



Special points of interest:

- Texas SAF Annual Meeting is **April 5** in Diboll.
- The state Arbor Day celebration is **April 29** in Houston.
- Texas will host the National SAF Convention in Ft. Worth on **October 19-23**.

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From the Chair...

Dear Texas SAF members:

Please join me in thanking Marty Harris for his leadership in 2004. We are fortunate to have such strong depth in our State society, with capability of providing leadership at national and local levels to the forestry profession.

It is with a great sense of excitement about 2005 that I write! The year has gotten off to an excellent running start with advanced planning well underway by Jan Davis and her planning team in preparation for the national SAF convention to be held 19-23 October 2005 in Ft. Worth. This will be a great opportunity for Texas to put its best foot forward, and I encourage you to get in touch with Jan to identify ways in which you might

volunteer your time to meeting the convention needs, if you have not already done so.

Please note that our 2005 annual TSAF business meeting will be held Tuesday, 5 April in the Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center in Diboll. Details regarding registration and meeting agenda are included in this issue of the newsletter, and are available on the TSAF web site at www.tsaf.org.

Please give some thought to identifying ways in which Texas SAF might better meet your needs professionally, and how we might provide greater leadership to the forestry sector in Texas and the nation. We face challenging times ahead, and I encourage

us to use the opportunities provided by meetings of local chapters and the Texas SAF to address key issues affecting our future. We must also identify ways to increase SAF membership overall, including ways to attract greater numbers of students to chapters at Stephen F. Austin State University and Texas A&M. Attracting student members is key to maintaining a vibrant future for our profession. Let's all consider how we might contribute to making SAF membership attractive to the next generation of forestry professionals.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Regards,
Tat Smith

People in the News

Mark Stanford, Chief of Fire Operations for the Texas Forest Service, has been named a Regents Fellow by Texas A&M University Board of Regents.

Dr. Weihuan Xu, Principal Economist for the Texas Forest Service, received the TAMU Vice Chancellor's

Award in Excellence for Professional Services.

Tom Spencer, Fire Risk Assessment Coordinator for the Texas Forest Service, received the TAMU Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Professional Services.

Mike Hill, TSAF Foresters' Fund Chair, is moving back to his home state of Oklahoma this month to do contract work for Weyerhaeuser.

Lee Flannery, TFS District Forester, is going to work for the US Army Corps of Engineers on Lake of the Pines in March.

National Convention Planning and Progress by *Angie Cure and Jan Davis*

We are currently in the process of locking in all of the concurrent sessions and tracks. Jan is working with 14 National SAF working group leaders. We had 250 submissions. Jan has access to the system and many of them look very good. Working groups have first choice for selecting sessions that they are willing to sponsor. The program will be determined by the end of March and programs will go out in May. General Session speakers and moderators are in place. Working Group session leaders are responsible for moderating the concurrent sessions.

The main hotel where business meetings will be held is the Radisson. Try to make your reservations early and get one of these rooms to be close to the main activities. Two new hotels have been added to the list of host hotels; the Worthington in the Sundance Square area and Amerisuites in the Stockyards.

Free shuttles from all the hotels to the convention center will be provided and there will be airport shuttle service for a reasonable rate that is specifically reserved for the SAF convention attendees.

Lee Flannery has submitted everything to National office about the field workshops/tours and Madeleine is working up the prices and bus contract. He and all of his volunteers have put together some really good, and affordable, options.

In the exhibit hall, 21% of the booth

spaces have been sold, just 9 more to go! The prospectus goes out in March for the rest of the booth spaces.

The main banquet will be held Saturday night in the Stockyards. Afterwards, choice of Red Steagall Cowboy Show, museums, shopping, other clubs in the district, or strolling time at the Cowboy Gathering which is a festival of the real ranch hands and their cooks that just happens to be happening at the same time! Free bus service specifically for SAF will run from the Stockyards back to downtown.

Alumni get together will have a choice of a breakfast or dinner reception this year.

USFS will be showing its 100 anniversary movie one night and with tradition, Chordwood Band will play afterwards.

Opening ceremony will consist of a humorous and factual presentation on how Texas became a Republic.

Jennifer Smith is doing a great job with the students. Adam Jarret, TAMU student and National Student Assembly Chair is really putting a lot of energy in to planning the student's activities. They are making plans to have a student event after the banquet in the stockyards. Also, Mike Goergen agreed to talk at the National Student Assembly and reception.

There is going to be an added Communications and Project Learning Tree workshop on

Saturday for foresters and teachers. Teachers may attend with a 1-day registration fee just for them.

Hughes Simpson has a good committee put together for the Forester's Fund. The Oklahoma SAF has agreed to assist as needed. Although Hughes is also trying to raise items for the Forester's Fund, their primary job will be gathering and itemizing it all as it comes in from other states and selling tickets at the convention itself. We will also ask many students to help for this part of the event.

John Helms wants the National Assembly to be a little different. David Smith wants to present a scenario that restructures and hopefully stimulates more volunteerism across SAF.

There will be Leisure tours offered everyday for companions and spouses.

Packets with promotional materials have been mailed to all the states surrounding Texas as well as to some individual contacts in other states that have agreed to promote the convention for us. National says they have really asked the Council Members to also promote the convention when they visit State Chapters.

If you would like to volunteer for the National Convention in Fort Worth, please contact Angie Cure at acure@tfs.tamu.edu.



Texas SAF Membership Update *By Jennifer Smith*

The TSAF professional and student members that recruit the most new members between January and April 2005 will receive free registration to the 2006 TSAF Annual Meeting.

Also, there will be monthly drawings for new members and their recruiters. Prizes include hats, t-shirts, mugs, blankets, umbrellas, coolers, and much more!

To qualify, your name and SAF ID number must be listed on the "recruiter" section of the membership application.

The January winners for the Membership Drive were **Clarence E. Blackstock Jr.** and the new member he recruited was **Craig Koeh.**

If you have any questions, contact **Jennifer Smith**, TSAF Membership Chair at jennifersmith@templeinland.com or 936/829-7478.



Foresters' Fund *by Hughes Simpson*

The Foresters' Fund was created in 1962 to promote education and enhance public understanding of the role of professional foresters. Thanks to generous members and previous fundraising activities, the fund has grown to \$937,732 and normally supplies \$30,000 annually to local unit projects.

Past educational grants have funded important activities in Texas, such as "Walks in the Forest" for teachers and students. Another recently funded project included building a bridge along the Shadow Lake Nature Trail for the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. The importance and need of the Foresters' Fund is growing.

Unfortunately, due to demand and unrealized losses in the stock market the past several years, this outreach program will be unable to provide educational grants this year. We must find ways to

support this vital program so the fund can continue to enhance the public understanding of the forestry profession.

The 2005 SAF National Convention Foresters' Fund committee is currently planning a silent auction and raffle. It will be held October 19-23, 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas. Participants will have the opportunity to win a number of outstanding prizes, including big time Texas hunting and fishing trips, outdoor recreational items, forestry equipment, and many other notable prizes.

Your support is needed to make this event the best one to date. We still need volunteers to secure donations, sell raffle tickets, and assist with the overall coordination. Our goal is to secure donated items or services to raise at least \$20,000. Items can range from

books, clothing, equipment, your favorite local product (wine, fudge, etc.), or, in other words ANYTHING. Donations are tax deductible.

A competition ("the ol' pinch award") will be held between the State Societies to see who can raise the most money as well as donate the most items to the Foresters' Fund. If TSAF is allowed to participate in this competition, we better win!

Let's all do our best to raise money for this worthy program to restore it to action. Come and participate in this year's Foresters' Fund auction and raffle and let's prove to everyone why everything is bigger and better in Texas. If you have any questions, please contact Hughes Simpson at 936-639-8180 or by email at hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu.

**TEXAS SOCIETY OF
AMERICAN
FORESTERS**

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



Annual Meeting Registration Enclosed

Bits and Pieces...

The Texas A&M Student Chapter of SAF has a new website at <http://saf.tamu.edu>. **Adam Jarrett**, club president, and **Oana Popescu**, the webmaster, developed a great website!

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 WEBSITE

Please take a few minutes to review the TSAF website at www.tsaf.org. **Dr. Eric Taylor**, the current webmaster, is chairing a committee to update the website so that it best meets the needs of the membership. Please send your suggestions to eric-taylor@tamu.edu.



Lufkin/Nacogdoches Chapter Spring Events

March 6

Texas Forestry Museum workday from 3:00 p.m. until dark.

April 26

Meeting and Crawfish boil beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Texas Forestry Museum. Update from Paul Hale, Texas Logging Council.

TEXAS FORESTER ARTICLES

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

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