

The Allegheny News

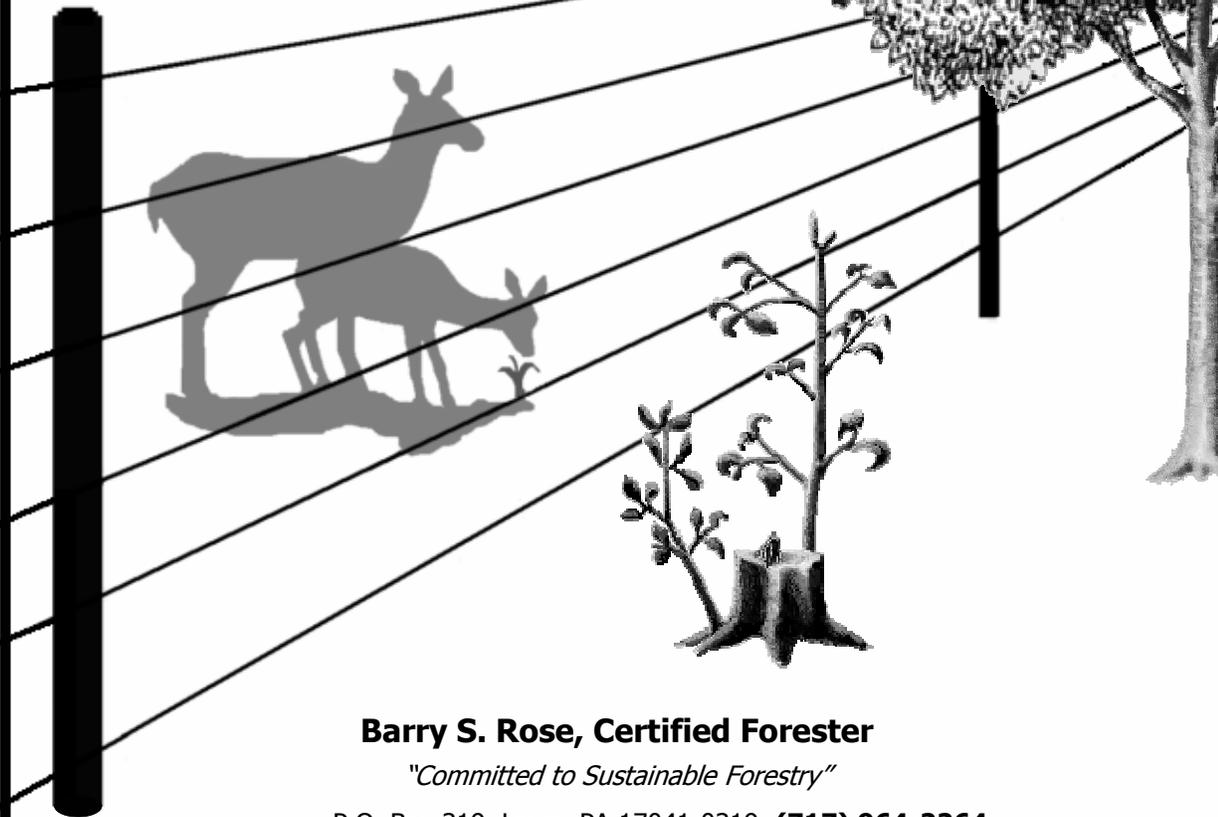


Allegheny Society of American Foresters
Fall 2009



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The Allegheny News

Volume 18, No. 3

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
PO Box 699 · Dillsburg, PA 17019-0699**

www.alleghenysaf.org

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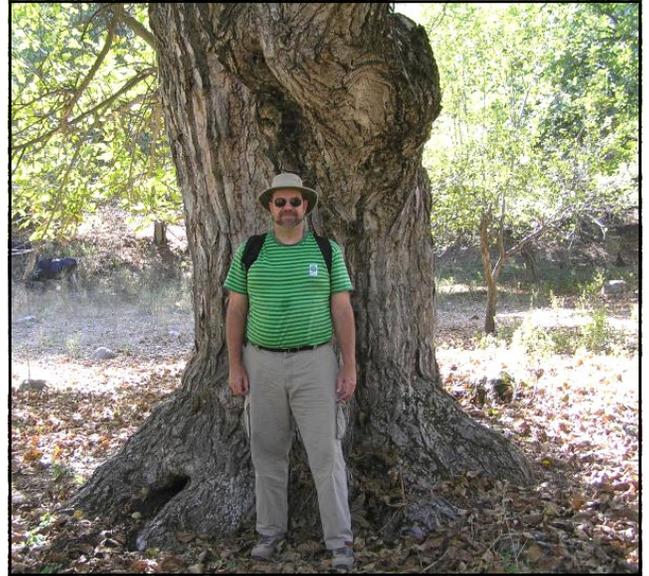
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Cover Story

The many presentations at the Allegheny SAF Summer meeting included a 150-year history of oil and gas exploration in the Alleghenies, including this well. See the article on page 9, and the other photo highlights of the meeting on pages 10-11.

Chair's Corner

By Kurt Gottschalk, Allegheny SAF Chair



As I write this column, I am preparing to attend the SAF National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The convention should prove to be an outstanding event. I will be presenting the 25-year anniversary of the Roach-Bauer Forum sponsored by the Plateau and Northern Hardwood Chapters as an Allegheny SAF success story at the House of Society Delegates. It was also nominated for an HSD award for chapters. By the time you read this, I will know if it won or not.

It is also election time in Allegheny SAF. We have an excellent line-up of candidates running for office and I hope that you will all vote. We also have revised the Allegheny SAF bylaws to be in concordance with the new National SAF model bylaws for state and multi-state societies. Those changes are published in this issue of the Allegheny News along with a ballot for you to approve or disapprove them. Please return your ballot to the Tellers Committee. In addition to the elections, please take some time and think about whom is deserving of an award and then take the time and nominate them for the Allegheny SAF awards.

The picture with this issue's column shows me with a Persian walnut tree that is 250 or more years old. This tree is located in Kyrgyzstan, where the largest remnants of the

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

walnut-fruit forests of Asia are present. This unique forest is the center of origin for Persian walnut, pistachio, almond, apricot, apple, pear, cherries and plums. In 2005, I was fortunate to be able to provide a technical assistance visit to this forest to examine the damage done to it by gypsy moth. The trip was funded by USAID and was coordinated by their Farmer-to-Farmer program. Many of the Kyrgyz people gather fruit and nuts from the forest for both food and for cash crops. An extremely long gypsy moth outbreak is causing severe yield losses in pistachio in particular. As one of their few export crops, gypsy moth has created economic losses that hamper the people's ability to survive. While gypsy moth is native to the area, changes in the land use, in particular overgrazing, has resulted in a shift in the predator population and changed the ecological balance. This shift was exacerbated by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loss of the central control of resources by the communist government. While the Kyrgyz government still owns the forest and farmers rent parcels for grazing and fruit and nut gathering, the lack of effective controls is evident. Exchanges such as this are critical to both sides as we learn about not only the forest systems but also the cultures. Familiarity goes a long way to reduce the world's problems and issues. I heartily encourage anyone to participate in these types of exchanges, either as a traveler or a host. ❁

In Memoriam: Henry Clay Smith

Henry Clay Smith passed away unexpectedly on August 15, 2009. He was 70 years old.

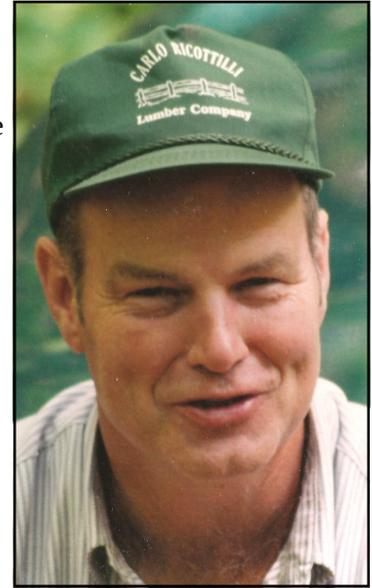
Clay served for many years as the Principle Silviculturist and Project Leader at the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station Timber and Watershed Laboratory. Born in Piedmont, West Virginia, Clay received a B.S. in Forestry from West Virginia University in 1961, and a M.S.F. in 1962 from Purdue University; he also studied at Syracuse University.

He joined the US Forest Service in 1962 at Parsons, WV, and served his entire career there, except for a four year stint in Burlington, Vermont (1967-1971), retiring in 1994. Clay's research on reproduction, growth and development of quality Appalachian hardwoods focused on practical management guidelines for forest managers and landowners. Particularly notable was his work on crop-tree management, grapevine control, and his contributions to the award winning "Managing Your Woodlot" video series.

After retirement, Clay maintained an active interest in forestry and was a practicing landscaper, forestry consultant, and wildlife photographer. An SAF member since 1961, Clay was an SAF Fellow, and a member of the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame, National Wild Turkey Federation, WV Christmas-Tree Growers, WV Forestry Association, and Woodland Owners of WV.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine, two sons Forrest and Eric, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He leaves behind many friends and forestry colleagues who will remember his passion for the outdoors, a commitment to doing the right thing, and his ability to make each individual feel valued.

A scholarship fund to remember Clay Smith has been set up through the West Virginia University Forestry Endowment Fund. To make a contribution to this scholarship fund, please make checks payable to WVU Forestry Endowment Fund and mail to: Ralph P. Glover, Secretary/Treasurer, 806 Daverton Road, Charleston, WV 25303. Mention in the cover letter or on the check that the donation is for the Clay Smith Scholarship. All contributions are tax deductible and are eligible to receive matching gifts from employers who actively participate in this program. ❁



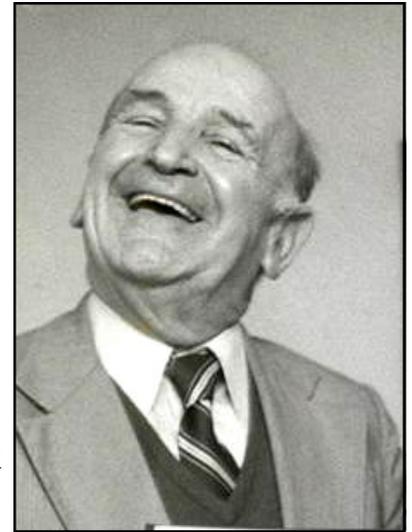
In Memoriam: Manuel M. Gordon

Manuel (Manny) Gordon died July 23, 2009 at the age of 97. He was an SAF member for 74 years, having graduated with a BS in Forestry from Penn State University; he was one of its oldest living alumni. Manny was employed by the PA Bureau of Forestry as Lackawanna District Forester, overseeing the forests of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, Wyoming, and Susquehanna counties until his retirement in 1979.

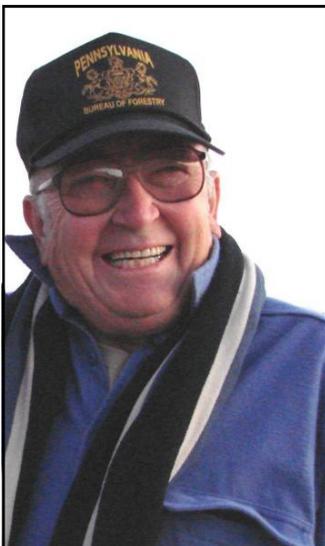
During the Great Depression, Manny was in charge of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in NE Pennsylvania, and served in the US Army, overseeing prisoner-of-war forestry camps in France during the second World War.

Manny was most recognized for his television work with WNEP, Channel 16, where he urged everyone to get outdoors and “Enjoy, Enjoy!” Northeastern Pennsylvania. He had an amazing attitude and lived each day to the fullest. Manny’s exuberance for life was recognized when he received the unique honor of having both the Manny Gordon Recreational Site in Lackawanna State Park and the Manny Gordon Pond in McDade Park in Scranton named after him during his lifetime.

Involved actively in multiple civic, religious, and environmental organizations, he was an Eternal Light member of Temple Israel, Jewish War Veterans, and Shriners. Other civic interests included the Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and St. Joseph’s Center. ❁



In Memoriam: Kenneth D. Swartz



Kenneth D. Swartz, age 73, of Chambersburg, PA, died June 15, 2009 after a courageous battle with lung cancer for over five years. He was retired from the PA Bureau of Forestry after working 40 years, having served as the District Forester of the Michaux State Forest since 1970 until his retirement in 1998.

Ken was a Life member of the PA Forestry Association, a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, and held memberships in the Assoc. of Retired State Employees, National Wild Turkey Federation, NRA, Life member of the PA Forest Fire Museum Assoc. and a board member of Vision Quest. He was awarded the Distinguished Fellows Award from Penn State Mont Alto in June of 2008. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who dedicated his life to the conservation of the forest resources of Pennsylvania.

The family requests that memorial donations be sent to: The Penn State Mont Alto Commemorative Tree for the Arboretum Fund, One Campus Drive, Mont Alto, PA 17237. ❁

The next newsletter deadline is December 15, 2009

Send articles in Microsoft Word format and photos as JPG files to Allegheny News editor Jack Winieski at ansaf@verizon.net

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For newsletters, officer info, committees/chairs, important documents, etc., visit the website at www.alleghenysaf.org

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

Treasurer's Report, July 22, 2009

Beginning Balances (on Jan. 1, 2009)

1.	Checking Account	\$17,679.79
2.	Endowment Savings	\$48,219.72

Checking Account Information:

1. Income

a.	2009 Allegheny Dues	\$ 8,151.25
b.	2009 Div/Chapter Dues (pass-thru)	\$ 3,007.50
c.	Donation from Rothrock winter mtng	\$ 1,300.00
d.	Donation for Allegheny News	\$ 50.00
e.	Science Fund proceeds (winter mtng)	\$ 1,460.00
f.	Foresters Fund proceeds (winter mtng)	\$ 76.00
g.	Pass Thru Funds for Forest Legacy Meeting	\$ 285.00 ¹
h.	Transfer from Endowment Fund	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
	Total Income:	\$16,329.75

¹ The ANSAF assisted the US Forest Service with its NA Forest Legacy Coordinators Meeting by acting as a pass thru entity to which attendees could send their registration checks.

2. Expenses

a.	2009 Div/Chapter Dues (pass-thru)	\$ 3,007.50
b.	Allegheny News (1 issue)	\$ 2,781.83
c.	Executive Director Stipend/Expenses	\$ 3,860.00
d.	Endowment Fund Grant to NJ SAF	\$ 2,000.00
e.	Awards	\$ 97.04
f.	Website	\$ 77.30
g.	Student Travel Support	\$ 100.00
h.	Science Fund Donation (from winter mtng)	\$ 1,460.00
i.	Foresters Fund Donation (from winter mtng)	\$ 76.00
j.	Pass Thru for Forest Legacy Meeting	<u>\$ 285.00¹</u>
	Total Expenses:	\$13,744.67

Income Less Expenses: \$ 2,585.08

3. Account Ending Balance: **\$20,264.87**

Endowment Savings Account Information:

1. Income

a.	Contributions	\$ 50.00
b.	Return of Funds from Ethics Workshop	\$ 88.00
c.	Savings Account Interest	<u>\$ 47.87</u>
	Total Income:	\$ 185.87

2. Expenses

a.	Grant to NJ SAF for DVD	\$ 2000.00
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3. Account Ending Balance: **\$46,405.59²**

² Note that \$3,169.70 of these funds are liquid.

Account Summary:

Current Balances

1.	Checking Account	\$22,410.45
2.	Endowment Savings	\$46,405.59 ²

Respectfully prepared,
Rachel R. Billingham, Secretary/Treasurer



District VII Council Report

By Kenneth Jolly, CF, SAF District VII Representative

Greetings to all! The summer has flown by, and the cool crisp air of fall is headed our way. The Allegheny Summer Meeting was a very informative meeting, and I appreciate the work of all the SAF members on the Planning Committee who worked so hard to bring the program together.

Council has not met since the previous Allegheny Newsletter, so this will be a brief report. Council's next meeting (a short one - only a half day) will be held at the Convention in Orlando. Most of Council will also be attending the HSD Meeting at the Convention, which will incorporate some leadership training along with the HSD business items. Following this, Council will meet at Bethesda in early December for its final meeting of the year, so for the next issue of the Allegheny News, I will be providing you with a "double report" on these two Council Meetings.

At the Convention, I will have the pleasure of assisting SAF President **Bernie Hubbard** in presenting the District VII Presidential Field Forester Award, which is being awarded to **Francis O. Zumbun** from the MD-DE Division. It will also be a pleasure to share in the recognition of the two new SAF Fellows that will be honored at the Convention - **Robb Piper** from the PA Division, and **George Pierson** from the NJ Division. It's always rewarding to see one's professional colleagues recognized for their long years of service and professional achievements, and I extend my heart-felt congratulations to Francis for his receipt of the District VII Presidential Field Forester Award, and to Robb and George for their election to Fellow - well deserved to all!

Also, let me close by encouraging each member to please vote when you receive your voting ballot in the near future. The ballot will be for the Presidential candidate that will be leading the National SAF, as well as the Executive Committee candidates Allegheny Section for the next two years. Your participation in the voting process is important to SAF, as is the dedication of all of those who have agreed to run as a candidate for an officer position - we are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of leadership capability in the SAF and in the Allegheny Section. Have a great fall! 🌸

PA Western Gateway Chapter Meets and Elects

By Robb Piper, W. Gateway Chapter Chair

The Western Gateway Chapter held a meeting at the Ebensburg Country Club on June 25, 2009. **W.R. Rossman**, who made all the arrangements at the Club, hosted an afternoon of golf. Following the evening meal, Chapter Chair Robb Piper conducted a short business meeting along with election of officers. The nominating committee consisting of **Dick Rossman** and **Bob Schweitzer** presented the slate of officers: **Robb Piper** - Chair, **David Babyak** - Vice-Chair, **Robert Rorabaugh** - Secretary and **Chuck Flinn** - Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor so they were closed. The secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the officers presented. Bills were paid and new business discussed.

Bob Schweitzer announced to the group that Robb Piper was elected a Fellow by the Society, who then thanked all who were involved with him receiving this honor.

The evening activities ended with an presentation by **Patrick Cannin**, manager at **Babcock Lumber Company** of Champion, PA. Discussion included the effects this economic downturn is having on Babcock Lumber, along with all the sawmills from West Virginia to Pennsylvania. Pat also handed out several news articles while he gave his take on the decline of the hardwood industry in the eastern U.S. Thanks to all that attended, and especially Pat Cannin for his informative talk. 🌸



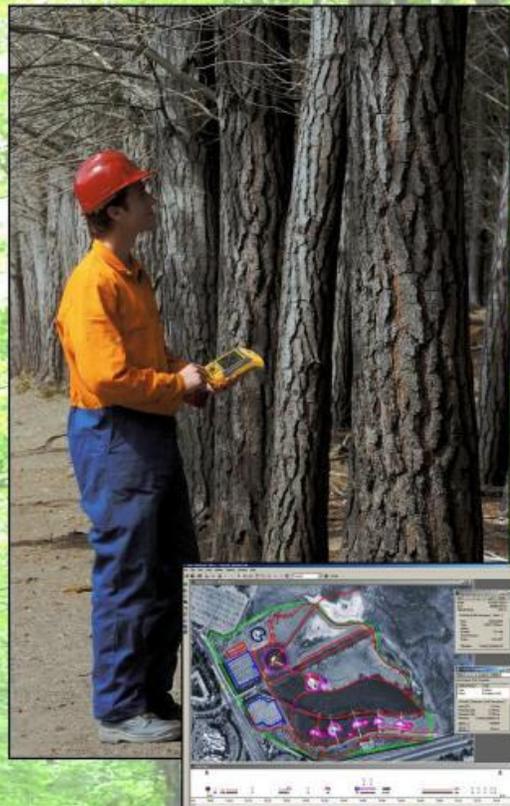
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2009 Annual Allegheny SAF Awards

By Howard Wurzbacher, Chair ANSAF Awards Committee

Some time ago, I can recall my good friend Tim Holtz sharing the observation that it's a characteristic of a successful organization to give recognition for the accomplishments and service of its members. Time and experience have proven to me that Tim's opinions are most often correct, and always worth consideration. How does this anecdote relate to the Allegheny SAF? Here's how:

As you know, the Allegheny Society has established two annual awards, the **Forester of the Year**, and the **Robert W. Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry Award**, to recognize individuals from among our membership who have made outstanding contributions to forestry and the Society. The purpose of the Forester of the Year award is to recognize current professional achievements in forestry and a specific accomplishment or achievement within 2009. The Robert W. Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry award recognizes achievement in the forestry profession and service to SAF and local or regional community activities over a career time span. Last year, **Kip Powers**, of the MD/DE Division, received the Bauer award, and **Steven Kalless**, of the NJ Division, was recognized as the Forester of the Year for 2008.

We all interact regularly with foresters who are deserving of our recognition for their professional commitment and performance. A request for nominations for awards will be forthcoming to Allegheny leadership later this fall. Please give consideration to professional peers who are deserving of our Society's awards, and forward their names to your appropriate Division or

Chapter Chairs for submission as nominees for one of the two annual awards.

Here is a brief review of how the award nomination and selection process works: Division and Chapter Chairs may submit nominations until the **deadline of December 15, 2009**. Nominations are received by the Awards Chair and forwarded to the Awards Committee. The committee consists of four members, one representative from each state Division in the Allegheny. To preserve the integrity of the awards peer review process, all members of the Awards Committee serve anonymously and individually; they conduct their ratings individually, not collectively; and no member knows who the other members of the Committee are. The Awards Committee members return their selections to the Awards Chair, who compiles the results, notifies the selected nominees, and co-presents the awards with the Allegheny Chair at the winter meeting awards banquet.

The opening paragraph of this article references the importance of recognition of performance to an organization and its members. I have served as the Awards Committee Chair for the past six years, and now am looking for an individual to succeed me in that position. If you feel motivated and interested to do so, please contact me (**Howard Wurzbacher**) or **Mary Ann Fajvan** to let one of us know of your interest.

Let's keep up the strong tradition we've developed by recognizing deserving colleagues through presentation of the annual Allegheny awards. Thanks! ❄️

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Bluefield WV Recognized Again as Tree City USA

Thanks to help from the members of the West Virginia Division Society of American Foresters, the City of Bluefield, WV received the "Tree City USA" designation for the 8th consecutive year. **Tim Probert**, Chairman of the Bluefield Tree Board and WVSFAF member, participated in a tree planting ceremony to honor the city.

There are only 17 Tree Cities USA in West Virginia according to **Bob Radspinner**, member of the Tree Board and WVSFAF. In order to be honored as a Tree City, a community must have an Arbor Day activity, have an ordinance in place to care for trees, have a \$2 per capita tree budget, and have a resolution supporting Arbor Day. **Andy Sheetz** of the WV Division of Forestry made the formal presentation to the City Tree Board.

At the closing of the presentation, Probert and other tree board members planted the flowering crabapple tree in Chicory Square. He added that, "the Tree Board has organized two community workshops and the group is working to develop a tree nursery in Lotito Park to establish 200 seedlings. Trees do a lot more than just sequester carbon and provide shelter for wildlife; they contribute a great deal to the quality of life in every community." 🌳



Tim Probert, Andy Sheetz and Richard Dillon show excellent form in planting this flowering crabapple tree in Bluefield



Members of the Bluefield Tree Board and WVSFAF members display the Arbor Day Foundation banner

PA Northern Hardwood Chapter Hosts Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting

By James Snyder, Jr., N. Hardwoods Chair

The 2009 ASAF Summer Meeting was held over three days beginning July 22, 2009 at the beautiful University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Campus in NW Pennsylvania. A little over one hundred professionals attended the meeting dealing with landscape impacts associated with oil and gas exploration and production – and experiencing the sights and sounds of North Central Pennsylvania summer raindrops.

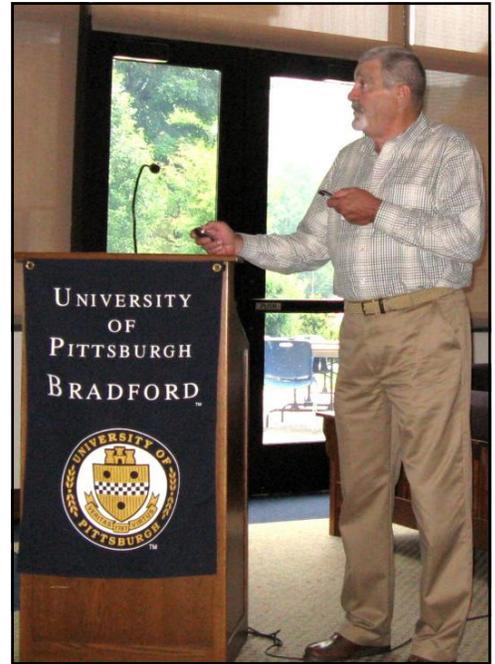
Those that slept on campus or at a local hotel were awakened by the gentle sights and sounds of the rain; those that slept in tents on the Allegheny National Forest dealt with thunderstorms that kept them awake most of the night. But all was not lost.



The rains that began falling in the morning of July 23rd had subsided by the time the first five presenters had concluded their enlightening talks in the meeting room. The afternoon field tour, highlighting the history of oil and gas in and around the Bradford area, left the woods a little damp. However, Ken Kane's knowledge and presentation related to the 150-year history and current oil and gas exploration in the Alleghenies brought the group up to date on current issues as well as the history.

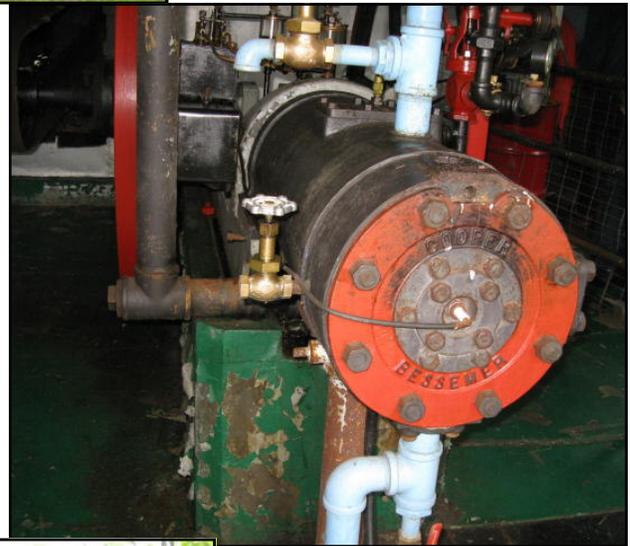
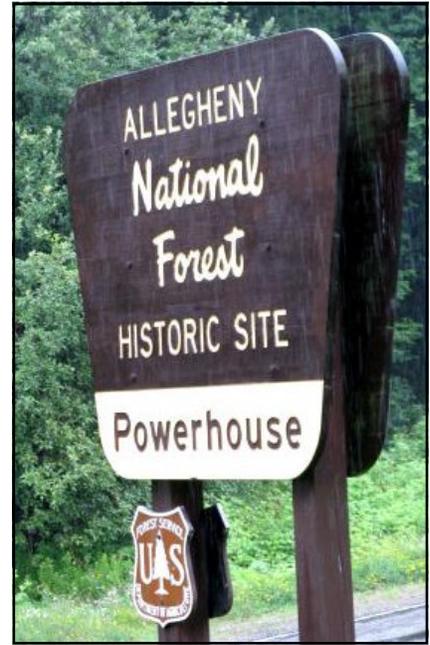
The Sun greeted us on the last day of the summer meeting and the last four presenters fielded numerous questions from the audience. All in attendance left Bradford with a little more knowledge regarding oil and gas

exploration and production in the Alleghenies as well as the opportunity to renew personal and professional contacts. ✨



Summer Meeting Photo Highlights

Photos by Charlie Newlon
and Jack Winieski





Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of July 22, 2009

Attendees:

Allegheny Officers: K. Gottschalk, Chair; M. Fajvan, Chair-Elect; K. Steiner, Imm. Past Chair; R. Billingham, Sec/Treas; N. Karger, B. Elison, C. Newlon, Exec. Cmte Members; J. Winieski, Ex. Dir.; Division/Chapter Officers and Committee Representatives: H. Wurzbacher, PA Div. Chair/Awards Cmte Chair; R. Merrill, Rothrock Ch. Chair; R. Piper, W. Gateway Ch. Chair; J. Snyder, N. Hardwood Ch. Chair; A. Day, L. Casey, and T. Hoffman, members

Minutes from the Previous Executive Committee Meeting

The minutes from the February 2009 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report (R. Billingham):

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by K. Steiner and seconded by H. Wurzbacher. The treasurer's report was approved. Note that we are down \$2,779.25 in revenue this year from where we were at last year. R. Billingham also reviewed the information that was put into the ANSAF's 990-EZ tax form that was sent to the IRS for the 2008 tax year. This information was aggregated for ANSAF and all of its related divisions and chapters. If members are interested in receiving a copy of this information, contact R. Billingham at rbillingha@state.pa.us. R. Billingham is has almost finished the creation of a Treasurer's manual.

HSD Report (K. Gottschalk):

Nominations forS ththekk HSD division/chapter awards are due July 31. If any chapters/divisions want to send in nominations, send them in to K. Gottschalk soon. Note that activities need to have occurred in late 2008 or 2009 to be eligible for an award. If anyone has business items for HSD to consider, send them in to K. Gottschalk by mid-August. Congratulations to J. Winieski for 50 years of membership. The ANSAF 2009 Fellows are George Pierson and Robb Piper. The new ANSAF CFE Coordinator is Dave McGill (WVU Extension Forester). National has redesigned the website so that it is easier to navigate. State societies and chapters can have a page on the national website (right now, there is a link to our site). We may ask J. Purdue, our webmaster, to check into this option to decide whether we should use that resource or not.

Executive Director's Report (J. Winieski):

There has been little change in the number of people receiving electronic newsletters. Plus or minus 200 are still sent hard copy for each electronic issue. J. Winieski and A. Day have been working on preparing the archives for their transport to the Penn State Archives. All except one box of records are now currently in order. The PSU Archivist will make the decision on what is archival and what is not. Note that records less than five years old are considered current (with the exception of financial records, which remain current for seven years). When Al Allison passed away, his widow called J. Winieski and asked if ANSAF would like his records. Someone from WV should contact her and see what she did with all the records he kept. We need to set up a procedure for archiving of our records. This procedure should require that records of six years or greater be sent to the Penn State Archivist for inclusion in our official record. R. Billingham will add this to the Treasurer's manual.

Nominations (K. Steiner):

So far, one candidate has accepted a nomination for chair-elect: R. Billingham. One candidate has accepted a nomination for Secretary/Treasurer: S. Resh. Four Executive Committee slots are needed. Regarding the Secretary/Treasurer position: we are working on a ballot measure to change the bylaws to allow the separation of the Secretary/Treasurer position into separate Secretary and Treasurer positions. We could have referendum this fall or spring and then follow that with a special election for the Secretary position next year. K. Gottschalk will complete the necessary preparations, which will include the new wording and a justification for the change. Note that nominations must be in to the National Office by Sept. 1, 2009.

Tellers (K. Gottschalk):

K. Gottschalk is still looking for someone to fill this position. We will need a committee in place before the upcoming election. We need to check with national on how to handle the paper ballots that need to be sent to members with no email access.

Awards (H. Wurzbacher):

Francis Zumbum was selected for the District 7 Presidential Field Forester Award. This will be H. Wurzbacher's last year as chair of this committee. He will help search for a replacement. Keep in mind that we always need nominations for awards.

Membership (M. Fajvan):

We lost around 300 members during the purge. This is likely due to the economic situation in the country. Some of the individual chapters are taking hard hits in membership loss. National is running a campaign to invite non-members to convention and give them a free membership for a year.

Forest Science Coordinator (M. Fajvan):

M. Fajvan will write one last article for the Allegheny News and then she will look for someone to appoint to this position. Eric Zenner, Silviculture Professor at Penn State, may be interested. M. Fajvan will contact him to find out.

Program (N. Karger):

WV is in line to host next year's winter meeting. We do not have information on a location yet. Assignments for hosting meetings have been made through the winter of 2012. K. Steiner received some feedback via email indicating that this person felt that this summer's and last summer's meetings contained topics of no interest to him/her. The Executive Committee noted that attendance for both of these meetings was good and both received positive feedback. We should always do our best to make our program as interesting as possible to our membership; however, we realize that we cannot please everyone. We should continue to strive to show all sides of current/contemporary issues. We may, in the future, put out a notice that next host is looking for ideas. We could also discuss adding a "potpourri" session at each meeting. Note that the Forest Science Coordinator is available to assist divisions/chapters in locating speakers.

By-laws (K. Gottschalk): K. Gottschalk will send the revised by-laws to the National Office for assurance that they meet the minimum standards. The revised by-laws will then go to the membership for a vote.

Fellows Process (K. Gottschalk):

There are some concerns surrounding the Fellows process, especially regarding what seems to be lack of communication to people whose nomination to Fellow were not successful. These problems are being addressed.

Council Report (K. Gottschalk):

Council considering putting together a task force on biomass energy and its effects on forests. There are also several position statements up for renewal. NY and NE SAF have requested that Council instate a task force on high-grading and there has been discussion on whether this is needed or not - the FSTB says that there are several position statements that adequately cover this issue.

Upcoming Convention (K. Gottschalk):

This year, there is a competition among the SAF State Societies to see which one can solicit the most donations to the Foresters Fund silent auction at this year's national convention in Orlando. Donations can be sent to: Heather Wierzbicki (MeadWestvaco, Hwy 165 South, Cottonton, AL 36851) by September 23, 2009. The winning Society will bring home the "Old Pinch Award," a wooded sculpture of a forester, which will remain with them for one year. Be sure to fill out the accompanying available from K. Gottschalk.

DIVISION/CHAPTER REPORTS:

PA Division (H. Wurzbacher): PA is discussing the possibility of combining chapters, perhaps by region. If chapters were larger, maybe they would have more activities. Interest in many areas is declining. It was noted that combination of chapters may not be as effective as getting new leadership in or using different meeting formats. Combining meetings may also create some problems relating to travel time. K. Steiner mentioned that B. Harding may be able to take the addresses of the PA members and plot them on a map. This would help the process of where new lines could be drawn to better serve the membership. PA is currently looking for candidate for chair elect.

Rothrock (R. Merril): They will organize their winter meeting soon.

Northern Hardwood (J. Snyder and N. Karger): They are hosting the current meeting. Thanks for attending. Note that sponsoring an ANSAF meeting gets people invigorated. Close to 100 are signed up for the meeting.

Keystone (R. Billingham for M. Kusko): Keystone held a spring meeting at the Penn State Mont Alto campus. This meeting featured Aura Stauffer, wildlife biologist with the PA Bureau of Forestry, speaking about owls. The fall meeting will focus on PNDI.

Valley Forge (R. Billingham for J. Stuffle): Their last chapter meeting was on July 15th. It included was a tour of a Chester County property with Pam Shellenberger from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussion was on how PNDI at the federal level works and how it affects forest management practices in a management plan.

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

WV Division (M. Fajvan for R. Beanblossom): The WV meeting is coming up in August. It will feature talks on uneven-aged silviculture.

National Communications Project (R. Billingham): The SAF National Communications Committee is coordinating with the National Office's Trees are the Answer campaign. They are currently working on a plan and accompanying resources that can be used by state societies/divisions/chapters to help communicate the forestry message to people in urban and community settings. Keep your eyes open for more information in the future.

Items from the Floor:

L. Casey: L. Casey has been assisting a local township with its harvesting ordinance. There are a lot of harvesting ordinances proliferating in his area. Some of them indicate that trees can be harvested with the use of either a certified forester or certified arborist. Additionally, improper and ambiguous terminology is often used in these ordinances. L. Casey requested support from ANSAF in the form of a letter to the township. A motion was made by K. Steiner that the ANSAF chair will send a letter to Upper Salford Township in Pennsylvania pointing out the differences b/t a certified forester and a certified arborist. The motion was seconded by C. Newlon and was passed by the committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters General Business Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2009

Brief reports were given of all information presented at the July 22 Executive Committee meeting.

The 2010 Winter meeting will be February 17-19, 2010 at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. It may have an international forestry theme

Note that the revised by-laws will be published in the fall newsletter along with a ballot to vote for the changes.

Council report (K. Jolly): Please see his article in the Allegheny News for his in-depth report. Council met twice this year. The real estate sale of Wild Acres fell through, but National is continuing to look for new opportunities and are continuing to market the property. The local community was concerned about the property and they were able to get historic zoning on it, so it is now more difficult to develop. This has its benefits and challenges. The national SAF website is now more user-friendly. You can now get membership lists on-line. The national office hired a new policy director: Erika Rhoad. This will be a busy year for task forces, as Council intends to set up several. Among them are Forest Industry Competitiveness in the Global Environment and Woody Biomass Issues. The Education Committee was approached to investigate the accreditation of tech schools. Council has set up five strategic priorities. The next Council meeting will be in Orlando at the convention. Note that Charles Mann, author of 1491, is the Convention's keynote speaker.

OTHER ITEMS:

K. Jolly: R. Williams of NJ Division sent an email regarding new regulations in the NJ Pinelands. The hearing was on the 22nd but they are accepting written comments through August 14. ANSAF could send in written comments. The motion to do so was made by L. Casey and seconded by P Erikson. The letter will be written by M. Vodak and D. Tavella. These gentlemen will draft a letter and then send it to K. Gottschalk for signature. The motion carried.

M. Keefer: The 2008 Farm Bill requires each state to complete an assessment and strategy in order to qualify for federal funding. Pennsylvania would like feedback from SAF members. This will be a two-part process: 1. an assessment of what is happening in the forest and what the major issues are and 2. a strategy that includes how we plan to tackle the issues mentioned in the assessment. The state has not yet worked out all the details of how the feedback will occur. There will definitely be information on the website and documents for review. Stay tuned for more information.

Meeting adjourned.

PA Division of Allegheny SAF

An Open Letter to All Pennsylvania Division Members from Doug D'Amore:

I recently received correspondence from several members asking for a review of the Division's structure. Specifically the members asked that serious thought be given to reducing the number of Chapters within the Pennsylvania Division from the current number of seven (7) to a maximum number of four (4). The individuals felt that larger chapters will generate more attendance at local meetings, make finding officers easier and changes in transportation networks and communications have made larger geographical areas more logistically feasible.

I felt that the individuals had several excellent points and am asking the membership for feedback on this proposal. At this point the bylaws have not been reviewed nor has any serious thought been given as to how the chapters would be structured in terms of geographical area. Please view this letter as a starting point for discussion among the membership, not as a final decision on anything. If there is sufficient interest in making a structural change to our organization, we should pursue it.

All organizations need to be reflective of current and future social, political, and ecological trends and changes to stay relevant in society. I am not a believer in making changes unless there are concise, logical reasons for the change. In our profession some things have changed little for hundreds of years and other things seem to change on a yearly basis. However, I do believe the above proposal is something we need to seriously consider. So let the debates begin. As always, if anyone wishes to discuss this issue further with me feel free to contact me, 570-923-6011 at work or 570-748-0264 at my home. 🌿

Hunters Sharing the Harvest

By Beth Hall, The Forest Management Center

Hunters can help to manage Pennsylvania's deer herd, and feed needy families by donating extra venison to Hunters Sharing the Harvest, a non-profit organization in PA. This group facilitates the distribution of venison from hunters to hungry people by networking with meat processors and food banks. Hunters can donate a whole animal to a package of meat by taking their

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deer to a authorized processor. In some cases the donor must also pay the \$15 processing cost, but a monetary donation can be made without a deer.

Annually, HSH provides 200,000 meals to needy Pennsylvanians. Donations provide hungry families a high-protein, low-fat supplement vital to a healthy diet. Also, venison donated to soup kitchens lowers food costs and puts more meat on the table at a critical time of year. Visit the HSH website at <http://www.sharedeer.org/> to view participating processors or send a donation. 🌿

Maryland Forests Association to Host Conference on Staying Green in a Red Economy

The Maryland Forests Association (MFA) has invited national and state leaders on sustainable forestry to speak on the most timely and personal of topics *Staying Green in a Red Economy*, which will be held October 30 and 31 at the Rocky Gap Resort in Allegany County, Maryland.

This year's conference will look at the evolution of the conservation movement from many different perspectives and then discuss what we have learned, are learning, and where we go from here. Friday's events begin with a Forest Operations Tour of Evergreen Estates in Mount Savage followed by the awards banquet presentation, *Where Green Began ~ The Evolution of a Conservation Ethic*, by award-winning interpreter Richard Pawling of *History Alive!*

Saturday's educational sessions and speakers will include:

Educational Session I ~ Update on Issues of Concern

- Industry Update – Bill Imbergano, American Forests & Paper Association (AF&PA)
- Agricultural Update – Val Connelly, MD Farm Bureau
- Forestry Update – Chris Holmes, MD Forests Association

Educational Session II ~ Revisiting Green Certification ~ The Issues and Implications from Three Perspectives

- Industry – Ken Roberts, New Page Luke Mill
- State Government – Michael Schofield, Chesapeake Forest Lands
- Private Forest Landowners – Phil Frantz, Red Rock Enterprises

Educational Session III ~ From Green to Greener ~ New Opportunities

- *Small Woodlot Harvesting: A Guide for Landowners, Land Managers and Forest Products Operators* by Dan Hedderick
- *Good Wood, Clean Water ~ A 'Buy Local' Case Study* by Colin Miller
- *Marketing Medicinal Botanicals* by Dr. James Howell

The conference is open to all and includes time to visit exhibits, Q&A with the speakers, and networking with others. The meeting has earned CFEs for Licensed Professional Forester and Master Loggers.

Pre-registration for this conference is required, and registration deadline is October 20, 2009.

Full agenda, registration brochure, plus speaker and hotel details are on the MFA website <http://mdforests.org/AM2009.htm>

For more information, contact MFA Executive Director Karin Miller by email at director@mdforests.org or call the MFA office at 301-895-5369. ☀

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Referendum on Allegheny SAF Bylaws

At the February 2009 Allegheny SAF Executive Committee meeting, the committee voted to amend the Allegheny SAF bylaws. Updating of the bylaws is required by the SAF Council to correspond to changes in the national bylaws. National SAF sent out minimum standard bylaws for state and multi-state societies. The Allegheny SAF bylaws were in compliance with the minimum standard bylaws except for two major areas. A summary of the bylaws changes is given below. The proposed bylaws can be viewed on the Allegheny SAF website at www.alleghenysaf.org in two formats - a "clean" version and a marked-up version that shows the additions and deletions (except for minor corrections). Please consult one or both of those documents for complete information.

Summary of bylaws changes:

- Chairman was changed to Chair, and Vice Chairman to Chair-Elect throughout the bylaws
- A number of typographical, grammatical, formatting, and spelling errors were corrected
- Provisions for electronic balloting were added along with new due dates for election slates and voting periods
- Objectives of the society were updated
- A number of wording changes were made to comply with the new minimum standard bylaws
- The office of Secretary/Treasurer was separated into two positions to comply with the national standard, however the same person can hold both positions at the discretion of the Allegheny SAF Executive Committee
- Some committees were designated as special committees as opposed to standing committees, and committee descriptions were simplified
- Section J - Appointments was deleted
- A required new article on Unit Position Statements was inserted as new Article 11; existing articles 11-14 were renumbered to 12-15; information on unit positions was removed from the Meetings Article as a result of this new article
- The timeframe for the Allegheny SAF meeting was changed from February to the first quarter of the year

To vote on these proposed bylaws changes, please fill out the ballot below and mail to the Tellers Committee Chair **by November 15, 2009**.

2009 Allegheny SAF Bylaws Ballot

- Yes, I approve the changes to the Allegheny SAF bylaws
- No, I do not approve the changes to the Allegheny SAF bylaws

Return ballot to: Gary W. Miller
USDA Forest Service
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3180

Penn State Offers Two One-Day Courses

The Penn State University School of Forest Resources is planning two different one-day courses at several locations across the Commonwealth. These workshops are geared for financial planners, accountants, foresters, forest landowners, tax preparers, and small-business owners, as well as attorneys and other financial advisers. Instructors are Mike Jacobson, associate professor at Penn State's School of Forest Resources, and Lloyd Casey, retired, USDA Forest Service National Tax team. Each workshop offers eight CFE hours of continuing education credits.

The topics to be covered at the Timber Taxation workshop include record keeping, cost basis, operating and management expenses, capital gains on timber sales, depreciation methods, reforestation expenses, casualty losses, and more.

Forest Finance topics include evaluating financial return from forestry investments, accounting for inflation, forest valuation and appraisal, alternate income opportunities, TIMOs,

the state of the forest industry, and more.

TIMBER TAXATION

October 16, 2009

Cumberland County Ext. Office in Carlisle

October 27, 2009

Westmoreland Co. Ext. Office in Greensburg

November 5, 2009

Clinton Co. Res. & Education Ctr in Mill Hall

FOREST FINANCE

October 19, 2009

Perkins Restaurant in Tunkhannock

October 21, 2009

Structural Modulares, Inc. in Strattanville

November 6, 2009

Clinton Co. Res. & Education Ctr in Mill Hall

The cost for each workshop is \$95 per person, including all course materials, breaks and lunch. Registration must be made two weeks prior to each session to Michael Powell at 814-863-1113 or email mjp175@psu.edu.

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New Pennsylvania Home Improvement Law Might Apply to Foresters

By Derald J. Hay, Esquire

Pennsylvania recently enacted the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (“HICPA”). The law is primarily focused on contractors who do work for homeowners in private residences.



However, because of the broad scope of the law, foresters, at least in some capacities may also be required to comply with certain requirements.

HICPA applies to “home improvement contractors.” The definition of a home improvement contractor includes typical contractors such as plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. However, the law also includes landscapers who work with private landowners in building non-decorative fences or drainage systems when these items are constructed on a portion of a property with or adjacent to a **private residence**.

For foresters, this means that the law might apply to setting up a deer fence or installing culverts or other sedimentation measures on a property with a cabin. However, there has been little guidance from the state on how it will interpret the law. Because of the law’s potential applicability to certain forestry operations, the relatively low cost to comply, and the penalties for non-conformance, foresters should consider addressing the requirements of HICPA in order protect your company.

Complying with HICPA

There are two primary tasks which must be done in order to comply with HICPA. The first task is to register your business with Pennsylvania’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. This process can be done online. Registration costs fifty dollars, but the registration is valid for two years.

The second task is to assure that any contracts

with private homeowners are HICPA compliant. HICPA sets forth a list of items which must (and must not) be included in a contract with a private homeowner. Failure to include these items may give the homeowner the power to void the contract. Among other items, the contract must:

- Be in writing
- Signed by both the homeowner and contractor
- Include an estimated beginning and completion date
- Include a detailed description of the work to be performed
- A total sale price for the work
- A notice of the homeowner’s right to rescind the contract within three business days
- And more...

There are also significant civil penalties for not complying with HICPA. For instance, there are substantial fines and prison terms for fraudulent or deceptive behavior by home improvement contractors. However, practically speaking, the most significant penalty for not complying with the law is the risk that a homeowner will void a contract and force the contractor to institute legal action just to collect payment for services.

Due to the harsh penalties imposed by HICPA, foresters may want to have their contracts reviewed by an experienced attorney. Fox Rothschild LLP is a full-service law firm capable of assisting foresters to ensure their compliance with HICPA. If you have any questions, please call Derald Hay at (610) 458-2990 or contact him via email at dhay@foxrothschild.com. 🌿

Derald Hay is the author of this article, “New Pennsylvania Home Improvement Law Might Apply to Foresters”. 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. He is an Allegheny SAF member.

Coming Events

October

- 16, 27 Timber Taxation Workshop by Penn State School of Forest Resources; see page 18 for details
- 18-23 XIII World Forestry Congress, "Forests in Development - a Vital Balance" held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Visit www.wfc2009.org
- 19, 21 Forest Finance Workshop by Penn State School of Forest Resources; see page 18 for location & details
- 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!
- 30-31 Maryland Forests Association Annual Conference in Rocky Gap, "Staying Green in a Red Economy." Karen Miller at 301-895-5369

November

- 5 Timber Taxation Workshop by PSU, Mill Hall, PA. See page 18
- 6 Forest Finance Workshop by PSU, Mill Hall, PA. See page 18 for info

December

- 15 Deadline for the Winter 2009-2010 issue of *The Allegheny News*. Send articles in Microsoft Word format to ansaf@verizon.net

February 2010

- 16-18 Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park "International Forestry." Details to follow in the next *Allegheny News*

Future Allegheny SAF Meetings

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

Future SAF National Conventions

2010: Albuquerque, NM – October 25-28

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