

West Virginia Division of the Society of American Foresters **Summer 2012 Newsletter**



WVSAF Summer Meeting – Save the Dates!

Change in the Woods: Energy, Economics and Emergencies

September 4 and 5, Morgantown WV.

Location: WVU Erickson Alumni Center

Tuesday, Sept 4—

Morning: Optional leadership workshop—WVU High Ropes Challenge Course

Afternoon: Field workshop on *Vegetation management of electrical right-of-ways*

Banquet: Speaker TBA

Wednesday, Sept 5—

Day of presentations on energy, economics, and emergencies

Lunch catered by WVU Alumni Center

Current sponsors include WVU DFNR and Extension, Columbia Forest Products, and Meadwestvaco.

More information coming soon!

Notes from the WVSAF Winter meeting:

Contributed by Dave McGill

The WVSAF met in late February to discuss “Advancing the Practice of Good Forestry.” There were just over 90 forestry and natural resources professionals in attendance.

This winter meeting started with a tour of Strata Products, the manufacturer of mining roof support systems, and Appalachian Timber Services, Inc., the largest supplier of ties to the New York City transportation system. Michael Goergen drove over from DC to attend the meeting and gave an SAF Ethics training session following the afternoon field tour.

During the evening banquet, Dr. Kurt Gottschalk gave his humorous views of the “30 Years of Change in Forestry” using many historic photos, some including himself as a younger man.

The business meeting on the second day was well attended and addressed various financial topics and the issue of the “Allegheny Highlands National Park,” which would be located mostly in West Virginia. As of



the meeting, most discussion has seemed to die down, but the discussion took place as to the role of WV SAF in making comments should the need arise.

Speakers for “Advancing the Practice of Good Forestry” were introduced by WV SAF Chair Aaron Plaugher. WV State Forester Randy Dye briefed the group on current activities going on with the WV Division of Forestry, followed by similar briefings by WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources Director Dr. Joe McNeel, and SAF Executive Director Michael Goergen.

Bill Gillespie gave a historical perspective of the 1972 West Virginia Forest Practices Standards, that have in some ways been overshadowed by the BMPs for controlling erosion and sedimentation. Bill was one who helped craft these standards. Dr. Stuart Moss presented findings from his dissertation in a talk titled “Do foresters matter? The profession’s impact on NIPF timber harvests in West Virginia,” which stimulated a good amount of discussion. Jeremy McGill, Assistant State Forester for Logging Sediment Control told the group about program successes.

Following lunch, Dr. Jim Finley (Penn State Extension) discussed approaches for “Creating dialogue to address common concerns.” Matt Poirot (VA Department of Forestry) told the group about policies affecting forestry practices in Virginia. Consulting forester Russ Richardson led the group in a discussion about some problems with the timber theft policies in the state. Finally, Ellen Voss, WVU Graduate Research Assistant, ended the afternoon sharing some finding from the recent questionnaire inquiring about the “state of regeneration in West Virginia” from the perspective of the state’s natural resources professionals.

In summary, the meeting provided an excellent chance to get briefed on practices impacting forestry and to consider policies that might move forestry in the future by simultaneously improving the status of forest industry and environmental productivity. We anticipate that many of the important points brought up at this meeting will be carried through to upcoming events as well.

To see more photos from this meeting, look for us on Facebook at “WV Division of the SAF”:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/45851486@N06/sets/72157629078398210/show/>

WVSAF At Work:

Helping WVU Student SAF

The WVSAF provided \$500 to the WVU Student SAF toward travel expenses to the 2011 SAF National Convention in Hawaii. Shane Closkey, president of the WVU Student Chapter, presented a talk with slides about their trip during the winter WVSAF meeting. The 6 WVU students who attended the national convention were: Shane Closkey, Ben Misch, Matt Hall, Alex Kern, Bradly Gentry and Patrick Eisenhauer. To quote Shane, “*On behalf of the West Virginia University Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, I would like to thank everyone involved with the West Virginia Division of SAF. The support from the West Virginia Division really allows us to achieve substantial goals we set for ourselves every year. I would also like to extend a thank you to the Division for allowing the students, including myself, to attend the winter meeting. It was a great experience and we got to*



meet some great people.” As you can see from the photo, the students enjoyed their experience, and represented WV well.

WV SAF Woodlands Award

The 2011 Woodlands Award was presented to the Paynter Branch Mine Complex in Charleston WV during the Annual Coal Symposium sponsored by the WV Coal Association. This award is presented annually by WVSAF to a surface mining operation that demonstrates it is creating productive and valuable forests during the mining reclamation process and is following the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) guidelines established by the Appalachian Regional Forest Initiative (ARRI). Paynter Branch planted more than 406,000 tree seedlings, including American Chestnut seedlings, following FRA approach of choosing the best soil substrate, using free-friendly ground cover and planting native hardwood species. In addition, Paynter also worked carefully with surface water management, and established an apple orchard on the site

According to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s figures, over 80 percent of the surface mine acreage being permitted today in the Mountain State will be returned to forests after mining. This positive change has many benefits: Reforested mine lands don’t just provide a valuable timber resource for the future, but also act as carbon sinks, provide shelter and food for wildlife, help control soil erosion trees filter rainwater and slow surface runoff, improve the aesthetics of the landscape and recreational use.

The West Virginia SAF established the Woodlands Award in 1998. The West Virginia Division’s Woodlands Award Committee Members include: Tim Probert (Chairman), Jim Mitchell, Rick Persinger, Doug Toothman and John Vallelonga. The Woodlands Award Committee and WVDEP Reclamation Specialist Kevin Quick conducted their field tour of nominated mine sites in November, 2011.



Oak seedling growing among sparse, tree-friendly ground cover on loosely dumped spoil material.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Note: for details on BMP training, contact Jeremy McGill 3045582788

6/5/2012	Best Management Practices Workshop	Event Details
6/6/2012	Best Management Practices Recertification	Event Details
6/6/2012	Best Management Practices Recertification	Event Details
6/13/2012	Best Management Practices Recertification	Event Details
6/13/2012	Best Management Practices Recertification	Event Details
6/14/2012	Profitable Operation of Small Sawmills	Event Details
6/14/2012	Best Management Practices Workshop	Event Details
6/14/2012	Best Management Practices Recertification	Event Details
6/28/2012	Tree Felling Safety and Personnel Safety Equipment Workshop	Event Details
8/12/2012	Leadership Conference for Promoting Locally Made US Wood Products	Event Details

Other meetings of interest to WVSAF members:

July 13 - 14 – WV Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Canaan Valley State Park.

August 8-10, 2012 Allegheny SAF meeting, “Adapting Forestry to Environmental Changes”, Valley Forge, PA

October 24-28 SAF National Convention “Resilient Forests, Spokane, WA

Other News

Randolph County Foresters Enjoy Ramp Feed

The Randolph County Foresters' Spring meeting was held at the Izaak Walton League camp near Beverly, WV on April 11, 2012. A ramp dinner was enjoyed by the approximately 28 attendees, with a good representation of government and industry foresters present. Per long-standing tradition, no business was discussed! A good time was had by all, and a significant number of ramps consumed!. Let us hear of your local foresters' group and what they're doing.

New WVU Agriculture Dean is a forester

Daniel J. Robison, associate dean for research and professor of forestry and environmental resources at North Carolina State University, has been named dean of the [Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design](#) at [West Virginia University](#), effective May 31, 2012.

Robison most recently led the research enterprise of the North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources. In his work as an administrator and professor there, since 1997, he won recognition for teaching, directed several large-integrated research programs and international initiatives, was engaged with Extension and outreach activities, and during 2007-2008 he was a Leadership Fellow with the American Council on Education, serving with the chancellors of University of Alaska-Fairbanks and East Carolina University.

He has published extensively in the forest science literature, successfully secured research funding, mentored graduate students and worked overseas in a number of locations, from South Africa to Israel to Myanmar.

Robison's disciplinary expertise lies in the areas of natural resource management and sustainable development, silviculture and forest pest management, and clonal forestry and biomass-energy. Before coming to N.C. State University, he worked at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry-Syracuse (SUNY ESF), and lived for two years in West Africa working for a variety of organizations, including with the West African Rice Development Association.

Robison earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in forestry from SUNY ESF, and a Ph.D. in entomology from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In Memoriam:

John N. Ballantyne passed away April 3, 2012. Born April 12, 1919 at Portal, N.D., he grew up on a farmstead in North Dakota. John earned a Bachelor of Science in forestry at the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science in forestry at Yale University. He was a World War II Naval officer, serving active duty on the battleships U.S.S. West Virginia, U.S.S. Mississippi and U.S.S. Intrepid in the Pacific Theatre, earning seven stars, and the World War II Victory Bronze Star. After the war, he continued in the Naval Reserves until 1956.

John worked with the USDA Forest Service in a variety of locations (New Hampshire, Arkansas, Upper Darby, PA, and WV) and roles. He Served as the District Ranger for the Cheat Ranger district of the Monongahela National Forest at Parsons from 1952-1957, and also as recreational and fire control staff officer for the Monongahela National Forest in Elkins. He worked with the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd and staff on the development of Spruce Knob and Spruce Knob Lake Recreational Areas, the Otter Creek Wildness Area, Cranberry Wildness Area and Visitor Center and the Seneca Rocks Recreational Area and Visitor Center.

John was one of the founding members of the Randolph County Foresters group.

Got a question, comment, or suggestion?

Contact any member of the Executive Council:

David McGill, Chair

Aaron Plaugher, Past-Chair

Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy, Chair Elect

Charles Copeland, Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Beth Adams

Chris Cartwright

Jim Hayes

Reed Morgan

Charles Sypolt