

The Allegheny News



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**Allegheny Society of American Foresters
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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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Advertising in the Allegheny News

Rates:	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>All Four Issues</u>
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One third page (3 ¼" x 7 ¼" or 6 ¾" x 2")	50	150
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



I'll begin with offering my congratulations to Kimberly Bohn, from the Pennsylvania Division, who has been selected as the General Chair for the 2022 National SAF Convention in Baltimore. I look forward to working with Kimberly to deliver an outstanding convention. Congratulations Kimberly... we know the convention is in good hands!

As we move into 2021, I am hopeful that we will overcome the challenges that COVID has presented. Specifics related to our annual Winter Meeting are still uncertain, but at a minimum, we will host a virtual General Meeting as required by our bylaws. Additionally, the Maryland – Delaware Division is actively working to plan an in-person Summer Meeting for mid-August. As we

continue to live through the pandemic, we all know that these upcoming events are subject to change, so please continue to check your email for updates as we move forward.

I am also concerned that the COVID disruption will impact our recruitment and retention of members. We have seen a steady decline in membership over the past several years, so I would encourage every member to promote SAF, invite foresters to our meetings and support our society. For those in leadership positions, please continue to do your part to plan and deliver quality programs and meetings that demonstrate the value of SAF. Recruitment and retention of members needs to be one of our top priorities.

Finally, let's recognize that winter is a great time to be a forester. I personally find that I can be much more productive in the woods this time of year... as long as the weather permits. It's much easier to navigate, cruise and mark timber when our forest is not in leaf. It's a great time of year to get that firewood cut and do all of the other work that needs to be done. Best of all, it's easy to remain socially distant in the forest. Get out and enjoy it! I wish you all the best and pray for good health and good forestry for all of us in 2021. Thank you all for all that you do for our profession, and for each other.

Board of Directors Report

District 7 Representative – David Gwaze



My term as the District Representative ended December 31, 2020. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your District Representative. It was a pleasure working on the Board with some of the most dedicated professionals and SAF members I have ever come across. Experience on Board was both rewarding and enjoyable and was a highlight of my career. I am proud of the Board making many tough decisions. During the past three years, the Board accomplished a lot. Highlights include:

Hiring CEO Terry Baker

Selling the SAF building

Planning and delivering a successful virtual convention for the first time

Planning and delivering a successful virtual Town Hall event for the first time

Approving a new Local Unit Achievement award

Maintaining SAF's strong financial position

Approving the successful ForestEd program

Issuing a SAF solidarity statement following the racial unrests of 2020

Releasing several SAF position statements in key forestry issues, including 1) Regulation of Genetically Modified Trees, 2) Forest Management, Carbon, and Climate Change and 3) Parcelization, Fragmentation and the Loss of Private Forestland, 4) Roads in Managed Forests.

Developing a 2021-2023 SAF Strategic Plan, which provides a vision for making SAF sustainable.

Implementing a Young Professional position in the Board.

Continuing to be at the center of major forestry initiatives (e.g. Trillion Tree Initiative) The District's future is bright with our new District Representative, Sarah Wurzbacher, and the District hosting the 2022 SAF convention. Increased collaboration between Allegheny SAF and National Capital SAF will help the District thrive.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact SAF members and the way we conduct SAF activities.

The availability of COVID-19 vaccines will make a huge stride in the battle against the virus, but it may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

SAF Two Allegheny Members as 2020 Fellows

Teri Batchelor

By Kenneth Jolly – originally published in Vol. 23, No. 3 of the Maryland Natural Resource Magazine

Forty-one years ago, none of Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources Foresters were women. That all changed on June 13, 1979, when the Maryland Forest Service hired Margaret Teresa “Teri” Batchelor.

Raised in Kent County on the Eastern Shore, Teri always enjoyed the outdoors and decided early in life to pursue a career in forestry. She was undeterred by the fact that in the 1970s, forestry was almost exclusively a male-dominated profession. In high school, she was already breaking new ground when she applied to attend the DNR Forestry Career Camp and became the first female attendee.

After high school she entered the “pre-forestry” program at the University of Maryland, and after two years transferred to West Virginia University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in forestry in 1978.



Her first position with the Maryland Forest Service was managing the Baltimore County Forestry Project, supervising a staff of five Forest Rangers. After successfully working there for more than two years, Teri transferred to the Kent and Queen Anne’s County Forestry Project in 1981. The transfer presented new opportunities to grow in her career, and in 1992, Teri became the Upper Shore Project Manager, expanding the geographic area under her supervision to include Caroline and Talbot counties. As Project Manager, she oversaw delivery of all Forest Service programs across this wide swath of the Eastern Shore.

“Teri was outstanding at everything she did,” Eastern Regional Forester Matt Hurd said.

Through her career, she planted more than 3,000 acres of new forests—1.3 million tree seedlings. In addition to that, Teri helped hundreds of private woodland owners each year achieve their woodland management goals, whether for improving wildlife habitat or growing forest products. In total, she gave professional forestry recommendations covering over 36,000 acres of woodland in her career.

Sharing her love of forestry with all age groups and interest levels came naturally to Teri. Through local presentations and hands-on workshops she spread the knowledge that trees do more than just provide shade on a hot day, that they clean our air, protect the Chesapeake Bay and prevent soil erosion.



Teri made sure every Arbor Day in the Upper Shore Project felt like a holiday to school-age children, complete with a poster contest and Smokey Bear appearances. Her outreach even caught the attention of the International Society of Arboriculture, earning Teri the prestigious Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Arbor Day Activities.

Teri worked with local officials to participate in national community tree management programs such as Tree City USA. She also served as Executive Secretary of the Kent and Queen Anne’s County Forestry Boards. “Teri was a fixture—her experience was unmatched,” Kent County Forest Board Chair Andy Simmons said.

Teri’s influence spread beyond the Maryland Forest Service. She was active in a number of professional forestry organizations, including serving as a Governor-appointed member of the Maryland State Board of Forester Licensing for 15 years, including 5 years as vice chair. She also served on the Maryland Forests Association Board of Governors for six years as a professional forester representative.

Teri was also a leader in the Society of American Foresters. In 1982, she was first elected to serve on the Maryland-Delaware Executive Committee and continued to serve on the Executive Committee in various leadership positions for the next 38 years. For this career of service, Teri received an honor that very few achieve when she was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in June 2020. Teri is the first and only woman to ever receive this honor in Maryland.

For these amazing contributions, Teri Batchelor has forever made her mark as Maryland’s “First Woman of Forestry.”

Steve Kallesser, CF



Steve is currently employed as a Senior Associate Forester with Gracie and Harrigan Consulting in Far Hills, NJ. Steve holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University, where he graduated with high honors in 1999. In 2005, he achieved Certified Forester (CF) status for his ongoing accomplishments in continuing education and professional practice. He began working at the Gracie and Harrigan Consulting firm in 1999. He has served as the Secretary and Chair of the

New Jersey Division of the Society of American Foresters. As an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts, he has served as Conservation Chairman for the Northern New Jersey Council.

Steve has also served on the NJ Farm Bureau Highlands Advisory Committee as well as the NJ Forestry Association's Highlands Advisory Committee. In 2008, he was named Forester of the Year by the Allegheny Society of American Foresters. In 2018, Steve was the team leader for the development and implementation of a Leadership Academy for foresters from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia. In 2019, he has invited to serve on the SAF National Leadership Development Committee.

Conrad Franz Honored as District VII Presidential Field Forester

Conrad Franz is a Tree Farm Inspector for the American Tree Farm System. He previously worked in several positions at the US Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA Forest Service.

Franz has performed field forestry work for many years, over wide geographic regions, and in several disciplines, including cruising timber and fire fighting in California, Wisconsin, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Wyoming. Longleaf pine has been the focus of much of Franz's professional attention. In 1978, he bought and has continuously managed 42 acres in Mississippi. He installed continuous forest inventory plots and has periodically remeasured those same plots, sprayed and/or injected undesirable competing vegetation, conducted prescribed burning, and contracted for services he could perform on his own, such as reforestation and timber harvesting.

Hurricane Katrina largely destroyed the stand in 2005, just as it neared its greatest potential for producing high-value pole timber. Franz was able to salvage pulpwood, sawlogs and some poles. He replanted with longleaf pine in 2008. Since that time, the dominant and co-dominant trees

have reached eight inches in diameter and 35 feet in height. He is experimenting with cypress in one of the swampy areas. If this is successful, he intends to introduce more cypress in other swampy areas on the property.

Franz has been an SAF member for more than four decades and he continues to attend SAF field training sessions. He has been a registered forester in Mississippi (#887) since 1981 and that state has officially recognized him as a certified prescribed burn manager since April 1994.

SAF Announces 2020 National Award Winners

Award in Science – Robert C. Burns

The Award in Forest Science recognizes distinguished individual research in any branch of the quantitative, managerial, and/or social sciences that has resulted in substantial advances in forestry.

Robert Burns is director of and professor at West Virginia University's School of Natural Resources. He is an interdisciplinary social scientist whose research focuses on human interactions with natural resources. He studies the many uses and competing demands that support economics and people at every scale, from the provision of public services to the production of wood for economic, environmental and social benefit.

Burns is the primary investigator of a long-term research and monitoring effort in several western US states, funded by the USDA Forest Service, where for nearly 20 years he has worked with various federal agencies and other state/local/nonprofit entities to find a balance between the demand for forest products and social uses of public lands. In some of his most recent research, Burns is co-primary investigator for a five-year National Science Foundation-funded effort to improve West Virginia's water quality, working collaboratively with West Virginia University's Institute for Water Safety and Security. His role is studying the behaviors and attitudes of West Virginia residents, analyzing and interpreting data with the multidisciplinary team of researchers, and assisting with the development of educational programs focused on water-related issues in the state.

Burns' research has had an impact from the local and community scale to comparing recreational user preferences and perceptions at the international scale (Austria and US). He maintained a long-term internship program that allows graduate and undergraduate students to learn about research and forest-visitor monitoring. More than 200 students from WVU and partner institutions in the US and Europe have participated in the program, working and living in US national forests. He is author or coauthor of more than 100 publications, including 55 journal articles, 13 book chapters and one book, *Outdoor Recreation Planning*, a primer for understanding land use planning on public lands. He has served as an editor for important

journals within his field, including editor in chief for the *Journal of Park and Recreation Management*, and as a founding co-editor for the *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*.

Technology Transfer Award – Jonathan S. Kays

The Technology Transfer Award recognizes outstanding performance in the areas of technology transfer, implementation and extension.



Jonathan S. Kays is a forestry specialist at the University of Maryland Extension's Western Maryland Research and Education Center.

Kays demonstrated leadership on a variety of fronts involving technology transfer. As a regional and now statewide Extension specialist, he has led programs from the traditional forest management and silviculture perspective to new and innovative areas such as biosolids, wood energy, wildlife damage, woods in your backyard, and rural enterprise development through alternative enterprises for woodlot owners. He has also provided leadership on a number of state-wide programs that require technology transfer expertise, such as statewide Tree Farm System committees, the Maryland Forestry Association, and the statewide Wood Coalition Task Force.

Kays has overseen the production of a well-received newsletter and other publications that have reached thousands of stakeholders. After participating in Jonathan's educational programs, many stakeholders have adopted sustainable forest management practices and have promoted those practices to their neighbors and other landowners.

This is similar in the many other areas Jonathan works in. His statewide leadership in using woody biomass for energy has been recognized by many key stakeholders, and he is regularly sought out by many state government agencies, including those responsible for forestry agriculture, energy and the environment. Kays' "The Woods in Your Backyard" program won a statewide competition to earn designation as the University of Maryland Extension Signature Program.

Kays demonstrates a deep understanding and knowledge of the value, importance, and best practices for effective technology transfer. He has led the regional North East Forest Resources Extension Committee several times during his career and recently has assisted in leading regional educational programs in intergenerational land transfer, small woodlot management and podcast technology.

Overall, the impact of Kays' work is significant. He has provided forestry education to thousands of Maryland forest landowners, and his newsletters, online programs, fact sheets, and workshops for foresters and landowners have served the state and region very well.

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Coming Events

March, 2021

10 Allegheny SAF Winter Training
**Only Allegheny Business Meeting
On Zoom**

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
Plateau Chapter

Future SAF National Conventions

**2021: Sacramento, CA
November 3-7**

**2022: Baltimore, MD
September 18-23**

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