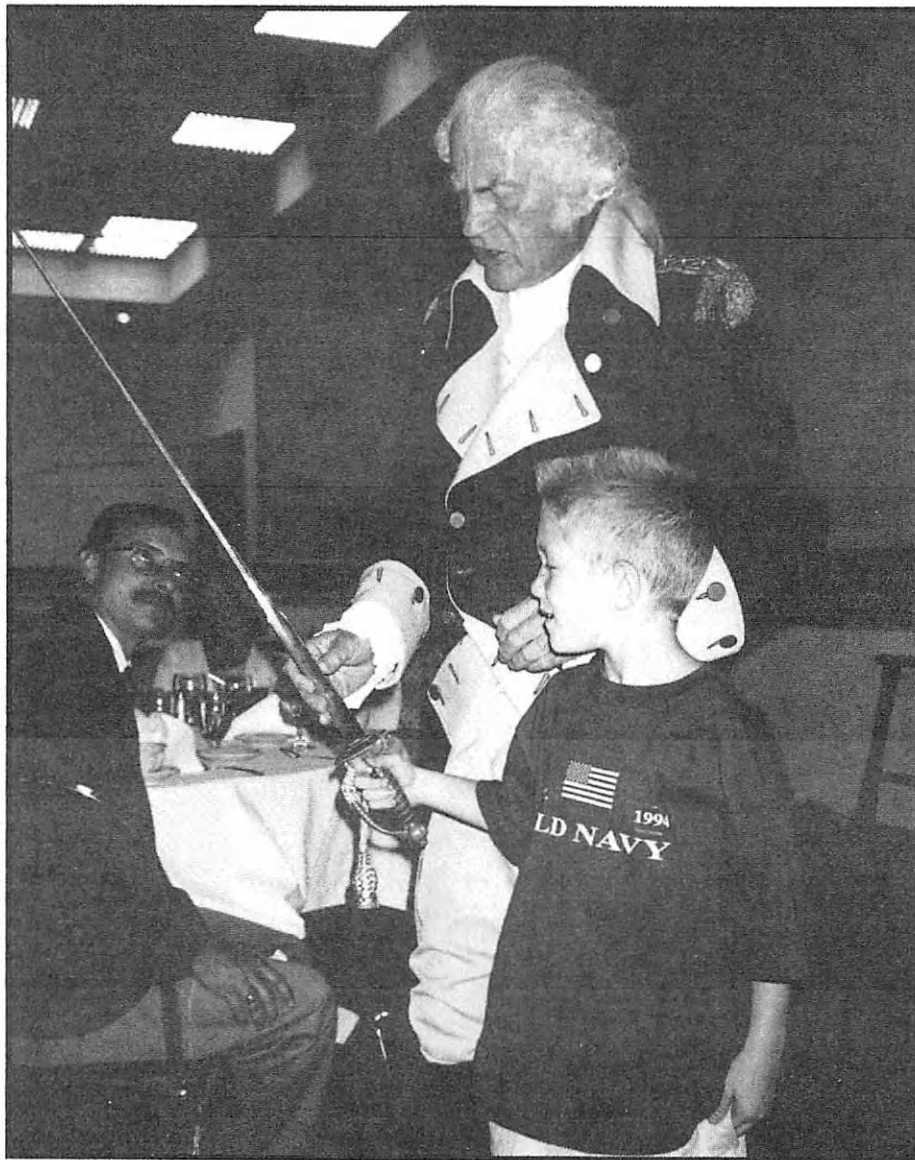


The Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Fall 1998

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The Allegheny News

Volume 7, No. 3

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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.

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Editor: Jack Winieski

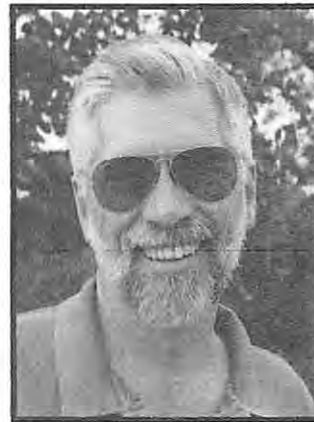
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Cover Photo

"General George Washington" teaching the fine points of swordsmanship at the Allegheny Society of American Foresters 1998 Summer Meeting Banquet. Howard Wurzbacher looks on. See the article on page 10, and more photos from the meeting held in Valley Forge on page 15. Photo courtesy of Bruce Arnold.



Chairman's Corner

By Mark R. Webb
Allegheny SAF Chair

Summer has come and gone all too fast. Hope yours was a great one!

Thanks to the members of the Valley Forge Chapter for a great Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting. A lot of hard work goes into our technical meetings and for those who attend them, and there is always something to take home and incorporate into the daily practice of our profession. This program was no exception.

National SAF President **Karl Wenger** and his wife came to Valley Forge to take part in our meeting, and then as a special treat, **President George Washington** dropped by to clarify a little history with us after the banquet.

I enjoyed reading my recent issue of the Journal of Forestry and suggest we all reread the article by John Helms, "Science, the Foundation of the Profession." What a breath of fresh air! I think we sometimes lose our enthusiasm for the science base of our profession, and don't place enough importance on it. We begin to think that what we do isn't anything special. In some circles in fact, there are those who say a forestry degree isn't necessary to practice forestry. They even allege that there are those with no forestry training practicing "better forestry" than those who have the degree.

Judging "good or bad forestry" is not always as simple as it may sound, but if the allegation I just mentioned is true, or perceived to be true, then we as individuals and as a Society need to look hard at how we conduct ourselves. We must be ever vigilant in our efforts to guard and protect the integrity of our profession.

There is a lot of buzzing about "sustainable forestry" and green certification. All well intended. We need to listen to what is being said and do our best to apply sound science to whatever it is we are doing and to be pro-active in communicating with the public in regards to how we are involved in sustainable forestry.

Thank you, John Helms, for a well-articulated message and I hope we all feel challenged by it. Remember... Sustainable Forestry through Sound Science! △

Members and Views



WVU Forestry Division Hires First Communications Officer

Communicating with the West Virginia Division of Forestry just became a great deal easier.

The West Virginia University Division of Forestry is pleased to announce the addition of **Jedd T. Flowers** as their first-ever Forestry Communications Officer. He will be responsible for all public information duties at the division. With this addition, the agency will be better able to communicate with its current customers, and improve public and governmental awareness about its activities.

Director of the Division of Forestry, **Bill Maxey**, commented that, "the addition of Jedd is an important step forward in the division's growth plan. With this vital position, we will be better able to develop and communicate a plan of action that benefits everyone in the region." The Division of Forestry serves residents, landowners, public agencies, and industry by coordinating all forestry activities with the goal of developing the State's forest resource values to their maximum potential.

Mr. Flowers graduated from the Marshall University School of Journalism with a public relations emphasis and has worked extensively in radio in the Huntington, WV market and in television in the Charleston-Huntington market. He can be reached at (304) 558-3446. ♠

3rd Annual Joint Chapter Meeting of PA N. Hardwood/Rothrock/Plateau

By Ned Karger, Chair, Northern Hardwood SAF Chapter

On June 25th, the Northern Hardwood Chapter hosted a Joint SAF Chapter Meeting, which brings together members from the northwest, north central and central areas of Pennsylvania. This year's meeting was based at Kettle Creek State Park, just northwest of Renovo. With the help of **Butch Davies**, District Forester and **Jeff Prowant**, Assistant District Forester of the Sproul State Forest, the field tour focused on a variety of activities on State Forest Lands which surrounds the State Park.

The first tour stop looked at tree planting / reforestation efforts on an abandoned strip mine. Site preparation, tubex tree shelters, wildlife problems and planting stock were discussed. The second tour stop was at another abandoned strip mine site nearby. This site was developed to meet the demand for ATV trails and camping facilities. A series of ATV and snowmobile trails pass through the area and the abandoned mine site was a popular play area. Restroom facilities, road improvements and camping sites helped enhance the use of the area. Project funding, facility maintenance and law enforcement topics were covered at this stop.

The Kettle Creek area also includes the release site for the PA Elk herd relocations which were a cooperative effort between the PA Game Commission and the DCNR Bureau of Forestry over the last year. This third tour stop featured Wildlife Biologist **Rich Kugel** covering the goals of the relocation efforts, the logistics of working with elk and the tracking of elk which have traveled widely throughout this new range in central PA. A social hour was held at a truly spectacular overlook of the Kettle Creek valley. State Park superintendent **Mary Harrold** spoke on the history of Kettle Creek and the Park.

The group of 45 SAF members representing all three chapters then returned to the State Park pavilion for a delicious meal and great fellowship. Although the weather was hot, all who attended enjoyed the interesting topics, spectacular scenery and opportunity to meet with other foresters and resource managers throughout northwest and central PA. Next year's 4th Annual Joint Chapter Meeting will be hosted by the Rothrock Chapter. ♠

Welcome New and Reinstated Members

Derek L. Albers - MD/DE
Jeffrey W. Tanner - N. Hardwoods
David R. Henry - Valley Forge
William H. McWilliams - Valley Forge
Terry L. Williams - WV

A FREE instruction booklet for the SAF Certified Forester Program is available from the National Office at (301) 897-8720, ext. 122

Contact
Allegheny News
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by e-mail:
ansaf@paonline.com
Next newsletter
deadline is
December 15, 1998

WVU Division of Forestry Receives National Award

WVU Forestry Division, Press Release
Jedd T. Flowers (304) 558-3446

The National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) has selected West Virginia as **Forest Stewardship State of the Year**, and in particular the Division of Forestry (DOF) at West Virginia University for its excellence and innovation in stewardship training.

NWOA President, **Keith Argow** refers to the DOF efforts in training and utilizing consulting foresters to teach private woodland owners how to better manage their properties - "no one has done as much in forestry management training as West Virginia." In order for consulting foresters to write stewardship plans, candidates must attend classes conducted by the DOF two days a year.

State Forester **Bill Maxey** notes that, "the DOF has 89 foresters and forest rangers who cruise these private forests and prepare multiple-use management plans. To aid in this effort we have, through pass-through federal grants, been able to train and contract forest consultants in a true partnership which has resulted in management plans for 500,000 acres of West Virginia, non-industrial, private, forestlands (NIPF)."

This award from NWOA is not the first national award to the WV DOF. In 1992, the agency was recognized for its outstanding work with the Logging Sediment Control Act. △

WV SAF Division Assists with 4H National Forestry Contest

By Rudy Williams



Jim Mitchell (on log) and Bill Grafton (Director) time the cross cut event

The National 4H Forestry Judging Contest was held at the site of the home of the famous Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson during the week of August 2, 1998. Over 200 campers and advisors from all over the United States gathered in the spirit of fellowship and learning to compete in this annual event. Camp Director, **Bob Daniels** is an active member of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.

The contest is a team event which tests the participants knowledge of various forestry skills such as dendrology, mensuration, silviculture and map reading. However, the contest is more than just competition. Various field trips were also held, as well as a couple of evenings of "friendly" competition in lumberjack events in which both campers and advisors participated.

West Virginia SAF Division members **Jim Hays**, **Jim Mitchell**, and **Rudy Williams**, along with the area Service Forester, **Mark Burks**, conducted the lumberjack competitions - log rolling, cross-cut sawing, and pulpwood and chip (cross-cut tree cookies) toss. That a good time was had by all was especially evident during the final event when Director Bob "Bunyan" Daniels amazed everyone with his back-to-back demonstrations of his cross-cut sawing prowess.

Bob Daniels, **Bill Grafton** and staff are to be commended for their work in holding this competition. The WV Division of SAF thanks the sponsors of the contest for allowing them to be a part of this annual event, and we look forward to next year's competition. △



Jim Harp (right) and Mark Burks (left) conduct the disk toss

PCPF Testifies at PA Joint Legislative Forest Task Force

By Jack Winieski, Editor

At the July 31, 1998 meeting of the Forestry Task Force of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, members of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Foresters (PCPF) testified in support of a proposed "Forester Accountability Act."

Robert LaBar, Kim Steiner, Ken Balliet, and Don Oaks, PA SAF members of PCPF, and **Kenney P. Funderburke, Jr.** of the Appalachian SAF submitted testimony stating reasons why the public and the non-industrial private forest (NIPF) land owners, need to be assured of a credible, non-biased, source of technical forestry information and alternatives in the management, and harvest of their forest lands. They also stressed the importance of insuring that professionals giving forestry advice to NIPF's be made legally accountable for their practices in connection with services provided to landowners. **Credibility and Accountability to the public** are the two objectives of the proposed "Forester Accountability Act."

Funderburke, a fifth term officer of the Association of Southeastern Boards of Registration for Foresters (NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, AR), and serving a second five-year term on the south Carolina State Board of Registration for foresters, presented a history, status and changes in forester's registration in South Carolina - briefly summarizing current legislative mandates, regulations, requirements, and yes, some unhappiness by some who feel unduly burdened by registration. In a summary statement, Funderburke stated, "It is the belief of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters that no truly professional group and no agency overseeing, regulating or licensing that group should accept less than professional education as a basis for professional practice and for denomination as a professional. We strongly believe that registration, licensing and regulation of those practicing forestry (not regulation of the practice of forestry) is to be desired. The professions of law, medicine and engineering, as examples, are under the oversight of their respective



(l to r) Roy Siefert, Dr. Kim Steiner and Kenney P. Funderburke, Jr. listen as Don Oaks (PCPF) testifies

professional and governmental regulatory or licensing bodies. The profession of forestry requires no less."

In the discussion that followed, about 20 officers and members of the Hardwood Lumberman's Association (HLMA) presented their objections to any form of licensing of foresters. It was the opinion of PCPF members that part of the objections raised by HLMA spokespersons to the proposed "Forester Accountability Act" was a result of a lack of knowledge of content within the proposed legislation. A meeting between PCPF and HLMA was held September 3, 1998 in State College, PA in an attempt to resolve misconceptions of the proposed legislation, but ended with HLMA remaining opposed to any form of legislation.

The window of opportunity to meet and discuss the issue of forester licensing with HLMA, or any other interested parties in Pennsylvania, remains open as of the publication of this issue of *The Allegheny News*.

Besides the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Chair, **State Rep. David G. Argall** and Forestry Task Force Committee Chair, **Senator Roger Madigan**, others at the Johnstown, PA meeting included: **Representatives Gary Haluska and Jim Lynch**, and **Senator Raphael J. Musto**. PCPF expressed their appreciation to the legislators and the Task Force members for the opportunity to voice their concerns for the protection of the NIPF land owners, their valuable resource and the sustainability of Pennsylvania's forest base and the industries it supports. ♠



Legislators and members of the PA Joint Forestry Task Force accept PCPF & HLMA testimony

Assessment of Harvesting Practices in West Virginia and Pennsylvania

By Drs. Mary Ann Fajvan and James C. Finley

The theme of the West Virginia SAF Summer meeting was "Assessment of Current Harvesting Practices in West Virginia and Their Effects on Future Wood Supply." The morning program consisted of presentations of the results of 1995 timber harvest assessments conducted in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mary Ann Fajvan of West Virginia University, presented the results of the West Virginia study, which examined the preharvest and postharvest structures of 99 recent harvests. A quantitative decision chart developed in the project classified stands according to silvicultural practice and their future potential for production of high-quality sawlogs. Reductions in species basal areas were highest for red oak (50 percent), followed by yellow-poplar (41 percent), white oak (32 percent), chestnut oak (31 percent), and maples (21 percent). Reductions in average stand diameter in 80 percent of the harvests, and statewide basal area reductions of oaks and yellow-poplar, reflected harvests focused on extraction of sawtimber-size trees of the most commercially desirable species. Only 23 stands could sustain another commercial sawlog harvest and 25 stands might sustain a fiber harvest in the current rotation. Twenty stands were classified as having had some type of silvicultural

treatment. The 31 remaining stands were severely understocked and had insufficient basal area in valuable species and quality to sustain another commercial harvest. These understocked stands are currently being evaluated for their regeneration potential.

Dr. Jim Finley, Pennsylvania State University School of Forest Resources, presented the results of Pennsylvania's Timber Harvesting Assessment Project. The primary project goal was to determine whether and to what extent current timber harvesting practices are affecting Pennsylvania's timber resource sustainability. Eventually more than twenty resource professionals representing forest industry, government agencies, and academia labored for more than a year sifting and analyzing reams of data from 97 recent harvests. The team developed the essential protocol for assessing the timber sustainability of residual stands. The team achieved consensus on 85 sites and concluded that about half were capable of producing stands of similar quality in the future. Sustainable harvests were those that retained species composition, maintained stand diameter, had lower stem and crown damage, showed use of soil erosion and sedimentation practices, reserved more acceptable growing stock, and fostered regeneration. Nearly an equal number of stands with unsustainable outcomes failed to meet expectations on one or more of these issues. By following Pennsylvania's Best Management Practices nearly all of the unsustainable harvests would have had a higher likelihood of attaining a sustainable classification.

In the afternoon, the 45 participants at the meeting went on a field tour to one of the West Virginia harvests. The site was understocked, tree species diversity was reduced, residual trees had low timber value, and regeneration was threatened by deer and ferns. Clay Smith, Jim Kochenderfer and Terry Jones organized discussions about current options facing the landowner. All present agreed that if attention had been given to residual stand structure and quality, and retaining a variety of seed sources, before the harvest, the landowner would now have more favorable management options.

The study results from both West Virginia and Pennsylvania indicate that the majority of harvests did not obtain desired sustainable outcomes. Diameter limit cutting and high-grading are not silvicultural tools.

We have a mandate to practice our profession; however, leaving a stand stocked with poor-quality stems, unmerchantable "green-junk," is not telling society that we understand how forests grow. What legacy are we leaving future generations? Can we, as a profession, continue to set aside practicing forestry to cut timber? We have heard the statement time and time again; forestry is by definition sustainable. This would be the case if we were practicing forestry. △

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As I Saw The 1998 HSD Meeting

By Mike Lester, Chair-Elect, Allegheny SAF

When Chair **Mark Webb** asked me to represent the Allegheny SAF in the 1998 House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting at the National Convention in Traverse City, Michigan, I eagerly agreed to fill in.

We all know that the HSD was created in 1966 to give the SAF Council and the National SAF staff a better communications link with the grassroots foresters who make up the Society. HSD consists of the Chairs of the 33 State and Multi-State Societies or their designated alternates (which is where I came in). Meeting every year for two days prior to the National Convention, delegates present and discuss important issues and share success stories gathered from the membership. The meeting agenda and associated materials filled a 2-inch notebook this year. For the first time, I was thankful for the long plane ride; I was able to digest the notebook material in flight and was prepared for the presentations.

HSD delegates met from about 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, and the agenda moved along briskly - thanks to the preparations and leadership of Allegheny's **Tim Kaden** and **Pat Straka** of the Appalachian SAF. Tim did a masterful job keeping everyone on course. In addition to the HSD delegates, the meeting was attended by members of Council, the National Staff, Chair of the Forest Science and Technology Board (**John Helms**), President (**Karl Wenger**), Vice President (**Jim Coufal**), and immediate Past President (**Harry Wiant**).

It was important that the SAF Council members were in attendance, since motions passed by HSD go to Council for consideration, as Council is the official legislative arm of SAF. By attending the HSD meeting, council members get a more complete understanding of the issues and the emotion surrounding some of them. As HSD Chair, Tim Kaden represents HSD as a non-voting member of Council.

One of the first things you notice about the HSD is the tremendous difference in the number of people each delegate represents. It ranges from 1,900 members in the Appalachian SAF to 15 members in the North Dakota SAF (we have 1,100 members in the Allegheny SAF). The next thing you notice is that size is not directly proportional to the accomplishments of State Societies. The South Dakota SAF (33 members) was one of the most active, both with success stories and with motions brought before the HSD for consideration.

At the end of the first day, we adjourned for what could only be called a "working social". One of the most interesting (and media worthy) events of the 1998 National Convention was the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house on the Convention grounds. Michigan SAF had planned to



Mike Lester


completely frame and close in the house before the end of the seven day Convention. Our social consisted of grabbing hammers, saws, and other implements of construction (destruction?) and spending two, two-hour shifts working on the house. Luckily, there were experienced members of the Habitat for Humanity crew there to direct our labors, but still there must have been a collective shudder from insurance companies everywhere!

The second day was a flurry of activity as we struggled to complete everything on the agenda. However, as the end of the day rolled around, we selected the HSD Chair (**Mike Virga**, New York SAF) and Vice-Chair (**Wayne Clatterbuck**,


Kentucky-Tennessee SAF) for next year.

Tim Kaden closed the 1998 meeting with the admonition that the HSD meeting should continue for the rest of the Convention and the rest of the year - the message was clear, that HSD continues as delegates continue to stay in touch, address issues, and advance the profession. That work never stops.

What did we accomplish in those two days? In general, a great deal in the form of issues of importance to the membership and Council. Past history indicates that Council takes the recommendations of HSD very seriously. We received excellent briefings from the National Staff on their accomplishments for the year. We learned a great deal from other HSD delegates regarding their successes and failures promoting forestry in their areas of the country. And most importantly, a relationship began with forestry leaders from all over the country. The result? Strong relationships will help us build a solid profession as we reapply successful ideas, avoid failures and get needed inspiration. Finally, the relationships developed at the HSD meeting will reinforce our knowledge that there are a lot of dedicated professionals across the country who are advancing the ideas of sound, scientifically-based forestry. △



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Big Trees to Sawlogs, Valley Forge Summer Meeting

By Terry Hoffman, Chair, Valley Forge SAF Chapter

On June 9, 1998, 13 Valley Forge Chapter members met at the Lapp Lumber Company mill in Paradise, PA. At the mill, owner, and forester **Bob Girvin** (VF secretary/treasurer) led the group through the mill. The Lapp mill cuts 3.2 million board feet annually, mostly made up of red oak, white oak, and yellow poplar. The lumber is marketed primarily within Pennsylvania.

The group then proceeded to the London Grove Friends Meeting House to see the Pennsylvania Big Tree Champion White Oak. The tree has been dated back to 1682, when William Penn first came to Pennsylvania. Several days before our meeting, a serious windstorm hit the area with damage to many adjacent trees. The champion white oak weathered the storm fully intact. However, a Stewardship Forest one mile away was hit hard. This was our last stop to see what was billed to be an



Terry Hoffman

excellent example of a partial cut.

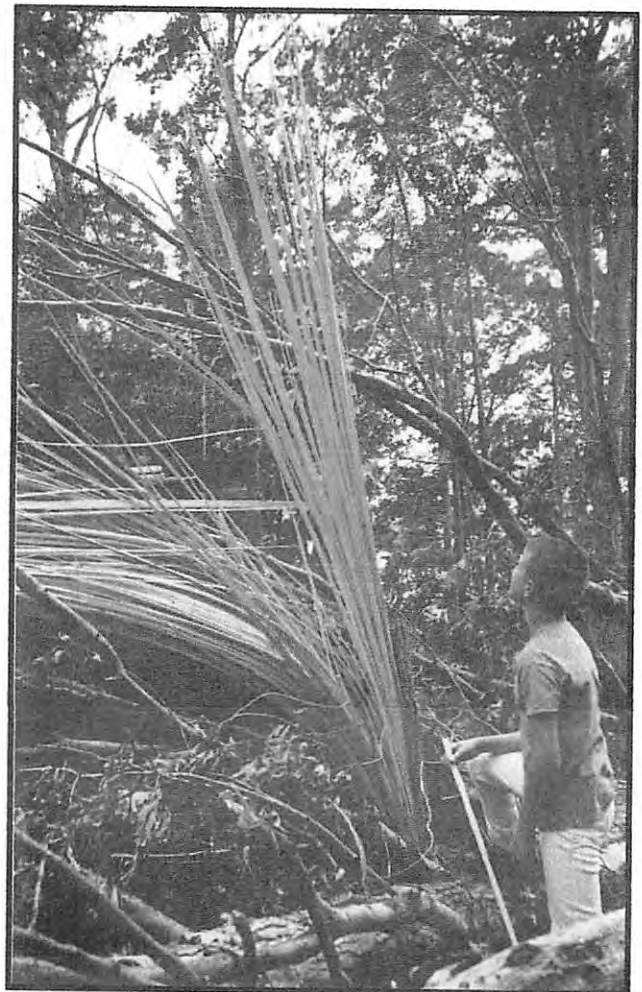
Ignoring the good work that had been done, the windstorm leveled approximately one half of the stand with large tulip poplars twisted, broken or blown over. After discussing the landowner alternatives for the stand, Bob Girvin pulled out the grill and an excellent cookout followed on site after a short business meeting. ♣



Valley Forge member Bruce Arnold discussing the operations at Lapp Lumber Co. with owner Mel Lapp

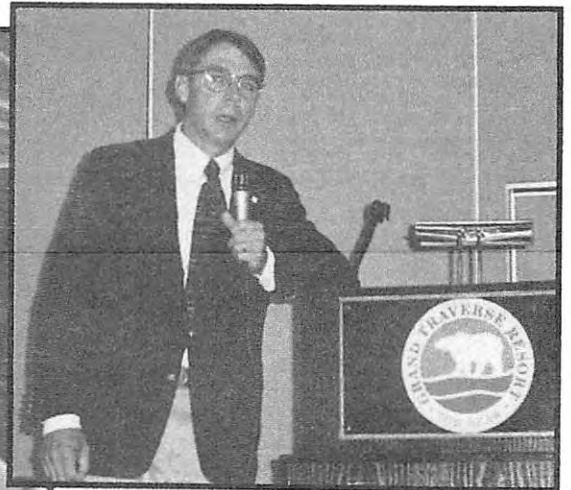



Valley Forge members at the PA Champion White Oak Tree





Wind storm damage in a Stewardship Forest; Bob Girvin's son, inspects the splintered tulip poplar

Photo Highlights of the 1998 National SAF Meeting




**Student
Quiz
Bowl**

Natural Resource Technologies, L.L.C.



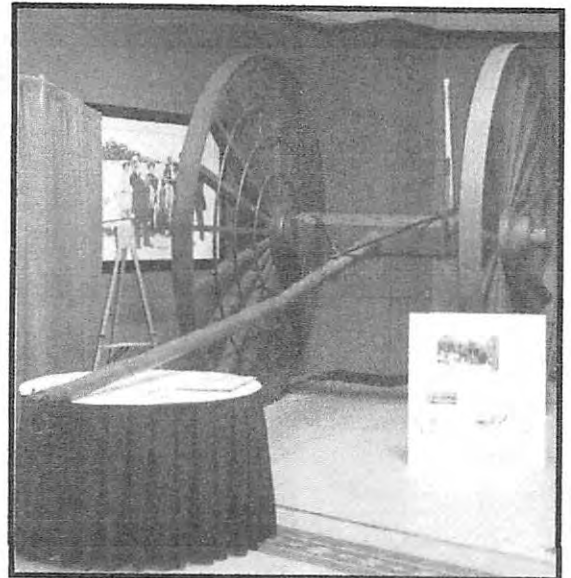
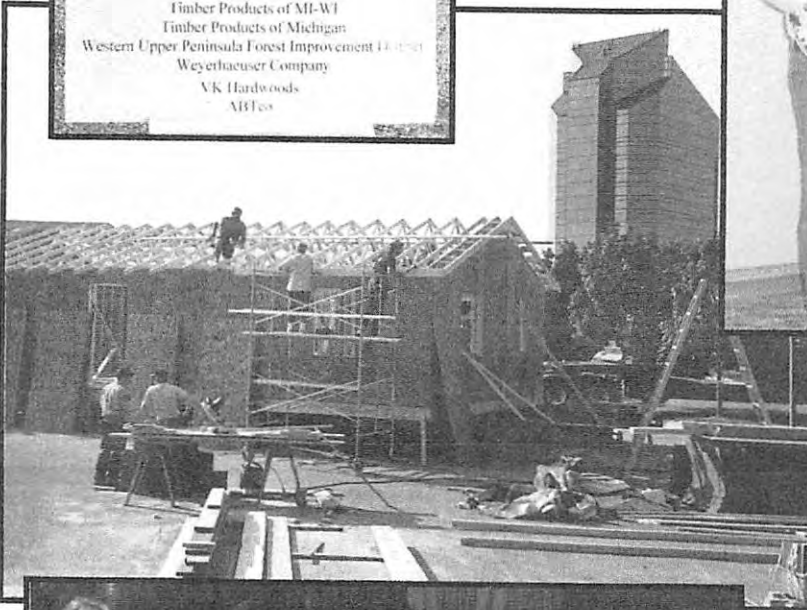
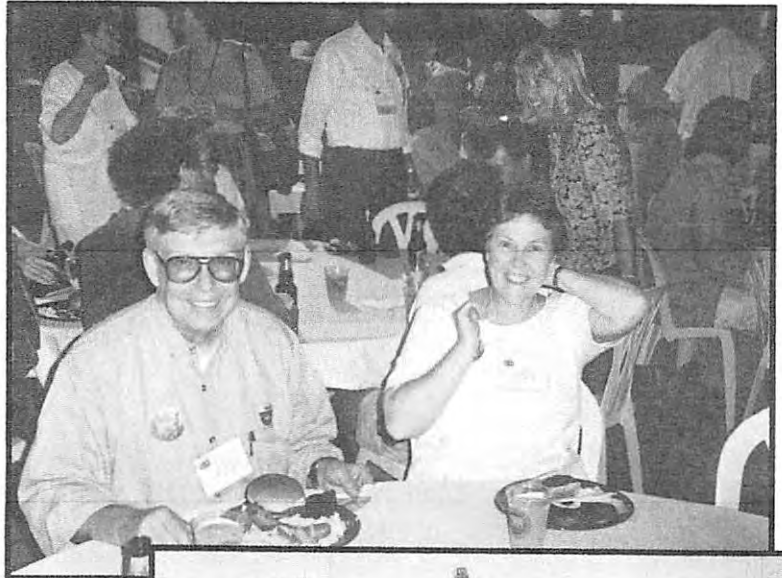
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Traverse City, Michigan

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of the Habitat for Humanity.

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New York SAF Surveys Forester Licensing and Certification

(Extracted from the Summer 1998 issue of The New York Forester)

Results of the (member) survey distributed by Herb Boyce's Ad Hoc Committee on Forester Licensing and Certification indicate 82.2% of respondents favored some form of forester credentialing — 7.1% were opposed, and 10.8% were unsure at the present time. A total of 251 usable surveys were returned out of 581 mailed, or a response rate of 43.2%.

There was much less agreement on how to credential foresters. Voluntary certification/registration by NYSAF or National SAF was favored by 53% of respondents. All others were opposed (to this form).

Preference for certification standards was also queried. 95% favored minimum education requirements — 60.6% favored 4-yr. degrees while 32.7% favored 2-yr associate degrees and 89% favored SAF accreditation for educational programs.

72% favored a minimum number of years (experience) before certification; 69% favored initial exams and 56% favored peer review. The strongest objections were raised over the peer review standards — objected to by 15% of the respondents. Periodic exams were the only ones not favored by a majority with only 45% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

One final issue regarded the question of the need to develop a legal definition of a forester; 79.7% favored the development of a legal definition by SAF.

The Ad Hoc Committee will be developing final recommendations to the Executive Committee by fall and the winter meeting will then focus on forester licensing/certification to try to determine the direction NYSAF will take in this matter. ♠

Allegheny Summer Meeting Explores Forestry at the Edge: The Urban/Rural Interface

By Terry Hoffman, Chair, Valley Forge SAF Chapter

Seventy-five members attended the 2-day meeting at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia. An excellent array of speakers made presentations at the Monday afternoon indoor session. We heard how quickly growth is eroding the working farm and forest lands around the major metropolitan areas on the east coast and how that is creating new natural resource management problems. Adaptive wildlife populations are rapidly expanding and require new control techniques.

Wilbur Wolf and **Dr. James Finley** explained how forest harvesting is often hampered by local townships adopting engineer developed harvesting ordinances. The supervisors often ignore recommended ordinances as presented by Allegheny SAF members. We need more members to meet with township officials to help get good forestry based regulations used. Wilbur and Jim can provide good examples.

To respond to the loss of open space, many existing and new land trusts are acquiring or accepting conservation easements. These organizations are playing a key role that often is not well recognized. The positive effects of forested riparian buffers on water quality and aquatic ecosystems were described by **Bernard Sweeny** of the Stroud Water Research Center. Riparian forests reestablishment is a major part of the Chesapeake Bay Project and the Governors of VA, MD and PA have pledged to reforest 2,020 miles of riparian areas by the year 2020, with a focus on the Susquehanna River watershed.

The afternoon ended with a panel including a Toll Brothers Development Vice-President, a township supervisor, and a Trout Unlimited activist. Township officials are the keys to controlled growth and future natural resource management. Compromises will be made that meet all of society demands. The quality of the decisions will depend on the knowledge of the township officials. SAF members must find a way to meet this challenge. If we don't, who will?

At the evening banquet, members and families were treated to an outstanding evening with George Washington. Character actor **Bill Sommerfield** of the American Historical Theatre kept the audience's full attention for over an hour as he told us about George and his life. He was so mesmerizing that we had to keep telling ourselves, "He is just an actor!" Bill has been playing this part since he was selected by the Supreme Court Chief Justice to play the role for the 1976 Bicentennial.

Tuesdays field trips illustrated the many ways resource managers are working to restore ecosystems and control invasive exotic plant species. At the end of the day, the two field trips combined at Valley Forge National Historic Park to hear **Dr. Louis Magnarelli** of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station talk about the latest findings in tick borne diseases. The bad news is that there are several more significant diseases in addition to Lyme disease. The good news is that these diseases can all be easily cured with early identification and medical treatment. Foresters need to learn all they can about these diseases and practice common sense precautions when in the field (14 of the members present or someone in their family had had Lyme disease or other tick-related diseases).

A tour of Valley Forge with Park Resource Manager **Brian Lambert** generated good questions and discussion about the National Park Service philosophy on managing the cultural and natural resources of the park in concert with social perceptions and problems. The day ended with a barbecue picnic at Fenimore Woods before we all went our separate ways. Thank you Conference Chairman **Bruce Arnold**, the Chapter members on the planning team, and all those that came to join us for the two days. We had fun showing you a part of our world and forestry in southeastern Pennsylvania. ♠

A photo spread of the Summer Meeting can be found on page 15.

Ed.

Allegheny SAF Eastern Tour at the Summer Meeting

By Duane L. Green, Registered Forester, Green Line Consultants

Thirty-six SAF members, spouses, and guests joined the Eastern Tour group on Tuesday, August 18, at the 1998 Allegheny Summer Meeting, King of Prussia, PA. The first stop was at the Morris Arboretum where Arboretum Director, **Paul Meyer** and Director of Botany, **Dr. Ann Rhoads** conducted two separate tours of the collections and grounds. The day was warm and sunny - excellent walking weather.

Emphasis was on familiarizing first-time guests to all that the Arboretum has to offer in its collections, particularly those



Dr. Ann Rhoads, Director of Botany, explains the mission of the Morris Arboretum

genera/species not likely to be seen, such as the Franklania! A small added attraction for all was an operating model railroad that ran among and through trees and plants in one section along a hillside. The hour and a half tour of the Arboretum ended too quickly for most but the group moved on to the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust holdings near Willow Grove, PA.

Following a box lunch at the Pennypack headquarters, a lengthy walking tour of the 700-acre property was led by **David Robertson**, Executive Director of Pennypack. The walk crossed the recently-acquired Raytham Farm property where members got a close look at the awesome power of an invasive exotic plant, Porcelainberry, which was taking over a large area of what normally would be occupied by warm-season grasses.

At the "Overlook" forest stop, a tract lacking in desirable advance regeneration and once covered with invasive exotic species, is now underplanted with native species of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Local "Free the Tree" volunteers have spent many hours removing the exotics, mechanically and chemically, and planting local native species.

The next stop was at a 1990 planting of mostly white ash,

some inside a fenced deer enclosure, and some outside the enclosure but protected by plastic tree shelters. After nine years, the survival rates in both plantings is in excess of 90% and all trees are developing well (12-18' tall saplings).

The final walk to the bus took the group through the "Peak" forest track, an area of large, mature yellow poplar and beech, with a few large red and white oaks and some cherries. The members were surprised that such a significant acreage of large trees existing so close to urban Philadelphia. All got a good look at some of the successful restoration efforts at Pennypack! ♣

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Allegheny SAF Visit Nottingham County Park, PA Home of Rare Flora and Fauna

By R. Bruce Arnold, Chair, Allegheny SAF 1998 Summer Meeting

Nottingham County Park lies along the Pennsylvania/Maryland border in Southwestern Chester County, PA. It is a rare ecological site that contains most unusual characteristics. Twenty-five participants in the recent Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting had the privilege to visit the Park with **Dr. Roger Latham** of Swarthmore College and **Mr. James Subach**, Superintendent of the Park, as their guides.

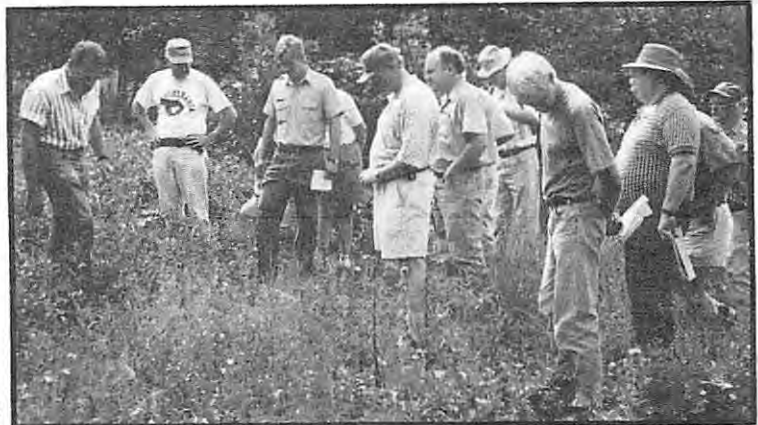
The Park is unique because it is located at the site of a serpentine rock barren. Serpentine is a geologic anomaly because it was formed deep beneath an ancient ocean but was raised up due to tectonic plate movement. Such outcroppings occur only rarely, after extensive erosion has worn down the mountains that originally stood atop them. The barren contains soils that are very low in essential nutrients because of high concentrations of metals that are toxic to many plants. These metals include nickel and chromium and the result is that most plants indigenous to the surrounding area cannot grow there. The "serpentine" is a rare, light green-colored rock that has been used to construct beautiful old stone farmhouses, churches and public buildings in the region.

Because of the soil toxicity, unusual plant life is found at Nottingham County Park. Species include prairie grasses that live mainly in the West and Midwest, trees and herbs that are most common to the sandy Atlantic Coastal Plain, and tiny plants that have special adaptations enabling them to live among bare rocks and gravel. Many of these plants are endangered, such that more than a dozen kinds are considered rare or in danger of

completely disappearing from Pennsylvania. Three are classified as globally endangered or threatened. In addition, there are some 15 animal species to be found that are considered rare.

Unfortunately, the grasslands in these serpentine barrens are in danger of disappearing. Historically, wildfires renewed them, especially during periods of severe drought. Because of fire prevention efforts during the last sixty plus years, these fires are now prevented from occurring. The result has been the invasion of other plant life, mainly woodlands with low plant species diversity and dense understory of the thorny lianas *Smilax glauca* and *S. rotundifolia* (greenbriars).

To control the invasion of non-traditional plants, The Nature Conservancy and Park administration have been conducting a series of artificial disturbances. These have included herbiciding and mowing to reduce *Smilax*. They have also



Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting attendees observing *Smilax* weed invasion

involved mechanical removal of organic matter; low, moderate and high-severity prescribed burning; low-severity burning from the grasslands across the woodland-grassland ecotone; and low-severity woodland burning followed by goat browsing. To simulate the conditions of a severe drought, a 10 meter x 30 meter greenhouse with opaque cover was constructed to thoroughly dry out an area. The greenhouse was removed just prior to burning. The result was deep destruction of soil organic materials, very similar to conditions experienced during a severe drought burn.

The findings to date show that the serpentine savannas can be restored only by reducing soil organic matter. However, removing it mechanically or burning under severe drought conditions is impractical as a restoration tool for areas larger than a small research plot. The most likely solution will include a combination of low-severity burning and goat browsing to simulate the high-severity burning that sustained the barrens for centuries, if not for thousands of years.

The Allegheny SAF members had an extensive tour of the Park and enjoyed a picnic lunch before returning to the meeting hotel. △

Note: Much of the above was taken from information distributed by Park authorities and from an article entitled Understanding Successional Trajectories to Conserve Serpentine Grasslands by Roger Earl Latham and James F. Thorne.



Typical prairie grasses among pitch pines in Nottingham County Park

West Virginia Wins National Student Quiz Bowl

Students from the West Virginia University Forestry Curriculum won the 1998 National SAF Student Quiz Bowl at Traverse City, Michigan, beating finalist competitor, the University of Washington. Approaching the finals, WV won in preliminary contests over the teams from Virginia Tech. and the University of Minnesota.

Also among the 17 team competition from the Allegheny five-state Society was the Penn State. For a while, it looked like the national finals would be between Penn State and West Virginia, as Penn State also went to semi-finals against Clemson. Their previous wins were over teams from the Universities of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and Purdue.

Congratulations to both Allegheny SAF teams - a tribute to them, their coaches, and the faculties of their colleges. ▲



The entire winning WV team, contestants and coaches



Semi-finalists Penn State in the midst of "punching in"



The score card



Society of American Foresters
National Convention
September 11-15, 1999
Oregon Convention Center

For information, contact the SAF Northwest Office at 503.224.8046
National site: www.safnet.org/conv/main.html
Local information: www.forestry.org/convention/convention.html

"Fun Run" Results

The "Fun Run & Walk" at the 1998 National SAF Convention is always a big attraction, and this year was no exception with 122 runners and some 20 walkers at Traverse City, Michigan. Several Allegheny SAF members competed in this year's 5K race. Placing 38th, with a time of 25:05 minutes, was Pinchot Chapter, and Allegheny Chair Elect, **Mike Lester**. From the New Jersey Division, Past Allegheny Chair **Mark Vodak** crossed the line in 48th position with 26:31 minutes. ▲

Patrice Jastrzembki is Named 1998 SAF Outstanding Journalist

At The SAF National Convention Awards Luncheon in Traverse City, Michigan, **Patrice Jastrzembki** received the first Outstanding Forestry Journalism Award given by the Society. The 1998 award recognizes high-quality journalistic coverage of topics that increase the American public's understanding of forestry and natural resources.

An environmental educator with seven year's experience as a columnist, Patrice has written some 152 *Tree Talk* biweekly articles for the Annapolis, MD newspaper, *The Capitol*. While painting pictures with her words and creating images in the minds of her readers, she masterfully translates the technical to the vernacular.

The Maryland Forests Association, a non-profit organization with 600 members, has begun providing a free environmental education column to newspapers throughout the state entitled *Maryland Forests* - the column is written by Jastrzembki. The wide range of topics covered include how forest management and forest products touch our daily lives, conservation versus preservation, aspirin and taxol, snags, Christmas trees, maple syrup and the MD Master Logger program. Patrice accepted her award from SAF President Karl Wenger in the company of her husband, John Jastrzembki, Assistant Professor of Forestry at the Allegany College of Maryland in Frostburg.

Patrice received her BS in Environmental and Forest Biology (1983) from the State University of New York at Syracuse, and her master's in Elementary Education (1987) from Wagner College. ♣

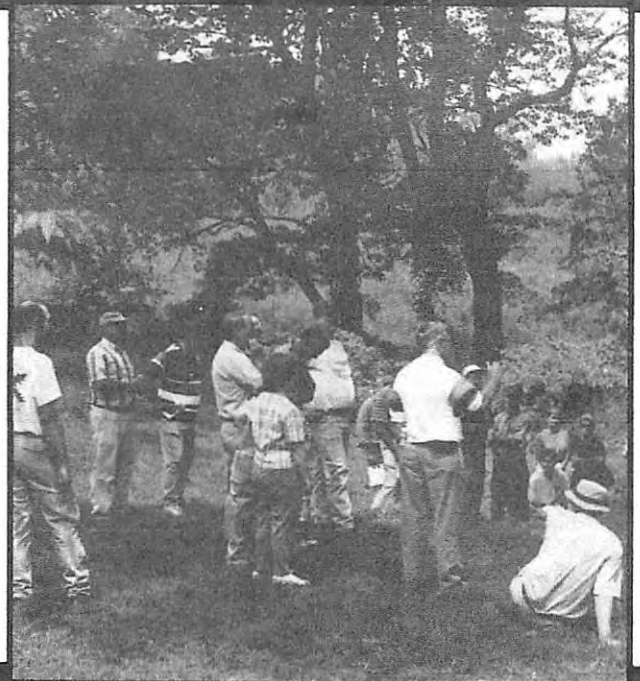


Patrice Jastrzembki and her husband John at the National SAF Awards Luncheon held in Traverse City, Michigan

Journal of Forestry 1999 Editorial Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| January | Open Forum
<i>Research, developments, discussions, issues, and history</i> |
| February | Certification
<i>Green timber for green markets... but does it really make sense for the environment? for the bottom line?</i> |
| March | Open Forum
<i>Research developments, discussions, issues, and history</i> |
| April | Timberland Taxes
<i>The impacts of income, estate, and property taxes — their benefits as well as their costs: are there better ways to achieve society's goals? Manuscripts due October 31, 1998</i> |
| May | Open Forum
<i>Research, developments, discussions, issues, and history. Manuscripts due November 30, 1998</i> |
| June | The Virtual Forester
<i>The new technological tools available for researchers and field foresters alike. Buyer's Guide issue. Manuscripts due December 31, 1998</i> |
| July | Open Forum
<i>Research, developments, discussions, issues, and history. Manuscripts due January 31, 1999</i> |
| August | Roads
<i>Engineering, erosion, rural access, and other issues as the 18-month moratorium on road building in the national forests expires. Manuscripts due February 28, 1999</i> |
| September | Open Forum
<i>Research, developments, discussions, issues, and history. Manuscripts due March 31, 1999</i> |
| October | Even-Aged Management and Its Alternatives
<i>What have we learned about clearcutting and its effects—here and abroad—since the Bolle Report? How do the alternatives rate? Manuscripts due April 30, 1999</i> |
| November | Open Forum
<i>Research, developments, discussions, issues, and history. Manuscripts due May 31, 1999</i> |
| December | Forest Inventory and Planning
<i>How has the private sector responded to the harvest reductions on public timberlands? How are inventory data being used? Manuscripts due June 30, 1999</i> |

Photo Highlights of Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting Valley Forge, PA



National SAF President Karl Wenger and George Washington (Bill Sommerfield)

Coming Events

November

11-13 PA Biological Survey Conference,
 "Conserving Pennsylvania's Natural Diversity:
 Creating a Cooperative Framework for
 Action", Ramada Inn-Market Square,
 Harrisburg, PA (814) 865-8301 or
www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casconf/forestd.html

December

15 **Deadline for articles and pictures for the
 Winter 98-99 Issue of *The Allegheny News***

February 1999

17-18 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting, West Virginia
 Put it on your calendar now... more to come!

March

15 **Deadline for articles and pictures for the
 Winter 98-99 Issue of *The Allegheny News***

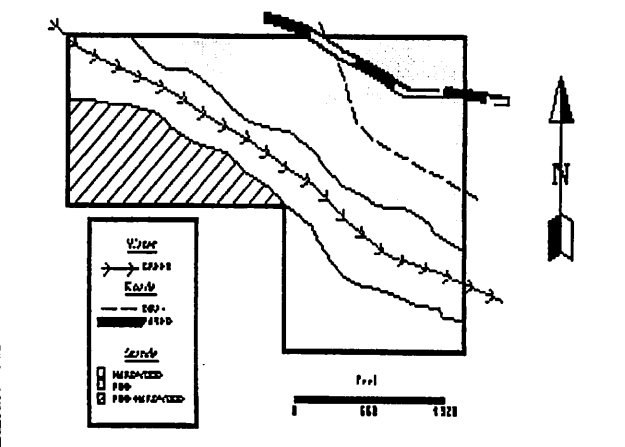
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 November 16-21, 2000 Washington, DC

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