

As the year 2021 comes to a close we should probably reflect on the good things that happened in the past year. After a tumultuous 2020, there are several things we can feel thankful for. First, we are starting to experience a return to normalcy in regard to the pandemic that dominated last year and the beginning of this year. There is a feeling of relief that our activities are less restricted, and we can meet as a group to share our experiences and connect with friends and colleagues as we did in the past. The Allegheny Summer meeting that Maryland hosted at Rocky Gap Resort was a breath of fresh air and was a success in all areas. Compliments were many with only minor complaints received. It's also been my observation that foresters are people persons as we work with landowners and other land managers and contractors to practice our profession and we are good at it. It takes other people to get our job done properly and we need that one on one communication to be successful.

As we look to the future, several things stand out we should be aware of. First, there are a lot of retirements that will occur in the near future with MD DNR Forest Service personnel. Too many to list, they will account for a large drain of knowledge and experience in our profession. Experience can't be taught; it must be earned over time. Hopefully many won't be leaving the area and will remain involved in the profession.

Secondly, we have a great opportunity coming up in late September of next year in the form of the SAF National Convention. The Allegheny Society is officially hosting it, but it will be held in our backyard at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. This is a chance for MD\DE Division to shine and I have no doubt that we will. Many are already involved in the planning but there will be a need for volunteers to help with any number of tasks. If you plan on attending, and I hope most will, sign up as a volunteer and help make this a stellar experience for everyone attending.

Lastly, as I end my term as Chair of the MD\DE Division, I want to thank all members for allowing me this opportunity. It was beyond rewarding. I especially want to thank everyone on the Executive Committee for the hard work they put in on a regular basis. Volunteering is often thankless work, but everyone on the committee acts with dedication and professionalism in all of the work they do. Tasks are carried out without fanfare and done correctly. I could not be prouder of being a part of this group.

For next year, we welcome David Wigglesworth as the new Chair of the MD\DE Division and wish him the best of luck. I hope everyone has a great and happy holiday season and a healthy and happy new year. Thanks again, Bud Reaves.

From the MD\DE SAF committee chair, Bud Reaves



Bud taking in the wetland forest at the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in Prince Frederick MD. One of the northernmost sites in North America of naturally occurring bald cypress trees !

## **New forest carbon program opens for small forest owners in Maryland to find resources and support**

By Sarah Hall-Bagdonas, Family Forest Carbon Program Landowner Assistance Manager and Forester



A new program, the **Family Forest Carbon Program**, is now available for enrollment to family and private landowners with as little as 30 acres up to 2,400 acres in 5 counties in Maryland - Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll.

The program, created by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, is designed to be a resource for landowners to improve the health and value of their woods. The program provides payments to family and individual landowners to implement scientifically proven forest practices that increase the carbon sequestered and stored on the land. In addition, the program provides expert consultation from foresters to every landowner and creates a forest management plan customized for the landowner's property.

Historically, carbon market opportunities have only been available to large, 5,000+ properties due to high upfront costs, complexity, and contract length. But the Family Forest Carbon Program is uniquely designed to open these markets to small properties and to help with technical assistance on better forest management.

"We know landowners have really good intentions for their land, but that most are not able to take active steps to care for it," says American Forest Foundation's Family Forest Carbon Program senior director Christine Cadigan. "If we want to get more landowners off the sidelines and engaged in sustainable management, we need to find solutions that overcome their barriers. We can solve the cost challenges with markets, but it needs to be paired with guidance and support if we are to make a meaningful impact on conservation."

Interested landowners can get started by visiting [www.familyforestcarbon.org](http://www.familyforestcarbon.org) for more information and to check eligibility. Enrollment is being offered for one of two improved management practices: Growing Mature Forests by engaging in sustainable harvesting practices; or Enhancing Future Forests by improving new forest growth by managing invasive species and undergrowth. Landowners can make a 10- or 20-year commitment based on the forest practice adopted. Payments to the landowner are determined by property size and forest conditions.

If you are a professional forester interested in easily connecting your existing clients with a credible carbon program, or meeting new landowners to grow your business, the Family Forest Carbon Program is looking to partner with consulting foresters. The program will train consulting foresters and offer referral bonuses to all landowners they enroll. Interested foresters should email Sarah Hall-Bagdonas at [shallbagdonas@forestfoundation.org](mailto:shallbagdonas@forestfoundation.org) for more information.

# Congratulations!

## SAF Member Mike Kay receives top spot!

Mike Kay easily ranks as the most productive Tree Farm Inspector in the entire state of Maryland, claiming the top spot in the state in 2020 with the highest number of Tree Farms enrolled in the program – 122 total – as well as the largest acreage – 17,405 acres (!!!) – in his assigned area of Frederick County. These are huge numbers in the state of Maryland – representing 15% of all Tree Farms in the state and 17% of the total acreage. In the current year, Mike has completed 62 Tree Farm Inspections, approximately 50% of the total number of Tree Farms in his assigned area, covering 4,143 acres. In addition, Mike has enrolled 7 new Tree Farms in 2020 on 310 acres. Over the past five years, he has inspected a total of 168 Tree Farms on over 20,000 acres. He is also one of only three Maryland inspectors to be recognized with a “Gold” Hard Hat Award – in fact, he is almost a “Double Gold” Award winner, having enrolled a total of 188 new Tree Farms over his 33-year career!! Mike also regularly recognizes deserving landowners for Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award recognition. Although the state of Maryland did not nominate any TFOY in 2020 due to COVID, in the immediate past five years, Mike nominated a TFOY in 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015 – e.g., Mike nominates a TFOY virtually every single year! In addition, Mike was the nominator of the 2018 MD Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, Sean Weaver, who was eventually selected as the Northeast Region Inspector of the Year. It was under Mike’s guidance and mentoring that Sean became an Inspector, and Mike’s nomination of Sean is a true testament to Mike’s desire to see fellow colleagues receive deserved recognition. In addition, Mike has participated in every State Tree Farm Assessment in Maryland (which makes sense, since he has enrolled such a high number of Tree Farms in the state, so there is a high probability one of his Tree Farms being selected in the random sample), and in each instance, he has provided all of the necessary Assessment paperwork required by the PEFC Auditors, worked closely with the Committee and the Tree Farmers to make the necessary logistical arrangements, and ensured that the Assessment visit went very smoothly. In addition, Mike always completes 100% of all Required Sample Inspections assigned each year.

**High Five! Thank you for being such a great tree Steward!**

Write up courtesy of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Mike Kays



## SAF Summer meeting recap

Written by Bud Reaves

For the 2021 Allegheny SAF summer meeting everyone gathered at Rocky Gap Resort State Park for learning and fellowship for the first in person meeting in almost two years.

After an afternoon executive committee meeting, early attendees socialized at the ice breaker social with drinks and appetizers. The next day everyone was up and ready for a slate of field tours that fit the theme for the meeting.

The theme for the educational activities was Partnerships for Resilient Forests. Three excellent field tours were conducted that demonstrate the need sometimes to connect with different agencies and nonprofit groups to achieve good results in forest management. Attendees were able to choose two of the three field trips with one in the morning and one in the afternoon after an excellent box lunch at the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department pavilion.

The first field session was held at Green Ridge State Forest. Jesse Morgan, Acting Forest manager for Green Ridge State Forest gave a history of the 47,000 acre forest with background on how it was formed over the years into its present state. Member learned of the management methods used which entails using management zones to differentiate high value forest areas, such as old growth forest, ecological significant forest, rare, threatened and endangered species habitat, and riparian forests. These were identified and mapped to satisfy SFI and FSC requirements in which Green Ridge is certified. SILVAH management protocols determine the allowable harvest based on these parameters and individual stand conditions. Available markets, especially for low value pulpwood is the biggest challenge manager face. Many of the pulpwood operators have transitioned to firewood production.

The second session held was on a private forest where MD DNR Forest Service foresters Adam Miller, and Julie Conway, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania Extension foresters Shannon Farrell and Joshua Rittenhouse joined forces with landowner Gary Holtz, to conduct a timber harvest improve habitat for Golden Winged and Cerulean warblers. In this harvest and one scheduled for a later date, basal area is reduced to 40 square feet per acre in certain areas to provide the early successional habitat needed for successful nesting. Regular maintenance of these area keeps invasive species in check.

The final field session involved an area of forest where the Nature Conservancy and MD DNR Forest Service, cooperated on prescribed burns to restore the natural regeneration. Dr. Deborah Landau, Forest Ecologist, with the Nature Conservancy, led a hike around the forest and explained the methods used to get a burn of light intensity to minimize the potential destruction. The positive effects on Table Mountain pine, a fire dependent species was observed with a healthy number of seedlings established. Reduction of invasive species populations were also noted as well.

The threat of thunderstorms and rain forced the BBQ picnic scheduled on the patio indoors for the evening but with no affect on the great food and conversations held in the banquet rooms.

The Friday session began with Division meetings and the announcement of the slate for the Fall elections in the Allegheny Society. Three members: Ken Kane, Howard Wurzbacher, and Cecile Stelter, were awarded the status of SAF Fellow. The first presentation was conducted by Elizabeth Vranas, American Forest Foundation on the Nature Conservancy and American Forest Foundation's Family0 Forest Carbon program which matches forest landowners with carbon markets. Craig Highfield, director of Forest Programs with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay then gave a complete overview of their Woodland Stewards programs and Healthy Forest Healthy Water programs. Lastly, Josh Smith, W. MD. Resource Conservation and Development Council, and Phil Gottwals, University of Maryland and ACDS, LLC. discussed the many ways the participants can join together under the Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy.

The Summer meeting ended just before noon that day after two days of learning and an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends. On to the winter meeting!



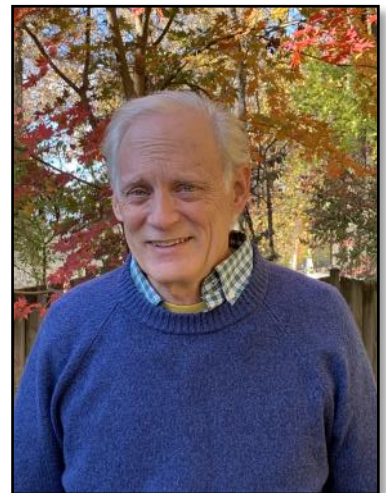
Forest Landowner Gary Holtz explains the cooperatively developed timber harvest conducted to improve Golden Wing Warbler habitat with Julie Conway, MD-DNR forester, and Shannon Farrell, and Joshua Rittenhouse, UIP Extension

## New MD-DE SAF Division chair

Greetings, ladies and gentlemen of the Maryland/Delaware SAF. I am honored to serve as the new Division chair. I have been an SAF member for 24 years and have been involved with the executive committee for the past 6-7 years. Working with the executive committee has been an interesting process as the committee members come from all areas of the state and have a variety of professional capacities. As for myself, my latest employment was with the Montgomery Park and Planning Department (aka M-NCPPC) where I was an Urban Forester/Forest Conservation and Site Plan Inspector. I just retired from that position where I was for 18 years. I would imagine that I have a lot in common with other foresters and natural resource professionals in this state where a lot of the projects are within an urban/rural interface and come with a lot of challenges. People are not always agreeable to change and it is our job to help them understand what is happening to the forest and perhaps their community.

I have been fortunate to have worked in a variety of positions in the forestry field. Years ago, I was the Master Logger Coordinator at the Eastern Shore RC&D Council and I really enjoyed it. While not a typical field forester, it was very interesting to work with land managers and others, working in private industry, Maryland Forest Service, UMD Cooperative Extension Service, and with consultants to continue this program to meet requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Previously to that, as a younger forester I spent some years out west working as a forest technician and seasonal forester for the US Forest Service and for the USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Ute Tribe. I really enjoyed those days in western Colorado sampling plots or working on a fire crew. I say this to let you know that although I am not currently working outside in the woods, I can relate to those who are. Presently I am trying to expand my horizons and am taking a class in Russian at Montgomery College.

As we begin to move into 2022 there will be a lot going on in forestry. Just the fact that Covid is finally ebbing and things are returning to normal is exciting. There are policy changes in the process where increases in funding will allow programs to expand and develop. I am excited to be part of the Maryland/Delaware SAF as the chair and hope that I will see you at an SAF meeting this year.



Dave Wigglesworth

Dave Wigglesworth

## 2022 SAF National Convention -Baltimore!

As many of you are aware, the Allegheny SAF will host the SAF National Convention in Baltimore, September 18-23, 2022. The convention will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Allegheny SAF.

Convention planning is now underway, and while specific tasks have not yet been identified, we will need considerable support from the MD/DE SAF to host a world class national convention.

Assistance will be needed with activities such as local arrangements, on-site management of the Foresters' Fund, student activities, local technical workshops and leisure tours, marketing, solicitation of donations and sponsorships, to name a few. A list of convention volunteers is being compiled. If you would like to assist with the convention, please email Mike Huneke [mike.huneke@usda.gov](mailto:mike.huneke@usda.gov), to be added to the volunteer list. As the planning develops, individuals on the volunteer list will be contacted for their support. We look forward to working with everyone as we host the 2022 SAF National Convention in Baltimore.

Thank you,  
Mike Huneke, Chair, Allegheny SAF



SOURCE: ILLUSTRATION



# We Are SAF



## True to Our Roots

Founded:  
**1900**

Members:  
**10,074** Total Members

**1,526** Student Members

### Our Members Are:

- Practitioners
- Researchers
- Teachers
- Advisers
- Administrators
- Students

### We Believe In:

- Advocacy
- Respect
- Science
- Honest Communication
- Professionalism



## Serving Our Community

Continuing Forestry Education  
**1,500+** Pre-approved CPE Programs

### Foresters' Fund - 2019

**22** Grants Provided

**\$79,852** Awarded

- \$39,852 Regular and Special Grants
- \$40,000 Leadership Development Grants

### Our Local Units

**31** State Societies  
**179** Chapters  
**80** Student Chapters

ForestEd.org -  
Online Learning Platform  
**40,361** Unique Site Visitors  
**182** Courses & Presentations  
**17** Unique Products

### Green Jobs: Exploring Forest Careers

**\$40,000** Contributed to Support Youth Education and Discovery of Forestry Careers

**164** Accredited & Candidate Degree Programs **74** Institutions



## 2019 SAF Convention

**1,393**  
Total Attendees

**569**  
Students

**211**  
Presentations

**101**  
Posters



## 2019 Member Highlights

**10** National Award Recipients  
**11** Presidential Field Foresters  
**16** New Fellows

**12** Student Diversity Scholars  
**25** New Certified Foresters  
**29** New Candidate Certified Foresters

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