

The Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Fall 2000

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.

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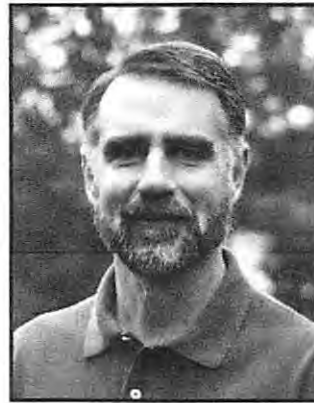
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Cover Photo

All fireline photos by Doug D'Amore.
See pages 16-20 for a better understanding of the strict training and organization necessary for fire fighters, and the experiences of two Pennsylvania crews in the recent West Coast wildfires.



Chairman's Corner

By Mike Lester
Allegheny SAF Chair

I read the letter from Donald Gibbon in the last Allegheny News with a great deal of interest, and not a little annoyance. I would encourage you to read it.

Mr. Gibbon accuses foresters of failing to understand why the public distrusts us. He may have a point there. Ironically, it is Mr. Gibbon's interesting logic that goes a long way towards explaining why we don't understand this lack of trust among some elements of the public. There are people who don't trust us because they don't understand what we do and how we do it. For many people, their sole exposure to forestry is a negative sound bite or article that rarely has anything to do with sound forestry (or at least the whole story). However, to foresters, our role seems obvious. Now for the bad news. What we do to make America's forests the most productive in the world is not obvious. Moreover, if we don't take the time to explain and demonstrate what we do, this lack of understanding and trust will have disastrous consequences for our profession and the resources we manage.

Mr. Gibbon then proceeds to detail the reasons, relying very heavily on the below cost timber sales to illustrate his point. I think we can all admit that the Forest Service uses some very interesting accounting principles with timber sales, and that these accounting principles have caused the Forest Service a great deal of grief. However, Mr. Gibbon apparently doesn't understand that Forest Service timber sales have many objectives dealing with forest health, and not all of those objectives require making a profit. Furthermore, I don't hear a lot of complaints from those same quarters when the recreation programs are below cost, which they most certainly are. It has been my belief that many of the people beating the drum on below cost timber sales care less about economics and more about the perceived evils of removing trees. It is also important to point out that these sales are bid on the open market, and reflect what those sales

(Continued on page 3)

Members and Views



Wiant Appointed to FRAC

Harry V. Wiant, Jr., Past-President of the Society of American Foresters and Past-Chair of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, has been appointed for a 3-year term on the Forestry Research Advisory Council (FRAC). The Council is required by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on efficiently accomplishing the purposes of the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962. The Council also provides advice related to the Forest Service research program and reports on regional and national planning and coordination of forestry research within the Federal and State agencies concerned with developing and utilizing the Nation's forest resources. The Council presently has 18 members representing Federal and State agencies, forest industries, forestry schools and other eligible institutions, and volunteer public groups concerned with forests and related natural resources. ❁

Mann and Parker Lumber Co. Awards Five Scholarships

September 2000 – New Freedom, PA – The Mann and Parker Lumber Company (M&P) recently awarded five scholarships to students at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV; Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, VA; Pennsylvania State College in State College, PA; and Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA.

Ryan California, a junior majoring in Forest Resource Management at WVU was awarded a scholarship in April. The company was especially proud to present this award to Ryan since his father, Ronald M. California, had worked for M&P for 21 years and was Senior Vice President at the time of his death in January 1996. Melissa Dale, a sophomore majoring in Forest Products Marketing & Management at VPI was awarded a scholarship in March.

The Ronald M. California Memorial Scholarship was presented to two students at PA College of Technology – freshman Joshua King and sophomore Mathew Rabb in Forest Technology. The fifth scholarship was awarded to Penn State Wood Products major, sophomore Wesley Dunn. Annually, M&P awards scholarships to wood products, wood products marketing and forest resources students at all four of these colleges.

M&P Lumber Company, now in its 98th year of business, is recognized as one of the largest independent distributors of forest products, specializing in domestic hardwood lumber and allied forest products. The company's buying operation reaches all lumber producing sources in the US and Canada, in addition to importing from around the world. The company has a distribution marketing area primarily in the Middle Atlantic States, but extends sales throughout the US, Canada and worldwide markets. The "M&P Gold Brand" is recognized throughout the industry. ❁

Robert R. Bushman, Sr., Chairman of the Board (717-235-4834)

Welcome New Allegheny SAF Members

Maryland/Delaware Division

James Harris
Nicholaus Stonesifer
Andrew Taylor

New Jersey Division

Robert M. Herrick

Keystone Chapter

Peter E. Linehan

Northern Hardwoods Chapter

Matthew W. Sampson

Valley Forge Chapter

Jeffrey C. Celia

Plateau Chapter

Samuel E. Roberts
Robert D. Laverick

Rothrock Chapter

Betty Harper
James F. Wolf
David Fournier
Timothy R. Haydt
Michael F. Spisak, Jr.

West Virginia Division

Neal A. Steward
Samuel R. Lammie
David C. Schaaf

(Continued from page 1)

are actually worth. I haven't examined the economics of those below cost sales for a long time, but as I recall, administrative costs were second only to road building costs. And, the administrative costs were the result of trying to manage within a framework of contradictory and confusing mandates.

I will agree with Mr. Gibbon that if the only objective of federal sales was to realize a profit, then many of them should not be on the market. However, if the objectives were to more evenly distribute the age structure of stands (increasing resilience and ecosystem health), or removing excess stems and debris (fuel reduction and public safety), then the revenue produced merely reduces the costs of some very important forest health tools. Irony once again rears its head in these arguments. The federal government is now proposing a program of mechanical thinning, essentially thinning from below, to solve the problem of excessive fuels in western federal forests. It will be interesting to see if we hear the hue and cry of below cost on these procedures.

However, in the big picture, below cost timber sales are only a minute element in what foresters are accomplishing today. Moreover, it is not particularly relevant in eastern federal forests (as Mr. Gibbon acknowledges). But as he addresses our forests today in the east, he confuses the practice of forestry with the timber industry. Furthermore, he treats the timber industry as some monolithic entity that has existed unchanged since the turn of the century. Also, federal forest management has always been an important, but less substantial contributor to forest management in the east. Mr. Gibbon then asserts that foresters claim to be able to produce any outcome that is desired, certainly not a claim any reputable forester would make. He correctly notes the obvious fact that we are not in complete control of the natural systems with which we work. If you didn't figure this out in your first semester, I would advise keeping that to yourself.

One final irony. Mr. Gibbon has unfairly picked on the Forest Service as his poster child for poor management. Some of the best managed forests I've observed are public and industrial forests. Moreover, I'm talking about the full suite of products from the forest; including timber, recreation, wildlife habitat and clean water. If there is an area of serious concern, it is the lack of professional forest management on our non-industrial private forestlands.

My purpose, however, is not to rebut all of Mr. Gibbon's points. Indeed, he raises some valid concerns that we shouldn't ignore. My point is that Mr. Gibbon cares a great deal about forests, has some knowledge of forests, yet still fails to understand the role of the forester in managing forests. Is this Mr. Gibbon's problem or is it ours? I contend that it is ours.

My experience is that we spend a lot of time among ourselves saying "ain't it awful" when discussing the lack of appreciation for our work. And I do believe that we accomplish great deeds that will benefit society for generations. However, we still have public perceptions painting us with out-of-date images that are 30-100 years old. We must take any opportunity available to us to carry our message to the public which gives us our license to serve. We need to be visible and articulate. Moreover, when we deliver our message of the importance of sound science-based forestry, we need to pay particular attention to our audience. We do an excellent job of producing wood. But more importantly, we manage for healthy, sustainable forest ecosystems. And this is the message that we **must** get across. Because, if we don't let society know the good our profession accomplishes, we need only look in the mirror to see who let us down. Carpe Diem. ❀

ANF Supervisor Palmer Is Transferring to Utah

Jack Blackwell, Regional Forester for the US Forest Service Intermountain Region, Ogden, UT is pleased to announce the appointment of **John Palmer** as director of the region's Vegetation Management staff. Palmer began his new assignment in Ogden on August 27, 2000.

Palmer served as Supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest from January 1993 to the present. During his tenure in Pennsylvania, he actively engaged in natural resource issues on the Allegheny Plateau and oversaw implementation of the Forest Plan on the ANF. He worked closely with many partners, including state and private forestland managers and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. His expertise in international forestry and natural resource management led to his inclusion on various national teams that provided technical assistance to public forest managers in Russia, China, and South America during the last five years. ❀

Contact Allegheny
News Editor Jack
Winieski by e-mail:

ansaf@paonline.com

Next newsletter
deadline is
December 15, 2000

Allegheny SAF Awards Nominations and Deadlines

Forester of the Year Award

Recognizes:

Time span 2000

Current professional achievements

A specific achievement during the year

Promotion of the importance of professional forestry

High caliber of professional conduct

Outstanding Service to Forestry Award

Recognizes:

Career time span

Outstanding professional achievements in forestry

Outstanding service to society

Professional promotion of forest conservation

High caliber of professional conduct

General Information (for either award)

1. Name, title, employer, business address
2. Place of birth, age
3. Education—college/university degrees
4. Professional employment
5. Present position and responsibilities

Send all nominations by **January 1, 2001** to:

Kenneth Jolly

1398 Primrose Road

Annapolis, MD 21403

301-464-3065

WV SAF Assists National 4-H Forestry Invitational

By Lloyd R. Williams, II

Once again, West Virginia hosted the National 4-H Forestry International Competition, held this year from July 31 through August 4, 2000 at Jackson's Mill. 4-H members from across the US competed in a contest that tested their skills in such areas as: map reading, tree identification, mensuration, and other related forestry topics. After the sawdust finally settled, Alabama won the event with West Virginia, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida rounding out the top five competitors.

Knowing full well that all work and no play makes for a dull forester, the WV Division of SAF once again hosted the evening's lumberjacks' competition. The



Bill Grafton on the log and Jim Mitchell keeping time, were two of the WV SAF members having fun at the 4-H competition

students, as well as a few hardy counselors, competed in various events. The competitors tried their skills in log rolling, crosscut sawing, pulpwood tossing, and the woodchip throw. The word is out that the competition was so fierce that ESPN is negotiating for television rights! Helping in this year's competition were SAF members **Linda Carnell,**

Jim Mitchell, Jim Hays, Bill Grafton, and Lloyd R. Williams, II. Also assisting were **Mark Burks** and **Dan Hackett**, both of the WV Division of Forestry. The WV SAF would like to thank the National 4-H Invitational for allowing us to take part in the fun, and we look forward to being part of next year's events. 🌲

Councilman's Report

By Tim Kaden, SAF District VII Representative



Your SAF Council has not met since the last issue of the *Allegheny News*. Therefore, I have no new council items to report that you have not heard about either in the last *Allegheny News* or in the "Councilman Notes" printed in the *SAF Forestry Source* newspaper. That gives me a chance to talk about a few other things.

I just got back from a conference in Annapolis, Maryland titled "Fragmentation 2000." Approximately 170 people from across the nation attended this three-day meeting to discuss the who, what and why of forest fragmentation and parcelization. It was a very informative meeting. One thing that surprised me was that forest fragmentation is not a concern nationally. As a matter of fact, our Baltimore/Washington, DC area is the leading example of forest fragmentation and parcelization in the nation. Other parts of the country are experiencing fragmentation at various lower levels - from isolated areas surrounding major cities like Boston to no impact at all. Another temporary surprise was that only a few foresters from our area were in attendance, but then I realized that the topic was well covered last year at the Allegheny SAF meeting in West Virginia. The proceedings of the Annapolis conference will be published within 60 to 90 days. I suggest you get a copy, you should be interested in the demise of our western Chesapeake Bay forestlands.

The Forest Stewards Guild, a professional organization for foresters and other resource management professionals, had a display at the meeting to promote their organization and its objectives. The organization's mission is to promote ecologically responsible resource management that sustains the forest across landscapes. Their presentation, along with pamphlets and newsletter copies, was attractive and effective.

I mention the Guild in connection with their, and other similar organizations' attraction of foresters and other resource professionals to membership - as SAF struggles to maintain membership. What appeals to foresters who opt to align themselves with these organizations instead of with an organization with a legacy of 100 years? SAF Council will soon be looking at an upcoming member survey on why members leave the SAF. As your representative, I would like your input into this question so that I may contribute to any analysis and future initiatives. Please contact me at my office by telephone 302-739-3423, FAX 302-739-3817, or via the internet at tkaden@state.de.us

Speaking of memberships, have you approached a professional peer recently and let them know about all the exciting involvement of SAF members in forestry issues and community activities? Show your enthusiasm to the point that they will accept your invitation to the next gathering of your local SAF meeting - or bring them to the Allegheny Winter Meeting in Atlantic City to get them hooked!

Another item that bothers me is why so few of our members (about 5% nationally) have become certified under the SAF Forester Certification program. I realize that some states have a form of forester certification (registration, licensing, etc.) and that SAF certification may seem like duplication. Personally, I value the SAF's verification of my education, experience and my continuing educational efforts. It is easy to become certified: SAF application, college transcript, application fee, and your guarantee to obtain 60 CFE credits over the next three years. See the SAF web page under Certification for other details.

I still appreciate the contact with Allegheny members at division and chapter meetings - thank you Bruce and the Valley Forge members. I have friends and relatives to stay with in most of our SAF areas: Pittsburgh, Dillsburg, West Virginia, etc. And New Jersey is only a toll-bridge fare across the river. So give me a call and about six weeks notice and I'll do my best to join you. That's it for now... hope to see you in Washington DC in November! 🌲

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

A Unique College Scholarship

By James Rada, Staff Writer, Cumberland Times-Union

Allegany College of Maryland, in Cumberland is in the process of selecting the first recipient of the **Jack and Dorothy Smouse Housing Scholarship**. This unique scholarship consists of free rent for one year in the former home of the Smouses, and is valued at around \$3,600. The scholarship is available to a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 grade point average, with a preference given to forestry students with a family. "We've only recently been able to offer this house as a scholarship because it needed some upgrading," said Dean of Advancement, **Linda Price**.

The home is a converted one-room schoolhouse built in 1874 on the former Smouse property. The family repurchased the land and the structure in 1902 and



The Smouse Schoolhouse Scholarship Residence

enlarged and remodeled the schoolhouse into a three-bedroom home. After a 37-year career in education, Jack Smouse returned to live in the house in 1979 and lived there until 1998. The Smouses donated the property to Allegany College in 1998 on the condition that the 42 acres be used for educational purposes. They also donated the outbuildings and equipment on the property and a three-volume history of the Smouse family that traces six generations of Smouses who have lived in Allegany County since 1800. "That kind of generosity just amazes me," said **Steve Resh**, Coordinator of the Forestry Program at Allegany College.

The couple's association with the college and the forestry program began 10 years ago when Jack saw students from the college exhibiting their lumberjack skills at an exhibition in Garrett County. At that time, he offered the use of his land to the forestry program. Since then, the college has used the property for surveying exercises; Resh intends to establish a forestry demonstration area on the property in conjunction with forestry curriculum activities.

Smouse has also provided the forestry program with a \$1,000 scholarship over the past few years and has named the college in his will - which will provide additional student scholarships in the future. Resh and Price both agree that, "We are lucky to have such a generous benefactor who recognizes the value of forestry education." ❁

Musser Forests

Northern-Grown Tree Seedlings

Pine: Austrian, Balkan, Japanese Black, Lodgepole, Mugho, Ponderosa, Red, White, Virginia

Spruce: Black Hills, Blue, Norway, Serbian, White

Fir: Balsam, Canaan, Concolor, Douglas, Fraser

Hemlock: Canadian

Birch: Allegheny, Black, European, Japanese, River

Dogwoods: Chinese, Gray, Silky, White

Locust: Black, Bristly, Honey

Maples: Norway, Red, Silver, Sugar

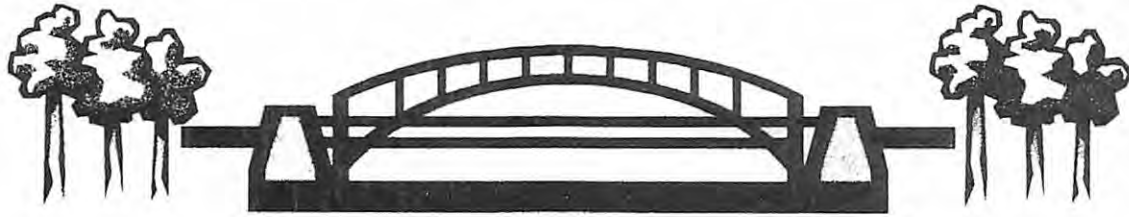
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Building Bridges

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Come Join Us for the
78th Annual
Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Winter Meeting
February 21-23, 2001 at the
Tropicana Hotel on the boardwalk in
Atlantic City, NJ

Help NJSAF celebrate its 50th Anniversary

This year's program will kick-off with a keynote address by **Warren Archey**, State Forester, Massachusetts Division of Forestry and Chair of NASF's Committee on Water Resources. Mr. Archey will set the stage for a program sure to stimulate interest and discussion on this important issue currently facing forest managers. He will outline emerging issues and policies relating to management of forested watersheds and provide predictions for the future.

Concurrent technical sessions: I - Managing Riparian Forest Buffers, and II - Science and Technology in Managing Forested Watersheds. Topics will include: Case Studies of Riparian Buffer Projects, Ecomapping and Watershed Boundaries, Nutrient Loading, Slash and Soil Compaction, Wildlife Management, and Invasive Species Issues. Speakers from around the Region will include **James Hornbeck** and **Mariko Yamasaki** of the USDA Forest Service, **Bernard Sweeney** of the Stroud Water Research Center, and **Mark Vodak** of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

The program will conclude with direct examples of programs and incentives available for on-the-ground management practices. Speakers associated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the New Jersey Resource and Development Council will lead this part of the program. 🌲

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Valley Forge SAF Chapter Revisits the Chestnut

By Bruce Arnold, Chair, Valley Forge Chapter

In the pastoral setting of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site near Birdsboro, PA on August 8, 2000, members and guests of the Valley Forge Chapter of SAF visited one of the annual charcoal burns at that site by the National Park Service. The visit was the first leg of an afternoon that focused on the American chestnut. The visit to the Furnace was related to the chestnut, because the vast majority of wood burned for charcoal production during its years of operation came from chestnut trees in the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Richard Lahey of the Park Service introduced the group to the burn, which was in progress. In this era, because of the chestnut blight, various species of oak are used for the demonstration burn. Demonstration burns for public viewing occur in August and October. The charcoal that is produced is then used to fire the furnace and to produce iron for castings.

Mr. Lahey provided a brief review of the history of the Furnace. A Mr. Mark Bird began it in 1771. The English ministers regretted their lack of success in their efforts to rein in American ironmasters. By the time of the revolution just four years later, the Hopewell and other furnaces were producing iron for cast and wrought products that were instrumental in helping to arm the colonial forces.

After a somewhat checkered financial career, the Furnace had its greatest success in the early 1800's. Its strength was the bountiful supply of hardwood forests all around the site. Its ultimate weakness was that it was furnished by wood. That

came late in the nineteenth century when railroads could provide huge amounts of coal to steam-powered, hot-blast coke and anthracite furnaces in the large cities for production of iron and steel. The Hopewell Furnace made its final blast in the summer of 1883. Wood production of charcoal was no longer economically attractive.

The production of charcoal required woodcutters in the forest. They are reputed to have regularly cut up to two cords daily. The boles were cut into four-foot lengths and split to a size of approximately 8-inch diameter. The charcoal pile was created by first constructing a triangular "chimney" and then layering the slabs in a generally vertical orientation all around the chimney until a pyramid was created. This was covered with leaves and dirt. Once the fire was lit, it had to be continually tended by the collier, as any spot on the pile where the fire broke out had to be plugged with dirt to prevent oxygen from entering the pile and converting it to carbon dioxide and water instead of into carbon. Typical piles in the days of operation contained about 20-cords of wood and took 5-7 days to be fully converted to charcoal. The pile seen by the Valley Forge Chapter was only 5-cords in size.

Following the tour of Hopewell Furnace, the group went to the nearby offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to hear a talk by **Dr. Robert and Ms. Ann Leffel** of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Ann started by talking of the efforts to locate



Ms. Ann Leffel speaks to the Valley Forge Chapter members who attended the informative meeting on August 8, 2000

samples of native Pennsylvania American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) for use in the TACF breeding program. Through a series of crosses, inoculation screenings, and backcrosses to American chestnut, the program goal is to create hybrid lines that maintain the genetic immunity of the Chinese chestnut and the bole and tree characteristics of the American chestnut.

Bob showed slides of several sites where breeding trials are currently in progress. Almost all of the effort in Pennsylvania was started as recently as 1995. At the national level, the breeding effort began in 1989. From the advances at the national level, the program in PA was able to start with fourth generation trees (third backcrosses) by using selected pollen generated at the TACF Meadowview Research Farms.

Because the trees grow rapidly on well drained sites that contain fertile soils, some of the oldest trees are already of substantial size, having reached height growth of as much as 12-15 feet and DBH of 1-3 inches after four growing seasons. While they have not been measured, they may have put on an additional four feet of height growth in this very good summer growing season. A range of breeding combinations is under study in these trials. A number of provenances from around the State are under evaluation to see if any produce more resistance to the blight than others as the breeding efforts progress.

American chestnut is infected with blight when spores enter any wound on the tree. Vigorous young trees can often overgrow an infection cancer, but as the growth slows, the more aggressive fungus cancer(s) girdles and kills infected trees. In the TACF trials, hybrid lines are inoculated with several strains of the fungus beginning in the fifth growing season. Then, in the sixth year, individual trees exhibiting desirable inoculation responses are selected for further backcrossing. Seed lots resulting from series of selections, crossings,



A typical collier's hut from the 19th century during the charcoal demonstration burn at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

inoculations, and further selection and backcrossing are planted in statistically designed trials to evaluate blight resistance and tree form.

Bob shared a sequence of breeding activities with the group that will take up to fifty years to complete (it takes 6-7 years to have stock suitable for the next round of crosses or backcrosses). At the end of that period, if the program is properly continued, the Chinese resistance gene should have been

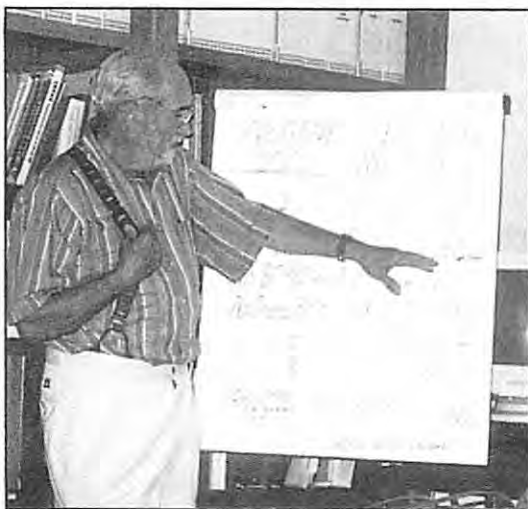
successfully transferred into the American stock and the trees will be essentially true American chestnuts. Even though the Pennsylvania plan is organized for a fifty year breeding effort, TACF anticipates the first seeds of blight-resistant American chestnuts to be available in 2006. The release will be experimental in nature and only to members and cooperators who will be testing them. PA will have its first such seeds about 2007 or 2008, an exciting

prospect for those engaged in the effort.

Bob and Ann made a plea for increased support of their efforts. They welcome new members to the Pennsylvania Chapter (which now has more than 800 members). They especially want help with finding more naturally occurring American chestnut stock for further breeding efforts. As yet, only a small representation of the material growing in the wild has been brought into the program. For best success, it is desired that a wide representation be included from broadly across Pennsylvania.

For additional information about the PA Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, Bob and Ann encouraged people to contact:

PA Chapter
The American Chestnut Foundation
800 East King Street
York, PA 17331
Phone: 717-852-0035
Email: pachestnut@acf.org
Web site: www.pachapteracf.org



Dr. Robert Leffel of the PA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation describes the organization's chestnut breeding program

PA, NJ, and DE Teams are National Envirothon Winners

An International Environmental Science Competition

Wolfville, NS, August 1-7, 2000 - After six days of intense competition, five high school students from Media, Pennsylvania, the Keystone state, captured 1st Place at the 2000 Canon Envirothon competition that concluded August 5th at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The Delaware County (PA) Conservation District sponsored Pennsylvania team members Jennifer Burgess, Bryan Guarente, Dan Loss, John Nixon and Christopher Thawley, and coaches Christa Kuntz and Mark Samilenko. The Kittatinny Regional High School team from New Jersey took 7th Place and the Charter School team from Wilmington, Delaware took 8th Place - this was in competition among 41 high school teams from the US and eight Canadian provinces (more than 600 volunteers, students and advisors participated in this year's event).

The New Jersey 7th Place team included Britt Gordon-McKeon, Becca Mylecraine, Joel Penkala, Brian Clough, Jessica Fletemeyer, and alternate Alexis Weinrich. They were coached by Tom Miller, Janet Clough and Lauren Miller.



The 7th Place New Jersey team from Kittatinny Regional High School with their award presented by NJSAF (a carved bear and tree)

Beenu Gupta and Adam Tarpine coached Delaware's State Team "A" members Roma Patel, Gabriel Yeas, Tiffany Ann Pendleton, Li Ma, and Christopher Zeigler to the 8th Place victory.



PA winners (L-R) Guarente, Nixon, Loss, Burges, and Thwuey

This was the first year Canada hosted the finals of North America's largest environmental science contest. Members of the winning Pennsylvania team will each receive a \$2,500 Canon Environmental College Scholarship to the university or trade school of their choice; the coaches received a digital camera. Students from Idaho and Washington, second and third place winners, respectively, also received scholarships. Each team member of the New Jersey and Delaware teams received a Canon SureShot Owl camera for placing in the top ten among competitors.

The high school Envirothon began in 1979 as a competition sponsored by three Pennsylvania soil and water conservation districts. In 1993 the event became an international competition - before that, it was a national competition in the United States. Through a system of local, district and state competitions, knowledge and skills are challenged among youth in environmental science and natural resources management in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue (the 2000 issue was wetland management). Coaches, with the

help of resource managers from varied disciplines, instruct and prepare students for the competitions.

"Every year, our competition grows stronger and more challenging, and this year's competitors were a delight," said Tamra Cikaitoga, Chairperson of the Canon Envirothon Executive Committee. "The Envirothon encourages young people to take an interest in their environment and to realize they have the power to affect it," said Keith Paglen, manager of Cause Marketing and Philanthropy for Canon USA, the competition's title sponsor. Canon supports the Envirothon program to promote environmental awareness and conservation education. The Canadian and Nova Scotia Forestry Associations hosted this year's event, which is supported and run by US soil and water conservation districts, forestry associations, and other sponsors in the US and Canada, including the US Forest Service and Carhartt. ❁

Article extracted from press releases from Canon's Editorial Contact, Judy Raichek 516-328-5186 and PA Envirothon Coordinator, Lorelle Steach 814-623-7900 ext. 111

A Response...

to a colleague regarding the Sierra Club economic study of timber harvesting on National Forests

By Ray Hicks, Division of Forestry, West Virginia University

I will resist playing the "massage the numbers" game, but I simply can't resist speaking out on this one. You asked for feedback on the ECONorthwest report for the Sierra Club, so here goes.

The Sierra Club has requested their economic study to suit their purpose (basically to stop all cutting on National Forests), but they left the most important issues hanging. I have basically become resigned to the fact that the National Forests will not be used for timber production to any great degree in the future. This seems to be the "will of the public," although public opinion is strongly swayed by voices from vocal advocacy groups, and not by people who have spent a lifetime studying forest ecosystems. I think the forestry profession has lost this one — proving once again that reason and knowledge are no match for sensationalism.

Lets examine the ramifications of a no-cut policy in National Forests. From my point of view, the following will occur:


- Demand for forest products will remain high in the short term, therefore —
 - a) Supply in the southeastern states will be pushed more heavily onto industrial forest lands (pine plantations). This will stimulate more plantation establishment, but there is fairly limited room for expansion of southern pine forestry.
 - b) Cutting will accelerate at a greater rate on non-industrial private forestland (especially in the central hardwood region) and most cutting on these lands amounts to exploitive high-grading.
 - c) The most productive sites in North America (Pacific Northwest) will be greatly reduced in their capacity to supply timber.
 - d) Prices of forest products will go up leading to:
- A shift from forest products to alternative materials, which will lead to —
 - a) An increase in the use of petrochemicals and other non-renewable resources for basic building materials.
 - b) A reduction in carbon sequestration by rapidly-growing, healthy, young forests.
 - c) A general decline in the forest products industry (especially severe in the western states), but an increase in productivity in third-world countries

where resource exploitation is the quickest way out of poverty — these are the areas of the world containing most of the tropical rainforests.


To some extent, I understand how people unfamiliar with forestry associate the results of silvicultural methods like clearcutting with devastation. However, why is it so difficult to understand that forests evolved in a world where episodic disturbances are the norm? Why can't they understand that many species of trees and other early-successional plants and animals are perfectly adapted to thrive in the resource-rich environment that exists after clearcutting? Why can't they see that natural disturbances such as fires, insects and diseases are often more virulent in unmanaged forests than in managed forests? Do they think trees live forever? Do they believe that all big trees are old and all small trees are young?

Wouldn't it make more sense to allow the Forest Service to conduct multiple-use management as they are mandated to do? Wouldn't that make more sense than shifting forest productivity to unmanaged NIPF lands or tropical rainforests? Would it be wise to exchange jobs in the forest industry for seasonal minimum-wage jobs? After all, the National Forest system was founded on the premise of timber management and scientific forestry. To paraphrase Aldo Leopold- he said his two greatest fears were that people would come to believe that heat comes from the furnace and food comes from the store... I am mystified by the millions of naïve Americans blissfully living in their wooden homes and consuming forest products to write their "white papers" demonizing the Forest Service for cutting timber on the National Forests. Do they think that lumber comes from Home Depot? ☹️

Cc: forestry faculty/staff/graduate students




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SAF Campaign Statements

Levesque, Charles A.

Campaign Statement:

I have had the privilege over the last three years to serve on SAF Council. Over that period, I have learned a great deal about SAF. I have also had a great opportunity to think deeply about our profession and the rapid changes going on in society around us, and to come to some conclusions about what it will take to keep us relevant as a profession.

We have spent a lot of time on Council looking forward for SAF and thinking strategically. Because of that work, we have mounted the SAF mission high and proud in the meeting room at Wild Acres. What has struck me most is that our mission looks both within and outside the profession. I have been impressed that the internal portion comes easily to us, but that it is the latter portion which truly defines the profession and the ultimate challenge that we face:

"...to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society."

In order to serve society, we must be relevant to decision makers throughout the country. We will never be the only place to which people turn for advice, but we should be the professional word on the subject.

To do more in the advocacy and communications arena, the strength of SAF lies in its members, in the chapters, and in the state and multi-state societies. We are an organization of decentralized volunteers; by strengthening that structure "in the field"—where so many critical decisions about forests are made—we will build on the important presence that we have gained on Capitol Hill.

We also need to take other actions:

Stay together. To splinter is to become irrelevant. We must find a way to bring most foresters under one roof and to use our great expertise in science to make sure all our members remain trained and that students come into the profession knowing what it takes to be relevant.

Timber is still the component of our profession that remains critical, but we must wrestle with the fact that more and more of us no longer directly manage forests primarily for timber. We must find better ways to balance and integrate all of the contributions that we can make as a profession—and tell that story.

We must accept that more and more of the citizens of this country are completely out of touch with the land yet hold an increasingly "spiritual" view of the forest. We *can* and must work within this new culture. We simply do not have the resources to change it.

I have no doubt that—working together—we can accomplish these important goals.

I am honored to have the opportunity to run for SAF President. I encourage your participation, and I ask, respectfully, for your vote. ❁



SAF Campaign Statements

Smith, David Wm.

Campaign Statement:

I believe in, teach, and practice professional forestry.

The forests of the United States provide significant inputs for the nation's economy and are foundational to the biologic cycles on which life depends. These forests must be managed by professional foresters for all their uses and values using the best science and professional judgment available. The Society of American Foresters is the primary organization that has been responsible for the leadership development and oversight of forestry activities for the past 100 years, and with your support, will continue to do so in the future.

The profession of forestry is broad and our management mandates include wood and fiber production, tree management in urban areas, watershed protection, growing trees that produce natural chemicals for cancer cures, and providing forest recreation, wilderness experiences, and wildlife habitat. All of these require a thorough knowledge of silviculture and forest biometrics, ecology, economics and policy... the core knowledge of all professional foresters.

In the past several decades, most Americans have developed a keen interest in our forest resources, often resulting in conflicting management strategies and a polarization of ideas. The Society of American Foresters must continue its role as a leader in providing professional expertise for making informed forest resource management decisions.

As a profession, we must maintain the ability to promote forestry that is science based, and we must effectively communicate our position to the public. The following are current issues that I believe are important to SAF:

- Strong forest resource educational programs are essential for America's children. At present, our youth programs are fragmented. A wide array of institutions, agencies, companies, and individuals are active but much more needs to be done and our efforts need to be increased and better coordinated.
- Continuing professional education and training are essential if we are to maintain credibility. SAF has a critical and pivotal role in establishing and monitoring professional competency, criteria, and standards. This effort needs to be strengthened.
- Activist groups are often working in directions that I believe are ethically and professionally contrary to what may be biologically and ecologically sound. Because we have the knowledge and experience, we must actively reach out and work with these groups to communicate forestry knowledge and find common ground.
- New policies, statutes, laws, and regulations are being enacted at all levels of government. SAF must increase its involvement in the political process by providing information that is based on the best science and professional expertise.

The Society of American Foresters is the only professional organization that can effectively deal with these very important issues. It is a "bottom-up" organization in which a primary function of the national office and state societies is to support individual and chapter activities – active members are our strength. I would be honored to serve in the principal leadership position of SAF. I believe I have the experience and background to be an effective leader, and if elected would serve the SAF members and the profession to the very best of my abilities. 🌲



Silviculture News

By Mary Ann Fajvan, Forest Science Coordinator, Allegheny SAF

For the past several months I have been involved in some research examining the composition and structure of 5 to 20-year-old, strip clearcuts in northeastern West Virginia. After recently hiking through all the study areas, and examining the field data collected this summer, my major observation is that the new forest contains far less tree species diversity compared to both the pre-harvest data for each stand, and to the uncut 90 year-old forest surrounding the clearcuts. We know that many factors can impact species diversity in a developing forest. In our region, these factors include: previous highgrading of particular species (removes seed source), deer browse, competing vegetation, fire suppression and site quality. If you go back to your silviculture textbook, the intent of silvicultural clearcutting is to mimic the disturbance intensities favorable to the ecological requirements of many commercially valuable, shade intolerant tree species. Clearcutting refers to treatments in which virtually all vegetation is removed and almost all of the growing space becomes available for new plants. In the eastern hardwood region, a forest manager using clearcutting as a regeneration method would anticipate at least maintaining the same level of diversity in the third generation forest as was present in the harvested stand.

Clearcutting as a Reproduction Method

Clearcutting is a one-time operation; no previous harvests are carried out to initiate regeneration prior to overstory removal. Because clearcutting removes all standing trees in a single harvest, in order to secure adequate seed-origin

regeneration we must depend on: 1) viable seed already stored in the forest floor, 2) seed stored in unopened cones or fruits attached to the branches of recently felled trees, 3) seed disseminated by wind, animals, and water from adjacent stands. Stump sprouts can also provide a source of regeneration; however, species and size of stump determines the extent of the contribution to the new stand.

Tree species diversity fluctuates relative to the new stand's successional status. During early stages of succession (5-10 years post-harvest), species diversity can be relatively high as new plants invade a site. As competition sets in during the stage of stem exclusion, the most rapidly growing individuals will prevail and remain dominant as the stand matures. Species diversity tends to decline during stem exclusion and will not increase again until overstory mortality creates canopy openings to favor understory species and new regeneration.

For the past several decades, experimental clearcuts have provided an opportunity to examine how clearcutting influences vegetation diversity and successional patterns. An article by Elliott et al. (1997) provides an excellent overview of studies conducted in eastern hardwood forests as they relate to a study of a clearcut watershed (southern aspect) in the Coweeta Basin near Franklin, NC. Whether or not species diversity increased, all of the studies confirmed dramatic changes in species composition compared to post-harvest stands.

In the Coweeta study, species diversity decreased in a mixed-oak community but remained relatively constant in a cove-hardwood community 17 years after cutting.

However, in both communities species composition changed dramatically. Yellow-poplar more than doubled the relative percentage of basal area contributed to both communities, compared to pre-harvest conditions. Black locust occupied 20% of the post-harvest basal area in the mixed-oak community compared to 2% before harvest. Hickory and black oak accounted for 37% of the pre-harvest, mixed-oak community and were reduced to about 1% of the basal area in the new stand. Hickory also declined in the cove-hardwood community (less than 1% of total basal area), where it was the leading dominant before harvest. Regeneration by sprouting accounted for more than 50% of the regeneration.

Due to the favorable response of the pioneering yellow-poplar and black locust to clearcutting, the authors recommended that additional measures must be taken to ensure the retention of hard-mast producing species. For example, the author's possible explanations for the low basal area of black oak include: low seed dispersal in a large opening, low seedling survival, slow seedling growth and lack of sprouting because stumps were too large. These factors made competition with aggressive sprouts and yellow-poplar seedlings nearly impossible. ❄️

For more information read: Elliott, K.J., Boring, L.R., Swank, W.T. and B.R. Haines. 1997. Successional changes in plant species diversity and composition after clearcutting a Southern Appalachian watershed. *Forest Ecology and Management* 92:67-85.

Mary Ann Fajvan is an Associate Professor of Silviculture at West Virginia University

Scenes I Remember*

By S.A. McCahan

Sixty to ninety years ago there was a demand for railroad ties. Many men in my home valley made a living working in the woods. I can remember nine or ten men (now deceased) living in Licking Creek Valley of Pennsylvania who made their living working in the woods, principally making railroad ties.

They were good men who reared nice families, did not expect any government handouts, but chose to be reliable, self-supporting citizens, not afraid to work hard; no 40-hour week, no union restrictions. Also, some farmers made ties during the winter months to supplement their limited income. My father was one to do so.

One man, a father of twelve children, regularly sawed and split wood for stove use. He ranked the split wood in an upright position in his wagonbed (wagon box), delivered and sold wood to families living in Mifflin, PA. This he did in addition to his tie making.

Another man regularly made by hand hickory axe handles and sold them to local hardware stores for 25 cents each. In turn, the hardware stores sold them for 30 cents. This man, who had a supply of hickory in his adjoining woods, also made handles for hatchets, hammers and picks which he also sold to the local hardware stores, who in turn sold each of them at a five cent profit. But most of these men made and sold ties to the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR).

The fallen trees were trimmed of all limbs and the limbs were used for firewood, usually in the kitchen stove. That was before the days of rural electrification and not all town folks used gas. Many families used wood the year around for cooking, baking and winter heating; very little wood was wasted.

If the fallen tree was a distance from the wagon road, they used horses (mules) to drag logs to a less dense area before making ties, where they sawed the tree into tie length, which was nine feet. They marked thickness of the tie to be, eight inches was the required thickness, and then by hand using a broad axe they cut and hewed two opposite sides straight. The width had to be eight inches at the smallest end of the tie. Ties sawed at sawmills were straight on all four sides, nine feet in length eight by eight inches. But most ties were made by hand.

To transport ties, the wagon box was removed and 15 to 20 ties were loaded on the wagon. The front and rear wagon bolsters supported the ties with a log chain

around entire load. With the aid of a spring pole and tie chain, the load was securely anchored and delivered to the yard in Mifflin where they were inspected, stamped, stored and sold to PRR. Later they were loaded in railroad cars and shipped to designated places where needed and used.

Many days it was not unusual to see three or more wagons loaded with ties traveling the dirt roads in Licking Creek Valley to the tie yard in Mifflin. Many times they left home before daylight. In the morning darkness or dense fog we could hear the voice of a lonely driver talking to his horses as they made their way to the tie yard.

Sometimes in early spring when the sap was rising, woodsmen would peel the bark from fallen trees, usually from a variety of oak species, using a spud plus a cant hook for turning logs. After the bark was marked, nicked circumference-wise, the three to four foot length bark was stacked end-wise along a fallen tree to dry. A month or two later, dried bark was carried to wagons equipped with hay ladders and loaded. How I hated that job. It seemed liked all the mosquitoes, gnats, and insects in the county were assembled at that location when we loaded the bark, which we hauled to the same tie yard where it was shipped to tanneries to be used for tanning and dyeing hides and leather. Then next winter the ties were hewn from the logs from which the bark had been peeled.

About 1931 the PRR no longer bought ties at Mifflin, so tie making became a lost trade and sounds of swinging axes faded in the valley. A few men in the upper end of Juniata County made ties, but hauled them only to a local shipping point, loaded them on the Tuscarora Valley (T.V.) narrow gauge railroad, sent them to Port Royal and transferred them to standard size cars for shipment. There were a few privately owned and operated sawmills that sawed ties that were transported by truck, mostly by model "T" Ford trucks, to the Mifflin tie yard.

In the early thirties, a few ties were made and trucked to areas other than Mifflin. That too, soon came to an end. Now tie making, especially by hand, is unknown to young people, but a lingering memory to those who are oldsters, especially if we participated in the task.

** This article was and submitted to The Allegheny News by SAF member Bob Rumpf. It was originally printed in the Juniata Sentinel, 6/20/74.*

The Diary of a Hand Crew

By Doug D'Amore, Asst. Dist. Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry, Renovo, PA

The summer of 2000 will be remembered by the forestry community in future years as a summer of fire. Before the fall rains and snowstorms put the fires out hundreds of thousands of acres of woodland had burned. Every night the national news broadcasts of the major networks showed pictures of massive crown fires racing through thick stands of conifers burning everything in their path. The broadcasts also showed the latest homeowners who lost everything but the shirt on their backs coping with the awesome task of starting over. Many members of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) spent part of their summer in Montana and Idaho doing their best to help suppress and control these fires. What follows is the diary of a hand crew, Pennsylvania #2, who spent the last part of July and the first part of August fighting fire in the area of Sula, Montana.

The story of Pennsylvania #2 actually starts in early March with the first of many hours of training the fire fighters are required to have in order to qualify for an Incident Qualifications Card (Red Card). New fire fighters must attend and pass the Pennsylvania S-130 class which is basically an introduction to fire behavior and the Incident Command System. This class is mandatory for all fire fighters. The individuals must then pass a physical fitness test which consists of running a mile and half in less than eleven minutes, forty-five seconds or walking three miles in less than forty-five minutes with forty five pounds on their back. This physical fitness test must be passed every year to remain eligible for a red card.

In early June the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry's Division of Forest Fire Protection hosts an annual statewide training session for those individuals still interested in being part of a fire crew. The training

session is held over a weekend and attendance is mandatory every other year to remain eligible for a red card. The training session is run to simulate an actual fire camp with the fire fighters taking various courses depending on their level of training. First time attendees are required to take the basic course and the advanced students have a choice of three or four different classes. On Saturday night all the attendees spend several hours suppressing a forest fire. The individuals who successfully complete the weekend are considered qualified for a red card. After the weekend is completed, the Bureau of Forestry informs the US Forest Service's Eastern Area Coordinating Center it has trained crews available and awaits their phone call. The fire fighters, who come from all walks of life, go home, do their regular jobs and wait.

The phone call everybody was awaiting arrived in the early morning hours of July 24th. The Division of Forest Fire Protection jumped into action to fill the order that had arrived from the National Interagency Fire Coordinating Center, (NIFC) two hand crews for a fire northwest of Salmon, ID on the North Fork District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Each hand crew consists of twenty fire fighters. The typical break down of personnel in a hand crew is as follows: a crew representative who handles logistics, liaison, and safety issues, a crew boss who runs the crew and insures it carries out its assignments, three squad bosses who supervise five fire fighters each and carry out the crew bosses orders and fifteen fire fighters who do the work. The personal for these two crews, Pennsylvania #1 and #2, were gathered from over half of the Bureau's twenty forest districts.

My job was to serve as the crew representative of Pennsylvania #2. This was my eighth trip to another state with a Pennsylvania fire crew



Doug D'Amore

since I became active in the program in 1987. What follows is taken from notes I kept as events unfolded on the fire line and in the fire camp. We worked with individuals and crews from twelve different states during our assignment. Local military time is used on forest fires and I will continue its use in this article.

Monday, July 24, 2000

At 0830 I received a phone call from **John Berst**, Chief of the PA Division of Forest Fire Protection, asking if I was available to serve as a crew representative for a callup to Idaho. I would need to be at the staging area located at the Harrisburg Airport at 1600 that afternoon. After checking with my District Forester, **Butch Davey** and my wife Jenny, I had the green light to go and called John back and told him to add my name to the manifest. I went home and packed my gear – no more than fifty pounds for two weeks – and drove to Harrisburg. I arrive at the airport at 1630 and meet with Crew Boss **Brian Vinski**, Crew Representative Trainee **Bob Kurilla** and Crew Boss Trainee **Jon Castimore** and help them organize the crew. At 2000 the plane arrives with three crews from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire already on board. The Pennsylvania crews load up and the plane departs at 2045 for NIFC in Boise, ID. We arrive in Boise at 2345 and make arrangements for overnight accommodations.

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

At 0645 we board our buses and leave NIFC for Salmon, ID and the Twin Fire. We will essentially be bused across the state of Idaho today so everybody settles in to enjoy the ride. At 1100 we stop in the town of Stanley, ID for a rest break and meet up with our Interagency Resource Representatives (IARR), **Lauren Miles** from the Allegheny National Forest and **Dave Pratt** from the White Mountain National Forest. I will be meeting daily with these individuals to ensure the needs of my crew are being met. Stanley is a town built on white water rafting tourism and every building is a log structure. We arrive at the Forest Supervisors Office in Salmon at 1430 and are told to proceed to the fire camp located at Lost Trail Pass located along Highway 93 on the continental divide. We arrive at 1600, check in and are told to wait because the camp is moving north into Montana. While waiting, we watch retardant bombers and helicopters work the Twin Fire. At 1830 we arrive at the new camp in a pasture, eat and set up our new home for the next two weeks.

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Each day will begin at 0600 with a briefing for the crew overhead. Today we find out we will be working for an overhead team from Alaska who also arrived yesterday. They are a competent, hard working, no thrills bunch who are all business. We will be working Division D of the Twin Fire in Idaho. At 0900 we load the buses and depart for Drop Point 1 along Highway 93. At 1300 we start the two hour hike into fire. The division supervisor and strike team leaders, scouting a route into the bottom of the fire and locating safety zones, have used up the morning. The two Pennsylvania crews and two crews of Navajo Scouts from Arizona spend the next several hours locating fire line locations and establishing anchor points. We are working in stands made up primarily of Douglas

fir, Engelman spruce and subalpine fir. The helicopters are busy all day working hot spots in Division Y across the drainage from us. We hike out to the road and arrive back in camp at 2100. Each night after arriving in camp I will spend one to two hours debriefing, meeting with the IARR, and taking care of the crew members problems. Tonight is no exception and its 2230 before I call it a day.

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Today we leave camp at 0715 and arrive at the fire at 1000. The crews immediately go to work constructing hand line, tying into a small stream and several rock slides. **Greg Burkhouse**, the Crew Representative Trainee for Pennsylvania #1, and myself cross a small stream and scout the bottom portions of Division Y. This north aspect will be difficult and dangerous to work. The fuels are very heavy, there are small spot fires smoldering everywhere and there are many standing snags that are partially burned through. By the time we get back the crews have tied the hand lines and we begin to patrol and hold the line. At 1500 the wind has increased to 15 mph and the relative humidity (rh) has dropped to 12 percent. The fire activity is increasing with scattered torching of two to five trees at a time occurring throughout the fire. The helicopters are staying busy dropping water on hot spots in both Divisions D and Y. At 1745, torching within 100 yards of the line throws embers across the fire line causing numerous small spot fires. The crews work these until 1900 when it is time to depart for the road. We arrive in camp tonight at 2130.

Friday, July 28, 2000

Today we leave camp at 0715 and arrive at the fire at 0945. It will be a busy day. One squad from each crew is put to work gridding (lining up like you're driving deer and look for smoke) for spot fires. PA #1 will be conducting a burnout operation and PA #2 will be constructing a hose lay. The hose, pumps and other supplies

needed for this operation are arriving by helicopter sling load. By 1100 burnout operations are well under way, but the weather is not cooperating and we are seeing patchy results. At 1600 the burnout operation ends and both crews begin to patrol the line. Helicopters have been busy all day hitting hot spots in Division Y. There is a helicopter dropping water every five minutes. The toll of hiking in every day is starting to show up with one crew member having knee problems and others starting to get blisters. We arrive in camp tonight at 2100. We meet with the division supervisor tonight at supper. He is happy with the crews work and progress we are making on the fire.

Saturday, July 29, 2000

At today's briefing we are told we will be spiking out overnight. This means we will be sleeping under the stars and eating MREs for supper. We have to partly reorganize the crew and don't leave camp until 0800. Each crewmember is carrying a change of socks and underwear and a jacket today in addition to the twenty to thirty pounds of gear they normally carry everyday. The assignment for today is to hold the line in Division D and begin mop up operations. PA #2 is assigned the job of constructing the spike camp and one squad begins clearing standing snags and jackstrawed fallen timber. By 1400 the rh is 10 percent and the temperature is 85°. The air show is busy, with helicopters dropping water constantly in Division Y and slinging loads of gear into a spot near the spike camp. At 1915 a new spot fire cropped up near the spike camp. The crews arrive in spike camp at 2030 and call it a day.

Sunday, July 30, 2000

At 0300 this morning the wind wakes me up. When I look toward the fire I see four or five bright orange glows as groups of trees torch out. We start today at 0730 and expand our mop up operation to 300 feet from

the fire line. The squads that are gridding for spot fires outside the fire line continue to find new fires. By mid afternoon the temperatures have risen, the rh is in the low teens and the fire activity is picking up. We are asked to spend a second night in spike camp and agree. At 1700 the lower portions of Division Y start to really heat up and the helicopters make many drops. This area has the potential to create very serious problems for the hand crews working their way down from the ridge top. At 1730, I go into Division Y to scout a hose lay location for tomorrow and we call it a day at 1930. At 2245 strong winds and light rain again awaken us. This time the whole fire area glowed for about ten minutes.

Monday, July 31, 2000

We start cleaning up the spike campsite this morning at 0700 and the crews start mopping up. We will send one squad into Division Y and start hitting the hot spots from the bottom. At 0830 the division supervisor informs us a Red Flag Warning has been issued for today. A Red Flag Warning is highest level of fire danger and is issued whenever extreme fire behavior conditions are expected. Things were routine until 1500 when we receive reports of thunder in the area. At 1600 we receive some light rain with the lighting and thunder. By the time the storm passes there are new fires near Helispots 1 and 3, another fire has been suppressed near Highway 93 by the Structure Protection Group and more than sixty other fires have started on the Bitterroot National Forest. We return to the base camp today at 1930 and see numerous smoke plumes off to the north.

Tuesday, August 1, 2000

At the briefing this morning I run into Steve Wingate from the Allegheny National Forest. He is working in Division Y as a strike team leader. We are assigned to Division Y and will have both Pennsylvania crews working the lower portions of the

Division. A team of sawyers from Oregon is assigned to support us and they have a busy day falling snags. The crews extend the hose lay and have a busy day mopping up. At 1900, where we are picked up at Drop Point 1, the bus driver tells us there is a fire bearing down on the base camp. We spend the rest of the evening in base camp watching the fire make some impressive runs up ridges to our west.

Wednesday, August 2, 2000

Today is a day of transition for everyone. Many of the resources from Division D on the Twin Fire are being assigned to Division A of the Maynard/Warm Springs Fire. The suppression of this and other fires in the area are also to be a transition from the Sula Ranger District to our overhead team. We are told to get our gear together and to standby for a five-minute deployment. At 1330 we arrive at Warm Springs Resort and are assigned to work with the Boise Hotshots, digging a hand line to cutoff the north flank of the fire to protect private property along Warner Springs Road. The fire in this area is mostly burning in a timber sale unit that had received a prescribed burn. The fuels are light, but the smoke is very thick and hot and we are digging the

control line right on the edge of the black. We finish digging the line at 2000 and take a break. At 2045 we start a burn out operation along the portion of the line that is not on the edge of the main fire. We stay on the line until 2330 monitoring the burn out operation. The burn out fire is progressing well and the areas near the line are cooling down nicely. The Boise shots have tied everything into the Bitterroot River and we leave feeling the situation is well in hand. Today the fire is approximately 1,500 acres.

Thursday, August 3, 2000

We start hiking into the fire this morning at 0930 after having our mandatory eight hours of rest from last night's shift. We arrive at the fire and find it has slopped over the control line. PA #1 starts controlling this slopover while PA #2 starts patrolling the line. At 1100, PA #2 finds a quarter acre slopover and puts two squads to work controlling it while the other squad patrols further out the line. At 1300 the conditions on the line are beginning to worsen. The winds are starting to gust up to 20-mph and the rh is dropping. Two other slopovers have occurred and both crews are busy controlling them.



At 1430 the Crazy, Gilbert, and Spade Fires and west flank of our fire are all making major runs. The wind is a steady 15-mph with stronger gusts and we are told to pull off the line and drop back to Warm Springs Road. At 1515 both crews are reassigned to protect structures and a power line in the Highway 93 corridor. At 1700, PA #2 is reassigned to the west flank to protect structures around the U.S. Forest Service's Warm Springs Campground. By 1900 we have a line constructed and half of the Boise shots are starting a burn out operation. We are also being backed up by members of the Sula Volunteer Fire Company with a couple of engines. At 2200 a thunderhead is passing to our north and we are being affected by light variable winds. The burnout operation is going well. At 2400 we are still on the line monitoring the burn out operation.

Friday, August 4, 2000

We are pulled off the burn out operation at 0100 and arrive in camp at 0115. At 1000 we attend a briefing and move our tent to a different area due to the need to expand the camp. Our old spot will become part of the parking lot. Today's assignment is to mop up last night's burn out. We arrive at Warm Springs Campground at 1145 and go to work. There is a Red Flag Warning for today, but the conditions never develop. Early in the afternoon the decision is made to use Warm Springs Road as the fire line, abandoning the line we built two days ago. At 1530 we are pulled to the Highway 93 corridor to help with another burn out operation. The rest of the day is spent preparing the area for the burnout that started at 2015. We return to camp at 2200 tonight and everyone is exhausted. As of today the fire is known as the Maynard Fire and is about 4,000 acres.

Saturday, August 5, 2000

Today we are assigned to Division E of the Maynard fire located in the Andrews Creek Area. Today's

assignment is to hold, improve and prepare a dozer line for an evening burnout operation. By noon the inversion has lifted and fire activity is starting to pick up. Fire activity continues to increase all afternoon, and by 1400 individual trees are torching out about every five minutes with the fire starting to make interior uphill runs. At 1500 conditions continue to worsen with the winds becoming stronger and more variable. The fire is making a run near the line and at 1530 the crews are pulled back into safety zones. During this run the fire is spotted across Praine Creek and grows to over 100 acres within a half-hour. We are returned to camp by 1800, fed and put on standby for a 5-minute call out. At 1930 we are dispatched south to the Waugh Creek drainage for a structure protection assignment. The fire has run about two miles in the last four hours and has doubled in size to 8,000 acres. This is a hurry operation setup on short notice with a number of resources. Two D-6 dozers are building the line, four engines are protecting the structures., the Boise shots are doing the burnout, and the two Pennsylvania crews are holding the lines. A documentary television crew from the Discovery Channel is filming the operations and interviews several crewmembers from PA #1. The sky is full of dark smoke and the dull roar of a major crown fire can be heard in the background. We are relieved by the night shift at 2200 and return to camp.

Sunday, August 6, 2000

At this morning's briefing the fire behavior analyst says the possibility exists for extreme fire behavior, and everyone will need to keep a sharp lookout. We are assigned to protect structures at Lost Trail Resort Hot Springs in Division F of the Maynard Fire. We leave camp at 0715, arrive at the resort at 0730, wake the owner and begin assessing the situation. After determining with the owner the priorities for protection, we begin our hose lays. There are a half dozen

other structures within our assigned area. We meet with those owners and determine their priorities for protection. There are some people using the resort and they keep a couple of individuals busy answering their questions. At 1300 as the inversion starts to lift, an engine strike team pulls in and we touch base with one another for the upcoming burning period. At 1400 the fire starts making its first major run of the day, and at 1430 the Ravalli County Sheriff evacuates the homeowners and guests from the resort complex. At 1530 the fire is making numerous runs, with two separate head fires converging on a side hollow south of Waugh Creek. At 1615 the fire jumps to the east side of Highway 93 and goes on a tear up the Dick Creek drainage. At 1630 the two head fires south of Waugh Creek join in spectacular fashion creating a two hundred foot tall whirlwind of fire that swirls around a meadow for five minutes scorching everything in its path. At this time the entire field of view off to the north is filled with fire and smoke. The wind is blowing from the southwest at a steady 15-mph. At 1730 the fire has halted its southerly march and is holding steady on a ridge line directly across from us. At 1815 the fire on the east side of Highway 93 is making numerous runs and putting on a spectacular show. The smoke column has parted somewhat, and looking out to the north a 35,000 foot tall pyrocumulus cloud structure is visible in the Sula area. We are in relatively clear air with excellent visibility and have no fire threatening the structures at the resort. The wind is still steady out of the southwest at 15 to 20-mph. At 1930 the fire is still making numerous runs on both sides of Highway 93, the wind has shifted to the northwest, and we have ash starting to fall on us. By 2100 the fire has started to calm down and a spot fire is discovered nearby. One squad is dispatched to contain it. We are sent back to camp at 2145 for a hot meal and are amazed by what we see

on the drive back. Both sides of Highway 93 have fires burning and the camp is surrounded by fire. The winds generated by the head fire has ripped the dining tent from its stakes and has sent it whirling into a trailer van. The camp is full of small round black spots from extinguished spot fires, and some individuals have lost their tents and belongings. IARR's Dave Pratt has lost his tent but his gear is saved. The sawyer team from Oregon has lost everything. PA #2 was lucky: their tent blows down but nobody loses any gear. A news crew from NBC is in our camp as it is burned over and broadcast the event live over the local news on the east

coast. We finish eating and are back at the resort by 2230. The crew patrols the area until 2400 when we return to camp.

Monday, August 7, 2000

This morning's briefing has a somber tone. Although Division F came out of yesterday in good shape with no structures lost, other divisions lost many. Yesterday's fire behavior was as extreme as it gets. What happened was four separate fires converging on the Sula area, setting up a complex reaction between multiple fires and the existing weather system where the fire itself has a marked impact on the surrounding air mass. The fire behavior analyst says it ranked in the top three events he has experienced over his twenty-plus year career. He calls it "Fire Behavior in the Third Dimension." For the Pennsylvania crews it was probably a



once in a lifetime experience. Today we are back at Lost Trail Resort to support a burnout operation to protect the structures. The burnout starts at 1100 and is going well until 1430 when the wind shifted, starting a spot fire near two houses. The homeowners are standing nearby, watching while the event unfolds. At 1530 a second spot fire starts near last night's fire, and two squads from our crew attack it with dozer and engine support. At 1900 the decision is made to construct a new dozer line near the two homes and conduct another smaller burnout. By 2030 the burnouts are starting to lay down and we leave at 2100 to return to camp. This is the first day in a long while when everything worked. The homeowners thank us for our efforts, and a few are amazed that no structures were lost in our division.

Tuesday, August 8, 2000

We are to be demobilized from the fire today and we begin that process at 0700. At 0830 we leave our fire camp and head for Missoula, MT. Highway 93 is black on both sides of the road all the way to Darby. We count over a dozen destroyed structures that are visible from the bus windows. We arrive in Missoula at 1045 and our flight back to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania leaves at 1245. We arrive in Harrisburg at 1815 and spend an hour talking to reporters and turning in gear. By 1900 everyone has left for home for a well deserved rest.

Epilogue

The Maynard fire continued to burn east and crossed the continental divide. When I checked the Internet on September 11, 2000 it was still listed as an active fire. However, that evening the upper elevations received a couple of inches of snow and the Forest Service was beginning the final demobilization process. By this time Pennsylvania had sent eleven crews west with many members from PA #2 making a second trip. Upon returning, fire fighters had a large scale map of the Bitterroot Area, and over two thirds of the map was covered by fires. However, the Lost Trail Resort Area showed no changes in the fire lines.

Anyone inspired by this hand crew diary, and interested in becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Specialized Forest Fire Crew, should contact their local District Forester for details. 🌲

Standing UP For Forestry—Down Under

By Harry V. Wiant, Jr., Past President SAF 1997

It was a great honor to be the keynote speaker for the 18th Biennial Conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) held in Hobart, Tasmania, 3-8 October 1999. IFFA hosted my one month visit with opportunities to observe forest management activities in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Although Australia is only about 5% forested, there is more forested area per person there than for 90% of the world's population. Most of the forests are native, composed mainly of the 500 plus species of eucalyptus, with less than 1% in plantations, principally radiata pine. Australian forest management is second-to-none and world renowned, although the critical forester/urbanite ratio, about 1/6000 (it's even worse in the US), and the world-wide tendency for urbanites to believe green propaganda, is tying up more and more of this resource (2/3rd is presently preserved). Australia could be wood-independent, but it imports about a third of its paper requirements and 23% of its sawn timber needs. Australia appears more ready than the US to accept international pressure to preserve 15% of representative ecosystems, which greens want to define ever finer and finer, reduce carbon emissions, etc.

In an attempt to satisfy the various stakeholders and maintain a viable forest industry, which happens to be the second most important in the country, there are very strong Codes of Forest Practice, and Regional Forest Agreements with a 20-year horizon which are being completed in every state. Interestingly, although states have more political power in Australia

than in the US, the commonwealth government, which has a greener tint than some states, has the power to grant export licenses, and that is the club used to bring this about. Green's one-liners, "no logging of native forests," "no woodchipping," etc. have been very effective. They are all too successful at limiting the sustainability of healthy forest stands managed for people by insisting on preservation of unhealthy forests in the name of biodiversity. No attention is given to the fact that even the uncontrolled logging of the past, let alone the forest practices today, did not eliminate a single species. Production to meet consumer needs is pushed to underdeveloped countries with little if any forest management, to private forests, and to plantations on agricultural lands.

In this environment, the reputation of the forestry profession has suffered greatly, and my talk, "Stand Up for Forestry" was well received (available, incidentally, at <http://homestead.juno.com/hwiant/index.html>). I came away from my third visit to Australia with even greater admiration for the quality of their forestry schools, their students, and their foresters and even more pride in our noble profession. The similarities between the forestry situations in our two countries are striking, and I like to believe that in the long run, which is after all the way we are trained to think, we will prevail.

It was my good fortune to tour Tasmania for a week with 30 plus very impressive forestry students and some older foresters and professors, including Harry Luke, a well-respected 90-year old forester, co-author of the classic, "Brush Fires in Australia." Harry wrote the

following, which he titled, "Harry Wiant, the Modern Robin":

"Once upon a time there was this forester called Robin Hood who dwelt in the forest with his merry offiders. They looked after the forest quite well despite occasional cavorting with a local good sort know as Maid Marion. They might hew the odd yew for bows, and they were certainly adept at keeping the deer populations within reasonable limits. These activities annoyed the local bigwig, a mean type called the Sheriff of Nottingham, who was sacred stiff lest the king some day come a-hunting and in the absence of deer, shoot the sheriff. It was a never-ending battle of wits, but Robin and his crew were supported by the local peasantry.

Unfortunately things have now changed. The peasants have become brainwashed by the sheriff and some smart aleck city types who think they know what is best for the forest. They reckon it is better to save lice than the lousy peasants.

But there is a ray of hope for these poor wretches. A new Robin called Harry Wiant has come to live in the forest. His message of hope for the future rings loud and clear and if his merry henchmen have any sense at all they will listen carefully to what he has to say.

At any rate these are the thoughts of a very ancient forester who has so far managed to evade the culling that a reasonably prepared working plan might prescribe." ❦

(Thank you, Harry Luke and IFA, my wife and I greatly appreciate the generosity of IFA, supporting our travel to and within Australia, and hosting visits with forestry officials).

PA SAF & PFA Sponsor Deer Management Workshop

By Jack Winieski, Editor, *The Allegheny News*

Over 200 foresters, wildlife biologists, other resource managers and landowners attended a one-day workshop on the history, present condition and future management of the Pennsylvania deer herd on September 27, 2000 at Lamar, PA. The Pennsylvania Division, Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the PA Forestry Association (PFA) sponsored the workshop with the assistance of the PA Game Commission (PGC) and Penn State University (PSU).

John Dzemyan, PGC Land Manager, opened the workshop with a documented review of the history of the deer herd beginning in the late 19th Century. At the turn of the Century, the herd was almost eliminated due to market hunting and the destruction of habitat following the logging boom. He traced the resurgence of the whitetail with the initiation of hunting regulations, PGC enforcement by dedicated wardens and return of habitat.

Gary Alt, Chief Biologist of the PGC Deer Management Section, presented information from studies about what is known and what is not known about the herd's characteristics and its impact on society's values. He believes that the scientific community has failed to educate the general public in regards to this animal's ability to dominate the landscape and impact societal values. Education is the primary tool to effectively sell the general public and hunters for the need to bring the deer herd in balance with habitat in order to preserve values which society treasures, and to



SAF Chair Mike Lester addresses over 200 participants at the Deer Management Workshop

insure the survival of the hunting tradition. Problems related to the herd size is an environmental/ecological issue and not a hunting issue. Hunting, however, properly adjusted, is the main tool to modify herd size and composition. In a democracy with only 10% of the population hunters and 90% non-hunters, this is a political war; education must neutralize the deer wars!

Alt emphasized that the competition for mating in Pennsylvania's deer herd is low and that by increasing the herd's buck to doe ratio, more does would be bred early and reduce the incidence of late fawn births, which increases predator susceptibility and decreases first-year antler development. One suggested adjustment - and only one - was an October doe season, adjusted to accommodate bow hunters, which would make the identification of mature doe easier to identify from maturing fawns and allow more button bucks (which are now harvested in the post-antlered season) to survive into the following year. "Let them go so they will grow!"

Adjusting the hunting seasons to increase buck to doe kill ratios is a management practice that can both benefit the herd and the hunters' preference for more "racks." Genetics, nutrition and age determine antler characteristics; the genetics are known, nutrition depends on the regimen of available habitat quality and quantity and pen studies have shown the direct correlation between deer age (3-4 years +) and positive antler development.

Alt's dynamic presentation concluded with a plea for all present to become involved in public education, using information from known scientific studies, yet acknowledging the lack of some basic biologic information - yet to be studied or under investigation.

With overhead illustrations, **Tim Pearson**, Extension Specialist, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, gave examples of methods and information he uses to



Tim Pearson (l) receives the Sandy Cochran Award from Bob Merrill



Dr. Gary Alt responds to audience questions

educate the public with regard to the "deer problem" (deer density facts, diet requirements, "browse line" identification in forest habitats, etc.). As an aside, **Bob Merrill**, representing the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, presented Tim with the *Sandy Cochran Award*

for his successful extension efforts with non-industrial private forestland owners in the State. He shared this award with **Dr. Jim Finley** of Penn State, who accepted the award at an earlier PFA annual meeting.

Penn State Professor **Dr. Gary San Julian** delved further into the affects of deer densities and how herd management or lack of management affects all Pennsylvanians. Among his factoids was the revelation that the Erie Insurance Group receives, on the average, 35 claims a day resulting from car/deer encounters; they receive about 150 claims on the first day of buck season and about 160 claims a day on the first day of doe season. His revelation of alternative controls of the deer herd was revealing: examples of entrepreneurs in New Zealand herding European red deer and exporting venison, and high tech sharp shooting teams available for hire to implement herd control.

Outdoor sports writer, author, lecturer and photographer,



SAF's Ned Karger (r) helps Ed Salevsky with SAF membership material

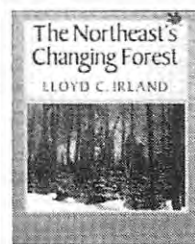
Ben Moyer called for more responsible deer management from his

perspective, being in contact with both the scientific community and environmentally-aware publics. His suggestions, presented to all segments of the resource management professionals and landowners in the audience, will be summarized as an article in the Winter 2000-2001 issue of *The Allegheny News*.

Anyone attending the workshop had to come away with a better understanding of Pennsylvania's deer herd history, biology and habitat requirements, the need for more science-based studies and management practices, hunting season adjustments, and the need for all-aged public education to protect the broad array of social values being impacted by Pennsylvania's deer herd.

THE NORTHEAST'S CHANGING FOREST

LLOYD C. IRLAND



Lloyd Irland—in the first book to review the nature of the Northeast's forests, their significance, and policy issues for a general audience—tells the story of the changing forests of the nine northeastern states. He chronicles their history from the original European settlements through the age of ship-building to the retreat of farming and regrowth of the twentieth-century forest.

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Coming Events

October

- 27-28 MD Forests Assn. 2000 Annual Meeting, Sheraton Columbia Hotel, Columbia, MD. "Who Will Lead the Way?" Featuring former Greenpeace founder Dr. Patrick Moore. Karin Miller, 301-895-5369 or mfa@hereintown.net
- (Late) Valley Forge Chapter meeting, Hagley Museum & Arboretum in Wilmington, DE. Charles Newlon 610-872-6019, FAX 610-872-2994 or cbnewlon@home.com

November

- 1-2 Watershed Assessment Workshop, Penn State Conference Hotel, State College, PA. Dr. Dave DeWalle, 814-863-3532 or Danielle Kocovsky at 814-863-1113.
- 16-21 SAF Centennial Celebration! National SAF Convention, Washington DC. www.safnet.org/calendar/natcon.htm Washington Hilton and Towers

December

- 7-8 Sediment Symposium - Addressing the Impact of Sediment Loads in the Susquehanna River Basin, Hershey, PA. Susquehanna River Basin and Chesapeake Bay Commissions, 717-238-0423 or symposium@ssrbc.net or www.srbc.net
- 15 **Deadline: Article and photos for Winter 2000-01 issue of *The Allegheny News***

2001

February

- 21-23 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting at the Tropicana Hotel on the boardwalk in Atlantic City, NJ. Riparian buffers, Nutrient loading, EPA & TMDLs, Watershed boundaries & BMPs.

March

- 15 **Deadline: Articles and photos for Spring 2001 issue of *The Allegheny News*.**

April

- 12 "Ben Roach Forestry Forum," Kane Country Club, Kane, PA. "Legal Implications of PNDI and ESA" (PA Natural Diversity Index and Endangered Species Act). Reservations Steve Wingate 814-776-6172 ext. 133 or 136 - \$16 meal included.

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