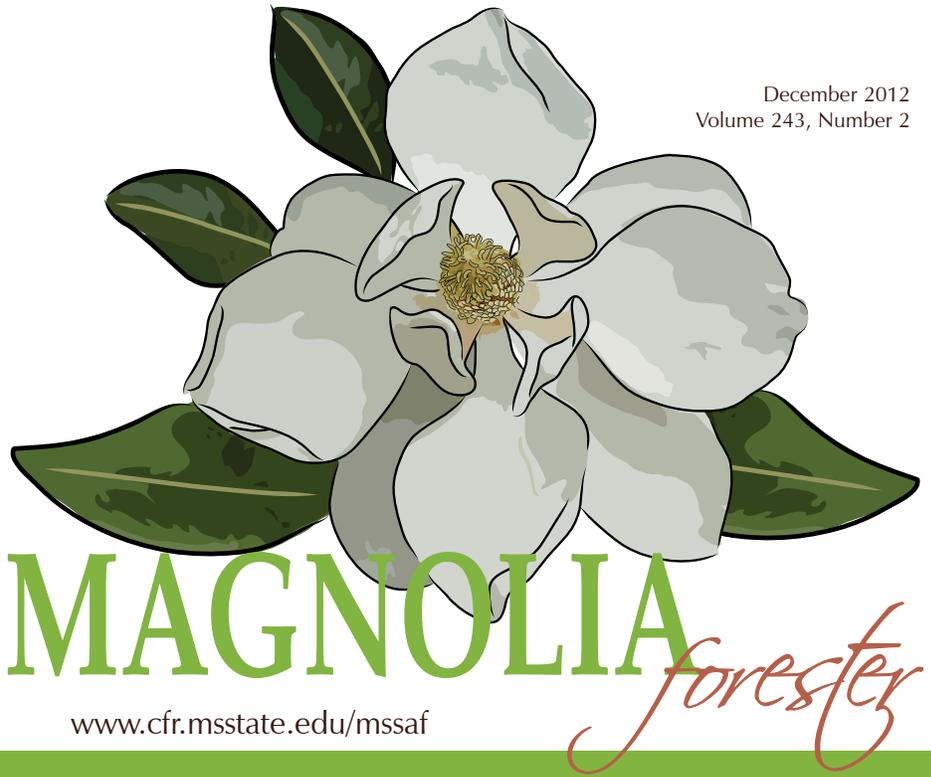


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## MISSISSIPPI TIMBER MARKET UPDATE

*James Henderson*



Timber harvesting activity over the third quarter was up and, given the relatively dryer weather over the past two months, most mills around the state now have adequate timber inventories. As a result, demand for pine sawtimber was down as mills implemented quotas on timber deliveries. The impact on pine sawtimber stumpage prices for Mississippi decreased sharply to \$24.26 for the third quarter of 2012. Prior to the Fall of 2012, Mississippi had experienced four consecutive quarters of sawtimber price increase. Given the recent improvement in the national housing market and the increase in residential construction, which is expected to maintain a positive trend over the next several years, demand for sawtimber should resume in earnest later this year and into 2013 as lumber mills increase production. However, stumpage prices will not necessarily increase greatly over the next several years as timber inventories in Mississippi are high.

Estimates from the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory indicate increases in standing pine sawtimber of over 43% since the beginning of the U.S. housing bubble collapse. It will take several years to reduce this inventory once demand for timber increases following continued improvement in the U.S. housing market.

It appears that the U.S. housing market is on the path to recovery. Housing starts and permits, a leading indicator of construction, are up by 30% from last year. Also, both new and existing home inventories are at lows not seen since the peak of the U.S. housing bubble. These are all positive indicators that demand for timber will be expanding over the next few years. However it is reasonable to assume that it will be several years before we see significant gains in pine sawtimber stumpage prices given both the demand and supply side issues facing Mississippi's timber markets.

# from the Chair...

Greetings fellow foresters,

The year is winding to a close as is my term as your chairman. It has been a great honor to serve you and this organization. However, you won't be completely rid of me yet, as I will continue to be very active as Past Chairman next year. I would like to take this opportunity to describe a few things: our advertising campaign here in Mississippi, the National SAF Convention I attended this past October, and comment on adapting to change.

I had discussed membership issues with your MS SAF Executive Committee and we agree that one of the reason SAF membership has declined is lack of appreciation and/or knowledge of SAF benefits, not only on the part of foresters but on the part of, and perhaps more importantly, employers. All foresters work for someone. If we can increase awareness of SAF membership benefits not only to foresters but to employers of foresters; then, being a member of the SAF becomes a marketing benefit to foresters. That's true if the forester works as a consultant or for a government agency or industry employer.

Earlier this year MS SAF embarked on a new marketing campaign promoting the benefits of SAF membership. Jason Gordon, our Vice-Chairman will go into greater detail on this in his letter, but I wanted to take a moment and encourage all of you to use the SAF shield logo in your own advertising, include it on your business cards, display it however you can. The MS SAF Executive Committee will work to increase recognition of the SAF brand with quality forestry. We want all that use the services of foresters to associate the SAF brand with quality forestry. We can all play a part in this effort and make a difference.

As your MS SAF Chairman I had the privilege of representing you at the National SAF Convention this past October which was held in Spokane, Wash. Each year the House Society Delegates meet at the national convention, which is a forum for state and multi-state SAF chapter leaders to meet and provide recommendations to National SAF leadership. It's a rather formal meeting. We all sit around a large ring of tables and there is a sign indicate the representative of

each SAF chapter. It was my great privilege to represent you at this meeting. As Ian Munn will describe in his SAF Council report, there was a very strong will at HSD to keep the SAF, first and foremost, an organization for foresters. The Louisiana SAF Chairman, George Ramsey, approached the podium at the HSD meeting and described his concern over a change in the SAF strategic plan. The change was a subtle one but an important one. In the strategic plan the term forester was replaced with the term forest manager. After describing his concerns I spoke up and motioned that HSD advise SAF Leadership to restore the term forester to the strategic plan. As Ian Munn has well described in his SAF Council report, the motion went through a few version but was passed with a resounding majority.

There are changes facing the SAF. The subtle change in the SAF strategic plan is a herald of things to come, changing opinions about who can benefit from this professional society. In other parts of the county new degree programs have been added to or even replaced existing forestry degree programs. The only constant is change. Forestry and forest management is changing and will continue to change. Consider the use of GIS in our profession as an example and how much that has changed our profession in a relatively short time. Organizations and professions that can adapt to change survive. In my opinion, our objective as foresters should be to shape and guide these changes rather than be resistant to them. You will see many changes over the next several years. New technologies and new ideas will always be on the horizon and those with an open mind will be the ones that can use them to their advantage. My sincere hope is that we foresters can seize this opportunity and shape and guide changes to our profession for the benefit of all.

Again, it has been my great privilege to serve you this past year, and I look forward to many more years of service to you, our profession, and the Society of American Foresters.

James E. Henderson  
MS SAF Chairman

# from the Vice-Chair...

Dear Mississippi SAF Members:

I am pleased to note that our state chapter started its membership campaign in earnest during the 2012 Mississippi Forestry Association Annual Conference. In an effort to promote the SAF brand, members wore lapel pins in the image of the organization's shield logo. The pins will continue to be available through our 2013 conference in Jackson and cost \$7.50. They can also be purchased any time by contacting James Henderson. Not only do I wear the pin to SAF activities, I also display it when attending county forestry association meetings and even when I'm helping with a public school event that concerns forestry. When we show pride to be members of SAF, word gets around that it's an important and credible organization.

Coupled with the lapel pins, the state chapter exhibited a booth at the MFA conference. As seen in the photo, the booth was supplied with a number of literature resources published by SAF, including the Source, the Journal, and the regional journal. The banner reads "Renewable Resources You Won't Find Anywhere Else" and "SAF Members Benefit From: The Latest Information, Continuing Education Programs, Powerful Legislative Voice, Access to Technical Expertise, Networking Opportunities, and Promotion

of Professional Standards." SAF promotional cards reflecting the banner statements were given to most, if not all, of the foresters at the conference.

As the State Chair mentioned in his letter, the concept behind the lapel pins and the banner are to target both foresters as well as foresters' employers (both private and public). Our approach is similar to the marketing campaign for cotton and some other commodities – clients don't usually interact directly with SAF, but they should know that it's the standard bearer for the highest level of professionalism in forest management. There was much interest in the booth and the pins with around thirty SAF applications distributed during the conference.

Several of the steps we've taken may seem small at first glance, yet each activity towards improving membership can make a difference and add up to significant numbers over the long-run. Membership retention and recruitment is a constant process that deserves on-going commitment and creative ways of reaching out to our fellow foresters. In the upcoming year, we will continue to work on ideas that attract the attention of foresters and their clients. As always, I encourage members to contact any of the officers with suggestions of how we can improve our membership retention and recruitment efforts.

Jason Gordon  
MS SAF Vice-Chair



Mississippi Society of American Foresters

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Marcus Measells, Secretary  
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Bob Heinz, Treasurer  
601.964.7138      reheinz@gapac.com



# Executive Committee Meeting

July 2012

- 1. Welcome:** James Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 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:** Marc Measells presented the minutes of the April 10, 2012 Executive Committee meeting and asked for everyone to review. Jimmy Mordica motioned to accept the minutes. Keith Ward provided the 2nd. Minutes were approved.
- 4. Financial Report:** James Henderson stated the 2011 financial audit was completed by Don Grebner. Bob Heinz discussed the 2nd quarter financial statements which had a starting balance of \$9,653.81. We received dues reimbursements and earned minimal interest. Expenses included some of the annual meeting costs, the MWF affiliate dues of \$150, and stipends for the business manager and editor. The ending balance was \$10,208.30. Heinz distributed dues reimbursement checks to those in attendance. Measells read the IRS status letter. Stephen Dicke said each individual "chapter" must file individual reports and have their own tax id number with the IRS. Heinz said National SAF guidance would be helpful. Ian Munn asked to be copied on all e-mail with national from now on so that things can get resolved. Munn said last he heard, National SAF was going to handle it. Keith Ward asked what needs to be done on the local chapter level. Munn will send the IRS letter to Michael Goergen for the state chapter and the local chapter. Dicke motioned to accept the financial statements with Ward providing the second. Financial statements were approved.
- 5. 2012 Annual Meeting:** John Kushla passed out the evaluation and accounting statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting. The net revenue was \$4,763.08. Kushla presented the proceeds check to Bob Heinz. Kushla recommended having a form for exhibitors and sponsors to clear up some confusion. Kushla was disappointed with the attendance from members in the northeast area. The Annual Meeting was attended by approximately 75 individuals from across the state. Kushla thought a central meeting location would be more appropriate to increase attendance at the annual meeting. James Henderson thanked John Kushla and his committee for hosting the 2012 Annual Meeting in Tupelo.
- 6. Council Report:** Ian Munn discussed two major items from the National Office. 1) SAF has finally sold the national headquarters property subject to legal approval and received a \$1 million down payment. It is subject to zoning approval for the developers. 2) National SAF is trying to develop an SAF "brand" to use in marketing efforts. Munn believes this has the potential to have lots of value. SAF is the national center of excellence for all things forestry and should be the people everyone turns to for answers about forestry. Munn stated the preliminary efforts looks good. Keith Ward asked if they were going to promote forestry. Munn said yes.
- 8. Committee Reports**
  - Professional Recognition:** Randy Watkins appreciated nominations for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Watkins asked that we start looking for nominations for Distinguished Service, Outstanding Young Forester, and Student Leadership for the 2013 Annual Meeting.

# Executive Committee Meeting

**Membership Committee:** Jason Gordon reported on the membership report as of July 6. We are steady on active members. Gordon discussed the membership exchange among chapters but stated that not much good ideas have been presented. John Kushla questioned where foresters were going for continuing education credits. Ian Munn believes MFA is our biggest competitor. National SAF is looking at charging groups to pay for CFE credit toward the Certified Forester program. Stephen Dicke discussed hosting an Ethics class at an annual meeting. Gordon would look into having it this year. Munn suggested making them be national members with SAF members being their sponsor and both receive SAF discounts for 5 years if the new member stays active. We discussed and debated what SAF does for foresters and how national needs to do a better job disseminating what they actually do for the forestry profession. It was believed that this “branding” would help recruit past and new members. It was discussed that we have non-SAF members serving as local chapter officers. James Henderson was going to be in contact with these individuals and urging them to pay their SAF dues.

**Policy Committee:** Brian Mitchell emailed report. Mitchell’s e-mail stated that the National SAF office approved the revised Longleaf Policy Statement. Mitchell wanted to make sure that our website had been updated to reflect the revisions. Mitchell also mentioned he was working to review all of the policy statements to see if they need revisions before the December deadline. Stephen Dicke said Les Shelby said all policies on position statements would end in Dec. 2012. Randy Rousseau and Guy Vise are also committee members that should help Mitchell review and revise the policy statements. We must take action on all position statements at the next executive meeting.

**2013 Annual Meeting:** Stephen Dicke stated the 2013 Annual Meeting would be in Jackson at the Mississippi Ag & Forestry Museum. Dicke mentioned that Les Shelby agreed to help plan and host the annual meeting. Dicke discussed the costs associated with using the Museum. He asked if we should have a speaker or entertainment for the dinner? It was agreed that this is something to look into. Randy Watkins suggested having a band for entertainment at the meeting. Jimmy Mordica mentioned that the USFS Blues Rangers band might be available. We also discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting with MFA. It was agreed to invite MFA members to the 2013 Annual Meeting but that this year would not be co-hosted with MFA. Dicke stated that wildlife management may be the primary theme.

## 9. Old Business

**Joint MS SAF and MFA Annual Meeting:** James Henderson talked to Tedrick Ratcliff, MFA Executive Vice-President about how to handle co-hosting an annual meeting. They thought one large annual meeting between both organizations on BORF renewal years would be most appropriate. Revenue sharing would be based on historical profits. It would be proportional and revenue would be split accordingly. MFA would handle registration via their staff. Robert Grala questioned value as an SAF member. Ian Munn questioned how it would be profitable to MFA as most SAF members are MFA members and he doesn’t see how it would work. Munn suggested having a huge SAF booth at the joint meeting. Henderson will continue discussions with Ratcliff on a 2015 Joint Meeting.

**Magnolia Forester:** James mentioned that Karen Brasher would have us a draft on Monday and that it should be sent to the SAF membership within one week. Forestry Suppliers was going to advertise in The Magnolia Forester for \$85.

# Executive Committee Meeting

## 10. New Business

**SAF Promotion at MFA Annual Meeting:** James Henderson talked about having a booth at the MFA Annual Meeting promoting everything SAF does. National is going to send a booth display to use at the Annual Meeting. We will distribute SAF lapel pins to all SAF members in attendance. The pins cost \$7.50 each. It was mentioned that we should charge \$5.00 per pin to offset the costs. Stephen Dicke motioned to have a booth and Keith Ward provided the second. Motion was approved.

**SAF Bricks:** Ian Munn mentioned SAF bricks intended for the pavement in front of National SAF headquarters would be sold for \$150 per brick with up to three lines of text. These could be used to

honor any local chapter, SAF Fellow, any member of interest, or recently deceased members or foresters. Munn issued a challenge to the states in his region. He will buy third brick for his three states and will buy an additional brick for the state selling the most bricks overall. The bricks must be purchased before the National Annual Meeting. The funds will be used for building maintenance. Keith Ward motioned MS SAF should buy two bricks. John Kushla provided the second. Motion was approved. James Henderson asked Randy Watkins to provide the names to be listed on the bricks.

**11. Adjourn:** Jimmy Mordica motioned to adjourn and John Kushla provided the second. Meeting adjourned at 12:27.

# SAVE THE DATE

MS SAF Annual Meeting in Jackson, MS on April 9-10, 2013.

## Mississippi Society of American Foresters Chapter Chairs



Four Lakes  
Mr. Carl Branson  
carlwbranson@yahoo.com

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

Capitol  
Mr. Russell Bozeman  
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Northeast  
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Broadleaf  
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Loblolly  
Dr. Randy Rousseau  
rousseau@cfr.msstate.edu

Homochitto  
Vacant

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

# POLICY SCOREBOARD

The Mississippi SAF Position Statements (<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/position.html>) are set to expire on December 31st, 2012. The Mississippi SAF Policy Committee has been working diligently to ensure all of the statements are up to date and ready for renewal. The Committee reviewed all of the statements in August of this year and recommended that the following five be reviewed more thoroughly by subject matter experts and revised if necessary (please note the gracious subject matter experts that selflessly volunteered their time and talents toward this effort):

1. Estate Taxes (James Henderson)
2. Regeneration Harvesting and Forest Health on Mississippi National Forest (Jerry Windham)
3. Forest-Based Economic Development (Ian Munn/James Henderson)
4. Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (Wayne Tucker)
5. Timber Severance Tax (James Henderson)

Periodic review of these statements is necessary due to the dynamic nature of the influences that affect them. At least minor revisions have been recommended for each of the statements above. Most of the changes are simply updates in response to new studies and information being released. Some changes were recommended to strengthen or clarify points being made. The Policy Committee recommended that the 11 other policy statements not mentioned above be renewed in their current form.

The revised statements have been submitted to SAF National Executive Vice President Michael Goergen for approval. Once approved, the expiration date will be updated on all of the statements and they will be presented to the Mississippi SAF Executive Committee for approval and adoption. If you have any questions or comments regarding the MS SAF Position Statements e-mail them to [Brian.Mitchell@haglofinc.com](mailto:Brian.Mitchell@haglofinc.com).

## Mississippi SAF Honors Foresters

The National Society of American Foresters started a fund-raising effort to revitalize the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building, the National SAF Headquarters, in Bethesda, Maryland. All funds raised will be dedicated to improvements on SAF buildings and grounds. The 8X8 inch brick pavers will form part of the loop driveway directly in front of the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building.

Dr. Ian. Munn, SAF District 11 Council Representative, challenged states in his district to buy bricks to support this effort. To encourage participation, Dr. Munn agreed that if a state purchased two bricks, he would purchase a third brick for that state as well. The Mississippi SAF Executive Committee elected to accept this challenge. The Mississippi SAF Awards Committee recommended that the three bricks be engraved with recognition for:

1. Mississippi's own, Jason N. Kutack, 2003 National SAF President;
2. Mississippi Society of American Foresters; and
3. Mississippi State University, since 1878.

If you would like to support this campaign, please go to <https://www.safnet.org/commerce/paverfund.cfm>.



# chapter NEWS

## **Broadleaf**

No report given.

## **Capitol**

Stephen Dicke reported no activity for their Chapter this year. They do have a third quarter meeting scheduled in August with a BMP presentation. James Henderson suggested combining their third meeting with the Homochitto meeting.

## **Four Lakes**

Jason Gordon said the Chapter met on June 21 at Gerald Inman's hardwood cabin that he built by hand. Mr. Inman, a retired USFS forester, gave a description of the design process, how he procured the materials, the building phase, and the surrounding acreage of woodlands. Ten chapter members enjoyed hamburgers on his porch overlooking the Yocona River following the tour. The next meeting is August 23 when Joseph Linton of Mississippi Strategic Biomass Solutions will discuss local biomass alternatives.

## **Loblolly**

Randy Rousseau emailed their report. Although the Loblolly Chapter missed the second quarter by 12 days we did hold our second quarter meeting at Dorman Lake on Thursday July 12, 2012. A total of 18 people attended the meeting where we heard from Dr. Brent Frey who is Mississippi State's Department of Forestry newest faculty members. Dr. Frey took Dr. Ezell's position in Forest Silviculture, following Dr. Ezell's move to Department Head. Dr. Frey spoke about his upbringing in southern Ontario and his various work. He also defined his approach to southern hardwoods and the areas that he was most interested. We have plans for holding the third quarter meeting in Louisville at Lake Tiak-O'Khata in mid to late August.

## **Longleaf**

Jimmy Mordica stated their last meeting was in

March with Luke Lewis, NWTF Biologist, speaking about longleaf restoration. In the fall, they plan to have a shrimp boil with Wesley Cur with NRCS to talk about programs and invasive species programs. They may co-host this meeting with the Magnolia Chapter.

## **Magnolia**

Randy Watkins gave report for Jim Walley. Frank Buchanan will be their speaker at the August 21 meeting at Jones Junior College in Ellisville. They will co-host a Longleaf Pine field day with the NRCS and National Wild Turkey Federation on October 2.

## **Northeast**

John Kushla stated their last meeting was the state annual meeting.

## **Homochitto**

Bob Naeger stated they have had no activity with no one wanting to step up to be Chapter President. There was discussion about them having a joint meeting with another chapter in their area.

## **MSU SAF Student Chapter**

Robert Grala indicated they elected new officers for the fall. The students may participate in a mini conclave at Georgia this year as well. Grala listed activities for the last year and they included: interview days with Weyerhaeuser and Westervelt, monthly meetings, Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a-Highway, field days, Conclave, Project Learning Tree, Wood Magic Science Fair, and other activities. They will have a concession stand for the 2012 Logging Equipment Show to help raise funds for the chapter. It was suggested that the students be more active in the MSU SAF meetings. Ian Munn mentioned that one of the MSU students was serving on the National SAF Student Council.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY SAF STUDENT CHAPTER/ FORESTRY CLUB RECOGNIZED DURING THE SAF 2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Fall was a busy semester for Mississippi State University SAF Student Chapter/Forestry Club. Students participated in various events and the focal point of their activities was participation in the SAF 2012 National Convention. This year, the convention was held during October 24-28 in Spokane, Wash. The MSU Student Chapter/Forestry Club sent four officers to attend the convention: Jonathan Stoll (President), Jason Cromer (Vice-President), Adam Bilbo (Secretary and Student Council Representative for District 11), and Brock Davis (Conclave Chair).

The MSU SAF Student Chapter/Forestry Club was awarded third place in the Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Competition. The award is given each year to recognize student efforts in increasing SAF membership as well as providing service to students, academic units, and local community. Students worked hard toward this award and were very proud that their efforts were nationally recognized. This is the 15th consecutive year that MSU group has placed in the top three for the national awards.

The national convention was a good opportunity for students to learn more about the SAF and current trends in forestry. The students participated in various events starting with the student quiz bowl. This is an event where student teams representing various forestry schools compete with each other in knowledge of forestry. They also participated in the Executive Committee meeting, National Student Congress, and foresters' forum. Through the duration of the convention MSU representatives attended various sessions, interacted with forestry professionals and fellow students from other forestry schools, and visited with various exhibitors to learn about job prospects. They also had a chance to see forest management in practice—they attended a field tour focused on timberlands managed by Inland Empire Paper Company. The students will share what they learnt during the convention with other members during chapter/forestry club meetings.

Student participation in the SAF 2012 National Convention was possible thanks to financial support from the College of Forest Resources, Department of Forestry, and MS SAF.



*(left to right) Robert Grala, Jonathan Stoll accept the third place Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award from SAF President William H. Rockwell.*



*(left to right) Jason Cromer, Jonathan Stoll, Adam Bilbo, and Brock Davis are nationally recognized.*



*(left to right) Jason Cromer, Adam Bilbo, Brock Davis, and Jonathan Stoll enjoy the view.*

## Council Report

*Council met in Bethesda, MD at the SAF Headquarter on October 24, 2012*

*Highlights by Ian Munn, District XI Council Representative*

Council attended the House of Delegates (HSD) meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2012 immediately before the National Convention. As most of you know, the HSD is an advisory body consisting of Chairs of the State SAF Societies. HSD provides a venue for local chapters and State Societies to provide grassroots input and feedback to Council. This year, that role was particularly relevant to District 11. The Louisiana SAF Society initiated discussion on two actions taken by Council in its June meeting:

1. Council adopted a strategic plan for 2012-2017. In that plan, utilized the term Natural Forest Resource Managers instead of “foresters.” Since the core of the strategic plan was efforts designed to attract professional members from all disciplines in the broad field of forestry, this term was used because it covered all these fields. LA State Chair George Ramsay initiated discussion by expressing concerns raised by their Executive committee that foresters were held in high regard in LA and that its members were proud to be foresters. While the LA SAF recognized the need to attract members from forestry-related fields, they believed that “foresters” should be retained in all official documents. After discussion, motions, and amendments to the motions, HSD voted overwhelmingly to request Council change the strategic plan and other official documents to replace the term nfrp with “foresters and ....” With Council providing the appropriate title or titles to reference other forestry-related professionals. The LA SAF had previously notified me of their concerns so I had already put the issue on the agenda for action (The agenda for Council meetings are set well in advance so there was no opportunity to get the issue on this Council meeting.) In light of HSD’s actions, I expect that the Council will vote to make the appropriate changes

in the strategic plan.

2. Council did not renew an expired position statement addressing the practice of silviculture. On behalf of the LA SAF, George Ramsay expressed concerns that the practice of silviculture was central to what foresters do and that the position statement should not have been allowed to expire. Bob Malmsheimer, Chair of the Committee on Forest Policy explained that the Forest Policy Committee had not recommended renewal to Council because existing position statements cover all the relevant policy issues facing SAF today. He further explained that position statements are drafted in response to specific, current policy issues or conflicts facing the forestry community. As such, they have a specified term limit, usually five years, after which they must be renewed, revised, or allowed to expire. After further discussion, Mr. Ramsay’s motion died for lack of a second. Note: At Council meeting, President Rockwell pointed out that the Forest Science and Technology Board and Committee on Forest Policy were already charged with developing a non-legislative document that describes silviculture for the public. In light of the discussion at HSD, development of this “white paper” would be moved to the front burner.

### **Highlights of the 10/25 – 10/26 Council Meeting:**

**Auditor’s report:** Mr. Esguerra, SAF’s Chief Financial Officer, reported that the auditor’s have reviewed SAF’s books and found all to be in order.

**YTD financial REPORT:** Revenues from membership dues were 7% above projections. Despite an increase in dues, membership declined by only 22 members. Thus, it appears that the tiered dues structure and enrollment

incentives were a success. Membership usually decreases by about 10% after dues increases. Revenues from journal subscriptions are on target and advertising revenues are ahead of projections. Education revenues are down slightly but should catch up as many certified foresters renew at the end of the calendar year.

**Planned giving program:** SAF is increasing its efforts to raise non-dues revenues. One such effort is the creation of the “Founders Circle” which recognizes SAF members who donate \$1900 over four years. Funds raised through the Founders Circle are going to the Foresters Fund unless otherwise designated by the donor. The \$1900 level honors the establishment of SAF in 1900. SAF is also revitalizing its efforts to encourage members and others to include SAF in estate plans. For details of planned giving through estate planning see: <http://www.eforester.org/about/giving.cfm> .

**Quicksilver update:** Council met with Quicksilver representatives to review progress on Quicksilver’s “branding” effort for SAF. The following represents their attempt to frame our core identity as we move forward in our efforts to revitalize SAF:

- *Thriving forests. Essential resources. A strong community.*
- *We challenge land-owners, decision-makers 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.*
- *‘For the greatest good. For the greatest number. For the long run.’*
- *Society of American Foresters | Evolving Forest Management since 1900*

This core identity was presented to the general membership at the annual meeting in Spokane. After some excellent discussion, the membership overwhelmingly approved of the concept as a tool for moving forward.

**Paver’s challenge:** I am pleased to report that all three state societies accepted my challenge and have committed, or tentatively committed, to purchasing two or more pavers. Mississippi has already purchased two pavers and dedicated their bonus paver to Mississippi State University. Louisiana has purchased three but have not decided how their bonus paver(s) will be dedicated. Texas, has verbally committed to purchasing two pavers pending their Executive Committee approval in December.

**Annual meeting report:** This year’s meeting was a resounding success. Registration totaled 1,511—261 more than budgeted. Revenues to date total \$757,392, exceeding projections by \$50,000. The annual meeting continues to be a very important source of operating funds for SAF.

**SAF Fellows Nominations:** There is a proposed change to the SAF Fellows nomination and election procedures. First, nominations can be submitted by any person or group. The primary role of the District SAF Fellows Committee will be to evaluate those nominations, not make nominations themselves. The criteria for Fellow and the process for evaluation have been clarified and standardized so that there will be a level playing field across districts. There have been no major changes to either. Council will review the proposed change and act on the proposal during its December Council meeting. I wanted to give you a heads up so that you can be thinking of potential candidates just in case Council approves this change. If approved, it will fall on local State leadership and members to nominate candidates, not the District Fellows Committee.

# MS SAF *elections*

It is time to elect officers for 2013. Please complete the form below or go **online** at [www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/officer\\_election.asp](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/officer_election.asp). Please vote by December 28.

- Chair - Jason Gordon
- Vice Chair - John Kushla
- Treasure - Bob Heinz
- Secretary - Marc Measells

Mail to:  
James Henderson  
Mississippi State University  
Box 9680  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Smart phone users, download the QR code reader and scan the QR code to go to the election site.



## CALL FOR AWARDS

*consider nominating someone today*

### **Award for Distinguished Service to Forestry**

*an official recognition for professional achievements in forestry and superior service to the Society of American Foresters.*

### **Mississippi's Outstanding Young Forester Award**

*an official recognition for professional achievements in forestry by young people just beginning their careers.*

### **Mississippi's Outstanding Field Forester**

*to recognize foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies. This award winner will be a nominee for National SAF District 11. Through presidential direction, eleven members (one from each of the eleven SAF districts) will be selected to receive an outstanding field forester achievement award. This process will assure that each region of the United States will be able to recognize an outstanding field forester.*

**Nomination forms are available at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/mssaf/awards.html>.**