

The

Allegheny News



Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Summer 2009

The Allegheny News

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The Allegheny News is the official publication of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters, published four times annually.

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

The Allegheny News
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Cover Story

An invasive species of Japanese barberry—one of many that will be discussed at a field workshop on forest vegetation and invasive plant management. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 7, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Shavers Creek Outdoor Classroom and Stone Valley Experimental Forest in McAlevys Fort, Huntingdon Co., Pennsylvania. This workshop qualifies for Pennsylvania certified pesticide applicator credits and Society of American Foresters CFE credits, and will highlight silvicultural applications used to control competing and invasive vegetation.

Pre-registration is required prior to September 29th. Space is limited, so register early!

Cost to attend is \$45, which includes educational materials, lunch, and refreshments. For registration information contact Penn State Cooperative Extension-Centre County at 814-355-4897 or e-mail CentreExt@psu.edu.

Chair's Corner

By Kurt Gottschalk, Allegheny SAF Chair



As I write this column, I am in California at the 4th Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Science Symposium. In just eight short years, we have gone from knowing virtually nothing about the SOD syndrome to an overwhelming amount of knowledge (more than 100 research publications, five meeting proceedings, and two books). Despite this huge increase in knowledge we are still short of effective proven treatments for control and management. A number of promising treatments are being tested and we can hope for success before SOD becomes established in the Allegheny area. Invasive species are one of the most critical issues affecting forests and sustainable forest management. I also found out today about a newly discovered emerald ash borer infestation in New York state adjacent to our area. Our area is one of the hot spots for invasive insects and diseases as shown by this map of the number of invasive species by county (see figure on the following page). Given this great tribulation, we have to intensify our science and our management to deal with invasive species. This is a long-term proposition and the battle will never be won – the best we can hope for is a draw.

The SAF National Convention is in Orlando FL from September 28-October 4. SAF is excited to announce an addition to the convention - a leadership training workshop featuring Jeff Bercuvitz. Jeff is known for his

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

six-step approach to boost enthusiasm and motivate people to get involved and stay involved. Through his inspiring success stories, Jeff demonstrates how to generate momentum necessary for tackling

larger challenges. Don't miss out on a special social to meet Jeff and learn more about the workshop, open to all registered attendees. More information at the link below:

Sponsored by the National Leadership Development Committee

Meet Jeff Social - Tuesday, September 29

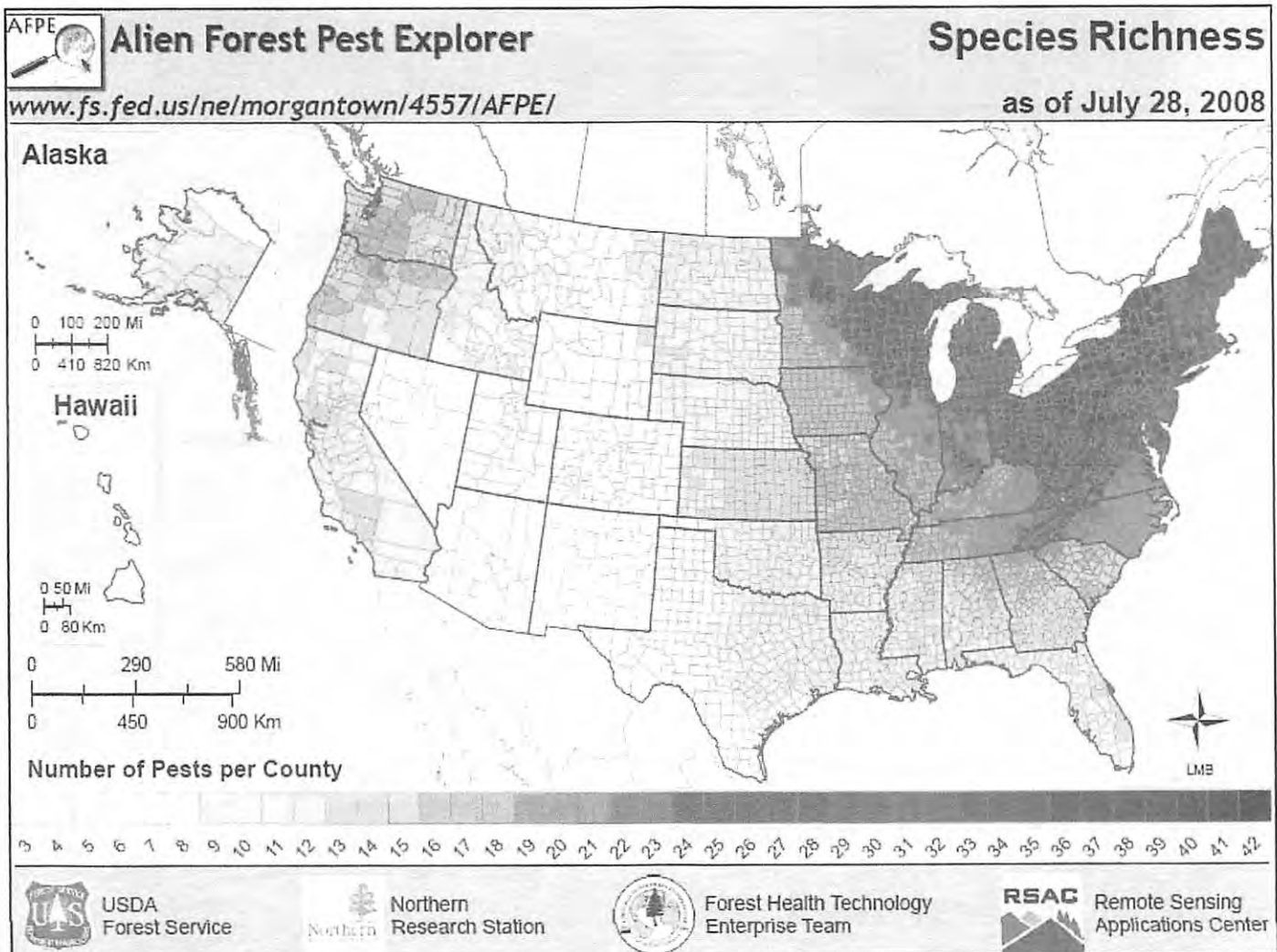
Workshop - Wednesday, September 30

<http://www.safconvention.org/natcon-09/program/workshops.cfm>

It is approaching awards time. The last several years, the Awards Committee has not received many nominations for the Allegheny SAF awards. Please take some time and think about whom is deserving of an award and then take the time and nominate them. It is also time to submit nominations for the HSD awards for chapters, divisions, and state societies via success stories. If you have success stories to send in, contact me so we can complete the form before the July 31

deadline. Also, any issues that need to be brought to HSD for discussion and review.

Finally, I want to congratulate the two new Allegheny SAF Fellows approved by SAF Council: George Pierson of the NJ Division and Robb Piper of the Western Gateway Chapter, Pennsylvania Division. They will be honored at this fall's National Convention and we will be honoring George and Robb and presenting their certificates at our winter meeting. ☺



In Memoriam

Richard C. Bedger, Sr.

Richard C. Bedger, Sr., age 85, of Indiana, Pennsylvania died Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at St. Andrew's Village. "Dick" received a BS in Forestry from Penn State University and was the Nursery Manager for Musser Forests, Inc. for many years. A Golden Member (over fifty years) of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), he was an active member of the PA Western Gateway Chapter.

He was active in the Indiana Christmas Grower's Association serving as president, and the International Plant Propagators Society. Involved in Boy Scouts of America most of his life, he received the Silver Beaver Award.

Dick was a decorated Army veteran in WW II, receiving Bronze Stars in both the liberation of the Philippines and in the Asiatic Pacific Campaigns.



Merl J. Waltz: 1939-2009



Merl J. Waltz, a 40+ year member of SAF's Allegheny Section, passed away May 19, 2009. He entered Penn State Mont Alto in 1957 and received a BS Forestry Degree from Penn State University in 1961, a year that was a fast but important year in his life: a BS in Forestry in June, immediately hired by the PA Department of Forests & Waters, married Mary Harbaugh in September and was drafted into the U.S. Army in December.

Merl served two years of active duty at Fort Carson, CO as a tank driver, attaining the rank of Spec. 4, and at discharge returned to his forester position in Cressona, PA. A series of promotions and transfers took him to forestry positions on the Kittaning and Michaux PA Forest Districts, ending in July 1992 as District Forester of the Buchanan State Forest at McConnellsburg until his retirement in July of 2002.

Perhaps Merl will best be remembered for his strong enthusiasm in combating fire. As if fighting wildfires on two of the worst arson fire districts in PA was not enough, he qualified each year from 1977 through 2008 as a "red Card-carrying" member of PA's USFS wildfire team. Even in retirement, Merl deployed on eight trips between 2003 and 2008, working on fires in Arizona, Wyoming, Georgia, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Idaho, and Colorado.

Serving others was always one of Merl's other missions. Besides his 40+ years of active membership in SAF, he was a Mason, held memberships in the Cashtown Lions Club, Isaac Walton League, and active in his church. He was the tax preparer for the Franklin Co. Senior Citizens Center. In total he was an avid hunter and fisherman, a farmer, forester, fire fighter, Christian family man - serving God, Country, the forest resource and his fellow man. ☪

Please give some serious thought to possible candidates
for the following positions to be on the ANSAF ballot this September:
Chair-Elect • Secretary • Treasurer • Executive Committee - Four slots

(contact Kim Steiner at kcs@psu.edu)

District VII Council Report

By Kenneth Jolly, CF, SAF District VII Representative



Council held its second meeting of the year in Bethesda at the end of May. The following are some highlights from the Agenda:

- ♦ **Property Up-date:** Michael Goergen, Executive Vice President and CEO, advised Council that the Montgomery County government decided to designate the Wild Acres property as a Historic Preservation area (this designation was under County review/consideration at the previous Council meeting). This new Historic Preservation designation is in addition to the previously existing "Legacy Open Space" designation; this leaves only 3.8 acres of the property free of any "special zoning" designations by the County. While these designations make future development of the property more complicated, it does not preclude development, and the National Office staff is continuing to take the appropriate steps to manage/market the property to maximize its value for the organization. Various repairs on two of the buildings on the property will also be completed in the upcoming months.
- ♦ **Finances:** Operationally, SAF ended 2008 with a small positive gain of approximately \$9,000 in net assets. SAF's investments declined in value by approximately 24% for the year (it is well known that 2008 was a very difficult year for investments); however, at the time of the May 2009 Council meeting, approximately 20-30% of this loss had been regained with improving market conditions. In light of the current economic situation, Council remains comfortable with the conservative investment strategy that was adopted several years ago; however, the Council Finance and Investment Committee will be reviewing options over the upcoming months to potentially increase the ability of SAF's fund managers to be more responsive to changing market conditions. Council also discussed personnel changes in SAF National Office financial staff, and reviewed/accepted the 2008 Audit Report. Another financial topic discussed by Council was the difficulty some State Societies are having with the IRS 990 Tax Forms which must be filed by State Societies with revenues greater than \$25,000. SAF National Office staff will be setting up 990 Tax Training in a webinar format for State Society Treasurers in the near future to help alleviate this concern.
- ♦ **Membership:** The new membership database is moving forward; an "in house" beta version will begin testing in July, and the new database is anticipated to be fully on-line soon after the National Convention. The new database will allow SAF to be much more efficient and responsive to the membership, allowing quicker access to needed information. Council also reviewed the new membership strategy/plan developed by Christopher Whited, Senior Director, Marketing and Membership; the plan calls for the National Office to focus on recruitment, while local Units focus on retention of members through personal engagement (suggestions for membership engagement are posted on the SAF website). The SAF website has been re-designed to be more "user-friendly" and provide several new services, such as Twitter and Facebook, "print-on-demand," career center, and various forestry subject forums. If you haven't seen the web-site lately, be sure to check it out!
- ♦ **Policy:** At the federal level, SAF participated in a Congressional briefing on forestry's role in addressing Climate Change, and will be participating in a "Forestry 101" Congressional briefing in the near future. National Office staff has also been actively involved in the policy discussions concerning the definition of woody biomass, and are working with various partners to arrange a field tour for Congress to showcase examples of sustainable woody biomass projects. Additionally, SAF will be participating in a Congressional hearing about the use of silviculture to address forest health (specifically in relation to the large areas of beetle killed forests in the west). SAF remains well "plugged in" with the new administration, and is in frequent contact with federal officials

regarding various forestry issues. Council approved an up-dated Position Statement on Professionals in Public Natural Resource Management Agencies, requested the Committee on Forest Policy (CFP) to modify the existing Position Statement on Public Regulation of Private Forest Lands to discuss unintended consequences of forestry regulations using highgrading as an example, and appointed a Council Sub-Committee to work with the CFP to develop a Task Force Charter to address the subject of Forest Sector Competitiveness. Internationally, SAF will be making a presentation on the findings of the Climate Change Task Force Report at the World Forestry Congress in Argentina later this year.

♦ Professional Recognition: Council approved the election of the 2009 Fellow nominations, and the recipients of several national awards. Special congratulations to George Pierson, New Jersey Division, and Robb Piper, Western Gateway Chapter, for their election to Fellow from the Allegheny SAF! Additionally, in an effort to continue to improve the Fellows review process, each District Fellows Committee will be contacted for their input on the process, and the results will be presented for future Council review.

♦ Science: Council received a report from the Forest Science and Technology Board (FSTB) and appointed a Council Sub-Committee to work with the FSTB to develop a Task Force Charter to address the subject of woody biomass. FSTB also presented Council with an overview of three top emerging science issues that will be used to develop Convention tracks at the 2010 National Convention.

♦ Education: Council approved a Charter Change to the Certification Review Board (CRB) to assign long-term oversight of the CFE program to the CRB, and a Charter Change to the Education Policy Review Committee (EPRC) to provide the EPRC the authority to monitor all aspects of technical forestry education (pursuant to SAF's previous decision to accredit Forest Technology programs). Council also appointed a Council Sub-Committee to work with the EPRC to develop a Task Force Charter addressing the subject of developing accreditation standards and procedures for terrestrial ecology programs.

♦ Strategic Planning: Council adopted a list of five potential priority areas to focus on for 2010: (1) Property Management; (2) Membership Plan; (3) Emerging Science Issues; (4) Communications Campaign; and (5) Leadership Development. Staff will prepare Action Plans/Budget to move these priorities forward in 2010 for future Council review.

♦ Communications Campaign: The National Communications Committee is continuing its work to develop sub-themes under the broad "Trees are the Answer" communication theme/campaign. The Committee will be developing both short and long-term strategies to move this campaign forward; it is realized this will be a long-term effort.

♦ Leadership Development: National Staff is continuing to finalize the plans for incorporating a greater emphasis on Leadership Development into the House of Society Delegates (HSD) Meeting at the Orlando National Convention. More details should be forthcoming in the near future. Additionally, the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is working on developing recommendations to advance and improve leadership development in SAF, which will be presented for future Council consideration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above items that were covered at the May Council meeting. The next meeting will be held in September in conjunction with the National Convention in Orlando; let me know if you have any issues you would like to bring to my attention in advance of the September meeting. As always, I greatly appreciate hearing from you with any comments and suggestions you may have for advancing the mission of SAF. ☺

Keystone Chapter Holds Summer Meeting

By Craig Houghton, Instructor of Forest Technology at Penn State Mont Alto

The 2009 summer meeting of the Keystone Chapter of the Society of American Foresters was held on June 2, 2009 at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg, PA. If you haven't yet been to visit, you should! Visit their website (www.nedsmithcenter.org) for information on the center and its exhibits and activities.

Twelve chapter members and 16 Penn State Mont Alto Forest Technology students viewed the exhibit entitled "The Wild and the Tame: A Celebration of Form," on display until June 20, 2009. We saw more than 70 works by artists Gerry Putt and Elaine Howe, ranging from Putt's nationally recognized paintings of waterfowl and other wildlife, to Howe's watercolors, collages and drawings.

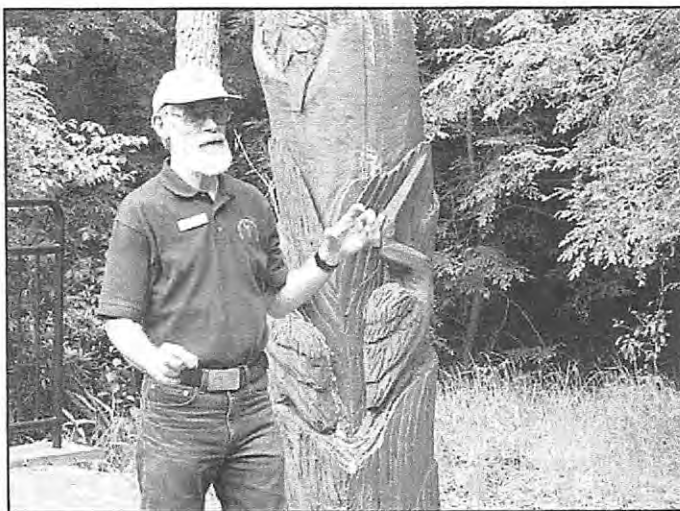
The group toured the property with Ned Smith Center Board member, John Laskowski, a.k.a. 'Mothman.' We hiked over the Wiconisco Creek and got to see minniebush (*Menziesia pilosa*), a rare plant in Pennsylvania.

The 'Mothman' finished the Keystone Chapter's evening at the Ned Smith Center with a presentation of "Lepidoptera - Moths & Butterflies of the Forest" which wowed everyone! Thanks John!

The group of 28 all traveled to dinner at the Wooden Nickel where we ate heartily. Much thanks to the seven members who sponsored students for dinner and to the Keystone Chapter who picked up the tab for the other nine students. ☺



The Bridge over Wiconisco at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art



John Laskowski, a.k.a. 'Mothman'



Minniebush (*Menziesia pilosa*)

ALLEGHENY SAF SUMMER MEETING

Landscape Impacts Associated with Oil/Gas Exploration & Production

July 22-24, 2009 – University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Campus

Wednesday, July 22, 2009:

- 2:00- 8:00 PM **Event Registration @ UPB Frame-Westerberg Commons**
- 2:00- 6:00 **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 6:00- 8:00 **Ice Breaker @ UPB Frame-Westerberg Commons**

Thursday, July 23, 2009:

- 7:00- 8:00 AM **Breakfast – UPB Cafeteria**
- 7:00-11:30 **Registration**
- 8:00- 8:05 **Welcome – Jamie Snyder, Chair, Northern Hardwoods Chapter, SAF**
- 8:05- 8:50 **PGC – OGM Leasing and Production Program: Perspectives on Forest and Wildlife Management – William A. Capouillez, Professional Geologist and Wildlife Systems Director, PA Game Commission**
- 8:50- 9:35 **Potential Impacts of Gas Well Drilling on Pennsylvania's Water Resources – Bryan Swistock, Water Resources Extension Specialist, School of Forest Resources, Penn State University**
- 9:35-10:05 **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 10:05-10:50 **Timber and Oil Can Mix – David Straub and Blaine Puller, Pennsylvania General Energy**
- 10:50-11:35 **Dominion Habitat and Environmental Partnerships – John Frith, Regional Affairs Manager, Dominion Resources Services, Inc.**
- 11:35-12:00 PM **Open Panel Discussion – Question & Answer with Morning Speakers**
- 12:00- 5:30 **Lunch & Field Tour – 150 Years of Oil/Gas Production in the Alleghenies – Ken Kane, Keith Horn Inc.**
- 6:00- 9:00 **Evening Picnic Banquet @ UPB Frame-Westerberg Commons**

Friday, July 24, 2009:

- 7:00- 8:00 AM **Breakfast – UPB Cafeteria**
- 8:00- 9:00 **Business Meeting**
- 9:00- 9:40 **The Changing Hardwood Marketplace – Judd Johnson, Hardwood Market Report**
- 9:40-10:20 **State and Local Government Reaction to Energy Development: Impact of Forest Product Companies – Paul Lyskava, Pennsylvania Forest Products Association**
- 10:20-10:50 **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 10:50-11:35 **Community and Economic Development Implications of Marcellus Shale Development – Walt Whitmer, Extension Associate, Economic and Community Development, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Associate Director, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development**
- 11:35-12:15 PM **Smethport Woody Biomass Demonstration Project – Timothy G. Pierson, Ph.D., Extension Forester and Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension.**
- 12:15-12:45 **Open Panel Discussion, Concluding Comments and Payment for Silent Auction Items**

Hotel Reservations: UPB Campus - \$60 per day/person; \$45 double occupancy - tax included, contact Stacey Ackley at (814) 362-0989 or sla31@pitt.edu • <http://www.upb.pitt.edu/MapsAndDirections.aspx>

****Area Hotels:** Best Western - \$82 per day plus tax, 1-800-344-4656 — rooms reserved under SAF

Want to Exhibit or Sponsor a Break or Banquet? Call John Saf @ (814) 837-9391

Silent Auction – Please Feel Free to Bring a Donation

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| <u>Registration:</u> | <u>Fee</u> | <u>No. Tickets</u> | |
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| SAF Member | \$75.00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Spouse | \$40.00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
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| Banquet | \$20.00 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Breakfast 23 rd | | _____ | |
| Breakfast 24 th | | _____ | |
| Ice Breaker | | _____ | |
| Late Registration Fee - After 7/7/09 | \$25.00 | _____ | |

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**Make Checks Payable to
Northern Hardwood Chapter SAF**

Mail to: Timothy G. Pierson,
PO Box 1504
17129 Route 6
Smethport, PA 16749-0504

Any questions Call Jamie Snyder at (814) 837-0162 or jsnyder@collinsco.com

(814) 887-5613 or
tgp2@psu.edu

Your Right to Harvest: Some Legal Considerations when Dealing with Pennsylvania Municipalities

By Derald J. Hay, Esquire

A timber harvest is a silviculturally recognized method of sustainable forest management. It allows for a flooding of light to the forest floor so that the species that demand light are able to germinate and compete with the more shade tolerant species. Additionally, a timber harvest allows for the hardwood species to regenerate through stump sprouts. A stump sprout generally grows faster than a similarly situated seedling because it has the benefit of the extensive root system developed by the parent tree. Therefore, in some forests, harvesting is an essential component of managing the forest for the desired species composition.

However, more importantly from an investment perspective, a timber harvest equals dollars in the pocket and helps to cover the costs of responsibly managing the forest. When a forest can be profitable for the landowner, there is less of an incentive to develop the parcel and will ensure that the parcel remains forested for generations. As an accepted practice of forestry, the timber harvest is a use permitted by right under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), thus, it is exempt from many onerous municipal tree replacement or tree removal conditions. There are no statewide statutes or regulations that specifically address appropriate timber harvesting methods except for the implementation of best management practices. While there are some state regulations that deal with erosion and sedimentation control, wetlands and endangered species, timber harvesting is largely a self-regulating practice.

Historically, townships have set restrictions on forestry through limits on harvest intensity, location, or methods permitted within the municipality. In 1994, Section 107 of the MPC was amended to "encourage the maintenance and management of forested or wooded open space and promote the conduct of forestry as a sound and economically viable use of forested land throughout this Commonwealth."

While the MPC grants municipalities the ability to regulate land use, it limits the types of restrictions or burdens that a municipality may

place on forestry activities. For instance, the MPC explicitly prohibits any municipality from enacting ordinances that "unreasonably restrict forestry activities." Furthermore, municipalities are prohibited from "precluding access for forestry" even under the cloak of regulating to protect and preserve natural resources.

Despite these protections for forest management, some municipalities have enacting zoning ordinances that require implementation of specific practices for timber harvesting. Sometimes a municipality may have a legitimate reason for the zoning ordinance; however, other municipalities are primarily interested in preventing legitimate timber harvesting because of aesthetic reasons or to prevent development. In these cases, municipalities attempt to prohibit even-aged forest management (or other sound forestry practices) even though the management may make ecological and economical sense. These types of ordinances may be invalid because they exceed the scope of authority that municipalities have when regulating land use.

As a property owner, you have the right to use your land in a profitable manner that does not excessively interfere with your neighbors. If your right to harvest timber is being arbitrarily interfered with, you may have a right to see relief. There are several avenues that you might seek relief. For instance, if you apply for a timber harvesting permit and are denied for an arbitrary reason, you can appeal the decision to the local zoning hearings board. You may also seek to invalidate the ordinance, as a whole, in the Pennsylvania court system. Other options may also exist, depending on your circumstances. ☞

Derald Hay is the author of *Your Right to Harvest: Some Legal Considerations when Dealing with Pennsylvania Municipalities*. Derald is an attorney with the law firm Fox Rothschild LLP, 747 Constitution Drive, Exton, PA 19341. Derald's practice focuses primarily on environmental law and real estate transactions. Derald graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in forest science and a joint J.D. and M.S. in forest resources before joining Fox Rothschild. Derald can be reached at 610-458-2990 or dhay@foxrothschild.com

West Virginia Division SAF Member News

Some recent reports from the West Virginia Division of the Society of American Foresters:

Kirby Funderburke is the newest member of the Board of Directors for the Forest Resources Association.

Mary Beth Adams was recently selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Soil Science Society of America, representing the Forest Soils Division.

Gerald W. Waybright is one of the new enshrinees in the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame.

Additional copies of the "Greatest Good" DVD, describing the first 100 years of the US Forest Service, were purchased by the WVSAF and provided to select public libraries, to West Virginia Public Television, and to the West Virginia State Library. ☺

Maryland's Sustainable Forestry Act

The Maryland General Assembly this month (April 2009) passed The Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009. Governor O'Malley signed it into law on May 7, 2009.

Provisions of the Act include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Declare tree and forest cover as the single most beneficial land use for protecting the Chesapeake Bay
- Directs retention of privately-owned forest lands under Maryland's land conservation programs
- Incorporates recognition of sustainable forestry management in local land use master plans
- Enhances forest land preservation under Maryland's Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
- Establishes a right to Practice Forestry in Maryland without undue legal interference
- Delineates comprehensive definitional terms attendant to forestry and related practice
- Creates the Sustainable Forestry Council within the Department of Natural Resource
- Expands the purposes of the Woodland Incentives Fund
- Authorizes timber revenues derived from State land to be credited to the Woodland Incentives Fund
- Advances urban tree canopy funding strategies
- Permits Forest Conservancy District Boards to become fiscally self-sufficient
- Sets forth innovative future strategies from renewable energy production to tax incentives

The Act is foundational state forestry legislation for restoring the Chesapeake Bay, improving air and water quality, promoting renewable energy production, and strengthening a struggling forest products industry - important to the economic underpinning of rural Maryland and meeting our domestic society's daily fiber needs.

For more information, contact Steven W. Koehn, Director/State Forester, Maryland DNR Forest Service, at 410-260-8501 or skoehn@dnr.state.md.us ☺

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Forestry and Carbon Markets Topic of Roach Bauer Forestry Forum

By Ned Karger, Chair, Roach/Bauer Forestry Forum Steering Committee

Some people believe that Global Warming and Climate Change are the biggest threats to human survival, and others believe it is just an environmental hoax. In spite of this debate, new markets for carbon sequestration projects to offset carbon emissions are developing and they will have impacts on how forestland is managed. That was the focus of a presentation by **Matthew Smith**, Director of Ecosystem Services for Forecon, Inc., entitled "**Climate Change, Forestry and Carbon Markets: Opportunities and Challenges for the Future.**" Over 85 foresters and natural resource professionals from Pennsylvania and New York attended the event.

Mr. Smith, the featured speaker at the **Roach Bauer Forestry Forum**, showed examples of how forest management has changed over time to adapt to changes in technology, forest products, social expectations and scientific research. Currently markets are developing for projects that avoid carbon emissions by shifting to alternative energy sources and reducing energy use and projects that sequester or store carbon, such as in forests and forest products. Many American companies are voluntarily purchasing carbon credits to offset some of their carbon emissions, as part of their "green marketing" or in preparation for Federal regulation of greenhouse gases. Some international companies are already regulated by foreign governments to purchase carbon credits.

Forests are the most efficient natural systems for sequestering carbon. Forests take in and store carbon in growing trees while providing wildlife habitat, water quality protection, recreation and economic benefits to communities. Forests store carbon in stems, bark, roots, soils, and in the processed wood used for long lived products. It is estimated that U.S. forests sequester over 200,000,000 metric tons of carbon each year.

Forest owners who can integrate carbon sequestration with their traditional management may be able to take advantage of emerging markets for carbon credits. The unit for a carbon credit is 1 metric ton of carbon equivalent (MtCO₂e). An average Sugar Maple tree with a diameter of 16 inches contains about 2.3 MtCO₂e. Emerging markets for carbon credits allow a forest owner to sell the accumulated growth on their forest if they are willing to invest in the accounting, auditing and inventories required by the various carbon market traders - like the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). Other carbon markets include the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Climate Action Reserve and the Climate Registry. While most of these programs are voluntary at this time, cap and trade legislation being proposed in Congress could produce a mandatory federal program for carbon emitters allowing for the purchase of carbon offsets.

Initial costs to develop a forest carbon offset project would include forest inventories, carbon quantification, and certification of the forest management. Annual costs for aggregation,



Matthew Smith (left) accepts his black cherry Biltmore stick from Ned Karger following the presentation at the April Roach Bauer Forestry Forum

registration and trading fees, as well as verification and monitoring reports, would also be incurred. These costs can vary significantly between different market requirements and different forest types. Generally costs will average from \$1 to \$2 per acre per year.

But how much income could an owner realize from selling carbon credits? Mr. Smith has studied carbon markets extensively and stated that expected net revenues could range from \$2 to \$10 per acre per year. At these prices, carbon offset projects will not replace traditional forest management, but may provide an additional revenue stream for some forest landowners.

Mr. Smith noted that carbon markets are very volatile based on demand, and most current trading is based on voluntary purchases of carbon credits. Federal regulation could increase demand for carbon credits, which would increase the prices paid.

While carbon offset projects and carbon credit markets may not fit all forest landowners, the revenue from the emerging carbon markets may help keep forestlands from being subdivided and developed. Preventing fragmentation and development while keeping working forests productive may be the best way to protect the wildlife, water quality, recreational opportunities and economic benefits to communities in forested regions of the United States.

Mr. Smith responded to many questions from the audience following his presentation. He was then presented with the traditional gift from the Roach Bauer Forestry Forum – the coveted black cherry Biltmore stick.

The Roach Bauer Forestry Forum is held twice each year and features speakers on important issues to forestry and natural resource professionals. The Forum seeks to continuously enhance the communication between researchers, educators and the professionals responsible for the management of forest ecosystems.

The Forum also supports the Bob Bauer Scholarship Fund, which assists Forestry students at Penn State University. The Forum raised almost \$300 through a maple syrup sale, bringing the total raised for the scholarship to over \$5,000 since its inception in 2004 (special thanks to Troy Firth Forest Products of Spartansburg, PA who donated the syrup).

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The Roach Bauer Forum will celebrate its **25th anniversary** on October 22, 2009 at the Kane Country Club. The October Forum will look back at the 60 speakers and topics covered over its 25 years. The evening’s main presentation will include three well-known local foresters – **Blaine Puller, Jeff Kochel, and Ken Kane** – examining the biggest changes in forestry over the last quarter of a century. These foresters have over 100 years of combined experience in forest and land management. 🌲

Coming Events

July

22-24 Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting: "Landscape Impacts Associated with Oil/Gas Exploration and Production" Pittsburgh University, Bradford, PA Campus. See page 7 for agenda and registration form

September

15 **Allegheny News deadline!**

17-20 Maryland Woodland Stewards Training in Centerville, MD. www.naturalresources.umd.edu Nevin Dawson at 410-827-8056, ext. 125 or ndawson@umd.edu

28-Oct. 4 **SAF National Convention** in Orlando, FL. Registration and information at www.safnet.org

October

7 Forest Vegetation & Invasive Plant Management Field Workshop: A Silvicultural Perspective" in McAlevys Fort, Huntingdon Co., PA. Pre-registration required by September 29; Contact 814-355-4897 or CentreExt@psu.edu

22 Keystone SAF Chapter meeting, King's Gap Environmental Center, "PA's PNDI Program," and election of officers. Craig Houghton cth2@psu.edu or 717-749-6239

22 25th Anniversary presentation of Roach/Bauer Forestry Forum, Kane, PA Country Club. **Blaine Puller, Jeff Kochel and Ken Kane** review 25 years of forestry forums!

18-23 XIII World Forestry Congress, "Forests in Development - a Vital Balance" held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Visit www.wfc2009.org

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

Winter 2010: West Virginia Division
Summer 2010: Pinchot Chapter, PA

Future SAF National Conventions

2010: Albuquerque, NM - October 25-28
2011: Honolulu, HI - November 2-6

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