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phone & fax 843-873-4823
secretary@apsaf.org

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919-541-3039
nc-dchair@ncmail.net

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sc-chair@apsaf.org

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Michael Hinchey
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va-chair@apsaf.org

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The Times, they are achangin'

By John Thurmes
2008 APSAF Chair

TODAY HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT DAY around our house. As I look at the demographics of APSAF, I'm pretty confident that many of you will relate to this. My wife and I took our oldest son off to college yesterday. And today, it hit home. He's gone. There's a (more or less) permanently empty spot at our table. He's not here and he won't be coming in later. There's a hole in our hearts...

On the other hand, life will be a little easier. He and his sister will not be bickering constantly. We will have one less schedule to juggle. Most importantly, our son is starting off on a new adventure. He is taking his first real steps to adulthood, to mature responsible citizenship, to his own life.

Change is often like that. Difficult. Satisfying. Challenging. Searing. Wonderful. Necessary. It often looks very different when looked at from different directions. One crucial characteristic of change is this: it is inevitable. Change will come. Each of us has a choice to make, every day of our lives. Will I embrace change, attempting to steer it in a positive direction, will I block change, thrusting obstacles in its path, or will I simply let change happen to me?

We surely have seen a great deal of change in our lives. I often tell the story of a chemistry class when I was a sophomore at the University of Minnesota. After banning the use of handheld calculators on a test- they were very expensive so not many students owned them- the professor challenged a student to a John Henry kind of competition. He, with his slide rule, would race the student, with his calculator, in solving a problem. The professor won!

Fast forward 34 years. Just a couple of days ago, I was out in the middle of nowhere, and fired up my laptop and connected to a wireless broadband system to check on a weather forecast. Wow! What a difference a few years makes!

And think of the change we will be seeing in America within the next few months. We will either see the first black president or the first female vice-president. Some might say



*John Thurmes is 2008
APSAF Chair*

*Some of us,
sometimes, have
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have the
opportunity to
shape change in
small ways. Let's
take that
opportunity.*

*A commitment on
our part—on your
part—to interact*

Joann Meyer Cox
919-676-8285
Joann_cox@earthlink.net

For the full list of Executive
Committee members go to
www.apsaf.org/leadership.html

**Members: scan this
column to see the
organizations that
support APSAF
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that neither of these changes has come nearly soon enough, but come, one of them will. So let's talk about some change that is important to us as forestry professionals and members of SAF. I'm thinking back to my days in forestry school. Our profession looked a little different back then. There were women in school with me, but they were still something of a novelty. Even at a relatively policy-oriented school like Minnesota, our forestry education was very traditional, and very much production oriented. That is, we believed in and studied multiple uses-water, wildlife, recreation, soil and timber but there was no doubt about timber's pre-eminence.

Our association with our profession was strong. It wasn't just a job. That's because our profession was a noble one. We had so much to be proud of. In the last 75 years, we had solved the problem of rampant wildfires, reforested millions of acres after the initial, grown the wood to provide the raw material for the post-war boom, opened millions of acres of public land to their owners, investigated fundamental and practical aspects of tree growth, and so much more. We were connected to something greater than ourselves and our day-to-day concerns.

SAF was a big part of that connection. Of course, SAF was in a very real sense the "keeper of the keys" for our profession in the US. When Gifford Pinchot and a handful of other leaders wanted to give shape to their beliefs in the importance and shape of the forestry profession, they formed SAF. Beyond that, SAF provided a day-to-day, month-to-month connection with our history and leadership.

When I first got to South Carolina, in 1980, attending our local SAF Chapter meeting was quite a big deal. Attendees included professionals from all major employment groups, and included leaders from each. Attendance at monthly meetings was 30 or more people, even on slow nights.

A friend and I drove out to Portland and attended the SAF National Convention in 1983. What an experience! I was struck by the energy, by the sense of dedication and vision, by the feeling of a connection to my profession.

Things are certainly different for today, in many ways. Society has changed; it asks more of forests and those who manage them. As a profession and a professional society, we have made steps to be more inclusive. Many would argue that more is needed, but that possibility is a real source of contention and angst in SAF. SAF is challenged at all levels to maintain membership, and remain vigorous. These changes have been discussed elsewhere, so I won't attempt to discuss them in any depth. I will just ask you to give serious thought to a couple of questions, and perhaps commit to several actions that will allow you to shape the change that is coming.

First, think about how SAF and the profession are perceived by today's students and young professionals. Do they feel the excitement, the sense of history, the connection to something greater that we felt? The nobility is still there. How can we help young people sense it as we have?

*with young people
is the key. They
are our future.*

*Please make a
contribution to
the K.P.
Funderburke
Educational
Endowment
Fund, which
enables us to
support student
SAF chapters as
they attend these
meetings.*

A commitment on our part—on your part—to interact with young people is the key. They are our future. I offer three opportunities to you. First, help students attend our APSAF winter meeting and maybe even National Convention. Please make a contribution to the K.P. Funderburke Educational Endowment Fund, which enables us to support student SAF chapters as they attend these meetings. And when you meet students at these meetings, listen to their story and share yours. Second, invite a young professional to a chapter meeting. Offer to take them. Maybe that will encourage them to join SAF, if they are not already a member. Finally, your executive committee has discussed establishing a mentoring program, to encourage professionals to mentor students. I'm not sure when we'll have something like that in place, but you don't need to wait for a program.

Second, give some serious thought to how inclusive you believe your professional society should be. SAF already accepts members with degrees in closely allied fields, as well as members who have bachelors or higher degrees unrelated to forestry who work in positions that strongly influences the profession of forestry. All these folks have limited voting and office-holding rights. Are you happy with the status quo? Should we be making greater efforts to reach out to professionals with other backgrounds? Should we retain our historical vision of ourselves as a tightly-defined professional society? You will be asked to vote on such a question later this year regarding our Natinal Society constitution.

Third, commit to making your personal contribution toward making SAF a vibrant organization. Attend chapter meetings. Bring a guest—a potential member. Volunteer to serve as a chapter officer. Attend your state summer meeting. Volunteer to serve as a Division officer or committee chair. Invite someone to join SAF. Do your part to shape the future of our Society—to shape the change that will inevitably come.

Some of us, sometimes, have the opportunity to shape change in big ways. All of us, all the time, have the opportunity to shape change in small ways. Let's take that opportunity.

— john.thurmes@mww.com, (843) 873-3911 x12

Jim Gray Receives Special Volunteer Award for Service

Jim Gray, VT '63 and '65 and Association of Consulting Foresters member was honored with the Special Volunteer Service Award by the North Carolina Division of the Society of American Foresters at their annual meeting this summer in Graham, NC. Jim is the president of JMG Forestry in Dunn, North Carolina.

Jim was recognized for his efforts in creating an Environmental Camp for middle schoolers in his home county this spring on a 1,000 acre longleaf forest that he helped conserve and turn into a county park for current and future generations. Jim helped restore much of the tract with threatened longleaf seedlings and a fire regimen that mimicked natural fires from a century ago.

"What's amazing about Jim is his generosity and vision for the future. Faced with the likely development of one of his client's forests, he single-handedly found funding to protect the property. Using his contacts with a Harnett County Tomorrow group, he was able to successfully make the case for the land's purchase as a park for all citizens to enjoy. And when most would easily sit back and admire their accomplishment, Jim charged on to ensure that local kids had a stake in the county park and forest that Jim protected," explains Dr. Mark Megalos, Extension Forestry Specialist at North Carolina State University.



Jim Gray, in dark shirt at far left of the group of students at the Erwin Elementary School ART and Environmental Day.

Hosting an Environmental Camp on the property was accomplished through Jim's leadership and calling upon the favors from colleagues and contacts throughout the environmental and natural resource community in which he effectively works. What started out as a pilot effort is now to become an annual event at the park.

"Jim has the energy and drive of a professional half his age and I am humbled by him," notes fellow ACF Consultant Henry Randolph and Sandhill Chapter Chair for the Society of American Foresters. "After a full career in the wood products industry Jim has made it his mission to give back to the community in substantial ways. He's helping clients meet their goals while working with agencies and municipalities to protect the special places for the future enjoyment of local citizens," continues Randolph.

At the time of this writing, Jim Gray was hard at work finding the funding to protect another property in adjoining Moore County where golf course and residential development is whittling away at the local forest. After more than fifty years in the field, Gray may just be getting his second wind. He certainly has raised the bar for his contemporaries and the generation that follows. Now that's some Hokie!

All the news—North Carolina (tall tales & half truths)

"If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would ever get done!" quotes APSAF NC Division Chair Les Hunter

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Around North Carolina

by **Les Hunter**
2008 NC Chair

IT is hard to believe that summer is gone and we're looking forward to the APSAF winter meeting in Newport News, Virginia. It was a long hot summer! NCDFR's Evans Road fire started on June 1 and wasn't over until just a few weeks ago.

The North Carolina SAF Summer meeting was a huge success. Thanks to the Triangle Chapter led by Jim and Kelley McCarter, the theme "Forestry in Dry Times?" located at Alamance Community College was a milestone in discussions and presentations on the outlook of forestry in today's weather patterns and economic outlooks.



*NCDFR forester Bill Pickens explains
longleaf pine management in the NC Piedmont.*

The field tours were a tribute to successful forestry practices in the NC Piedmont. US Army Corps of Engineers' Jordan Lake was the site of discussion by the Haw River Assembly on the projects they were working on concerning water quality and community involvement on the Haw River. Progress Energy provided excellent field sites on managing a variety of species in the North Carolina Piedmont including several longleaf pine restoration areas and the challenges of managing a timber resource near a major metropolitan area.

Across the state, local SAF chapters have been meeting and promoting forestry and educational opportunities and good fellowship.

Judy Hainey, Tar River Chair, reports that the Albemarle and Tar River Chapters held a joint meeting on August 5 in Rich Square, NC, at Claudine's Restaurant. They had 19 people to attend: 2 non SAF members, 1 landowner, 11 Tar River members, 4 Albemarle members, and 1 VA SAF member. Dr.



*Les Hunter is 2008 NC
Division Chair*

*Years ago as I
started a new job
my supervisor told
me, "You majored
in forestry
because you
wanted to work in
the forest but
you're really in
the people
business."*

Mark Megalos spoke about the NCSU Extension Forestry programs as well as gave an overview of the recently completed consulting foresters' survey. The two Chapters decided to have another joint meeting on Tuesday, October 14. They plan to have a beef BBQ supper at the Indian Creek Hunt Club in Bertie County around 5 pm. An afternoon tour is currently being planned and details will be sent soon.

Blair Bishop, chair of the Pisgah Chapter, reports that a meeting was held at LaPaz Restaurant on August 26 at 6:30 pm with some wonderful Mexican food in their own private dining room. Their speaker was Mr. Alex Comfort, Director of the Cradle of Forestry Foundation, who discussed the joint goals of the Foundation and the USFS, in regards to the programming and management of the "Birthplace of Forestry Education." One category 1 CFE was rewarded for attending the meeting. If you have not been to a meeting this year or have "gotten out of the habit," this was a great chance to come out and meet with your friends and colleagues in WNC.

John Angst of the Croatan Chapter had a meeting on September 18 at the Broken Eagle on Heritage Street in Downtown Kinston. The program speaker was NCDNR Director Wib Owen. One CFE credit was awarded for all attending.

Years ago as I started a new job my supervisor told me, "You majored in forestry because you wanted to work in the forest but you're really in the people business." As I look around and see the networking and activities and progress taking place in our organization, I see true dedication to our profession through working with the public and each other.

Les Hunter, RF, CF
Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator
cell 919.218.3349

Across the state, local SAF chapters have been meeting and promoting forestry and educational opportunities and good fellowship.

A Free Lunch!

Duke University's Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is holding a symposium on November 14, 2008 entitled "Forestry in a Globalized and Changing World." The symposium will feature four panel discussions on emerging topics in forestry, including:

- The State of Global Forestry
- Forestry in Developing Countries
- Future Trends on a Global Scale
- Bringing Global Issues Home

Discussions will feature panelists from state and federal governments, non-profit organizations, and private industry. Audience participation will be a central component of discussions, and participants may attend one or all of the panels. Where: Von Canon Rooms B and C, Bryan Center, 120 Science Drive, Duke University, Durham, NC When: 8:00-5:00, Friday, November 14, 2008. Cost: Free (includes lunch). Note: Registration is required. Please visit www.duke.edu/web/forestry to register or get more

information. Additional questions should be directed to Caimee Schoenbaechler at caimee.schoenbaechler@duke.edu. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pisgah Chapter

Well, the Pisgah Chapter has grabbed its bush axes and marking paint and started back blazing trails after bushwacking our way off the last quarterly report. As Mr. Hunter mentioned in last quarter's publication, it was a great privilege to present Warren Wilson College with their student charter. As a local chapter we will do all we can to ensure that WWC gets the support they need to foster their success. We are all aware of the forestry enrollment trends across North America so the addition of a new student chapter is exciting. The Pisgah Chapter is fortunate to "share" the seventeen most western counties with two excellent student chapters (HCC and WWC). We need to view all our students and student chapters as our "surrogate children" who need opportunities and our time.

On August 26 the chapter held its summer quarterly meeting at LaPaz restaurant in Biltmore Village. Alex Comfort, Director of the Cradle of Forestry Foundation, provided an excellent presentation regarding the fundraising efforts and the joint goals the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association and The Trail Blazer upS Fall 2008 u 7 USFS share for the "birthplace of forestry education." Also, during the meeting Mr. John Palmer CF and Mr. Douglas Stagier CF were recognized for their service to the society and their commitment to forestry education. Palmer recently received the NC Division Merit Award during this summer's NC SAF Division meeting and Staiger received the Meritorious Service Award from the Council of Eastern Forest Technician Schools (an organization comprised of 15 forestry tech schools located in Canada and United States).

—Blair Bishop, Pisgah Chapter Chair

*Chapter news provided
by Blair B. Bishop
Forest Management and
Geospatial Technology
Haywood Community
College
185 Freedlander Drive
Clyde, NC 28721
tel.828-627-4566
fax.828-627-4690
bbishop@haywood.edu*

HCC Student Chapter

The Haywood Community College student chapter has hit the ground running. In the spring of last year the Chapter held its annual awards banquet and presentation and last week held the annual chapter cookout. The Haywood Student Chapter plans to assist all incoming student chapter members with their first year's registration fees.

On Saturday, October 4 the student chapter, along with the HCC Forestry Club, will hold the 13th Annual Woodsmen Meet. This event, which is part of the annual Cradle of Forestry's Forest Festival Day, is an intercollegiate woodsmen's meet that provides for a day of action-packed competition. We invite all HCC alumni and NC Division members to attend the event! In closing, we look forward to a great fall semester and as always are greatly appreciative of the NC Division and the Kenney P. Funderburke Educational Endowment for the continued support.

—Ethan Matherly, HCC SAF Student Chapter Representative

All the news—Virginia (Sho' nuff)

Albert Einstein: "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits." UA Chair, Michael Hinchler

The Virginia Report

by Michael Hinchler, Chair

The Virginia Division continues to have a busy and eventful year. The Executive Committee has met twice since my last article. The May 8, 2008 Executive Committee meeting was held in Charlottesville at the headquarters of the Virginia Department of Forestry. I would like to thank the VDOF for allowing us the use of their conference room for our meeting. Our second meeting was held in advance of the State meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. Both meetings were well attended and productive. Minutes of both meetings are available if any member would like to see them. Just let me know.

On to the State meeting held June 5- 6 at Graves Mountain Lodge. What a great meeting and what a great location. For those of you who attended, I am sure you enjoyed the FOOD as much as I did!! I also know that you enjoyed the great program. I cannot help but mention the site again; no cell phone signal available, limited access to email, no TVs in the rooms. Some of you may be thinking, this doesn't sound like a good place for a meeting, but I found just the opposite to be true. How great not to be distracted by cell phones or email and being able to focus on the core meeting, the fellowship with other attendees. I haven't even mentioned the beautiful setting. All said, I would like to thank the host Chapter, Skyline Chapter, for putting this meeting together. Great Job!

On to current business... As most of you are aware, the 2009 APSAF meeting will be held in Virginia at the Newport News

Challenge: each chapter raise \$100 to contribute to the K.P. Funderburke Endowment!

Have you asked a friend and or co-worker to join SAF lately?

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Marriott January 21-23. Greg Scheerer, overall arrangements chair, and his subcommittee have been very busy in completing the arrangements and program for this fast approaching meeting. For those of you who attended the State meeting you were able to see the "promo" Greg and his committee put together. This was also presented at the North Carolina and South Carolina state meetings in an effort to increase attendance. I would like to thank Greg and all of the members of his committee for all of their hard work. We are all in for a treat next January.

The Executive Committee sent a letter to APSAF Chair John Thurmes and APSAF membership committee Chair Carlyle Franklin recommending SAF Council revisit the current SAF dues structure. We continue to be concerned over the trend of declining membership and hope Council will address our recommendations. One of the challenges I issued in my last article was for each chapter to add two new members by yearend. Have you asked a friend and or co-worker to join SAF lately? You might just be surprised who will join if we extend that invitation. This brings me to the other challenge; each chapter raise \$100 to contribute to the K.P. Funderburke Endowment. Make sure you put this on the agenda of your next chapter meeting. I would like to be able to present a collective check with all the chapters' donations at the 2009 APSAF meeting. This is fast approaching so get it on your agendas and let's see what we can do together.

All the material in this Virginia report was rounded by Adam Downing, Virginia Communications Chair. Many thanks!



Virginia's Excellent Foresters...

By Dan Goerlich, Professional Recognition Committee Chair

Congratulations to Greg A. Scheerer, who has earned the National Society of American Foresters Young Forester Leadership Award. Greg Scheerer is a fine person, excellent forester, and an exceptionally dedicated SAF member. He has provided significant, sustained leadership to SAF on several levels, and emerged as a leader in the forestry profession.

An SAF member since 1989, Greg served as chair of the Virginia Tech Student Chapter SAF from 1991 to 1992, organizing numerous work projects, service activities, and educational meetings. Greg set an excellent example for his fellow students and chapter members through his positive attitude and professionalism. In 1992, Greg organized and mediated the student meeting at the 1992 SAF National Convention in Richmond, VA.

From 1997 through 2000, Greg served as Robert E. Lee Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Chair-Elect, and two consecutive terms as Chair. He chaired the nominating committee in 2000, and is currently in his eighth year as Chair of the Service Projects Committee. From 2006 through 2008 Greg served as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair of the Virginia Division



Greg Scheerer Earns National Young Forester Leadership Award.

SAF. He chaired the Division Education Committee in 2006 and 2008. Greg organized and chaired the 2000 Virginia Division Summer Meeting in Lynchburg, VA, and served on the planning committee for the 2005 Virginia Division Summer Meeting held in Amherst, VA. He is currently Arrangements Chair for the 2009 APSAF Meeting. Greg attended the 1999 APSAF Leadership Workshop at Brown's Summit, NC, and is SAF Certified Forester #1328. He received the 2005 Virginia Division SAF Merit Award, the 2007 Virginia Division SAF Young Forester Leadership Award, and the 2008 APSAF Young Forester Leadership Award.

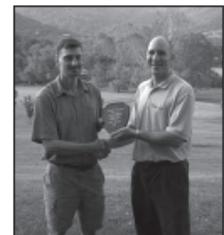
Beyond simply assuming leadership roles, however, Greg Scheerer provides active leadership. For example, during winter 2004-05, R.E. Lee Chapter members cut, split, and delivered 12 pickup truck loads of firewood for a charity project. As Chair of the Service Projects Committee, Greg personally assisted with nine of those loads. During several occasions when inexperienced foresters struggled with chapter leadership positions, Greg contributed the coaching and support they needed to improve. In fact, whenever a void in SAF leadership appears, whatever the situation, more often than not it is Greg Scheerer who steps forward to assist.

Beyond SAF, Greg is recognized as a leader in the forestry profession. He has served on the Forest Resources Advisory Committee for the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources Advisory Board since 2002. He is currently serving on the Virginia Forestry Association Board of Directors. He has given presentations to school children, college students, civic organizations, forest landowner education programs, and logger education workshops. He has been published in peer reviewed scientific publications, and assisted Virginia Tech faculty with their research projects through his work at MeadWestvaco Corporation. Yet, through it all, Greg remains a devoted family man and dedicated father of three young children. The award will be presented at the 2008 SAF National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

State Winners

With nine entries, the Virginia Division Awards program was the most competitive in recent memory. Nine nominees were received for the three Division awards, as follows: Young Forester Leadership Award - Neil Clark, Ben Cole, Greg Meade, Patti Nylander; Special Volunteer Service Award - Bill Braford and Jerry Foltz, and; Merit Award - Linda Crowe, Scott Shallenberger, and David Snyder.

Greg Meade received the Young Forester Leadership Award. Greg has served as a forester in private industry, with the Virginia Dept. of Forestry (VDOF) and currently with the Nature Conservancy in Abingdon, VA. He served as the Arrangements Chair for the 2006 APSAF meeting, which earned an \$11,500 +/- profit, the largest to date at the time.



Greg provided public and written comments on "anti" forestry zoning ordinances in Clarke County. The ordinances were subsequently rewritten to more closely reflect scientific forestry practice. And, Greg prepared a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plan for the UVA Foundation covering 1200 acres. He has attended numerous county boards of supervisors and county planning commission meetings promoting working forests and their benefits.

Bill Braford was awarded the Special Volunteer Service to Forestry Award. Bill spent nearly 30 years with the Virginia Department of Forestry as a Forester, Assistant District Forester, and Forest Engineer. He currently owns and operates Blue Chip Forestry, and is a partner with his father in a cattle farm. Bill has provided sustained and dedicated service to the profession of forestry, and particularly the Society of American Foresters. For example, he served in all of the officer positions at the Robert E. Lee Chapter, and after moving to the Skyline Chapter area, volunteered to serve in the same roles again. Bill is active in many community service organizations. In fact, he attended the summer meeting despite very recently breaking his collarbone and multiple ribs in a construction related accident on a Habitat for Humanity project.

Scott Shallenberger, Senior Procurement Forester with MeadWestvaco Corporation, earned the Merit Award. An SAF member since 1985, Scott has served National SAF as the NIPF Working Group Secretary / Treasurer, a member of the Professional Recognition Committee (2004-06), and as Forester's Fund Chair for the National Convention in Richmond. On the APSAF level, Scott provided dedicated service as the Professional Recognition Chair from 1999 through 2005, among other assignments. Scott has served as the Virginia Division Chair-elect, Chair, and Past-Chair from 1994-1996, rotated through the Blue Ridge Chapter officer positions on two occasions, and contributed through many other activities and assignments too numerous to list. Scott serves on the Virginia Forestry Association Board of Directors, is the Region 5 Tree Farm Chairman (1991- 1994), and has served as a member of the Virginia SFI Task Force.

Each year Virginia Division awards a beautiful podium to the chapter that obtains the greatest increase in membership during the course of the previous year. The podium resides with the Chapter for one year. This year, Robert E. Lee Chapter received the membership award for the second year in a row, increasing membership by two foresters. In two years, the Chapter has added seven new members to their ranks. Robert E. Lee Chapter members proudly display the 2008 VASAF Membership Award. Pictured left to right: Larry Layman, Donald Parris, Dave Snyder, Dan Goerlich, Greg Scheerer, Doug Audley, Jason Fisher, and Lee Spradlin.



Greg Meade (left) receives Young Forester Leadership Award



Bill Braford (left) receives VASAF 2008 Special Volunteer Service Award



Scott Shallenberger (left) receives VASAF Merit Award.



Robert E. Lee Chapter receives Chapter of the Year Award

*Three Virginia Division SAF members became Fellows this year
John D. Farmer, Jr., Temple T. Hahn, and James R. Willis*

John Farmer considers that his primary forestry related accomplishments have come as a result of his dedicated service to the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation (VFEF). He has been on the VFEF Board of Directors since 1983. He has served as President of that organization since 1989. Under his leadership, the VFEF has grown to a total of approximately \$3 million. In the past 10 years alone its endowment has grown by \$525,000 and it has dispersed \$932,000 for youth educational programs and forestry scholarships. John served as Virginia Division Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair 1978 - 80. He joined SAF in 1961.



*John Farmer named
Fellow of the Society of
American Foresters*

An SAF member since 1958, Temple T. Hahn retired as Chief Employee / Labor Relations with the USDA Forest Service, Washington D.C. in 1994. He performed for a number of years as an Analyst, and leader in the USDA Forest Service Washington Office Administrative Management Staff. The tasks were managing, designing, coordinating, and implementing numerous special projects and programs directly for the Chief, Deputy Chiefs, and top management. These included a National Review of Forest Service Reorganizations, studying the proposal to establish a new Federal Department of Natural Resources, leading a National Administrative Review, conducting a Land Interchange with the Bureau of Land Management, and completing Ranger District and National Forest consolidations. Temple has provided dedicated service to SAF throughout his career, including serving on the planning and arrangements committees for two Division meetings, one APSAF meeting, and two National Conventions. He was Chair of the National Capital Chapter Audit Committee from 1985- 1995, Chair of the Skyline Chapter Professional Recognition Committee from 2003-Present, and Secretary/Treasurer, Chair-elect, Chair, and Past-Chair of Skyline Chapter from 1999-2004, among other assignments.



*Temple T. Hahn named
Fellow of Society of
American Foresters*

James R. Willis began his career as a service forester with the Indiana Division of Forestry in 1966. After receiving his MS in Forestry and Soils from UGA in 1971, Jim subsequently sought and obtained employment in the Woodlands Division of Chesapeake Corporation at West Point, Virginia. One of Jim's roles at Chesapeake Corporation was as Research and development Manager. In that capacity, Jim was Chesapeake's advisory committee representative to the NC State and Virginia Tech Hardwood Research and Forest Nutrition Cooperatives. Included with these responsibilities were decisions about whether to commit his company to costly but unproven ventures in forest management. Jim served Virginia Cooperative Extension from 2000-05 as a district Extension forester, where he initiated the concept— and later served on the development and design team—for a series of web-based learning modules for youth known as 4-H Virtual Forest



*James R. Willis named
Fellow of Society of
American Foresters*

www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest/ .

Jim has served as an SAF officer for the Rappahannock and Southwest Chapters on several occasions, assisted with APSAF and Division related meetings, and volunteered at the SAF National Meeting in Winston- Salem,NC. Jim has attended three SAF National Conventions, and is SAF Certified Forester #2905; he joined SAF in 1966.

Southeastern Chapter

Submitted by Neil Clark, Chair

Brrzzzzrrrrttt, brrzzzzrrrrttt, znn, znn, brrzzrt. That quick the meddlesome suppressed and codominant space-waterand- nutrient-hogs were laid low by the whirring cylinder of teeth. No longer allowed to "sap" the strength of their better placed and genetically superior comrades. No longer waiting in the wings to shade out and diminish future heirs of these Dendric kings.

This is a scene that will hopefully be taking place more and more across the overstocked frontier of high-density pine stands. Thankfully Lee Bethea arranged for our chapters (Southeastern and Rappahannock) to go witness PineGro's mechanized precommercial thinning (PCT) operation utilizing a skid-steer with a specially adapted mulching head. This work was being performed on a 14 year-old stand that was on the border of being merchantable, but given the current markets, economics dictated PCT.

The mulching heads and compaction by the equipment allow the downed stems to be a bit less of an obstacle and fuel source. However these trees are not completely mulched as this would be cost-prohibitive for most property managers. As it stands, if diesel prices can return to a reasonable level, this technique can favorably compete with brush-saw crews, with the advantage of being able to work year around.

Following this excellent demo and presentation of PCT and fertilization, we retreated back to Lee's cabin and enjoyed some fellowship (thanks to UAP timberlands and all of the good folk there) as we learned about herbicide release and observed some exceedingly quick growing pines. We then followed our gut instincts over to enjoy dinner at the Nottoway House where we also conducted our business meeting. We are thankful that many of our brethren and sistren from Rappahannock chapter could join us and look forward to joining them on September 13th at Maymont Park in Richmond for our fall meeting.

Skyline Chapter

Submitted by Jean Lober, Chair

In early June, the Skyline chapter hosted the Virginia Division meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge. Well-attended with over 70 participants, the meeting covered a range of topics regarding the future of forestry in Virginia. Presentations included updates on forest inventory data, global market research and forestry education programs. The scenic location and great food made for a real respite of fun and relaxation in the "shadow of the Blue ridge". Thanks to all the Skyline and Division members who helped put on this successful meeting. Many of the presentations will be available on the Virginia Division's website.



Next up for the Skyline chapter is our fall meeting in October, where the subject will be threats to Virginia's forest health. Additionally, the Skyline chapter is planning a forest education event along Skyline Drive in mid-October. The goal is to spread a little forest education to the multitude of "leaf-peepers" who drive along this nationally-renowned route in the fall.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
College of Natural Resources

The Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech offers undergraduate programs in forest resource management, environmental resource management, forestry operations, recreation, and urban forestry. Graduate study at the master's and doctoral levels—with specialization in forest biology, botany, management-economics, operations, or recreation—is also offered.

For additional information, please contact:

Hansid E. Burkhan, Head
Virginia Tech Department of Forestry
313 Cheatham Hall (0324)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-5483 burkhan@vt.edu

Visit our website: www.forestry.vt.edu

Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Bill Worrell, Chair

In June, we hosted seven teachers from across Virginia and spent a week touring the forest, forest product manufacturing facilities, and participating in project Learning Tree Activities as part of the 2008 Trees to Products program.

The program began with a visit to a logging operation conducted by Mountain Forest Products. The teachers saw how a timber harvesting operation is planned, conducted, and closed out. At the Powell River Project Research and Education Center, they could see the various stages of reforestation and forest secondary succession on mined land reclamation. In the evening the teachers were treated to a dinner cookout and met with the members of the Southwest Virginia SAF Chapter and learned about the importance of forest management for carbon sequestration.

On the second day, the teachers went to the Clinch District of the Jefferson National Forest, where they toured several forested stands of various age classes to learn about forest ecology, silvicultural management practices, and wildlife habitat and ecology. They learned to use Biltmore sticks and participated in a timber cruise exercise where they determined total volume, age, and site index. The evening cookout at Flag Rock Recreation Area overlooking the City of Norton and Wise County gave the teachers an aerial view of the topography and land use in the region. The evening presentation from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries covered wildlife management and the importance of forest management activities for the benefit of wildlife species.

Day three began with a tour of Pinnacle Wood Products of Virginia, where teachers toured the state of the art computerized cabinet manufacturing facility. The next visit was a tour of Powell River Lumber Co. in Appalachia, where the teachers observed the primary manufacturing of hardwood logs into lumber. Following the tour, the teachers learned the skills of scaling and grading logs with the foresters. In the afternoon, the teachers traveled to Mullican Flooring's plant in Blackwood to see secondary manufacturing and value added products. The evening program consisted of more Project Learning Tree Activities and a presentation from the International Veneer Corporation, where the teachers learned about veneer manufacturing and the high-quality veneer logs.

The final day of the program began with a tour of Gilbert NS Lumber Company's hardwood sawmill in Duffield, Virginia. The week ended with a tour of the fine paper-manufacturing facility of Domtar in Kingsport, Tennessee, where participants were introduced to the papermaking process and toured the sheeting facility where large rolls are cut into the 8.5-by-11-inch copy paper. The teachers went home with a tremendous amount of information and a load of souvenirs, including a Biltmore stick, a hard hat, a diameter tape, a tote bag, tree cookies, a sample of lumber, and hardwood flooring, hardwood veneer, and a pack of copy paper, along with the PLT Environmental Education Activity Guide, the PLT Energy & Society Kit, and a copy of the Forest Trees of Virginia pocket manual provided by the Southwest VA Chapter and the participating forest products manufacturers.

The 2008 Trees to Products program was funded by the Southwest Virginia SAF Chapter and several local forest product companies, which made financial contributions, provided meals and speakers, and offered the use of their facilities. Additional contributions of personnel and resources were provided by the USDA Forest Service, the Virginia Dept. of Forestry, and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Blue Ridge Chapter

by Jennifer Gagnon, Chair

The Blue Ridge Chapter met for dinner August 28 at the Home Place Restaurant in Catawba. New Virginia Tech faculty member, Chad Bolding, Assistant Professor of Forest Operations, were introduced. Dr. Bolding, also an SAF member, gave a presentation on his research and collaboration interests. We also welcomed Dr. Janaki Alavalapati, new Virginia Tech Forestry Dept. Head and SAF member.

Rappahannock Chapter

by Anne Ulrey, Chair

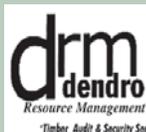
Several participants from the Rappahannock Chapter joined members from the Southeast chapter for a joint summer tour of mechanized pre-commercial thinning, fertilization, and hardwood control areas in McKenney, VA. The event concluded with dinner and a business meeting at the Nottoway House restaurant.

Our next event is scheduled for May 13th at Maymont Park in Richmond. This will be a family and fellowship event with food, activities for children, and a guest speaker from the park to discuss their grounds management. Members from chapters surrounding the Richmond area will be invited to attend as well. The executive committee met August 20 to finalize plans for this meeting and plan action items needed to facilitate hosting the Walk in the Forest event this fall.

On a side note, Lauren Magalska, who had been serving as our secretary has moved to begin her studies in a master's program at Oregon State University focused in forest genetics. Before she left, Lauren established a chapter website to enable information sharing and improve communications within and between chapter members. The website can be viewed at www.rapsaf.net and we will continue to keep the site up-to-date. Our thanks and best wishes Lauren!

All the news—South Carolina (no half-truths)

A forester's forester, a detailed and passionate professor, par excellence . . . SC Division Chair, Tom Straka



Aaron Gilland
Certified Forester
Phone: 803.438.6139
Cell: 803.413.2732
Fax: 803.408.3524

email: agilland@dendroresourcegmt.com
web site: www.dendroresourcegmt.com



ARBORGEN
JEFF WRIGHT, PH.D.
MANAGER
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
843.851.5079 DIRECT
843.991.2911 MOBILE
843.832.2164 FAX
[JAWRIGHT@ARBORGEN.COM](mailto:jawright@ARBORGEN.COM)



Davis-Garvin Agency, Inc.
P.O. BOX 2187
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

The Chapters

By Tom Straka, SC Division Chair

I have attended hundreds of chapter, state division, APSAF, and SAF national meetings. One thing that has become clear to me is that a fundamental key to remedying the SAF membership dilemma is a set of strong, resilient chapters. Chapter meetings are where "the rubber meets the road." Effective chapters require two things: capable chapter leaders and a core of active solid SAF members. Great National Conventions, APSAF meetings, or Division Meetings won't have that much to do with improving membership. Most of the



Tom Straka is South Carolina SAF Division Chair

people who go to those meetings are already committed SAF members. Where new or reinvigorated members come from are the local chapters.

Mike Wetzel, membership chair last year, realized this and began a survey of chapter chairs on membership issues. He and I are now working on an expanded version of that survey that includes all APSAF chapter chairs. So far, a little over half of the chapter chairs have responded to our short survey. We will report the results in the next Trail Blazer and perhaps in the Forestry Source. Please, would chapter chairs make an effort to respond when asked again?

I have to admit I am biased on what the survey will find. Chapters are where the esprit de corps is developed, where the early and long-term professional friendships are made, where the new forester attends his or her first SAF meeting, and it is the most likely SAF meeting a honestto- God field forester will attend in any year. In listening to the chapter reports at the Summer Meeting I was surprised to All the news—South Carolina (no half-truths) A forester's forester, a detailed and passionate professor, par excellence . . . SC Division Chair, Tom Straka The Chapters hear chapter meeting frequencies varied from zero to one a month. Why? Leadership certainly. Also it is quite hard to come up with quality programs, especially if a chapter is located in the backwater. Somehow making quality chapter meetings available at a low cost is something that will impact chapter meetings and thus membership. Since the chapter is where the newest SAF members first meet the organization, this is where retention starts.

SAF elections occur this fall. We have a responsibility to vote in these elections. They represent our collective judgment on the direction SAF should be moving. We control the leadership of SAF and we do so via the elections. The future of our Division and chapters is determined by our votes. Chapter elections are an important responsibility of the current chapter officers (usually the immediate past chair). He or she needs to be certain the nominees will provide solid leadership. There are no honorary positions in SAF; please nominate individuals who are capable of the job.

Personally, when I evaluate candidates for SAF office I look first at chapter service. All of the best SAF leaders seem to have wide SAF service. The offices with the most importance seem to have the least glory; that is, the chapter offices offer the least amount of exposure. Those who have not made a significant contribution to the bedrock of our society, the chapters, do not deserve our votes.

Last month all of the committee chairs were recognized. This month I asked for short chapter reports with photographs of each chapter chair. It is important to recognize the backbone of the division and I appreciate their service for the year.

The 2008 Summer Meeting in Columbia was great. Central Carolina Chapter put together an excellent meeting and Chad

SAF elections occur this fall. We have a responsibility to vote in these elections.

It is important to recognize the backbone of the division...

Bolding put together an outstanding program.



*Award winners from the SC Summer Meeting, left to right:
Philip Sligh, Young Forester Leadership Award;
Guy Thurmond, Division Merit Award;
and Christopher Gordy, Special Volunteer Service Award.*

It is hard work putting a division meeting together and I will mention the Planning Committee by names: Jason Watson, Ched Kearse, Steve Krietemeyer, John Maitland, Tim Adams, Steve McMillan, Chip Mallard, Brian Rogers, Ron Ferguson, Van Hoffman, Brian Fox, Sally Tucker, Dean Carson, Rodney Chandler, Jim McCracken, Mark Kays, Tom Patton, and Bob Schowalter.



The Summer Meeting DID include quite a bit of socializing.

The next summer meeting will be May 27-29, 2009. It will be hosted by the Pee Dee Chapter. The location is the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence. It will have a broad interdisciplinary theme. To attract a wider audience, both the Wildlife Society and Association of Consulting Foresters will be invited. The ACF has its national meeting in Charleston in late June and won't be having a summer meeting, so our meeting will serve as an opportunity to have a summer business meeting.



*The SC Division has two new Fellows in 2008:
John Cathey (left) and Virgil Wall.*

***The next SC
Division summer
meeting will be
May 27-29, 2009.***

Know your Society of American Foresters

by **Mary Morrison**
SC Division Membership Chair

When I originally decided to write about the benefits of an SAF membership, I thought that one article would cover it all. However, as I started researching membership benefits, I discovered that there were several on-line services that I had never used. Previous write-ups have mentioned some of the online services, such as the SAF membership directory, volunteer opportunities, and public outreach. However, there are many, many more on-line services available to you on www.safnet.org.

The Working Groups was a service I knew existed, but I had never sat and read any of the policy and position statements. Once I started reading the position and policy statements of the 30 working groups, I realized that I had been missing out on a wealth of information. These working groups provide a pool of resource specialists that address scientific and technical forestry issues, draft policy and position statements, and identify areas of needed research. In a day of information overload, these position statements provide concise, scientific information on various resource-related topics. Working Groups include inventory, policy and law, bioenergy, genetics, climate change and carbon, remote sensing, photogrametry and geographic information systems, to name a few topics.

Your SAF membership includes participating in up to three Working Groups of your choice. The working groups communicate by posting "<http://www.safnet.org/workinggroups/wgdesc.cfm>" [WG-News on the SAF website](#), hosting email discussion lists, sponsoring technical sessions and field tours at the national convention, and sponsoring or cosponsoring conferences or other programs throughout the year. Members of the Working Group submit articles to the Science and Technology section of The Forestry Source, the Focus section of the Journal of Forestry and development of working group websites. Other working group activities include:

1. Suggesting candidates for SAF task forces on special issues.
2. Conducting special projects that are responsive to the needs of the membership, the working group, or the Forest Science and Technology Board.
3. Developing forest policy position statements, in accordance with procedures outlined in the SAF Bylaws Section II-D.
4. Providing other professional organizations, decision makers, and the general public with information on SAF's science and technology programs and related forestry matters.

Working groups enhance the competence of SAF members by



*Mary Morrison is the
South Carolina
Membership Chair*

***SAF Working
Group members
increase public
understanding of
forests and the
profession of
forestry.***

providing current, science-based information on state of the art technology and emerging environmental and technical issues. Through SAF public outreach efforts, Working Group members increase public understanding of forests and the profession of forestry. To sign up for a Working Group, log on in the "Members only" section on www.safnet.org.

Central Carolina Chapter

Jason Watson

In addition to hosting the SC Annual Meeting in Columbia, the Central Carolina Chapter has held two meetings in 2008. The first was a tour of the new power plant at USC that uses wood chips as its source. At the conclusion of the tour we met briefly to discuss plans for the Annual Meeting. The second meeting was strictly for Annual Meeting planning. We plan to hold two more chapter meetings for the remainder of 2008.



Jason Watson is Central Carolina Chapter Chair

Keowee Chapter

Chad Bolding

Keowee Chapter has met twice for the year. Our first speaker was Tom Harris who spoke on Timber Mart-South and the changing forest climate in the South. Our second speaker was Ben Wigley who spoke on NCASI Forest Environment and Sustainability Program. The chapter continues to welcome Clemson University student chapter members to our meetings and we try to hold a joint meeting with the student chapter once a year. Chad Bolding has taken a new position at Va. Tech and chairelect Phillip Weatherford will move up to the chairmanship early.



Chad Bolding is Keowee Chapter Chair

Edisto Chapter Report

Chair John Martin

The Edisto Chapter has met four times to date in 2008. Our February meeting focused on preparation (assembling display and info, wrapping seedlings, etc.) for the Southeastern Wildlife Expo. This is our primary outreach activity and requires a significant commitment by many but is a great opportunity to showcase SAF and worth the effort. John Thorp with the Land Management Group addressed the group in March, describing his site evaluation work for the conversion of forest lands to development. In April, Stacy Berry,



John Martin is Edisto Chapter Chair

MeadWestvaco, discussed changes in land management practices as the Company shifts commercial forest lands into development. May's meeting consisted of a fish fry, courtesy of Chef Brockenfelt, with some help from his friends.

Enoree Chapter

Darren Atkins

After hosting the summer meeting in 2007, the Enoree chapter has continued to stay active with a number of projects. Most notable is our sponsorship of the S.C. Teachers Tour by way of monetary donation, as well as hosting a reception and dinner. The chapter members should be commended for their dedication and support of forestry education.



Darren Atkins is Enoree Chapter Chair

Old Hickory Chapter

Mary Morrison

The joint fall Catawba/Old Hickory Chapter meeting is scheduled for September 12. The meeting will start at 11:30 am with a picnic lunch at Historic Brattonsville for SAF members and their spouses. Lunch will be followed by a tour of Draper Wildlife Management Area that will start at 1 pm and last about two hours. A concurrent spouses' tour of Historic Brattonsville is also offered. To sign up please contact Mary Morrison at 864-427-9858.



Mary Morrison is Old Hickory Chapter Chair

Pee Dee Chapter

Leon Murph

The Pee Dee Chapter has had a good year so far. With the exception of May, we have met every month. Our meetings have consisted of field trips and guest speakers within the forestry community. We hope to close the year out as strong as we started. As always, anyone is welcome to attend a meeting if you are in the area. We meet the last Monday of the month usually at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to contact Leon Murph at 843-319-3221 for details.



Leon Murph is Pee Dee Chapter Chair

Santee Chapter

Preston Fout

The Santee Chapter met jointly with the Sumter County Forest



Landowners Association on May 20 when we had Laurie Reid, the entomologist with the SCFC speaks on Fomes annulus root rot and other forest pests. A total of about 45 were in attendance with the Chapter sponsoring the meal. Plans are being made to combine a sporting clays shoot, meal and meeting in October. This is a repeat of a meeting we had several years back and was well attended by our small Chapter. One member has mentioned a possible project with the City of Manning, identifying trees on the city property and having plaques made. This will be brought up at the next meeting.



Preston Fout is Santee Chapter Chair

Tonya Harrington

Winyah Chapter

The Winyah Chapter has held three meetings since February. The topics were timber theft and fraud, conservation easements, and wildland urban interface. We are still recuperating from hosting the January Appalachian SAF meeting in Myrtle Beach!



Tonya Harrington is Winyah Chapter Chair

APSAF Business Report

by Elizabeth Bourgeois, APSAF Secretary/Treasurer

John Thurmes called the June 18 Executive Committee meeting to order at 4:36 pm at the Hampton Inn in Columbia, SC. He noted SAF's anti-trust policy and reviewed the agenda.

Bourgeois reported that APSAF had \$44,640 in income, and \$29,253.35 in expenses plus \$1,300 in grant in expenses, for a total expenditures of \$30,553.35. At the same time last year, we had income of \$23,336.05 and disbursements of \$22,221.30. APSAF's total assets to date are \$92,893.11 versus \$74,206.51 in 2007. We have received \$9849.66 in APSAF dues so far this year. In total, we've received 101% of our budgeted income and have spent 71% of our budgeted amount.

In addition to the \$1200 that was raised at the Annual Meeting toward the KPF Education Endowment, members have contributed \$4,975. An article about the KPF Education Endowment should appear in the next Forestry Source. APSAF would like to raise the capital portion of the Kenney Funderburke Education Endowment to \$100,000 level over three years.

We have received a request for approval for Duke Student Chapter's National Foresters' Fund grant for \$1,000 and their



*Liz Bourgeois is APSAF Secretary/Treasurer
etbourgeois@yahoo.com*

***Click here to
download the
PDF of this***

application for \$500 from APSAF.

report.

The Teller's Committee tabulated the ballots for the proposed bylaw changes that would enable electronic voting. There were 374 for the bylaw changes at the AP SAF level, 7 opposed and 2 opposed in NC, 1 in SC and 4 in VA for the respective Divisions. Therefore, the proposed bylaw changes will become effective as of June 2008.

Council Member Joann Cox provided a written report, providing highlights from the June 7th Council meeting held in historic Priest River Experimental Forest in Idaho. In summary:

1. the progress on the SAF Headquarters property sale to Nations Academy is slow, but steady;
2. Council approved 33 nominations for Fellows, including Laura DeWald and Judd Edeburn (NC Division), John Cathey and Virgil Wall (SC Division), and John Farmer, Temple Hahn, and Jim Willis (VA Division);
3. the National Convention will be held November 5 through 9, 2008, in Reno, Nevada, with the theme "Forestry in a Climate of Change;"
4. Council approved and ratified Forest Management Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change in the United States;
5. Council approved the Task Force on Forest Technology School Accreditation's Report;
6. the May 26-29 Leadership Academy (LA) in Washington DC, was very successful with 53 attendees; and
7. Council approved two position statements, "Using Herbicides on Forest Lands" and "Wild Fire Management."

Mike Hincer submitted a written report for the Virginia Division. The Virginia Division Executive Committee has met twice since the last APSAF Executive Committee meeting. The Virginia Division held its annual state meeting June 5-6 at Graves Mountain Lodge near Syria, Virginia. The theme of the meeting was "The Future of Forestry in Virginia: The Landscape of What's to Come." Sixty-eight members registered for the meeting. Post meeting feedback was very good. Graves Mountain Lodge provided a unique setting for a meeting in that no cell phone signal was available and not any of the rooms had TV's or alarm clocks. Wireless internet connection was available.

Greg Scheerer and his committee are well along the way on preparations for the up-coming 2009 APSAF meeting in January. The meeting will be held at the Newport News Marriott.

The Virginia Division has sent a letter to APSAF Chair John Thurmes and the Membership Committee Chair, Carlyle Franklin, recommending that Council revisit the dues structure.

The Virginia Division continues to be concerned over the trend of declining SAF membership and hopes that Council will consider our recommendations. The Virginia Division also has discussed what the impact of rising fuel prices may do. With current and expected fuel prices, they feel they are going to see a drop in meeting attendance

related to increased cost, mostly associated with fuel cost. With declining membership, more and more the same volunteers are being asked to set up and handle all of the various functions of planning and hosting meetings. The membership feels that they should amend the APSAF bylaws to allow the host state of the APSAF meeting to count the APSAF as the state meeting also for that same year. The Virginia Division would ask that this be considered by the APSAF executive committee and possibly be incorporated into the redraft of the APSAF bylaws.

Les Hunter (North Carolina Division) was unable to attend the meeting as he was dispatched to a huge fire in Hyde County for twelve days. The Charter was given to Warren Wilson College's student chapter. Many people attended, and there was great enthusiasm. Charlie Finley could not open the file so the picture of the Warren Wilson college students so their horse logging didn't get printed. Hunter also called a meeting of the Albermarle Chapter in Edenton to try to revive it. Very few people showed up and no one was willing to be the chair or take a leadership role. This was very disappointing. Judy Hainey, Chair of the Tar River Chapter is trying to arrange a joint meeting between Tar River and Albermarle.

South Carolina Division Chair Tom Straka reported that SC's major effort has been preparation for the June Summer Meeting. Membership at the beginning of 2008 was 513 and at the end of May was 515. This is better than National and APSAF results. In the May membership report, SC division was up by 3 members, more than the other two divisions combined. So we are doing something right. The last Trail Blazer had a listing of our current committee chairs. We have a set of strong committee chairs. Some chapters are weaker than others and we continue to work with those chapters. South Carolina Division has already reserved the 2009 Summer Meeting dates: May 27 - 29, 2009. The Pee Dee Chapter will host the meeting in Florence. The meeting will have a wildlife theme and Wildlife Society members will be invited to attend. The meeting is scheduled early to avoid a conflict with the National ACF meeting to be held in Charleston in June. The early meeting date for SC will require every Division to get information in early. The deadline for information is March 15.

We do look forward to continuing enhancement of the website and continuing APSAF efforts to update the by-laws. SC Division is conducting a survey of APSAF chapter chairs on the issue of membership problems (a newer, more complete version of Mike Wetzel's survey idea). We expect results sometime in the next quarter (right now we have about a 50% response rate).

Ron Myers, the Professional Recognition committee Chair and Policy Chair reported that Scott Bachman has agreed to handle awards for this year. SC nominated the Field Forester Award recipient. Ron also reported that National SAF has been regularly updating the website regarding policy issues and sending out e-mail updates.

Carlyle Franklin, APSAF Membership Committee Chair, reported that there were 217 delinquent members as of May 31. Those who have not renewed by July 1, 2008 will be purged. Carlyle broke out the list by state Divisions and asked each Division Membership chair to make a special effort through the chapters to contact each of these people and encourage them to renew. A draft membership plan has been distributed for review. The committee has received several good reviews so far. Some specific goals and activity budgets need to be prioritized and added to the plan.

The Membership Committee also received a letter and a recommendation from the Virginia Division suggesting that dues should be lowered to encourage more people join, renew and continue their memberships. This is a priority that needs to be discussed. Is it realistic to take a proposal like this to Council? Is the amount of the dues really the biggest issue? Many people say it is, but is that just a convenient way to avoid admitting a genuine lack of interest in and dedication to the profession? Carlyle thinks we are stirring up some interest and that is a good sign.

National SAF has again assigned a membership goal for APSAF of one more member at the end of 2008 than we had at end of 2007. As of February 29, we were three members ahead of that goal; however, the currently delinquent members are included as current members. Based on purge figures for the last three years, we stand to lose about half of our currently delinquent members unless we do a better job at retaining them than in past years.

Mary Morrison, incoming Membership Chair for SC, is writing the fourth in a series of four articles on membership for the Trail Blazer. To date, 216 people have not yet renewed for 2008.

Ched Kears reported that the registration and licensing issue is dead until new legislative sessions commence in all Divisions. Ched also reported that there is a new policy for CFE documentation and tracking of CFE's. A more formal process of documentation is needed. Although Ched is not a fan of the sign-up sheet, you will have to write your initials next to your name and verify your attendance at this meeting. In the future, there will be a whole new way to certify meeting attendance.

Ched also reported as Chair of the Communications Committee that Kelley McCarter has asked for time to make a formal communications proposal after the NC Summer meeting.

Neil Clark and Dan Goerlich submitted a written Science and Technology report. They have spent a significant amount of time working to develop the APSAF 2009 general session program agenda. The meeting will be held January 21 to 23, 2009, in Newport News, VA. The title is "Forestry in a Changing Age." There will be three pre-conference workshops, and eight general session topics. The Pre-Conference meetings include a herbicide workshop, a tour of the Stihl chainsaw factory, and a workshop on technology for the semi-computer literate forester. The general session topics are influencing public policy and law making, conservation-based development, forest health, adapting procurement strategies to changing landownership patterns, the international forestry perspective, innovative hardwood silviculture, the myth of the omnipotent forester, and how climate change is creating new markets. This program, from preconference through 12 noon on Friday, has been pre-approved for 11.5 SAF Category 1 CFE credits.

The bylaw change providing for electronic balloting was approved. Electronic and on-line voting information is due to National SAF by September 5, and is due to APSAF by September 1. Send info to Liz who will forward it to Louise Murgia.

Carlyle Franklin, Membership Chair, discussed his group's Membership Action Plan. Carlyle created a membership loss profile using data from National SAF dating back to 2003. Lost members were divided into three groups based on their number of years of active service in SAF: "Senior Career Group" (26+ years); "Mid-Career" (11 - 25 years); "Early Career" (1 - 10 years). Results indicated that 84% of our membership losses are in the "Early Career" category. "Early Career" members averaged only two years of active service when they dropped out. The "Mid-career" category accounted for only 14% of losses, and "Retirements" only about 2%. It seems we are doing a great job of recruiting students with our numerous, strong student chapters, but we are failing to keep these students and early career professionals interested in maintaining their membership much beyond two years. Clearly, we need to do some things to make APSAF more valuable to students and young professionals. Our mid-career professionals also deserve some attention. Strategies need to be developed to address especially our resignations and purges in this group.

Franklin discussed the challenges to membership at each career level: member recruitment, member retention, and member reinstatement. SAF has no reason to exist as an organization unless we have a representative, active membership. Thus,

membership-related functions should not be an occasional "campaign" to drag in a little "new blood." We need to have a regular schedule of planned and coordinated activities throughout each year to recruit, retain and reinstate members.

In New Business, Straka moved that the Admin Honorarium be increased. The last time it was increased was 10 years ago. The motion was approved (with one abstention by the Secretary/Treasurer).

Myers moved to fund \$500 toward Duke's request for its symposium and support the \$1000 amount requested for the National Foresters' Fund grant, with the caveat that Duke students look for self-sustaining opportunities to fund the project in future years.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16 in Newport News, Virginia, at 8 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Bourgeois.

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Appalachian Society of American Foresters | 211 Chucker Drive | Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843-873-4823 | Email: chair@apsaf.org | Webpage: www.apsaf.org