Advisor Comments

Welcome to the first edition of the SAF Student Chapter/Forestry Club newsletter! I am excited to see this come to fruition. The Chapter Officers and I hope this medium will be a useful tool for the Chapter to inform its members of our activities and convince other College of Forest Resources’ students to join our organization. I ask for your constructive criticisms in order to make this a better product to meet your needs.

Our student group is nationally known among the greater SAF community. We have been recognized as one of the top three student chapters in the nation seven times over the past 10 years. In addition, the Chapter’s website has been considered the best for the past three years. The group’s aim is to promote professionalism and camaraderie among fellow foresters, and to provide opportunities for students to become better foresters.

The 2006/07 academic year will be a busy time for the Chapter. Plans are underway for Chapter members to attend the SAF National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, and compete in the quiz bowl. Other planned Chapter events include attending the Mississippi Forestry Association Annual Meeting, participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program, practicing for Conclave at Field Days, helping out at Forest for Humanity projects in Starkville, conducting Project Learning Tree activities, and hosting guest speakers at Chapter meetings. Even though Chapter members work hard, they always find time to play and socialize.

Once again, I encourage all CFR students to become members of the local Chapter. Being a member is a great opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills while having fun with your classmates. I look forward to seeing you all at our events this coming year.

Dr. Donald Grebner

Presidential Corner

Dear Fellow CFR Students and Friends,

I would like to congratulate the recent graduates from the College of Forest Resources. I hope that they have very successful careers.

Our MSU Society of American Foresters (SAF) Student Chapter/Forestry Club has had another wonderful year. Our club has been extremely active in many different events including: National SAF convention, Forest for Humanity, Adopt-a-highway, MFA convention, 49th annual ASFC Conclave, Project Learning Tree, hosting speakers from private industries as well as government agencies, and much more. Our students have made themselves nationally known by placing well in various regional and national competitions.

Our new slate of officers has already been hard at work planning an event packed Fall '06. We plan to attend many of the same events plus more. Many students want to attend this year’s SAF National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, and there is a plan to cleanup and maintain a trail at Camp Seminole, the Boy Scout camp just north of Starkville.

As this year’s SAF Student Chapter/Forestry Club President, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and be a part of our organization. We would love to have all of you become active and reap the many benefits of joining your professional forestry organization. I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall of 2006.

Tedrick Ratcliff
2006 National SAF Convention

Mark your calendars for the 86th Annual Society of American Foresters National Convention — October 25-29, 2006 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Average Cost for students is $75-100 depending on the discount that the club can get us.

Dr. Wangari Maathai, Deputy Minister of Environment from Kenya will be a special guest speaker.

- Participants will take home information to improve interaction with clients, constituents, and employers.
- On-the-ground workshops will provide learning and exchanges to a broad range of interests.
- Adaptive management examples from forest practitioners.
- Case studies and success stories on practical application of science.
- Cutting-edge forest science relevant to practical application in the field.
- Quiz Bowl Competition between attending schools.

Student Registration will be handled at our August & September Chapter Meetings. Registration costs are on average $100, depending on what kind of deals we can get as a club.

For more information go to: www.safnet.org.

SAF Membership Benefits

SAF is the nation’s leading scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Members include more than 16,000 professionals who are dedicated to improving the health and productivity of forests.

As a forest management or natural resource professional, you’ll be making crucial decisions that can impact the future. SAF programs and services help prepare you for the environmental challenges that lie ahead.

Here is what you get to enjoy as a student member:

- Networking opportunities
- Access to technical expertise
- The latest information
- Forestry resources online
- National Awards
- Money-saving benefits
- Leadership skills
- A voice in the media
- Representation in your professional organization

SAF registration costs $50 which includes $35 for National and $15 for our local MSU chapter dues. See Dr. Grebner or one of the club officers to become a member or come to our first chapter meeting of the 2006-07 year and register. You can register nationally at the SAF website and pay local dues later.

A New Forest in Light of Catastrophe

Catastrophes and natural disasters can change the appearance of a region for decades. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina flattened timber in South Mississippi equivalent to two average years worth of timber harvest volume. The damaged timber has been estimated at $1.3 billion by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. The Mississippi Society of American Foresters annual meeting will discuss forestry in the light of catastrophes.

Highlights are a golf tournament, meet and greet, classes and seminars. Mark your calendars for June 14-15, 2006 to be in Meridian, MS.

For more information call Jeff Keeton at (601) 477-4233.
In 1957 the University of Georgia initiated and hosted the first annual Forestry Conclave. The purpose of Conclave, which means confidential or private meeting, was to promote cooperation and friendly competition among forestry schools across the Southeast. Just as importantly, it was meant to establish and maintain a high standard of ethics among students and professional foresters. Eight Southern forestry schools were involved in that first Conclave with less than 100 students competing in events such as archery, axe-throwing, pole climbing, log rolling, bow sawing, log birling, and cross-cut saw competition.

Today the Forestry Conclave has grown to include 14 southern forestry schools and more than 350 contestants. The events are composed of the traditional physical events such as dendrology, timber volume estimation, photogrammetry, wood identification, orienteering, and others.

On March 9-12, 2006, eleven MSU Forestry students traveled to Ruston, Louisiana and competed in the annual Forestry Conclave.
Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree uses the forest as a “window” on the world to increase students’ understanding of our environment; stimulate students’ critical and creative thinking; develop students’ ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and instill in students’ the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment. Each year chapter member visit Overstreet Elementary School in Starkville and teach third graders about the benefit of trees and wood in our daily lives. In addition the chapter collaborates with the Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter in Project Learning Tree activities across the State of Mississippi.

2006-07 Club Officers

President: Tedrick Ratcliff
Vice President: Bret Cates
Treasurer: Roger Tankesly
Secretary: Katie Nelson
Service Chair: James Floyd
Vice President Conclave: Daniel Nichelson
Editor/Publicist: David Menough
Social Chair: Stacy Stroud
Sergeant of Arms: Eric Ezell
Junior/Senior Representative: Audrey Sherman
Freshman/Sophomore Representative: Jason Barron

Organization

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Randy Graves directs a class activity with the Third Graders at Overstreet Elementary School.