Advisor Comments

Dr. Donald Grebner

This has been an active fall semester for the MSU SAF Student Chapter. The biggest event that the Chapter was involved with was the SAF National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Eighteen students went and they had a blast. Our students had the opportunity to network with potential employers and at least one student was given a job offer. Jean Chervenak, Eric Ezell, Jaysen Hogue, and Daniel Nicholson competed in the SAF Quiz Bowl as MSU representatives. They did a good job and I hope we continue to do so in the future. In addition, Drs. Shepard, Roberts, and Munn took the students on a trip up to Mt. St. Helens to see the long-term impacts from the 1980 volcanic eruption. From what I have heard, devastation still scars the landscape. The Chapter will soon have pictures posted on the website. Next year we will be going to Reno, Nevada. The current dates are November 5-9, 2008. As in the past, the Chapter continued its commitment to the Mississippi Department of Transportation Adopt-a-Highway program and the Habitat for Humanity. On November 17, nine Chapter members helped out with the Habitat for Humanity house at 579 Curry Street in Starkville. Many of our daredevil students served as excellent roofers while others showed their skills at putting on siding and painting ceilings. The Fall Field Day held at Dorman Lake was a great opportunity for our members to prepare for Conclave in the spring and eat plenty of food. As usual, the log burling event was the most popular to watch. Next year’s Conclave will be held in Florida sometime in March 2008.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to all of the members for their hard work in making the 2007-08 year a successful one. Keep up the good work! I hope that every one has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Be safe on the roads this holiday season.

Presidential Corner

Eric Ezell

The Forestry Club has had an exciting Fall semester. We have participated in various community service projects such as Adopt-a-Highway & Habitat for Humanity.

We had a good attendance at Adopt-a-Highway this semester with the introduction of a four wheeler. This had never been done before. Following the pick up, several students stayed to help setup for Fall Field Day, an effort that was much appreciated.

Fall Field Day went well with Pole Felling & Log Burling taking center stage. Everyone who attended had the chance to not only learn about the different events but also participate as well. This is always the case and anyone who is even slightly interested should come and give it a try.

We were involved in Habitat for Humanity a month ago. The undergraduate and graduate students who attended all agreed it was a good time. None of the work was overly difficult and many students claimed to have learned something new after the morning was over. Dr. Grebner made an appearance helping with the work and later took many appreciative students to lunch.

Our primary activity of the semester was the trip to Portland, Oregon for the SAF National Convention. Our students had the opportunity to attend presentations and learn more about Forestry happening all over the United States. While there, we toured the city, especially Chinatown. Several students even went to the Trailblazers game and all agreed it was a blast. Even the trip home was an adventure with delayed flights and lots of lost luggage.

Next semester promises to be just as busy as this one. The primary activity coming up is the Annual Southeastern Forestry Conclave in Gainesville, Florida. The competition includes both physical and technical events, so everybody has something they might compete in. In preparation for Conclave, we will be having a Spring Field Day in mid-February. While there, students can practice for the events or try them out for the first time. It is a great opportunity for everyone to get together and have a good time. As always, food will be provided and a we will have a bonfire in the evening. We encourage everyone to come out, have a good time and to bring a friend.
Forestry in a Climate of Change

Mark your calendars for the 88th Annual Society of American Foresters National Convention — November 5-9, 2008 in Reno, Nevada.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from renowned experts, to make contacts, and find out about job opportunities and internships that will shape your professional career.

- Job Fair where you can interview and obtain information on several Forestry companies, the jobs and internships they offer.
- An Icebreaker where we get to mix with other Forestry students from around the country.
- The National Student Assembly where we meet as students and discuss current issues and the future of SAF.
- Workshops designed for students to increase your communication and leadership skills.
- Quiz Bowl Competition between attending schools

Student Registration will be handled at our September Chapter Meeting. Average cost for students will be based on how many people go, donations that can be obtained and the discount that we find.

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
- National Awards
- Money-saving benefits
- Leadership skills
- A voice in the media
- Representation in your professional organization

- The Roots of Forestry online resource

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. You can also register nationally at the SAF website and pay local dues at one of the meetings.

Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show

Sponsors of the Mid-South Forestry Equipment show have announced that the biennial event will be held on June 6-7, 2008. It will again be staged on the John W. Starr Memorial Forest located just south of Starkville, MS along State Highway 25. It will feature live and static exhibits, contests and continuing education workshops.

Food will be available for purchase by the Mississippi State University Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. This event is a key fundraiser for the club that helps support our organization throughout the year.

Everybody’s help is needed and to make this event come out a success. Further information will be available at the Chapter meetings prior to the beginning of the semester.
On October 23-27, 2008, the MSU Chapter of the Society of American Foresters sent 18 students to Portland, Oregon to participate in the National Convention. While there, the students participated in many exciting events. They competed in a quiz bowl and did really well, finally succumbing to the students from The University of Montana. A new method for scoring during the quiz bowl turned out to be quite difficult and hard to understand for many of the participants.

In addition, Dr. Jim Shepard and Dr. Scott Roberts took the students on a day trip to see Mt. St. Helens. Students were introduced and shown various Western Silvicultural practices that included newly planted sites, harvests and clear cuts. Crater Lake located near Mt. St. Helens was also a scheduled stop, creating a perfect day exploring.

In the end, all the students agreed that the most exciting part of the trip was the trip home. Between flight delays, running through airports and 16 of the students losing luggage, everybody was happy to finally be home.

We would like to thank the MS SAF Chapter and the MSU College of Forest Resources for their continued support of us each year for this event.
Organization

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2007-08 Club Officers

President: Eric Ezell
Vice President: James Floyd
Treasurer: Emily Courtney
Secretary: Jean Chervenak
Service Chair: Landis Herrin
Conclave Chair: Jason Barron
Editor/Publicist: David Menough
Social Chair: Kiki Hilton
Sergeant of Arms: Kent Moore
Junior/Senior Representative: Will Tomlinson
Freshman/Sophomore Representative: Clay Mangum

Biannual Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

In 2001, the Mississippi State University Chapter of the Society of American Foresters adopted a two mile stretch of State Highway 25, located approximately six miles south of Starkville, MS near the John W. Starr Memorial Forest. Twice each year the Chapter cleans this section of highway in an effort to help the environment and beautify the area in preparation for Field Day. This year, the use of a four wheeler was much appreciated and enjoyed.

Back Row: (left to right) Eric Ezell, Hyman “Sammie” Stovall, Emily Courtney, Wesley Howard, Wesley Howell, Jean Chervenak, Jayson “Plumb Bob” Hemdon.
Front Row: (left to right) Jayson “Weeman” Barron, Bandit, Mark Miller, James Floyd.

Note: Information and pictures for this newsletter were obtained from various websites including but not limited to SAF website, ASFC Southern Forester, MS SAF Website, and others.