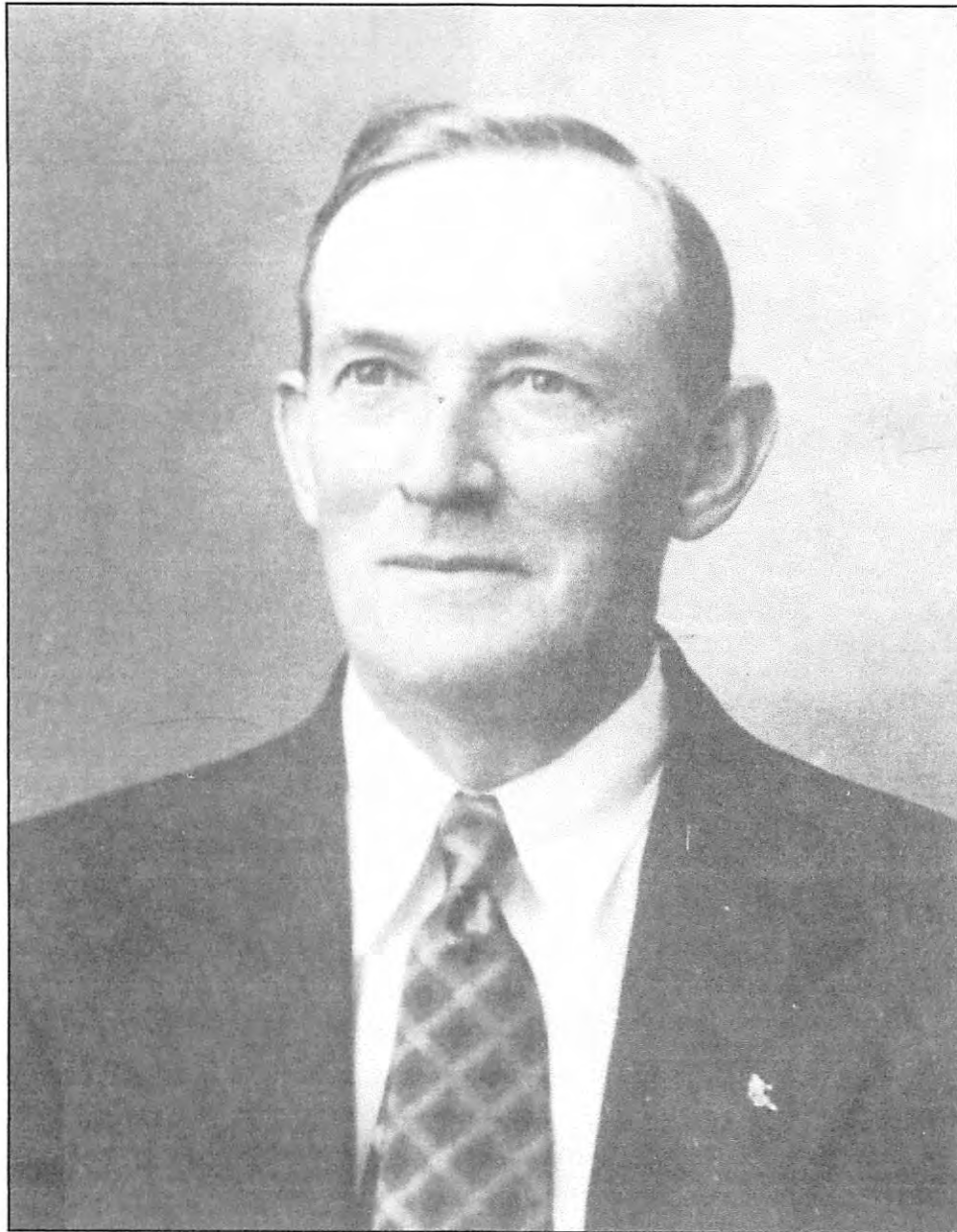


The

Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Fall 2004



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The Allegheny News

Volume 13, No. 3

The Allegheny News is the official publication of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters. Published four times annually. Deadline for articles is December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15. Subscription rate included in the annual Allegheny Society dues.

The mission of the SAF is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry in America and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

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

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Cover Photo

William F. "Billy" Dague was honored recently at the Clearfield, Pennsylvania Nursery which he began in the 1920s. See the articles on pages 17, 18 and 19 for interesting details on the life of this forester, and the legacy he left behind.



Chairman's Corner

By Kenneth W. Jolly
Allegheny SAF Chair

It's always encouraging to see the dedication of foresters and associated natural resource professionals as they endeavor to put into practice the careful stewardship of our forest resources. It was my privilege to witness an abundance of this type of professional dedication on the field tour of the MeadWestvaco Ecological Research Forest at this year's Summer Meeting hosted by the West Virginia Division. The tour clearly highlighted some of the fascinating research taking place in relation to forest stand dynamics and white-tailed deer, conservation of flying squirrels in spruce stands, protection of salamander habitat and water quality during forest harvest operations, forest interior bird use of regenerating hardwood forests, and incorporating forest tree retention for forest structure.

Two observations came immediately to my mind as a result of this tour. First, it's clear that foresters will continue to face a variety of new and complex forest management challenges as we strive to implement the best sustainable forestry practices available. This means that every forester will need to stay on top of the most current findings in our professional field. How can this task be best accomplished? My view is that membership and involvement in the SAF is the clear answer to this question! Through publications, local meetings, field workshops, and other venues, the SAF is the leading professional organization to provide foresters with access to the new and relevant information they need to know.

My second observation from the MeadWestvaco Ecological Research Forest tour was that we foresters have a very positive story to tell to anyone willing to listen! Over and over the tour validated the fact that with the proper care and use of scientifically sound silvicultural techniques, forest management and harvesting is completely compatible with conservation and sustainability of many forest wildlife species.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Let me draw these two observations together and issue each of you a challenge. I think most of you will agree that your membership in SAF helps you obtain the up-to-date professional information that you need to practice your profession wisely, and that SAF is a great source for scientific facts about forestry that you can share with others. The challenge is this: share your enthusiasm for SAF with your colleagues who are not currently members, and encourage them to become members! It's in their best interest, as well as our own, for every forester to be plugged into the leading professional organization advancing the science and practice of forestry to ensure we have the scientific knowledge we need and the collective voice to share it with others. ❁

SAF to Honor District 7 Field Forester

Extracted from an Article in September 2004 The Forestry Source

Stephen E. Jaquith, CF, ACF, Consulting Forester and member of the Allegheny SAF, will be one of ten foresters – from ten SAF voting districts – honored with the Presidential Field Forester Award. The awards will be presented at the joint meeting and convention of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters, October 2-6, 2004 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Jaquith, a consulting forester for the past 15 years, provides forest management services to owners of private, corporate, and municipal properties ranging in size from 10 to 5,750 acres. He currently manages nearly 35,000 acres of forestlands, on which he provides such services as 10-year forest management plans, silvicultural prescriptions for multiple objectives, timber appraisals, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, and weed control. In addition to his work with landowners, he teaches continuing education classes to both foresters and landowners, has authored several publications, and performs a wide variety of forestry-related volunteer work. Jaquith joined the SAF in 1976. ❁

Forest Landowners Award Kays 2004 Forester of the Year

Jonathan S. Kays, Natural Resources Extension Specialist at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center in Keedysville, MD, received the 2004 Forest Landowners Association Extension Forester of the Year Award at the 63rd Annual Forest Landowners Conference in Point Clear, Alabama. The award recognizes an extension forester for exceptional contributions to forest landowner education, issues and services.

Kays has developed and implemented natural resource extension programs in Maryland in forest stewardship, working forest conservation easements, woodland owner volunteer programs, wildlife damage management, alternative income opportunities utilizing natural resource and use of biosolids to grow forest trees on gravel spoils. A program of note is the Coverts Project, a forest wildlife volunteer outreach program that, since 1990, has taught more than 340 forest landowners and managers how to use sound forest management to improve wildlife habitat and other forest benefits. He has authored numerous publications on the above subjects and produces a quarterly newsletter, "Branching Out", on his web site at www.naturalresources.umd.edu which provides information and education for forest landowners, natural resource and allied professionals. He is a 15-year member of the SAF and active in the Maryland Division.

The Forest Landowners Association was created in 1941 as a grass roots organization of timberland owners owning and managing millions of acres of forestland. It is the only organization created to speak for non-industrial private forest landowners at the local, regional and national levels. ❁

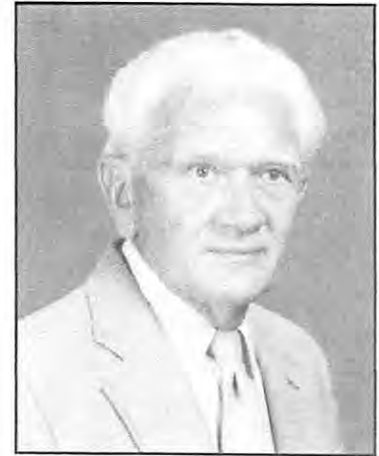


Jonathan Kays (left) received the 2004 Forest Landowners Assn Extension Forester of the Year Award at the 63rd annual conference in Alabama

In Memoriam: Joseph A. Hill

Joseph A. Hill, 80, died July 19, 2004. He held a BS and MS in Forestry from SUNY College of Forestry, Syracuse, NY, and retired from a career with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. A specialist in forest tree seedling nurseries and soils, he was responsible for training of the Pennsylvania forest tree nurserymen in charge of the four state tree seedling nurseries between 1950 and 1990. He developed and introduced many of the tree seed inventory and long-term storage systems and tree seedling grades, shipping and handling.

Hill was a 42-year member of the Society of American Foresters and an active member of the Keystone Chapter. He served as an infantryman in the European Theater during WWII. 🌲



Plateau Chapter "Walk in the Forest"

By Cecile Stelter, Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

On Thursday, May 6, 2004, 105 students from the Titusville Area School District joined members of the PASAF Plateau Chapter for the annual "Walk in the Forest." The event occurred near the Drake Well Museum on Oil Creek State Park, the birthplace of the world's oil industry. The site not only has historic significance but also showed students how the local forests have regenerated and recovered from the tremendous disturbances that occurred in the Oil Creek Valley during the Oil Boom Days.

While participating in the forest walk, the students were exposed to many aspects of forestry including: tree and plant identification, aging trees through the counting of tree rings, measuring trees and the use of specialized forestry tools, the many benefits provided by a forest, and the interrelationships within a forest ecosystem.

The National Society of American Foresters established the "Walk in the Forest" program as an avenue for local SAF chapters to provide our many publics with an opportunity to experience forests and forestry practices hands-on.

The first "Walk in the Forest" that was presented by the Plateau Chapter occurred in 1995 for the fourth grade classes from the Pleasantville Elementary School. Since then, the program has expanded to include all fourth grade students in the Titusville Area School District; there are four elementary schools in the morning and two in the afternoon - each half-day class exposes the students to forestry for two hours and fifteen minutes.

The Plateau Chapter has planned the October 2004 fall "Walk in the Forest", a continuation of a series begun in 1995. 🌲



Joint Pennsylvania Chapters Meeting

By Cecile Stilter, Service Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry

A beautiful summer day greeted members of the Rothrock, Northern Hardwood and Plateau Chapters of the SAF, as they gathered for a joint summer meeting on Friday, June 18, 2004. They were joined by members of several landowner associations for a program entitled "Foresters and Landowners - Forest Stewardship Partnerships." The purpose of the meeting was to promote a dialog between foresters and landowners about silvicultural options for managing private forestlands.

The group met at S.B. Elliot State Park for lunch and introductions. Then they boarded the bus to tour two private forested properties both of which face management challenges due to past practices and decisions. The first stop was on the Pine Swamp Tree Farm of forester Gary, and Sharon Gilmore near Luthersburg and then on to Nancy Desmond's farm property near Marron and Kerrmoor, PA. The sites were chosen to provide a backdrop for discussions of management options on difficult sites, and throughout the day the attendees had ample opportunities to discuss both formally and informally private forest management issues. The day ended with a barbeque dinner, bluegrass music and concluding remarks by Dr. James Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, Penn State University. 🌿



(Photo by Dr. Jim Finley, Professor of Forestry at Penn State University)

Western Gateway Chapter Summer Meeting

By Dick Rossman

The Western Gateway Chapter of SAF held its summer meeting August 18, 2004 at Ebensburg Country Club. The program was presented by Eric Burkhart, Penn State School of Forest Resources. His subject was the ecological, economic and cultural history of the native plant Ginseng. Mr. Burkhart has conducted a multi-year study of the plant in Pennsylvania.

A report of the Allegheny Section meeting was presented by District Forester, Bob Schweitzer and SAF Fellow Dick Rossman.

The Chapter members took action to contribute \$1,000 from the chapter treasury to add to the SAF PA Division's effort to support the Goddard Chair room in the new Penn State School of Forest Resources building.

Before the meeting a foursome of Chuck Flinn, Dave Babyack, Gary Sheridan and Dick Rossman played the 18-hole Ebensburg course. No scores were reported!

The meeting was adjourned about 8:30 p.m. 🌿

ANSAF Endowment Fund Exceeds \$25,000

By Ron Sheay, Leader, Education Endowment Fund Initiative

Thanks to a \$500.00 contribution from the Maryland/Delaware Division, the Endowment Fund has reached \$25,170.00. We are still attempting to reach our \$40,000 goal - it's not easy raising money! But if we don't ask, we will not receive.

SAF Members (150) have contributed \$20,225; SAF Divisions and four Chapters have contributed \$3,000; and ten forest and allied industries have contributed \$1,945. It is interesting to note that twelve members have given twice... their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Contributions along with activities with the non-ad-hoc group have been dormant during the summer months. I will be home in New Jersey September 30th, at which time I will rejuvenate our endowment effort.

We thank those that have made a contribution, and ask those that have not given to please consider sending a donation at this time payable to Allegheny Endowment. Please send it to: Ron Sheay, 12 Glenwood Lane, Stockton, NJ 08559. 🌿



Councilman's Corner

By Mike Lester, SAF District VII Representative

Membership and its importance to the success of SAF is a common topic of concern. I made frequent comments on the topic when I was Allegheny SAF Chair, and I've mentioned it since I've become your Council Representative. Usually the topic was broached in the context of our need to recruit new members. In this column, however, I want to focus on retaining current members.

My concern has been growing as I've watched the number of SAF members constantly dropping. It was particularly crystallized by a recent conversation I had. I was talking with a well-respected employee of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, who is also an active member of SAF. He was telling me that he was the only member of SAF in his District, and was recounting how many people had dropped their membership in the last few years. He had tried to convince them to maintain their membership, but they declined. This continuing loss of our members is a big problem.

Why would you want to be a member of SAF? To help answer that question, I'll borrow from a presentation given by Michael Goergen, SAF's Executive Vice President. Michael's presentation was focused on answering the question of what do I get for my SAF dues. The approach was to put the value of our dues into the context of our Strategic Plan, which of course, we've all memorized, and probably slightly annoyed our spouses when we insisted on having the Strategic Plan hung in the living room.

There is quite a laundry list from our first item of the Strategic Plan, **A Strong, Forward-Thinking Organization**. There is networking, mentoring, career advancement, and services specifically for students. There is also a vast array of information sources, such as the Journal, Forestry Source, Allegheny News, E-Forester, Forest Science, the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, as well as an amazing amount of information on the SAF website, www.safnet.org.

The Development and Sound Stewardship of SAF's Resources includes the Forester's Fund, which is SAF's grant program. There have been many grants from this fund used by members of the Allegheny SAF for outreach projects. The National Office has also undertaken significant fund raising from many sources in order to further strengthen the Society. Moreover, SAF has provided a lot of guidance to local chapters and divisions with regard to fundraising techniques.


Enhanced Service to Society at Large includes the Walk in the Forest, Conservation Resource Guide, and the Code of Ethics. This element of the Strategic Plan also includes our increasingly successful attempts to engage the media, particularly in some of the larger markets, where we have suffered some of the greatest distortion of what forestry is all about. SAF also provides considerable support to local chapters through the communications plan, and various communication tools.

Enhanced Service to Landowners and Employers. This is one element of the Strategic Plan where there is a lot of value, as well as a lot of problems. This would include the development of the Certified Forester and the Certified Forest Auditor. These are tools that are critical to increasing our credibility with the public, while increasing our value to our employers and forest landowners. This also a critical area, because it is essential that our employers understand the importance and value of an SAF membership.

Enhanced Professional Education, Performance, and Leadership Capability. One of the first things to pop out at me in this category is the development of accreditation standards for universities and colleges that offer degrees to foresters and forest technicians. This is the filter that most of us passed through to start our careers, and one that allows our employers a sense that we have passed a set of criteria that is well conceived and universal. Another extremely valuable aspect is the SAF Leadership Academy, which has provided world-class leadership training to many foresters, and has been an important career tool for many of us.

Effective Engagement in Forest Policy. This is an area where SAF has shined and where our National Office has consistently demonstrated how valuable they can be, not only for the future of the organization, but also the future of the profession. As part of the 2000 National Convention in Washington, DC, many of us had an opportunity to meet with the staff of our Senators. They all clearly knew Michael Goergen, who was then our Director of Policy, and just as importantly, were taking his calls. Rita Neznok, who replaced Michael in that role, has had several key policy successes in forestry issues. This is a critically important role for SAF.

There were many other examples of the value of our membership, but I just wanted to point out a few of them. The key concept for me is the value that we derive from our SAF membership. Is it cheap? No, of course not. But I would argue that the worth we get from our membership and the dues that we pay are a great value. If you are thinking about dropping your membership or know someone who is considering dropping their membership, keeps this column in mind. Furthermore, let me ask you a favor. If you are considering dropping your membership, give me a call, or send me an e-mail, and let's talk. My contact information is in the back of the Allegheny News. No hard sell, just professionals trying to get the best value out of the organization.

Carpe Diem 

Society of American Foresters Names John Benton 2004 National Outstanding Communicator

Allegheny's John E. Benton, Jr. has been named the SAF National Outstanding Communicator for 2004. He will be presented with the award at the Joint SAF/CIF National Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on October 3, 2004.

The award recognizes an SAF member who displays the ability, talent, and skill to lead innovative and exemplary communications initiatives that increase the general public's understanding of forestry and natural resources at the local, regional, or national level. Benton has been a member of the SAF Allegheny Division since 1980 and has worked as a forester for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry for over 25 years. He has served as a supervisor, mentor, and advisor for many colleagues within the NJ Forest Service and Forest Resource Education Center.

As a field forester, he organized public tree-planting events within the state forests and introduced school groups, scout troops, and families to the benefits of forestry first-hand. As Regional Forester, he continues to encourage staff to continue the tradition of public plantings by coordinating the NJ Forest Service's Conservation Education Program, which involves schoolchildren in forest restoration projects.

Today, as Supervising Forester, Benton oversees the



John Benton is congratulated by New Jersey State Forester

Conservation Education Program, which has grown to include a new Forest Resource Education Center - a facility that conducts year-round, hands-on forestry programs for school groups of all ages, scouts, and interested members of the public. In addition, Benton has served on regional and national committees for the USDA Forest Service and Project Learning Tree and has made numerous presentations at regional and national workshops on forestry education. 🌿

Donation for the paper for this issue of The Allegheny News was provided by
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Forestry Taxation & Financial Planning Workshops

Penn State University School of Forest Resources is presenting a one-day course focused on the tax and financial issues facing forestry operations - an integral part of operating a forest operation. According to Penn State Assistant Professor Michael Jacobson, the workshops are primarily for accountants, tax preparers, attorneys, small business owners and forestry professionals. However, forest landowners may also be interested and are welcome to attend.

Instructors will include John C. Baker, esq., Penn State professor of agricultural economics and law, Consultant Lloyd Casey of Casey's Forestry Concepts, and Professor Michael Jacobson, and will be held at six locations across Pennsylvania during late 2004: in

Chambersburg on October 13th; in Scranton on October 20th; in Doylestown on October 27th; in State College on November 3rd; in Mercer on November 10th; and in Ebensburg on December 15th.

The PA State Board of Accountancy, IRS Circular 230 Requirements, CLE Credits for Attorneys, and the Society of American Foresters CFE credits will accept continuing education credits for attendance.

For more information about program content, please contact Mike Jacobson at mgj2@psu.edu. For registration information, please contact Mike Powell at mjp175@psu.edu. The workshop registration fee is \$89 per person, which includes breaks, materials, and lunch. 🌿

Penn State Forestry Students Have a Productive and Educational Summer

By Brent Harding, Senior Forester, PSU Forestland Management Office

Wet and buggy are the two adjectives that could describe the forests of Central Pennsylvania during the summer of 2004. The Penn State Forestland Management Office student forester interns persevered and had an unbelievably productive summer. Two undergraduate student foresters (**Jim Cook and Nick Scaletta**) and one graduate assistant forester (**Chris Dahl**) assisted our office with overstory/understory and regeneration inventories, timber marking, herbicide applications, deer exclusion fence maintenance and general forestland upkeep.

The following are several summer highlights:

Conducted 100% mark and tally inventories on more than 450,000 bd.ft. of saw timber

- 230,000 bd.ft. from a PSU Effluent Woodlot Thinning
- 187,000 bd.ft. from a PSU Stone Valley Shelterwood Final Removal
- 34,000 bd.ft. from a PSU Stone Valley Proactive Hemlock Wholly Adelgid Thinning
- Cruised 840 overstory inventory plots
- 560 point-sample plots using a 20 BAF prism to determine volume by species
- 280 1/10th acre fixed area radius plots using an Impulse Laser and a Haglof DME (see June 2004 *Journal of Forestry* article)
- Applied herbicide to miles of deer exclusion electric fence line and University-owned forest roads to control interfering vegetation
- Assisted in maintaining over 75,000 lineal feet of deer exclusion fence
- Constructed and installed new Stone Valley Forest map boards to assist outdoor enthusiasts

Although the crew was very productive, the focus of our office's student forester program is to provide hands on in the field and in the office professional forestry experience that will complement a student's Penn State School of Forest Resources education. The Forestland Management Office hopes to continue providing opportunities to students this fall by hiring two part time student foresters.

Students can visit our website at <http://psuforestmgmt.cas.psu.edu/> to find more information about job and volunteer opportunities. We strongly encourage employers to visit our website also, or contact us at 814-865-6272 or by e-mail at psuforestmgmt@psu.edu to learn more about our operations and student employees.



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Pennsylvania Forestry Team Competes in National 4-H Forestry Invitational

By David R. Jackson, Extension Educator

The Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Team was one of 16 teams competing in the 25th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational held at the Jackson's Mill 4-H Conference Center near Weston, WV from July 26 through July 29, 2004. A total of 18 states were represented at the four-day event sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and funded by the International Paper Company Foundation. Members of the Pennsylvania team included April Ganong (Tioga County), Ryan Giles (Tioga County), and Noah Conoway (Clinton County). The team was coached and chaperoned by John Hecker (Clinton County) and Carissa Ganong (Tioga County), respectively.

The team from Alabama took top honors at the event followed closely by Illinois. The team from Tennessee came in third followed by Virginia, and Mississippi to round out the top five. Other states competing in the Invitational included Florida, Indiana, Oregon, Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.



Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Team (left to right): Carissa Ganong, Noah Conoway, April Ganong, Ryan Giles, and John Hecker

The Extension Service in Wyoming sent an observer and hopes to have a team to send to the event in the near future.

At the Invitational, students compete for overall team and individual awards in tree identification, tree measurement, forest health (forest entomology and forest pathology), compass traverse, topographic map reading, forest evaluation, and the forestry bowl. There are also a number of other fun and educational activities that occur during the Invitational including wildlife presentations on such things as night sounds of the Appalachians and snakes, traditional forestry skills contests, and 4-H campfire activities.

4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state land grant universities. More than 5.5 million youngsters participate in 4-H and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry Program. For more information on the 4-H Forestry Invitational you can contact Dr. Robert Hansen at 570-265-2896 or visit their home page at <http://www.aces.edu/N4HFI/page75.html>. For information on the 4-H Forestry program in Pennsylvania you can contact Sanford Smith, Youth Extension Specialist, Penn State Cooperative Extension, at (814) 863-0401 or sss5@psu.edu

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Take this quiz if you’re restoring wetlands or planting buffer strips. TRUE or FALSE?

- Trees filter more water faster than grasses.
- Trees stabilize banks better than grasses.
- Trees moderate water temperature better than grasses.



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Allegheny Society of American Foresters

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2004

Attendees:

Allegheny Officers: K. Jolly, Chair; K. Steiner, V. Chair; R. Billingham, Sec/Treas; R. Siefert, M. Fajvan, J. Perdue, and J. Snyder (standing for N. Karger), Exec. Comm. Members; M. Lester, Council Rep. Division/Chapter Officers & Committee Representatives: J. Bennett, Rep for NJ Ch; D. Miller, PA Div.Chr.; R. Williams, WV Div. Chr.; G. Juergens, WV Div.Pst.Chr.; J. Albright, PA N. Hardwood Chr.; M. Keegan, Rep for Pinchot Ch.; C. Stelter, PA Plateau.Chr.; M. Buccowich, PA Valley Forge Chr.; M. Webb, Alleg. Past-Chr. & Ed. Cmte.; T. Clark, SAF National Office; and D. Oaks, Ad Hoc.

Minutes from Previous Executive Committee Meeting:

No discussion; approved as published in the Allegheny News.

Treasurer's Report (R. Billingham):

Current Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved. Current balances: Checking: \$12,963.53; Endowment Savings: \$9,493.36; Endowment CD: \$29,218.00. The 6-month CD is maturing soon and we must decide what whether we want to move the funds to another type of account or roll it over into another CD.

Budget Report: The Executive Committee reviewed a budget status report prepared by the Treasurer, and re-affirmed approval of the previously reviewed 2004 budget based on: (1) a financially successful Tax Issues Workshop spearheaded by Ken Kane, which generated a significant financial benefit for the Allegheny; (2) the likelihood of a financially successful Summer Meeting; and (3) the likelihood that Chair Kenneth Jolly would be able to secure funding through his employer to cover travel expenses to attend the Convention. It was also noted that we may have a paper donation for the next two issues of the *Allegheny News*. The Penn State Student Chapter may go to the National Convention in Edmonton.

Allegheny Endowment Fund Report:

The current status was published in the summer *Allegheny News*. The sub-committee on CD options has not yet met, but hopes to meet by the next winter meeting. R. Billingham has been authorized to roll the endowment funds into another CD. Any suggestions on the Endowment fund should go to Ron Sheay.

Council Report (M. Lester):

M. Lester was not able to attend the last council meeting. We need to push membership. We need arguments for membership beyond saying that it is "what you should do." This year we lost somewhere between 570-1000 memberships. The Allegheny usually fares well in membership, but our numbers are down as well. Many younger folks are not "joiners." We need to be sure to welcome new people at meetings.

There has been a committee set up to look at the structure of SAF. This will help decide whether changes need to be made. The task force will provide a report recommending actions. Every committee chair was asked to provide input on how to help their groups function better. There are two strong candidates for president this year: Bill Rockwell and Marvin Brown.

Leadership Academy Report (M. Lester and R. Billingham):

The Academy was very successful as far as numbers go. It provided excellent training. SAF may try to have another leadership academy again this year to see if it is more feasible to have a program every year or every two years. We should continue to send people for training. T. Clark felt that there was good participation from attendees. Hopefully K. Steiner will be able to attend next year.

2006 National Convention Update (T. Clark):

There are many opportunities to help with working group tours. They will be offering technical field workshops. Someone (probably K. Jolly) from the state society will attend the working group meetings at the national convention this year. The working groups need ideas of things to see within a reasonable travel distance from Pittsburgh. We will need these ideas in time for the Edmonton meeting. We need to locate good local contacts. This information needs to go to Terry Clark. The key state society leadership posts for the Pittsburgh meeting have not been selected yet. The meeting dates are October 25-29, 2006. Send any ideas and suggestions to K. Jolly.

Winter Meeting Update (D. Oaks):

The winter meeting will be held at Mountain Laurel Resort & Spa. It is located on the Turnpike & I-80, with I-81 close by. Dick Carey is the Chair. The meeting dates are Feb. 23-25, 2005. The meeting theme will be Sustaining Biodiversity, Open Space & Forestry. This will be a family-oriented meeting and the spa will be emphasized. They are considering adding child care options.

Electronic Meeting Announcements (Exec. Cmte. Discussion):

After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed that a protocol on how to handle Meeting Announcements via e-mail should be developed. The intent of the protocol will be to ensure that electronic announcements reach all members and adequate security measures are utilized. K. Steiner advised that he would explore the possibility that the Allegheny SAF could be incorporated into a mail-server at Penn State. K. Jolly will also follow-up by soliciting additional input from the Exec. Comm.

Executive Director Report (K. Jolly for J. Winieski):

J. Winieski is working on paper donations. Any suggestions should be sent to him.

Committee Reports:

Awards (K. Jolly): The new chair of the Awards Committee is Howard Wurzbacher. Fellow nominees this year are Mark Vodak of NJ and Eldon Plaughter from WV. There were three nominees for the Field Forester award. We need to get each chapter to nominate at least one person. We definitely need more nominations.

Communications (R. Billingham): Ron Farr will be the new chair and R. Billingham will be support to the chair.

Membership (K. Steiner): There were 14,800 total SAF members after the June purge. This number is down 464 from last year. It has been a long time since membership has been this low. The Allegheny has 1055 members. We are down 122 members from last year, which is a 10% drop. There are 80 student members. It looks like only two new members have joined. Some people belong for professional obligation. We need to try to involve families more often.

Education (M. Webb): no new updates

Old Business:

Bob Bauer Scholarship/Student Award at PSU (M. Webb): – The minimum amount has been met. The scholarship will be ready when Connie Bauer gives final approval.

Goddard Chair Sponsorship at PSU (M. Webb): – He is looking for 30 people to pledge \$1000 each, which can be paid over the next four years (which would be \$250 per year).

Foresters Fund Grant Updates:

PA (D. Miller) – The History of PA Forestry video is almost complete. Only a few more changes need to be made. It must be 26½ minutes in order to be shown on public television (it is currently 30 minutes long). The video will be ready in time for the Feb. meeting, where they will be promoting its sale. They are investigating both VHS and DVD copies and will start with 100 of each type. The hope is that people will purchase them for schools/libraries, etc. An activity guide for teachers will also be produced.

NJ – We will get an update from D. Galway at winter meeting.

New Business:

2004 HSD Agenda Items: E-mail any items or success stories to K. Jolly

Division/Chapter reports:

WV (G. Juergens): It looks like the meeting will be well attended and will make a profit.

MD/DE: (J. Purdue) No update at this time.

PA: The video has been their main focus.

NJ (J. Bennett): Approved Forestry practices are exempt from the harvesting restrictions in the Highlands region

N. Hardwoods (J. Albright): There is an upcoming joint meeting with the Rothrock chapter.

Plateau (C. Stelter): They are hosting next summer's meeting. The dates are July 27-29, 2005. It will be held at the Avalon Hotel and Conference Center in Erie. They plan to include spouse tours (perhaps to a vineyard). They may have kids programs available at Presque Isle.

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Division/Chapter Reports (continued)

Valley Forge (M. Buccowich): They are planning on having four meetings per year. Roxanne Palone spoke on Game management at a recent meeting. Their joint ISA/SAF meeting is on track. They will be hosting the Winter 2006 meeting.

Pinchot (M. Keegan): Their upcoming meeting will focus on ecoterrorism.

Roach-Bauer Forum (D. Miller): The 20th Anniversary of the Forum is coming up on Oct. 7.

Adjourn: K. Jolly adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters General Business Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2004

The General Business Meeting was conducted by K. Jolly, Chair, who called upon Executive Committee members present to provide the membership with a brief report on Exec. Comm. discussion items from Aug. 4. The WV Division Summer Meeting Planning Committee were recognized and thanked for their diligent efforts in planning a very successful and interesting meeting. Following this, the floor was opened for new business items from the membership present; as no new business items were presented, the General Business Meeting was adjourned as scheduled. 🌿

Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting

By Dave McGill, SAF West Virginia Division

High on Snowshoe Mountain (elevation 4848 feet), the Allegheny SAF converged on August 4-6, 2004 for the 2004 Summer Meeting. Over 90 foresters met for the meeting to experience and discuss "History of Logging and Forest Management in the Appalachians."

Tours filled the first day. The three separate tours set out into a misty and moist morning.

One tour, led by West Virginia Service Forester John Rossell, visited the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. The group toured the old logging and sawmill town, a town that was booming at the turn of the last century. A collection of logging locomotives at Cass is the largest of its kind in the nation. These powerful engines move thousands of visitors each year up to the second highest peak in West Virginia (4842 feet), moving up the mountainside on an 11 percent grade using a series of strategically engineered switchbacks.

A second tour visited silvicultural operations on three ownership types: public, industrial, and family forests. On this trip

Joe Teckel, a private consultant from West Virginia, led the group to the property of Dr. and Mrs. Ward. Joe was in the process of administering a timber harvest on this private forest in conjunction with beech sucker control operation directed by USDA Research Forester Jim Kochenderfer. Beech stumps were treated with



Steve Yeager (Plum Creek Senior Resource Forester) discusses fortified low water bridge with SAF members during the Allegheny Summer Meeting (photo by Dave McGill)

glyphosate-based herbicides to reduce the number and vigor of suckers that typically develop when trees are severed and compete with higher valued hardwood species. Next the group drove to a site on the Monongahela National Forest where Glen Juergens, Silviculturist of the Marlinton Ranger District (and primary organizer of the Summer Meeting) discussed a crop tree release operation that had been conducted seven years earlier. Glen also summarized current management priorities on the MNF as well as the current status of the MNF Forest Plan revision. Finally, the group toured high elevation properties managed by Plum Creek. Steve Yeager (Plum Creek Resource Supervisor) and Bill Dempsey (Plum Creek Senior Resource Forester) showed the group a low water crossing built to stand up to high water and significant winter ice buildup. The group also saw various shelterwood harvests and discussed regeneration issues that seem to be unique to these high-valued, high-elevation sites.

The third tour visited the MeadWestvaco Wildlife and Ecosystem Research Forest. Eldon Plaughter, Aaron Plaughter, Pat Keyser, and Erin Cartwright. This tour featured the 8400 acre research forest that has dozens of research projects installed, maintained, and reported by research institutions from around the eastern United States.

Following the field tours, tours of the history of Cass and the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park locomotive maintenance shop and were given prior to the dinner train ride up to Whitaker Station logging camp. The Shay #6 locomotive pushed and pulled about 140 SAFers up to a waiting BBQ at Whittaker Station. This mid-elevation (elevation) railroad logging station features an outdoor museum with train cars containing a dining hall and logging camp bunk. An overhead steam skidder, the powerhouse used in cable logging in the mountains, sits



Allegheny SAFers hear about the "no talking during meals" and other rules and customs in the historic dining railcar at the Whittaker Station Logging Museum at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park during the Allegheny Summer Meeting banquet (photo by Dave McGill)

alongside the main rail line. The steam skidder is one of the last remnants of the Meadow River Lumber Company of Rainelle, West Virginia, which was at the time the largest hardwood lumber mill in the world.



Photo by Ken Jolly

The indoor session of the Summer Meeting began with a welcome from Randy Dye, West Virginia State Forester. Randy gave an overview of land use in the last century pointing out the small amount of forestland in West Virginia in the late 1800's and early 1900's and the significant amount of timber that was cut and burned to clear lands for agriculture.

Ken Jolly (Chair, Allegheny Society) led the business meeting with included the following:

- Randy Dye – history of forests slides
- Recognition of the 2004 Summer Meeting planning group
- Winter 2005 meeting
- Terry Clark – planning for the 2006 National Convention
- Kim Steiner—membership of Allegheny Society
- Fellows nominated: Mark Vodak and Eldon Plaughter
- Bob Bauer Scholarship at Penn State
- PA Summer 2005 meeting (Plateau Chapter) July 27-29 Erie, PA

Following the business meeting, Dr. Ken Carvell, West Virginia University Professor Emeritus, spoke on the "History of Forest Management in West Virginia." Some of the earliest history of forest management in West Virginia began not in 1937 with the first official forestry class at West Virginia University, but in 1908 with 12 WVU students trained in a two year program in Agriculture Science (concentration in forestry). One of these students was A.B. Brooks, considered the first state forester in West Virginia. Dr. Carvell covered the

(Continued on page 14)

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significance of early organizations, fire protection associations, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and illustrative individuals.

George Collins, Executive Director of the Mountain State Railroad and Logging Historical Association, next presented "The last of the Giants," a colorful description of the Meadow River Lumber Company. At one time in the mid 1900's, the Meadow River Lumber Company of Rainelle, West Virginia was the largest hardwood lumber producer in the world.

As part of her Master's degree work at West Virginia University, Angela Gernert (Director of Recreation, Stonewall Jackson Lake Park/Resort) revitalized the

museum at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. In her presentation she described surprising discoveries found stored, but deep in dust, within the museum archives.

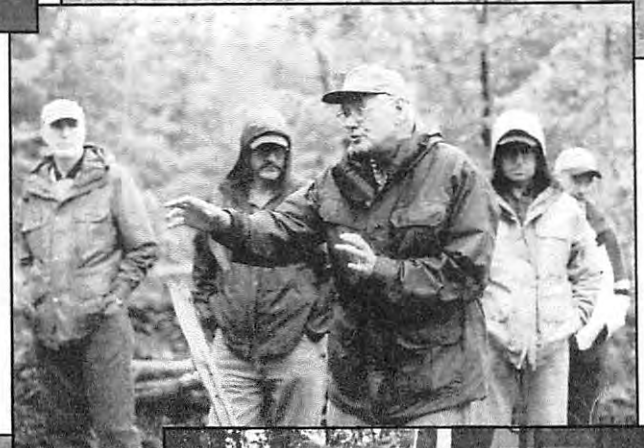
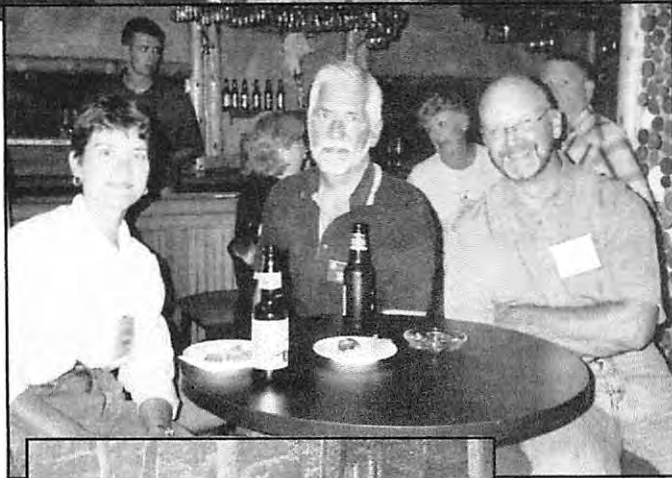
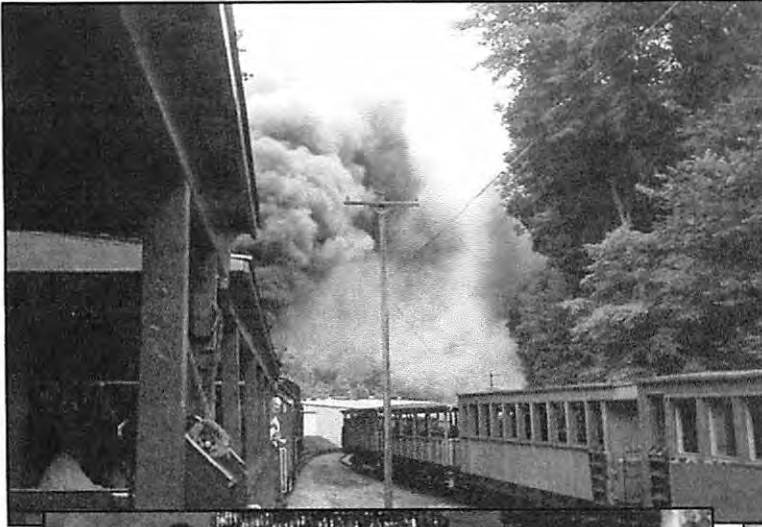
Finally, Rob Whetsell (Consulting Historian and Archaeologist) gave an historical overview of the CCC in West Virginia. He went on to discuss his current project of documenting surviving stories of CCC workers and the importance of this work. These stories are vanishing with time and Rob is in the process of capturing this information in a video production.

The meeting was adjourned following the presentations and the participants of the meeting began rolling downward to their respective states from the high elevation resort in Pocahontas County—the birthplace of rivers. ❁



Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting Photos

Photos courtesy of Ken Jolly, Marian Keegan and Richard Widmann



NJ Hopewell Valley H.S. Envirothon Team Places Third in National Competition

TRENTON, NJ - Imagine having to identify the rose-breasted grosbeak from a snapshot or the Sassafras tree using just its bark. Try identifying soil types by jumping into a pit full of it. Hopewell Valley's Envirothon Team was up to these and many more environmental challenges as they finished third at the 2004 Canon Envirothon held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia, July 26th to August 1st.

The team, representing New Jersey after winning the earlier state competition, consisted of Chrissy Fairbanks, Adam Forbes, Jon Sellers, Hope Connolly, and Sami Nichols. They received the highest score and station award for the Soils study area, and the highest score for the second round of group presentations. Each student received a \$1,000 college scholarship from Canon for the third place finish as well as honorary medals for the Soils competition award.

The team's knowledge was tested under the supervision of foresters, soil scientists, wildlife specialists and other natural resource professionals.

Teamwork, problem solving and oral presentation skills were evaluated as the team offered judges an oral presentation of ideas for solving an environmental challenge that was presented during the competition.

The Canon Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Fifty-one teams, 44 from the U.S. and seven from Canada, comprising more than 250 students competed for a share of \$30,000 in college scholarships and prizes. Organized through the National Association of Conservation Districts in the United States and the Canadian Forestry Associations, the competition tests teams on knowledge of soils/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife and this year's current issue, conservation management in urban areas.

The national results of the Allegheny SAF teams at the event are: NJ placed 3rd, PA placed 6th, WV placed 8th, MD placed 11th, and DE placed 20th. Allegheny SAF states were very well represented at the national event: GOOD JOB! Florida finished first and Virginia finished second.

The Canon Envirothon is the culmination of a series of



Hopewell's winning team, including teachers Jeff Neumann and Toni Scott, and volunteer assistant Ray Nichols

competitions that began during the past school year and involved more than 500,000 teenagers throughout North America. In written tests and an oral presentation, the team from Hopewell Valley placed first at the New Jersey Envirothon competition in May 2004, winning the distinction of representing their state at the Canon Envirothon. Team members also were awarded \$1,000 scholarship for their performance at the state competition from the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts.

The New Jersey Envirothon is sponsored by the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, NJ Department of Agriculture/State Soil Conservation Committee, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. For more information on the New Jersey Envirothon, please contact Rich Belcher, Envirothon Coordinator at (609) 633-2549 or by email at jeffrey.beach@afgstate.nj.us



Vernon Township High School won the NJ Forestry "Big Bad Bear Award" by scoring an 88 at the Forestry Station at this year's event. The winners showcases the award at their school for the year.

Remembering a Pioneer

By R. Alexander Day

On a rainy August morning, family, friends, foresters, and other invited guests gathered to remember William F. (Billy) Dague, and to dedicate a sign in his memory. The dedication took place approximately 12 miles northwest of Clearfield at the current site of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry's Moshannon State Forest headquarters, and the former location of a large forest tree nursery which Billy Dague founded in 1911. Today the site hosts a new district office and a large complex of maintenance, repair and administrative buildings, and forest tree seed orchards.

Dague, a member of the third class of the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy at Mont Alto, graduated in 1908, and was immediately assigned to Clearfield, Pennsylvania, where he spent his entire career. Seeing the need for large quantities of tree seedlings to replant thousands of acres of cut and burned-over land, and being too far from the state's existing tree nurseries to receive ample seedlings supplies when needed, he started growing conifer seedlings in a small, upland clearing. This plan and its execution were immediately successful, due in no small part to his boundless energy and leadership. The location at the nursery atop the Allegheny plateau at an elevation of 2,250 feet meant that the spring lifting, grading and packing schedule dovetailed with the planting season of the area, whereas deliveries of tree seedlings from the state's other two nurseries - at much lower elevations - were not in sync with spring planting season atop the high plateau. Billy Dague did the right thing. He grew the tree seedlings in the area where

they would be out-planted.

By 1925, the Clearfield State Forest Tree Nursery, as it was officially known, had become the state's largest seedling production facility. Its annual production frequently exceeded eight million bare root seedlings, according to department records. Practically all of these seedlings were planted on denuded forest reserves atop the Allegheny Plateau. The pioneer forester grew the seedlings and planted his very own forest!

Those in attendance at the sign dedication included Joseph A. (Joe) Dague, grandson of the honoree. Joe, a professional mineralogist living in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, treated the crowd to his reminiscences of his grandfather. One story was characteristic of the pioneer forester: Living in Clearfield, PA, and working nearby in the Penfield area, some 12 miles distant, Billy Dague walked those miles twice each day, since his department-issued transportation - a horse - frequently broke out of the pasture in town and was difficult to round up. Billy Dague was not alone in such feats of endurance. All the early Pennsylvania foresters were trained to be practical minded and to get about the business of tending the state's forest reserves, often with little regard for personal comfort.

Operating a forest tree nursery was only part of Billy Dague's official duties. From the outset of his employment with the old Department of Forestry in 1908, wildfires were rampant and needed to be controlled. Despite shortages of adequate equipment and personnel, he persevered and was rewarded with decreasing acres



William F. Dague
District Forester 1908-1928

lost to fire.

In addition to these duties he upgraded numerous recreation areas on the Moshannon State Forest and developed new facilities as well. Taking advantage of the federal government's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program beginning in 1933, he used this pool of energetic, young men to further enhance recreational opportunities on the Forest: Black Moshannon, Parker Dam and Simon B. Elliott State Parks were all built under his leadership. Despite this mind-boggling schedule, he thrived on hard work. He was trained well. At his retirement in 1947, his former professor and supervisor George Wirt remarked, "Billy Dague maintained a schedule that would have exhausted most men, but he kept going at it throughout his career of almost 40 years. He deserves more than a mere stick in the local press."

Now William F. Dague has more than a stick. He has a sign, located at the site of his grandest accomplishment - the Dague State Tree Nursery (now seed orchards) for all to see, to read and to understand. 🌿

Pennsylvania's Clearfield Nursery Complex Dedicated to First Nursery Superintendent

By Jason Albright, Assistant District Forester, Moshannon State Forest

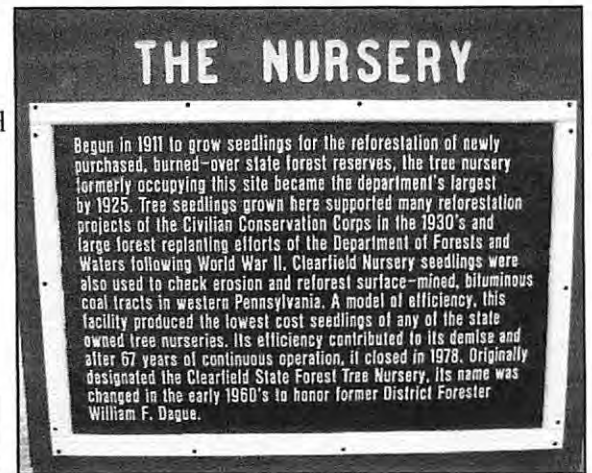
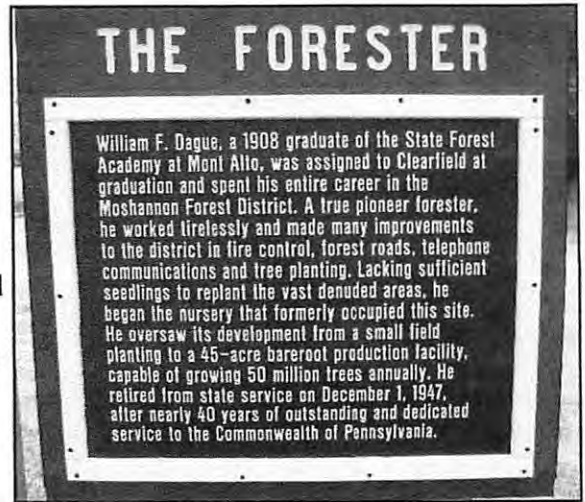
On the rainy summer morning of August 12, 2004, approximately 50 people gathered at the Moshannon State Forest Fire Fighters' Association headquarters building adjacent to S.B. Elliot State Park to attend the dedication of the William F. "Billy" Dague Seed Orchards" commemorative sign. The attendees included both current and retired employees of the DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, CCC veterans, other interested members of the public, and local media.

Those present had the opportunity to listen to Alex Day, the manager of the Bureau of Forestry's Penn Nursery, and ANSAF member, speak about the foresight of William F. Dague as the first nursery manager. The hardships he endured and the improvisations in developing tree seedling nursery production and forest management practices were typical of those experienced by all of the early graduates of the Mont Alto Forest Academy. Bob Merrill, District Forester of the Moshannon State Forest, then spoke of the

current and future operations occurring on the former nursery sight. The final speaker was Joseph F. "Joe" Dague, grandson of "Billy" Dague, who shared recollections of his grandfather's, and all the Academy foresters, dedication to the Bureau of Forestry's initial efforts to develop nurseries and forest management practices.

The commemorative sign is located on the left-hand side of State Park Road as it approaches SB Elliot State Park, on the site of the former State forest tree nursery in Clearfield, County. In addition to the sign, several nursery buildings dating back to the CCC days still stand on the site. If you're traveling along Route 80 and pass by Exit 111, pull off and follow the signs to S.B. Elliot State Park. For the price of a five-minute detour, you'll have the opportunity to experience

a bit of the legacy of one of Pennsylvania's early conservationists' work - "Billy" Dague, Mont Alto Academy Class of 1908!





Grandson of William F. (Billy) Dague, Joe Dague, center, and his wife Jeanne talk to Alex Day at the sign dedication

"Here at Bloody Springs, in 1911 my grandfather, William Dague, began the development of what became one of the outstanding forest tree nurseries of the State of Pennsylvania. From its small beginnings in a mountain pasture the nursery grew from one-tenth of an acre to about 45 acres. My grandfather and his rangers including Frank Johnston, John Nelson and Babe Lamb developed many methods and procedures, which made it possible to raise forest tree seedlings and transplants by the millions and at a very low cost. By the time my grandfather retired in 1947, the nursery had the capacity to produce 50,000,000 seedlings a year.

"The achievements in forest protection, reforestation and nursery development that my grandfather, William F. Dague (and the people who worked with him), pioneered have lived on after them and been a blessing to people who never knew them. They left behind them many outstanding contributions in forestry work not only to this immediate area of northern Clearfield County, but also to the entire state of Pennsylvania.

"Without ceremony in 1958 – 50 years since the start of my grandfather's forestry work, and ten years after his death – the State Forest Commission officially renamed the nursery he began in 1911 as the William F. Dague State Forest Tree Nursery.

"Speaking for my family, I should very much like to thank the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry – especially the local Moshannon District foresters and Alex Day, manager of Penn Nursery – for once again marking this birthplace of future forests with a sign that recognizes my grandfather's accomplishments as district forester. I also thank Jack Winieski, Executive Director of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, for his effort toward dedicating this commemorative sign and his earlier work in starting the seed orchards here at the nursery. We deeply appreciate the tribute."

– Joseph A. Dague



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Start Telling the Success Story of Forestry with Children

By Peter Linehan

If you randomly pick up almost any issue of the *Journal of Forestry* or *The Allegheny News* you will find some article or commentary on the need for foresters to get more involved in outreach. Usually the articles describe a new education program or approach. All of these are valuable and worth studying. However, I believe there is no better audience to start with than to work with young children. This summer I had the opportunity to teach a class in Penn State Mont Alto's Kids' College program. In a course called "Outdoor Adventures" I worked with 16 children, aged nine to eleven, for 90 minutes each day over a week's time.

My original idea was to expose the children to concepts in forest management while we roamed around the historic wooded Mont Alto campus on the edge of the Michaux State Forest. However, the teacher soon became the student as my charges showed me how things really work. Over the course of the week I learned a lot about why I got interested in forestry in the first place, as well as how to make an interesting program for children. Here are just a few of the lessons I learned.

Children are much shorter than adults. The children were indeed much shorter than me, in a good way. Being closer to the ground they could see the dead squirrels and live snakes first. They noticed the best berry bushes. It was easier for them to find the crayfish in the creek. All of these were things I had long stopped noticing in the forest, but was glad were still there.

They will let you know when it's time to move on. Southern PA is hot and humid in the summer, so

walking around outside is hard work. The children very quickly let me know if what we were doing wasn't up to their standard. First someone would have a headache or need to find the bathroom. I soon took this as my cue to stop droning on and find something new and exciting to do. I probably gave more concise and to the point explanations of forestry principles than I have ever done before.

Bring plenty of band-aids. The children fearlessly jump, run, and race to get there first as long as they think there's something exciting ahead. This leads naturally to falls, scraped knees, or cut hands. A little antibiotic ointment and bandages quickly patch everything up again.

Children understand ecology. As a forester I am trained to put things in their proper categories: trees, wildlife, water, soil, etc. These categories are artificial and often prevent us from seeing the forest as a whole. The children are well past this silly notion. They knew right away that the forest is made up of all its parts and needs the parts to work. This doesn't mean they oppose harvesting timber or making changes needed to manage the forest, at least not yet. And with the right education they will appreciate how we have learned how to improve the state of the forests.

Girls and boys love the same things. I was expecting the usual stereotypes of the boys as outdoorsmen and the girls needing encouragement to explore. Maybe, it's the pre-teen years, but the girls were just as eager to explore as the boys. When returning from a hike around Mont Alto the group found a black snake. A few brave children picked up the snake to check it out. In its fear the snake relieved himself

on one girl's hand and arm. I thought she would be upset, but instead she was just happy to have held a live snake.

There's always time for berries and slag. The Mont Alto campus is built on the site of a nineteenth century iron foundry. Under all the grass is a layer of slag in every shape, form, and size imaginable. The kids couldn't get enough samples. I'm sure some mothers wished their offspring hadn't brought home so many rocks. In late July the wine berries are ripe in our area. Whenever we had a few minutes extra or just needed to spend time in the shade we would head over to the berry patch under the trees. Sometimes the best teachable moments come when you are picking berries.

Children learn in stories. Mont Alto was started as the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in 1903. I started off explaining why the state needed foresters and showing them our bulletin board of historic faded black and white pictures. The oldest building on campus is the old Weistling mansion, which is rumored to be haunted by the Colonel himself. In a conference room in the building there is a display of old pictures possibly showing the haunting. Just that story and pictures grabbed everyone's attention. The story seemed to cement the other ideas I had been trying to get across all morning.

Technology is good. We have a dozen or so handheld GPS units that we use in the forest technology program. I wondered if the children would understand how to use them. On one of the hikes I brought along a GPS to get a track to show them later. One boy asked if he could

hold the unit. Before long, after asking me just a few questions, he had figured out how to navigate with the unit. He was even showing some of the others how it was done. By the next day everyone was interested. We had a great time locating where we were and mapping our walks on the trails. I hid two treasure caches in the forest with plastic animals and mechanical pencils. It was quite a sight to see our whole group following the GPS to the treasure waypoints. Maybe the students see GPS as a glorified video game? In any case it can be the

gateway to exploring a great many points in natural resource management.

By Friday I was relieved to have made it through the week; yet I was sorry that it was all over. I was also more excited about working in forestry than I had been in a long time. I think and I hope that the children had a good time and that they learned something they will remember for a long time. I encourage each of you to get involved in outreach. After all, we foresters have a great story to tell. 🌿

**Next newsletter
deadline is
December 15, 2004**

Send your articles in the form of Microsoft Word documents and photos as 300 dpi JPEG files and e-mail to Allegheny News Editor Jack Winieski at:

ansaf@paonline.com

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LAUREL

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The Pinchot Chapter is hosting

The Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
"Sustaining Biodiversity, Open Space and Forestry"

February 23-25, 2005

Mt. Laurel Resort & Spa in White Haven, PA

We'll hear about inventory in wild places, stewardship at the landscape level, 3rd decade oak stand development, clearcutting, unevenaged management, and old growth restoration. We'll see a prime time début of the SAF video "History of PA Forests" and Dr. Hamilton's show "Is Sustainability Impossible or Inevitable?" And we'll enjoy the usual favorites: Ice Breaker, Quiz Bowl, Art Show, Silent Auction, Chair's Breakfast, Society meetings.

February is mid-winter break time. Plan a Valentine's romantic getaway with your spouse, or bring the kids. Mt. Laurel Resort & Spa has plenty to offer (massage, skin care, sauna, swimming, fitness, game room) and is easily located at the intersection of Interstate 80 and the Pennsylvania NE Extension Turnpike (476). Registration will be reasonably priced and a room for two at the resort is only \$55. Ski resorts and shopping outlets nearby. Find out and plan for what you want to do by visiting www.mountainlaurelresort.com

Review of the Tick Management Handbook

By Bob LaBar, SAF Pinchot Chapter

This “hot off the press – state of the art” easy to read publication written by Kirby C. Stanford III of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station offers “everything you wanted to know” about ticks and how to deal with them. While the publication covers virtually all species of ticks throughout the United States, I have chosen to limit discussions in this article to the Blacklegged or Deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, of most interest to foresters and property owners within the five state area encompassing the Allegheny Society because of the relationship to Lyme Disease. The 66 page publication (available from the research facility or at www.caes.state.ct.us) is conveniently divided into sections that provide basic information on ticks and their biology, basic information on the diseases they carry, methods to reduce risk of exposure, and most importantly, information on how to manage or reduce tick populations and therefore risk of disease in the residential landscape. Single copies of the publication are available free of charge via Kirby.Stafford@po.state.ct.us (include mailing address) or by writing the CN Agriculture Exp. Station, PO Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504. You can also view the publication at www.caes.state.ct.us.

The author points out that in the northeast the emergence of Lyme disease can be linked to changing landscape patterns. Contributing factors include increased tick abundance, sharp rises in deer populations, increased recognition of the disease, and the establishment of more residences in wooded areas which in turn has increased the potential for exposure to ticks.

Ticks are not insects, but rather arthropods more associated with mites or spiders. Ticks go through a three host life cycle with deer, mice humans being the most common examples. Ticks cannot fly or jump; they must make direct contact with the host.

There are at least eight recognized human diseases associated with ticks in the northeast, with Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever being the most recognizable. There are twelve states, including four in the Allegheny Society, that account for 95% of reported cases. In 70–90% of cases, Lyme disease is characterized by an expanding red rash at the site of the tick bite. The typical “bull’s-eye” appearance is found in only half of the cases; mild nonspecific flu like symptoms include fatigue, muscle and joint pain, headache, fever, chills and stiff neck. While the disease can be chronic and debilitating with occasional permanent damage to nerves or joints, it is rarely fatal. A two stage testing program for Lyme disease is suggested by many public health organizations. These are referred to by the abbreviations ELISHA or IFA. If either test is positive a more specific test is performed. Lyme disease can be treated with one of several antibiotics. The standard course of treatment is 14 to 28 days.

Of special interest to foresters and homeowners are some of the protective measures available to reduce the potential impact of ticks. Personal protection behaviors, including avoidance and reduction of time spent in tick-invested habitats, using protective clothing and repellants, checking the entire body for ticks, and promptly removing attached ticks can be very effective in preventing Lyme disease. However, surveys and the continuing incidence of disease suggest that few people practice these measures with sufficient regularity. Despite the efficiency of tick repellants, particularly with DEET applied to the skin and permethrin applied to clothing, they are under utilized. Checking for ticks and promptly removing them is probably the most important and effective method of preventing infection. Important points to consider in tick bite prevention include:

- About 75% of Lyme disease cases are associated with activities (play, yard or garden) around the home.
- Ticks do not jump, fly or drop from trees but grasp passing hosts from the leaf litter, tips of grass, etc.
- Children 5 to 13 are particularly at risk because playing outdoors is a high risk activity.
- Pets can bring ticks into the home.
- Wear light colored clothing with long pants tucked into the socks.
- Use DEET on exposed skin, or permethrin-based repellents on clothing ONLY.
- Tick removal is best accomplished with a thin tipped tweezers allowing you to grasp the tick at the head end as close to the surface as possible and pull up with steady pressure. Other methods e.g. petroleum jelly, heat from matches or other chemicals, are NOT effective.
- Disinfect the area with alcohol and save the tick for reference and testing.

Repellents are usually in two forms: DEET and Permethrin-based products, both of which can be very effective. According to Consumer Reports, a 33% cream based DEET formulation was effective for up to nine hours. This is the maximum concentration currently recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The second effective form of repellent consists of Permethrin-based products applied to the clothing only. The FDA approved Lyme disease vaccine Lymerix has been pulled off the market because of declining sales.

Integrated tick management strategies can involve the use of landscaping practices to reduce tick and host animal habitat, targeted applications of least toxic pesticides along with tick checks and other personal protective measures. The idea for residential tick management is to create a tick management area around your house that encompasses the portions of your yard that the family uses most frequently. Some 82% of ticks are found within three yards of the lawn perimeter along woodland, stonewalls or ornamental plantings. Additional measures include grass mowing, removing leaf litter, restricting the use of groundcover such as pachysandra, moving firewood piles and managing pet activity. Since 90% of adult ticks feed on deer, they are a key to reproductive success of the tick.

Controlling household pets as a source of ticks relies on avoiding tick habitat, reducing ticks on the animal, daily tick checkups and the use of one of the canine Lyme disease vaccines. If a pet is not allowed to freely roam in wooded areas, it is less likely to pick up ticks.

A veterinarian should be consulted about the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease in your pets. A variety of products can repel and/or kill ticks on animals. Some are available over the counter, others only through your veterinarian.

Finally, insecticides are the most effective way to reduce ticks, particularly when combined with landscaping changes mentioned earlier. They provide consistent control, are easy to apply and are relatively inexpensive. A single application of most ornamental-turf control will provide 85-90% or better control so multiple applications are rarely needed.

The author closes with the emphasis on the fact that Lyme disease can be prevented. Surveys have shown that most residents in Lyme disease endemic areas consider the disease an important issue that poses a high risk to family members. A few precautions and management of ticks in such areas can substantially reduce the risk. Prompt recognition of infection and treatment can prevent serious manifestations of the disease. Landscape and host management practices combined with careful use of pesticides can provide good control with minimal risk or impact on the environment. 🌿



Lessons From a Case of Extreme Deer Herbivory

By Brian Pedersen, Associate Professor of Environmental Science
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Foresters know that human intervention is sometimes necessary to ensure healthy forests.

Management activities designed to improve stocking, reduce erosion, and control invasive species can enhance forest productivity, water quality, and biodiversity.

However, convincing the public that forest management has a place, particularly in forests dedicated as preserves, is challenging. Where foresters see an impoverished stand, many forest visitors will see a beautiful forest scene. Even after visitors learn about forest health problems, many will argue against human intervention. When I take students in my introductory environmental science course to a degraded forest, the majority of students typically argue that the best way to restore the forest's health is for humans to simply leave the land alone. This view is not surprising given that humans have often been responsible for forest degradation.

My students and I have been studying an extreme case of deer herbivory in the Florence Jones Reineman Sanctuary, a 3400 acre, privately-owned wildlife preserve located 20 miles west of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Hunting and other forms of deer population management have been prohibited in this preserve for nearly 40 years.

The Reineman case offers striking and clearly visible lessons about the place of human intervention in forests. In a recently published article*, Angela Wallis (now a Dickinson College graduate) and I argue that deer in this preserve are slowly causing deforestation

from the bottom up. Here is a brief summary of our study.

We compared a mature forest stand at Reineman to an ecologically-similar stand in nearby State Game Lands 170, where deer hunting is permitted. While the density of trees greater than 8" dbh was the same in both stands, the density of woody seedlings (12-52" tall) was 50 times less at the Reineman Sanctuary than at State Game Lands 170. When we considered only species capable of joining the forest overstory (for example, maple, oak and yellow-poplar), we found no seedlings at Reineman, as compared to 1900 seedlings/acre of overstory-capable species in the State Game Lands stand.

Our most critical findings concerned forest gap dynamics, the cycle that begins when an overstory tree dies, forming a gap in the forest canopy, and ends when another tree grows up into the overstory and closes the gap.

We referred to large, dead trees as "gapmakers" because the death of these trees created gaps in the forest overstory. We found a lower density of the gapmakers at Reineman Sanctuary than at State Game Lands 170. This result indicates that fewer canopy gaps had formed at Reineman in recent years.

We also found that the gapmakers at Reineman had been dead longer than those at the State Game Lands site. This result indicates that the Reineman gaps had formed longer ago and, consequently, there had been more time for new trees to grow into the

overstory and close these gaps.

However, canopy gap fraction, the proportion of forest area not covered by the crowns of overstory trees, was greater at Reineman. Our explanation for these apparently contradictory findings was that canopy gaps were not closing in the wildlife preserve.

We concluded that deer were responsible for inhibiting the closure of canopy gaps at Reineman for two reasons. First, fenced exclosures at Reineman contain abundant regeneration (these exclosures have been maintained for over a decade by Carol Loeffler, my colleague at Dickinson College). Second, counts of deer fecal pellet groups indicated that deer browsing pressure at Reineman was significantly greater than at the State Game Lands site (two methods of pellet counting yielded 6- and 100-fold differences in deer population density).

The future of the Reineman forest may be seen in the current canopy gaps. Despite an average age of more than two decades, these gaps lack small trees and are not in the process of closing. We did not find a future forest overstory in the making.

When I describe this situation to students, I rely on an analogy. A college that graduates students after four years but does not admit any new students will not have any students in just four years. Similarly, if forest regeneration ceases, the forest will be gone when the last tree dies: deforestation from the bottom up.

Some of my students argue that

*Pedersen, B.S., and A.M. Wallis. 2004. Effects of white-tailed deer herbivory on forest gap dynamics in a wildlife preserve, Pennsylvania, USA. *Natural Areas Journal* 24:82-94.

it is only a matter of time before the protected deer herd at Reineman declines in numbers because of insufficient food, allowing recovery of the forest.

But this hasn't happened so far because, we believe, the Reineman deer rely on neighboring agricultural fields for part of their food.

I use the Reineman Sanctuary case to illustrate three lessons concerning forest management.

First, "leaving nature alone" does not ensure a healthy forest. For example, the nearly complete lack of a forest understory at Reineman means this habitat is not available for forest animals, such as red squirrels and eastern towhees, that depend on the understory for habitat.

Second, the lack of active management can lead to a progressive decline in forest health. Our results suggest that



Herbivory by white-tailed deer in a Pennsylvania wildlife preserve has virtually eliminated forest regeneration, even in canopy gaps. Here, Sarah Pears (now a Dickinson College graduate) stands in a canopy gap next to the dead tree that formed the gap.

without management, the Reineman forest is gradually becoming a community dominated by a few non-native herbs and shrubs.

Third, although it is unlikely that the Reineman Sanctuary's owners will reduce the size of the preserve's deer herd in the foreseeable future, this land is not without value. Foresters, students, scientists, policymakers, and the public have much to learn from forests where nature is simply left alone. So while the Reineman Sanctuary may not be a healthy forest, this land can play a valuable, ongoing role in demonstrating the need for effective forest management.

For more information on this article, please contact the author, Brian Pedersen at 717-245-1897 or by email at pedersen@dickinson.edu

SAF Video to be Released

By Doug D'Amore, District Forester, PA Sproul State Forest

The Pennsylvania Division is working cooperatively with retired State Forester Mr. James C. Nelson, U.S. Forest Service Stewardship Program, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, The Sandy Cochran Fund, Pennsylvania Forestry Association and Pennsylvania State University to develop a professional quality video tape of Mr. Nelson's program of the forest management history of Pennsylvania's woodlands. The current program is approximately one hour long and consists of Mr. Nelson speaking to an interested group using slides and other visual aids. He has combined his

experiences and equipment with many of old the photos and reports found in the Bureau of Forestry's and various historical societies archives into fascinating hour long slide show. This show traces the history of Pennsylvania's forests from pre-settlement times to the present. Mr. Nelson has repeated this program numerous times for a wide variety of groups and it has always been well received by the audience with many follow up questions.

The video project has taken Mr. Nelson's slide program and reproduced it on videotape. The project will use techniques similar to those used for various PBS

documentaries including the old photos and slides, videotape of current landscapes, and interviews with various experts. All the video work was professionally filmed and edited. The project will also be transferred to compact disks and will be available in a DVD format. An advanced screening will be provided to those attending the 2005 Winter Allegheny Society meeting this February. After that point in time the Pennsylvania Division will have the program for sale in both formats. If you have any questions please contact Ned Karger at 814-837-6941 (work) or Doug D'Amore at 570-923-6011 (work) or 570-923-1517 (home).

Silviculture News

Mary Ann Fajvan, Forest Science Coordinator

Use of the Shelterwood Method in Oak Management

Successfully regenerating oaks on high quality sites typically requires that large advance regeneration exists before final overstory removal. The shelterwood method can be used to create a favorable forest floor environment for oak establishment while discouraging faster growing species such as yellow poplar. Research has indicated that oak seedlings that are 36" tall or have a .75" root collar diameter have an 8-15% probability of becoming codominant/dominant members of the next forest generation. Incorporating site preparation in the traditional shelterwood harvest sequence can control ferns and shade tolerant woody species that shade developing oak seedlings. Fencing is also required in areas of high deer populations. In previously unmanaged stands, preparatory cutting can be used to improve vigor of oak seed trees and remove undesirable seed sources. This treatment is similar to a low thinning and harvests should avoid creating canopy gaps.

Site Preparation

If oak seedlings are lacking, site preparation can be used to create a favorable environment for oak development even before any overstory harvesting occurs. Treatments are aimed at the reduction of undesirable forest floor vegetation, such as fern, and/or removal of understory and mid-story canopy layers of shade tolerant species, such as red maple and beech. The goal of these treatments is to remove the low shade produced by these vegetation layers and allow oak to establish under the high shade of the overstory. The most common techniques are herbicide treatments, such as broadcast spraying or stem injection, and prescribed burning. These treatments may need to be applied periodically, especially when waiting for bumper acorn crops.



Prior to a shelterwood seed cut, herbicide was used to kill understory trees and remove low shade. The purpose of the site preparation was to allow oak to establish under the high shade of the overstory. Photo by Dave Feicht, USDA Forest Service Morgantown, West Virginia



Shelterwood seed cut in an oak stand that was not fenced and did not receive site preparation for fern control. Fern grew in response to the increased sunlight and new seedlings were browsed by deer. Photo by Dave Feicht, USDAFS, Morgantown, West Virginia

Seed/Establishment Cutting

Seed cutting can occur in conjunction with a good acorn crop only if interfering vegetation and deer browse are not a concern. Otherwise oak seedlings should be established before cutting. Because oak seedling height growth is directly proportional to the amount of basal area removed, seed cutting should focus on removal of all poletimber and some small sawtimber until a desired basal area goal is achieved. Typically, the highest quality stems remain to grow and add volume and value, while the new generation is becoming established. Stocking guides or stand management programs such as SILVAH can be used to determine residual basal area goals. The harvest resembles a heavy low thinning that reduces stand relative density below 60% (B-line on stocking chart) to start removing the high shade of the overstory. The distribution of the residual overwood can be either uniform or clumped depending on site factors, competing vegetation and oak height development. Typically, higher residual basal areas are left on sites with a higher site index.

Removal Cutting

Removal cuttings can begin once there are adequate numbers of desired seedlings and oaks have achieved a competitive size or their height growth has slowed. Removal cuttings consist of one or more harvests depending on volume and value of the overwood and size of the seedlings. Multiple harvests may not be economical and increase the risk of damage to the new seedlings. The final removal cutting typically consists of complete overwood removal in order to maintain an even aged structure. However, if there are aesthetic or wildlife objectives, scattered residual stems may be left to maintain a two-age structure.

References:

- Loftis, D.L. 1990. Predicting post-harvest performance of advanced red oak reproduction in the Southern Appalachians. *Forest Science*. 36(4):908-916.
- Loftis, D.L. 1990. A shelterwood method for regenerating red oak in the Southern Appalachians. *Forest Science*. 36(4):917-929.

Coming Events

October

- 13-15 Northeast Watershed Forest Managers Annual Meeting, "The Importance of the NJ Highlands," at the Inn at Panther Valley Contact Frank Hennion 973-827-1325
- 14 Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum, Kane Country Club in Kane, PA. Speaker will be Dr. Charles Strauss of Penn State School of Forest Resources. Call AHUG for reservations at 814-837-8550
- 21-23 13th Annual PA Urban & Community Forestry Conference, "Safe Landscapes," Toftrees, State College, PA 814-863-7941

November

- 4 Ibberson-Chauncey Forestry Forum, "Connections Among Landowner, Industry and Government," Penn State Conference Center. Contact Mike Powell at mjp175@psu.edu or 814-863-1113

December

- 15 Deadline for articles and photos for the Winter 2004-05 issue of *The Allegheny News*

February 2005

- 23-25 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting, "Sustaining Biodiversity, Open Space and Forestry" hosted by the Pinchot Chapter at the Spa at Mountain Laurel Resort in White Haven, PA. Look for registration and reservation information in the mail and in the next issue of *The Allegheny News*

March 2005

- 15 Deadline for articles and photos for Spring 2005 issue of *The Allegheny News*

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

- Summer 2005 - Plateau Chapter (July 27-29, Erie)
 Winter 2006 - Valley Forge Chapter
 Summer 2006 - Cancelled because of 2006 SAF National Convention hosted by Allegheny SAF in Pittsburgh, PA

Future SAF National Conventions

- October 19-23, 2005 - Fort Worth, Texas
 October 25-29, 2006 - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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