

What's Inside...

from the chair2
from the vice-chair3
executive committee meeting4
chapter news8
policy update.....9
SAF news.....10

The Magnolia Forester is published semi-annually by the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.

July 2012
Volume 243, Number 1



MAGNOLIA *forester*

www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf

2012 MS SAF ANNUAL MEETING

POLICY INITIATIVES DRIVING FORESTRY: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MCINTIRE-STENNIS FORESTRY RESEARCH

John Kushla, James Henderson, and Marc Measells



The 2012 Mississippi SAF annual meeting was successful with 80 foresters and students from across the state and country converging on Tupelo in April. Mr. Jimmy Pappas, General Manager at the Clarion Inn/Summit Center welcomed the group back after hosting the convention 15 years ago. There were 26 exhibitors and sponsors, and 12 speakers hailing from Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, Washington DC, as well as Mississippi.

This year's general session paid tribute to Senator Stennis, "Champion of Forestry." The afternoon session consisted of a tour of the Enviva Pellets of Amory and the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery. The technical session focused on bioenergy and biofuels.

Dr. Don Thompson, Instructor of Forest Technology at Northeast Mississippi Community College gave a brief history on Senator Stennis from Mississippi. Forestry

was near and dear to the heart of Senator Stennis, growing up in rural Kemper County. In 1962, Senator Stennis along with Representative Clifford McIntire successfully sponsored a bill which President John Kennedy signed into Public Law 87-788 on October 10. This bill provided federal funding for forestry research to public universities. The McIntire-Stennis Act successfully promoted forestry expertise and knowledge to improve utilization of the nation's natural resources to a growing population and economy.

Dr. Steve Bullard, Dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University, elaborated on the impact of McIntire-Stennis funding since its passage. Prior to its passage, university spending on forestry research comprised only 7.4 percent of all forestry research dollars. Subsequently the McIntire-Stennis Act funded over 8,000

continued on page 12



Mississippi Society of American Foresters

James Henderson, Chair
662.325.0754
jamesh@ext.msstate.edu

Jason Gordon, Vice-Chair
662.226.6000
jgordon@ext.msstate.edu

Marcus Measells, Secretary
662.325.3550
mmeasells@cfr.msstate.edu

Bob Heinz, Treasurer
601.964.7138
reheinz@gapac.com

from the Chair...

Greetings to my fellow foresters. I hope the first half of 2012 has been a great one for you. I want to congratulate the Northeast Mississippi SAF chapter for hosting an outstanding meeting in Tupelo this past April. It was great to see so many of you at the meeting. Speaking of meetings, plans are being made now by our friends in the Capital Mississippi SAF chapter to host the 2013 annual meeting. I hope all of you can attend, and I know the Capitol Chapter will make us proud. The opportunity to get together and fellowship is a really special time. I always look forward to these meetings and seeing my friends and

colleagues from around the state.

The first half of this year is nearly over. Over the next six months I hope to have an opportunity to visit with you at your local chapter. I have had the opportunity as Chair to visit with two of our local chapters, Northeast and Broadleaf. At each of these meetings I was allowed to give my prognostication of Mississippi's timber market. Please extend me an invitation to speak or even to just visit with you at your next chapter meeting. I hope that this letter finds you well. If you have any suggestions or comments on strengthening our organization, please contact me (jhenderson@cfr.msstate.edu).

The ultimate forestry tool.

The proven Nikon Forestry 550 is the professional grade rangefinder/hypsometer that provides accurate range, height and angle measurements... And it's available exclusively from Forestry Suppliers.

The new Forestry Pro is equipped with three-point measurement in addition to conventional vertical separation. Three-point measurement provides the difference in height between 2 targets by measuring horizontal distance, and then the angles to both the target base and the top.

Designed to meet the demands of the forestry industry, the Forestry 550 and the Forestry Pro are also ideal measurement tools for arborists, utilities and more.

The Forestry 550 and Forestry Pro are just some of thousands of quality products we sell, and each one is backed with our 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Call 800-360-7768 or go online to order your FREE catalog today.



FORESTRY SUPPLIERS

Sales 800-647-8368 • www.forestry-suppliers.com

from the Vice-Chair...

As you are aware, in 1900, seven foresters, including Gifford Pinchot, created SAF. The organization was needed to address three very important issues in natural resource management at the time:

1. the importance of sound forest management as a critical component of economic and social well-being;
2. the impacts that legislation has on the effective management of public and private forest lands; and
3. the need for educated and trained professionals that could work with landowners and managers in their pursuit of productive and valuable forested lands.

These issues are just as relevant today as they were 112 years ago. To address them, SAF has worked to promote sound forestry practices, improve the education of the public, and provide the catalyst for foresters to gather and share their knowledge and experiences.

Membership is critical to continuing these activities while maintaining SAF's mission as a professional society. Unfortunately, the Mississippi SAF Chapter has been losing an average of about 30 members per year for the last several years. This trend is partly explainable by the changing trends in forest markets at the national and global levels. In addition, membership is impacted by the changing nature of forestry as a profession. But as the organization's size diminishes, so too could our voice for forestry.

Professional organizations like SAF do more than provide continuing education credits for individuals to maintain their legitimacy. Such organizations are instrumental in putting a face on forestry for the public and policy-makers. As a group of members, professional organizations help determine the road ahead in terms of how to practice the profession and keep it respectable. SAF is no different, and membership is critical to the future of our profession. Membership does not rest squarely on the shoulders of the Executive Committee. Each one of us is responsible.

The alarming trends in membership suggest a sense of urgency. As membership chair, I have been participat-

ing in a group of 34 chapters across the United States who are all trying to address membership issues. In Mississippi, a membership campaign will be conducted over the next couple months to recruit new members and bring back those who have become inactive. Although in the initial stages of planning, the campaign is designed to incorporate both state and local efforts. Success will be demonstrated by increased numbers of members, membership retention, and member involvement. The goal is to demonstrate a 5 percent increase in non-student members, which is consistent with goals across the nation.

An initial order of business is to adopt a membership strategy with short term and long term goals as well as specific actions. Because this is not a unilateral effort, I expect the strategy to be distributed to existing members for comments and voted on and endorsed by the Executive Committee. Examples of activities that have been discussed include better communicating the relevant benefits of Mississippi and local SAF chapters to members and potential members. This may consist of developing marketing materials that outline the relevancy of SAF to foresters' professional lives. We can also attempt to have a larger presence at sister organizations such as MFA and ACF where foresters meet and network.

As well, it is important to establish a defined process to welcome and involve new members. Some states have developed and promoted an Invite-A-Friend program with chapter competitions and awards in an effort to gain access to potential new members. In addition to our current system of awards, we can develop new recognitions of individual member and chapter contributions through awards and acknowledgements. Finally, we can track students to see what becomes of them after graduation if they fail to renew their membership.

In the end, recruiting and sustaining members works best at the local level and through individuals. This means the State Chapter will have to provide information and motivation to local chapters to help retention and recruitment efforts. We all know people who used to come to meetings and no longer do. Please contact those people and invite them personally.

Executive Committee Meeting

April 2012

- 1. Welcome:** James Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting including our special guest, Bill Rockwell, National SAF President. Everyone introduced themselves to Bill.
- 2. Anti-Trust Statement:** James Henderson reminded everyone of the nation's anti-trust statement and urged strict compliance. Any conversations that encroached on the statement would be noted and brought to an end.
- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:** James Henderson asked everyone to review the minutes of the March 8 meeting. Bob Heinz stated the CD renewed at 0.50%, not at 1.05%. Also, Bob Heinz noted the IRS status was still being worked on at this point. John Kushla motioned to accept the minutes as amended and Don Grebner provided the second. Minutes were accepted.
- 4. Financial Report:** Bob Heinz discussed the January 1 to March 31, 2012 Financial Statement. Heinz noted the expenses were the MFA Legislative Luncheon sponsorship, business manager and editor stipends, MSU student travel donation, and stamps and postage for the annual meeting. The ending balance was \$9,653.81. The CD with Grand Bank for Savings renewed for 12 months until February 24, 2013 at 0.50%, and had a balance of \$5,366.97. In addition, Heinz wrote the following checks at the meeting today: \$321.83 to Randy Watkins for awards and plaques and \$122.18 for Karen Brasher to pay for the meeting sponsor and announcement boards. The IRS tax exempt status is still pending. It should be resolved within 45 days. The dues payment summary checks should be forthcoming. John Kushla motioned to accept while Steve Dicke seconded. Financial report was accepted.
- 5. 2012 Annual Meeting:** John Kushla revised the budget down to 75 people. The hotel was willing to reduce everything to accommodate this lower attendance number. The skeet shoot vendor was not as willing. They had a 30 day cancellation policy. We only had 1 person sign up. However, the skeet shoot vendor did not charge us. Kushla stated that we had raised \$2,150 from exhibitors and \$3,050 from sponsors and that the meeting should clear around \$4,000. Kushla noted that many of the local chapter members were not attending possibly due to the poor economy. James Henderson commended John Kushla and the committee for their job organizing the meeting. Randy Watkins asked how many signed up for the technical session. Kushla noted it was eight as of this morning. Bob Heinz noted that Georgia Pacific's name was mislabeled on the sponsor list and it should be Georgia Pacific, LLC.
- 6. Council Report:** Ian Munn stated the last council meeting went over strategic planning process with emphasis on how to invigorate committees and working groups. They also discussed membership and the continued push for the Natural Resources Management Accreditation program which would help increase membership.
- 7. SAF President:** Bill Rockwell said we are looking at major changes for SAF but not yet sure what they are. SAF is looking at adding a second accreditation program for Natural Resource Managers. He stated some think it is a disaster while others think it will save the Society. Major strategic challenges are going to drive what we are doing. A lot of large and small changes are forthcoming. There is continuing dialogue between members and the leadership. John Kushla asked how the new dues structure is

Executive Committee Meeting

working this year. Rockwell said it is still not clear but noted that many members stated they would not have stayed in with the old dues structure. SAF has changed to a new database and are counting people differently than in the past. Now, delinquent members are purged at the first of the year instead of mid-year. Ian Munn noted that members signed up at approximately 20% as silver, 78% at gold, 2% at platinum. National SAF is at 104% of budget this year, but we decreased the budget from the previous year. Over 230 plus new members compared to previous year. James Henderson asked about charging for CFE credits? Munn said it was not clear yet on how the program would work. Industry has to pay a certain fee based on how many people sign up but traditional (Extension) should pay a flat fee. SAF is looking for ways to balance things. Rockwell asked, "How important is the Certified Forester Program?" He stated there are all kinds of potential. So, who are we and what are we really about? We want to maintain the quality of profession as well. Key: "How important are trees to the forestry profession?" Rockwell noted a wide range of strategic options are available.

8. Committee Reports

Professional Recognition: Randy Watkins called the three 50 year members, however only one can attend the Annual Meeting. All the other award winners will be here. Randy Watkins noted that he saved money on the certificates this year. James Henderson and Ian Munn noted that Dr. Laurie Grace is now making plaques and we may want to consider using her if it is cheaper.

Membership Committee: James Henderson noted that Jason Gordon would speak during the general session for about 15 minutes with five major points to cover amount membership which include:

1. Recognize the purpose of MS-SAF, contributions

of MS-SAF members, and the significance of membership to the future of SAF;

2. A campaign to recruit new members and bring back inactive members;
3. Adopting a membership plan with specific actions; success will be demonstrated by increased membership and member involvement;
4. Actions in the plan include: (a) involving better communication of SAF benefits; (b) developing marketing materials (e.g., membership packets) that outline the relevancy of SAF to foresters' professional lives; (c) establish a defined process to welcome and involve new members, including mentoring; (d) having a presence at relevant organizations such as MFA and ACF; (e) develop and promote an Invite-A-Friend program with chapter competitions and awards; (f) increasing recognition of individual member contributions through awards and other acknowledgements; (g) start tracking students to see what becomes of them after graduation;
5. In the end, recruiting and sustaining members works best at the local level and through individuals. So the state chapter will have to provide information and motivation to the chapters to help their recruitment efforts.

Don Grebner mentioned a conference call and shared the Oregon plan details. We need to have an exhibit at the MFA Annual Meetings every year to promote SAF. It was noted that ACF in Michigan participated with SAF and were active participants. Bill Rockwell noted we should strive on the national level to work better with them as well.

Policy Committee: Brian Mitchell was not in attendance. However, we have not received an update on the Longleaf Policy statement. Ian Munn indicated we need to find out if we have heard back?

Executive Committee Meeting

9. Old Business

Joint MS SAF and MFA Annual Meeting: James Henderson noted the possibility of a joint meeting. He discussed the process and how things might work. Bill Rockwell noted that he had heard others talk about them, but didn't know much about it. Landowners are more interested in the Forestry Associations. It was discussed we could put together extra technical sessions for the MFA Meeting. Bill Rockwell mentioned the Missouri Natural Resources Conference with hundreds of people in attendance. Ian mentioned the MS Wildlife Federation as a potential meeting partner. James Henderson mentioned ACF meetings as well. James Henderson questioned if there was a strong preference among the SAF group to have a joint meeting. Ian Munn noted we should at least have a booth at the MFA annual meetings. James Henderson mentioned possibly having a spring 2013 meeting with Tedrick Ratcliff, MFA Executive Vice-President. Ian Munn mentioned possibly having a Natural Resources Group meeting. We could bring in MS Wildlife Federation and others.

10. New Business

Boy Scouts Forestry Merit Badge: Mississippi has six Councils but only one participated this year. They had 400 attend the camp. Eleven foresters taught 206 Boy Scouts and 36 Weeblos

for the forestry merit badge. Steve Dicke expects it to be much larger next year with three councils participating.

SAF CFE Program: Andy Londo needs a detailed agenda at least one week advance, preferably two weeks. Londo noted that field trips need a detailed list of stops scheduled as credits are not available for travel time. Company only programs are not eligible for SAF CFE credit. Due to SAF rule changes, a lot of basic landowner education programs no longer qualify for credit either (for example: tree planting, pine thinning). After the program is over, the person in charge of the meeting has three weeks to submit the sign-in sheets to the National SAF office.

2013 Annual Meeting: John Kushla questioned who would host next year's annual meeting? We discussed if the Capital or Broadleaf Chapter should be the next host. Steve Dicke said the Capital would host if Broadleaf would not host in 2013. It was decided that the Capital Chapter would host the 2013 meeting followed by the Broadleaf Chapter in 2014.

11. Adjourn: Ian Munn motioned to adjourn with Don Grebner providing the second. Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Executive Committee Meeting

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(BancorpSouth Account)

January 1, 2012 - March 31, 2012

Balance in checking account, March 31, 2011		\$ 10,976.92
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Chapter/Division Dues	\$ 0.00	
Interest	\$ 0.87	
Advertising	\$ 0.00	
MS SAF Annual Meeting Proceeds	\$ 0.00	
Adjustments (uncashed check)	\$ 0.00	
Other Misc. Income (student travel fund donation)	\$ 200.00	
Total Support and Revenue		\$ 200.87
EXPENSES		
Chapter/Division Disbursed	\$ 0.00	
Business Manager Stipend	\$ 450.00	
Editor Stipend	\$ 525.00	
Printing (Annual Meeting brochure)	\$ 0.00	
Mailing/Postage (annual meeting notice \$54.98, stamps \$44.00)	\$ 98.98	
Travel (student travel donation)	\$ 200.00	
Supplies	\$ 0.00	
Sponsorships (MFA Legislative Luncheon)	\$ 250.00	
Meeting Costs	\$ 0.00	
Misc. Expenses *	\$ 0.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 1,523.98
Increase/(Decrease) in cash		(\$ 1,323.11)
Balance in checking account, March 31, 2012		\$ 9,653.81

CD Information

\$5,366.97 - 12-month CD matures 2/24/2013 currently .50%
Grand Bank for Savings (Hattiesburg, MS); Acct # 01-13034780

chapter NEWS

Broadleaf

No report presented. No one was present.

Capitol

Russell Bozeman stated they have a meeting scheduled May 3 with either Wayne Tucker talking about biofuel facilities or Charlie Morgan giving an update on MFC.

Four Lakes

Jason Gordon was unable to attend but emailed his report. They have a meeting scheduled April 19th at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery.

Loblolly

James Henderson reported for Randy Rousseau. The first meeting was at Dorman Lake Lodge on March 22 with Darren Miller from Weyerhaeuser as the speaker. He discussed how CatchLight viewed their strategy and the effort they have undertaken in the area concerning mixing of Switchgrass and Loblolly Pine. There were 16 in attendance.

Longleaf

Randy Watkins stated they had a meeting on March 15 with seven attending. Luke Lewis, NWTF regional wildlife biologist, discussed NWTF's role in the Longleaf Pine Initiative. Luke will write a

free management plan for landowners. Their next meeting will be this summer in August with a shrimp boil in conjunction with the Magnolia Chapter.

Magnolia

No report presented. No one was present.

Northeast

John Kushla noted they had a meeting March 6 with James Henderson speaking about the timber tax update. They also discussed the convention. They had 8 in attendance.

Homochitto

No report presented. No one was present.

JCJC Student Chapter

No report presented.

MSU SAF Student Chapter

Robert Grala discussed how the students placed in the events at Conclave. They did well in several events, with a few students placing in the top three. They have elected new officers, helped plant trees in front of Thompson Hall, participated in Adopt-A-Highway, and worked with the Boy Scouts. They hold monthly meeting as well.

Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter Chairs



Four Lakes
Mr. Carl Branson
carlwbranson@yahoo.com

Magnolia
Mr. Jim Walley
jim.walley@jcmc.edu

Capitol
Mr. Russell Bozeman
rbozeman@mfc.state.ms.us

Northeast
Dr. John Kushla
jdkushla@ext.msstate.edu

Broadleaf
Mr. Dale Oliver
djoliver@cablelynx.com

Loblolly
Dr. Randy Rousseau
rrousseau@cfr.msstate.edu

Homochitto
Vacant

Longleaf
Mr. Jimmy Mordica
jmordica@fs.fed.us

POLICY SCOREBOARD

Position:

The Mississippi Society of American Foresters (MS SAF) supports the restoration and maintenance of longleaf pine on appropriate sites in the Gulf Coastal Plain of Mississippi.

Background:

In presettlement times, fire was an important component of the ecosystem and, as a result, longleaf pine forests occupied an estimated 60 million acres (and may have occurred in mixed stands on another 30 million acres). This ecosystem declined dramatically for a variety of reasons to less than approximately 3.5 million fragmented acres (96% decline). According to a 2006 inventory, Mississippi now has less than 210,000 acres of natural longleaf pine stands. More than half (52%) of the total longleaf acreage in Mississippi is held by private, nonindustrial forest landowners.

Ecological Significance

Although the overstory is dominated by longleaf pine, this ecosystem has one of the richest species diversity outside of the Tropics. The decline of longleaf pine has contributed to the threatened or endangered status of 26 federally listed plant and seven wildlife species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise keystone species.

Restoration is defined as “an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability”. Restoration is complete when the ecosystem will sustain itself structurally and functionally. When there are no seed trees present, restoration can be initiated by either direct seeding or by planting nursery grown seedlings.

Economic Benefits

Investment in longleaf pine production may produce attractive financial returns from sawtimber and pulpwood. Since longleaf pine has a tall, straight form, it is ideal for producing high-valued poles. Longleaf pine straw, preferred over other varieties of pine, can be quite profitable.

Longleaf pine is more resistant to most diseases and insects, than other southern pine species. Longleaf pine has more wind resistance than other pine species, an important factor to consider in hurricane prone areas. Longleaf grows well on sandy soils, is fire resistant, and actually thrives from periodic fires. Well-managed stands of longleaf pine are aesthetically pleasing due to its park-like appearance.

Government and Non-Government Incentives

Most potential longleaf pine sites are located on private land. Private landowners have a wide array of federal and/or state financial incentives available to them for longleaf restoration and maintenance, including long-term management for legacy, recreation, wildlife, and timber income.

Originally adopted by the Mississippi Society of American Foresters (MS SAF) on November 14, 2007, revised March 20, 2012. This statement will expire December 31, 2017, unless revised by the MS SAF.

Council Report

Council met in Bethesda, MD at the SAF Headquarter over the June 1-3 weekend.

Highlights by Ian Munn, District XI Council Representative

Final Report of the SAF Task Force on Educational programs in Terrestrial Ecosystem Management

(TEM): Greg Brown, chairman of the task force, presented the final report to Council. Paraphrasing their report, the Task Force recommended that SAF move forward with development of an accreditation standard for interdisciplinary TEM educational programs. The Task Force believes that one of the clearest and most direct ways for SAF to communicate the importance of forests and natural landscapes to the public is to forcefully advocate for the role of qualified professionals in resource management decisions. SAF, because of its historical domain of interest and expertise, is uniquely qualified to define the essential elements of a professional education in TEM. In support of their position, and in response to anyone who might disagree, I would pose these questions, "Who is better equipped than SAF to accredit these programs?" "If we don't, who will?" and, "If we truly care about our natural resources, shouldn't we do what we can to ensure their proper management?" The Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of accepting the Task Force's report and proceeding with their recommendations. The next step is for the Educational Policy Review Committee to develop a TEM accreditation standard.

Certification: SAF currently accredits university urban forestry programs. Recently, an opportunity presented itself for SAF to partner with the California Urban Forest Council to expand California's state certification program to "enhance the knowledge, education and status of urban forestry professionals" into a national certification program, similar to our forester certification program. Because much of the early development costs have already been born by

CUFC and such a certification program would fit hand in glove with our urban forestry accreditation, the SAF Certification Review Board strongly advocated that SAF pursue this opportunity. Council voted to provide the funding to begin the initial work. Council also approved funding for a much needed overhaul of our Certified Foresters exam.

Forest Policy: SAF has been extremely active of late in the public policy arena. SAF Member and Chair of the Committee on Forest Policy, Bob Malsheimer, testified before the Subcommittee of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee. On behalf of SAF, Malsheimer recommended 1) increasing the NFS timber harvest from 2.4 BBF to 3.0 BBF this year, 2) supporting FIA at no less than \$69 million in FY 2013, 3) funding the Forest Health Management at \$112 million, 4) maintaining Hazardous Fuels funding at \$502 million for the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior combined, and 5) funding the BLM's Public Domain Program at FY2012 levels. For complete details of Malsheimer's testimony, go to: http://www.safnet.org/fp/Malsheimer_testimony.pdf. SAF Executive Vice President and CEO, Michael Goergen Jr. testified before the Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry of the House Agriculture Committee. On behalf of SAF's 12,000 members, Goergen testified in support of permanent reauthorization of the Stewardship Contracting Authority, which is used by the USFS and BLM to restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems along with a number of other services beneficial to National Forests. Goergen also testified in support of increased actions to mitigate mountain pine beetle infestations and associated restoration efforts. Finally, with regards

to the 2012 Farm Bill, Goergen testified in support of conservation programs for forests, strengthening forestry outreach, education, research and inventory programs, combating forest-related invasive species and improving forest market opportunities. For complete details of Goergen's testimony, go to: http://www.safnet.org/documents/Goergen_testimony_May2012.pdf. To truly appreciate SAFs contributions on the national forestry policy scene, I advise spending some time on SAF's policy webpage: <http://www.safnet.org/fp/policy.cfm>



SAF Forestry Rings: I recently attended graduation ceremonies for the College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University where I had the honor of acknowledging the recipients of SAF rings - graduating members of the student SAF chapter. After the ceremony, a past president of the Wildlife Society approached me for details of the program and commented, "Great idea! I wish we did it for our students." Yes, it is a great program. It may be a little thing, but it is a mark of pride in our profession. If you haven't purchased a ring yet, I would encourage you to do so. For details, go to <https://www.safnet.org/commerce/ringfund.cfm>

Commemorative Paver Program: The first batch of commemorative pavers has been installed in front of the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building (SAF's headquarters). A second batch has already been ordered. Many pavers are inscribed with the donor's name. Others are inscribed in memory of deceased Fellows, members, or loved ones. Still others are inscribed with lines of wisdom, humor, or poetry. This is a great way to create a lasting message about

a person, place or thing while contributing to the maintenance of the building at the same time. For more information about the paver program, go to <https://www.safnet.org/commerce/paverfund.cfm>. I'd like to encourage each member to purchase a paver in memory of an SAF member that gave you a hand up in your career or an old dirt forester that taught you how to get around in the woods. For State Societies, how about dedicating a paver to each new SAF Fellow from your state? Or members that have been SAF members for 25 years? Or members that have passed away? What about including pavers in the silent auctions at your annual meeting? As a challenge to each State Society in District 11, I will contribute a paver to be inscribed to that State's specifications if the State Society purchases at least two pavers. Furthermore, I will contribute an additional paver to the State Society that purchases the most pavers before the 2012 Convention in Spokane.

features

2012 MS SAF ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 1

master's degrees in forestry and 2,500 doctorates—some 37% of all graduate forestry degrees.

Dr. Catalino Blanche, National Program Leader for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture administers the M-S funding. Dr. Blanche was very eager to attend this conference in recognition of the anniversary of the M-S Act. While formula funding has been successful to forestry research, he mentioned that some of these funds would be awarded on a competitive basis in the future.

Dr. Bill Rockwell, Society of American Foresters President, provided an update on national SAF affairs and challenges, particularly the nature of SAF membership and its financial sustainability. The new dues structure implemented this year appeared to have arrested the decline in dues revenues. He then engaged the membership with a discussion on how to meet these membership challenges regarding expansion of the Society to include natural resources managers, accreditation, and professional certification.

The field tour Wednesday afternoon included a visit to a fuel pellet mill and fish hatchery. Enviva Pellets of Amory is a fabricator of fuel pellets from sawdust and wood chips. Their current production is 100,000 metric tons per year, all of which is shipped overseas, primarily to Germany, to reduce CO₂ emissions in power generation. The Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo has been in continuous operation since opening in 1901. The hatchery grows fish for stocking in federally managed waterways for warm-water recreational fishing. Over 500,000 fish are shipped via railroad annually across the South. It is estimated that the fish generate \$772,900 in economic benefit from recreational fishing.

At the awards banquet Wednesday evening, Mr. Rex Buffington related personal recollections of the

late Senator Stennis when working as his Chief of Staff. While Senator Stennis was passionate about promoting forestry, he was known as a man of high integrity and courage. Indeed, he survived a brutal robbery which left him confined to a wheel chair, but continued to serve the people of Mississippi and the nation.

Thursday morning comprised the technical session on Bioenergy/Biofuels, as requested by the membership at last year's convention. The session began with Dr. Michael Blazier, Associate Professor of Forestry Research and Extension, Louisiana State University. Dr. Blazier provided an overview of the potential roles forestry can play in developing bioenergy from biomass for direct burning, to transportation fuels such as ethanol or biodiesel.

Dr. Rafael Hernandez, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Sustainable Energy Research Center at Mississippi State University, elaborated on using the sugars from trees to feed bacteria in wastewater treatment plants. Certain bacteria are very efficient at absorbing sugars and converting into lipids, which can be extracted for processing into biofuels.

Dr. Phan, post-doctoral Research Associate in Chemical Engineering at MSU, expounded further on this approach. She conducted feasibility studies on this methodology that confirmed its viability. This, of course, could prove to be a very efficient means of generating biofuels since waste water is abundant and currently a cost to society.

Finally, Mr. Holmes, Director of Advanced Instrumentation and Information Technology at MSU, elaborated on yet another means to process wood into fuel. This would be the direct conversion of wood chemicals into petroleum products through 'cracking', the breaking of long poly-carbon molecules directly into petroleum products.

features

SAF president Bill Rockwell (left) and MS SAF president James Henderson (right) congratulated the award winners. Other winners not present include:

Mr. James Walley, Instructor at Jones County Junior College, received the Distinguished Service to Forestry award.

Mr. John Rhodes of Batesville received the 50-year membership award.

Mr. Ross Sherman of Wiggins received the 50-year membership award.



Dr. Donald Grebner, Professor of Forest Economics at Mississippi State University, was honored for serving as past MS SAF President.



Dr. James Henderson, current MS SAF President, was recognized as the Outstanding Young Forester.



Fifty-year member Mr. Jimmy Broughton of Oakvale was recognized.



Mr. Richard Bentley (center) received the Student Leadership award, and is enrolled at Mississippi State University.

Special thanks to the 2012 MS SAF Annual Meeting Exhibitors and Sponsors

Exhibitors

Forest Operations, Mississippi State University
Forestry Suppliers Inc.
Land Bank of North Mississippi
Landmark Spatial Solutions LLC
Mississippi Forestry Commission
Mossy Oak Properties LLC
Radiance Technologies Inc.
Weyerhaeuser Seedling Sales

Sponsors

Gold Level

Campbell Group LLC
Mississippi Farm Bureau
Silver Level
Basom Southern LLC
Golden Forest Managers
Hankins Inc.
Packaging Corporation of America
Plum Creek
South Mississippi Electric Power Association
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar C. Tissue Jr.

Bronze Level

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Dicke
Forestry Suppliers Inc.
Georgia-Pacific LLC
Landmark Spatial Solutions LLC
Van's Forestry Services Inc.
Tishomingo County Forestry Association
In Kind Support
Enviva Pellets of Amory
Itawamba Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northeast Mississippi SAF Chapter
Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery, USDI



This year's annual meeting included a tour of Amory-based Enviva Pellets. This facility fabricates wood pellets for bioenergy.



Networking



Touring the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery.

