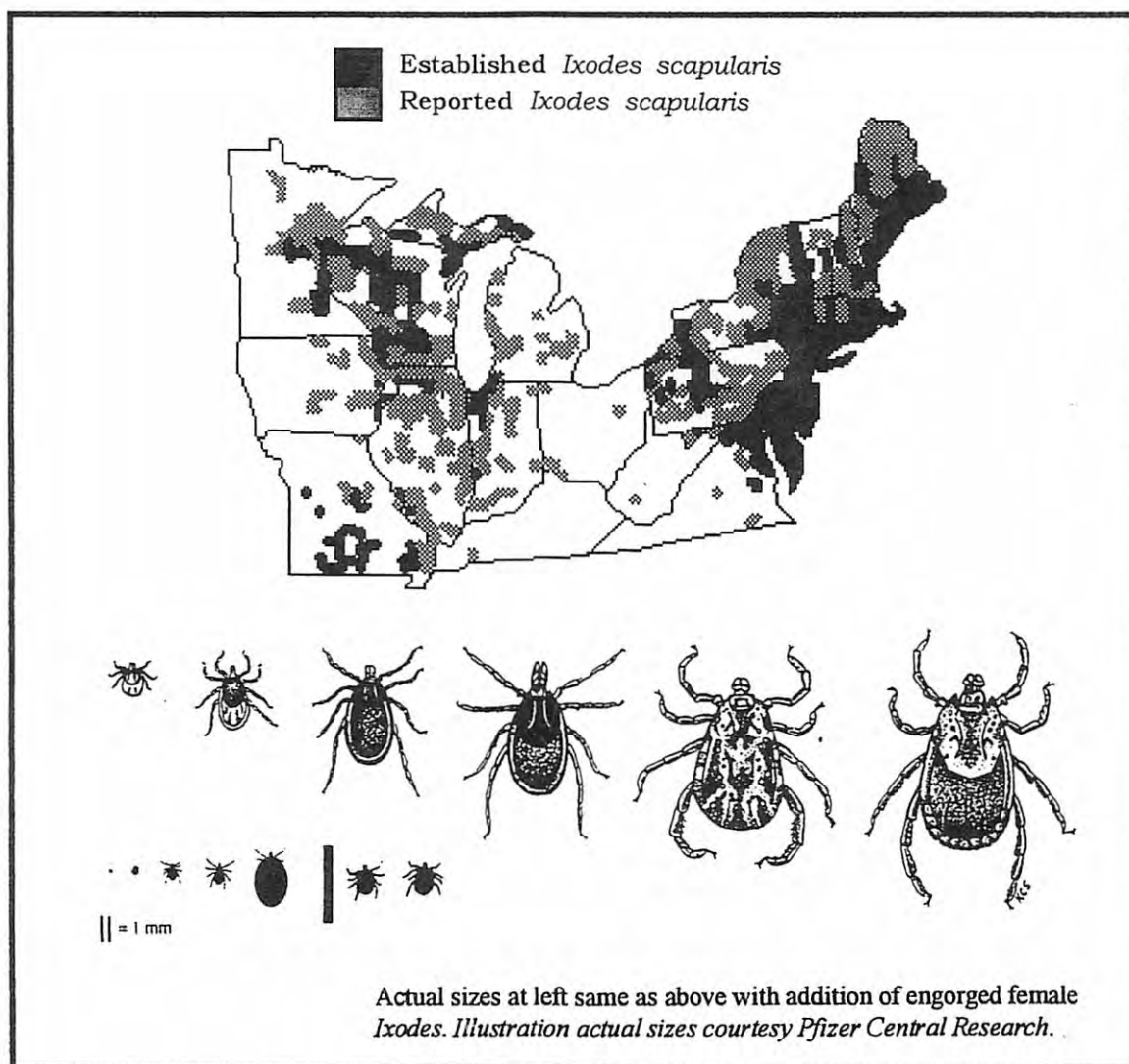


# The Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters  
**Winter 1998-1999**

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# The Allegheny News

Volume 7, No. 4

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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.*

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

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## Cover Illustrations

The map and tick drawings are taken, with permission, from fact sheets of the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station in New Haven, CN. Thanks to researchers Louis Magnarelli and Kirby Stafford III. See the articles on pages 14 through 19



## Chairman's Corner

By Mark R. Webb  
Allegheny SAF Chair

Welcome to the New Year and the last year of the millennium! This past year certainly has flown by and I hope your year was as exciting and full of blessings as was ours. I hope the coming year is full of success for you all.

Thanks are in order to many for our year past. First thanks to the **Glatfelter Paper Company** for the donation of paper for this and three upcoming issues of *The Allegheny News*. Thanks as always goes to **Jack Winieski** for keeping the Allegheny on course. Finally thanks to each of you for being a part of our profession and especially the Society of American Foresters. You are the ones who determine the extent of our greatness and accomplishments; each pursuing an initiative of choice regards the profession and the Society adds up to the greater effort.

By the time you read this we may have a new US President or at the very least the matter should be behind us. However the basic question will be, have we as a nation learned anything? What happens when we as individuals and as a country abandon the basic principles upon which our country is founded. Abandoning sound principles leads to chaotic situations.

As we prepare to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SAF, I think we should ponder our professional base. I don't mean to suggest that we have abandoned our founding tenants, but (you knew there had to be a but) there are many forces which pressure us to forget the basic sound science that is the corner stone of our profession. In celebration, let us take time to remember that it is a science base upon which we practice our art; it is the scientific platform upon which we must always begin our debate. And with the new year let us also not to forget our professional respect for each other, the public, and the resource we work with daily.

I encourage each of you to take advantage, as often as possible, to attend continuing forestry education programs. The science base upon which we practice is constantly evolving and only by updating our education can we possibly hope to practice at the highest professional level expected of us by society.

Hope to see you all at the Winter Meeting in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia at Berkeley Springs come February 16-18, 1999 – a program full of insight into land use changes and the forest fragmentation problem we struggle with as forest resource managers. ♠



# Members and Views

## Roger Sherman Elected National SAF Fellow

**Roger L. Sherman**, Public Affairs Forester of the Appalachian Region, Westvaco Corporation, Rupert, WV, was elected to the honorary position of National SAF Fellow by members of the Allegheny SAF from which he was nominated. Election to Fellow is the highest form of recognition by one's professional peers, and is limited to less than 5% of the national membership.

Allegheny and National SAF members are well aware of Roger's leadership skills and contributions to initiatives in the forestry profession and the Society, at the local and the national levels. He has been awarded Outstanding Service to Forestry Awards by the WV Forestry Association and the Allegheny SAF. In 1994, he received the prestigious National SAF John A. Beale Award, recognizing his "outstanding continuous efforts, over a sustained period of time, for promoting forestry through voluntary service to the Society of American Foresters."

Most recently, he contributed significantly to the creation of the popular National SAF Leadership Academy for state and division officers; initiated two round-tables for the Seventh American Forest Congress; developed a master's-level course in economics and forestry for public school teachers; assisted in developing and enacting state logging sediment control legislation; helped organize the first national 4-H Forestry Invitational; and was instrumental in the "Forester at Home" print sales project which netted more than \$7,000 for public information projects. ♣

## WV DOF and State Forester Bill Maxey Retires



CHARLESTON, WV (October 26, 1998) - The West Virginia Division of Forestry (DOF) announces the retirement of **Bill Maxey**, DOF Director and State Forester since 1993. "He'll be missed," says **Ralph Glover**, Deputy State Forester, "Under Bill's direction, our people and programs have excelled."

Maxey received a BS in Wood Industries in 1959 and an MS in Industrial Forestry in 1967 from WVU's School of Forestry. Previous to that he served in the US Army Security Agency from 1952-55. He had a vast experience in the industrial forestry sector before returning to his alma mater, first as an instructor and eventually

Director and State Forester. A member of the Society of American Foresters since 1959, Bill has also been past president of the WV Forestry Association, member and past Secretary/Treasurer of WVU's Forestry Alumni Association, and served on the Board of Directors of the Forest Farmers Association.

He has held responsible positions as Logging Superintendent for a 20 million-board-foot hardwood bandmill of Georgia Pacific Corporation, and while with Westvaco, he was Superintendent of Chip Procurement for the Covington paper mill and later Superintendent of Westvaco's company-wide Cooperative Forest Management Program.

State Forester Bill Maxey takes pride in having been able to serve the forest community and the public in West Virginia, and believes that, "we have made real strides toward the goal of spreading the sustainable forestry message; and encouraging healthy forestry practices that will positively impact West Virginians for many generation to come is very satisfying."

Bill hopes to keep busy working part-time as an independent timber consultant, and on his 165-acre farm and forest in Mason County, WV. He wants to share his retirement time with his wife and children, "and especially our six grandchildren."

## First NJ Forestry Foundation Scholarship Award in 1999

The New Jersey Forestry Foundation Scholarship Award, established by the NJ Forestry Association, will award its first scholarships in the Fall of 1999. Students studying forestry/natural resources management and related subjects at institutions of higher learning in New Jersey will be considered for educational grants.

The Foundation's Endowment Trust Fund was established to promote, support and advance forestry educational activities by providing scholarship funds and grants to students to encourage the development of expertise in forestry. Trustees of the fund believe that the awards are an investment in the sustainability of the forest land base and industry in the state.

Contributions to the Scholarship Trust Fund are tax deductible and all members of the forestry community and other interested parties are encouraged to add to the Endowment Fund. Donations can be sent to: *Dominick A. Cerrato, Treasurer, NJ Forestry Foundation, 166 Hillsdale Road, Colts Neck, NJ 07722.* ♣

# APA's 1998 Awards Recognize Two Allegheny SAF Members

At an awards dinner in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 14, the American Pulpwood Association's Appalachian Technical Division (ATD) recognized SAF members **Cinda Francis** and **Bob Radspinner**.

Cinda Francis received the 1998 H.H. Jefferson Memorial Safety Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions "to the improvement of safety in America's forest products industry by introducing new and innovative logger safety training programs while periodically modifying existing programs to keep participants interested." APA gives this award in memory of Harry H. "Jeff" Jefferson, APA's Safety Officer from 1945-56.

Cinda is Forestry Assistant and the Logger Training & Educational Program Coordinator for the West Virginia Forestry Association. She is responsible for promoting and scheduling the statewide comprehensive logging safety program for West Virginia loggers. She also coordinated the WV Game of Logging Finals at the WV Timber & Wood Products Show in Belington.

APA's 1998 Outstanding Forest Activist Award was given to Bob Radspinner on behalf of his timber harvesting and forest products community activities. In the presentation, ATD Chair Clint Manns stated, "whether meeting with a legislator, talking to a civic club, or developing relationships with the media, Bob's quiet but persistent actions have benefited the entire Appalachian forest products community."




ATD Chair Clint Manns presents Cinda Francis with APA's 1998 Safety Award, compliments of award sponsor Denharco Equipment



Bob Radspinner (L) accepting APA's 1998 Forestry Activist Award from ATD Chair Clint Manns.

Bob is Environmental Forester for the Timber Company in Mt. Hope, WV; the Timber Company is Georgia-Pacific's (GP) operating group that manages its company timberlands. His frequent contacts with local media have resulted in newspaper articles featuring, for example, The Timber Company's partnership with Trout Unlimited to enhance a native trout stream, a rails-to-trails project crossing The Timber Company's land in West Virginia, and joint research with Virginia Tech on reforestation of surface-mined areas.

In his media relations work, Bob weaves in messages about sustainable forestry and the importance of growing trees for products we use every day. He is also the WV Chair of the State's Implementation Committee for the American Forest & Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). SFI is a public commitment by companies such as GP to practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. ♣



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## Casey Reviews Forest Tax Law Survey for Valley Forge

By Terry Hoffman, Chair, Valley Forge SAF Chapter

On November 16, 1998 the Valley Forge SAF Chapter in Pennsylvania met at the Thorndale Inn, just west of Philadelphia, to hear member **Lloyd Casey** present a regional summary of individual state forest tax laws. Casey presented a slide program illustrating the results of his recent survey of states in the northeast and mid-western U.S.

All 20 states have at least one law related to property taxes for forest land. The laws vary extensively and the effectiveness of each is also very highly variable. Lloyd has developed recommendations for a model forest tax law. NY, NJ, MA and PA are reportedly working on or considering revisions to their present forest land tax laws to insulate the holding and management of forest land from development pressures. More information may be obtained by calling Lloyd at (610) 975-4143.



Lloyd Casey summarizes state forest tax laws for the Valley Forge Chapter

During the business meeting portion of the session, Chair **Terry Hoffman** led a discussion that identified various projects in 16 different categories. Four projects considered to be most critical and achievable were identified: Working on the Keep America Growing Conference scheduled for June 6-9, 1999; the development of a riparian forest buffer tree planting along West Valley Creek at the Exton Mall; recruiting three teachers for the Penn Tech Forestry Camp in Williamsport by June; and developing an SAF Speakers Bureau for service clubs and other organizations in the area.

Member **Earl Higgins** presented a recently published clearcutting brochure entitled "Lets Talk About Clearcutting" written for youth in the latter primary grades. Copies are being made available through the PA Forestry Association for a reportedly \$5 (717-766-5371). Those involved in K-12 environmental education might also be interested in a reprint of the "Life, Death and Rebirth of a Tree" poster (Patty Dougherty of the USFS at 610-975-4104).

The next Chapter meeting will be hosted by Rich Widmann at the Philadelphia Canoe Club building located on the Wissahickon and Schuylkill Rivers (details via Terry Hoffman at 610-975-4143). △

## SAF Elects Vice-President

**Frederick W. Ebel**, of Colbert, Washington, has been elected as Vice President of the National SAF and will assume duties of that office January 1, 1999. As President in the year 2000, he will then lead the Society's Centennial celebration into the new millenium.

Mr. Ebel is president of Ebel and Associates, and was formerly regional timberlands manager for WTD Industries and chief forester for Boise Cascade Corporation in Oregon. Among his SAF activities, Mr. Ebel has served on SAF Council (District II), the national Ethics Committee and the Committee on Forest Policy, and was chair of the Task Force on Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Locally, he has participated in numerous committees in both the Inland Empire and Oregon SAF.

Members of the Allegheny SAF enjoyed Fred's participation in our 1998 Summer Meeting in Valley Forge, PA. △

## First NHLA Forest Technical Scholarship Awarded to Allegany Student

By Steven F. Resh, Professor of Forestry, Allegany College of Maryland

Allegany College of Maryland forestry student, **Thomas Long**, has received the first National Hardwood Lumber Association's (NHLA) Scholarship ever awarded to a technical student. Mr. Long is a second year student in Allegany College of Maryland's Forest Technology Program at Cumberland, Maryland.

The award was announced in the July, 1998 issue of "National Hardwood Magazine." Mr. David Pritchard, Public Affairs Director for NHLA, noted that, "the NHLA's Awards Committee was so impressed with Long's accomplishments, ambitions, and commitment that they chose to award him the \$500 scholarship even though the original three scholarships had already been awarded." The other three scholarships were presented to **Alex Finkral**, a PhD student at Yale; **Andrew Meador**, a BS student at Mississippi State; and **Jason Webb**, a BS student at the University of Tennessee.

Faculty members at Allegany College are very proud of the award which has been given to Tom and are grateful to the NHLA for making the scholarships available. Tom was one of 40 quality applicants for the three scholarships - making the honor all the more meaningful. Academic achievement, leadership skills and experiences, and having career goals and objectives which are consistent with future involvement in the hardwood industry are parameters included in NHLA's scholarship awards.

Tom and his wife, Elizabeth reside in Cumberland, MD, but are originally from Oakland, MD. He will receive his A.A.S. degree in December of 1999, and is considering continuing his education to the bachelors level in forestry. △

## Councilman's Corner



### What's Up With Council?

By John Heissenbuttel,  
SAF District VII Council Representative

I can't believe I have served almost two years on Council and am now starting at the final year of my term. I have been very pleased with what we have accomplished as a Council and as a Society over the past two years. For example:

**Strategic Planning.** Over the past two years, Council has transformed itself from a managing committee to a governing body. We now focus most of our time discussing the "ends" we expect rather than the excruciating details of the "means" to get there. I believe very strongly that Council serves SAF membership best when it focusses on vision and strategic objectives, and leaving the strategies and tactics for achieving the vision to Bill Banzhaf and his excellent staff. At our December meeting, Council will put the finishing touches on a strategic plan and a process for involving the membership in its further development. Please stay tuned.

**Dues - Structure & Rates.** Speaking of staying tuned, over the past two years I have kept you informed on the analysis and discussions within Council on updating dues rates and structure. Last November I informed you that it appeared to me that we were eventually (maybe in 10 years) headed to a flat dues rate, where any member paid the same rate for the same services. Further, I informed you that I was in favor of such a move and invited comments and guidance. After publishing the analysis and recommendations for a new dues structure and rate in the March *Forestry Source*, Council unanimously approved the proposal in June. I believe the change to be very fair and necessary; however, I was just advised by SAF headquarters that several members have expressed "sticker shock" after recently receiving their 1999 dues invoices. For those in District VII that have a concern over the recent dues changes, please contact me so that I can explain to you why I believe these changes are justified.

**Establishing SAF as the Voice on Forestry.** I have been extremely pleased with SAF's increasing presence on national issues affecting forest management. Over the past two years, with the full support and encouragement from Council, Bill Banzhaf has mobilized SAF communications and policy staff experts to successfully establish SAF as a credible and effective voice on major policy issues. This positions the Society well to help shape the strategic direction of forest management in the United States.

While I believe much progress has been made over the past two years, I always like to consider the common questions put to any elected official by their constituents: "what have you done for me lately" or "what exactly are you going to do for me/to me next." The following are some of my personal expectations/goals for the upcoming year as a member of Council:

- I will be working hard over the next year to ensure that SAF fully embraces a strategic plan and that Council continues to work as a governing body.
- I believe the report of the SAF Task Group on Forest Management Certification will prompt a lively discussion within Council and the membership. To me, the degree to which this discussion is useful will depend whether it focuses on the merits of the plethora of private sector and government schemes designed to improve forest management or if the discussion focuses on desired end results. I can tell you I will be pushing for a discussion of the latter, rather than the former. We need to decide where we want to head before we consider which road (or roads) we want to take.
- The 2000 SAF National Convention will occupy a lot of my time over the next year and beyond. Not just because I have been named General Chair, but more importantly, this is an opportunity for the Allegheny and the National Capital Societies to work together to make this the best convention ever. What an opportunity, as 2000 is the centennial year of the SAF. As our incoming SAF President Jim Coufal puts it: "an opportunity to celebrate your centennial only comes around once every 100 years."

As always, I seek the counsel and advice of all SAF members within District VII, so please feel free to contact me at any of the numbers listed on the inside back cover of this issue.

*\* Congratulations are in order to John, he was elected to SAF Fellow in the recent election.*





Bob Bauer (L), Chair of the Roach Forum, presents Mr. Walley with the Forum's symbolic speakers momento, a black cherry Biltmore stick


## "Ben Roach Forum" Sponsors Timber Investment Lecture

Report extracted from The Kane Reporter article by Reporter Ellen Dawson, 10/23/98

The semi-annual Ben Roach Forum, an alliance of the Plateau and Northern Hardwood SAF Chapters and other forestry organizations in Northwestern Pennsylvania, featured **Mr. Marc Walley**, Northern Region Manger for Forest Investment Associates (FIA) as their October 22<sup>nd</sup> speaker. Full tables at the Kane Country Club attested to the interest generated by the topic.


Mr. Walley is responsible for timberland management on FIA's Northern Region, including 200,000 acres of hardwoods in Pennsylvania. FIA oversees some 500,000 acres of forest holdings in nine states. A SAF member, he holds a BS degree in Forestry from Auburn University and is a registered forester in Alabama and Georgia.

Timberland investment benefits highlighted in Walley's presentation included asset diversification, risk reduction (timber over the long term being low risk), real rate of return, and biological growth (the most unique aspect of timberland investment). ⤴



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## Indiana Bat Issue Updated for Northern Hardwoods Chapter

By Ned Karger, Chair, Northern Hardwoods SAF

The Indiana Bat and Allegheny National Forest (ANF) issues were the main topics of discussion at the Northern Hardwood Chapter Annual Fall Meeting held November 12, 1998 at the Potato City Motor Inn near Coudersport, Pennsylvania. **Brad Nelson**, ANF Wildlife Biologist gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the biology and habitat requirements of the Indiana Bat. This bat is one of nine bat species in PA and is on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list.

In the summer of 1998, one male bat was captured on the ANF during a research study. This was the first actual capture of this species on the ANF, although the area was known to have suitable habitat and the possibility of their presence was addressed in the ANF Management Plan.

Preservationist groups immediately filed a notice of intent to sue the US Forest Service using the bat and the ESA to shut down all timber sales on the ANF. This has been a very hot topic in the region lately and was a timely issue for the Northern Hardwood Chapter.

Nelson briefly addressed the litigation and the preservationist's agenda to close the ANF to all timber harvesting. The Indiana bat is also being used to further this agenda on other national forests. The ANF is currently in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to review their management plans, standards and guidelines in an effort to make sure national forests actions and projects address and protect the bat and its habitats.

The main topic of the presentation was the biology of the bat; open-managed forestlands provide the best habitat for the bat and so a complete ban on timber harvesting could negatively impact the bat. Hibernation sites, roosting requirements, maternal colonies and foraging habitat were also covered. This was excellent information for SAF members, and all came away with a better understanding of both the biology and the politics of the Indiana bat issue.

Prior to the presentation, a social hour, dinner and business meeting, local issues and updates of importance to the chapter were discussed further. Final plans for the SAF PA Forestry Camp for Science Teachers were announced. This project, which former chapter chair **Dennis Ringling** has been working on for the last few years is finally coming together. The camp will be held in June of 1999 at the Williamsport campus of Pennsylvania College of Technology (see page 20 of the Fall 1997 issue of *The Allegheny News*). Chapter members discussed how to get the word out to local teachers and how to select applicants for the camp. The chapter also decided to donate \$300 to support the camp.

The next meeting of the Northern Hardwood SAF Chapter will be a "walk in the woods" style meeting to be held in May of 1999. ⤴



# SAF and Habitat for Humanity: 100 Homes by 2000?

By Jack Winieski, Editor

SAF has pledged to help build 100 homes in conjunction with the national Habitat for Humanity (HFH) program to celebrate SAF's 100 years of existence as the professional forestry organization. With finished homes in Memphis, Tennessee; Minnesota (two, with more planned); and of course, the home in Traverse City built during the 1998 SAF National Convention, we are off to a good start. This small exposure for SAF at the local and national levels has been invaluable in our efforts to connect forestry and forest products to everyone's daily lives.

The main purposes of this project though is to help HFH meet their goal of reducing homelessness in the US. We in SAF, chose to work with HFH because building homes provides the opportunity to:

- inform the public about forestry and the importance of forest management
- demonstrate the importance of our conservation ethic, professional forester contributions to sustainability, and forest products in every day life
- allow SAF members to work as a team, along with other natural resource professionals and caring individuals, becoming involved in local communities.

The four divisions and the seven + (student chapters) in the Allegheny Five-State Society have an opportunity to

pick up on this project and become public relations exponents for the profession and SAF. If you (and this doesn't necessarily mean one of the officers of your unit) haven't received a packet, including the introductory booklet outlining how to begin the process, **contact C. J. Lockman Hall, Centennial Assistant, at (301) 897-8720 x155.** Take the initiative. Get a packet from C.J. and discuss it at your next meeting. Reach out to an adjoining SAF unit and combine your contributions of labor and raw materials where available, and work together with HFH volunteers. C.J. will put you in contact with local HFH affiliates who can assist you in developing your plans and contributions toward building a home.

For me, it was a very emotional experience at the Traverse City Convention when the house that was framed and roofed during the sessions was presented to the new single mother owner (along with an affordable mortgage). Anyone who put on a nail apron or hammered roof shingles (and the student members in attendance were all over that structure) received all the gratification they needed as they viewed that ceremony.  $\triangle$

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## SAF Vice President Fred Ebel Comments and Challenges

I want to thank the Allegheny members for your support in my election to SAF Vice-president and the sincere welcome I received at your 1998 summer meeting at King of Prussia, PA. It was an opportunity to meet many of you for the first time, and the chance to express my views about our profession. It was also a chance to hear your concerns and visions for the future of SAF and forestry. I am always struck by, and a little surprised, how different our forests are across the U.S. but how similar the problems we encounter as foresters.

Like all of you, SAF has always been a focal point of my career and professional life. As SAF, we have an exceptional opportunity in 2000 to brag about our historic accomplishments and focus attention on the proper management and sustainability of our forests in the next millennium. It is always easy to tell a great story with confidence and conviction, and we have a great story to tell! I challenge all of you to become involved to tell our story to the public, whether it's a sixth grade classroom or home town rotary club. As a group, we can make a difference.

Thank you again for your support and I will be looking forward to seeing all of you over the next couple of years.  $\triangle$



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# Joe Ibberson, 45-yr SAF Member, is 1998 Pennsylvania Outstanding Tree Farmer

Parts Extracted from *Pennsylvania Forests* article by John Daugherty, Vol. 89, #2, Fall 1998

At the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association held in Harrisburg, **Joseph E. Ibberson** was presented with the American Forest Foundation's 1998 PA Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award. Under the American Tree Farm System program, he now advances to the regional/national competition for further recognition.



Joe Ibberson accepts the 1998 PA Outstanding Tree Farmer certificate and Tree Farm sign, flanked by PFA Board Member, Sen. Roger Madigan, and Tree Farm Committee Chair, John Daugherty (l)

Ibberson has a BS in Forestry from Penn State and a MF in Forestry from Yale University. A 45-year member of SAF, Ibberson has had an illustrious forestry career with the PA Bureau of Forestry as Chief of the Division of Forest Advisory Services. In that capacity he has directed forest staff and line specialists in inventory, research and the management of natural forests and plantations on State Forests, and directed assistance programs on non-industrial private forest lands. For several years after state government retirement, Ibberson operated a highly successful forestry consulting business.

You might say he has practiced what he preached, for the last 34 years. At a time when the undesirable fragmentation of forest land is the norm, he has been successful in combining some 800 acres of fragmented forest parcels into several larger working forests in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Previously, Ibberson consolidated 17 parcels into a 900-acre tree farm which was later put into desirable public use. Among the projects he has completed – about half of the work he had done himself and half with hired help – on these parcels are:

- the completion of 1,095 acres of timber stand improvement and 600 acres of disease and insect control (some treated holdings were exchanged over time)
- planting of 12,000 conifer seedlings

from 1969-72 to increase evergreen cover and wildlife habitat

- constructed over 15 miles of culverted forest roads, nine ponds and numerous food plots, and
- harvested 8,800,000 board feet and 6,660 cords of hardwood timber

Ibberson is credited with convincing other forest landowners to actively manage their woodlands, hosting many tours of his Tree Farm by public and professional groups. Visitors receive a color brochure that describes the geology, soils, forest types, timber improvement and recreation, education and demonstration areas at the sites. He has received many awards for his conservation efforts, including the Wildlife Conservation Award of the PA Game Commission and an award from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Outstanding Contributions to Forest Conservation.

In December of 1998, Ibberson's 214.6-acre Beta Tree Farm in Dauphin County (near Harrisburg) was donated to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a State Park to be used as a demonstration/education forest to promote the understanding and management of non-industrial private forest land for their owners and the public. The "Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area" will also provide opportunities for specific passive recreational opportunities and a place for "meditation and communing with the natural environment."

Mr. Ibberson has also established the "Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management" at the School of Forest Resources, College of Forest Resources Management at Penn State University. The Ibberson Chair was accepted in October 1998 by Penn State President Graham Spanier and School of Forest Resources Director, Dr. Larry Neilson. The goal of the Chair is, "to allow the holder to encourage and support students who have the abilities and interests to become professional foresters advising private landowners on the management of their lands, and to serve as an example and source of inspiration for students." △



Ibberson and grand nephews, Andrew (l) and Mathew during a recent visit to the Tree Farm



# Plateau Chapter SAF Field Tour Features "Peer Review"

By Howard Wurzbacher, Chair Plateau SAF Chapter

The fall meeting of the Plateau Chapter was held October 8, 1998 and featured a field tour of the President Oil Tract in Venango County. The tour and discussion were led by **Chris Guth** of Industrial Timber and Land Company's Endeavor Lumber Company, the property owner. Focus centered on the forest management challenges and impacts of diameter limit harvesting. The field tour was structured in a "rounds" or "peer review" type of format, with a walk through the woods providing a variety of subjects for discussion regarding the current and future management of the tract.

The business portion of the meeting included the election of chapter officers. **Howard Wurzbacher** was elected as Chapter Chair, **Chris Guth** as Chair-elect and **Dave Andrus** as Secretary/Treasurer. **Bob Bauer** presented a review of the Allegheny SAF summer



Chair Howard Wurzbacher conducts some chapter business from the ever present pick up truck bed at most SAF field trips

meeting in Valley Forge, PA and **Mark Webb** provided an update as to the current status of the licensing and registration initiative in Pennsylvania.

Following the field tour, the group shared an evening meal at Five Forks Restaurant near Tionesta, where **Dale Dunshie**, Allegheny National Forest Information Supervisor, shared information concerning the status of current and future timber sales, appeals

and litigation on the Allegheny National Forest.

Another "Walk in the Woods" took place on October 16 as Plateau Chapter members shared a "Walk in the Woods" with fourth grade elementary school students at the Drake Well Park in Titusville. **Jeff Griffith**, **Dave Andrus**, **Bob Bauer** and **Howard Wurzbacher** shared their knowledge of the forest and addressed the many questions posed by the curious and attentive group. △

## MD Liability Issues Workshop and Biannual Meeting Held

By Jack Perdue, MD/DE Chair

The MD/DE Division of the Allegheny SAF held its annual fall workshop and business meeting at Westminster, Maryland on October 22, 1998. Nearly 70 attended to hear speakers discuss topics under the theme, "Liability Issues and Forestry." The day-long session included talks on: Recreational Access Statutes and Landowner Liability in Maryland, Liability in Timber Sale Contracts, Conducting a Professional Trespass Appraisal, Liability for Hazard Trees in Urban/Suburban Areas, and Labor and Immigration Issues That Affect Forestry. Five Continuing Forestry Education Credits in Category I were assigned to

the workshop (Maryland forest license renewable requires that eight CFE credits be obtained within a two-year period).

The topics for this workshop attracted foresters in utility forestry, forest products industry, forest consulting, national forest product associations, college instructors and students, and government. Attendance from the forestry community at these spring and fall workshops has been encouraging, and is not limited to SAF members. SAF membership is, of course, encouraged; this time two new members were recruited.

The MD/DE SAF Division is part

of an educational cooperative, utilizing the strengths of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, and the local SAF Division. This arrangement has worked very well over the past couple of years. Quality speakers addressing local and regional issues of the day has been the secret to maintaining attendance at the workshops; as a result of more members in attendance, even the business meetings are more interesting. For more information about this and future MD/DE Division workshops contact Jack Perdue (410) 260-8505 or e-mail [jperdue@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jperdue@dnr.state.md.us) △



## World Cup Forest Health Tour

By Gerard Hertel, Asst. Director, Forest Health & Management, USFS State & Private Forestry

The World Cup Tour ended on July 12, 1998, the day that France, the host country won it all! The same day Mr. Guy Landmann, Forest Health Department Head, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Paris, France and Ms. Marie-Reine Fleisch, Forest Health Regional Technical Center Head, Orleans arrived in Philadelphia to spend a week exchanging forest health issues with SAF member **Gerry Hertel**.

Television scenes confirmed that the celebration over the World Cup Championship was perhaps the greatest street celebration in Paris since that city's liberation in 1945. The forest health tour group held its own Philadelphia celebration, somewhat smaller than the one on the Champs Elysees.

The group did get to discussing and viewing examples of a comprehensive approach for protecting the health, productivity and biodiversity of forests. This included the inspections (at the Port of Philadelphia) of wood products being imported into this country for non-native insects and pathogens, standardized insect and disease surveys, forest health monitoring plots, insect control programs and the stewardship and urban and community programs.

The French visitors were also hosted by the PA Bureau of Forestry at two Stewardship properties in PA (Snyder's & Carbaugh's), and the Northeast PA Urban Forestry Project in Scranton. The NJ Bureau of Forest Management and Agriculture's Bureau of Biological Control, the Grey Towers National Historic site, the NY Urban Forestry Council, and USDA's Animal & Plant Inspection Service were tour stops.

There are over 35 million acres of forests in France with 136 species of trees (41% are oak). 25 million acres are owned by 3.8 million owners; 60% of the forests are divided into plots of more than 25 acres. The French government owns and manages 12% of the forests and communities own 18%. Altogether, the French forests put on twice as much growth as is harvested and over 200 million visitors come to the forest each year. ▲

## New Graduate Watershed Option at Penn State

By Kerry L. Wedel, Center Director,  
Watershed Stewardship, Penn State University

The Center for Watershed Stewardship is a new initiative in graduate studies at Penn State University, supported through a partnership with the Howard Heinz Endowments of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the Center is to educate a new generation of professionals, able to develop and implement interdisciplinary team-based solutions to complex water resource issues within a watershed framework.

An interdisciplinary graduate-level curriculum in watershed stewardship will be provided through a collaborative effort between the Department of Landscape Architecture and the School of Forest Resources. Students are currently admitted to the Graduate Option in Watershed Stewardship through the graduate degree programs of those academic units. The Center will also offer continuing education short courses and seminars for practicing professionals and community leaders on a variety of watershed topics, beginning in the Spring of 1999.

The program is offered exclusively to a 20-student class, which will pursue the program together for two years. In the second year they will participate in actual watershed planning projects, called "Keystone Projects," addressing local watershed issues with local Pennsylvania communities.

Fellowships and other assistance are available for selected students; the Center is currently seeking prospective students for Fall 1999. For further information about the Center's programs contact:

Kerry Wedel  
Ferguson Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802  
phone (814) 865-3334;  
e-mail [klw14@psu.edu](mailto:klw14@psu.edu) or visit the website at  
[www.larch.psu.edu/watershedstewardship.html](http://www.larch.psu.edu/watershedstewardship.html) ▲

### Help a Colleague . . . and Help Yourself

Many of us find it difficult to approach a colleague and ask him or her to join the Society of American Foresters. In our daily contacts, we meet individuals working in the profession who we are proud to be associated with, and yet for some reason are not members of SAF. Well, here is an easy way for all of us to help in recruiting these valuable professionals. Over the years the "Help a Colleague... and Help Yourself" cards have been quite effective in member recruiting efforts. The national office will make contact with suggested members with no revelation as to what prompted an invitation to join. Send the following information about your suggestion to: SAF at 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, FAX it to (301) 897-8720 or e-mail it to [mckernoc@safnet.org](mailto:mckernoc@safnet.org)

Please send membership information to:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer:	State Government	Consulting Forester	Self Employed
(Circle)	Federal Government	College or University	Retired
	Private Industry	Association	Student
			Other

# Countdown to History

By Timothy A. Kaden, Past Allegheny SAF Chair, 1998 HSD Chair



This is it! The world is counting down the last year of the twentieth century. Various forms of news media are daily reminding us of the exact number of days, hours, minutes and seconds before we leap into the next millennium. The excitement and hype will build day by day until the infamous ball at Times Square, New York City will drop and ring in the next century. From what I have read, if you want to

be at a specific place for that historic event, you had better make your reservations yesterday.

Our professional society will also be celebrating a milestone in the year 2000. One hundred years since, on November 30, 1900, seven young foresters assembled in Chief Forester Gifford Pichot's office in the Division of Forestry in Washington, DC to organize a professional society of foresters. Two weeks later, they met again and adopted a constitution and a name - thus was born the Society of American Foresters.

One hundred short years of professional forestry - where has the time gone? And how we have grown, adopting to the needs of society (small "s") through wars and depressions and affluence - applying new science bases as they developed to the artful practice that is our profession. Public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, and yes, eager young forestry students, contributing to the proud heritage that is SAF. The Society objectives outlined by Pinchot early on still ring true, "... to advance the science, technology and practice of professional forestry in America, and do use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society."

I have always found it interesting that foresters draw from many sciences to practice an art, that in many cases, they seldom see through fruition. In the hundred or so years in the life of a tree or stand of trees, whether starting from a natural regeneration effort or planted seedlings, there is great satisfaction in seeing the dynamics of the forest system develop. But seldom does the forester see a complete cycle, and all the dynamics of changing species of flora and fauna as development progresses. The vision of the nurturing forester is nevertheless fulfilling, and is the trait that separates us from those who also enjoy the forest, but who perhaps do not have the same depth of feeling we experience. I'm thankful for the privilege of being part of this profession and part of the Society of American Foresters.

We are well into the planning for our Centennial Celebration. All through this year you will be hearing about the various activities and events to which you and your SAF unit can contribute to at the local level in highlighting our 100 years. The "kick off" of events will take place at the National Convention in

Portland, Oregon this fall and continue for all of 1999, culminating in Washington, DC in 2000! National Vice-President **Jim Coufal** is leading our Centennial Celebration and I'm sure would welcome any ideas and assistance you have to offer.

Foresters in the Allegheny SAF are a major part of the history of our profession. There are not many state and multi-state societies that can boast being around for 77 years. I feel good about our first 100 years; we have come a long way in the short life of our profession. I look forward with enthusiasm to contributing what I can to our forest-based resources and to SAF for at least part of the next hundred years... I hope you do too. △

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**A Letter To:**  
PA SAF Division Members and Foresters Throughout the State

December 25, 1998

Fellow foresters,

Merry Christmas and hopes for the new year. 1999 looms as a crossroads for the Pennsylvania Division, indeed in my mind, for the forestry profession in the state. Depending upon which fork in the road we take, it could be a banner year or a disappointment. Some of us are excited about our first real opportunity in over 35 years to actually introduce legislation calling for the registration and licensing of foresters in Pennsylvania. If successful, we would join 14 other states, including two of our sister states in the Allegheny Society, that provide that protection for the public and the resource.

This effort will be time consuming and costly, but it will be helped greatly by the kindness of an anonymous donor who is challenging members and friends to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000, to provide funds to promote forester licensing. But as we work toward this goal it is important to first look back and understand what brought us to this point.

The PA Division has become deeply concerned that in recent years more and more individuals and firms with little or no education or experience in forestry, are portraying themselves to be foresters and are offering "forestry services" to landowners.

Sustaining the valuable hardwood forest resource in Pennsylvania is a complex problem as we all know. The relationships involved in tending stands, reproduction harvests and protecting the land base, compounded by high deer populations and ferns, requires state-of-the-art science and experience.

In an effort to address practice by unqualified individuals, and questionable practice by qualified individuals, an SAF initiative resulted in the formation of a study committee in 1994. Certain non-forester representatives of the forest products industry raised objections that they were not adequately represented, but SAF by-laws specifically prohibited the formation of SAF committees on the basis of employment rather than membership.

Once the committee took a position in support of seeking registration and licensing legislation, an informational meeting was held in State College to discuss the pros and cons of the issue. As a result, SAF members were then canvassed by secret written ballot, 62% of which were returned and 68% of those in favor of pursuing forester registration and licensing in Pennsylvania – an obvious veto-proof mandate.

Because of the concerns of industry, or more specifically the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association (HLMA), I have personally tried as both an SAF and PCPF officer to facilitate a dialogue between the two parties:

- 1994 - with representatives of Weaber Lumber Company
- 1995 - an appeal in the Summer issue of *The Allegheny News*
- 1996 - an August letter to Proctor and Gamble foresters
- 1997 - a June letter to the national office of AF&PA
- 1998 - an April correspondence with PA SFI
- 1998 - during the August Legislative Task Force meeting
- 1998 - in a September meeting between PCPF and HLMA

As a way of finding common ground between HLMA and PCPF, I have also recommended to HLMA, before the September meeting, that we engage the services of a professional facilitator in natural resource conflict resolution. HLMA declined.

Details of PCPF's proposed "Forester Accountability Amendment Act" to the long standing PA Registration and Licensing Act is misunderstood by those in opposition. In fact it was a disappointment at the legislative hearing that only two of some 30 industry representatives indicated that they had read the proposed legislation. Similarly at the September meeting with HLMA, only two of the five HLMA members indicated that they knew what the proposed legislation contained.

Quickly reviewing what the legislative proposal does and does not do:

1. It joins foresters with three other professions, engineers, surveyors and geologists, under an existing Board.
2. Uses SAF terms to define "forestry" and the "practice of forestry".
3. Establishes educational and experience requirements (which also allows for Forest Technicians to be licensed).
4. Provides for continuing education
5. Establishes a 2-year "grandfathering" period for those that meet the educational and experience requirements.
6. Specifically exempts from licensing, procurement activities of sawmills and individuals managing their own land.

I hope in the weeks and months ahead, foresters here in Pennsylvania (as well as those in adjoining states who practice across state lines) will obtain a copy of the proposed legislation and make a point to attend informational meetings on the subject. Some of us may be quite comfortable in our personal professional situations, but it may take sacrifice to support this licensing effort in 1999 – we all need to get involved, speak out, contact our legislative representatives, and provide financial support.

Robert J. LaBar, PA SAF Division Chair  
(717) 775-9741



# PCPF Receives Gift Challenge Towards Licensing Effort

By Robert J. LaBar, President PA Council of Professional Foresters

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF) has received an anonymous donor challenge, offering to match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 any funds contributed to PCPF by members, foresters or friends, to support the organization's efforts to effect the licensing and registration (L&R) of foresters in PA. PCPF has accepted this generous matching gift proposal, which will be in effect only from January-June of 1999, and will establish donations in a special fund outside of other operating budget items.

PCPF is a 501C(6) business league, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1996 to more effectively address forestry issues in the state. It resulted from the 1994 Forester Licensing and Registration Committee of the Pennsylvania Division, Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF), a 501C(3) non-profit organization that has restrictions on the use of funds for such purposes. In a referendum vote of the PA SAF Division members, with 62% of the ballots marked and returned, 68% cast votes in favor of pursuing L&R.

PCPF is organized and positioned to initiate legislation in support of the registration and licensing of foresters in PA through a proposed "Forester Accountability Act" amendment to the long standing Registration and Licensing Act which licenses Engineers, Surveyors, and as of 1997, Geologists. This act would: define "forestry" and "the practice of forestry," and set standards of formal education, experience, and continuing education necessary for practitioners. It is intended to give credibility to those practicing the forestry profession and accountability to the public using their services.

PCPF is not single-issue oriented. It pursues issues of concern relative to the scientific base and practice of forestry in the state. In its short existence, it has responded to three issues of concern to the profession by issuing position statements on: "Supporting Scientific Forest Management of the Allegheny National Forest" (relating to legal action



stopping timber sales on the ANF), "Green Certification of State Forest Lands" (recognizing the core of professional foresters and other resource managers in the planning and application of forestry and their role in the sustainability of state lands), and "American Forest & Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative" (suggesting that AF&PI acknowledge the necessary involvement of professionally trained foresters in

Control and Conservation Committee studying several forestry related issues. Also giving testimony, in opposition to forester licensing, were forest industry members of the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association (HLMA). A meeting between PCPF and HLMA to discuss the proposed legislation, suggested by the Legislative Task Force, failed to find common ground. HLMA is opposed to forester licensing legislation as a solution to PCPF's concern about the credibility of individuals (degreed or otherwise) practicing undefined "forestry," and the accountability of those offering management services under the guise of "practicing forestry."

As mentioned, PCPF is an entity outside of SAF but includes SAF members as well as members in the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) and others. Individuals with Forestry or Associate Forestry Technician degrees are eligible to submit application for membership in PCPF; anyone in sympathy with the effort to register and license foresters in Pennsylvania are welcome to make a



An early informational meeting of Pennsylvania foresters leading to overwhelming referendum vote to pursue licensing and registration in PA

their training and educational programs, and encourage landowners to employ the services of foresters in managing forest lands – especially related to timber harvesting and stand reproduction).

Members of PCPF recently gave testimony in support of forester registration and licensing at a special meeting of the bipartisan PA Legislative Forestry Task Force of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution

donation to match the anonymous challenge in support of L&R efforts. Under 501C(6) organization, contributions to PCPF are not tax deductible. All contributions will be treated on a confidential basis (application requests and donations can be directed to any member, or contact PCPF Secretary/Treasurer, Don Oaks at 311 Second Street, Pine Grove, PA 17963). △

# Why are ticks and Tick-Borne Infections Increasing?

By Louis A. Magnarelli, Ph.D.\*

Public awareness of ticks and tick-associated diseases has increased in the past two decades. There are at least 15 tick species in Connecticut, but persons are most likely to encounter American dog ticks (*Dermacentor variabilis*) during spring and early summer and blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) during most of the year. Both species are widely distributed in eastern and midwestern United States and are most abundant in or near forested habitats. The latter tick species, formerly known as the deer tick (*Ixodes dammini*), can transmit different disease organisms to human beings and other hosts.

Ticks are ectoparasites of vertebrate hosts. Research conducted at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) revealed that immature (larvae and nymphs) American dog ticks feed on small mammalian hosts, such as white-footed mice, shrews, meadow voles, eastern chipmunks, and gray squirrels, while adults feed on larger mammals, including dogs, cats, raccoons, Virginia opossums, horses, and human beings. Larvae and nymphs of black-legged ticks have a much broader host range and can parasitize over 100 species of mammalian, reptilian, and avian hosts.

Ticks often congregate along paths where mammalian hosts frequently walk. Carbon dioxide and odors of hosts are important cues for detecting these animals. Birds have played an important role in dispersing immature blacklegged ticks to new sites.

White-footed mice, chipmunks, and other rodents are reservoirs of *Borrelia burgdorferi* (a bacterium) or *Babesia microti* (a protozoan), the pathogenic agents of Lyme disease and human babesiosis, respectively. White-footed mice probably also carry the bacterium that causes human granulocytic ehrlichiosis (HGE) and serve to infect ticks that feed on them. In addition, white-tailed deer are chief hosts for adult blacklegged ticks. Deer populations in Connecticut have increased dramatically over the past 30 years with a corresponding rise in

numbers of blacklegged ticks.

Tick-borne infections in human beings usually occur during spring, summer, and early fall. Human cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, babesiosis and HE have been reported in Connecticut. Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a rare disease in Connecticut, is caused by a bacterial agent transmitted to humans by adult American dog ticks. Lyme disease, babesiosis, and HGE are linked to the bites of nymphal or female blacklegged ticks. Of these, Lyme disease is far more prevalent. Numbers of human cases in Connecticut usually exceed 1,000 per year and have totaled 3,034 in 1996, while those of babesiosis and HGE are normally less than 50 per year. The highest attack rates for Lyme disease are reported in New London County, but increased prevalence of disease is noted in Middlesex and Fairfield Counties. Antibiotics are effective in the treatment of all four diseases.

Although blacklegged ticks are found in all eight counties, they are most abundant in southern Connecticut where human cases of Lyme disease and babesiosis are more prevalent. The latter disease, once thought to be restricted to Long Island and areas off the northeast coast (e.g., Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and Shelter Island), is now established in inland Connecticut. Scientists at CAES have isolated *B. microti* from white-footed mice in East Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme, Stonington, and Montville. Some of these rodents also carried the Lyme disease agent. Blacklegged ticks, which have fed on mice carrying two or more pathogens, may transmit multiple agents to humans in some instances. Recent studies at CAES have confirmed that human blood samples sometimes contain antibodies to *B. burgdorferi*, *B. microti*, and the HGE agent (*Ehrlichia equi* or a closely related organism). It is unclear if these persons had concurrent infections or if there had been exposure to different agents over long



periods of time (i.e., months or years). Some people experience multiple tick bites during summer, and simultaneous tick-borne infections probably occur in some cases.

Diagnosis of tick-associated diseases in humans is sometimes difficult. Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a severe, acute infection, is usually promptly diagnosed and treated with antibiotics because there is high fever, pronounced headache, and a rash during early disease. Conversely, Lyme disease, well known for its skin, neurologic, cardiac, or arthritic disorders, can vary in its clinical presentation and may go undetected for several weeks or months. An expanding circular skin lesion, erythema migrans, usually develops within 30 days after a tick bite. This hallmark diagnostic feature of early disease can differ in its appearance. Moreover, in about 30 percent of the Lyme disease cases, erythema migrans does not develop or is not observed. With or without this skin lesion, signs and symptoms of disease can range from mild to severe. Asymptomatic cases have been reported. Fatalities are rare, even in instances when antibiotic therapy is lacking or administered late in disease, but intermittent episodes of frank arthritis of major joints can persist for several months.

Microscopic examinations of blood



specimens can be helpful in detecting human babesiosis and HGE infections. *Babesia microti* infections can cause severe anemia and, without antibiotic therapy, can be fatal. The elderly, immunocompromised patients, and persons without spleens are at high risk. Human babesiosis cases are diagnosed by microscopically examining Giemsa-stained red blood cells. Similarly, HGE infections can be detected by examining stained leukocytes. Patients often have lowered white blood cell and platelet counts. Like Lyme disease and babesiosis, pronounced fatigue, headache and fever are common in HGE infections. Disease can be asymptomatic, mild, or very severe.

Although antibody tests are available for all four diseases, false positive and false negative test results have been reported, particularly for Lyme disease. Highly sensitive and specific DNA detection procedures have been developed for babesiosis, Lyme disease, and HGE, but these sophisticated methods are expensive and not widely available in many diagnostic medical facilities. Therefore, clinical findings are of paramount importance in diagnosis. Studies continue at CAES to improve the sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic antibody tests for Lyme disease. Highly purified protein components of *B. burgdorferi* are being tested in automated enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays.

Citizens frequently ask why ticks have become abundant and why new diseases have emerged. During colonial times, forests were cleared for agricultural use. Deer populations were very low or non-existent in Connecticut during the 1800's and in the first half of this century. With industrialization and declining agriculture during that period, the forests returned in many areas of the

state. Numbers of deer, white-footed mice, other forest-dwelling animals and ticks increased.

Female blacklegged ticks can lay 3,000 eggs. Emerging larvae disperse and parasitize a multitude of hosts. There are few predators and parasites of ticks, and with extensive tick feedings on a wide range of hosts, there is increased potential for amplification and circulation of pathogens in nature. For example, field research done by CAES scientists has revealed female tick infection rates for Lyme disease at 40 percent or higher in some localities. The DNA of the HGE agent has been detected in 50 percent of the 120 blacklegged female ticks collected in forested areas of Bridgeport, East Haddam, and Lyme, Connecticut. It is currently believed that transmission rates of the HGE agent by ticks are far lower than infection rates.

Since human dwellings and recreational areas are often located in or near forests where blacklegged ticks are abundant, risk of infection for Lyme disease, babesiosis, and HGE are greater for those living in or entering those sites. Use of repellents on clothing or application of insecticides in tick-infested areas near homes (as directed on labels), prompt removal of attached ticks from skin, and early antibiotic treatment when a tick-associated illness develops can help prevent or resolve tick-borne infections.

#### Conclusion

American dog ticks and blacklegged ticks are abundant in Connecticut. Increased numbers of rodents, raccoons, white-tailed deer and other hosts in forests help support tick populations. Birds transport

immature blacklegged ticks to new sites. Some of these animals harbor pathogens that can cause human disease, but the full extent of tick-borne infections in Connecticut and other areas of the United States is unknown.

The geographic range of blacklegged ticks will probably continue to expand. Moreover, there may be other unknown pathogens in tick and vertebrate host populations that may cause disease in humans and domesticated animals. Therefore, research programs, like those being conducted at CAES, need to be multidimensional and should include pathogen isolation and identification, wildlife studies, analyses of blood specimens for antibodies to disease organisms, and tick control investigations.

Information on ticks, associated pathogens, and tick control practices can be obtained by writing to CAES Department of Entomology, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504 or calling the Office of the State Entomologist at (203) 974-8604.

*\* Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli is Vice Director at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, CT and State Entomologist. Trained as a medical entomologist at Cornell University, his research at the Station started in 1975, with field and laboratory studies of mosquitoes, deer flies, and horse flies. For the past 20 years, his work has focused on the biology of ticks, tick-borne pathogens, and antibody production in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. He has had more than 170 peer-reviewed scientific articles published. Dr. Magnarelli currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology and is a member of the Board of Directors of the NE Regional Center for Rural Development, and is a Research Affiliate in the Dept. of Epidemiology, Yale University School of Medicine.*



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by e-mail:  
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Next newsletter deadline  
is March 15, 1998



# Tick Associated Diseases

By Kirby C. Stafford III  
 Dept. of Forestry & Horticulture  
 P.O. Box 1106  
 Connecticut Agricultural Exp. Station  
 New Haven, CT 06504

## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a corkscrew-shaped bacterium. It is associated with the bite of certain *Ixodes* ticks, particularly the

*burgdorferi* and the incidence of Lyme disease in Connecticut each year during the period from 1989-1997 (Figure 2).

### Symptoms of Lyme Disease:

**Localized infection** - Approximately 60-80% of patients develop a red rash (erythema migrans) within a few days to several weeks (typically 8-9 days) after the tick bite. The rash gradually

All age groups are affected by Lyme disease, but the greatest incidence has been in children under 14 years and adults over 40 years of age.

**Disseminated infection** - Days or weeks after the tick bite, multiple rashes, migratory joint and muscle pain (also brief, intermittent arthritic attacks), debilitating malaise and fatigue, neurologic or cardiac problem may occur. Neurologic symptoms can include paralysis of facial muscles (Bell's palsy), and meningitis (fever, stiff neck, and severe headache). A year or more after the tick bite, symptoms of persistent infection may include numbness or tingling of the extremities, disturbances in memory, mood or sleep, and chronic arthritis (typically the large joints, especially the knee). The course and severity of Lyme disease is

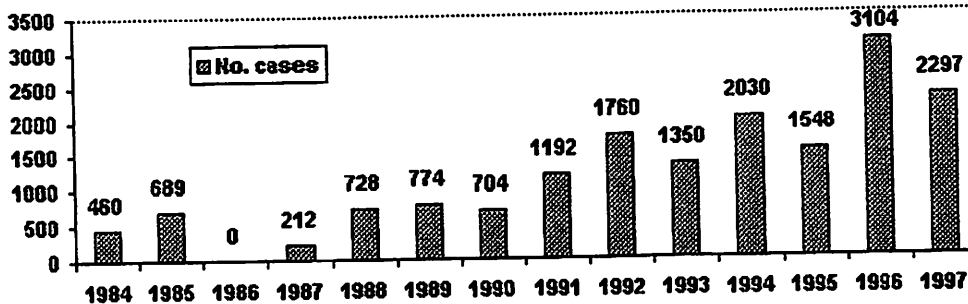


Figure 1. Number of reported cases of Lyme disease in Connecticut, 1984-1997 (Data courtesy of CDPH). There was no surveillance for Lyme disease in 1986. Lyme disease was made a reportable disease in Connecticut in July 1987.

blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis* (formerly known as the deer tick, *I. dammini*). This disease, first recognized from a cluster of arthritis patients in the area of Lyme, Connecticut in 1975, occurs mainly in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, north central states, and in California. In 1996, there were 16,461 cases of Lyme disease reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an increase of 41% over 1995.

In Connecticut, a total of 3,104 and 2,297 cases of Lyme disease were reported for 1996 and 1997 respectively (Figure 1). This probably represents, at best, only 16% of the diagnosed cases in the state based on a study of physician reporting in 1992 by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH). The incidence of Lyme disease in Connecticut (94.8 cases per 100,000 population) in 1996 was the highest in the United States. Scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and epidemiologists at CDPH have found a close association between the abundance of *I. Scapularis* nymphs infected by *B.*

expands over a period of a week or more. Rashes vary in size and shape, and may occur anywhere on the body, although common sites are the thigh, groin, trunk, and armpits. Many rashes reach about 6 inches in size, but some can expand to 8-16 inches or more. The rash often remains red, but swelling, blistering, scabbing or central clearing may occur, resulting in a "bull's-eye" appearance. The rash may be warm to the touch, but it is usually not painful. Mild nonspecific, flu-like symptoms may be associated with the rash. In most cases, symptom onset occurs during the summer months when the nymphal stage of *Ixodes* is active (Figure 3).

variable. There may be no early symptoms, only the rash, or arthritic or nervous system problems may be the first or only sign of Lyme disease.

**Diagnosis:** Consult a physician if you suspect Lyme disease. Lyme disease may be difficult to diagnose because its symptoms and signs vary among individuals and mimic those of many other diseases. Conversely, other arthritic or neurologic diseases may be misdiagnosed as Lyme disease. A blood test to detect antibodies to Lyme disease spirochetes can aid in the diagnosis of Lyme disease. However, current tests are not reliable enough to be used as the sole criterion for a diagnosis, especially during the early

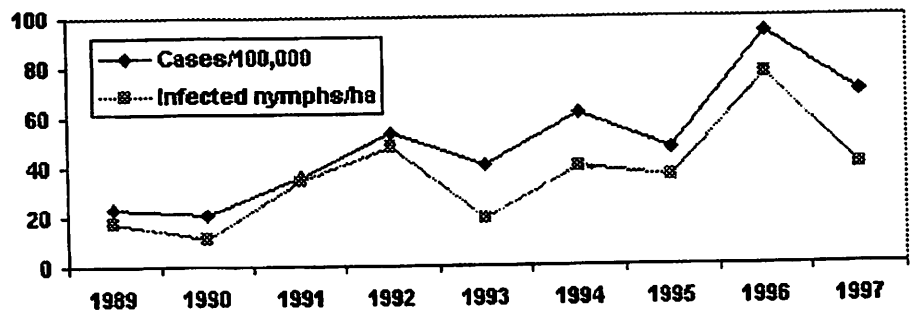


Figure 2. The abundance of infected nymphal *I. Scapularis* collected from East Haddam, Lyme, and Old Lyme, CT, and the incidence of Lyme disease in CT, 1989-1997.

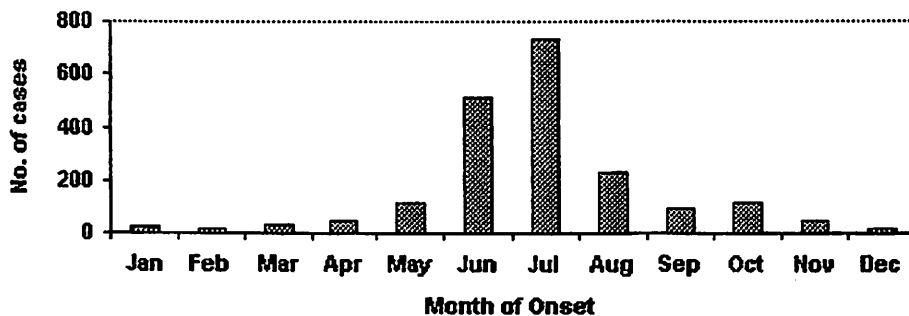


Figure 3. Reported cases of Lyme disease in Connecticut by month of onset, 1994 (Data courtesy of CDPH).

stages of the disease. Reliability of the test does improve in later stages of the disease, although inaccurate results may still occur. Patients are known to have a positive test for years after successful treatment.

**Treatment:** Lyme disease is treated with several antibiotics, including tetracycline, doxycycline, amoxicillin, penicillin, and ceftriaxone. Early treatment can prevent the later symptoms of Lyme disease from developing. Oral antibiotics are effective in treating most cases of Lyme disease, but antibiotics may be given intravenously in severe cases. Patients treated in the early stages of the disease usually recover rapidly and completely. Full recovery is possible for patients treated in the later stages of the disease. For an unknown number of patients, however, signs and symptoms of persistent infection may continue or recur. Persons can be re-infected and develop Lyme disease with subsequent tick bites, requiring another course of treatment.

**Human vaccine:** A human vaccine may soon be available. Recent reports in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on large-scale human trials of two different vaccines containing outer-surface protein A (OspA) of the spirochete suggests that a Lyme disease vaccine could help in the prevention of Lyme disease. In the trials, the vaccines were given with 2 initial doses one month apart, followed by a third booster 12 months after the initial vaccination. With only 2 doses, the efficacy of the two vaccines was reported to be only 49 and 68% respectively. Vaccine efficacy was 76 and 92% after the third dose, a

difference that may be due to how cases of Lyme disease were monitored in the two clinical trials. Soreness at the injection site was the most common reaction. Vaccinated subjects who developed definite cases of Lyme disease had lower antibody titers than (other) vaccinated subjects. High levels of the OspA antibody are required in vaccinated people, because antibodies circulating in the blood eliminate the spirochetes in the feeding tick. The duration of immunity and therefore, frequency of additional booster must still be determined. Young children and adolescents (<15 years of age) were not included in these trials.

**Lyme disease in animals:** Dogs, cats, horses, and cows can also contract Lyme disease. Lameness, fever, reduced appetite, and a reluctance to move are the usual symptoms in these animals. Animals are treated with antibiotics. A canine vaccine is

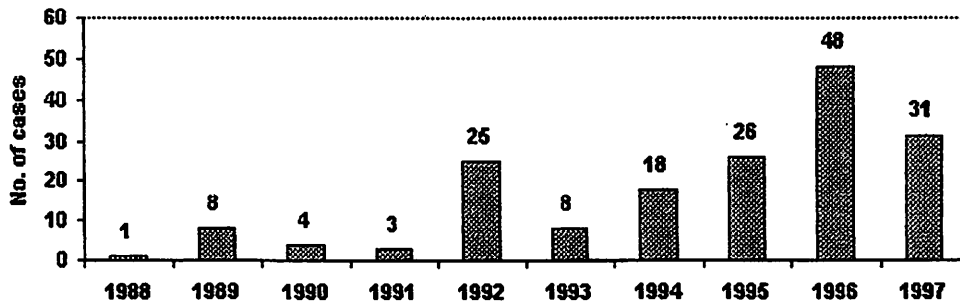


Figure 4. Number of reported cases of human babesiosis in Connecticut, 1988-97 (Data courtesy CN Dept. of Public Health).

available. Consult your veterinarian about the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease in your animals. The extent to which pet owners may be at increased risk of tick bite is unknown.

Animals may carry ticks into the home, or outdoor activities with animals may increase the exposure of pet owners to tick habitat.

### Babesiosis

Babesiosis is a malaria-like illness caused mainly by *Babesia microti*, a rodent protozoan parasite of red blood cells. Signs and symptoms include fever, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, and anemia.

This protozoan is spread by the bite of the blacklegged tick *Ixodes scapularis*, and occasionally by blood transfusion. Human babesiosis has been recognized since the 1960's in parts of Massachusetts (particularly Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard), and parts of Long Island, New York. The first Connecticut case of human babesiosis was reported from Stonington in 1988. From 1988 through 1997, 172 cases of babesiosis were reported to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (Figure 4), most of which were reported from residents of New London County.

Infection usually produces no or mild symptoms in healthy children and adults, but all ages can be affected. The disease can be severe or fatal in the elderly, immunocompromised, and people without spleens. Untreated infections may persist for months or years. The greatest incidence of clinical babesiosis occurs in those older than 70 years of age, but people 40 to 70 years old are also commonly affected.

Co-infection by the agents for babesiosis and Lyme disease can result in more severe illness and overlapping clinical symptoms. Babesiosis is usually treated

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

with clindamycin and quinine. However, even with treatment, infection may persist and become active again for some persons.

### Ehrlichiosis

Human ehrlichiosis was first recognized in the United States in a patient with a history of tick bite in 1986. There have been about 500 confirmed cases reported to the (CDC) since 1985. Two forms of ehrlichiosis in humans are currently recognized: human monocytic ehrlichiosis (HME), caused by *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, and human granulocytic ehrlichiosis (HGE), caused by an ehrlichia closely related to

the northeastern and upper mid-western states. Most cases of HGE have been reported from states where Lyme disease is highly endemic. The lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, is the vector for *E. chaffeensis* in southcentral and southeastern regions of the country where most cases of HME occur. This disease has been confused with Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF). Most cases of HGE and HME occur in May, June, or July.

Surveillance for ehrlichiosis in most states is sparse. Connecticut and New York State have a special surveillance program for ehrlichiosis (and other emerging diseases) that

from all eight Connecticut counties. In New York from 1994-97, there were 225 ehrlichiosis cases reported of which 88% were HGE and 28% were HME. Cases were reported from 19 of 62 counties in New York, mainly from the lower Hudson River Valley and eastern Long Island. A diagnosis of ehrlichiosis should be considered for patients with flu-like febrile illness and possible exposure to *I. Scapularis*. Co-infections by the HGE and Lyme disease agents have been reported and may result in more severe disease.

### Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF), caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii*, is rare in Connecticut and New England. Most cases of RMSF occur in south Atlantic and west central states, although this disease occurs throughout the United States. In the eastern US, the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, transmits *R. rickettsii*. Scientists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station found that less than 1% of 3,000 American dog ticks examined in Connecticut contained spotted fever-group organism. Not all spotted fever-group rickettsiae are infectious to humans. However, during the period from 1983 to 1993, 27 cases were reported to the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Fairfield and New Haven counties account for most of the cases. During the period from 1994-1997, 18 cases were reported (Figure 6). Symptoms which usually appear within two weeks of the bite of an infected tick, include sudden onset of fever (90% of 1989 cases), headache (89% of cases), muscle pain

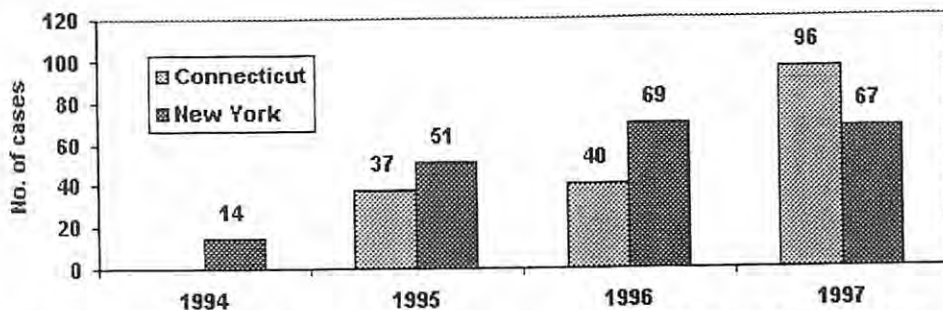


Figure 5. Reported cases of ehrlichiosis in Connecticut and New York, 1994-97 (Data from the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 47, No. 23, pp. 476-480, June 19, 1998).

or identical to *Ehrlichia equi*.

Nonspecific signs and symptoms for both diseases include fever, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, and malaise. Illness may be mild, moderate or severe. Most patients show a decrease in their white blood cell and blood platelet counts. Although all age groups may be affected, the number of cases increases with age. The highest rates were observed for patients 70 years of age or older. Fatalities have been reported across all age groups. Diagnosis can be confirmed by a serological test, observing the organism in white-blood cells, or identification of the DNA of the ehrlichia organism by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods. The disease is readily treated with doxycycline.

Human granulocytic ehrlichiosis was first reported from Wisconsin and Minnesota in 1994. The blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis* is the principal vector in

involve epidemiologists and scientists at the CDC, Yale University, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the New York State Department of Health. In Connecticut from 1995-97, there were 173 confirmed or suspected cases reported (Figure 5), of which 90% were HGE, 5% were HME, and 5% had positive antibody tests for both agents. These cases were reported

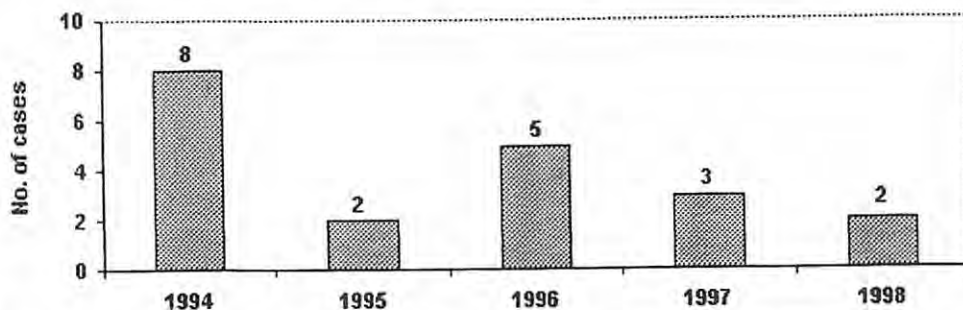


Figure 6. Number of reported cases of rocky Mountain spotted fever in Connecticut, 1994-97. The two cases reported for 1998 are through June, 1998 (Data courtesy Connecticut Department of Public Health).



(Continued from page 18)

(83% of cases), and rash (78% of cases). The rash may include the palms (50% of cases) and soles of the feet. Most cases occur in the summer months (Figure 7). Prompt antibiotic treatment for suspected cases of RMSF is important, as RMSF can be fatal in 15-20% of untreated cases. Delays in diagnosis because of the absence of the rash or failure to note a history of tick bite could be serious. In recent years, about 1-4% of cases in the U.S. were fatal. A diagnosis may be confirmed by antibody tests.

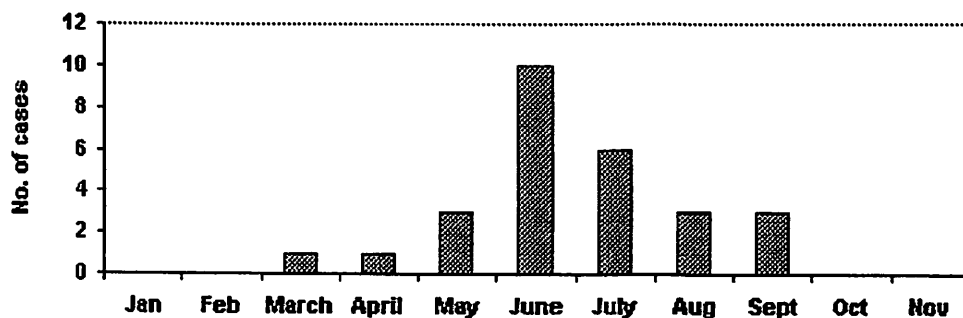


Figure 7. Reported cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in Connecticut by month on onset, 1983-93 (Data from Connecticut Epidemiologist, Connecticut Department of Public Health, used with permission).

#### Tick paralysis

The feeding by certain *Dermacentor* ticks can cause a progressive paralysis, which is reversed upon removal of the tick. Recovery is usually complete. The paralysis is not caused by a disease pathogen, but by a toxin. Paralysis begins in the extremities with a loss of coordination. It progresses to the face with

corresponding slurred speech, and finally shallow, irregular breathing. Failure to remove the tick can result in death by respiratory failure. Most cases of tick paralysis are caused by the Rocky Mountain wood tick in northwestern states, but the American dog tick can also cause tick paralysis.

#### Tularemia

The causal bacterium, *Francisella tularensis*, is transmitted mainly by the bite of several species of ticks and contact with infected animals. The disease may be contracted while handling carcasses of infected animals

(i.e. skinning infected rabbits), eating insufficiently cooked meat of an infected animal, bites of infected animals, drinking contaminated water, inhalation of contaminated dust, contact with other contaminated materials, or the bite of some deer flies and horse flies. This disease occurs throughout the United States, but most cases have been reported

from the central states of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The number of cases has declined over the past several decades. An average of 146 cases was reported annually from 1990 to 1994, the last year national records were kept. Reports of this disease are uncommon in New England states. There were 2 cases reported from New York (Long Island) in 1993. In 1994, there were 2 cases reported from New York and 1 case from Massachusetts.

The ticks associated with tularemia are the American dog tick, *D. variabilis*, lone star tick, *A. americanum*, and Rocky Mountain wood tick, *D. andersoni*.

Most cases occur in the summer (May-September) and are associated with a history of tick bite. The clinical presentation of tularemia depends upon the route of infection. With infection by tick bite, an ulcer often occurs at the site of the bite with possible swelling of the regional lymph nodes. Fever is the most commonly reported symptom with tularemia.

Diagnosis can be confirmed by an antibody test. The drug of choice in the treatment of tularemia is streptomycin or gentamicin. Tetracycline or chloramphenicol may also be used, but they are less effective and relapses occur more frequently. △

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## The True Story of the Pulaski Fire Tool

By James B. Davis, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research, Washington, DC\*

#### Fire Management Notes 1986 Volume 47, Number 3

The nickel-plated pulaski looks as good as new in its glass-fronted Collins Tool Co. display case at the Smithsonian Museum of Arts and Industry in Washington, DC. Surrounded by equally shiny cutting tools of all description, the pulaski was first put on display at the Nation's Centennial Exhibit in Philadelphia in 1876.

Conventional wisdom holds that the pulaski fire tool was invented by Edward C. "Big Ed" Pulaski in the

second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ed Pulaski, a descendant of American Revolution hero Casimir Pulaski, was a hero of the Great Idaho Fire of 1910, leading his crew to safety when they became imperiled. He was also one of a group of ranger tinkerers who struggled to solve the equipment problems of the budding forestry profession. However, the pulaski tool on display at the Smithsonian must have been made when Big Ed was no more than six years old!

In the early days of forestry in this

country, fire tools were whatever happened to be available. The earliest methods of firefighting were confined mostly to "knocking down" or "beating out" the flames, and the tools used in the job were simple and primitive. The beating out, when such an approach was possible, was often accomplished with a coat, slicker, wet sack, or even a saddle blanket. A commonly used tool was a pine bough cut on arrival at the fire edge (4).

(Continued on page 20)

Soon farming and logging tools, available at general and hardware stores, came into use. These included the shovel, ax, hoe, and rake - all basic hand tools developed over centuries of manual labor. Even after firefighting became an important function of forestry agencies, these tools were accepted as they were, wherever they could be picked up, and little thought was given to size, weight, and balance. There appears to be no record of the use of the Collins Tool Company pulaski for fire control. Most likely, it was sold to farmers for land clearing and may have been forgotten by the late 1800's (2).

With the advent of the USDA Forest Service and State forestry organizations, a generation of "ranger inventors" and tinkerers began to emerge. It became apparent that careful selection and modification was essential for efficient work and labor conservation. In the early days when almost everybody and everything had to travel by horseback, transportation was a particular problem. For years foresters worked on the idea of combination tools. Most of the attempts were built in home workshops, and most "went with the wind." Two important survivors, now in general use, are the McLeod tool, a sturdy combination of rake and hoe, and the combination of axe and mattock. The McLeod was probably the first fire tool to be developed. It was designed in 1905 by Ranger Malcolm McLeod of the Sierra National Forest.

Who first invented the ax-hoe combination and used it for firefighting is a matter of minor dispute. Earle P. Dudley claims to have had a pulaski-like tool made by having a lightweight mining pick modified by a local blacksmith. He says he used the tool for firefighting in the USDA Forest Service's Northern Rocky Mountain Region in 1907. Dudley was well acquainted with Ed Pulaski, and the two had discussed fire tools.

Another account of the origin of the pulaski is that William G. Weigle, Supervisor of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest, thought of the idea - but not for firefighting (5). Rangers Ed Pulaski and Joe Halm worked under him (all three became heroes of the Great Idaho Fire) at Wallace, ID, then

headquarters for the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. At the time, plans were being made for some experimental reforestation, including the planting of pine seedlings. As supervisor, Weigle planned the job, he decided a new tool was needed to help with the planting as well as other forestry work. He decided on a combination of ax, mattock, and shovel. One day in late 1910 or 1911, Weigle sent Rangers Joe Halm and Ed Holcomb to Pulaski's home blacksmith shop to turn out a combination tool that might replace the mattock that was then in common use for tree planting. Halm, with Holcomb helping, cut one blade off a double-bitted ax, then welded a mattock hoe on at right angles to the former blade position. He then drilled a hole in an old shovel and attached it to the ax-mattock piece by means of a wing bolt, placing it so the user could sink the shovel into the earth by applying foot pressure to the mattock blade.

The rather awkward device was not a success as a planting tool. Probably the whole idea would have been abandoned had not Ranger Pulaski been fascinated with the possibilities of the tool. He kept using it, experimenting with it, and improving it. He soon discovered that the bolted-on shovel was awkward and unsatisfactory. He abandoned the shovel part and also lengthened and reshaped the ax and mattock blades. It is too bad Pulaski did not know about the Collins Tool pulaski - it would have saved him a lot of time. By 1913, Pulaski had succeeded in making a well-balanced tool with a sharp ax on one side and a mattock or grubbing blade on the other.

Pulaski use now spread throughout the Rocky Mountain region. However, it was used not for tree planting but for fire control. By 1920 the demand was so great that a commercial tool company was asked to handle production.

Although the pulaski went into widespread use in the Rockies in the 1920's, it saw little or no use in other areas. Prior to 1931, the USDA Forest Service had no good internal method for handling equipment development and promotion. Most

new equipment ideas were introduced and discussed at the regular Western Forestry and Conservation Association meetings (3, 7).

By the mid 1930's, with the advent of the CCC, fires tools began to proliferate, and the USDA Forest Service sought to standardize tools rather than develop new ones. It was at an equipment standardization conference at Spokane in 1936 that the pulaski tool was proposed for national distribution. The conference instructed the USDA Forest Service's Region 1 to develop and further test a prototype suitable for servicewide use (6, 8).

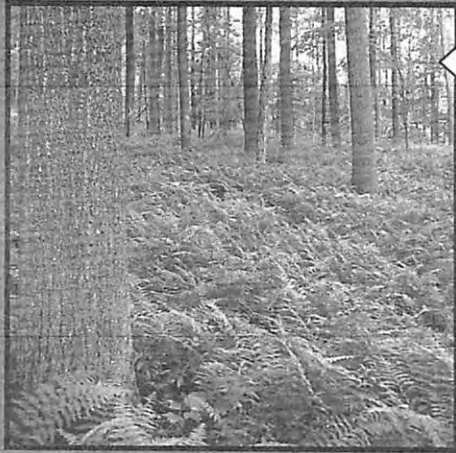
Since "Big Ed's" day the pulaski, as well as other fires tools, has undergone continual improvement. Pulaski development is an ongoing effort at the USDA Forest Service's Missoula Equipment Development Center. Careful engineering study, design, and testing have resulted in standards of shape, weight, balance, and quality.

Although Ed Pulaski may not have invented the first fires tool put into general use or even first thought of the tool that bears his name, he did develop, improve, and popularize the pulaski. The General Services Administration now puts out bids for more than 35,000 new pulaskis each year — a long way from the prototype so laboriously made in Pulaski's home blacksmith shop (1).

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\*Article taken from *Timber Lines*, Volume XXIX, April 1992, published by Thirty-Year Club, Region Six, U.S. Forest Service.



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# 1998 Winter Meeting Allegheny Society of American Foresters

## "Land Use - Past, Present and Future"

<p>Tuesday, February 16 - registration            Room available for check in            Icebreaker Reception            Buffet Dinner            Allegheny Executive Committee Mtg</p>	<p>3:00 - 7:00 p.m.            4:00 p.m.            5:30 - 6:30 p.m.            6:30 - 8:00 p.m.            8:00 - 9:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 17 - Registration            Allegheny Division Breakfasts            Welcome            Keynote            Additional Presentations            Lunch, Business Meetings            Additional Presentations            Student Bowl Competition            Reception            Awards Banquet</p>	<p>7:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon            7:30 - 8:30 a.m.            9:00 a.m.            9:15 a.m.            10:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon            12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.            1:30 - 4:00 p.m.            4:00 - 5:45 p.m.            6:00 - 7:00 p.m.            7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Thursday, February 18 - Chairman's Breakfast            Facilitated Discussion            Summarizing Thoughts            Field Tour            Lunch Buffet</p>	<p>7:30 - 8:30 a.m.            8:40 - 10:00 a.m.            10:30 - 11:00 a.m.            11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon            12:00 noon</p>

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$65.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of reservations) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Guest - No registration fee  
 Return by January 13, 1999

**Bring clothes for hiking, snow tubing, swimming, sauna or hot tub, workout clothes, and if you have cross country skis, there may be enough snow to ski the hiking trails.**

**Return by Wednesday, January 13, 1999 to: Jim Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer WVSAF  
 P.O. Box 38  
 French Creek, WV 26218  
 Telephone (304) 924-6266**

**LODGING RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE CONFIRMED WITH COOLFONT RESORT BY JANUARY 19, 1999 ATTENTION DELSIE McCOY BY FAX (304) 258-6314 OR MAIL TO COOLFONT RESORT, 1777 COLD RUN VALLEY ROAD, BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV 25411**

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 HOUSING DESCRIPTION: Woodland House Lodge, Chalets (1 to 5 bedrooms); Multi-bedroom Mountain Side Homes. There are a limited amount of single occupancy rooms with no shared living area space and non-smoking room, they will be offered to first requests. **If there is anyone particular you would prefer to be housed in the same accommodation with, please specify name (first come, first served):** \_\_\_\_\_

**TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE LIST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

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# A New Leash on Life

By Jerry Eberhart, Retired Service Forester, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

Five months after retiring from the PA Bureau of Forestry in October of 1989, I was diagnosed to be "legally blind." My peripheral vision was less than 17% in my good eye (less than 20% is considered legally blind). At the time, I gave up driving and got a bicycle to get around Wellsboro, in northern Pennsylvania. I have *Retinitis Pigmentosa*, a hereditary disease which progressively reduces the peripheral vision. Not only do I have "night blindness," but also "tunnel vision."

Early one February morning in 1997 on my way walking to the local fitness center, I inadvertently walked into a creek. That did it! An inquiry to the John Hopkins Medical Center resulted in the receipt of information about guide-dog training centers on the East Coast. I applied to the **Guiding Eyes for the Blind** Organization in Yorktown Heights, New York to get a guide dog. After months of correspondence, physical and eye examinations, mobility training (learning to walk with a white cane), and letters of reference from friends about my character (I avoided references from a few of my former forestry supervisors), in September 1997 I was accepted by the Guiding Eyes for the Blind for the January 1998 class. There was, however, a cancellation in the November class, and so in November I became a student again.



Instructor/Trainer Susan McCahill recognizes Jerry and Raider on the trail

Age is not a limiting factor at this school – I was 70. The students spend 26 days learning the languages and signs to communicate with these exceptional dogs. The dogs themselves are specially bred and raised and have four months of intensive training which they must pass before they are assigned to train with a student. I had a very limited amount of vision but trained with 12 other students who were totally blind. It was a real learning experience for me to live and train with those who had no vision.

It takes \$25,000 to provide each person with a trained guide dog and the training for each person-dog team. All of this is free to each accepted candidate. The largest fund-raiser for this non-governmental organization is its annual walkathon. It was held this year on Sunday, October 11, 1998 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park at Yorktown Heights, NY. This is a 1,000 acre park, well-kept and rivals those I am familiar with in Pennsylvania.

People from 37 states attended the banquet for walk participants in the Tarrytown Hilton Hotel on the Saturday evening before the walk. Did you ever attend a banquet with about 75 dogs? It really went quite well; these dogs are well bred and well trained. Raider, my Black Lab, like all the rest are working dogs, not pets and follow a strict schedule of feeding and activities (Labrador retrievers, German shepherds, and golden retrievers consistently exhibit the characteristics of a superior guide).

Sunday morning of the walkathon, we boarded busses and arrived at the park at 10 a.m. and within a half hour we were off, walking with more than 1,000 registered walkers. Many were friends and/or family of graduates and their guide dogs. Many walkers had their own pet dogs, and there were also many dogs from the center which were in training. Each of us was given a card, and as we went by each of six stations, the cards were initialed. Three loops, around the designated course was 15k; after two loops,



Forester Jerry Eberhart and Raider at the finish line

Raider and I stopped for lunch. Participants were provided with a free lunch – hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, salad, with hot and cold drinks. At each station there was water for the dogs and juice, soda, and apples (the latter offering reminded me of field excursions with Winieski) for the walkers.

After lunch, Raider and I completed the third and final loop. On the trail, three of our Instructors/Trainers found us and were pleased to see us involved; none of the others in our class were in the walkathon. In fact there were not too many that completed the entire 15k course (but there were probably no other retired service foresters used to walking in the woods most every day of their career).

My sincere thanks to my many friends, especially those in SAF and the fraternity of foresters who supported my challenge with donations to **Guiding Eyes for the Blind**. Their program has truly given me a new leash on life! ♠

*Jerry Eberhart has had a distinguished career in forestry, most of it with the PA Bureau of Forestry as a Service Forester (one of those dedicated individuals who daily work to help some of the half million non-industrial private forest land owners in the state meet their management objectives). Donations in Jerry and Raider's names are still in order to: Guiding Eyes for the Blind, 611 Granite Springs Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Ed*

## Coming Events

### February

4 Wetland Laws & Regulations, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ (732) 932-9271 CFE/ACF credit: 7 hours, Category I.

16-18 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia (see p. )

20 Keystone Coldwater Conference: Multiple Benefits of Streamside Buffers, Penn State Conference Center, State College, PA. Mark Bernhard/Terry Cummins (814) 863-5100.

### March

8-12 Lumber Grading Short Course for industry, University Park, PA. Roy Adams at (814) 863-2976.

15 Deadline for articles and pictures for the Spring 1999 issue of *The Allegheny News*.

23-24 Penn State Forest Resources Issues Conference - Working with Our Publics for professional resource managers, University Park, PA. Jim Finley (814) 863-0401.

### May

10-13 1999 Kiln Drying Short Course for industry, University Park, PA. Roy Adams at (814) 863-2976.

### June

15 Deadline for articles and pictures for the Summer 1999 issue of *The Allegheny News*.

27-30 Association of Consulting Foresters National Meeting, Peak n Peak Resort, Clyer, NY

### September

11-15 SAF National Convention, Portland, Oregon Convention Center, "Pioneering New Trails." Local Info, Lori Rasor at (503) 224-8046; [www.forestry.org/convention/convention.html](http://www.forestry.org/convention/convention.html) Nat'l Information Diana Peri (301) 897-8720 x111; [www.safnet.org/cony/main.html](http://www.safnet.org/cony/main.html)

15 Deadline for articles and pictures for the Fall 1999 issue of *The Allegheny News*.

### Future National SAF Conventions

September 11-15, 1999 Portland, Oregon

November 16-21, 2000 Washington, DC

**A FREE instruction booklet for the SAF Certified Forester Program is available from the National Office at (301) 897-8720, ext. 122.**

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