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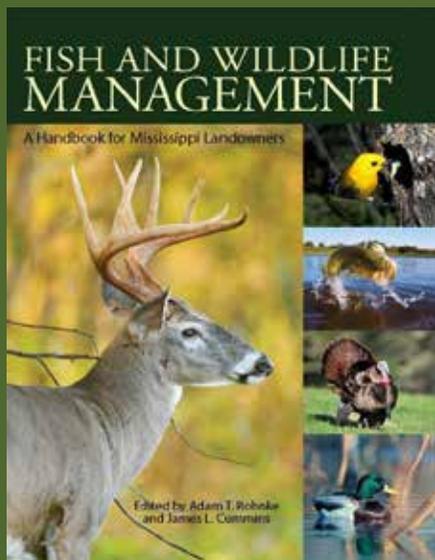
The Magnolia Forester is published semi-annually by the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.



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NEW BOOK HELPS LANDOWNERS MANAGE WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

Adam T. Rohnke



A new book should provide private landowners with a comprehensive and easy-to-understand guide to current land management techniques for fisheries and wildlife.

The book includes information on the state's natural resource history, conservation planning, various habitat types, and fish and wildlife. Contributors detail management techniques for both rural and urban landowners. Also included are chapters on wildlife-food plantings, farm pond management, backyard habitat, nuisance animal control, invasive species control, and management of specific wildlife species, such as white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkey.

The handbook is a detailed collection of information related to wildlife and fisheries management including over 300 images and easy to use reference tables and illustrations for general management recommendations.

Each chapter was written by Mississippi experts from MSU; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service; Wildlife Mississippi; USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Funding for this book was provided by Dalrymple Family Foundation with additional financial and logistical support from the Natural Resource Enterprises Program at MSU. For more information or to purchase a copy, visit the books website at www.wildlifemiss.org/book.

The book is available as hardback from University Press, locally owned book stores, box stores, and on line retailers. Also, the book has been released as an e-book formatted for most e-reader platforms.



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from the Chair...

As we move into Autumn with cool, crispy mornings and forests arrayed in gold and crimson, it will also be time to exert one of our profound duties to the forestry profession: it's time to vote! This year we have a special referendum on the ballot that will determine our governance, besides the election of officers. I want to take this opportunity to briefly explain the referendum you shall see on the ballot in October.

The laws of incorporation within the District of Columbia required that our charter and bylaws be written with a corporate structure. Last year, we as members to the Society of American Foresters voted to approve such changes. The special referendum on the ballot this year fulfills that charge.

Firstly, the SAF charter and bylaws were revised to conform with the new law of incorporation in DC. Our current articles of incorporation are over 100 years old. Basically, the SAF is currently operating under a governance structure from the 19th century. Consequently, the SAF charter and bylaws have been revised to conform to a 21st century governance structure.

Secondly, the referendum is requesting your approval of changing our mission statement. This presents an opportunity to define our profession as we move forward into the 21st century and beyond. It will emphasize the advancement of science, education, and technology in the practice of our profession. It will enhance the competency of our members by establishing professional excellence. These changes will help SAF members to establish our "brand" of using knowledge, skills, and conservation ethics to grow healthy forests to the benefit of society in perpetuity.

More details on the special referendum were enclosed with the August issue of the Forestry Source. Please familiarize yourself with the ballot. More importantly, take the time to vote in October and keep the SAF working for you and our natural resources well into the next 100 years!

John Kushla
MS SAF Chair

APRIL
22-23
2015

SAVE THE DATE
2015 MS SAF
Annual Meeting

Jones County Junior College

from the Vice-Chair...

On September 5-7, 2014, firearms and hunting enthusiasts were able to purchase certain items like guns and ammunition without having to pay the normal 7% sales tax. This was a great opportunity for both the merchants and the consumers. Personally, I didn't take advantage of the tax free weekend. For one reason, I was scared that if I set foot in a store, I would end up buying another gun that I didn't necessarily need. I guess I felt that I already had what I needed. This made me think about a parallel with Mississippi Foresters. We recently addressed the dues for becoming a member of SAF, yet I don't think we increased our membership in Mississippi proportionate to the reduction. Obviously, the Mississippi Foresters that don't belong to the SAF feel like they have what they need from other affiliations.

When it comes to convincing Mississippi Foresters to join SAF, I'm reminded of what Teddy Roosevelt

said, "It's like nailing jelly to a wall." Well I won't give up. I'm going to ask for every member to actively discuss with non-members the benefits of joining the SAF. I've heard a couple of unhappy Foresters recently spew that SAF doesn't represent their ideas. I also had one individual angrily vent about his lack of success with finding a good job in Forestry. I told him that I empathized and that the way to find that good job is to adjust his attitude and network with other people that care about this profession like the SAF and then that good job may become attainable.

I am counting on you the members to begin speaking with your non-member friends and acquaintances and get them to join. So let's do as Teddy Roosevelt would command and shout to us, "Hasten Forward!"

Randy M. Watkins
MS SAF Vice-Chair

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Executive Committee Meeting

August 2014

- 1. Welcome:** John Kushla welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Anti-Trust Statement:** John Kushla gave the nation's antitrust 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:** Marc Measells presented the April 15, 2014 Executive Committee meeting and the April 17, 2014 Business Meeting minutes and asked for everyone to review. Russell Bozeman made the motion to accept the April 15 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Keith Ward provided the second. Executive Committee minutes passed. Jimmy Mordica made the motion to accept the April 17 Business meeting minutes. Russell Bozeman provided the second. Business meeting minutes passed.
- 4. Financial Report:** Bob Heinz presented the 2nd quarter financial report noting the revenue from the Annual meeting and that some annual meeting expenses were paid from the State Chapter account. Other expenses included business manager and editor stipends, Tree Talk advertisement, sponsorship of MFA Summer Board meeting, chapter rebates, annual meeting awards, Mississippi Wildlife Affiliate dues, SAF Foresters' Fund and MSU Summer Camp scholarship donation. The checking account had a beginning balance of \$7,063.10 with a final balance of \$17,631.71 and the CD balance was \$5,415.44 at 0.15%. Randy Watkins questioned the CD rate of 0.15% and Bob Heinz indicated that was correct. Heinz brought up the outstanding checks that needed to be deposited. The chapter dues disbursement for the 1st quarter of 2014 was not issued from the National Office until July. The 2nd quarter disbursement followed soon after. Heinz has the dues checks for the 1st and 2nd quarters combined ready for distribution. John Kushla motioned to cut a replacement check for the outstanding check payable to Karen Brasher from November 1, 2013 (#833 for \$175) that has been lost and Russell Bozeman provided the second. Motion passed. Jimmy Mordica motioned to accept the financial report and Bob Naeger provided the second. Financial report was approved.
- 5. Council Report:** Don Grebner reported their last meeting was June 7-8. They met the new SAF CEO, Matthew Menashes. Grebner is pleased with Menashes' progress these first two months. Council reviewed the changes in the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. The most important items would be put forth at the beginning of the up-coming ballot. The current constitution will become the new By-laws. There will now be a member's business meeting held at the Annual Meeting. The new deadline for the property sell is now November. SAF should get \$16 million which they have developed an investment and spending plan for the funds. SAF would like to hire a membership person and also a communications director. The more controversial issue was a pathway for technicians to become certified foresters. The certification board did not seek feedback from membership before proceeding with this process. Council accepted the pathway at the December meeting. Texas was most upset of the issue. Don Grebner, Matt Menashes, and Dave Walters met with them the last week of July to discuss the matter. Texas was upset with technicians having the opportunity to become professional members. Russell Bozeman indicated the Mississippi Forestry Commission would possibly oppose this as well. Grebner indicated we need to come up with a nomination for Fellow. He also indicated Texas now has the largest membership from District 11.

Executive Committee Meeting

6. Chapter Rebates

John Kushla discussed the chapter rebates and how he wanted to reimburse the Broadleaf Chapter more money based on their successful meeting. He would also like to see something added to the by-laws to address this. Brian Roy Lockhart said the Broadleaf Chapter discussed this and they wondered what they would do with extra funds. They currently have more funds in their local account than needed. Lockhart said they all enjoyed working on hosting the annual meeting. They came up with suggestions on how to use the funds (scholarships, or paying dues for certain members, or using the funds for a project). Bob Heinz said he calculated the Net/Net for the last several years (avg. \$8,000 per year revenue from Annual Meeting since 2003). We are averaging \$15,000-\$16,000 in expenses so annual meeting generates roughly 50% of our annual operating budget. Heinz suggested that we needed to focus on recruiting new members including students. It was decided to leave the chapter rebate at its current level and that the additional funds are used for member recruitment.

7. Policy Chair Replacement

Brian Mitchell has resigned as Policy Committee Chair. John Kushla wants to fill this position. Don Grebner asked if there were any regular members that would be willing to serve. Jimmy Mordica asked if having someone from the Capital Chapter would be beneficial. It was mentioned to ask for nominees via electronic ballot. Marc Measells will send an email to the general membership asking for nominees/volunteers.

8. Officer Elections/Nominations

John Kushla asked if anyone was willing to serve. Marc Measells will talk with Jason Gordon to find out who we talked to last year and see if they would be willing to run for office this time. A call

for nominations from the membership will be sent electronically via email by Measells.

9. Magnolia Forester

We need articles for the upcoming Magnolia Forester. Brian Roy Lockhart said he would provide a write-up summarizing the 2014 Annual Meeting. September 15th was decided as a deadline for articles to be submitted.

10. 2015 Mississippi SAF Annual Meeting

Tommy Miller indicated the main day will be April 23 at the Technology Center in Ellisville. The meeting facility will be free for us to use. They think cutting down the time frame with a reception the afternoon before on April 22 and having a full day meeting the next day would help increase attendance, although the 2015 Annual Meeting was successful at 1.5 days. Ron Honea has contacted 8 possible speakers/topics. The other option would be to start at 1:00 the first day and finish the next day. It was decided to have the first option with 5-6 speakers. Tommy requested a list of exhibitors and sponsors.

11. Committee Reports

Professional Recognition: Randy Watkins asked for submissions for the different awards: 1) Distinguished Service to Forestry, 2) Young Forester Award, and 3) Student Chapter Leadership. In addition, the Chapter needs to nominate someone for SAF Fellow. Make sure they are SAF members because in years past we have had nonmembers nominated.

Membership Committee: No update. Randy Watkins indicated he and Jason Gordon sent letters to the 83 individuals who had not paid their dues and they had some feedback and some people paid their dues. There was lots of discussion on how

Executive Committee Meeting

some people don't feel SAF represents them anymore. It was also mentioned that the USFS doesn't have a lot of SAF members anymore either.

12. New Business

John Kushla has registered for the National SAF meeting using grant funds and will be sharing a room with James Henderson to save on travel expenses. Kushla distributed the "SAF Strategy Playbook" and "Leadership Talking Points and FAQs for Referendums" which discusses the upcoming vote on new bylaws and constitution. Kushla discussed the National SAF request for Silent Auction donations to be used at the National Convention for the Foresters Fund.

Bob Heinz brought up the 2013 financial audit that Jason Gordon had sent back. John Kushla was going to look over the audit and sign off on it for the Treasurer's files.

Jimmy Mordica asked the order of hosting the annual meeting. It was noted that 4-Lakes should be next, followed by Longleaf. Broadleaf has agreed to host every 5th year.

Bob Heinz asked if SAF would exhibit at the MFA Annual Meeting. James Henderson said we just have the SAF banner displayed by the Continuing Education sign-up sheets.

Steve Prestridge was the District 11 winner of the 2014 Presidential Field Forester Award. Steve will attend the National SAF Meeting to receive the award.

The next meeting will be November 19th at Bass Pro Shops if everyone agrees to eat at Uncle Bucks Grill. Everyone agreed.

13. Adjourn: Russell Bozeman motioned to adjourn. Keith Ward provided the second. Meeting adjourned at 12:11.



**NOT ALL SEEDLINGS
ARE CREATED EQUAL.**

VISIT US ONLINE

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Executive Committee Meeting

Mississippi Society of American Foresters

Financial Statement

(BancorpSouth Account)

April 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014

Balance in checking account, April 2014 \$7,063.10

SUPPORT and REVENUE

Chapter/Division Dues	\$
Interest	\$0.30
Advertising (Magnolia Forester Ad Sales)	\$85.00
MS SAF Annual Meeting Proceeds	\$20,408.29
Adjustments to Income	\$
Other Misc. Income	\$

Total Support and Revenue \$20,493.59

EXPENSES

Chapter/Division Disbursed	\$348.00
Business Manager Stipend	\$450.00
Editor Stipend	\$525.00
Printing	
Mailing/Postage	
Travel	
Supplies	
Advertising (MFA Tree Talk Ad)	\$400.00
Sponsorships (MFA Summer Board Mtg)	\$100.00
Meeting Costs (2013 Host Rebate \$500; 2014 Host Rebate \$500; (An Mtg. Awards \$618.50; Meals \$4469.88)	\$1,000.00
Misc. Expenses (MS Wildlife Aff. Dues \$2013.60 \$150; SAF Foresters Fund \$931.80; MSU Foundation Summer Camp \$931.80)	\$5,088.38

Total Expenses \$9,924.98

Increase/(Decrease) in cash \$10,568.61

Balance in checking account, June 30, 2014 \$17,631.71

CD Information

\$5,415.44 12-month CD maturing 2/24/2015 (currently .15%)

chapter NEWS

Broadleaf

Brian Roy Lockhart indicated they had not been active since hosting the annual meeting. They plan to have a meeting soon for all members and guests.

Capitol

Russell Bozeman indicated they had not met yet this year.

Four Lakes

Brady Self indicated they met on May 17 with 10 folks in attendance to hear Houston Havens (MDWFP) talk about waterfowl management. They also met on September 18 with Ian Munn giving an economics talk on recent changes in forest industry and how this is related to global forestry.

Loblolly

Brent Frye sent report via email. He indicated the Chapter met on June 30 with discussion by Brad Stewart on the panel plant in the works for Louisville. The next meeting for the 3rd quarter will include a presentation on management of the School Forest lands by Misty Booth, School Forest Manager.

Longleaf

Jimmy Mordica indicated the Magnolia and Longleaf Chapters met in June for a Crawfish boil with 12 in attendance.

Magnolia

Met with the Longleaf Chapter.

Northeast

John Kushla did not have an update.

Homochitto

Bob Naeger indicated that nothing has changed. The Chapter is inactive.

MSU SAF Student Chapter

Robert Grala sent the report via email. The Chapter had monthly meetings with 25-40 students present. The Chapter will host the 2015 Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave in Starkville. The Chapter was featured in the LandMarks Magazine in May 2014. The Chapter participated in tornado clean-up efforts in Louisville, Adopt-a-Highway, planted longleaf pine trees on the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, and assisted with the Scottish Highland Games in Starkville. They will run the concession stands for the upcoming Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show. They attended the MS SAF meeting, competed in the 2014 Conclave and placed 4th in technical competitions, organized the 2014 Spring Field Day, and have served/participated in numerous activities for the Department, College, and University.

Tim Evans (left) and **Sam Jackson** (right) were honored for Outstanding Service to the Broadleaf Chapter, presented by Brian Roy Lockhart.



annual meeting

The 2014 Mississippi SAF Annual Meeting was held April 15-17, 2014 at the Convention Center in Vicksburg, MS. The theme of the meeting, hosted by the Broadleaf Chapter, was “The Ever Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods.” This theme was a followup to the 2004 annual meeting last hosted by the Broadleaf Chapter titled “The Changing Face of Bottomland Hardwoods.” One-hundred and sixty people attended this meeting that focused on issues related to the ecology, silviculture and management of southern bottomland hardwoods.

The meeting started on April 15 with a sporting clay shoot at Tara Wildlife. An Executive Committee meeting was held later that afternoon, followed by a social gathering in the evening during initial registration and opportunities to visit exhibitor booths and bid on the many silent auction items.

The program started on April 16 with welcoming remarks by Brian Roy Lockhart, followed by two keynote speakers. Sonya Oswalt, USDA Forest Service, opened with a presentation titled “Forest Resources of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley,” and was followed by Emile Gardiner, USDA Forest Service, with a presentation titled “The Southern Forest Futures Project: Findings for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley Subregion.” These presentations provided an overview of the forest resources of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) and current issues that confront managers of these resources. The first technical session, following the keynote speakers, addressed threats to southern bottomland hardwood forests. Christopher Oswalt, Theodor Leininger and Nathan Schiff, all with the USDA Forest Service, made presentations on invasive plants, diseases, and invasive insects, respectively, that impact southern bottomland hardwood forests. While painting a positive picture on the management of these threats to southern bottomland hardwood forests, the speakers pointed to increasing threats, especially with the emerald ash borer.

The second technical session addressed issues facing

bottomland hardwood managers. Johnny Kiser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an overview of the resources and responsibilities of the Vicksburg District of the Corps regarding bottomland hardwoods. Richard Kiem, Louisiana State University, followed with a presentation on the interaction of forests and floodplain hydrology in the LMAV, including how future policies may affect this interaction. Norman Davis, Anderson-Tully Company, provided an industry perspective of ownership and management of bottomland hardwoods in the LMAV, including future hardwood supply and demand. Jim Chambers, Louisiana State University, then provided an overview of the needs for protecting and restoring coastal wetland forests, with examples from Louisiana. Brian Roy Lockhart, USDA Forest Service, ended the day with a presentation on the role of science in managing southern bottomland hardwood resources.

A Mississippi SAF business meeting opened the program on April 17, including updates from Donald Grebner, Mississippi State University, regarding House of Society Delegates activities. The third technical session involved updates to bottomland hardwood management. Chandler van Voorhis, GreenTrees, Inc., provided an overview on the role of carbon markets in the management of bottomland hardwoods in the LMAV, with specific examples from the eastern cottonwood plantation mixed with other hardwood species planting design used by GreenTrees, Inc. for non-industrial private landowners. Randy Wilson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, followed with a presentation on the Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife management system that is gaining much attention in the LMAV. Andy Ezell, Mississippi State University, followed with an update on herbicides available for use in bottomland hardwood management in the LMAV, including application techniques. Mike Staten, Anderson-Tully Worldwide, provided information on the human dimensions of wildlife habitat management in the LMAV, particular the role of hunting clubs in

annual meeting

bottomland hardwood management. Buddy Dupuy, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, described experiences from the state agency in managing bottomland hardwoods on public wildlife management areas. John Hodges, Mississippi State University, ended the technical program by providing results from an informal survey on the status of bottomland hardwood management in the southern United States. His results indicated a strong desire to continue managing bottomland hardwood resources despite the increasing challenges from invasive species, fluctuating market conditions and ownership patterns, and state and federal regulations. Brian Roy Lockhart provided closing remarks, thanking everyone for their attendance and participation. He further indicated the need for more communication among bottomland hardwood forest managers, including the need for

meeting more often in this format (currently about every 10 years) and the need for a bottomland hardwood newsletter.

*by Brian Roy Lockhart, Chair
Broadleaf Chapter*



Dr. Emily Schultz was honored for being named SAF Fellow.

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A special thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors. We could not have had such a great meeting without you!

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Annual Meeting Committee - Stephanie Allison, Glynn Brown, Lamar Dorris, Tim Evans, Sam Jackson, Brian Roy Lockhart and Arel Simpson

annual meeting

AWARD winners

presented by MS SAF president John Kushla



Tedrick Ratcliff (left) received the Young Forester Award.



Marcus Measells (left) received the Distinguished Service to Forestry Award.



William Bustin (left) was honored for 50 years of service to SAF.



George J. Paris Jr. (left) was honored for 50 years of service to SAF.



Jason Gordon (left) was honored for serving as the 2013 MS SAF President.



Zachary Senneff (left) received the Student Leadership Award.

MS SAF Ballot...

Vote online at
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/officer_election.asp
or mail your ballot to:
Marc Measells
MS SAF Secretary
Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Chair

Randy Watkins

Randy M. Watkins was recently promoted to Land Manager with South Mississippi Electric Power Association and was previously a Right of Way Agent with them (2002-2014). He received his B.S. degree in forestry from Mississippi State University and received a Master of Business Administration from William Carey University. Randy is currently serving as the MS-SAF Vice-Chair and as Vice-Chair for the Longleaf Chapter. He previously served as the MS-SAF Chair in 2003 and also served on the Mississippi Forestry Association Board of Directors.

Vice-Chair

Timothy L. Evans

Timothy L. Evans is currently a Forest Technical Services Administrator for Anderson-Tully Company (2003-present) and was previously an Assistant Wildlife Manager with them (1994-2003). He received his B.S. in forestry from the University of Arkansas and M.S. in Forest Resources from Clemson University. Tim has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Broadleaf Chapter since 1999 and served as the MS-SAF Secretary from 2008-2009.

Treasurer

Dan Prevost

Dan Prevost serves as a Forester and Biologist for Delta Wildlife. His primary responsibilities involve planning and implementing conservation measures on private lands to improve habitat and address resource concerns. Dan attended Mississippi State University where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in forestry with a wildlife management focus. He is a Registered Forester, Certified Wildlife Biologist and has been active with SAF for over ten years.

Secretary

James Henderson

James Henderson is Associate Extension Professor at Mississippi State University. He received his B.S. in forestry from Louisiana Tech University, M.S. in forestry and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University, and a PhD. in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University. Jams has served as the Vice-Chair and Chair of the MS SAF in 2011 and 2012 and of the Loblolly Chapter in 2010 and 2011. He has been active in SAF since he began working in the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State University in 2007.

Amanda Prisock

Amanda Prisock is a Marketing Forester with Weyerhaeuser. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.S. in forestry where she was an active member of The Student Chapter of the SAF, and served as the Secretary/Treasurer from 2002-2004. She later became a member of the Loblolly Chapter and served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2008-2012.

From the Council

Don Grebner

I hope everyone has had a great summer! I have, but I do admit that I prefer the cooler weather that the coming fall offers.

As you know, the SAF Council typically meets four times a year and often has monthly conference calls to address issues facing the Society. The last quarterly meeting was in early June. At the meeting, Council welcomed our new CEO Matt Menashes on board and then spent most of its time reviewing the proposed Articles of Incorporation and bylaw changes prior to their publication in the Forestry Source. The 2013 Audit Report was also reviewed. In addition, Council reviewed three Society position statements. The positions statements concerning “Using herbicides on forest lands” and “Wildland fire management” were approved. An expired position statement concerning the “Utilization of forest biomass to restore forest health and improve US Energy security” was retired.

Since the June quarterly meeting, Council has engaged in several monthly conference calls. During the July conference call, Council continued its review of the Auditor’s report and discussed the financial status of the Society. The sale of the property surrounding the national office was discussed. Since the closing date for

the sale of the property was postponed until November of this year, SAF has received over \$50,000 in penalties for the delay. The purchasing firm will hire and conduct an architectural evaluation of the headquarters facility at no cost. Council also discussed plans for the joint IUFRO/ SAF/CIF meeting this October. Council will not formally meet at this time, but many members will be at the event.

At the August conference call, Council discussed the financial status of the Society, the Founders Circle, and proposed changes to the FS & TB Science Awards. Council decided to withdraw the proposed changes to the membership categories that were outlined in the August edition of the Forestry Source. Council is interested in getting more feedback from its members on this issue. Therefore, no changes to membership categories will be on the referendum in October. October’s referendum will focus on membership approving the proposed Articles of Incorporation and proposed bylaws.

If any of you have any issues or questions, then please don’t hesitate to contact me at dgrebner@cfr.msstate.edu.

SAF Strategy Playbook

The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to:

- Advance the science, education, technology and practice of forestry
- Enhance the competency of its members
- Establish professional excellence
- Use the knowledge, skills and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health, integrity and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity.

WHO ARE WE?

Thriving forests. Essential Resources. Strong Communities.

We challenge landowners, decisionmakers and society at large to make choices about our forests based on professional knowledge, leading-edge thinking and a century of practical experience.

We seek viable pathways forward, balancing diverse demands on our natural resources. We set the standard in forest management, bringing science, best practice and the best people together to actively shape the future of the profession.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We set the standard in forest management, bringing science, best practice and the best people together to actively shape the future of the profession.

HOW WILL WE SUCCEED?

A thriving SAF comes from continuous improvement based on: vibrant and growing members, adequate and diverse financial resources and talented and appreciated staff.

WHAT ARE OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES?

- Access the activities, programs and operations of SAF and strive for continuous improvement in all facets of our organization.
- Increase coordination and relationships with state societies, working groups, partners and allies that will help SAF fulfill its mission.
- Recruit forest natural resource managers to become members to recognize rewarding opportunities that our mission and brand to provide a broader membership base to pursue those opportunities.
- Diversify and increase revenue to meet future operational and capital needs.
- Provide and promote superior educational materials, meaningful experiences and credentialing resources to help members achieve greater professional competence and competitiveness in the marketplace.
- Advocate forest and natural resource policies at the national, state and local levels that use forest and natural resource science to enhance the health and use of forest ecosystems to benefit society.
- Engage in cooperative efforts to achieve sustainable forestry and natural resources management.

HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?

When considering a decision or program, it should be reflect the three primary areas where SAF excels – Networks. Practice. Insights/Learning.

- Does it create opportunities for Continuous Improvement?
- Does it facilitate SAF Connections and cultivate our SAF Communities?
- Does it enhance SAF Credibility by providing comprehensive and accurate resources?
- Is it cost-effective and who will be accountable?

2014 Elections and Referendums Coming Soon

Matt Menashes, SAF CEO

I have been on the job with SAF for a couple of months now and am getting more and more familiar with our Members, our leadership, our staff, and our programs. It's been a whirlwind of learning, projects, meetings, and more, and I'm excited every day I come to the office.

One of my priority projects is getting prepared for membership votes this fall. The 2014 SAF national and unit elections and referendum votes will be held in October. I want to share my thoughts on the referendums you will be voting on and encourage you to cast your votes this fall. As Members of SAF, you have the responsibility to guide the Society by voting for our leadership at the national and unit level and for membership referendums.

All Members will receive a ballot for election of the Vice-President of the Society, and for leadership in their local units. In addition, there are a series of national referendums this year that will bring us into compliance with the passage of a new law in the District of Columbia, where SAF is incorporated. Membership voted last year to approve incorporation under the new law.

This year's referendums are important to the future of SAF. If they are passed, they will bring SAF governance into the 21st century. Because we are currently incorporated under a law that is 113 years old, we are in a very real sense operating under 19th-century notions of nonprofit governance.

The referendums are a series of votes. First, you are being asked to vote to modernize our so-called mandatory governing documents (currently the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution) to fit with the new District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Second, you are being asked to vote on a series of changes that consolidate several membership categories into one. Council recommends these changes in part to

simplify how the national office staff manages various membership categories, and in part to reinforce the fact that all members of SAF hold equal voting rights. This series of votes is based on a proposal by the Society's Membership & Credentialing Task Force that was approved by Council. I should note that nothing in these votes changes any Member's right to vote. All aspects of SAF governance that are currently under Member control will remain under Member control.

The votes on membership can be considered "subsequent" to the changes in the governing documents, meaning a successful vote on the governing documents does not automatically consolidate the membership categories. Council has carefully structured these votes to provide you the ability to consider these decisions individually.

Finally, we are asking for your approval of some slight changes in the way our mission statement reads. If approved, these will become part of the new Articles of Incorporation.

Council has asked the national office staff to provide the membership with ample opportunity to see the proposed changes and ask questions. To help SAF Members make informed decisions about voting, this special insert of *The Forestry Source* provides background information. On pages 2 through 4 is a sample of this fall's ballot. The votes are presented in order based on which document is affected. On pages 5 through 19, we include background on the changes in the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution. We will publish background information on candidates for national elections in the September issue, along with any clarifications to referendum language if necessary.

If you have any questions on the votes, please feel free to contact me at mattm@safnet.org.