

The Allegheny News



**Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Summer 2021**

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The Allegheny News is the official publication of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, published four times annually. **Deadline for articles and photos is March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. Subscription rate is 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.

The Allegheny News
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Advertising in the Allegheny News

Rates:	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>All Four Issues</u>
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One quarter page (3 ¼" x 4 5/8")	40	130
One eighth page or Business Card (3 ¼" x 2")	25	70

Chair's Corner

Mike Huneke



We all know that it's been a difficult 18 months. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who have lost loved ones or have otherwise suffered during this pandemic. New phrases like herd immunity, social distancing, mask mandates and maximum telework are now a part of our vocabulary. Thank you to all of the members of our community who deployed through the state forestry agencies, the US Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to provide countless hours supporting the FEMA national vaccination effort. At its peak, more than 600 Forest Service cooperators, employees and contractors were deployed serving on incident management teams, working as vaccinators and observers or providing command and control support to the effort. Thank you to those of you who assisted locally. The "forestry community" provided more than

20% of all federal vaccinators nationwide. After all of this, I am hopeful that with the arrival of summer, things will continue to get back to normal.

And so, I am looking forward to our first in person Allegheny SAF Meeting in more than a year, when we gather at Rocky Gap State Park in Western Maryland for our Summer Meeting, August 25-27. I know the Maryland/ Delaware Division has been working hard to plan an excellent meeting. I encourage everyone to attend if you are able. It's a beautiful location and it will be very nice to see everyone in person once again!

We also continue to plan for hosting the 2022 National Convention in Baltimore which will be held September 18-23, 2022. Please save the date! Even though we are more than a year away, planning has begun. This summer we will be working to develop a selection of field tours that we will offer for the convention. Additional planning and volunteer support will be needed as we move closer to the convention. Please watch your email for calls for volunteers and consider lending a hand to help with the convention. With two prior years of virtual national conventions, the Baltimore in-person convention promises to be greatly attended.

For me, summer is my favorite time of the year. I love the longer days and greater opportunities to get in the woods and on the water. It's a great time to experience and share the outdoors. Summer means being Scoutmaster for summer camp with the Scout troop... this year we are taking 82 Scouts in our troop to a week long camp in North Carolina. It will be our first long-term camping event since the pandemic began and it will be a life-changing experience for both them and me... and I can't wait. Providing the opportunity to share the outdoors with these amazing young people gives a new meaning to "*The Greatest Good*".

Then, I will likely take a fire assignment or two somewhere out west. Yes, things are returning to normal.

So, enjoy the summer! Get out in the forest, take off that mask and breathe the fresh air! Thank you for all that you do for the forestry profession in the Allegheny. I wish you all good health and good forestry.

Science Update

Melissa Thomas Van-Gundy has taken on the position of our Science Coordinator. She has shared some recent research updates. Look for future updates and science resources from Melissa!

Some resources from the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station

The Northern Research Station has a new publication called Rooted in Research. This bimonthly publication focuses on the management implications of the latest research for natural resource managers. This short (2 to 3 pages) pdf-format publication features synthesized scientific information for high-priority land management needs, delivering key science findings to people who make and influence decisions about managing land and natural resources.

Please subscribe to the Rooted in Research email list if you would like to stay up-to-date on upcoming events, and receive future editions of Rooted in Research.

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/rooted/>

This recent edition (<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/rooted/4>) - Saving Eastern Oak Forests: Prescribed Fire Impact on Timber Quality – addresses an emerging topic as fire is reintroduced to oak forests. As an enticement for the full synthesis document (only 3 pages), here is the abstract - Oak-dominated ecosystems in the eastern United States rely on periodic fire to create conditions that are conducive to oak regeneration. However, concern about reducing timber quality has made some managers wary of using fire as a management tool. A team of Northern Research Station scientists, foresters, and ecologists are collaborating to assess timber quality by inventorying trees across multiple national forests that have varied prescribed fire histories. Their findings indicate that economic damage to overstory timber value from prescribed fire is usually minimal, particularly compared to the costs of regenerating oak by other methods such as tree planting. This research is helping land managers and forest owners differentiate between uncontrolled wildfires and beneficial, low-intensity fires, and to calculate the economic advantages and disadvantages of prescribed burns in different forest stands.

Also, if you haven't already discovered this, research by federal government employees is publicly available and one easy location to search for publications is Treesearch -

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/>.

Allegheny SAF Winter Executive Committee Meeting
February 24, 2021 6:30 – 8:30pm via ZOOM
MINUTES

Attendees: Mike Huneke, Bud Reaves, Kimberly Bohn, Cecile Stelter, Steve Resh, Jonathan Kays, Steve Goodman, Susan Lacy, Bryan Seipp, Champ Zumburum, Dave Trimpey, Todd Lotter, Sara Wurzbacher,

Mike Huneke called the meeting to order at 6:33.

- 1. Previous Minutes were approved and published in Allegheny News**
- 2. Treasurer's Report / 2020 Budget – Steve Resh**
 - a. In 2020, spent about \$21K, income of \$19,900
 - b. Balances as of Dec 31, 2020: Checking \$11,906; Franklin Income fund \$69,897; Student fund \$935
 - i. Motion for 2020 budget made by Cecile, seconded by Bud, and approved
 - c. 2021 Budget – expected income from dues and donations- \$15k and expected expenses including Director stipend, HSD assessment, travel and misc- \$15k;
 - i. Motion made, seconded and approved
 - d. Kimberly will ask National about setting up separate account for Convention \$\$
 - e. Tim Slavin will audit the books again for 2020
- 3. Chapter Dues**
 - a. Cecile presented protocols for submitting information to Nationals for dropping dues to PA Executive Committee; will be mentioned at March 10 annual business meeting.
- 4. Executive Director's Report – Susan Lacy**
 - a. Many chapters still owe tax information to Susan. She will file for an extension.
 - b. Susan is meeting with Lori and other executives in similar positions to her on a regular basis to discuss administrative issues.
- 5. Membership Committee Report – Cecile Stelter**
 - a. 610 members; 7 out of 10 chapters decreased; lost about 85 total in last year
 - b. Nationally are just below 9456 members; in 2019 was 10,813
 - c. Jonathan mentioned a workshop / training to recruit and retain young members; Mike suggested a subcommittee on recruitment
- 6. Program Committee Report – Dave Trimpey**
 - a. Excel spreadsheet put together to project out who is hosting ANSAF meetings; Winter 2023 needs to be resolved (could be PA division, or NJ should be asked if they would like to make up from missing Winter 2021);
 - b. After resolution of Winter 2023 host, list could be posted on ANSAF website

7. Awards Committee Report – Jonathan Kays

- a. One award to Jamie Schuler for Outstanding Service to Forestry
- b. National awards due in March 15
- c. 4 golden members will be receiving framed certificates
- d. Jonathan Kays won Technology Transfer Award from Nationals in SAF 2020

8. Other Committee Reports

- a. No other committees represented

9. Committee Structure and Vacancies

- a. Biggest need is for Auditing Committee
- b. Other openings for Forest Science, Communication, Education, Education Endowment/Forest History, Policy and Legislation
- c. Ad hoc committees: Recruitment/Retention and 100th anniversary

10. PA Chair and Member at Large Vacancies

- a. Kimberly will serve as Interim Chair for 2021; a nominee for Chair elect has been identified; and Kimberly will contact 2 potential nominees for chair
- b. The Slate will be provided at the March 10 business meeting
- c. A potential member at large hasn't been identified yet

11. District 7 Report – Sarah Wurzbacher

- a. **Young Professional on Board:** The YP is a non-voting member of the board with a one-year appointment. There has been only one thus far, but the Board is soliciting nominations for the next rep:
https://www.eforester.org/Main/Community/National_Elections.aspx, A candidate for the district is selected from among the pool of nominees by the District 7 Board Representative (Sarah Wurzbacher); a single national candidate is ultimately selected/finalized from that pool by the President (Gene Kodama). Reach out to Sarah Wurzbacher (sjw246@psu.edu) for more information, to nominate an applicant, or self-nominate and apply. Criteria for YP board member (materials due June 1, 2021 for service in 2022):
 - i. Under the age of 40 (at the time of board appointment)
 - ii. An SAF member in good standing
 - iii. A college graduate
- b. **New SAF Awards Program Platform Launched January 15:** Nominations for 2021 Awards opens January 15 closes March 15.
 - i. New award opportunity: 2021 Gregory Award.
- c. **SAF National Convention:** Abstract submissions are being accepted for individual presentations, panel presentations, organized sessions, pre-conference workshops, professional development seminars, science flashes, and posters for the November 3-7 national convention in Sacramento. SAF 2021 will explore “Forests for All” and highlight the ecosystem services provided by forests. March 31 is the

deadline for presentations, seminars, panels, and workshops; science flashes and posters are due August 31.

- d. **Foresters' Fund Grants:** \$80,000 in Foresters' Fund grants have been approved by the SAF Board
 - i. \$40,000 available for regular and special grants
 - ii. \$40,000 for Leadership Development grants
 - iii. February 15 is the first deadline of the year for regular grants up to \$1,500
 - iv. Proposals for Special grants up to \$5,000
 - v. Leadership Development grants up to \$15,000 are accepted one time per year and are due June 15.

- e. **2021-2023 SAF Strategic Plan:** currently under development; once approved by the Board, there will be a strategy to share the plan with the broader membership.

- f. **National SAF Position Statements (in response to an ANSAF member question):** National Position statements are relatively generalized statements, as they are to cover broad topics. The CFP (Committee on Forest Policy) works together to create the scope, purpose, and editing of the statement together with a lead author, who is responsible for seeing the position statement all the way through the process. After a position statement is approved by the Board, it goes out through the e-Forester, Forestry Source, and is updated on the SAF website. Each position statement has a 5-year life and is reviewed and updated typically the last year before it expires. When a position statement is ready to be reviewed for an update, the old statement goes out to HSD and an appropriate working group by the Chair of CFP to request feedback on the topic. State Societies can use position statements as they see fit and are always welcome to reach out for assistance on a local issue or with questions in regards to the position statements. A forthcoming orientation package includes information for state society policy chairs on how to craft their own position statements and resources on how to utilize national position statements. Members who are particularly interested in this process should reach out to Danielle Watson or join CFP, which needs diverse representation to help craft those position statements.

- g. **Recent Policy Work**
 - i. SAF recently sent a memo to the Biden transition team highlighting the importance of forestry and forestry professional to meeting priorities of the Biden Administration.
 - ii. SAF and over 100 partners, including many from the [Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition](#), recently shared a set of recommendations with the Biden Administration about fostering thriving and equitable communities through healthy urban and community forests.
 - iii. SAF joined over 60 partner organization to oppose revising the NRCS conservation program manual with the new definition of nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF) proposed in the Federal Register on December 17, 2020. As proposed, the new definition would be significant departure

- from the long-standing definition and would exclude landowners who are eligible for other NRCS programs based on acreage owned.
- iv. The full SAF membership and external individuals were invited to participate in the Educational Policy Review Committee (EPRC) survey to gather public comment on the proposed revisions to the accreditation standards via an article in the e-Forester.
 - v. As national bills related to trillion tree initiatives are introduced, SAF will engage with partners to help make sure language includes holistic forest management and not just planting trees. Related to the international trillion tree effort: the secretariat for the U.S. is American Forests. Terry has been in contact with their president and CEO, and SAF will be pledging to officially be a part of the effort in late 1st quarter/early 2nd quarter of 2021.

12. National Convention – Kimberly Bohn

- a. Date: September 18-23, 2021
- b. Kimberly will be seeking/recruiting volunteers to serve on Convention Committee in March. Most important to start ASAP in 2021 is the Technical Tour coordinator and subcommittee and Local sponsorship/fundraising coordinator. Other Committee leads include Local Publicity, Student Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Foresters Fund/silent auction coordinator. Their responsibilities would step up in very late 2021.
- c. Nan Pond serves as Program Chair- early discussions of a theme to revolve around the mosaic of land uses, forestry practices, and relationships to forests across the rural, suburban, urban gradient (picture the diversity of land and people across the Chesapeake Bay watershed)

13. Chapter/Division Reports – including any changes to officers

- a. PA- worked with other PA forestry associations to create a calendar show casing forestry in PA; these will be distributed to students at various colleges across PA;
 - i. Foresters Fund Writing workshop was successful- about 20 participants
- b. NJ annual business meeting March 19
- c. MD summer meeting Aug 25-27, virtual meeting this spring on pest management, Foresters Fund activity postponed to next January due to COVID
- d. WV had virtual meeting in February on markets- 92 people attended. Jeff Kochenderfer is new chair (attended Leadership Academy in 2018). Possibly do another zoom meeting in summer.

14. Old Business

- a. **By Laws Update – adding student member**
 - i. Bylaws must be approved by general membership, which will be presented at March 10 meeting;
 - ii. Then must discuss process for selecting a student
- b. **Allegheny SAF Hall of Fame – Champ Zumbrun**

- i. Proposal distributed to committee for who can enter Hall of Fame. Will need to be presented to March 10 business meeting to establish

15. New Business

a. Quiz Bowl

- i. Marie Miller from Allegany College organizing a Spring Bowl and reception for students in late April at an outdoor event

b. Officer Nominations 2022 – Dennis Galway

- i. Dennis working on nominees to be voted on in Fall 2021
- ii. ANSAF will have to run elections themselves- Survey Monkey?

c. Other New business?

- i. 100th anniversary ideas- develop a logo for the event and incorporate logo into National Convention- perhaps a memento (coaster) for the convention goody bags; history of the Allegheny booklet (already have ones for 50th and 75th)

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Save the Date

***Allegheny/ New York/ New England SAF
Leadership Academy
March 20-22, 2022
South Portland, ME***

Save the Date

Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting

February 16-18, 2022

Ramada Inn

Clarion, PA

Theme: Young Forests and Young Professionals

Join us in celebrating our 100th Anniversary Year

The Plateau Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, located in beautiful northwest Pennsylvania is eager to host the Allegheny Society Winter 2022 meeting on February 16, 17 and 18, 2022 in Clarion, PA. This year marks a historic milestone for the Allegheny as the Society reaches its 100-year anniversary. An array of natural resource professional and researchers will gather to deliver new research, technology and crucial subject matter on this meeting's topic of "Young Forests and Young Professionals."

While the Allegheny Society continues to make large impacts to the forestry community across the five-state region, over the last century our forests have changed drastically. At least 89 birds, mammals and reptiles have declined due to the lack of early successional forest habitats. Forestry professionals play a vital role in the manipulation of these essential habitats that are relied upon by many wildlife species during some point of their lifecycles. In addition to the important job of managing our natural resources, foresters are also responsible for the fostering of young professionals who will someday be responsible for overseeing (or managing) the forever changing forestry world. It is our jobs as leaders in the forestry community to mold not only the land, but the minds for the benefit of future generations to come.

Participants in this year's training will have the option to pick from two tour locations. The Clarion River valley is home to the Forest Cathedral Natural Area in Cook Forest State Park where guests will be able to take a winter hike through the breathtaking stand of old growth eastern white pine and hemlock. Members seeking a warmer tour option have the opportunity of visiting Clarion Laminates, a fiberboard plant located in Shippenville, PA that manufactures laminate flooring and plays a vital role in the region's forest product industry. Please join us to help celebrate the Allegheny's 100-year anniversary, fellowship with old friends, create new connections and hear exciting presentations from the natural resource community.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

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Coming Events

August, 2021

25-27 Allegheny SAF Summer Training
Maryland/Delaware Division
Rocky Gap State Park
Flintstone, MD

February, 2022

16-18 Allegheny SAF Winter Training
Clarion, PA

March, 2022

20-22 Allegheny/NY/NE
Leadership Academy
South Portland, ME

Future SAF National Conventions

2021: Sacramento, CA - VIRTUAL
November 3-7

2022: Baltimore, MD
September 18-23

Allegheny SAF Committee Chairs

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