

# The Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters  
**Spring 2000**

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# The Allegheny News

Volume 9, No. 1

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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

Editor: Jack Winieski

Layout: Catherine Winieski Carter

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## Chairman's Corner

By Mike Lester  
Allegheny SAF Chair

The Centennial Year is upon us. I thought I'd spend my first Chairman's Corner column on celebrating our accomplishments.

First, congratulations to **Howard Wurzbacher** and the rest of the SAF Plateau Chapter planning crew for the excellent winter meeting in Titusville. Not only was the program thought provoking and well done, the facilities (and food) were great. Also, congratulations to **Bob Bauer** for his recognition for "Outstanding Service to Forestry" and to **David Gailey** for his "Forester of the Year" award.

We also experienced a changing of the guard at the Student Quiz Bowl competition. **Penn State Mont Alto** dethroned two-time National Quiz Bowl winner West Virginia University. A great job by Mont Alto. The students from West Virginia have established an enviable record the past two years, and we fully expect the same level of excellence from the Mont Alto students. No pressure from this corner.

It is always a pleasure to be in the position of recognizing accomplishments in our profession. It was particularly satisfying to present our immediate Past Chair, **Mark Webb**, with his Fellow certificate. I've gotten to know Mark fairly well in the last couple of years. The depth and breadth of his commitments and his accomplishments are truly inspiring. I believe most of us are aware of Mark's accomplishments in SAF (which also include Vice-Chair of HSD this year) and the Association of Consulting Foresters. Mark is also active in his church and local Hospital Board. So, for those of us who don't know where we'll find time for our professional society, I think we have a role model. However, Mark would be the first on to tell you that he couldn't handle all of these commitments without the support of his wife Blare.

While we're rolling out the congratulations, we can't forget our new Council Representative **Tim Kaden**. Tim and Karen Kaden are the proud grandparents of Bradley James Kaden, their first grandchild!

Finally, let me remind everyone about the Centennial National SAF Convention in Washington, DC. The dates are November 16-21, 2000. The Allegheny and Appalachian Societies are working with the National Capital Society to help host the meeting. Please attend, for you will be involved in a truly historic event for our profession. 🌲

# Members and Views

## Richard F. West Honored

By Ron Sheay, Allegheny SAF Historian

**Richard (Dick) West**, received the "1999 Silas Little Award"\* from the New Jersey Division, Society of American Foresters (SAF) at their Annual meeting. The citation read, "In recognition of outstanding visible participation, superior service, professional achievement and contributions to the NJ Division SAF." Dick exemplifies the spirit of this prestigious award through his 27 years of teaching and research at Cook College, Rutgers University, numerous publications related to forestry and resource management resulting from his research, and his continuing insightful forestry articles and editorials in the NJ Forestry Association *New Jersey Woodlands* newsletter and other media outlets. He is a Golden (50-year) member of SAF, received the 1984 Allegheny SAF "Outstanding Service to Forestry" award, and was elected to National Fellow in the Society in 1986.



West is a 1940 graduate of Rutgers University and earned his Master of Forestry from Yale University in 1942. He was Chair of the New Jersey SAF Chapter in 1974, President of the New Jersey Forestry Association 1982-93, Director of the NJFA from 1976 to the present, currently Co-Editor of the "NJ Woodlands," and is a former Mayor of Cranbury, New Jersey. 🦋

*\*Dr. Silas Little, Jr. (deceased) was a former Chairman of the Allegheny SAF, an SAF Fellow and a golden member, and a respected peer. He was a dedicated researcher with the US Forest Service in fire ecology, silviculture, and tree breeding, and an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University. In recognition of his dedicated professionalism, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection renamed the Lebanon Experimental Forest (where Si headquartered his research) the "Silas Little Experimental Forest" and the NJ Division SAF established the "Silas Little Award."*



## Roxane Palone Nominated to PA Game Commission

HARRISBURG, PA (March 7) — **Roxane Palone, Chair-elect for the Western Gateway Chapter of SAF** was selected by Governor Tom Ridge as the nominee for the PA District 2 Game Commissioner seat, which covers eight counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of eight members who receive no compensation. Duties of the Game Commissioner include establishing season and bag limits, setting geographical boundaries for hunting/trapping, closing and opening new seasons, promoting and preserving hunting and trapping, and developing policies for wildlife management for the Commonwealth. If confirmed by 2/3 of the state Senate, Palone will serve an eight-year term.

Palone is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1974 to 1977. She holds a BS in Biology from Glenville (WV) State College and a MSF in Forest Science from West Virginia University. She has been employed by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry since 1988, most recently serving as a Rural Development Specialist for the six states served by the Morgantown, WV field office. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and is an avid hunter, shooter, and fisherman. 🦋

## In Memoriam

**Thomas W. Birch**, died January 9, 2000 in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania at the age of 52. He worked as a resource analyst for the USDA Forest Service at the Northeastern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit in Newtown Square, PA. During his 25-year career, Birch wrote or co-authored some 90 technical publications. He was probably best known by fellow foresters and friends for his delicate wood carvings, especially of ducks.

Tom recently received the Boy Scouts of America's William T. Hornaday Gold Award for Conservation and an award from the National Council on Private Forests, "in recognition of his enormous contributions to our understanding of the nation's forest owners." He was a member of the SAF for 31 years, having received a BS and an MS in Forestry from Michigan State University. 🦋

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

## Mark R. Webb Elected Fellow

Mark Webb was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) by his peers in the Allegheny SAF. He was awarded a certificate and accompanying letter of congratulations from National President Fred Ebel during a ceremony at the recent Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting in Titusville, PA. Allegheny Chair Mike Lester made the presentation before a standing ovation of the membership in session on February 24, 2000.



Mark Webb (l) accepts "SAF Fellow" Certificate from Allegheny SAF Chair Mike Lester

Election to the Fellow status is the highest form of recognition by the Society from one's peers for outstanding service to SAF, the forestry profession, and society. The fellow award is limited to less than 5% of the 18,000 national professional membership.

Professionally, Mark has been involved in a number of positions in SAF since becoming a member in 1982, including Chairs of the SAF Plateau Chapter and the Pennsylvania Division. He has been active on the Silviculture and Inventory Working Groups and has

represented the Allegheny SAF on the National House of Society Delegates (HSD). At present he is the elected Vice-Chair of the HSD for 1999-2000.

Mark has served on Penn State and PA Bureau of Forestry task forces and committees – Best Management Practices, Sustainability Forestry Initiative of PA, Timber Harvest Assessment Team, NW PA Deer Committee, and the Penn State Forest Issues Working Group. He is Northern Regional Director of the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF), Past Chair of the PA State Chapter of ACF, and on the editorial board for the *Consultant* magazine.

Mark received a BS in Forestry from Penn State University and is active as the Treasurer of the Alumni Board of Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. He is an established member of the Union City, PA community — both he and his wife Blare are members of the First United Methodist Church choir, and involved in community adult education. Mark has also been Chair of his local Hospital Board of Trustees for 12 years and is a 10+ gallon Red Cross blood donor. 🌲

## Michelle Harvey Appointed

Michelle Harvey has been appointed the new Director of Science and Education at the SAF National office, having served as interim Director since August 1999. Ms. Harvey oversees SAF's accreditation of undergraduate and graduate forestry degree programs, recognition of technician programs, professional forester certification, science dissemination and continuing forestry education, as well as the initiation of a new conservation education program.

Before joining SAF 20 years ago, Ms. Harvey served as Vice President of Education for the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF). She has served as Executive Director of the American Forest Foundation and Director of Placement and Corporate Development for the Duke University School of the Environment.

A native of New Orleans, LA, Ms. Harvey holds an MBA from Duke University Fuqua School of Business and a BS in Forestry from the University of the South in Seawee, TN. 🌲



## David Gailey is 1999 "Forester of the Year"

By Ken Jolly, Allegheny Awards Chair

David Gailey, of the Maryland Delaware SAF Division, was selected to receive the 1999 Allegheny SAF "Forester of the Year" Award. He was recognized during the awards ceremony at the annual meeting banquet in Titusville, PA.

Gailey is a forester with the MD DNR Forest Service and received the award for implementing outstanding forestry efforts in a two-county area in southern Maryland. Over the course of the year, he prepared Forest Stewardship Plans for private forest land owners covering 2,400 acres, and oversaw the establishment of 18,900 linear feet of forest buffer along non-forested streams – a priority objective of the multi-state Chesapeake Bay initiative. He also advised the County Planning and Zoning officers and staff on forest-related issues, assisted one community in becoming a "Tree City USA" award winner, coordinated a highly interactive County Fair forestry display, and was a Strike Team Leader/instructor in an interagency training camp attended by 120+ firefighters.

Dave is an active member of the MD/DE SAF Division and demonstrates a high level of service and dedication to the forestry profession and to the communities in his area of responsibility. 🌲

# Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting

## February 23, 2000

**Attendees:**

**Allegheny Officers:** M. Lester, Chair; M. Webb, Past-Chair; K. Jolly, Sec/Treasurer; S. Lacy, Past Sec/Treasurer; J. Benton, K. Sykes, J. Perdue, E. Higgins, Exec. Comm. Members; J. Winieski, Exec. Director  
**Division/Chapter Officers & Committee Representatives:** H. Wurzbacher, Plateau Chair; N. Karger, PA Div. Chair-Elect; R. Schweitzer, W. Gateway Chair; S. Koehn, MD Div. Chair; A. Sam, Rothrock Chair; C. Newlon, Communications Chair; S. Stout, Plateau Exec. Comm.; D. Ostergard, Program Chair; A. Perkey, WV Div. Chair; R. Bauer, PA Div. Chair; K. Steiner, Student Coordinator Chair; M. Fajvan, For. Science Coordinator.

**Minutes from previous Exec. Comm. Meeting:**

Were approved as published in *The Allegheny News*.

**Treasurer's Report:**

1999 Treasurer's Report (S. Lacy) was approved (copy attached). End of year balances: Checking: \$880.07 ; Endowment CD: \$10,000 ; Endowment Savings: \$3,479.25. R. Sheay and G. Pierson were thanked for their oversight in auditing the 1999 report. Incoming Treasurer's Report (K. Jolly) was distributed (copy attached). Current balance in checking is: \$2,093.54. S. Lacy will transfer all Treasurer files to K. Jolly during the 2000 Winter Meeting; final transfer of remaining funds will occur once outstanding checks have been cashed.

**Budget:**

The 2000 Budget Forecast prepared at the special April 13, 1999 Exec. Comm. meeting was discussed/revised to reflect a balanced budget. The 2000 Budget was approved as follows (see "Budget Notes" for explanations of selected items):

**Income:**

Dues	\$18,500
Contributions	
Forester's Fund	\$250
Silent Auction	\$500
Section Meetings	\$500 (a)
Voluntary Div/Chapter	\$800 (b)

**Total Income**                    **\$20,550**

**Expenses:**

Div/Chapter dues disbursements	\$5,500
Allegheny News	\$5,700
Exec. Director Stipend	\$4,400
Exec. Director Expenses	\$2,200
Chair National Convention Exp.	\$1,000
Student Travel	\$1,000 (c)
HSD Assessment	\$400
Awards	\$150 (d)
Administrative Items	\$200 (e)

**Total Expenses**                    **\$20,550**

**Budget Notes:**

- (a) It was agreed a \$500 contribution to the Allegheny from meeting profits would be expected from each of the respective Div/Chapter hosting the Allegheny Winter & Summer Meetings. In a normal year, this would be \$1,000; however, since there will not be a 2000 Allegheny Summer Meeting [due to the National Convention in Washington DC], the 2000 budget reflects only \$500 from the Winter Meeting. In next year's budget, this will increase to \$1,000.
- (b) This figure represents voluntary contributions from each of the Div/Chapter, which come from respective Div/Chapter meeting profits (or other local fund raising activities).
- (c) This figure is allocated as follows: \$500 travel stipend to winning Quiz Bowl team to represent the Allegheny at the National Convention; \$100 travel stipend for individual schools to support travel to Allegheny Winter Meeting.
- (d) This amount is for awards presented at Allegheny Section meetings (e.g., SAF Fellows, Outstanding Service to Forestry, Forester of the Year, Golden Members). For those Fellows and Golden Members who cannot attend the Allegheny Meeting, the financial cost of framing the award certificates will be the responsibility of the respective Div/Chapter that presents the award locally. Regarding the R. Forbes Art Show Awards (budgeted at approximately \$140/year): this was removed as a line-item in the budget, based on a voluntary contribution/offer to establish an Art Awards Endowment fund to pay for future Art Award expenses on an on-going basis.
- (e) This includes such items as postage, bank service charges, stationary, etc.

**Forest Health & Productivity Ad Hoc Committee:**

Comm. Chair K. Gottschalk recommended disbanding this Ad Hoc Committee, as they had completed their task. Action approved.

**Executive Director Report:**

- J. Winieski reported the following items:
- Allegheny News (Winter 1999-2000, Vol. 8, No. 4) has been sent out.
  - currently working with M. Webb to re-do/up-date the Allegheny Operations Manual.

- regarding Allegheny Fellow nominations: 1 approved, 4 not approved; Jack noted that to be approved as a Fellow, a nominee currently must receive an affirmative vote from 66% of the total votes cast for officers; there is a proposal for this to be changed to 66% of the votes cast for Fellows; this may result in more success in approving Fellows for the future (since not everyone who votes in the officer elections casts a vote for Fellows); on the other hand, it was noted the SAF is currently at the 5% Fellow limit.
- regarding newly elected officers: Jack requested all Div/Chapter to forward their officer name/address changes; Section officers will be sworn in at the Awards Banquet.
- Jack noted three Section members had died during the past year (T. Birch, W. Kidd, J. Marra); their names will be mentioned at the Awards Banquet, followed by a moment of silence in their honor.

#### Committee Items:

Allegheny Chair M. Lester noted vacancies for the following Committee Chairs: Foresters Fund and Tellers. S. Stout volunteered to fill the Tellers position; Mike will continue recruitment for the Foresters Fund position.

Award Comm. Chair K. Jolly thanked the two state Divisions who submitted 1999 Award nominations, and encouraged participation by all four Divisions in 2000. The NJ representative on the Comm. is stepping down after several years of dedicated service; K. Jolly will contact the NJ Chair to appoint a new representative for 2000. Members serve anonymously to preserve the integrity of the peer review Awards process.

Student Coordinating Comm. Chair K. Steiner requested more guidance regarding specific duties. M. Lester/J. Winieski noted they will work with Kim to develop/provide guidance, and will document this in the up-dated Operations manual.

Communications Chair C. Newlon noted several upcoming opportunities to communicate the forestry message to the general public: Arbor Day, Walk in the Forest, establishing a local Div/Chp speaker's bureau, planting a tree at Habitat for Humanity events, submission of SAF News Releases to local/rural newspapers.

Centennial Events: no report.

Habitat for Humanity: H. Wurzbacher, Plateau Chair, reported on successes with Warren County HFH (contributions, working on next project); S. Koehn, MD-DE Chair, reported on difficulties encountered (not being able to supply week-long work-crews being requested by local MD-DE HFH affiliates). Allegheny Chair M. Lester requested all Div/Chapter to notify L. Murgia at SAF HQ of all HFH activities accomplished.

#### Allegheny Meeting Schedule:

Program Chair D. Ostergard led a scheduling discussion for future Section meetings. The following schedule was approved:

- Summer 2000: no meeting, in lieu of National Convention in Washington DC
- Winter 2001: NJ Division
- Summer 2001: Western Gateway Chapter (PA) – dates set for July 11-13, 2001
- Winter 2002: MD-DE Division
- Summer 2002: Keystone Chapter (PA)
- Winter 2003: N. Hardwood Chapter (PA) – [tentative only]
- Summer 2003: Rothrock Chapter (PA)
- Winter 2004: MD-DE Division
- Summer 2004: WV Division

#### SAF Code of Ethics Proposed Changes:

M. Lester passed along a request from SAF Council Rep. T. Kaden to send him any comments ASAP regarding the proposed changes to the SAF Code of Ethics (draft language printed in current Allegheny News). K. Steiner expressed his opinion the proposal needs more national dialogue and input from members before approval.

#### Policy Issues:

The following items were discussed:

- M. Lester will check with T. Kaden regarding Tim's desire to continue as the Allegheny Policy Comm. Chair (in relation to his duties as Council Rep.).
- regarding the proposed TDML regulations: SAF opposed, NASF opposed; M. Lester encouraged members to send in comments to EPA on this issue.
- M. Lester noted the infrequency of Exec. Comm. meetings make it difficult to react to policy items quickly; consensus approval was given to coordinate/conduct future policy responses needing prompt attention by the Exec. Comm. via e-mail; respective Div/Chapter can coordinate their comments as they deem appropriate.
- S. Stout expressed support for SAF's policy statement on the National Forest Planning Act; Susan also requested guidance on whether SAF can be a party to a lawsuit and/or fund-raising efforts; M. Lester responded this issue is under consideration by National SAF HQ.
- S. Stout volunteered to lead the developing of an Allegheny SAF policy statement on deer population levels/healthy forests; the Exec. Comm. approved forming a Sub-Committee to do this, and approved S. Stout as Comm. Chair.

(Continued from page 5)

# 1999 Treasurer's Report

## Allegheny SAF

Respectively Submitted by Susan Lacy, Treasurer

### Membership:

M. Lester urged everyone to make a dedicated effort to recruit new members. Mike also encouraged recruitment efforts that represent the broad diversity (ethnically and professionally) of the field of forestry, and provided a reminder that technicians can be members.

C. Newlon brought up the issue of allowing local membership separate/distinct from national membership; M. Lester requested Charlie to put this issue in a written communication, to be forwarded to HSD for national discussion/debate; Mike also encouraged other Exec. Comm. members to send him any thoughts they have on the matter.

E. Higgins encouraged recruitment in member's respective organizations, as appropriate.

### Other items:

The paper donation for the Allegheny News from Willamette Industries was noted and gratefully acknowledged. J. Winieski and M. Lester will continue to work together with the appropriate individuals to coordinate future paper donations.

R. Bauer displayed the SAF Centennial 3-D wood carving commissioned by Plateau Chapter especially for the 2000 Winter Meeting, and noted it would be raffled off to generate funding for on-going Allegheny activities.

### Adjourn:

Being no further business, M. Lester proclaimed the meeting adjourned, noting that a synopsis of the Exec. Comm. discussion items would be presented at the full business meeting the following day.

Respectfully Submitted,  
K. Jolly, Secretary

Beginning balance of Checking Account on 1/1/99	\$ 2,687.01
Beginning balance of Savings Account on 1/1/99	<u>261.01</u>
<b>Total beginning balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,948.02</b>

### Income:

Dues from National Office	\$ 16,377.20
Forester Fund contributions	-
Executive Director Expense Contributions	2,700.00
Interest on Savings Account	23.21
Forester Fund project (NJ)	1,000.00
Add back checks not cashed in 1997 & 1998	-
Transfer funds to Endowment Account	<u>(1,950.00)</u>
<b>Total 1999 Income</b>	<b>\$ 18,150.41</b>

**\$ 18,150.41**

**TOTAL INCOME**

**\$ 21,098.43**

### Expenses:

Dues reimbursement to Divisions & Chapters	\$ 5,244.20
Newsletter	4,373.68
Executive Director stipend	5,500.00
Executive Director expenses	2,650.00
HSD assessment	398.48
Forester Fund projects (NJ)	1,000.00
Forester fund contributions	-
Student travel	800.00
Framing (awards)	-
Art Awards (Reginald Forbes Art Contest)	110.00
Awards committee Expenses	33.00
Engraving	79.00
Postage	5.00
Service Charges	25.00
<b>Total 1999 Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,218.36</b>

**\$ 20,218.36**

### TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES

	<b>\$ 880.07</b>
Ending Balance in Checking Account on 12/31/99	\$ 880.07
Ending Balance in Savings Account on 12/31/99	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 880.07</b>

Endowment Certificate of Deposit	\$ 10,000.00
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Endowment Savings Account	
Beginning balance on 1/1/99	\$ 1,142.41

Interest on Savings Account	\$ 76.49
Interest from Certificate of Deposit	\$ 310.35
Transfer Funds from Checking Account	<u>\$ 1,950.00</u>

<b>Ending balance on 12/31/99</b>	<b>\$ 3,479.25</b>
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# Rothrock SAF Executive Committee Meets and Plans

By Ken Balliet, Secretary/Treasurer

Members of the Rothrock SAF Chapter Executive Committee met at Duffy's Tavern in Boalsburg, PA on March 30, 2000, reviewed some old business and recent correspondence, and did some planning. Present were, Chair **Al Sam**, **Ken Balliet**, **Marc McDill**, **Paul Augustine**, **Bill Krieger**, and **Gary Rutherford**. Chair Sam distributed the agenda and called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

No minutes of the winter meeting were reported but the treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Congratulations to **Russell Hutnick** for achieving 50 continuous years as a SAF member. He will be presented with the "Golden Member" certificate at the December 9, 2000 meeting to be held at the Elks Country Club in Boalsburg. **Dr. Kim Steiner** will tell us about the proposed PSU Arboretum.

The Committee then reviewed opportunities to become involved in several "Habitat for Humanity" projects in the Bellefonte area which are in need of landscaping, and tree removal expertise. They also discussed support of **Dr. Dennis Ringling's** Second Annual "Forestry Summer Camp" for teachers at Penn College in Williamsport. A discussion relative to donating funds to the Allegheny SAF resulted in a decision to act when and if the extra funds are urgently needed. Chairman Sam announced that the Rothrock Chapter will host the Summer 2003 Allegheny SAF Meeting.

The Committee is currently planning a Joint Summer Meeting on June 9, 2000 with topics and tours of a grouse study, the American chestnut program, and the Sand County Deer study. The Executive Committee will meet at 11:00 am and the tour will start at the Quehanna Foreman's headquarters of DCNR at 12 noon. Lunch will be provided (cold cuts), with a BBQ-your-own-steak dinner after the tour - all for just \$15 (plus a donation for the extra beverage). Mark your calendars now! 🍴

## Councilman's Report

By Tim Kaden, SAF District VII Representative



I recently returned from the first SAF Council meeting as your representative. My report covers a very intense and busy two days in which current and future SAF activities were well reviewed by Council.

First, this is our Centennial - 100 years of professional forestry in America! The National SAF Centennial exhibit is scheduled to be open to the public at the National Building Museum on or about September 9, 2000. The museum will also be the site of the Convention banquet during the November 16-21, 2000 celebration. Since the convention is in the backyard of the Allegheny SAF membership, I hope all take the time to spend at least a day or two celebrating this bench-mark occasion.

In connection with the celebration, you may have forgotten about the Centennial Campaign to raise money to support activities during the year and beyond for outreach activities. Past President **Jim Coufal**, Centennial Campaign Chair needs your involvement financially as well as in person to make this effort a success for the profession. I ask you to join me and "step up to the plate" now (checks to "SAF Centennial Campaign", c/o Jim Coufal, Soc. American Foresters, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814).

Secondly, the new draft of the Code of Ethics is to voted on at the June meeting (copies in The Allegheny News Winter 1999-2000 issue, p. 6 and elsewhere). If accepted by Council, the membership will have the opportunity to adopt or reject the new document. I would appreciate your pro's and con's before June, so that I may properly represent membership views in the discussion ([tkaden@state.de.us](mailto:tkaden@state.de.us) or 302-739-3423).

SAF President Ebel restated his goal to have SAF more involved and supportive of states that are considering licensing and registration. In the Allegheny we have states that have licensing, some with registration, and some considering licensing. I would like to hear any of your views on licensing; are you in favor of it and why, if you have it - is it effective relative to improving forestry practices and perhaps eliminating negative affects on the resource, are land owners becoming more aware of forest values and the value of professional involvement, etc. Let me know, so that I may contribute to any initiatives in line with the President Ebel's goals.

Lastly, a motion was made to place the Council minutes on the SAF members only website. Presently the minutes are sent to the Allegheny Chair and the Council actions are printed in the "Forestry Source." The motion was defeated. I voted against the motion. Reason being, that the minutes are a refined capsule of a lot of discussion and debate, and do not reflect the total context of discussion. Therefore I felt that the membership would not be fully served with only partial information that leads to a vote or resolution. Also, I questioned how many of the membership would read the 30+ pages of council minutes, but that is your call. If you would like the minutes on the member's only website, give me a call, I can attempt to bring the issue back to the table.

Thanks to Chapters and Divisions that have invited me to their meetings. I had a great time at the Valley Forge Chapter recently, and look forward to other invitations. Sorry I missed the meeting in Titusville - I became a first-time grandfather. You older members can understand my absence.

See you in DC if not before,  
**Grandpa Tim**

## Where Should We Have Drawn the Line?

By Harry V. Wiant (Presented at the Allegheny SAF Meeting, February 25, 2000)



It was my pleasure to be one of the speakers on a panel at the recent Winter Meeting of the Allegheny SAF in Titusville, PA. **Kathe Frank** (USFS) spoke first, giving a wonderful talk on "Dealing with Preservationists, and **Kenny Kane** (Forest Consultant) following me with a challenging message, "Can We Pull it Off?" The topic I was "assigned" was "Where Do We Draw the Line?", which I quickly changed (see above), probably to the surprise of no one.

If you'll excuse a bit of WWII terminology, we were driven off the forestry beachhead long ago when we gave up defending clearcutting, one of

our most versatile and natural silvicultural tools. Numerous studies by USFS, university, and private investigators demonstrated the appropriateness of clearcutting, even in our Appalachian hardwoods. Why have these studies and publications ceased? Has the ecology of our species and stands changed? Of course not! The sad truth is that our research and science is hostage to political correctness.

Our retreat became a rout when our professional society and leaders accepted with silence the appointment of non-foresters as Chiefs of the USDA Forest Service. Not reflecting on the individuals, who may be most honorable, it's a terrible testimony to our ineffectiveness (or political cowardliness) to fail to protest in the strongest terms possible when non-foresters head our largest forestry organization. We have stood by while the Forest Service, once the finest organization in the federal bureaucracy, was destroyed and now marches arm-in-arm with the Sierra Club.

Our ragtag troops raised the white flag when we gave ecosystem management credence, even though we have no idea what it means or how to do it. It is all too plain what it has done to management on our national forests. Now some foresters pretend we really need third party certification, a few will probably accept the ludicrous notion of returning much of our forestland to some arbitrary pre-settlement condition, and well-known leaders in our profession try to convince us that so-called environmentalists are our friends. If they are our friends, pray tell what would an enemy look like?

There is little chance that forest industry will find the will and the way to produce the continuous and expensive TV ads I promoted strongly, a move so necessary for their own survival. Surely they will at least take the advice a forester gave years ago and print *Product of Our Renewable Forest* on every roll of toilet paper, every piece of plywood, everywhere it can remind consumers that someone must produce. That is an almost no-cost strategy which could slowly educate our propagandized public.

Many of our once-proud army have accepted the rhetoric of the enemy, many have left the profession in hopeless surrender, but thankful a few "real foresters" still stand their ground. Can we regroup and move forward again? The tattered flag of SAF flutters weakly in the breeze, and, with a strong voice, it could still serve to rally our forces. Truth and science are powerful weapons. As I said in my campaign statement years ago, we may not win, but we can go down knowing we fought the good fight. There are worse things than fighting and losing for a just cause. And, we might just win, but to be brutally realistic, it will take a miracle. ❖

## Forester's Fund Grant Assists

NJ SAF 3-Day PLT Workshop  
By Amy Mallett, Secretary, NJ SAF Div.

Supported by a 1999 Forester's Fund Grant, the New Jersey SAF Division sponsored "Exploring a Forest Ecosystem," a three-day workshop for educators from around the Garden State. The grant project, *An Advanced Forestry Weekend Workshop for Project Learning Tree*, was successfully conducted through a partnership with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry, which provides funding for the PLT program in NJ.

Through the grant, NJ SAF hosted 25 educators at the High Point State Park group cabin. Educators and forestry professionals alike participated in hands-on activities from three PLT High School Modules: *Forest Issues, Forest Ecology and Risk Assessment*. Participants also received copies of the field guide, *Trees of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States*.

SAF members led a variety of forestry field activities that focused on the benefits of forested watersheds. Consulting forester and SAF member **Ben Dey**, led a tour of an award-winning Tree Farm, demonstrating his use of wise forest management practices for the protection of water resources. With tools such as diameter tapes, prisms and an increment borer, purchased through grant funds, participants had the opportunity to take measurements in a forest plot and learn a few of the necessary field skills used by foresters. The weekend workshop culminated with a volunteer project for High Point State Park that emphasized the "awareness to action" theme of Project Learning Tree.

From hiking in an Atlantic white cedar bog to using a Biltmore stick, participants were involved in an array of hands-on forestry activities that met the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards for education. We believe that workshops such as this will inspire and empower teachers to involve their students in activities that will lead them to become wise stewards of our natural resources. NJ SAF looks forward to continue to conduct similar partnered workshops – which, in this case, were well received by the teachers. ❖



**A PROBLEM**  
(no tree regeneration)



**A SOLUTION**  
(herbicide spraying)



**A BEGINNING TO...**  
(controlling understory and  
establishing tree regeneration)



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# Letter to the Editor, SAF Allegheny News

February 28, 2000

RE: WV Division Summer Meeting Visits "Mountain Top Removal" Article by Arlyn Perkey and Dr. Harry Wiant, Jr. in the Winter 1999-2000 issue of *The Allegheny News*, page 22

My hometowns were coal mining communities in Boone and Raleigh Counties, West Virginia. I was employed by Georgia-Pacific Corporation for nine years, cruising large tracts of timber, logging and fighting forest fires in Mingo, Logan, McDowell and Wyoming Counties of West Virginia and in western Virginia and eastern Kentucky. Altogether I have lived and/or have been responsible for forest management in the bituminous coal fields for 65 years.

Recently I resigned my position as Director of West Virginia's Division of Forestry in protest of mountaintop mining primarily because this destructive practice was by far the greatest reason for permanent deforestation of West Virginia and I was unable to alter this within the system. A 1996 field tour of VPI's 22-year Powell River Research Project on mountaintop mining reclamation, a 1997 helicopter flight over southern West Virginia stripped mined areas with my guest, Dr. James Burger, Director of VPI's Powell River Project, and the results of a 1995 forest inventory of the State first made me aware of the devastation and magnitude of this practice.

My employment as Associate Professor of Forestry at West Virginia University from 1967-78 and with Westvaco in Virginia and South Carolina from 1978-93 prevented my knowing firsthand the scope of mountaintop removal mining in the Appalachians. After becoming State Forester my frustrations grew after an unsuccessful attempt to set better standards for forest reclamation on mined sites working within the system through a MOU with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. This effort wound up as an option, rarely (if ever) to be used, and not mandatory as it should have been if there is to be a future for the eleven million acres of forest land at stake.

During the helicopter tour of the southern West Virginia coal fields, Dr. Burger and I set down on some 9 or 10 mountaintop removal sites and flew over literally hundreds of others at low elevation. Except for thick stands of lespedeza and fescue, these areas were desolate of any other form of flora or fauna. According to Dr. Burger's research publications, the excessive amounts of lime added to get grasses to survive (pH 7+), thick mats of these non-native grasses overtopping any tree seedlings that may temporarily survive this hostile environment and severe soil compaction precludes any tree species from surviving, let alone thriving.

By the way, forest manager, Tim Probert's reforestation efforts in West Virginia on mountaintop mining reclamation sites for his company are to be emulated. Along with an insignificant number of other landowners, they are applying some of VPI's reforestation research results. From a professional forestry standpoint, Dr. Burger's restoration recommendations show promise and, without question, are much better than what is being done elsewhere in West Virginia. According to Dr. Burger, in 1997 the State of Virginia and Kentucky were using his commercial woodlands reclamation standards on 80% and 50% respectively. Why not here as well?

However, from this professional forester's vantage, even with the very best reforestation reclamation research and field demonstrations to date, we are light years away from having satisfactory methodology. Under the present "wrecklamation" it will take 100 to 150 years before trees could become reestablished. I strongly believe that mountaintop removal coal mining should be stopped immediately and if the 1977 law was enforced, as intended, it would have never started.

Since the 1977 Federal Surface Mine Act was passed, the politically powerful coal mining companies have successfully manipulated the intent of the act with illegal variances to allow the wholesale and permanent deforestation of some 300,000 acres of prime Appalachian hardwood timberland. Also the rate of this devastating method of mining had increased to 30,000 acres annually, until Federal Judge Charles Haden, II's 1998 ruling which is currently under appeal.

Among these variances, the most damaging was altering the language from having to reclaim back to the "approximate original contour" to: allowing the total decapitation of 500 to 800 feet of the mountaintops and dumping untold millions of tons of overburden into the headwaters of hundreds of miles of West Virginia streams and rivers and leveling the entire area. Another illegal variance allowed the coal companies to avoid the language that "post mine land use requires that reclamation must be to an equal or greater level of productivity".

For the last 20 some years the majority of these companies have had the option to reclaim these mountaintop removals as developments, wildlife, hayland/pasture or commercial woodlands. The vast majority of these companies have opted to use the first three methods of reclamation and have failed miserably in every case.

My estimate is that no more than six of the hundreds of areas permitted for post mine land use option of potential development have actually been developed. Coal company propaganda would lead you to believe otherwise. CBS's 60 Minutes program hosted by Mike Wallace and aired on February 27, 2000 showed an air strip and regional prison that had been developed on strip mined land. I know of one other area that is to serve as an industrial development area for the lumber industry and one small shopping center also on mined land. Otherwise, there are literally hundreds of mountain tops that have been leveled which are "potential" development sites but have, and most likely, will never be utilized. Other than this false impression, CBS's coverage was very informative and fair.

There was scant evidence of any wildlife using these sterile areas for food or shelter. A squirrel would have to pack his lunch to make it across these desert-like areas.

And, of the thousands of acres of hayland/pasture, I failed to see any livestock. Actually these sites are without merit as

pastures and although I am not a farmer, I don't believe cattle would graze let alone thrive on these exotic grasses.

The few acres (less than 200 in total) that were suppose to be commercial woodlands were barely surviving, poorly stocked and not the least bit promising in regard to making a closed stand.

Regardless of the option chosen, the net result is the total compaction of an area larger than the average West Virginia county. Dr. Burger, in personal communication with me and in published articles, refers to all of these "reclamation options" as bogus and said it would take at least 100 to 150 years before trees would become reestablished.

On a sustained yield basis, using single tree selection, the annual growth on the 300,000 acres would produce, about 40 to 50 million board feet (Doyle rule) of high value Appalachian hardwood which would more than furnish two large computerized band mills forever. The permanent loss of this timber production does not include that to the scenic devastation, the loss of all native plants and animals, making the area uninhabitable for humans, nor the negative impact on the watershed.

As professional foresters what should our concerns be? Specifically, I question the following comments by the authors: they state that the majority of people on the tour, "had not seen this type mining in the unique topography where it is applied". "Unique" before or after these beautiful mountains are leveled? These steep (unique) slopes (40 to 60% average slope steepness) are the very reason this type of mining should not be allowed.

"Reclamation efforts are massive"? Granted it is massive, but reclaimed to what? How about keeping logging chances small (the public is not happy with 25 acre clear cuts, let alone the 3,000 acre Blair Mountain strip mining permit that is pending), minimizing damage to the residual stand, soil erosion and compaction concerns, stream and wildlife filter strips and how will we stop a forest fire in these highly inflammable grasses? Shouldn't soil pH ranges be from 5.0-6.5 for hardwoods? Were these concerns expressed on the tour? They certainly were not mentioned in this article!

"Foresters, with expertise in the location of logging roads, forest hydrology and silviculture, should play an even greater role in re-establishing forests after mining." Amazing, logging roads for what purpose? In the next millennium? In my opinion it would take a silviculturist with creative powers to restore these wastelands to a natural forest (including lesser vegetation and all other creatures "great and small").

Even though many professional foresters, including myself, believe Harry Wiant can walk on water, I doubt that even he has the creative powers to reclaim these wastelands. Until we have such magical powers, this madness must stop! The authors say, the "Speakers . . . . presented in total, a very fair and informative picture." I hate to be blunt, but if this article represents a fair picture of the speakers presentation of this destructive practice, we might just as well give up even attempting to be forest stewards.

Look closely at the two photos in this report and try to envision a forest management plan that has a snowball's chance in July of being successful. Shouldn't we stop destroying our entire forest structure until we know for certain how we can regenerate it within a reasonable time?

As a conservative capitalist, I realize the necessity of the "massive investments" to enable a company to annihilate high mountains and making operations "economically feasible" in undertaking such a huge engineering feat. Professional engineers might look at this undertaking as progress the same as their building of the Panama Canal or the Hoover Dam. However, I cannot understand how so many professional foresters can see anything but the serious undermining of the forest base? Hopefully future "letters to the editor" will convince me that there is professional concern?

Finally, I challenge the Allegheny Society of American Foresters to go on record as being opposed to mountaintop removal coal mining in the Appalachian Coal Fields because this form of mining is significantly and permanently deforesting the only renewable natural resource we have (our forests). I suggest this should be in the form of a resolution to be voted on by the membership and, if approved, sent to the West Virginia Governor, every member of the West Virginia and United States Legislatures, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the Federal Office of Surface Mining, the Environmental Protection Agency, Judge Charles Haden, II and probably others.

Sincerely, William R. Maxey, RRI Box 458, Leon, WV 25123; 304-458-1656

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Tuesday, March 21, 2000 8:59AM

Dear Editor:

Thank you for sending a copy of the letter from William Maxey. We readily concede that Bill is more of an expert on "Mountain top Removal" than we could be after a 2-day meeting. We had hoped that Bill could attend the meeting as his input would have been very helpful. We did attempt to give a fair report of the meeting. Our comment on logging roads related to observations by some of our members with expertise in that area that the roads to the sites could be designed better. We all chuckled that it must have been staged when large deer walked across in front of us at one site.

Bill's letter is informative and displays honest convictions, and we would do well to give his opinions careful consideration. Standing up for what you believe is something that Harry, of all people, would not dare criticize. And by the way, if Harry can walk on water, why does he get so wet when trout fishing?

Sincerely, Harry V. Wiant, Jr.  
and Arlyn Perkey

Harry V. Wiant, Jr.  
113 Scenery Drive, Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-599-6618 fax / voice mail 646-915-5484 / e-mail: [hwiant@juno.com](mailto:hwiant@juno.com)  
my website: <http://homestead.juno.com/hwiant/index.html>



Bob Bauer (l) receives "Outstanding Service to Forestry" Award for the year 1999 from Allegheny SAF Chair Mike Lester

## Robert W. Bauer Receives 1999 "Outstanding Service to Forestry" Award

Robert (Bob) Bauer was presented with the Allegheny Society of American Foresters 1999 "Outstanding Service to Forestry" Award during the February 24, 2000 Annual Winter Meeting banquet and awards ceremony in Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Bauer has AS and BS degrees in Forest Management from Penn State University. He is Regional Forester for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), Northwest Region, responsible for all forest management activities on the PGC State Game Lands. He serves and leads several committees, task forces and review boards statewide: Penn State Experimental Forest Management Review Board; Penn State Mt. Alto Forest Technology Advisory Board; chair of the Allegheny SAF "Ben Roach Forum;" Sustainable Forestry Initiative of PA discussion leader; technical presenter at state and regional land owners conferences and the Association of Consulting Foresters annual meeting; and PA Tree Farm System 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tour leader. He is a charter member of the PA Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF) and has been recognized as an "Outstanding Professional Employee" by his employer, the PGC.

In the Society of American Foresters, Bauer is on the Silviculture Working Group at the national level, has served on the Planning Committee for five Allegheny SAF Winter and Summer meetings, and is present chair of the PA Division. He has held all major offices of the Plateau Chapter and has led many SAF sponsored October "Walks in the Woods" with local K-12 school groups.

Community-wise, Bauer is a leader in 4-H Wranglers, Vice-Chair of Crawford County Cooperative Extension Board of Directors, chair and member of Crawford County Fair Livestock and Fair Building Committees, and is a charter member of the Northwest PA Woodland Association.

Bob and wife Connie, daughters Michelle, Suzanne and Jennifer reside in Hydetown, in northwest Pennsylvania. ❄️

## Penn State Mt. Alto Wins Student Quiz Bowl

By Craig Houghton, Professor of Forestry, Penn State Mt. Alto

At the Winter Meeting of the Allegheny SAF in Titusville, PA on April 24, 2000, the Mount Alto forestry students Patrick Miller, Christy Naugle and Mitchell Pennabaker won the annual Student Quiz Bowl.

In the first round of competition, Mt. Alto defeated the team from Allegany College of Maryland in a close race and then went on to defeat reigning national Champions, West Virginia University. The Mount Alto team will represent the Allegheny SAF in the national competition in Washington, DC during the November 16-21 Convention.

All three members of the Mt. Alto team are graduating in May with an Associate in Science in Forest Technology and are transferring to the baccalaureate Forest Science program at Penn State University. They are active in the Mt. Alto Forestry Club, Christy holding the office of president and Patrick club treasurer. Mt. Alto Forestry Professor Beth Brantley has been appointed overall Chair of the Allegheny SAF Student Quiz Bowl Committee for the incoming two-year term. The position is rotated among the members of the forestry colleges in the Allegheny state society. ❄️



Proud coaches Craig Houghton (l) and Beth Brantley flank Mt. Alto winning Student Bowl contestants, Mitchell Pennabaker, Christy Naugle, and Patrick Miller

## Student Contest Application Due Dates

The due date for the SAF Outstanding Student Chapter Award entries has been extended to May 10, 2000 (it may already be too late by the time you read this). But the deadline for submitting entries for the Student Publications Contest (for forestry school yearbooks only) is June 1, 2000.

Award winners will be acknowledged at the SAF National Convention in November, in Washington DC. Applications are on the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/members/student/studentawards.htm> or, for a hard copy, contact Carol McKernon at 301-897-8720 ext. 108, or e-mail: [mckernon@safnet.org](mailto:mckernon@safnet.org) ❄️

# The 2000 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting Highlights

By Robert Bauer, Chair, Pennsylvania Division SAF and Howard Wurzbacher, Chair, Plateau Chapter SAF

## “Selling Resource Management to Private Forest Landowners.”

We had the privilege of attending this theme topic of the five-state (DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV) Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) Winter Meeting in Titusville, PA, February 23-25, 2000. The Plateau SAF Chapter hosted 180 SAF members, resource professionals, Stewardship Forest VIP's and guests and took advantage of this opportunity to listen to and enter into the discussions generated by this topic – so appropriate, as revealed by the presentations.

**Jim Finley** and **Mary Ann Fajvan** opened the session with a report on the recent forest harvesting assessments made in Pennsylvania and West Virginia respectively. In both states, the studies revealed that a good percentage of the harvesting has left the stands with little future, due mainly to diameter limit cutting and high grading with little concern for regeneration. In PA, approximately 50% of the stands evaluated were harvested in an unsustainable fashion by study standards. Some of these stands could have been classified as sustainable, had existing voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) been implemented. Their presentations answered the program question, “What is happening on private lands?” The second question, “Why do we, as resource professionals need to become involved in convincing non-industrial private forest (NIPF) land owners of the benefits of resource management?” is mute.

The second panel of speakers addressed what is currently being done to promote forest management. **Ken Manno** from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania discussed how industry and the forestry community are working together in conducting workshops throughout the industry on BMPs, silviculture, E&S regulations, logging safety and business management. He emphasized that we are all in this together, and that a good logger can make a poor practice look better while the reverse is also true. **Sandy Smith** of Penn State Extension spoke to the various methods used to



Mike Lester (at podium) administers Oath of Office for 2000-2001 Officers (l to r): Ken Kane, Ken Jolly, John Benton, Jr., Karen Sykes, Jack Perdue, and Earl Higgins

communicate, inform and keep NIPF's attention in regards to land management practices to meet their objectives. Direct mailings have been the most effective approach in combination with workshops, tours and other contacts. **Arlyn Perkey** of the USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry revealed tips on working with private land owners in the demanding task of applying science and technology in forest management practices: substituting common words, terms and symbols for our technical ones; the use of “show me” and “hands-on” field trips and workshops; listening carefully for obvious and not-so-obvious landowner objectives; and focus on the most likely owners to respond and then persist long enough to “make a difference.” In reviewing the Forest Stewardship program, **Gene Odat** of the PA Bureau of Forestry explained how the diverse interests of small landowners requires foresters to change their mind-set in regards to timber management. Many of these owners will use timber harvesting if they are convinced that the harvest will help improve “their” forest values, but they are not necessarily interested in timber harvesting per se.

The afternoon session was devoted to non-timber resource management. **Wes Ramsey** (NRCS, Warren County), in the process of stressing the

importance of maintaining soil productivity, pointed out that soil is a non-renewable resource that takes such a long time to replace. **Margaret Brittingham** (PSU) emphasized the importance of habitat in the management of wildlife species and that forestland owners depend on the forester's advice in that habitat management. **John Dzemyan** (PA Game Commission) gave an excellent historical review of the “deer problem” in Pennsylvania, closing with an introduction to the recent initiatives being implemented by the PA Game Commission. **Alice Sjolander** (French Creek Project) reminded us to be more aware of the water resource as we manage the forest areas, giving examples of filter strips and riparian buffers and their value to the water course. **Marcia and Bruce Bonta** (Stewardship Forest Landowners) talked about managing their 660 acres near Tyrone, PA for maximum diversity. Their slides of special wildflower, scrub oak, creek and pond areas reinforced their enthusiastic presentation and discussion. It was quite evident that their forest value objectives in forest management are in clear focus. They have a long-standing, successful program of deer herd management in cooperation with selected local hunters and are involved Stewardship VIP's. Their appreciation

(Continued from page 13)

of nature and enthusiasm of being involved in the management process, more than any other presentation, sparked the attention and respect of this professional gathering.

**Congressman John Peterson** was the featured speaker at the banquet and talked about the loss of appreciation for our rural values. He also discussed some of the wild ideas that the "fringe environmentalists" put on the table. His presence on the program, and frank question and answer discussion was appreciated by the Allegheny SAF membership.



US Representative John Peterson

Day two was devoted to people management and selling ourselves and the profession to NIPF's and others in general. **Mark Webb** (consulting forester) opened the session with ideas on selling ourselves as professionals and presenting a good image to deserve credibility. **Derek Rapp** introduced up to the outdoors program that the Titusville Area Schools have for sixth graders. The kids stay at a rural church compound, have hunter safety training, orienteering, tree identification and some basic forest and wildlife management exposure. **Terry Benzel** and **Rich Bowden** (Allegheny College, Meadville, PA) discussed the forming of partnerships between their liberal arts college student body and the timber and wood products industry. They have participated in several round tables with the forestry community on such issues

as Green Certification and the Deer Problem.

**State Representative Gary Haluska** talked about "political reality" in regards to the passage of legislation: there must be a public demand before any bill becomes a priority item; a united front regarding details is necessary from factions at odds; and it takes time to move proposed legislation through the state assembly. In the average two-year session, about 5,000 bills are introduced and about 500 are passed (10%). Representative Haluska is on the Governor's PA Forestry Task Force and his insight into forestry issues is well respected.

**Kathe Frank** (US Forest Service, Warren, PA) believes that foresters are sitting back all too often instead of taking the lead on environmental issues – "environmentalists" are being interviewed on issues rather than foresters. To quote Kathe, "If we are to make a difference, we must become involved." **Harry Wiant** (Past-President of National SAF, Retired WVU Forestry Professor) couldn't applaud Kathe enough on her presentation and stand as a Forest Service employee. Then, he proceeded to reveal that things are not always what they seem to be, and that 80% of lawsuits filed under the Endangered Species Act actually have no endangered species involved. He also believes that "warm fuzzies" often supercede good resource management because they take a lot less effort to



PA Representative Gary Haluska

sell – deer herd control for instance. Harry's, "Where Should We Have Drawn the Line?" and "Shook to My Socks" articles in this issue capture the flavor of his presentation at Titusville (for those of you who missed the meeting).

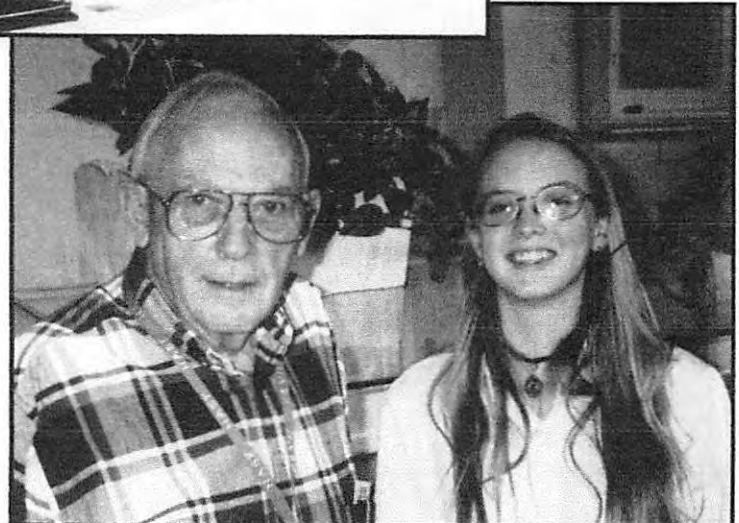
**Ken Kane** (Allegheny SAF Chair-Elect, Consulting Forester, Keith Horn, Inc.), as rapporteur, highlighted the speakers main points and added his own passionate plea for involvement with cross discipline support. "We must show by our actions, as well as our words, that we care about the resource we manage. Then, perhaps, society will trust us to help them manage their resources, using our knowledge, technology and skills." ❖



"Gentleman" Ken Kane and Cindy Andes (As Mary Ann Chase Fletcher) visit with attendees of the 2000 Winter Allegheny SAF Meeting in Titusville, PA



# Allegheny SAF 2000 Winter Meeting Photo Highlights



## Results of the 2000 Reginald Forbes Art Show

### Amateur Category

#### Flat Art – Painting

Place	Subject	Artist	Prize
1 <sup>st</sup>	Highwood Lake	Edna Arnold	\$ 15
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mt Katadin	Edna Arnold	\$ 10

### Student Category

#### Flat Art – Painting

Place	Subject	Artist	Prize
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lake Scene	Katherine Gottschalk	\$ 15
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jungle Scene	Katherine Gottschalk	\$ 10

#### 3-Dimensional

Place	Subject	Artist	Prize
1 <sup>st</sup>	Clay Art Creatures	Keri Benton	\$ 15

## SAF Silent Auction Donors

A total of items were auctioned during the Allegheny SAF Winter 2000 Meeting in Titusville, PA. Many thanks to those who donated: Charles Newlon, Allan Knox, Mark Webb, Kane Hardwood/Collins Companies, MD/DE SAF Division, Nelson Paint Company (and ever-present Frank Turk), Pa Game Commission, and the SAF National Office. Thanks to their giving and the generous bidders, \$380 was raised with all proceeds benefiting the Allegheny SAF.

## SHOOK TO MY SOCKS!

By Harry V. Wiant, Jr.

You may have thought my last column, "Where Should We Have Drawn the Line?," reached the bottom of despair concerning the state of our profession and the prospects for real forest management, especially on public lands. Sorry to disappoint you, but I've had an experience since that time which shook me to my socks. Bear with me while I set the scene, explain my dismay, and give you some startling conclusions.

It was my "pleasure" to participate recently in a weekend program which involved 1500 college students from Pennsylvania and surrounding states, probably none enrolled in forestry programs. This was a Christian gathering, thus I suspect the students were more conservative than average. Approximately 60 attended my over 2-hour seminar entitled, "Roots of Environmentalism, Christian or Pagan?" I presented information similar to my talk, "Stand Up for Forestry," that many of you have heard, but tailored to non-foresters (If you've missed that "opportunity," check my web site, <http://homestead.juno.com/hwiant/index.html>). While some students appreciated the philosophy I presented, it appeared to me that a majority did not. One professor who complimented me on my presentation, said the two students with him had such a "green filter" that they did not really hear anything I said.

I have presented this talk before to lay groups with good results, but this was the first time to a group of this age class. Maybe I should not have been surprised, shocked actually, since that generation has grown up with fuzzy wuzzy TV, a press that buys into every environmental cause, and a federal government tying up our forests and wildlands at a record rate. To add injury to insult, an individual participating in much of the program with the entire 1500 students in attendance joyfully announced that evening that the Senate is considering a bill for zero cut on federal lands to, as he worded it, "save our forests from destruction."

During my talk some students pointed out that we live in a democracy, so citizens have the right to dictate what occurs, or does not occur, on those lands. It struck me right then that if the following proposals were submitted for a public vote and legal means were available to carry them out, they would undoubtedly pass (if not now, surely in another very few years): Halt all timber harvesting on federal, state, and private lands; Halt all use of chemicals in farming; Halt all mining on all lands; and Halt commercial fishing.

My hopes had never sunk so low. To be frank, I'm still trying to recover and find at least a bit of hope. Some of you optimists out there please tell us that all is going well and that we're moving into a new, wonderful, exciting era in our profession. Be warned, however, that I'll wonder if you would have been one of the band members playing as the Titanic went below the waves.

# Musser Forests

## Northern-Grown Tree Seedlings



**Pine:** Austrian, Balkan, Japanese Black, Pinyon, Mugho, Ponderosa, Red, White, Virginia  
**Spruce:** Black Hills, Blue, Engelman, Norway, Serbian, White  
**Fir:** Balsam, Canaan, Concolor, Douglas, Fraser, Grand  
**Hemlock:** Canadian, Western  
**Birch:** European, Japanese, Gray  
**Dogwoods:** Chinese, Gray, Silky, Siberian, White  
**Locust:** Black, Bristly, Honey  
**Maples:** Norway, Red, Silver, Sugar  
**Oaks:** Black, Bur, English, Pin, Scarlet, Sawtooth, Red, White, Swamp, Willow  
**Button Bush, Catalpa, Cherry, Red Cedar, Ginkgo, Poplar, Sumac, Serviceberry, Viburnums**

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### Mark Your Calendar!

Next newsletter deadline is July 15, 2000  
 Send articles to: [ansaf@paonline.com](mailto:ansaf@paonline.com)

# Silviculture News

By Mary Ann Fajvan, Forest Science Coordinator, Allegheny SAF

While attending the 2000 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting in Titusville, PA, I had many conversations with forestry professionals about the lack of silviculture being practiced on private land. These discussions inevitably focused on appropriate silvicultural treatments for a variety of situations. After the meeting, I decided that one way I could serve Allegheny SAF in my role as Forest Science Coordinator would be to provide members with research updates on silvicultural practices relevant to our region. I felt that brief articles in the Allegheny News could serve as a review of silvicultural practices and direct readers to the latest research on particular topics.

## Release Operations

A cleaning is one type of release operation aimed at improving the growth and development of young stands. Cleanings are a pre-commercial operation that occur during the sapling stage of stand development to free desirable trees from competition of undesirable trees of comparable age. In order to make the best decisions between potential crop trees and competitors, treatments must occur after crown canopy closure. Research in mixed-hardwood stands indicates that crop trees should be dominant or co-dominant, especially when considering shade-intolerant species. If the desired species is more shade tolerant, such as oaks, trees of subordinate crown classes can be favored through a series of crown releases. Cleaning can occur in young even-aged stands or in uneven-aged stands managed by the group selection method.

An article by Dr. Gary Miller in the March, 2000 issue of the *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*\*, reported 10-year growth parameters and changes in the proportion of high-value timber species under various cleaning scenarios. The study was conducted on the Savage River State Forest in Maryland and the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) in West Virginia. Cleanings occurred when the

Savage River stand was 16 years old and dominated by black cherry, northern red oak, and chestnut oak. The MNF stand was 12-years-old and dominated by black cherry, sweet birch and yellow-poplar. Black cherry composed at least 70% of the overstory basal area for both sites.

Crop trees were selected for sawtimber potential based on species, crown class, stem quality and risk. Preference was given to dominant and co-dominant black cherry, yellow-poplar, northern red oak and chestnut oak. Low risk trees were healthy, had intact crowns and no forks below 17 feet. The experiment consisted of control areas which received no cutting, and treated areas, where all competitors whose crowns touched those of the crop trees were removed. An additional treatment on the MNF site consisted on removing all competing trees whose crowns were within 5 feet of the crop-tree crown. The equivalent of 60 crop trees/acre were released at Savage River and 80 crop trees/acre at the MNF. Cutting removed 591 trees/acre at Savage River and 1098 trees/acre (release +5) at MNF.

Cleanings resulted in almost double the net basal area growth compared to control plots. The cleanings increased diameter growth by 35-77% compared to controls. After 10 years, diameter growth of released trees exceeded that of controls by an average of 0.6, 1.0, 1.1 and 1.4 inches for chestnut oak, northern red oak, yellow-poplar and black cherry, respectively. The release +5 treatment increased diameter growth by 75-82% compared to controls. Cleanings reduced clear stem length for yellow-poplar and black cherry averaging 30 feet on control trees, 26 feet on released trees, and 20 feet on release +5 trees. Even though diameter growth rates were higher from reductions in competition, these results indicate that heavier release treatments are not recommended if maintenance of



Crop trees after cleaning release  
Photo by Arlyn Perkey

tree quality is a management objective.

So far, the cleanings did not alter species composition and virtually all released crop trees had maintained their codominant crown position and their potential to survive to maturity. Some co-dominant oaks and yellow-poplar had regressed to an intermediate crown class in the control treatments. As the stand matures and the number of overstory trees declines, the released crop trees will comprise the majority of the sawlog-size trees present at the end of the rotation. The early gains in diameter growth of the crop trees, reduces the time required to grow sawtimber and therefore shortens the rotation length. ❄

*\*Dr. Gary Miller is a Research forester with the USDDA forest Service, Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Morgantown, WV. His article appears in the March, 2000 issue of the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry 17(1):25-35, and is entitled: "Effect of Crown Growing Space on the Development of Young Hardwood Crop Trees."*

*Mary Ann Fajvan is an Associate Professor of Silviculture at West Virginia University.*

# Factors Affecting Forest Health: Insects, Diseases, and Weather

By Daniel B. Twardus, Group Leader Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Service

**Gypsy moth.** After several years of decline, gypsy moth populations may be on the increase. The dramatic decline in gypsy moth during the late 1990's can be seen in the accompanying chart that illustrates acres of defoliation as recorded from aerial surveys.

Total acres defoliated by the gypsy moth

During 1999, West Virginia and Delaware actually reported zero acres defoliated. This remarkable collapse of a serious forest pest has been attributed to wet Spring conditions favoring the spread of a fungus disease that kills gypsy moth caterpillars before they can do much damage. During 1999, however, dry Springtime conditions resulted in less fungal infections and a subsequent increase in gypsy moth populations. During the Spring of 2000, aerial spraying to minimize damage caused by the gypsy moth will take place in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Control efforts are conducted in Maryland, New Jersey, and West Virginia by the State Departments of Agriculture and in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. The US Forest Service, State and Private Forestry provides technical and financial assistance. The Forest Service will contribute nearly 2 million dollars on a cost-sharing basis to help prevent gypsy moth damage in the Mid-Atlantic States in 2000. Virtually all of the control efforts within these states are conducted in and around forested residential areas.

**Hemlock wooly adelgid.** Eastern hemlock in many areas throughout the mid-Atlantic region has been impacted by the hemlock wooly adelgid. This aphid-like insect is an exotic introduction to the eastern forest. Hemlock throughout the East is threatened by this pest now established from North Carolina to Massachusetts and as far West as Pittsburgh. Within the mid-Atlantic region, areas with particularly damaging populations of the adelgid are in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. Much of the hemlock resource type is located in riparian areas and making the mortality caused by this insect even more significant and

devastating.

The hemlock wooly adelgid is a sap-sucking insect that feeds on the foliage causing retarded growth, loss of foliage, and eventually tree death. While insecticide oils or soaps can be used to control the adelgid, spraying is often not very practical or even feasible. The USDA Forest Service is currently engaged in an effort to evaluate the use of an adelgid predator – *Pseudoscymnus tsugae*, as a biological control. This tiny version of a ladybug imported from Japan is now being reared in mass quantities and released at selected sites. Even if the adelgid predator is an effective control agent, it may be several years before enough beetles are reared and released to make a substantial difference over large areas.

**Elm diseases.** Dutch elm disease was discovered in Cleveland, Ohio in 1930 and in New York in 1933. The fungus was introduced on elm-veneer logs imported from Europe and spread throughout the East causing massive amounts of elm mortality. Next to Chestnut Blight, the Dutch elm disease ranks as one of the most destructive tree diseases to ever hit the American forest landscape. Today, Dutch elm disease is still present throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. Most Dutch elm disease problems are usually reported from urban areas where stately elms once lined most eastern city streets. But Dutch elm disease affects forest elms as well. Since its introduction, the disease has killed over 70 million American elm trees. While American elm may not be driven to extinction the presence of the disease may have forever changed at least one component of the mid-Atlantic forest. In addition to Dutch elm disease, a phytoplasma-caused disease known as elm yellows is affecting elms. In Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, elm yellows has killed thousands of elms. All three States conducted surveys in 1999 to determine the extent of elm yellows incidence.

Total acres defoliated by the gypsy moth

	1992-1995	1996-1999
Delaware	157,820	534
Maryland	294,565	13,389
New Jersey	101,726	33,275
Pennsylvania	1,123,470	321,112
West Virginia	423,226	71,852

Symptoms of elm yellows appear in mid-July and progress through September with elm leaves yellowing throughout the crown. Trees infected usually die within the first year or second year after symptoms are detected. Both American and slippery elm are affected. There are no current efforts to control the spread of elm yellows.

**Drought.** The dry conditions prevalent during the latter half of 1998 continued into 1999. Between the months of July and December 1998 the Northeast received only 71% of the normal precipitation, for the third driest such period on record. In 1999, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia suffered the driest growing seasons (April-August) for the century. The Chesapeake region experienced the second driest growing season on record. For the northeast as a whole, precipitation deficits for the fourteen months ending in August 1999 ranged from 6 inches to over 14 inches. And for this region, sub-normal precipitation has occurred during the growing season for the last 3 years. Extended drought conditions can have serious consequences for tree health. Leaf scorch, chlorosis, leaf curling, premature leaf drop, and tree death can occur. Shallow-root species such as dogwood can and have been seriously impacted by drought throughout the mid-Atlantic region. In some cases, trees weakened by drought may become more susceptible to insect and disease problems such as gypsy moth and two-lined chestnut borer in oaks, southern pine beetle in loblolly pine, and bacterial leaf scorch affecting oak foliage.

## Book Review

By Steven Anderson  
President, Forest History Society

### Bringing in the Wood:

**The Way It Was at Chesapeake Corporation**  
By Mary Wakefield Buxton,  
Rappahannock Press, Inc., Urbanna, VA, 1999

This is a story of the Woodlands Division of Chesapeake Corporation, founded in West Point, Virginia in 1918 by Elis Olsson. A Swedish immigrant who understood the art of pulp making for paper, he was successful in turning a small existing pulp mill into a company that has grown into a global Fortune 500 tissue and packaging company.

West Point, a small town about 30 miles east of Richmond, nestled amongst the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, and York Rivers off the Chesapeake Bay, was and is the perfect setting for a paper mill. The book records some of the special oral history of the original Woodlands Division, and is based on interviews with approximately 75 past and present employees, wood dealers, loggers and others.

In May of 1997, as this book was being written, Chesapeake Corporation sold the paper mill in West Point to ST. Laurent Paperboard, Inc., a Canadian-based company, and the book project was temporarily halted. The Woodlands Division was divided into two parts, the Marine Department and Keysville Sawmill going to St. Laurent; and Woodlands three sawmills and the forestry staff staying in Chesapeake. By 1998, interviews for the book began once again, but there was a distinct difference in spirit, attitude and mood from the "pre-paper mill sale" to the "post paper mill sale." It was as if the heart had been carved out of the Woodlands Division.

That was not the only trauma this book faced. In the winter of 1999, Chesapeake announced the sale of the last remains of the original Company. All the woodlands would go to the Hancock Timber Resource Group and the last remaining three sawmills would go to St. Laurent. The existing staff, many of who had spent the greatest portion of their lives working for Chesapeake Corporation, would finally close up shop, turn off the lights, and go off to new job or go home. A great read, and important contribution to forest history, *Bringing in the Wood* is indicative of the story of forestry and the forest industry during the last century. ❄

*Copies of Bringing in the Wood can be obtained only from the Forest History Society, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC 27701. Hardcover copies are \$19.95 each (plus \$3 S&H); softcover copies are \$19.95 each (plus \$3 S&H). For credit card orders or quantity discount orders, call 919-682-9319.*



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# PA Division of Allegheny SAF and PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meet in Conference

By Howard Wurzbacher, Chair Plateau Chapter Allegheny SAF

In an attempt to broaden horizons and develop relationships with other professionals, the PA Division of the Allegheny SAF and the PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society held a joint meeting and conference April 7-9, 2000 at Cross Creek Resort, near Titusville, Pennsylvania. The idea of a joint meeting was a result of collaboration between PASAF Division Chair **Bob Bauer** and PATWS President **Shayne Hoachlander**. The theme of the meeting was "Wildlifers & Foresters – Partners or Foes – How Will We Meet on the Ground in the Future?" The program's agenda was planned to encourage interaction between respective professional disciplines and promote discussion of issues in an open forum.

A workshop titled "Silvicultural Techniques for Wildlife" was held Friday, April 7, and included both indoor presentations on wildlife and silvicultural interactions at the stand and landscape levels, habitat inventory procedures and prescriptions as well as a outdoor field tour to view the application of management procedures on the ground.

**Dr. Dave DeCalesta** was the first speaker and discussed the challenge of "how do we get what we want" in relating inventory, analysis and prescription as specific steps toward reaching a desired future condition for both wildlife and forests. **Jim Redding** reviewed what silviculturists can do for wildlife through vegetation management and emphasized cause and effect relationships that help to predict outcomes of management activities on the ground. **Brad Nelson** and **Scott Reitz** discussed opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement at both landscape and stand level perspectives. They emphasized the importance of planning, definition of objectives, the application of treatments and a focus toward what will be left on the landscape. **Dr. Jim Finley** reviewed habitat inventory procedures and related how collection of information beyond traditional volume and stocking information can be used to evaluate,

and possibly predict, wildlife habitat conditions. **Dr. Hoagy Schaadt** identified the importance of management plans, recognition of hydrologically sensitive areas, reserves, and fragmentation as they relate to the "green certification" process. **Ken Kane** summarized the economics of applying habitat prescriptions with the "4C" approach: Consideration of wildlife objectives, and Communication, Cooperation and Compromise in the application of techniques to achieve these objectives.

The field tour, led by **Dr. Dave DeCalesta** and **Bob Bauer**, visited two regeneration harvests, a shelterwood harvest, and an early-successional aspen cutting. Some of the major points of discussion which surfaced on the field tour were coarse woody debris, snags, streamside buffers, spring seeps, conifer cover, fragmentation, uneven-aged management, and cavity trees. The need for monitoring of results in comparison of objectives after treatment was a significant point made during discussion. In a case where timber management is the primary goal of a landowner, foresters monitor and plan based on timber conditions, and there is value in broadening the perspective to evaluate wildlife parameters as well. The opportunity to discuss examples of practices in real-life on the ground stimulated interaction and lively discussion between foresters and wildlifers.

On Saturday, April 8, the day's activities began with a panel discussion. The panel of presenters included **Mark Bodamer** (DCNR Bureau of Forestry), **Dr. Hoagy Schaadt** (Penn State University), **Mark Webb** (Consulting Forester), **Merlin Benner** (DCNR Bureau of Forestry), **Willie Devore** (Hyma-Devore Hardwoods) and **Cindy Dunn** (Pa Audubon Society). Their discussion addressed the interactive roles of public land management agencies, the forest products industry, "green" certification, forestry consultants and non-government conservation organizations relating to wildlife and forest management within

Pennsylvania. The presenters discussed their perspective on this topic, then joined together as a panel for questions and answers and audience interaction.

Following lunch, technical papers and poster displays on a variety of topics were presented. The presentation of **Katherine Derge** (Penn State University), "Inventory of Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historical Site" was selected as the best technical paper, and the poster by **Janet Wright** (Dickinson College) "Forest and Wildlife Partners: Was Chestnut Blight the Downfall of the Allegheny Woodrat?" was chosen as best poster presentation.

The evening's banquet speaker was **Jerry Hassinger** (PA Game Commission), who spoke on "Forest Wildlife Issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." His comments were wide-ranging, informative and challenging. Jerry was presented with the PATWS Gordon Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award. SAF members **Bob Bauer** and **Mark Webb** were recognized for their recently presented "Outstanding Service to Forestry" and "SAF Fellow" awards, respectively.

Sunday morning offered two field trip opportunities: a birding tour of the Erie National Wildlife Refuge led by **Kevin Jacobs**, or a comparison of forest succession between a large tornado blowdown and managed stands led by **Bob Bauer**.

As foresters, we often discuss the reality that we are good at talking among ourselves, but often we are lacking in communicating good forestry with other audiences. The joint PASAF/PATWS meeting provided an excellent opportunity to be proactive and network outside of our own ranks. The meeting was a forum for an open, spirited and challenging expression of ideas between professionals. Though we may have different perspectives, professional foresters and wildlifers operate within the same forest. That commonality offers a great chance for alliance and cooperation. 🌿

# PA SAF and PA Wildlife Society Photo Highlights



Pennsylvania Society of American Foresters  
P.O. Box 699  
Dillsburg, PA 17019-0699  
March 10, 2000

Board of Commissioners  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Dear Sirs:

The Pennsylvania Section of the Society of American Foresters is the professional organization for foresters in our commonwealth. Our members come from every corner of the commonwealth, and include industrial, consultant, and government foresters, and scientists. A great many of us are hunters, and we care deeply about the future of that sport. We are literally the stewards of millions of acres of public and private forests in Pennsylvania, committed to sustaining the health and productivity of these forests and the wildlife and plants that live there for the long term.

At our winter business meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000, we agreed to write this letter to support several initiatives taken by the Pennsylvania Game Commission over the last few years. We applaud your efforts to gather input from diverse stakeholders in deer management through the Deer Management Working Group. We are enthused about the creation of a Deer Management Section within the Bureau of Wildlife Management, and we have been very impressed by the leadership of Dr. Gary Alt as the head of that section. The deer management strategies that Dr. Alt has proposed for 2000, and to which you gave preliminary approval at your January 2000 meeting, represent a good first step towards putting deer management in Pennsylvania on the right track.

We know that hunters are vital partners in our efforts to ensure the long-term continuity of our forest resources. Thus, we are enthused that you have endorsed important changes in seasons and bag limits—a three-day muzzleloader antlerless season prior to buck season, either sex hunting for those with junior and senior licenses during traditional buck season, and a Saturday opening for antlerless season—that will give sportsmen and women additional opportunity to engage in their sport and to teach their sport to youth.

We know that private landowners bring a wide array of objectives and values to forest management. On public forests, agencies engage the public in management planning, and, once again, the uses and management strategies that are chosen reflect a diversity of objectives and values. Ultimately, deer management *must* take the values and objectives of landowners into account. Your support for some pilot projects with different approaches to deer management is a good step in this direction.

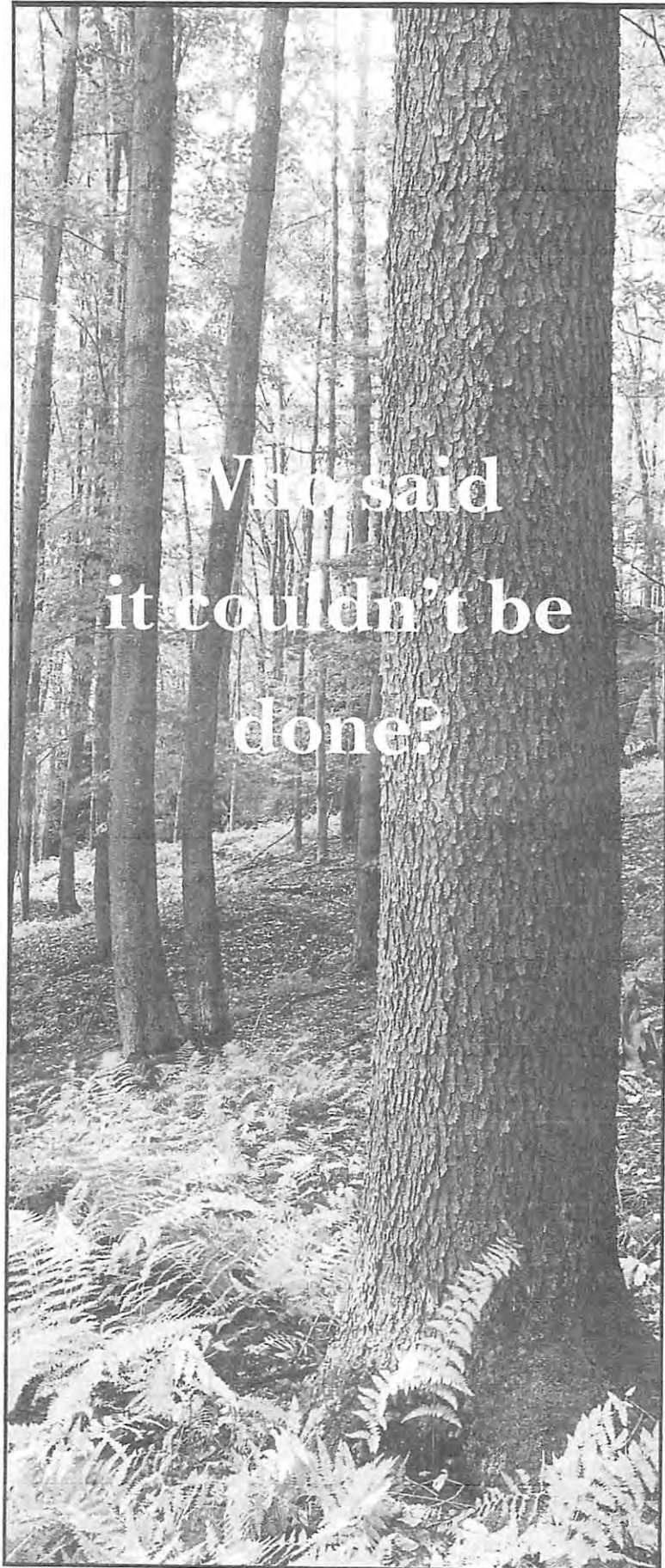
We know that locally overabundant deer herds can decimate their habitat and, in the process, decimate forest regeneration. Your limited support for multiple antlerless tags will help those of us who work on private land. The farming and forestry community will be able to work with hunter groups to increase the effectiveness of those tags by helping hunters locate areas of problematically high deer densities. We also endorse the Landowner Link program as another initiative that increases landowner engagement in the deer management process and creates new opportunities for sportsmen and women.

Thank you for these important steps in the right direction. We look forward to continued opportunities to work with you, Dr. Alt and other members of your staff to foster positive change in deer management.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of American Foresters  
Robert W. Bauer, Chair  
Ned Karger, Vice-Chair  
Doug D'Amore, Secretary Treasurer  
Robert LaBar, Immediate Past Chair





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# WWI & the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry)

By Robert Rumpf\*

World War I, the “Big War,” or the “War To End All Wars” is quickly fading away into history as virtually all the men who served in the armed forces at that time are gone. When we do read about WWI, it is usually about the Argonne, Belleau Wood and Chateau Thierry which were major battles that involved the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) after America’s entry into the war in April 1917. Little has been written or is known about the many support troops that were necessary to keep that army in the field and to guarantee combat success. One important group of support troops were the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry) that operated sawmills in France to provide the AEF with the many wood products so essential to a modern army – railroad ties, artillery plank, poles for communications, fuel wood, timber for bridges, piling and many more.

Soon after the American declaration of war early in April 1917, General John J. Pershing went to France to begin planning for the horde of American soldiers that would follow over the next year and a half. Pershing quickly realized that the shortage of ocean shipping dictated that all available space would need to be used for men and munitions. There was no possibility of shipping lumber from the United States and all of this need would have to be supplied by the forests of France. Accordingly he cabled the War Department that he would need a force of lumbermen to cut upward of 25

million board feet (BF) per month for the AEF. Organization of such a force began in May 1917 and continued into the late spring of 1918. In June 1917, Henry S. Graves, then Chief of the US Forest Service (USFS), was sent to France to make preparations for arrival of the first forestry units. The USFS played a major role in recruiting trained foresters and lumbermen and a listing of the officers reads like a Who’s Who of the major players in the forestry scene during the thirty or more years following the war: William B. Greeley, Donald Bruce, David T. Mason, Barrington Moore, John D. Guthrie and many more. O. Ben Gipple than an employee of Wheeler and Dusenberry of Endeavor and later State Forester of Pennsylvania also served.

A training camp was established on the grounds of the American University in Washington, DC and it was here that virtually all training was done over the next year. The first unit organized was the 10<sup>th</sup> Engineers and the first battalion sailed for France on October 9, 1917. The second unit organized was the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers with the first battalion of this regiment sailing for France on November 28, 1917. The buildup continued and by May 1918, 48 companies of forestry and road engineers had been sent to France.

The first troops to arrive operated antiquated French mills but soon American equipment began to arrive and basically three types of mills were used:

1. Large permanent steam-powered mills rated at 20,000 BF per ten-hour shift;
2. Portable steam-powered mills rated at 10,000 BF per ten-hour shift; and
3. Light bolter mills rated at 5,000 BF per ten-hour shift.

On October 18, 1918, General Order #47 combined and reorganized all forestry forces into one regiment, the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry). By October 31, 1918, 81 sawmills were in operation with the total strength of forestry troops at 360 officers and 18,183 enlisted men. This force was producing more than 2 million BF of lumber, ties poles and piling each day and in the year since the first mill had started operation, had produced 300 million BF of lumber and ties, 38,000 pilings, 2,878,000 poles and 317,000 cords of fuelwood. Of the 81 mills operated at the time of the Armistice, 20 were large permanent mills rated at the 20,000 BF per ten-hour shift.

My father, Corporal Harry L. Rumpf, enlisted in Company B, 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineers, which after reorganization was designated the 43<sup>rd</sup> Company, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry). He enlisted at Camp American University on March 11, 1918. After an abbreviated period of training, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineers left Washington at 5 p.m. on May 8, 1918 and at 11 a.m. and on May 9 boarded the transport USS President Lincoln at Hoboken, NJ. They sailed for France in a convoy with twelve other troop and supply ships escorted by on cruiser. The President Lincoln dropped anchor at Brest, France on May 22, 1918, and the next day at 3 pm the troops set foot on French soil. That was the last trip for the President Lincoln, for about a week later on the return to the US, the



Sawmill at Vagney, Vosges built and operated by the 43rd Company, 20th Engineers



Corporal Harry L. Rumpf, 43rd Company, 20th Engineers (Forestry), 1918, at Camp American University, Washington DC

ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat.

On arrival in France, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineers were dispersed, with several companies going to the Maritime Provinces in Southwest France. Company B was initially stationed at Eclaron in eastern France. In mid-July, Company B was sent to Vagney in the



Men of the 43rd Company, 20th Engineers logging silver fir in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France

Vosges Mountains where they began construction of a permanent steam-powered mill rated at 20,000 BF per ten-hour shift. The Vosges Mountains in eastern France parallel the Rhine River and the German border to the east. The Vosges are a major forested area with extensive forests of beech at the lower elevations and fir and pine on the upper slopes and had been under management by French foresters for several hundred years. This area was in the relatively quiet Lorraine sector, south of the main area of military operations and Company B saw limited evidence of the war. One entry in my father's diary states, "German airplane made an attempt to destroy the sawmill one mile from our

camp between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Two bombs were dropped, one of which failed to explode and the other merely fell in our ball field about ten feet from home plate. It tore a hole in the ground about 7 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter." The Company, however, was not immune from the 1918 influenza epidemic. Again from my father's diary, "Sept. 29, Brown died, flu, October 1, Attended funeral of Brown at Remiremont. Full military honors. October 1, Prince died."

The mill at Vagney was completed and started active sawing on August 18, 1918. During the month of October 1918, the Vagney mill set a production record that was never equaled by any of the other mills operated by the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers. Production for the month was 1,673,130 BF, with one 15-day period seeing 988,430 BF coming off the mill. One ten hour run on October 29, 1918 produced 53,372 BF and a twenty-hour run on the same date 102,040 BF. This from a mill with a rated capacity of 20,000 BF in ten hours.

One interesting story that my father related involved their Company Commander, Captain George Slack of Kalispell, Montana. The French foresters were quite upset when Americans began to log in the forests which they had carefully nurtured for so many years. Obviously the Americans were ordered to make production and they were clearcutting.



Camp of the 43rd Company, 20th Engineers at Vagney, Vosges

(Continued from page 25)

One day the French foresters were complaining to Captain Slack and he retorted, "You d\_\_ Frogs. What do you want us to do – win the war for you or save your forests?"

On October 15, 1918 my father was part of a detachment sent to Geronomy (Belfort) to start construction on a new mill. With the Armistice on November 11, 1918, construction was stopped and they returned to their outfit at Vagney. Following the Armistice, many of the forestry units were assigned to various duties, chief among them being the maintenance and improvement of French roads. On May 28, 1919 the 43<sup>rd</sup> Company was sent to LeMans for processing for return to the United States and sailed from St. Nazarie on June 15, 1919 aboard the USS Texan. The Texan landed at Newport News, VA on June 27 and my father was mustered out of the service at Camp Dix, NJ on July 2, 1919. He was in the Army less than 16 months, and of that time nearly 14 months were served in France.

At its peak, the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineers (Forestry) was the largest regiment in the US Army and its men and their activities certainly contributed a vital and interesting part of the American Expeditionary Force in France during the first World War. 🦋

*Robert Rumpf is retired General Manager of Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, Spring Grove, PA and a Golden Member and Fellow in SAF.*

## New Allegheny 50-Year Members

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved "Golden Member" status in the Allegheny SAF:

Richard C. Bedger, Pennsylvania  
John F. L. Bell, West Virginia  
Kenneth L. Carvell, West Virginia  
Robert B. Dehls, Pennsylvania  
Donald E. Dorn, Pennsylvania  
Calvin F. Glatfelter, Pennsylvania  
Russell J. Hutnik, Pennsylvania  
Tunis J. Lyon, Maryland  
William Nagy, Pennsylvania  
Grant E. Powell, Maryland  
Walter R. Rossman, Pennsylvania  
Eugene P. Shreve, West Virginia  
Melvin J. Vorbach, West Virginia



Bob Bauer (far left) presents coveted Ben Roach black cherry "Biltmore Sticks" to proud owners (l to r) Don Gibbon, Dave Devoll and Dan Dessecker

## "Ben Roach Forum" Seeks Common Ground

By Susan Wingate, Northern Hardwoods Chapter, Allegheny SAF

The April 13, 2000 **Ben Roach Forum** addressed the question "Different Perspectives in Land Management – Is There Common Ground?" Approximately 110 members of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters and the forest community of northwest Pennsylvania and southwest New York met at the Kane, PA Country Club.

**Dan Dessecker** Senior Wildlife Biologist of the Ruffed Grouse Society, **Dave Devoll** of Trout Unlimited, and **Don Gibbon**, a well-known conservationist provided the panel.

Dessecker emphasized the necessity of managing the forest ecosystem to provide for a variety of age classes and forest types across the landscape. Grassland and early successional habitat bird populations across Eastern U.S. are suffering because of lowering levels of these required habitats. He gave several examples of songbirds requiring both these early successional, as well as, old growth habitats and combinations. Regeneration harvests are necessary to provide these habitats. "Forest fragmentation" and "habitat fragmentation" are different – the latter is a useful tool in resource management."

Devoll outlined three objectives of Trout Unlimited; save the riparian buffer zones, limit the size and placement of clear cuts, and look at the cumulative affects of all management practices on a watershed. The objective is to keep cold-water fisheries clear and cold. He gave examples of the dimensions of desirable riparian buffers, basal areas, and clear-cut size. Harvesting can occur on most areas of the landscape if done in a responsible manner - adhering to best management practices within a forest management plan.

Gibbon referred to the history of mismanagement of forested ecosystems in the past. "The lands regenerated to the expanse of second growth we have today, but we may not be as lucky the second time." Resource management activities must stress least-impact strategies over landscapes. He agrees that the necessary regeneration and understory vegetation is at risk under the present deer herd populations. Lastly, Gibbon emphasized the need for the public to develop responsible land-stewardship attitudes through government, industry and private educational initiatives.

The common thread in all the panel's messages – awareness and responsible action from all members of the forest community! 🦋

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**Contact:** Jack Winieski

Allegheny News

PO Box 699

Dillsburg, PA 17019-0699

Phone (717) 432-3646

FAX (717) 432-3646

e-mail: ansaf@paonline.com

## Ken Balliet Installed as PCPF 2000-2001 President

At the January 17, 2000 annual membership meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF), **Ken Balliet** was installed as PCPF President for a two-year term. He replaces President **Bob LaBar**, who will continue as a member of the Board of Directors. Ken and members in attendance expressed their thanks to outgoing President LaBar for his dedicated service over these past two years of the organization's four formative years.

In other business, **Dick Carey** and **Don Oaks** were elected to the PCPF Board. Director **Jerry Magistrella**, whose term as Director expired, opted to return to active membership status. **Paul A. Johnston** resigned from the Board due to a change in his job responsibilities, and will continue his dedication to PCPF endeavors. Paul's vacancy was filled by **Edward F. Kocjancic** in a Bylaw procedure, by majority vote by the existing Board.

Secretary/Treasurer Oaks reported a 23% increase in membership entities (individuals and businesses

entitled to vote) and a 33% increase in numbers of foresters represented since March of last year (each membership entity is entitled to one vote only but may employ more than one forester). Fellow professionals are recognizing that PCPF, as a 501-C-6 non-profit organization, can effectively represent professional forestry issues before public and legislative bodies.

PCPF officers are presently negotiating a contract with Fifty-First Associates of Harrisburg for consulting and advisory services relating to the introduction of legislation licensing professional foresters in Pennsylvania. They will survey potentially affected parties to determine the manner in which PCPF will proceed with the forester licensing initiative.

In an informative presentation, **Dr. Marc McDill** gave the group his analysis of the inequity of forestland taxation in Pennsylvania, and its effect on long term forest management decisions and the disincentive to practice forestry. He also explained the role of interest rates in the recent changes in the "PA Clean and Green" tax schedules. An abstracted version of his message on forest land taxes will be in a forth coming issue of *The Allegheny News*. ❄



Sec/Treasurer Don Oaks (c), and President Ken Balliet congratulate Ed Kocjancic on his appointment as Director of PCPF

# Allegheny Society of American Foresters

## Officers

**Chairman**  
Michael B. Lester  
RR 1, Box 268  
Springville, PA 18844  
(o) 717-833-3194  
(h) 717-965-2752  
(f) 717-833-6180  
mclester7@aol.com

**Chairman-Elect**  
Kenneth C. Kane  
103 Tionesta Avenue  
Kane, PA 16735-1236  
(o) 814-837-9391  
(h) 814-837-8357

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kenneth W. Jolly  
1398 Primrose Road  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
(o) 301-464-3065  
(h) 410-626-2845  
(f) 301-464-0462  
kjolly@dnr.state.md.us

**Past Chairman**  
Mark R. Webb  
11021 US Route 6  
Union City, PA 16438  
(o) 814-663-5393  
(f) 814-663-4008  
mrkrwebb@erie.net

## Executive Committee

John Benton, Jr.  
194 Bondentown-Georgetown  
Columbus, NJ 08022  
(o) 732-928-0029  
(h) 609-298-2498  
(f) 732-928-4925  
sprucegooel@juno.com

Earl Higgins  
210 E. Bennett Avenue  
Wildwood, NJ 08260  
(h) 609-523-0208  
higg210@bellatlantic.net

Jack L. Perdue  
5112 Main Street  
Grasonville, MD 21638  
(o) 410-260-8505  
(f) 410-260-8595  
jperdue@dnr.state.md.us

Karen J. Sykes  
PO Box 4015 Sc  
Morgantown, WV 26504  
(o) 304-285-1532  
(f) 304-285-1505  
ksykes/na\_mo@fs.fed.us

## Executive Director

Jack Winieski  
PO Box 699  
Dillsburg, PA 17019-0699  
(o) 717-432-3646; (h) 717-432-3646  
(f) 717-432-3646  
ansaf@paonline.com

## Council Representative

Timothy A. Kaden  
724 Green Winged Trail  
Camden, DE 19934  
(o) 302-739-3423  
(h) 302-697-7066  
(f) 302-739-3817  
tkaden@state.de.us

## Division Chairs

**Maryland/Delaware**  
Steven W. Koehn  
20916 Old York Road  
Parkton, MD 21120  
(o) 410-260-8531  
(h) 301-357-4836  
skoehn@dnr.state.md.us

**New Jersey**  
J. Scott Worrell  
12 Elfland Lane  
Willingboro, NJ 08046  
(o) 609-877-0278  
(h) 609-877-1814

**Pennsylvania**  
Robert W. Bauer  
13483 Old Route 8 N  
Titusville, PA 16354  
(o) 814-432-3187  
(h) 814-827-2321  
(f) 814-437-5122  
rwbauer@pgc.state.pa.us

**West Virginia**  
Arlyn W. Perkey  
180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
(o) 304-285-1523  
(f) 304-285-1508  
aperkey/na\_ma@fs.fed.us

## Chapter Chairs

**Keystone**  
John L. Bearer  
517 Lamp Post Lane  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(o) 717-787-4009  
(h) 717-761-8189

**Northern Hardwood**  
Robert Hansen  
PO Box 69  
Towanda, PA 18848-0069  
(o) 570-265-2896  
(h) 570-265-8114  
rsh7@psu.edu

**Pinchot**  
Mark Sickler  
50 McMullian Hill Road  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657  
(o) 570-842-4533  
(h) 570-836-3822  
marsick@mymail.emcyber.com

**Plateau**  
Howard Wurzbacher  
RD 2, Box 179-C  
Titusville, PA 16354  
(o) 814-589-7538  
(h) 814-589-7538  
nwforest@penn.com

**Rothrock**  
Alan W. Sam  
118 S. Fraser Street  
State College, PA 16801-3852  
(o) 814-234-7145  
(h) 814-692-7285  
aws@gov.state-college.pa.us

**Valley Forge**  
R. Bruce Arnold  
12 East Barnard Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
(o) 610-429-9469  
(h) 610-734-7224

brucearnld@aol.com  
**Western Gateway**  
Robert E. Schweitzer  
139 Highview Court  
Ebensburg, PA 15931-5101  
(o) 814-472-1872

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jperdue@dnr.state.md.us

Karen J. Sykes  
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ksykes/na\_mo@fs.fed.us

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(h) 814-827-2321  
(f) 814-437-5122  
rwbauer@pgc.state.pa.us

**West Virginia**  
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(h) 570-836-3822  
marsick@mymail.emcyber.com

**Plateau**  
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