

The
Allegheny
News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Fall 2012

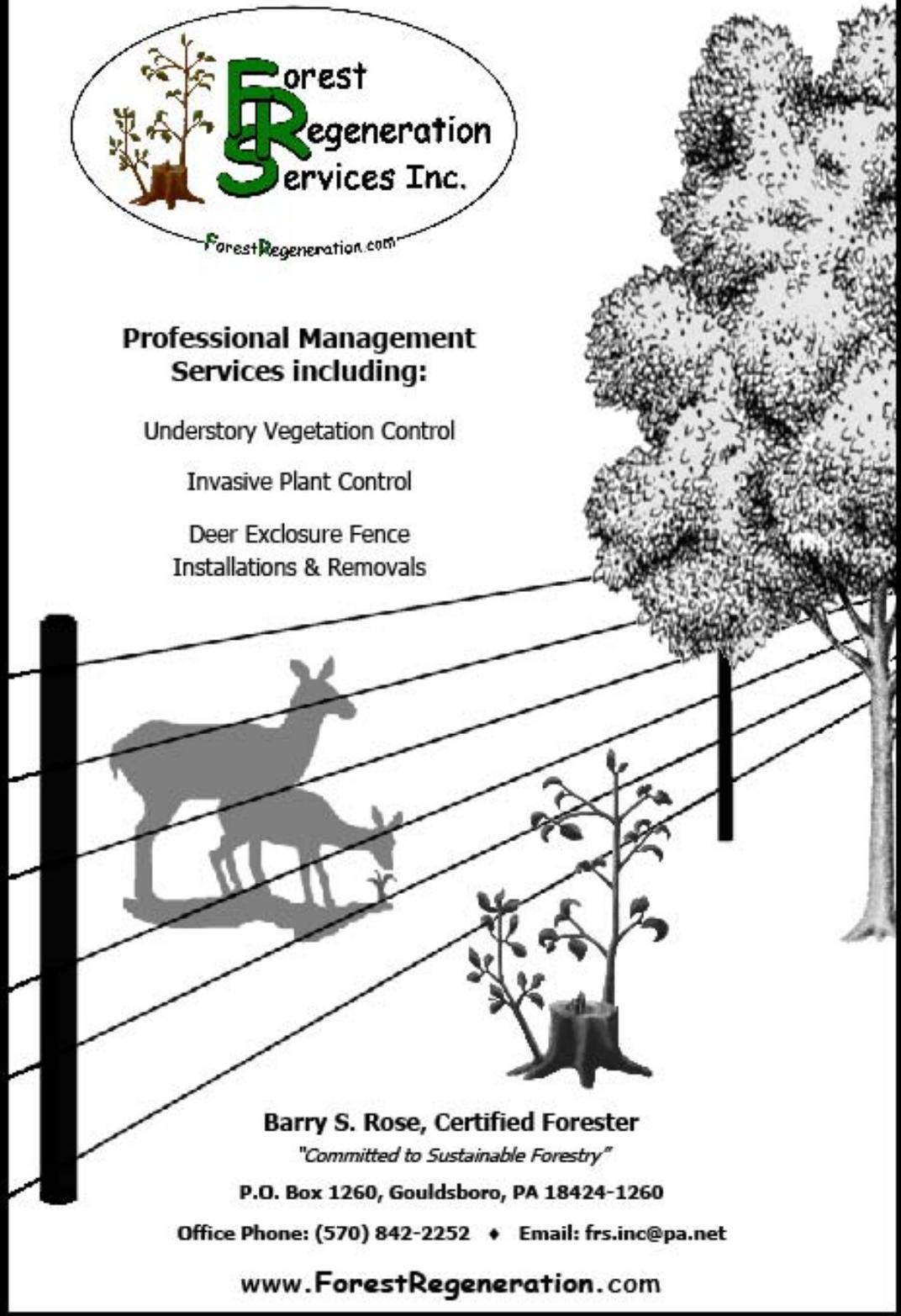


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The Allegheny News

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The mission of the SAF is to advance the science, technology, education and practice of professional forestry in America, and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

The Allegheny News
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Cover Photo

Photo by Charlie Newlon
Mark Vodak viewing the lake at Birdsboro Watershed

Chair's Corner

Rachel Reyna



I want to start my column by expressing my thanks to all of you for the congratulations and well-wishes you sent to me since my marriage at the end of June. I am grateful to have such supportive colleagues! A special thanks goes out to Mike Kusko, Chair-Elect, who was gracious enough to write the column for the last issue of the Allegheny News while I was in the midst of wedding details and hosting visiting family.

Now on to some thoughts specific to Allegheny SAF... This year's Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting was packed with great presentations, an interesting tour, and a delicious taste of Pennsylvania Dutch cooking at one of Lancaster County, PA's most well-known smorgasbords. Kudos to Jeff Stuffle, Chair of the Valley Forge Chapter of SAF, and his team for their

time and effort in putting together the meeting! A good time was had by all.

We look forward to getting together again at the upcoming Winter Meeting, which will be held on February 20-22 in Johnstown, PA and will be hosted by Western Gateway Chapter. These Allegheny meetings are always well done – they offer great networking opportunities and continuing education credits – as well as fun social events. If you have never been to one of our meetings or have not been in a while, please consider joining us. We'd love to see you there!

In other news, I am currently in the process of preparing to represent the Allegheny at the National Convention in Spokane, WA at the end of October. If there are issues you would like to have addressed at the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting, please feel free to contact me (contact info for all officers is near the end of the newsletter). I am happy to bring those issues to HSD for discussion in the larger group.

Before closing out the column, I would like to put a plug in for next year's Allegheny and National awards. There are many Allegheny SAFers that are deserving of these awards, so please consider taking a moment to nominate a colleague. It is rewarding, not just for the recipient, but for the nominator as well.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2013 Allegheny Winter Meeting!

Wishing you all the very best,
Rachel R. Reyna
Chair, Allegheny SAF

Summer Meeting Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Allegheny Society Summer Meeting - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – 8/8/12

In attendance – Rachel Reyna- Chair, Dennis Galway-Secretary, Susan Lacy-Business Manager, Mike Kusko-Chair-Elect, Ned Karger-Member-at-Large, James Snyder-PA Div. Chair, Jeff Stuffle-Valley Forge Chapter Chair

Meeting called to order by Chair Rachel Reyna at 2:28 pm. Acceptance of Winter Meeting Minutes postponed until Business Meeting Friday 8/10 at which time they were unanimously accepted.

No Treasurer's report provided but Ken Jolly confirmed ANSAF solvent at Business Meeting. No in-person Council report but report by Kim Steiner was published in summer newsletter. The main item was an update of the Wild Acres national office property. The sale is almost complete with an agreement entered into with Bethesda Home Developers for 155 unit town houses. The national office building will be retained and a significant size natural area will also be maintained.

Chair Reyna is seeking House Society Delegate Award nominations as well as nominations for other SAF and ANSAF award nominations. Please check dates for deadline of submitting for the various awards and submit nominees as it is believed there are many deserving members are not being recognized for their work and contributions to the society.

Gary Gilmore is the 2012 recipient of the ANSAF and National Capitol Regional Field Forester of the Year Award. Gary will be recognized at the National Convention in Spokane in October.

Mike Goergen provides a monthly email to leadership to keep them up-to-date on current issues. Chair Reyna will also be providing something similar for ANSAF leadership.

The task force on Educational Programs in Terrestrial Ecology was accepted by Council at their June meeting. The report is posted on the SAF website

<http://www.safnet.org/education/news.cfm>

The June approved version of the strategic plan is also available for viewing at

[http://www.eforester.org/about/strategicplan 2013-2017.pdf](http://www.eforester.org/about/strategicplan%202013-2017.pdf)

Business Manager Lacy reported that her experiences to date have been very rewarding and if her ideas to raise revenue are as successful and exciting as the new T-shirt fund raiser the future looks bright. Susan has some prospects for advertising and requests members to submit their ideas for fund raising as well as articles and stories. She is also looking for feedback regarding using list-serv for exchange of ideas, communication, and another source for viewing articles and newsletters.

Secretary Galway suggested that the website should be audited twice a year minimum by Division, Chapter, and Committee chairs to make sure content is current and correct. One item used as an example was the misinformation for “Fellow” nomination.

Membership

Chair-Elect Kusko reported membership has decreased but found it difficult to obtain membership list from national. Also mentioned that three members listed were deceased but had no way to confirm. It was suggested that State, Division, and Chapter chairs be asked to check their membership list at least annually for accuracy. This would be helpful to identify recently deceased members but also members that have not recently renewed. These would be key members to make personal calls to find out why they have not renewed and see if there is anything the society can do to help.

Chair Reyna suggested that the use of conference calls be investigated for a means of communication between summer and winter meetings but also as a means of communication with Executive Committee members that can't make the annual meetings but may be available for conference call to provide their input and reports.

National is looking into offering membership discounts for prescription drugs and to businesses as another means of maintaining and growing membership. The plan for recruiting members is available on the SAF website.

Secretary Galway again brought up the idea of offering discounts for paying multiple year membership. Many organizations and businesses offer discounts for renewing memberships for multiple years. It is a way to infuse more revenue sooner and provide a benefit to membership and helps to ensure retaining members longer. Also the multiple same household membership needs to be equal for both members not one member receiving more benefits than the other to receive discount.

The membership database has to be updated consistently and easily accessible by state, division, chapter leadership.

Save the Date!

The upcoming winter meeting will be hosted by the Western Gateway Chapter in Johnstown at the Holiday Inn (\$84.00 night) February 20-22, 2013.

The 2013 summer meeting will be hosted by the Keystone Chapter at the Mon Alto Campus in conjunction with the Oak Genetics Symposium. This is a subsidized event and it may be that it can be offered at no cost or significantly reduced cost. The dates have not yet been confirmed.

Meetings are scheduled three years in advance and can be viewed on our Allegheny website or check with Ned Karger.

Business Manager Lacy mentioned that we have the option of submitting our tax report to national and having it submitted as a group rather than individually. This would be far easier but requires all States, Divisions, and Chapters to have their yearend financial reports submitted to Manager Lacy by the end of February or at the winter meeting.

Committees

Discussion regarding the need for each committee chair to have a copy of their charter and become familiar with charter and update as deemed necessary. It is important for the successful function of the society, chapters, and divisions that we follow our charters and revise and update when necessary.

A written report should be provided by all committee chairs semi-annually to the ANSAF Chair. This report should also include continued commitment by chair and committee members or request for replacement of chair and/or members to serve as well as concerns, accomplishments, challenges, etc.

It was also suggested that rather than leave some committees vacant or for facilitation certain committees could be combine such as communication, newsletter, and website.

It was also suggested that a rotation of articles from committee chairs be instigated to include in the newsletter.

Chapter Reports

Keystone Chapter report – Chapter meeting in September - The process for the 2013 summer meeting planning is in the initial stages. They are contacting active members.

Rothrock Chapter report – Has their next meeting later in the summer and have 50 registered.

New Business

Chair Reyna suggested we look into the feasibility of accepting credit cards for payments.

Chair Reyna solicited ideas for engaging students – mentor program – face-to-face.

Chair Reyna officially appointed Dennis Galway as secretary.

Meeting adjourned 4:39 pm

Allegheny Summer Meeting

Bruce Arnold, Valley Forge Chapter

The Summer Meeting, held August 8-10 in Exton, PA and hosted by Valley Forge Chapter, focused on the theme “Adapting Forestry to Environmental Change.” The meeting opened with an icebreaker reception the evening before the formal sessions. Over the next two days, SAF members and guests experienced a range of speakers and a field tour encompassing several local forestry issues.

Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel from the Union of Concerned Scientists, who visited with us from Washington, DC., initiated our discussion about environmental change. The title of her talk was “What We Know About Climate Change.” The Valley Forge Chapter chose Dr. Ekwurzel because of her very strong credentials to review what is known about climate change as it is affecting the entire globe. We specifically asked that her presentation be strictly about what is known about the science and is well documented and peer reviewed. We also asked that she not discuss the politics that currently surround climate change. One of the slides she showed indicated that of all the warming that has taken place since society started burning coal and then other fossil fuels, some 93% of it has been absorbed by the oceans of the world. Dr. Ekwurzel directed us to a link on a UCS page that shows graphically what may be the future consequences of climate change. You can access the page at http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/impacts/extreme-weather-climate-change.html.

Ben Jones, Habitat Planner for the PA Game Commission, gave an interesting talk about the loss of habitat in PA for the Golden Winged Warbler. The bird requires some specific habitat to continue to nest in the Commonwealth. Due of changes to the landscape, much of the habitat that is needed is no longer in existence. The result has been a dramatic reduction in the local population of this bird. Ben then discussed several projects aimed at creating the needed habitat. Without that sort of work, the bird may disappear altogether from our state. Ben offered an interesting anecdote - because of the lack of an appropriate mate, some of the Golden Winged birds have been seen to mate with Blue Winged Warblers.

Field trips on August 9 included stops at:

- The Chester County “Marshlands” area where Lloyd Casey and Jim Moore (the forest landowner) showed us the results of a proper harvest operation. The stop was titled, “Selection Harvesting, Hunting & Conservation Easement Coordination.”
- “Management of a Watershed under a Forest Legacy Easement” was the next stop at the beautiful water impoundment for the Birdsboro, PA region. Following the visit to the lake, we had lunch at the Birdsboro Park along Hay Creek.
- After lunch, we traveled to the Kurtz site to see a “Shelterwood Cut,” owned by Glatfelter Paper Company and managed by Paul Shaffer, as designed by Lloyd Casey. The group was impressed with the regeneration taking place after just two years since the harvest. We traveled about in a chartered bus that also serves as a school bus. The narrow, bumpy road was a bit scary for the bus driver, but she got the bus through it.

- The final stop was at Tel Hai Retirement Community to see the results of “Development in Forested Landscapes” by the owners of the Community. This stop focused on the impacts of forestry practices and harvesting in a residential setting.

That evening, the bus took us to the very large Shady Maple Restaurant in East Earl, PA in PA Dutch country. The place is so big that it appeared to be able to serve a couple of thousand people at each meal time. Following the meal, Pat Fasano of Comprehensive Land Services talked with us about the delicate process needed to gain the trust of Amish farmers to be able to discuss forestry issues with them. His talk was titled “Amish Outreach in the Octoraro Watershed.” Over a period of a couple of years, he has been able to develop beneficial relationships with several Amish farmers.

On Friday morning, we had four speakers who participated with a national organization called 25x’25: America’s Energy Future. The organization’s goal is to promote the development of renewable energy such that 25% of the nation’s energy needs will be met by renewables by 2025. The organization spent a few years developing a “National Wood to Energy Roadmap.” Four speakers covered that topic. John Ferrell from the US Department of Energy (DOE) covered “National Supply and Demand” including presentation of the findings of the “Billion Ton Study” by DOE. Bruce Arnold, a retired member of the 25x’25 National Steering Committee, reviewed the factors required to maintain a continual supply of wood for energy purposes while dealing with all the many factors needed to make management of forests truly sustainable.

David Tenny, CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, covered “Carbon & Climate Change.” Since wood is a renewable resource, it is possible that it might become a source of offsets for organizations that burn fossil fuels. Finally, John Barnwell, the Assistant Director of Forest Policy at SAF national headquarters, discussed “Policy” initiatives that are required to operate the successful use of wood on a national scale to meet a substantial portion of the renewable energy needed to get to the 25% goal. Interested parties can find both an Executive Summary and the full report of the “National Wood to Energy Roadmap” at the 25x’25 website at www.25x25.org.

Casey’s Forestry Concepts

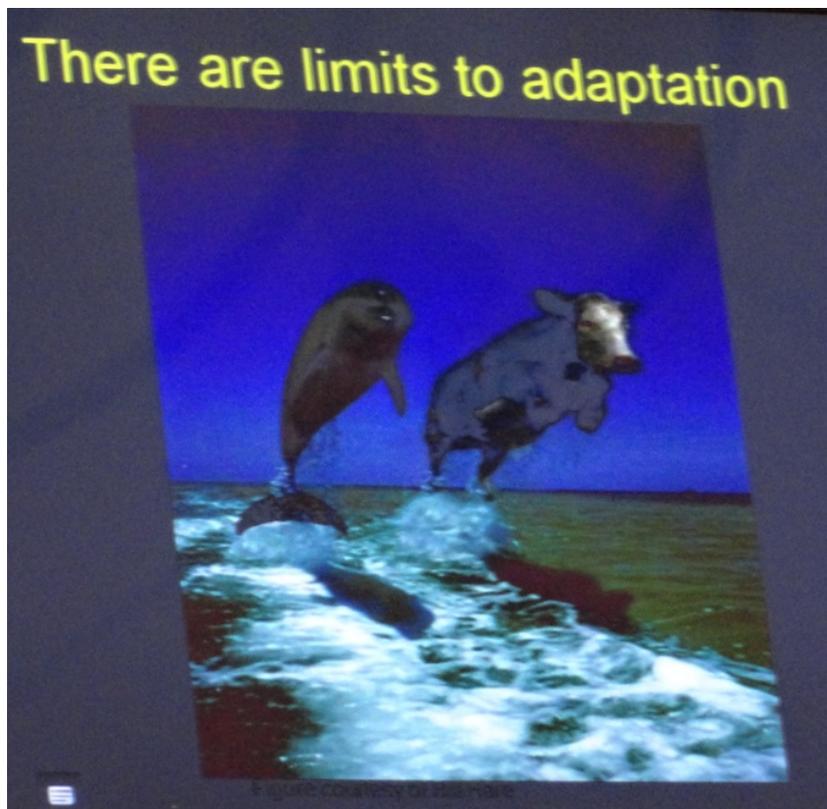
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Slide from Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel's presentation on climate change.



Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, Union of Concerned Scientists



Dave Tenny, National Alliance of Forestland Owners



Ken Jolly and Lloyd Casey



John Barnwell, SAF Asst. Policy Director



Paul Erickson and Ken Jolly



*Pat Fasano, Forestry Consultant
Chester and Lancaster Counties*

WV SAF Considers Changes in the Woods

Mary Beth Adams, West Virginia Division

The WV Division of the Society of American Foresters held their summer meeting September 4 and 5, 2012 in and around Morgantown, WV. The meeting was well-attended, both for the field tour and the indoor session, as about 80 WVSFAF members learned about “Changes in the Woods: Energy, Economics and Emergencies”. Continuing education credits were available from the Society of American Foresters, the International Society of Arboriculture, and WCV Department of Agriculture pesticide credits.

On Tuesday, September 4, members participated in a field tour that focused on Right-of-Way Vegetation Management and energy-related management issues. MonPower and ACRT were our hosts and guides for excellent discussion about powerline management. Members also visited a 2 year old sycamore plantation for discussions about growing biomass for energy, led by Dr. John Brooks (WVU). The field tour visited the Ft. Martin Power plant as well, and according to Dave McGill, it was awesome. At the core of the coal fired powerplant are two turbines, each producing the equivalent of 1500 windmills. After a wonderful social hour and banquet, members heard a seldom heard story of early forestry in West Virginia by Dr. Ken Carvell.



Roger Freedman (MonPower) and Aaron Hayes (ACRT, Inc.) discuss transmission lines and ROW vegetation management near MonPower's Ft. Martin Power Station in Madsville, WV.



Dr. John Brooks (WVU DFNR) discusses biomass, carbon sequestration, and the use of renewable fuels at a two year old American sycamore plantation on MonPower's property in Madsville, WV

The WV Division Business meeting started the day on Wednesday, September 5. Cinda Francis provided a briefing on the WV Board of Registration for Foresters. It was announced that the winter meeting would be held at Glenville, and related to Forest Health issues.

The morning session of the meeting addressed Change in the Woods: Agency Updates and future prospects from Joe McNeel (WVU Division of Forestry), Randy Dye (WV State Forester), Dick Waybright (WV Forestry Association), Kevin Wickey (USDA NRCS), Clyde Thompson (Monongahela National Forest). Rich Widmann closed out the morning's presentations with a discussion on what is known about the Inventory of WV's forests from FIA data.

The afternoon session was entitled "Change in the Woods: Energy, Economics and Emergencies". Dr. Gre Dahle (WVU assistant professor of Arboriculture) talked about the integration of urban and rural forestry. Colin Monaghan and Steve Perkins from Chesapeake Energy provided an overview of timber issues in Marcellus shale Development. Chris Cartwright of Landmark Forestry described the role of the consultant forester in the gas boom, and Dr. Jingxin Wang (WVU Professor of Wood Science) provided an update on biomass for energy research and programs.

After the break, members heard about the factors that contributed to the success of the 3rd generation family-owned WV Split Rail company from Mark Waldo and Dane Moore. Chad Westfall (Landmark Forestry), did an excellent job standing in for the absent Terry Jones (who opted to go hunting) and described the enormous salvage logging projects designed to recover about 22 million board feet of timber following on public lands the 2012 tornado in Wayne County. Finally, Jim Orr (Asplundh) described their Emergency Management System, and key points to remember when assisting in recovery from emergencies, such as tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes. Jim, who is vice-president of Asplundh, reminded everyone that Safety is the first and foremost principle in very operation – from preparation and planning to the response and to demobilization.

Michaux Tour an Eye Opener

Richard Lewis

Caledonia, PA - The Michaux State Forest staff conducted an informative Vegetative Management Tour for about 20 sportsmen, farmers, educators, conservation organization representatives and other forest users on Saturday, Sept 8th.

Sportsman's deer hunting clubs were the main target audience for the tour but when hunting club members did not respond as anticipated the tour was opened up to other Michaux State Forest users. PA District Forester Roy Brubaker noted, "We remain committed and open to continuing to reach out to our sportsman deer hunters to win their understanding and support for the Michaux's use of Pennsylvania Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)."

Below District Forester Roy Brubaker explains the impact of different forest cover types and age classes on wildlife populations.



The Tour stops included a recent 147 acre dead tree salvage timber sale (photo below) where forest users saw firsthand logging skid trail erosion control measures as well as after harvest reproduction of desirable native tree species.



Participants also learned that the Pennsylvania State Forest's Sustainability "Certification Program" attracted a paper company bidder for this timber sale from over 125 miles away because the paper company's customers required that the Company's products be sourced from forests that are "Certified" as sustainably managed.

Forestry staff noted, "Some forest users may think that our timber sales are designed to serve the forest industry. While we like to provide harvested forest products to sustain local economy the

primary goal of the timber sales we prescribe is habitat management to deal with forest health issues like Gypsy Moth related Oak mortality, control of invasive species, or the establishment of early succession forests to increase the wildlife carrying capacity of the land."

Another stop illustrated the necessity on some Michaux sites for a post timber harvest deer exclusion fence and the dramatic impact of this project on re-growth. Inside the deer exclusion fence tree reproduction was 10-12 feet tall. Note the reproduction behind the tour participants on the opposite side of the deer exclusion fencing.





Note in the photo, outside the deer exclusion barrier fence the tree seedling reproduction is only 1-2 feet tall. Also at this stop the use of controlled or prescribed fire as a vegetative management tool to improve the desirable forest species mix and biodiversity was explained and discussed.

A third tour stop (photo below) examined one of the 42 wildlife management opening projects on the Michaux. Here Michaux wildlife staff made the point that while manmade forest openings are one way to help improve wildlife habitat actually timber harvests over greater acreages are a more productive and cost effective way to increase the wildlife carrying capacity because of the abundant food and cover created by new growing "successional" forests.

As the tour concluded at the Old Forge Picnic Area one of the educator (school teacher) participants commented, "It's very easy to see how much care and the concern all of the Michaux staff foresters and resource managers have for the Forest. They don't have an easy job of managing for all of the values and experiences that Michaux State Forest uses expect from the forest."



Retirement Congratulations!

After 40 years work in DC metro area Richard Lewis has retired from his position as President of the Forest Resources Association and returned to his roots in the Allegheny Society of American Foresters.

Richard became an ANSAF member in 1965 after graduating with a BSF from the SUNY College of Forestry. Before that he graduated from Paul Smith College with an AAS in Forestry. In the late sixties and early 70's he worked for the NJ Bureau of Forestry and served briefly as Chair of the NJ SAF Chapter.

From 1970 to 1982 he worked in Washington, DC as Director of the American Tree Farm System and Vice President of Forest Resources for the American Forest Foundation. In 1982 he started work as Appalachian Region Manager and Director of Forestry Programs for the American Pulpwood Association (now the Forest Resources Association) where he eventually became the organization's President in 1990.

Richard and his wife Jakie have moved to a home on two acres near Gettysburg, PA. Richard is fond of noting that their new home is located 75 yards from a Pennsylvania stocked Trout stream and he can walk 1/3 of a mile into the woods and fields behind his home and shoot Pennsylvania Whitetails with his "classic" 30-30.

Richard is looking forward to participating in SAF again, this time in the Keystone SAF Chapter.



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Coming Events

October

24-27 SAF National Convention
Spokane, WA

December

15 Deadline for Winter 2013 Issue of the *Allegheny News*. Send Microsoft Word articles, announcements and JPG photos to ansaf@comcast.net

February, 2013

20-22 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting
Johnstown, PA

March, 2013

15 Deadline for Spring 2013 Issue of the *Allegheny News*. Send Microsoft Word articles, announcements and JPG photos to ansaf@comcast.net

May, 2013

10-11 Private Forest Landowners Conference
Altoona, PA

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

Summer 2013: Keystone, PA

Winter 2014: Northern Hardwood, PA

Summer 2014: West Virginia

Future SAF National Conventions

2013: Charleston, SC – October 27-31

2014: Salt Lake City, UT – October 8-12

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