester, many changes in the economy, in social attitudes and in demographics have occurred in many parts of Pennsylvania, and for that matter, all across the country. When we bought our farm, our neighbors were dairy farmers; the area's towns existed to serve the farm economy. Logging or fuelwood cutting or maple syrup production were winter chores, a minor contribution to farm income. Forest management in the 1960s was mostly practiced on state lands and a few large private preserves. Now, urbanites and suburbanites own most of the land in our county, either as in-comers or as absentee landowners. Land is being divided into smaller

parcels, some of it changing hands every few years as developers move in. On the other hand, forest products have become an important part of the economy. Hardwood lumber prices have risen, creating a demand for quality logs, which increasingly must come from private non-industrial lands, as harvesting limits are reached on state and federal lands.

How does this affect the forester's relationship with the private landowner? To generalize broadly, the present day landowner is likely to be well educated, frequently with a college degree, and probably additional professional education. Considering today's land prices, he or she is likely to be relatively affluent. Hence his/her reasons for ownership of wooded acres cover a wide range of values, but in most cases a financial return on his woodlot is not an important consideration. Many of these recent private land owners have only the vaguest notion of forest management, sometimes based on TV documentaries about the spotted owl, or horror stories about clear-cutting in the northwest. Recreational use of the land for hunting, fishing or just relaxation from city stress is in our experience the primary motivation for buying those 10 or 20 acres with a "trout stream" and a view.

It seems to us, therefore, that the forester's first and most monumental task is education, followed or preceded by some form of persuasion. How do you persuade this new style landowner to undertake some form of stewardship of his acres? The best technical advice is wasted if the landowner is indifferent or resistant to "being told what I can do on my property."

In dealing with these recent landowners, the forester's expertise in silvicultural matters may be of little significance. What counts is his/her ability to sell forest management to the landowner. He needs all the aids to persuasion he can muster — good publications calculated to appeal to the landowner's way of thinking (for example, the Pennsylvania *Stewardship*

Quarterly) as well as a way of establishing a continuing relationship and an ability to sense the landowner's feelings about his land and play up to them. He also has to find ways to establish contact in the first place. This calls for diplomatic and public relations skills probably not featured in the present forestry curriculum. I repeat, it is a very difficult task.

What practical form should this salesmanship take? And I use the word deliberately. Again, some general observations:

Leadership in this effort of first contact should really come from the landowners themselves. The forester's role, then, as we see it, is to find and nurture leaders to organize land owner associations, conservancies, cooperative efforts, whatever form a campaign to enlist support for good forestry may take. Sawmill owners and loggers should be encouraged to join in these cooperatives enterprises. Not only do they have local knowledge of forest problems, their presence as supporters of good forest stewardship will be reassuring to the landowner exposed to negative propaganda about the forest industry.

Some forest products industries (Glatfelter in Pennsylvania, for example) have built continuing relationships with landowners in their wood source areas. This is a definite plus, as far as private landowners are concerned, if the forestry advice offered is reliable and sincere and is mindful of the welfare of the landowner's woods in equal measure to the procurement needs of the company. There is a history in our area (now happily corrected, we believe) of a company who abused this relationship to the extent of creating forest wastelands and thereby really cheating the landowner. Word of this mismanagement got around among landowners in a hurry.

There are other issues which vex private landowners today about which a forester can do little except sympathize and offer what advice he/she can, but which the forester may be able to use as an entry point for contact with private landowners. For example: taxes, real estate and inheritance.

Even affluent landowners are interested in reducing their taxes, which are a constant drain on their resources and which may bear only a slight relationship to the purchase price of the land. Act 319, the "Clean and Green" act in Pennsylvania, is a way that private landowners can in most cases decrease their real estate taxes; assisting the new private landowner to bring his land into compliance with the act is a very practical approach for the forester.

Some landowners would like to keep their land in the family and therefore are interested in any tax break that would make it less burdensome to pass their land on to their heirs. Inheritance taxes are a very complex area, but a forester can refer landowners to publications and appropriate people who can deal with this problem.

Landowner organizations can be effective in lobbying legislatures for better tax incentives for timber growth; foresters can play a role in this effort.

Shifting my point of view, let me mention a problem that has bothered us over the years in our relationships with some foresters and other natural

resource professionals. We have owned our land for 33 years and have been working with it enough to be intimately familiar with each stand — its topography, the soil, the moisture condition, etc. We have educated ourselves through reading, meetings, workshops and talks with other landowners. We know what improvement techniques have or have not worked in each stand. We are aware of priorities and have a well-developed sense of what we can accomplish with our own work and those outside resources available to us. We then tend not to appreciate gratuitous advice on forest practices given us by professionals, either forestry or extension, who come to us, new to the scene, with cut and dried solutions to our problems. Talking to other experienced landowners and tree farmers, we know this to be a common problem. We all would like to be given credit for common sense and for experience painfully acquired over the years. Where we really need help is in the areas that we don't know much about, such as marking timber, who are

reliable loggers in the area, what state and local regulations apply, and similar problems with which we have had little experience.

Some foresters we have met seem to feel that this education-persuasion role is not for them — they became foresters because they liked the outdoors and the woods and they would rather deal with the technical aspects of forestry, not the human problem. So be it, there are challenges in the forest industry and in the various state and federal forest agencies. But the real challenge in forestry today, it seems to us, is to overcome the indifference and ignorance of the private landowner. We have come to understand, as our interests in forests and forestry have developed over the years, that the best relationship between private landowners and foresters must be based most of all on a joint love of forests and the ecosystems they represent, but it must also be based on a willingness to work together as equals and to persuade and to educate other landowners to join in the crusade to conserve this vital resource for the future. Δ

**Presented at the 1995 Winter Meeting of the Allegheny SAF by Al Maass, 9 February, 1995.*

SAF Supports Timber Management on Public Lands

The Sierra Club recently announced their position in favor of banning logging on all publicly-owned timberlands in the United States. With respect to statements in the announcement about logging being a single dominant use on public lands, quite the opposite is true. For example, National Forest Lands total 191 million acres, which includes lands and resources of all types. Of this amount, only 49.5 million acres (25.9 percent) are commercial forest land suitable and available for harvest.

When informed of the Sierra Club's announcement, SAF Executive Vice-President **Bill Banzhaf** said he "deeply regretted this action by the Sierra Club because it ignores the benefits that appropriate timber management activities can provide to the forest, such as improved forest health and wildlife habitat for certain

species; to our local forest communities; and, to the American people. Furthermore, this action is out of sync with the spirit and deliberations of the 1,500 participants in the recent 7th American Forest Congress, where 91 percent of the participants disapproved of an identical statement."

Banzhaf continued, saying "the Society of American Foresters reaffirms its commitment to multiple-use management of public forest lands for a variety of activities for all Americans. The Society, which speaks for the forestry profession in the United States, believes that public forest lands can, and should, be available to produce a variety of benefits — wilderness, wildlife, recreation, water, and other goods and services, including timber. Publicly-owned commercial forest land (capable of producing 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year) in the United

States totals 131 million acres, or about 27 percent of the Nation's total commercial forest land. Excluding opportunities for timber management on these lands will shift timber and wood fiber production to other land ownerships in the U.S. and other countries with, perhaps, more damaging environmental impacts."

Concluding, Banzhaf states, "Timber harvesting is a complex issue. Simple solutions don't always make sense and seldom work — they usually wind up shifting the problem somewhere else with more damaging effects. The recent announcement by the Sierra Club was a disappointment, and I hope they haven't removed themselves from effective participation in the collaborative planning process."

For more information on this subject, contact Jim Canavan at (301) 897-8720, extension 117. Δ

Coming Events

August

- 7-8 West Virginia Division SAF Summer Meeting, jointly with the Ohio SAF, Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, OH: "The Maturing Hardwood Resource." Dan Parker (304) 369-6030.
- 13-15 1996 Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Rock Springs, PA: 300+ exhibitors, Woodlot Conservation Tours and workshops, contact Robert Oberheim (714) 865-2081.
- 24 NEPA Community Tree Assoc. "Discovering Trees and Their Care," a demonstration of proper tree care, Scranton's Nay Aug Park. Vincent Cotrone (717) 825-1701.

September

- 15 **Deadline for articles, photos and ads for the Fall issue of *The Allegheny News***
- 26-28 1996 SAF National Leadership Academy for Vice Chairs, YMCA TroutLodge Camp, Potosi, Missouri.
- 29-Oct.5 World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development: North American Regional Public Hearings (Canada, Mexico, USA), Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Gary Dunning, Yale Univ. (203) 432-5117 or Email: gary.dunning@yale.edu

October

- 2-3 Allegheny SAF "Summer" Meeting, Warren PA Holiday Inn. Registration material to be mailed in August, or contact Doug Ostergard (814) 484-7575.
- 17 Ben Roach Forum, Kane, PA: "PA Harvesting Assessment Study" with Steve Jones.

November

- 9-13 National SAF Meeting, Albuquerque, NM: "Diverse Forests, Abundant Opportunities, and Evolving Realities"

December

- 15 **Deadline for articles, photos and ads for the Winter issue of *The Allegheny News***

February 1997

- 12-14 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting, Matamoras, PA: 75th Allegheny SAF Anniversary "From Pinchot to the Present & Beyond."

March 1997

- 15 **Deadline for articles, photos and ads for the Spring issue of *The Allegheny News***

August 1997

- 13-15 Allegheny SAF Meeting, Canaan Valley State Park, "Working with the Media"

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