



Special points of interest:

- Don't forget to turn in your SAF membership dues this month.
- Texas will host the National SAF Convention in Ft. Worth on **October 19-23, 2005.**

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From the Chair...

In the last newsletter, I indicated that I would share some of the recommendations from the House of Society Delegates. In the essence of time and space, here are a few of the recommendations to council approved in the meeting:

- HSD recommends to Council that SAF provide the 2005 HSD with a strategy concerning how the SAF will address the decreasing enrollment in forestry programs in the US and elsewhere, and that SAF continue to be the voice of the forestry profession in the United States and provide the leadership during this time of decreasing membership and increasing requirements for reasoned discussions concerning the welfare of the natural resources our membership manages within this nation. This will enhance and promote a diverse SAF membership.
- HSD recommends to Council that SAF Bylaws be amended to remove the percentage limitation on Fellows.
- HSD recommends to Council that Council determine the feasibility of a process to gradually increase dues from Introductory level (possibly earlier than 5 years) to the Professional level over a series of years versus a large one-year increase, with the intent of retaining younger members and maintaining the same level of dues revenue to the society.
- HSD recommends to Council that national's biomass position statement for SAF consider the relevant issues, and the need for, and the potential benefits of policies, programs, and legislation that would support and encourage

biomass markets and utilization.

- HSD recommends to Council and to the National Staff that direct, immediate attention be given to increased attention to employers both public and private about the benefits to their organization when employees are active members of SAF.

As the end of my term as Chair draws near, I would like to take this time to thank every person that has dedicated time this year to make Texas SAF successful. We truly have an exceptional group of members who want Texas SAF to be the best. It is my expectation that next year will be even better under the leadership of Dr. Tat Smith.

Thank you,

Marty Harris

2005 TSAF Officers

Congratulations to **Gary Burns**, Burns Forestry in Crockett, and **Kurt Kruger**, Larson and McGowin in Jasper, for being selected as

the 2005 TSAF Chair-elect and Secretary/Treasurer. **Dr. Tat Smith**, TAMU Forest Science Department in College Station, will be the

2005 TSAF Chair. Thank you to everyone who submitted a ballot.

News from National SAF

NAFTA Panel Rules Against US Duties on Canadian Softwood Once Again

December 2-For a third time, a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) panel has ruled that the US Department of Commerce must recalculate the duties it has imposed on imports of softwood lumber from Canada. According to the panel's ruling, the Commerce Department has failed to provide sufficient evidence that Canadian government subsidizes the country's softwood producers.

For more information on the ongoing US-Canada softwood lumber dispute, see archives of *The Forestry Source* at www.safnet.org and search with the term

"softwood."

Track Your CFE Credits in Just Minutes



Does sending your continuing forestry education (CFE) forms to the national office fall to the bottom of your "to-do list?" If so, SAF has created an easy way for you to submit CFE credits-in just minutes-through an online CFE database system. This unique system allows you to submit continuing education credits directly into your membership or Certified Forester® record at any time. You no longer need to fax, mail, or e-mail CFE forms or agendas to the national office to log your hours!

Simply log onto www.safnet.org/

meetings and enter your username and password. (Your username is your membership ID number or Certified Forester number, and your password is your last name.) Then select the meetings that you attended from the online education calendar. If the meeting is not there, the system allows you to enter the meeting and other continuing education categories before you submit the information. At the end of the process, you can print out the hours you submitted and keep the record in your files.

Note: Please keep documents related to your continuing education activities for your personal records. SAF conducts random audits of selected records.

Source: The E-Forester by Joseph Smith, December 6, 2004

2004 TSAF Membership Update by Jennifer Smith

Membership is a key element in any organization. Over the past several years, the Society of American Foresters has seen a steady decline in their membership. The National office feels that this decline is "directly related to a reduction in the number of new professional and student members that join the Society." The Society has actually retained more members than in previous years, but the decline is a reason for concern.

Currently, Texas has 414 members, which is just shy of our yearly goal of 423. To counteract these declining figures, we will be having a Texas Membership Drive in 2005. The Drive will run from January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005. The Membership Drive will be divided into two categories, student and professional. Each person that recruits a new

member will need to include their name and membership ID number on the "recruiter" line of the membership application they distribute to the potential member (applications available on the SAF web page). Every time you recruit a new member, you AND the new member will be entered into a monthly prize drawing. The Grand Prize winner in each category will receive free registration to the 2006 Annual Texas SAF Meeting.

SAF has numerous benefits to its members and the forestry profession, and we, as members must make others aware of them. SAF members get the latest information on forestry issues through the acclaimed *Journal of Forestry*, as well as the *Forestry Source* newspaper. SAF members also have the ability to enhance their technical expertise through affiliation

with working groups that offer research, issue discussion, and opinions on specific areas of interest. Members also have the opportunity to demonstrate professional commitment through accreditation, recognition, and Certified Foresters programs. SAF also gives foresters the opportunity to work and interact with other forestry professionals on a local, state and national level through various activities throughout the year. Cost is often cited as a major reason for not joining or renewing a membership, but we must stress the importance of "value".

You know the value of your membership, so get out there and spread the word to others!

Jennifer Smith works for Temple Inland in Diboll and currently serves as the TSAF Membership Chair.

Forest Landscape Dynamics in East Texas for the Past Three Decades

Deforestation has been a concern globally. From the Atlantic to Texas, nearly every forested acre in the South has been harvested at least once in the last two centuries – leading to multiple disturbances and land use changes over years. However, through years of replanting efforts, forestland area in the South is steadily increasing and becomes one of the major carbon sinks in the country.

In order to review forest landscape changes over time in east Texas -- resulting from many years of management and investment -- historical satellite remote sensing data from 1974 to 2002 were used to determine landscape patterns and changes in four counties: *Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, and Shelby*. Through digital image processing, land cover was classified either as *forest* or *non-forest* and a land cover map was generated for seven unique time stages. Landscape

patches were identified on each land cover map and landscape metrics were calculated, including patch size, aggregation of patches, and patch shape complexity.

Results showed a decline of total forestland in the 1980s and a recovery in the 1990s. This observation coincided with historical information about large scale clear-cutting during this time. Mean patch size of forest showed a trend of increase, whereas that of non-forest was consistently decreasing over time. This reflected the decrease of forest patch shape complexity, while the patch shape of non-forest became more complex. While growing over time, small forest stands aggregated into larger area of forestland. On the other hand, the landscape of non-forest continued to become smaller in size and complex in shape due to development.

The forest in east Texas plays an

important role (presumably from intensive management) not only in the local economy but also in the environment. Replanting efforts have created buffers between land development such as urban sprawl and ranching. Eventually, the forest maintains the overall landscape continuum while non-forest land-use is becoming more fragmented. Forest management mixed with urban development on the same landscape introduced wildland-urban interface (UWI), where efforts should be focused to maintain ecosystem health and sustainability.

For more information, visit www.sfasu.edu/forestry.

Dr. I-Kuai Hung is the Assistant Professor of GIS at Stephen F. Austin State University's Arthur Temple College of Forestry.

Huntsville's Walk in the Forest for Teachers by Ryan Witt

The semi annual Walk in the Forest for Teachers was held in Huntsville this October at the Huntsville State Park. 139 pre-service teachers from Sam Houston State University along with 8 teachers from Trinity ISD and 5 from Navasota ISD were in attendance and trained in the Project Learning Tree material.

The 2004 fall workshop was sponsored by The Texas Forestry Association, Texas Society of American Foresters, International Paper Company, Georgia Pacific Corp., and the Texas Forest Service. Project

Learning Tree Facilitators who volunteered their time to help put on the workshop were Jeff Waits, Mike Hill, Ragan Bounds, Lue Wenzel, Ginger Boswell, Art Hughes, Joel Hambright, Jason Wallace, Scott Alford, John Wall, and Ryan Witt.

The next scheduled workshop will be in April 2005. Please contact Ryan Witt at 936-295-5688 for more information.

Ryan Witt is the Texas Forest Service District Forester in Huntsville.



TSAF Brazos-Trinity Project by Henry Steitz

Ever wonder what happens to the funds, or the items we donate, or when we buy silent auction items at SAF meetings? These funds end up in the Koontz Educational Fund for educational programs promoting good forestry conducted by TSAF members.

And here is an example of how these funds are used. In the summer of 2003, the Brazos-Trinity SAF Chapter requested and was granted \$500 to assist the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council build a 314 foot long bridge on their Shadow Lake Nature Trail.

Our main purpose was and is to introduce thousands of mostly urban Girl Scouts to the beauty and utility of East Texas forests. This bridge, now built, completes a nature trail circuit around 35-acre Shadow Lake, serves as a platform for girls to see wetland plants, and shows the versatility and beauty of treated wood construction.

Several local Brazos-Trinity SAF members spent parts of three days helping finish this classic wooden bridge. Volunteers from United Parcel Service and Hewlett-Packard

Computer Co., during their United Way Days of Caring, have been involved on five occasions since September 2001, clearing the trail and building this main bridge, along with four smaller bridges, and two Adirondack shelters.

Lumber, for these mostly-wood improvements, came from the Girl Scout Camp forests. Logs were cut from salvaged dead trees from the year 2000 drought and tornado-broken trees in 2002. Universal Forest Products, in nearby New Waverly, treated the lumber and timbers to repel insects, rots, and weather (at no cost to the Girl Scouts). Girl Scout Rangers and an occasional hired worker, cut the trees, hauled the logs and lumber to and from the sawmill, properly stacked the lumber for drying, took the lumber to Universal for treatment, drove the timber pilings by hand (an almost impossible job), and built the framework. Our many volunteers completed the bridges and improvements.

Since early 2002, half of the Shadow Lake Nature Trail has been hiked by hundreds of Girl Scouts led by SAF

members.

The Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council sincerely appreciate SAF volunteer efforts and the \$500 TSAF grant that helped make this project possible.

Side Note: They also received an \$800 grant from National SAF in August 2004.

Henry Steitz is a Consulting Forester and the current Chair of the Brazos-Trinity Chapter.



Project Photos





Presentations and Posters for the SAF 2005 National Convention in Fort Worth **must be submitted online by January 12, 2005.**

The process is much simpler this year.

- Logon with your email address,
- Complete your profile information,
- Enter the names and emails of any additional authors,
- Enter your presentation or poster title and short description for convention printed information,

- Write the format of your presentation (seminar, roundtable, poster, etc.) in the comments box and
- The amount of time you are requesting in 30-minute increments,
- Attach a PDF file of your paper or poster abstract, and
- Email your co-authors to let them know their names have been submitted.

For more information

contact:

Terry Clark, CF
SAF Associate Director of Science and Education,
301/897-8720 ext.123 or visit
www.safnet.org/convention/2005call.



If you would like to help volunteer at the 2005 National Convention, please contact **Jan Davis** at jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu or **Angie Cure** at acure@tfs.tamu.edu.

TSAF Professional Recognition by Joel Hambright

It's that time of year to submit nominations for the **Laurence C. Walker Distinguished Service to Forestry Award** and the **Forestry Leadership Award**. These awards will be presented at our upcoming SAF annual meeting which is tentatively scheduled for April 5, 2005 in Diboll, TX. Nominations for the Laurence C. Walker and Forestry Leadership awards can be made as a chapter or on an individual basis - whatever you prefer. It is imperative that we take the time to nominate members for their achievements and leadership in SAF, their communities, and in the field of forestry.

If you would like to nominate someone please submit a letter of nomination, biographical sketch (not over 300 words), and any other supporting documentation to Joel Hambright, TSAF Professional Recognition Chair, no later than **February 18, 2005**. Nominations should address each of the following:

Laurence C. Walker Distinguished Service to Forestry Award

- 1) Evidence of continuing service and leadership in the Society of American Foresters, including work in Chapters, State Society, and special projects.
- 2) Professional achievement in the field of forestry.
- 3) Service to local or regional community, including activities in church and civic organizations.

Forestry Leadership Award

- 1) Recipient must be 35 years of age or younger.
- 2) Evidence of leadership in areas such as: school (if applicable), SAF Chapter, State Society, SAF National, church, civic organizations, special

community projects and in his/her professional position.

SAF Fellow

Nominations for SAF Fellow are due into the National office prior to May 31st of each year. For more information or to obtain a nomination packet please contact Joel Hambright, TSAF Professional Recognition Chair.

A list of past recipients for all three awards can be accessed by visiting the TSAF website at www.tsaf.org.

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**TEXAS SOCIETY OF
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A complete listing of contact information is on the TSAF website at www.tsaf.org.



Bits and Pieces...

CONGRATULATIONS to **Joe Pase**, Texas Forest Service in Lufkin, and **Dr. Tat Smith**, TAMU Forest Science Department in College Station for being selected as SAF Fellows!

CONCLAVE COMING TO TEXAS

The 48th Annual Conclave of the Association of Southern Forestry Clubs will be held at the Nacogdoches County Expo Center in Nacogdoches on March 10-12. For more information, visit www.sfasu.edu/forestry/conclave.htm

TSAF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING TEXAS FORESTER ARTICLES

Due to the National SAF convention coming to Texas in October, we will not have our regularly scheduled Texas SAF Annual Meeting. However, according to bylaws, we must have an annual business meeting open to all members. Plans are underway to host a one day TSAF Business Meeting sometime during the first week in April. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

If you have an article, event, or workshop that is relevant to foresters, please send it to the TSAF Newsletter Editor at flannery@marshalltx.com. The deadline for submitting information in the next newsletter is **February 15**.



Merry Christmas

Contact Kathy Flannery at flannery@marshalltx.com for newsletter suggestions