Merry Christmas and Happy New Years! It’s been an eventful Fall for the MSU SAF Student Chapter. As you know, nineteen students from the Chapter attended the SAF National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Although I was a bit under the weather with a cold virus given to me by my darling children, I understand that the students had a great time from a social and professional perspective. If we didn’t have the largest student contingent, then I would wager that the MSU Student Chapter was one of the top three with regards to the number of students in attendance. Katie Nelson led our quiz bowl team as captain while Daniel Nicholson, Jaysen Hogue and Daniel Sumerall helped lead the charge. Tedrick Ratcliff did a great job keeping everybody organized. Several professional foresters from Mississippi were at the convention and witnessed the two first place awards being given to the Chapter.

This past fall we were very successful with our first service project helping the local Boy Scout Camp at Camp Seminole north of Starkville. The Chapter maintained trails and levees at the camp. We had 15 students help out with the project. In addition, fourteen more students helped clean up trash along Highway 25, south of Starkville next to the CFR School Forest.

This coming spring will be full of activities. On March 15-18, 2007 the Chapter will be attending the 50th Annual Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave in Crossville, TN. The Conclave this year is being hosted by the University of Tennessee. As always there will be physical and technical events. The dendrology, wood identification and wildlife lists are available. The State SAF Annual Meeting will be held on April 17-19, 2007 in Natchez, MS. Sign up sheets will be going out soon so please plan on attending. It will be a joint meeting hosted by both the Mississippi and Louisiana SAF Chapters. It will be a great opportunity to network with potential employers. Besides these two major events, we are planning Spring Field Day, Adopt-a-Highway, and Project Learning Tree. Please check your email, our website, and the bulletin boards for updates. Once again, I want to wish all of our CFR students a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you again in the upcoming semester. Remember, if you are not currently a member, then being a member is a great opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills while having fun with your classmates.

Donald Grebner

Advisor Comments
CFR Annual Welcome Back BBQ

Every year, the College of Forest Resources hosts a barbecue with plenty of good food and company, to welcome students back from their summer adventures. The menu this year consisted of good ole’ fashion Southern BBQ straight from Little Dooey’s, with the traditional side of coleslaw and baked beans. To top it off, fresh MSU ice cream was served for dessert. A total of 119 students, 49 faculty with family and friends attended this year’s barbecue. An official welcome back was provided by Dr. George Hopper, the current Dean of the College of Forest Resources. New students had a chance to mingle and interact with the returning students. They were introduced to all the different clubs that have a part of the CFR, that they can join to enhance their experience while attending Mississippi State University.

Appreciation Dinner

In acknowledgement and by way of congratulations for achievements nationally, current Dean of the College of Forest Resources, Dr. George Hopper invited the SAF Student Chapter to a fish fry at the cabin on Blackjack Road. The MSU SAF Student Chapter was awarded two awards from the Society of American Foresters. They were awarded 1st Place SAF Outstanding Student Chapter and 1st Place SAF Student Chapter Website. In the past six years, the chapter has ranked among the top three schools nationally to be awarded these honors.

Some of the gang at the cabin on Blackjack Road during the fish fry.

Adopt-a-Highway

The MSU SAF Student Chapter participates in the community in many ways. A two mile section along Highway 25 from where Old Hwy 25 meets the New Hwy 25 down to Dorman Lake Road is cleaned by the chapter. This year several students participated cleaning the highway in preparation for Fall Field Day.

Katie Nelson and Christen McGee pause from picking up trash for a picture.
The theme for this year’s convention was Our Woods: Wild and Working. Eighteen students from our organization traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to attend. While at the convention, the MSU Student Chapter was presented two national awards, including 1st place SAF Outstanding Student Chapter & 1st place Student Chapter Website. Tension was in the air during the annual Quiz Bowl while the students were tested on their knowledge of various Forestry subjects. Students also got a chance to mingle with MSU Forestry Alumni at a social dinner provided by Dr. George Hopper. Other events included a job fair that was attended by Forestry companies from across the country, the National Student Assembly, and a trip to the local Natural History Museum. In the end, everybody involved was glad to get home and had a good time.
In September, MSU SAF Forestry students descended on Dorman Lake to practice their Forestry skills. To introduce incoming students and show off past skills, students participated in a mock Conclave. Events that were attempted included everything from Log Birling, Knife Throwing, Axe Throwing, Archery, Dendrology, Crosscuts, Log Chopping, Pole Climbing and Log Rolling. Returning students and new students alike enjoyed the chance to participate and learn more about the club. The most enjoyed event of all was of course lunch provided by the club.