

West Virginia Division of the Society of American Foresters

Fall 2011 Newsletter



Urban Forestry -- West Virginia SAF style

Contributed by Dave McGill

At the very end of August, at the very southernmost boundary of West Virginia, the WV SAF met for their summer meeting in Bluefield, WV. There, two of our members—**Tim Probert** (Marshall Miller & Associates) and **Bob Radspinner** (WV Division of Forestry)—have served on the City Tree Board and worked in conjunction with the Urban Forestry program of the WV Division of Forestry with various civic, beautification committees, as well as with local students from elementary to college age for the betterment of the Bluefield environment. At this meeting we received a unique view of the area's scenic and open-space assets and heard of the urban forestry successes and challenges the greater Bluefield area has faced in recent years.



Our meeting began with a day-long field tour of the Mercer County/Bluefield area. Jerry Belcher, a local Christmas tree farmer told us the story of his farm and how he was cultivating a valuable Christmas tree, the Canaan fir—a variety of the balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). It is always motivating to hear about the labor of love (and hard labor) that goes into these beautiful Christmas decorations.

Also in the area is the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry's Wood Education Resource Center (WERC). Center Director **Steve Milauskas** (a SAfer with a lifetime membership) gave us an overview on the center's history and mission and then introduced us to Robert Kincaid, owner of Accurate Millworks, who operates a wood blinds manufacturing firm at the center. The wood blinds are made primarily from yellow-poplar and basswood; most are sold as custom jobs for clients all over the US.

The group drove down into Bluefield to lunch with community leaders at a local park that is packed with activities during the summer and features a minor league baseball team stadium, a narrow gauge railroad, and a community children's play park. After lunch WVDOF urban foresters **Bob Hannah** and **Jessie Wise** demonstrated how to measure trees for the WV Big Trees program. Nearby, we visited a small tree nursery established on city property to provide trees for replacement in parks and city streets.

Out on the streets, the urban foresters among us determined that the cause of the sickly sycamores planted near the local tennis courts was an all too common problem: the trees were planted too deep. Then, foresters from Appalachian Power told us about their community outreach programs and how they interact with property owners to convey the idea of “right tree, right space.” Finally, the field day ended with a visit to the awe-inspiring East River Mountain Overlook and a barbeque back at Pipestem State Park.



An indoor session followed the next day and the group heard excellent talks on various programs and aspects of urban forestry. We were also fortunate to have one student from West Virginia University and five from Virginia Tech attending the meeting. Included in the speakers line-up was **Mark Books** (Ft. AP Hill, VA) who shared successes with outreach efforts to scouts at the Jamboree in Virginia. He presented ideas for SAFeR's in WV to continue the outreach at the upcoming 2013 national scout jamboree at the new location near Beckley, WV.

Next, urban forestry experts from our region took over as **Anne Cumming** (USDA FS) told the group about the free urban forestry inventory software I-Tree; a recent addition to WVU, **Dr. Greg Dahle**, Assistant Professor of Arboriculture & Urban Forestry discussed the new Urban Forestry/Arboriculture program at WVU; and **Jill Rose** (WV Department of Agriculture FHP Coordinator and Forest Pathologist) and **Tim Tomon** (WVDA Forest Entomologist) briefed the group on current important pests and diseases, notably, thousand cankers disease, bacterial leaf scorch, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorn beetle. From Virginia, **Barbara White** (VA DOF Urban Forester) discussed the importance of tree canopies in urban areas and discussed how the Virginia Department of Forestry is working with cities and towns on Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) assessments in the Commonwealth. **Kevin Sigmon**, an AEP Utility Forester and an ISA certified arborist for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, wrapped up the indoor session discussing the town of Abingdon's UTC assessment and how the community is developing their implementation plan for increasing canopy.

The meeting adjourned with all feeling well educated on current issues and complexities of urban forestry in West Virginia. An additional consensus was that the interaction between states contributed to participants' networks and knowledge bases and gave all of us new motivations for continuing these excellent collaborative forestry education programs under the SAF umbrella.

Looking for tree seedlings?

The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) has tree seedlings for sale from its Clements State Tree Nursery to meet any of your spring planting needs. There is species information, a price list, and ordering information on the Division of Forestry website at <http://www.wvforestry.com/>. If you have specific questions, contact the Nursery at - ph# 304-675-1820.

SAF Members Recognized at 2011 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference

The prestigious 2 Chiefs award for conservation and forest stewardship award was presented at the 2011 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference October 24–26 in Charleston, WV.

Bob Lueckel, Field Representative for the U.S. Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry unit in Morgantown, presented the USDA *Two Chief's Partnership Award* to three recipients: West Virginia State Forester **Randy Dye**, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Forester **Barbara McWhorter**, and retired Monongahela National Forest Silviculturist **Glen Juergens**. The awardees have worked together as part of the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Partnership.



The *Two Chiefs' Partnership Award* recognizes people and teams that work collaboratively to support conservation and forest stewardship. The award recognizes the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Partnership for its teamwork to protect and manage West Virginia forest resources. Award winners are selected by the Chiefs of the U.S. Forest Service and USDA NRCS.

The partnership was chosen in the group award category because of the critical role it played in managing vegetation and soil on State and private lands as well as providing assistance to the Monongahela National Forest. The three agencies capitalized on each other's expertise to promote forest stewardship and maximize benefits from forests.



Dr. Mary Beth Adams, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, was the 2011 Recipient of the Order of the Golden Auger, presented by the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (WVAPSS). WVAPSS presents this award for outstanding contributions to Soil Science in West Virginia. The award was presented by Dave Kingsbury (left) WV State Soil Scientist, and Jared Beard, WVAPSS President.

Upcoming Events

WV Woodland Owners Fall Meeting/Seminar November 12, 2011 Flatwoods, WV contact: Dan Magill at WVU (304)293-9419, dmcgill@wvu.edu Cat 1 hours 5

Forest Stewardship for Forest Landowners: ABS of Forest Carbon Management – a Webinar. Online November 16. Contact rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net Cat2 hours: 1.5

Tree Felling Safety and personal Safety Equipment Workshop, Flatwoods, WV, November 17
Contact: Jeremy McGill (304-558-2788 Cat. 2 hours: 6.5

Forest Stewardship for Forest Landowners: Forest Ownership as an Economic Investment – a Webinar. November 30. Contact rrharris2464@sbcglobal.net Cat2 hours 1.5

Best Management Practices Workshop, Gassaway, WV December 6. Contact Jeremy McGill (394-558-2788) Category 1 CF Hours 7.0

A. B. Brooks Forestry Symposium February 15-16, 2012 Charleston, WV

Spring WVSFAF meeting February 22-23, 2012. Flatwoods, WV

New WVU Forestry and Natural Resources Faculty

The Division has added 4 new faculty members recently, and is in the process of hiring a new faculty member in Silviculture, with the appointment becoming effective January 2012. You can learn more about the new faculty members at the following web pages.

Mo Zhou, Forest Economics

<http://davis.blogs.wvu.edu/blog/2011/10/28/new-faculty-week--mo-zhou>

Amy Welsh, Conservation Genetics

<http://davis.blogs.wvu.edu/blog/2011/10/27/new-faculty-week--amy-welsh>

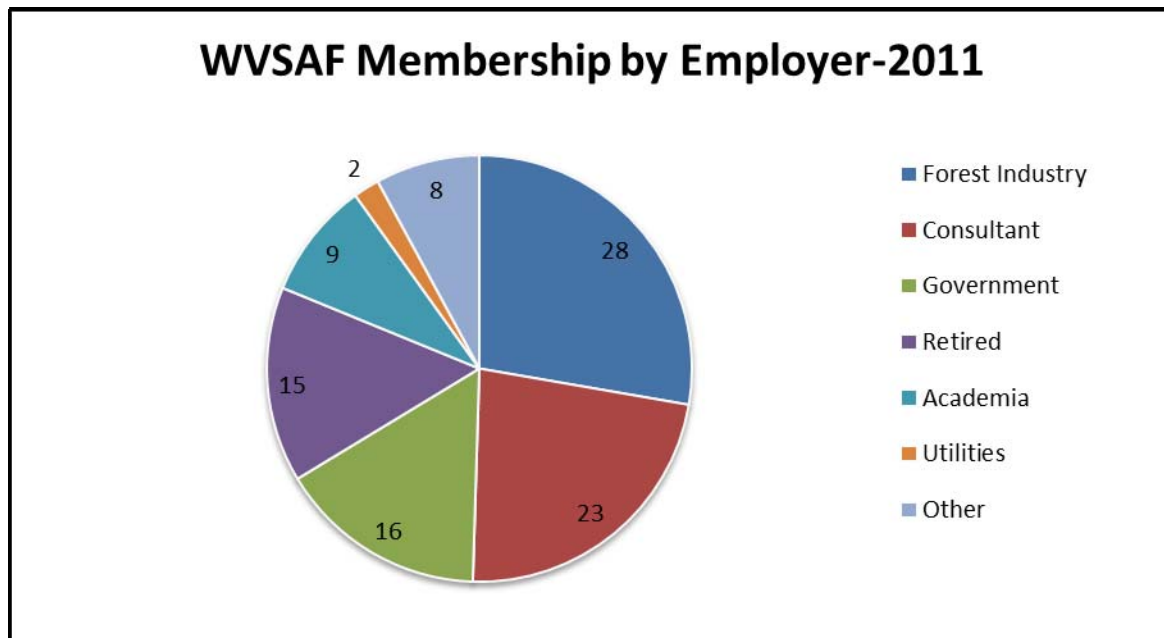
Jingjing Liang, Forest Ecology

<http://davis.blogs.wvu.edu/blog/2011/10/26/new-faculty-week--jingjing-liang>

Gregory Dahle, Arboriculture and Urban Forestry

<http://davis.blogs.wvu.edu/blog/2011/10/25/new-faculty-week--gregory-dahle>

Who's in WWSAF?



Randolph County Foresters Reconvene during Forest Festival

For many years it was a tradition for the Randolph County Foresters to meet for dinner during the Forest Festival in Elkins, but this tradition had been discontinued. This year, the tradition was renewed, with 22 Randolph County Foresters meeting to eat and raffle off some home-made wine. Plans are being made for a spring fish and ramp feed, and other ideas. Let us hear of you local foresters' group and what they're doing.