

The Allegheny News



**Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Winter 2017**

The Allegheny News

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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.

The Allegheny News
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Cover Photo

Bob Williams, CF, answers questions at a thinned and prescribed-burned pine stand on private land in the pinelands. (Photo by Steve Kalleser)

Advertising in the Allegheny News

Rates:

	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>All Four Issues</u>
Full internal page 6 3/4" x 9 1/2"	\$130	\$ 450
Half page (3 1/4" x 9 1/2" or 6 3/4" x 4 5/8")	75	250
One third page (3 1/4" x 7 1/4" or 6 3/4" x 2")	50	150
One quarter page (3 1/4" x 4 5/8")	40	130
One eighth page or Business Card (3 1/4" x 2")	25	70

Chair's Corner - Opportunities for Forestry in the New Administration

Steven W. Koehn



Now that the 2016 Presidential cycle is behind us, the holidays have been joyously celebrated and the New Year has been rung in, I thought now is a good time to reflect about the road we have traveled and the direction it is taking us going forward. It would appear that we are moving from an era where our national leadership embraced the need to address things like climate change, restoration and resiliency, renewable energy and resource protection to a new era where resource management, creation of rural wealth, relief from burdensome regulation and a more level playing field when it comes to international trade will be the new areas of interest.

I think it is fair to say that the results of the election were a surprise to many in our profession and a cause for concern for some. To those I would say, “*fear not*”! With change comes opportunity; one just needs to keep an open mind and be flexible when opportunity knocks. When I was a kid I sold lemonade from a stand I set up at the nearby bus stop. My customers were hot, weary and thirsty riders as they came home after a long day in the gritty city. My Dad was one of my best customers and would always ask how I was doing to which I normally replied, “business is booming”. As time went on business fell off dramatically and I couldn’t understand why. I asked my Dad what I could do to improve sales and this is what he told me: “Steve, selling lemonade in the summer is fine, but it’s October now. Wouldn’t it be better if you started selling hot chocolate?” Epiphany!! Ah... duh... *hot chocolate* – **right!** The moral of the story, which is relevant at the beginning of a new incoming administration: “Find out what they are buying and sell it to them!”

What was selling before, (climate change, restoration and resiliency, renewable energy and resource protection), is not what they will be buying now (resource management, the creation of rural wealth, relief from burdensome regulation and a more level playing field when it comes to international trade). In order to be successful, one must be relevant and in order to be relevant, one must also be in demand. One way to be in demand is to be recognized for offering solutions for the challenges of the day. And as forestry was before, forestry is still a tremendously valuable vehicle for meeting the natural resource challenges before us. Instead of letting climate change and regulations be our marquee issues, let’s be nimble and flexible and let resource management and emerging markets be our new marquee because that is what’s selling now.

“Timber Jobs have been cut in half since 1990. We are going to bring them up, folks...we are going to bring them up...”

Donald Trump, May 6, 2016*

From where I sit, our profession is well positioned to continue providing leadership and solutions for healthy trees and forests facing the nation today. Keeping forests in forests and managing them responsibility is relevant to a whole host of related issues such as carbon sequestration, forest adaptation, climate mitigation, promoting vibrant renewable natural resource economies, recovering threatened and endangered species and ensuring swimmable, fishable and drinkable water. Green infrastructure like

* Statement made in Eugene, Oregon. Timber job loss figure in the statement refers to timber jobs lost in Oregon.

urban tree canopies and critical to dealing with stormwater, air quality and providing for more livable communities.

At the beginning of a new administration, I'd challenge our professional society to think about ways of participating in the public discourse relative to the nation's trees and forests. This conversation is not just playing out at the national levels, but too at the state and local levels as well. In many cases that is where our membership can have its greatest impact. Even before the President-elect is sworn in and the cabinet confirmed, I offer the following for your consideration and to whet your whistle regarding things we as a profession may want to engage with the new administration:

- ✓ **Pass the Timber Innovation Act:** The Timber Innovation Acts in the House and Senate (S. 2892/H.R. 5628) are bills that support research and development for advancing tall wood building construction in the US and also support state, local, university and private sector education, outreach, and research and development that will accelerate the use of wood in tall buildings. Both bills have strong bipartisan support.
- ✓ **Grant long-term access to Federal timber supply:** Currently, the Agency does not guarantee long-term timber contracts. To support private investment in forest product ventures, the Agency must change business as usual. Businesses need confidence their timber supply. Without long-term access to the Federal timber supply, investors will not risk opening a mill or other business in areas in most need of sustainable land management.
- ✓ **Forestry in the Farm Bill:** A preliminary set of forestry priorities for Farm Bill engagement are listed below:
 - Support adequate mandatory funding levels and program specification for EQIP, CSP and related Conservation Title programs.
 - Amending the required 60 percent funding allocation for livestock operations in EQIP to provide a specified allowance for forestry practices with particular attention to water quality.
 - Codify the Landscape Scale Restoration Program with language contained in the current S 3310.
 - Obtain a funding stream for States to use in Forest Action Plan 10-year updates.
 - Establish a dedicated funding streams for state water quality and BMP programs, similar to the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program eliminated in the 2014 Farm Bill.
 - Launch a comprehensive national tree-planting initiative to address climate change and other issues.
 - Build on 2014 Farm Bill language for Good Neighbor Authority, and other opportunities to promote cross-boundary land management.
 - Support delivery of Forest Inventory and Analysis Strategic Plan, including program efficiencies and state partnerships.
 - Monitor Farm Bill discussions for opportunities related to urban forestry, forest taxation, renewable biomass, and other state forestry policy priorities.
- ✓ **Tax Reform Issues for Forest Landowners and Forestry Industry:** Taxes have been consistently listed as one of the top concerns for the nation's 10+ million individual and family private forest owners. Ultimately, taxes play an important role in influencing forest investment, land tenure, ownership structure, timber management, and rural jobs.
 - Maintaining capital gain tax treatment of timber sales
 - Reforestation cost deduction
 - Deduct timber management expense
 - Net investment tax of 3.8 percent

- Loss of forest from casualty or severe insect damage
- Timber depletion deduction
- Federal estate taxes

For timber industry and REITs:

- Corporate tax rate reduction
- Maintain timber REIT status

Other tax issues:

- Conservation easement deduction
- Biomass for energy production
- Open loop biomass for electricity production.

Consider this merely the most recent musings of your Chair regarding the new landscape the incoming administration will be laying out before us at the beginning of their tenure. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Reading Hotel and Conference Center in Wyomissing, PA, on February 15-17, 2017 for the Allegheny Society of American Foresters Annual Winter Meeting!

District VII Board of Directors Report

Rachel Reyna, CF

Greetings Allegheny SAFers!

As I write this column, the holidays are in full-swing, with Christmas only a week away. I hope that you are all enjoying time with family and friends during this holiday season. I also hope you have time over the holidays for reflecting on 2016 – and time to dream big for 2017.

As usual, there is a lot going on with SAF these days. Below are updates on a number of items that may be of interest to you:

2016 SAF Convention

Allegheny and National Capital SAF were well-represented at the 2016 SAF National Convention, which was held Nov. 2-6 in Madison, Wisconsin. What a fantastic meeting it was! Attendance was 1,754, which exceeded goals and made the 2016 Convention the best-attended convention since Portland, Oregon in 2007! Of the over 1,700 participants, around 700 were either students or recent graduates, who really added extra energy to the meeting. We heard that partners and exhibitors were exceptionally pleased. I'd like to again recognize the prestigious award winners from our district: **Mark Vodak**, Outstanding Communicator; and **Doug Tavella**, Presidential Field Forester for District 7! I also want to give a shout out to **Susan Stout** and her planning team, who put together a fantastic convention track related to diversity and inclusion, which really was an undercurrent of the entire convention. Next year's convention will be in Albuquerque, NM, which is a great venue. I encourage anyone who is able to make the trek to the national convention. It is an investment that is well worth it!

Membership

Good news continues to come in on the membership front! Kudos to the SAF staff, especially the Membership Team and SAF leadership at all levels of the organization for a successful year with regards to membership recruitment and retention. As of early December, SAF's membership was 11,754 which exceeds the 2015 year-end numbers (11,736). This is largest number of members SAF has had at this point in five years! The new membership database has been a crucial part of this effort and it provides us with real-time data on membership numbers and engagement.

Diversity and Inclusion

The SAF board continues to advance discussions about a national diversity and inclusion policy. The board reviewed a revised draft policy based on comments from state societies earlier this year.

Suggestions included the need for a Diversity and Inclusion Committee and/or working group, a need for metrics, and a communications plan that shares challenges and success. We are reaching out for some final input from relevant parties, like the state society chairs and the 2016 SAF Diversity Ambassadors, before finalizing the document early next year.

Evolving Forestry Initiative

This initiative is a long-term conversation SAF is having with members and partners about the future of SAF and the forestry profession. The survey “listening tool” that SAF conducted in December 2015 has been fully analyzed by a team of SAF members. The data will be shared with members and partners, as appropriate, and will be used by the board and staff to analyze and improve programs and services.

Forest Policy Outlook

SAF’s policy efforts in 2017 will include a renewed focus on strengthening the relationship between the Committee on Forest Policy and the Forest Science and Technology Board. The committee’s plan also includes revising or putting forward position statements on licensure and credentialing, the FIA program, non-native invasive species, and utilization of forest biomass for energy. SAF is also preparing to work with the new Congress and presidential administration. The current focus is to share SAF’s issues and priorities with the administration’s transition team. SAF’s approach is to remain scientifically credible and be a vital source of information on forest management. State society policy committees and leaders are encouraged to consult with John Barnwell on Congressional and Presidential transition issues.

Position Statement on Tax Treatment of Forestland

A new position statement, “Federal and State Tax Treatment of Private Forestland,” was adopted at the December Board meeting. This was a five-year update and revision - and in-part states: “The Society of American Foresters (SAF) believes tax policies based on equity and certainty are required to encourage the nation’s private forest landowners to make sustained, long-term capital investments in forest management. Rather than distorting market forces, taxation of private forest landowners should be comparable if not equitable to other capital ventures, including agriculture, as this will encourage practices that retain forests that contribute monetary and societal benefits to the nation.” The document should be up on the website sometime soon.

SAF Office Building

The SAF board continues to consider the physical condition of the SAF office building and options for repair. Real estate and construction experts were consulted and provided pros and cons associated with various options for renovating the historic “Wild Acres” mansion. A member committee will be established to review all options being discussed. It’s important to note that no decisions have been made and that the board is conducting the required due diligence and ensure a comfortable, safe, and clean space is available for our staff while respecting the intentions of the Grosvenor Estate donors.

Revenue Development Committee Established

A new board advisory committee was approved and chartered to enhance fundraising and revenue generation. The committee will be comprised of SAF board members past and present, fundraising experts, and members who would like to explore and enhance non-dues revenue. The committee replaces a subcommittee of the finance committee.

Budget

After considerable discussion on the budget, the board asked the staff to develop a five-year budget plan designed to balance the operating budget in five years or less, using operating revenues and a percentage of investment growth and earnings. Until that budget is passed SAF will continue to operate “status quo” from 2016, with the addition of up to one new position.

New Board Comes into Office on January 1

Clark Seely closed out a successful 2016 as the president and the 2017 president is Fred Cubbage. Fred’s focus will be on balancing operating budgets; maintaining the property sale reserves; providing high quality service to our members; expanding diversity and inclusion; and ensuring openness and transparency. For those interested in transparency, SAF has a platinum rating on GuideStar, a third party that rates transparency of non-profit organizations. Want to check out SAF’s info on GuideStar? Here’s the link: <http://www.guidestar.org/profile/53-0204630>

Great Society Meetings

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend National Capital SAF’s holiday party, which was held in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the Tree Farm system (and the members of the National Association of State Foresters were also in attendance). What a great event! Thanks very much to National Capital SAF for organizing and supporting this celebration. Allegheny SAF members are always welcome at National Capital SAF events. Kudos once more to our colleagues in New Jersey for the fantastic meeting they put on this summer! I still hear people talking about how great it was. I look forward to the upcoming Allegheny Winter meeting, hosted by our colleagues in the Valley Forge Chapter. National Capital members are always welcome at Allegheny meetings.

Gottschalk Science Fund

We have raised more than \$8,500 since July 1 for the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund! This is great progress, but we still have a long way to go, with the goal being \$200,000. The dollar-for-dollar matching opportunity is still available, so please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Contributions can be made online using the following links: <http://www.eforester.org/donate> or <http://tinyurl.com/SAFgottschalk>

Whew! As you can see, SAF is hard at work making a difference for members and for the profession as a whole. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions/comments, or if you need assistance. I am looking forward to serving all of you in 2017!

I wish you and yours a blessed holiday season – and a happy New Year!

Doug Tavella Selected

Presidential Field Forester Award For District 7

Text by Doug Tavella

Reflections on the 2016 SAF National Convention

I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2016 SAF National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. It was the third such convention I have attended, having previously gone to Buffalo, New York and to the excellent convention in Pittsburgh which was organized by Allegheny SAF. The Wisconsin SAF did a tremendous job of organizing this year’s event, which was attended by over 1,700 foresters and natural resource professionals. The program was very well conceived and executed. During two days of break-outs, the attendees were able to choose among 270 individual presentations offered within the framework

of 88 sessions. A wide range of relevant topics, drawn from over a dozen areas of specialization within the profession, were addressed. In addition to the break-out sessions, eight different workshops, as well as a number of technical field tours, were offered. It was, for me, not a matter of finding enough really good presentations to attend, but rather how many good presentations had to be passed up because there was no time remaining in my schedule.

The Monona Terrace Convention Center was spacious, easy to access, and located in a beautiful setting in a city that surely must be considered one of the jewels of the Midwest. Our society does a fantastic job in holding our national conventions in cities that are progressive and exciting and which have beautiful forests within short distances of the event.

On Wednesday, November 2, I was very fortunate to receive a personal tour, offered by **Bob Williams, CF** of the New Jersey Division, of the Menominee tribal lands in the northeastern portion of the state. I was stunned at what I saw. Menominee County is literally 240,000 acres of managed forest land. These lands are professionally managed by trained Menominee, and a large percentage of the harvested products are processed in their own mill which employs many Menominee people. I saw fine examples of even-aged and uneven-aged silviculture, stands with softwood and hardwood regeneration at many different ages, and majestic eastern white pine forests that any environmentalist would be hard pressed not to describe as 'virgin', but which had evidence of stumps that range in age from 20 to over 60 years of age. For a forester, any tour through the upper Midwest should include a look at these lands.

Thursday, November 3 was dedicated principally to three plenary sessions. All three of the sessions were very strong, with well-prepared speakers and thought-provoking subject matter. Our own **Jim Finley, CF** graced the stage during the second session. Breaks between sessions were long enough to leisurely browse through the excellent exhibitor displays, poster sessions, and SAF store.

Friday and Saturday November 4 and 5 were dedicated to the aforementioned break-out sessions, which in their totality offered just about anything a professional forester could want to learn more about. I took note of the number of young foresters and students who attended these sessions, and was more than pleased. Over 570 students attended this conference. And many of them were richly awarded at the on-site Job Fair. The USDA Forest Service was hiring over 100 students on the spot, something I have never seen before. Other agencies and private companies were also hiring – an extremely good sign for the profession.

On Friday evening, a reception was held for the national award recipients. I had the honor and privilege to accept the Presidential Field Forester award for District 7. This was a humbling and exciting experience, as I got the opportunity to meet a group of accomplished professionals from every region of the country and to hear about some of their experiences in this noble and important profession we all serve. The ceremony was fun yet professional, with our own **Rachel Reyna, CF**, acting as master of ceremonies. It was especially satisfying to have the support of and raise a glass with my friends and colleagues from the New Jersey Division, **Dennis Galway, CF** (past NJ Division Chair), **Steve Kalleser, CF** (current NJ Division Chair), and **Mark Vodak, CF**, the latter of whom was this year's recipient of the W.D. Hagenstein Communicator Award. I thank my friend and mentor, **Ron Sheay, CF**, for nominating me for the field forester award, and I urge you all in the future to nominate your colleagues for recognition of their work.

As always, there was a huge amount of energy generated at the conference, bolstered by the large number of young foresters and students in attendance. But the 'big picture' is not all rosy. I have been around the profession of forestry too long (32 years) and in too contentious a part of the country (New Jersey) not to have my feet planted firmly on the ground. Although the national office did a very good job

incorporating communications topics into the schedule, it failed to generate any press or media coverage of the event. It is inconceivable that not a single newspaper, television, or radio piece was generated from a meeting of over 1,700 professional foresters gathered in one of the principal cities of a state in which the forest industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the economy. Such a message would have done great good, particularly in a city like Madison where foresters and forest management are sure to be misunderstood by a significant portion of the populace. It cannot be disputed that we as a society are undergoing change at an ever-increasing rate. The vast majority of Americans view the forest as a place to be indefinitely preserved in an unchanged state, even though we as foresters know this is not possible. The general public doesn't know what a forester is, much less what he/she does. No one is going to tell our story for us. It is up to each and every one of us to tell the story to anyone who will listen, whether it is one or a thousand people at a time. And the effort must occur over the long term, not just for a short period of time. The forester who decides to hide behind a stump is going to get what he asks for – to get left behind. If we actively promote our profession in a professional way, we may yet prevail upon policy makers to support forest management, much to the benefit of the forests we work in and love.

An Allegheny SAF Summer Training to Remember

Story and photo by Steve Kallesser, NJ Division chair

The New Jersey Division hosted a successful Allegheny SAF summer training program in September. The program focused on oak and hard pine silviculture, with an emphasis on fire ecology on Thursday. The Thursday program was highlighted with field trips to the Silas Little Experimental Forest, a privately-owned forested watershed forest for a large cranberry farm, and NJ DEP Forest Fire Service's Coyle Field for a demonstration of aerial firefighting equipment. Friday's program was divided between concurrent sessions: one for urban & community forestry issues, and another for rural forestry especially public lands forestry.

Aside from the quality of the speakers (some of whose travel and expenses were paid for by a grant from the Allegheny SAF Educational Endowment), the other highlight of the training was the Thursday evening barbeque, hosted at a local cranberry farm. Members enjoyed great food, great company, fantastic weather, fascinating information on cranberry growing and harvesting, and a sunset to remember.

The presentations have been posted at <https://njforests.org/ansaf2016summer/> for future reference. The NJ Division thanks its program committee (and everyone else who helped) for putting together an amazing program. The program committee is Ken Taaffe (chair), Heather Gracie (vice chair), Mark Vodak, Mike Gallagher, Joe Dunn, Richard Wolowicz, and Alec McCartney.

Tom Gerber (left) describes his farm's methods of harvesting and marketing high-value cranberries.



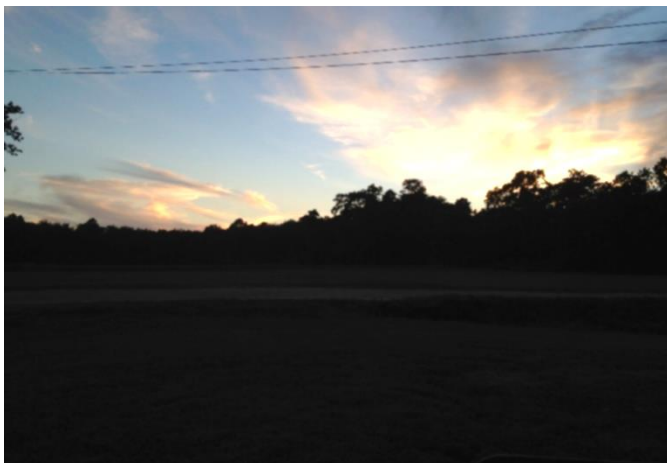


Michael Gallagher (far right) welcomes attendees to the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station's Silas Little Experimental Forest.

Kelly Mooij, of New Jersey Audubon, describes the role of a prescribed burn law in New Jersey and obstacles to such a bill becoming law.



A fine sunset



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Winter Training 2016, Wyomissing, PA, February 15-17, 2017

Rural and Urban Ecosystem Health in the Mid-Atlantic Region

10.5 Category-1 CFEs will be offered (Plus 3 CFEs available with Pesticide Training)

Sponsors: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

Leadership Nature

Arborchem

PA Division of SAF

Announcements:

- Please consider submitting an item or items for the **Reginald D. Forbes Art Show (contact: Jeff Stuffle – jandmstuffle@verizon.net)**. The 3 categories are flat art, photography, and 3D art.
- Please consider donating items to be sold in the **Silent Auction**.
- Please consider sponsoring a student's attendance at the meeting. The **Sponsor a Student** option will be available on the registration form for up to \$30.

Program:

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Tree Farm Inspector Certification Session, *Dave Jackson, Penn State Extension*
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pesticide Certification Training, *Todd Hagenbuch, ArborChem Products*
2:00 – 6:00 PM Registration Desk Open
2:00 – 5:00 PM Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 – 9:00 PM Icebreaker Social

Thursday, February 16, 2017

7:00 AM Registration Desk Open
Reginald D. Forbes Art Show (Photography, Flat Art, 3D Art), Exhibitors, and Silent Auction areas open
Breakfast on your own.

8:00 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks, *Randall Morin, Valley Forge SAF Chapter Chair*

8:10 AM Plenary Talk, *Steve Koehn, Director Cooperative Forestry, USDA Forest Service*

8:55 AM Plenary Talk, *Al Todd, Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*

9:40 AM Student Introductions

9:45 AM Morning Break

10:15 AM Morning Concurrent Sessions:

Biomass Utilization in Rural and Community Forest

10:15 AM Urban Wood Utilization, *Ed Cesa, USDA Forest Service*

10:45 AM Baltimore Case Study, *Mike Galvin, USDA Forest Service*

11:15 AM Wood to Energy: Biomass Utilization, *Lew McCreery, USDA Forest Service*

Forest Management and Fire for Oak Sustainability

10:15 AM Why We Need Prescribed Fire, *Pat McElhenny, The Nature Conservancy*

10:45 AM Prescribed Fire: Challenges in PA, *Todd Breininger, PA DCNR*

- 11:15 AM Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Forest Mgmt, *Merlin Benner, Remote Intelligence, LLC*
 12:00 PM Lunch – *Speaker, Matt Menashes, CEO, National SAF*
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 1:
Integrated Forest Management
 1:00 PM Integrate Wildlife and Forest Management, *Jeff Larkin, Indiana University of PA*
 1:30 PM Alternative Products from Riparian Buffers, *Tracy Coulter, PA Bureau of Forestry*
 2:00 PM Large-landscape Forest Management, *Ben Jones, PA Game Commission*
- Student Forum**
 1:00 PM Articulating Your Value and Lessons in Leadership, *Tom Davidson, Leadership Nature*
 2:30 PM Afternoon Break
- 3:00 PM Afternoon Concurrent Sessions 2:
People and Communication
 3:00 PM Establishing a Biofuel Pellet Plant, *Glenn Robinson, Kingdom Biofuel Wood Pellet Plant*
 3:30 PM Outreach for Kittatinny Ridge Preservation, *Kim Murphy, Berks Nature*
 4:00 PM Community Forest Program, *Jim Bonesteel, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance*
- Urban Forest Data: New Applications for Communities and Managers**
 3:00 PM Applications of Urban Tree Canopy Data, *Sarah Low, USDA Forest Service*
 3:30 PM i-Tree Landscape, *Jason Henning, Davey Institute and USDA Forest Service*
 4:00 PM Forest Restoration in an Urban Context, *Curtis Helm, City of Philadelphia*
- 4:30 PM **College Quizbowl**
 7:00 PM Banquet Dinner, *Steve Koehn, Allegheny SAF Chair (MC)*
 8:00 PM Banquet Dinner Presentation, *John Goodall, Brandywine Conservancy*
 8:30 PM Awards and Announcements

Friday, February 17, 2017

- 7:00 AM Chair's Breakfast
 Chair's Breakfast Presentation
 Art Contest, Exhibitors, and Silent Auction areas open
- 8:15 AM State Society Business Meetings
 8:30 AM Allegheny SAF Business Meeting
- 9:30 AM Morning Concurrent Sessions:
Community Forestry for Water Quality
 9:30 AM Stormwater Management in Lancaster, *Ruth Hocker, City of Lancaster*
 10:00 AM Soil Management for Urban Trees, *Susan Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute*
 10:30 AM Urban Watershed Management, *Bob Adams, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society*
- Forest Health/Invasive Species**
 9:30 AM Hemlock in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, *Mary Ann Fajvan, USDA Forest Service*
 10:00 AM Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lanternfly Update, *Randall Morin, USDA Forest Service*
 10:30 AM Invasives Management with Herbicides, *Todd Hagenbuch, Arborchem Products*
 11:00 AM Morning Break
 11:30 AM Final Plenary
 12:00 AM Conclude

Allegheny Society of American Foresters · 2017 Winter Training Registration

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone _____

Meeting registration is due by **February 9, 2015**. A late fee of \$15.00 will be added to all registrations postmarked after February 9, 2015. Registration includes icebreaker social, Thursday lunch, and all breaks. **Banquet and Chair's breakfast require additional fee (see below).**

Pesticide Training	\$ 25.00	_____
Certified Tree Farm Inspector Training	\$0.00	_____
SAF Member	\$125.00	_____
Non-Member	\$135.00	_____
Student:	\$30.00	_____
Thursday Banquet: Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Bacon-Wrapped Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32.00	_____
Chair's Breakfast	\$15.00	_____
Sponsor a Student	\$10 / 20 / 30 / other	_____
Late Fee (after Feb 9 th)	\$15.00	_____

Total Enclosed: _____

Do you have special dietary needs (e.g., food allergies, diabetic, etc.) or accessibility assistance? Please let Bob Girvin know (rgirvin@epix.net).

*EXHIBITOR - SPONSOR - SILENT AUCTION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: Please select event(s) you wish to sponsor.

- Morning Breaks Afternoon Breaks Receptions Luncheon Awards Dinner Chair's Breakfast

Select Level of Sponsorship:

- Gold @ \$500 Silver @ \$250 Bronze @ \$150 Anthracite @ \$100 Other \$ _____

EXHIBITOR: Exhibitor registration includes one complimentary meeting registration.

Commercial Exhibit _____ : **\$200** **Non-Profit Exhibit** _____ : **\$150** We will need electricity _____ Yes _____ No _____

**My exhibit is a floor display. _____ My exhibit space will be only a tabletop. _____

SILENT AUCTION DONOR:

We will BRING the following item(s): _____

We will SEND the following item(s): _____

Suggested Minimum Bid: _____

Circle One: Check Enclosed \$ _____ OR PayPal Payment Made \$ _____

**Mail/email registration and checks to: Bob Girvin (rgirvin@epix.net), Allegheny SAF, 5000 White Oak Rd., Paradise, PA 17562 (Payable to Valley Forge Chapter of SAF)

Online payment available at <http://www.alleghenysaf.org/main/2016/11/14/allegheny-saf-winter-training-2017>

***Questions Contact: Randall Morin at 610-557-4054 or email at rsmorin@fs.fed.us

Forest Bats: Status, Regulation and Conservation

Kane Republican

Ted Lutz, Reporter & Ned Karger, RBFF Committee Chairman

Many species of bats, including many that utilize forest habitats during some stages of their lives, have suffered extensive mortality over the last 10 years due to White Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is a fungal disease which can interrupt bats hibernating cycle causing them to wake up during the winter, move around and sometimes attempt to forage for insects. This activity can seriously reduce the stored fat reserves that bats need to survive during their winter hibernation. Some bat populations have seen declines of 90-99% due to WNS.

"Forest Bats: Status, Regulation and Conservation" was the topic on Oct. 6th at the biannual Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum at the Kane Country Club. More than 125 attended the two-hour program, which followed a buffet dinner and social hour. The featured speakers included Greg Turner, endangered mammal supervisor for the Wildlife Diversity Division, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC); Pamela Shellenberger, fish and wildlife biologist, endangered species, FWS, State College; and Benjamin Jones, Chief of the Habitat Planning and Development Division, Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, PGC.

Turner described the White Nose Syndrome and the precipitous population declines. He described the effects on individual bats as they are infected and the fungus spreads. He covered the latest in research on the White Nose Syndrome and its effects on large hibernacula (mostly caves and mines) which previously could hold up to 100,000 hibernating bats. Turner also discussed the potential for species survival and recovery in the face of this devastating disease.

Shellenberger described the regulatory process under which the status of the Northern Long-Eared Bat was reviewed and classified as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. This classification is a step below "Endangered" but includes rules for bat protection and limits certain activities in critical bat habitats. Under the recently released final rules, maternity roost trees are protected during June and July and there are limits to operations within ¼ mile of known hibernacula. She covered the official definitions of 'endangered' and 'threatened'. She clarified some of the terminology in the Endangered Species Act including 'take', 'incidental take permits' and 'exceptions' under the law. Shellenberger pointed out that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently facing two lawsuits by environmental groups that are challenging the 'threatened' classification of the Northern Long-Eared Bat. These groups wanted the USF&W to use the more restrictive 'endangered' classification.

Jones described an ongoing process for obtaining a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for all State Gamelands, State Forest land and State Park lands. The HCP would need to be approved by the USF&WS and would outline all bat protection measures that would need to be included in any management activities such as timber management, recreation management, and road construction and maintenance. Without the HCP to cover these management activities, the state agencies (PA Game Commission and DCNR) would have to get a USF&WS permit for each individual management project which is not practical due to the extensive paperwork and review requirements. This HCP process was started several years ago to specifically deal with the Indiana Bat which is classified as endangered. The process was expanded to include the Northern Long Eared Bat which was reclassified as threatened last year. The final HCP application for dealing with both species is almost complete and will be submitted to the USF&WS later this year.

Following the presentations, the speakers entertained questions from the audience who were interested in tapping into their expertise and knowledge of forest bats. In keeping with tradition, Ned Karger,

chairman of the Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum, presented the three speakers with black cherry Biltmore sticks.

The next Forum will be Thursday, April 6 at the Kane Country Club. The topic will be “The Changing Face of Forest Recreation” and will feature a recreation expert, Don English, from the USDA Forest Service National office with the national and regional perspective. The local perspective will be provided by John Papilia, Executive Director of the Warren Co. Chamber of Business and Industry which has been instrumental in attracting and promoting events such as the Kinzua Tango (6 event/triathlon style), Kinzua Classic Bicycle Race and the National Canoe Racing Championships.



Photo courtesy of Kane Republican

Ned Karger (right), chairman of the Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum, presented black cherry Biltmore sticks to three speakers at the Oct. 6th event at the Kane Country Club. The speakers include, left to right: Greg Turner, endangered mammal supervisor for the Wildlife Diversity Division, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC); Pamela Shellenberger, fish and wildlife biologist, endangered species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), State College; and Benjamin Jones, chief of the Habitat Planning and Development Division, Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, PGC.

Kane Area High School Forestry Students Inventory Evergreen Park Trees

By Ted Lutz, Kane Republican Staff

Students in the forestry class at Kane Area High School are conducting an inventory of trees in Evergreen Park in Kane. The Kane Parks Commission plans to refer to the inventory when proposing action to plant new trees or remove hazards. Eight seniors, all males, are members of the forestry class at the school. Nick Byron is the instructor.

Under the guidance of five professional foresters from the Kane area, the students began work Tuesday to inspect and categorize the trees. Ned Karger, land manager for Kane Hardwoods and chairman of the Parks Commission, said he believes it will take two years to complete the inventory in the 19-acre park. Due to class curriculum, the students may only be available to work on the tree inventory at the park this month. They will come to the park three days a week to conduct the inventory. Another group of students apparently will complete the inventory next year. In future years, the inventory could be updated, Karger said. According to Karger, Jim Fryzlewicz, high school principal, and Jeff Kepler, assistant to the district superintendent, have been proponents of the student tree inventory.

"They believe it's a really good idea," Karger said. He said the Parks Commission will use the data collected by the students to "manage" Evergreen Park. "There are a lot of old trees in the park," Karger said. "We really don't know their condition."

Using a Biltmore stick-- which resembles a yardstick, students will measure the diameter of trees in the park. They will use a clinometer to measure the estimated tree height. The data collected by the students will include the number of 16-foot logs contained within a tree in the park. They also will identify the species and the condition of the tree. Karger said the project is "a win-win situation" for the students and the Kane community. He said the students will have the opportunity to work with professional foresters and have "a hands-on experience" in undertaking the inventory. He said the Parks Commission will refer to the data for future plans in Evergreen Park.

Kane students ready for park project



Photo by Ted Lutz

Seniors in the forestry class at Kane Area High School are preparing an inventory of trees in Evergreen Park in Kane. The class includes, left to right, front row: Thomas McGuire, instructor Nick Byron, Jarod Foltz and Bryce Schreckengost; back row: Sean Phillips, Tommy Gustafson, Keaton Rounsville, Andrew Bucheit and Richie Bernhard.

Foresters tutor students on park project

Photo by Ted Lutz

These five Kane area professional foresters worked with Kane High School students Tuesday to begin an inventory of trees in Evergreen Park in Kane. The group includes, left to right: Tom Kase, Kane Hardwoods; Tom Hartman, Ed Kocjancic Forestry; Ned Karger, Kane Hardwoods; Jon Blackmore, Anundson Forestry; and John Saf, Generations Forestry.



Rothrock Chapter Holds Summer Field Tour



Members of the Rothrock Chapter of the Society of American Foresters tour operations on the Lock Haven City Authority Watershed for the summer field tour. The tour was hosted by the Rothrock Chapter Executive Committee, Mike Eckley from The Nature Conservancy and Mike Wolf from Appalachian Forest Consultants. The tour ended with a barbeque dinner at the Woolrich Community Park. (Photo by Sanford Smith)

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

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Coming Events

February, 2017

15-17 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Wyomissing, PA

March, 2017

24-25 PA Forest Landowners Conference
Altoona, PA

April, 2017

6 Roach Bauer Forum
The Changing Face of Recreation
Kane, PA

September, 2017

20-22 Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting
Clarion, PA
SILVAH – 50th Anniversary

Future SAF National Conventions

2017: Albuquerque, NM Nov. 13-19

2018: Portland, OR Sep. 30 – Oct 6

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