

# *The Allegheny News*



**Allegheny Society of American Foresters  
Winter 2023 - 2024**

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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 667 Honey Brook, PA 19344**  
[www.alleghenysaf.org](http://www.alleghenysaf.org)  
Editor: Susan Lacy ([ansaf@comcast.net](mailto:ansaf@comcast.net))

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*Cover Photo – Grey Towers National Historic Site*

**Advertising in the Allegheny News**

<b>Rates:</b>	<b><u>One Issue</u></b>	<b><u>All Four Issues</u></b>
Full internal page 6 ¾" x 9 ½"	\$130	\$ 450
Half page (3 ¼" x 9 ½" or 6 ¾" x 4 5/8")	75	250
One third page (3 ¼" x 7 ¼" or 6 ¾" x 2")	50	150
One quarter page (3 ¼" x 4 5/8")	40	130
One eighth page or Business Card (3 ¼" x 2")	25	70

## Chair's Corner

*Cecile Stelter*



Happy Winter ANSAF members! As the days passed around the recent holidays, I am drawn to consider what I am thankful for over these last two years as Chair, and what I am looking forward to in the future.

Since becoming ANSAF Chair, we successfully hosted the SAF National Convention in Baltimore

in September 2022. We implemented the creation of an ANSAF Hall of Fame and inducted our first two members into that distinction. We also celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Allegheny Society, which gave us a chance to reflect on our history and make plans on where ANSAF will grow into the future. As part of that growth, we developed a promotional video for ANSAF and successfully maneuvered through the SAF incorporation process.

None of these accomplishments could have occurred without the efforts and support of the many ANSAF volunteers who graciously donated their time, experience, and energy on the local chapter, division, and/or society level. So, my greatest gratitude is directed to all of you, who have supported your society and my role as your Chair --- It has been my honor to serve and represent you over these last two years.

As we look towards to future, I am confident under the leadership of incoming Chair Earl (Bud) Reaves, with the guidance of Executive Director Susan Lacy and with your continued engagement and support --- ANSAF will not only continue, but it will be the strong, forestry leadership organization that is necessary to navigate through the successes and challenges that the future has to offer. As our video states in its conclusion, "Our (ANSAF) future is bright and framed with new and diverse perspectives and (I) invite you to be a part of that future for the next ... years." Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as your Chair. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas season and wish the New Year brings you much hope, happiness and abundant prosperity!

# **Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**9/13/2023, Best Western, Matamoras, PA**

**Dave Trimpey, Susan Lacy, Cecile Stelter, Bud Reaves, Sara Fitzsimmons, Joe Glover, Brad Elison**

Called to order at 2:45pm

## **Approve Minutes from 2/15/23**

Dave moves to accept the minute as written. Seconded by Joe. Passed unanimously.

Riley Pierce (Student Representative) couldn't get to the meeting. Cecile read the note from him. The letter suggests that a student member should be assigned based on being closest to the meeting venue.

Susan Lacy notes that the committee has a lot of vacant committee positions, and it would be nice to get a functional project for the student to work on.

Steve Resh did not submit the treasurer's report until following the meeting. The committee will have to vote on that electronically.

Mike Huneke sends his regrets for being unable to attend. He's on light duty due to surgery.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Due's increase. ANSAF last increased dues a few years ago and many chapters are removing Chapter dues. ANSAF continues to struggle with funding and to be cash poor. In order to raise dues, a Chapter must let the National office know by August before you can do that. Therefore, an increase for our Chapter would not take until 2025 at the earliest.

Current dues are \$15 or \$20. Talking to counterparts in Northwest US, all members of OR, WA, MT, ID, are paying up to \$40 in state dues. The person who does the Executive Director gets \$45K in that region; we would need a lot of dues for that. A recommendation to have a \$5 increase in dues. PA Division has been helping out with annual gifts to ANSAF, but we now have only \$11K. A proposed dues increase total of \$5 to state and \$5 to Division is tabled.

Software Can we get something like Quickbooks? It's not urgent but would help a lot with treasurer position, even though it would be one more thing to add to the budget. Steve says he has someone who might take over the Treasurer position.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Finalizing taxes to submit to CPA. We submitted a request for extension until 11/15. National SAF was concerned we had not submitted ours, but we did. If you don't submit for 3 years in a row, then you can lose your non-profit status.

Incorporation. We are now an incorporated organization in the state of PA and had to file as a "foreign entity" in the states of MD, DE, WV, and NJ. SAF National Office did the bulk of the work which was a lot of paperwork. Each one of those states require different reporting, which

comes along with different fees, and requires additional input whenever officers are changed. And they all have different deadlines. This will require a good deal more administrative time. SAF National took care of all initial filing fees, but subsequent reporting fees will be the burden of ANSAF, and likely upon the Executive Director role.

We have to do a vote of the membership as part of the articles of incorporation. We'll let people know that we're in the process, it's been filed, we are officially incorporated in PA with foreign entities in other states. As part of the process, a change in the bylaws is required. Those updated bylaws will be distributed to the membership. Allegheny Society of American Foresters, Inc. do not have to change any bank namings, etc. But that is the official legally registered name. Instead of Association, you now have to check "Incorporated Association".

Insurance for officers and added protections for the committees. SAF National is covering the Directors & Officers insurance costs.

1960s Plateau bylaws. PA was in the 1980s. chapters may have bylaws that are significantly outdated and which should be updated or just say we're all under the ANSAF. What is the legal status? Is it separate from ANSAF? Worth asking. If a Chapter doesn't have bylaws, then they are automatically under the ANSAF bylaws.

Still some entities within ANSAF which are using a different tax ID number. Cecile advises that that be phased out. Functional side of bylaws: we will meet X number of times / year. some chapters may not be following their bylaws, either intentionally or not, which means those things will have to be buttoned up.

### **Meeting Conduct**

Someone raised their voice during the meeting. And harassed several speakers. What does the Executive Committee recommend if such an incident occurs in the future? Should the policy be to ask for hotel security? What if someone not associated with the group causes a disruption? How does that get handled?

The group agrees that every member has a responsibility to make sure everyone acts right. But that doesn't address an outsider. In the case of the individual at the NJ meeting, this person was stomping around, but then also verbally abusing and attacking the speakers; they were also affiliated with NJDEP.

The EC suggests adopting a code of conduct. Whose responsibility is it to follow through with that policy? Whoever the primary hosting party is, they should take over the responsibility. Sara will provide the newest TACF Code of Conduct Template. The Executive Committee will adapt and then provide for comment from the Chapter. Recent events have allowed for an item on the agenda at the Exec Comm to discuss what would happen or does happen due to disruptive behavior at our meetings. We would like to get examples from fellow organizations and draft something to present to membership for comment and approval.

As part of meeting planning, have a conversation with the meeting venue about security about what is available.

## **Elections**

Elections will be held this fall.

## **Leadership Academy**

The Leadership Academy will be held from 11/15 – 11/17 at Grey Towers. They were hosted in 2018 and 2019 in PA, and wanted to move up to New England, but alternative host is dealing with medical concerns. Hope to get back up to New England shortly in the future.

Now we need attendees but have only had 1 name submitted so far. Deadline for submissions 10/15. WV is having their meeting next week. Room for 25 people. 6 slots per region. Tom Davidson is coming back from Leadership Nature.

## **Newsletter**

Need to be able to get content for the newsletter. Having lots of difficulty. Have not been getting content from the Board representative. Did get response from most of those who are receiving paper copies, some of which have switched over to email.

## **Overarching EventBrite Account?**

Register online. People want to use credit cards. Should we have one thing on the ANSAF level that the host Chapter can use if they want? Each chapter has just been piggy-backing on each other. Haven't had anyone coming to get that kind of assistance. Most have been working it out on their own.

## **Membership Committee**

We're holding even. Have about 12 late members which will be sent to Division Chairs and we have fewer and fewer younger members coming in. Student chapter at PSU and WVU, only a couple of them in each Chapter. Dwindling in the students too.

## **Program Committee**

Thanks to Pinchot Chapter for hosting this meeting. Next meeting is the Winter Meeting which is to be hosted by Northern Hardwood in St. Mary's at the Red Fern, February 21-23, 2024. Summer meeting 2024 will be at Cacapon Resort and State Park in WV. September 25 – 27, 2024.

Western Gateway for Winter 2025 (SW Corner of PA – often use Johnstown but could go down to Pittsburgh area). Trying to decide whether or not they want to do that. They need to make a decision soon and if they defer, next up is Rothrock.

## **Awards Committee**

No report. National awards due March 5. Allegheny awards are due 12/5. 3 fellows from ANSAF and Presidential Field foresters will be recognized at the National Convention.

## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

Is there an anniversary publication? Cecile notes: Do not take on additional projects during your time as chair! Distributed Jump drives to all Division Chairs for updates to the publication.

Received a write-up from PA. Got a write-up on the Quiz Bowl. And it got in the ANSAF news from Steve Resh. Started working on a small update for ANSAF. Have not heard from any other Chapters or Divisions.

At least the current version is in Word format, so updating should not be as difficult. I managed to arrange to have it digitized/transcribed to word. Should now be able to keep it up-to-date and decide next time as to how we want to publish it. Probably just want to email it out to everyone. First step, need to get it done.

### **ByLaws**

Some committees are not required, but some are. We might want to see which committees we want to require vs. not. There are many vacancies on these committees and need to make sure we're not in violation of the by-laws. Need to have the committee structure and leadership be structured and accurate. Even if we reduce the number of committees make sure they're active and contribute to the greater group.

### **Video**

Video was a rousing success.

### **Chapter Reports**

Plateau – summer meeting: white oak barrel stave mill. That was interesting. Business meeting. Talked about the Leadership Academy and want to submit a name or two. Working on Chapter history. Not one in the previous edition.

WV meeting is coming up in a couple of weeks. Near Parkersburg on 9/28 – 9/29.

Vote at general meeting in February to apply for a Foresters fund grant for the BSA Jamboree which we did get. A partnership w/ ANSAF and WV DNR, did host an SAF booth during the Jamboree in July. Over 2000 scouts passed through the booth. 41 merit badges were completed and 37 STEM quests / NOVA were conducted during the Jamboree. Received \$3500 from the Foresters fund. \$3000 was for the display space. \$500 helped cover travel, background checks, etc.

House of Delegates meeting is before Convention. ANSAF submitted the BSA Jamobree, with pictures, as their success story.

### **Old Business**

4H Forestry Invitational. Key Sponsors of this program. Are we really a key sponsor? No one knows, but Cecile will go ahead and draft a small quote.

Next meeting will be before the winter meeting in February 21-23, 2024 in St. Marys. Cecile will open up Executive Committee meeting, then Bud will take over. She is working on a timeline that she will pass on which will be helpful from chair to chair. Who is chair elect? Is it Kimberly? We'll see what happens. When to reach out to schools for new student members, etc. you can add to it as you go.

Motion to adjourn from Joe. Seconded by Brad. Unanimously approved.

# Allegheny Society of American Foresters

## Annual Summer Training - September 13 - 15, 2023

### Meeting Summary

*“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future”  
~ Theodore Roosevelt*

The Pinchot Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters hosted the annual summer training meeting on September 13 – 15, 2023 at Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA. The theme for the meeting was *Our Growth Curve: Beginnings from Yesteryear, Challenges of the Present, Strategies for the Future.*

We began the meeting with an optional hike within the Milford Experimental Forest (MEF), a 1200-acre forest owned and management by the Pinchot Family. The Forest was established in 1901 by James Pinchot for use by Yale School of Forestry students and was largely abandoned as a research site in 1927 when Yale relocated its summer training facility to Connecticut. In 1997, the Pinchot family and the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers re-established the MEF to carry out studies on forest management issues facing private forestland owners in the tri-state region near Grey Towers.

Studies to date have focused on white-tailed deer management, American Chestnut restoration, managing the eastern hemlock woolly adelgid, and on open space conservation in the Upper Delaware watershed. In 2006 the property became permanently protected under a Forest Legacy conservation easement. During the hike we visited the American Chestnut progeny test site. Peter Pinchot, Leila Pinchot, and Sara Fitzsimmons (The American Chestnut Foundation) provided history of the project and status of the planting including growth and survival. Amanda Subjin (Pocono Environmental Education Center) and Josh Flad (Green Leaf Consulting Services) were also available to help with the history of the conservation easement and management efforts related to the MEF.







The afternoon included the Executive Committee Meeting at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in nearby Matamoras, Pa. We wrapped up the opening day with an ice breaker, welcome and social reception at the Bar and on the Terrace.

On Thursday we had a day-long program at Grey Towers. The programs were held in the Pool Terrace and started with a welcome by Joe Koloski the Director of Grey Towers and Peter Pinchot (Grandson of Gifford Pinchot). After the welcome, the group was provided with a tour of Grey Towers grounds and the mansion. USDA Forest Service staff provided an historic overview of Grey Towers and the Gifford Pinchot legacy.



After the tours, Peter Pinchot, Senior Fellow Pinchot Institute for Conservation and President of EcoMadera Forest Conservation LLC, continued his presentation. His talk was on Climate Solutions: How Forestry and Wood Products can Help Convert Buildings into Carbon Sinks and his work in Ecuador related to the EcoMadera Forest Conservation program. Peter Pinchot's presentation was followed by lunch. The Grey Towers Heritage Association covered the costs of tours and meeting space as well as provided and helped serve refreshments.



The afternoon program included a talk presented by Dr. Al Sample, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

He is also President Emeritus and Senior Fellow at the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. His talk was on the Origins of Ecosystem Management. The last speaker of the day was Jonathan Geyer,

Executive Director Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council whose talk was on the Current Market and Timber Industry Trends in PA and the Northeast.

We ended the day with a barbeque at nearby Lily Pond Picnic area, which is located within the Delaware State Forest. George Simon, a Master Caster provided a fly-fishing demonstration and instruction.



We finished up the program on September 15th at the Best Western with programs ending at noon. The morning included Division meetings and Allegheny SAF Business meeting. Wrapping up with two speakers; the first speaker was Tim Dugan, District Forester, PA Bureau of Forestry, Delaware Forest District. His talk was titled Forest Management in a Dynamic Ecological and Social Environment, which focused on work related to the Delaware Forest District in northeastern PA.



We finished the day with a talk presented by Abby Jamison, Forest Program Specialist. PA Bureau of Forestry – Forest Resource Planning Section, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Her talk was titled Seeking a Bright Future: Re-centering Forestry.



The winners of the History Hunt were also pulled out of the basket with gifts from the Grey Towers gift shop and other donations from sponsors. Questions included, “*What is the name of the family who built Grey Towers mansion and gifted funds to Yale University to start the first graduate forestry school in the United States?*”

## **John Saf Selected as District VII Presidential Field Forester**



John Saf is a consulting forester with Generations Forestry, Inc., dedicating his career to sustainable forest management in the Allegheny Northern Hardwood forest for a variety of landowners in Pennsylvania and New York.

Implementation of sound forestry practices along with the adaptation and creation of new forest management techniques to achieve landowner objectives has been John’s focus. Collaboration and landscape forest management across ownership boundaries have helped to advance local forest management challenges and has earned John recognition from his peers.

John has been career-long member of SAF since first joining his student chapter at Penn State. He has served in leadership positions at SAF and supporting organizations as well as a volunteer speaker and field tour leader for SAF meetings and legislative events.

***Congratulations John!***



# Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting

February 21-23, 2024

*Forestry Now: Innovations in Technology, Practice, and Markets*

*The Red Fern – 421 Old Kersey Rd, Kersey, PA 15846*



## **Wednesday, February 21**

- 12:00 Registration Open
- 13:00–16:00 Straub Brewery Tours (5- to 10-minute drive from *The Red Fern*)
- 16:00 Keystone Elk Country Alliance Presentation (at *Straub Brewery*)
- 15:00–18:00 ANSAF Executive Committee Meeting (at *The Red Fern*)
- 18:00–20:00 Icebreaker/Social (at *The Red Fern*)  
(*Dinner on Your Own*)

## **Thursday, February 22**

- 08:00 Registration, Silent Auction, Art Contest, Exhibits Open
- 08:45–09:00 Welcome
- 09:00–09:45 Opening Keynote: “SAF Present and Future” – Bettina Ring, SAF Vice-President
- 09:45–10:15 “Advancing Forestry through Social Sciences” – Matt Keefer, PA DCNR
- 10:15–10:30 *BREAK*
- 10:30–11:15 “Forest Inventory: Next-Gen Solutions” – Mark Books, CF, LandMark Spatial Solutions, LLC
- 11:15–12:00 “Spongy Moth Spray Program Operations, Innovations, and Lessons Learned” – Paul Weiss, PA Game Commission
- 12:00–13:00 *LUNCH* and Presentation of Student Leadership Award
- 13:00–13:30 “Drones in Forestry: Current Regulations, Hardware, and Applications” – Mark Books, CF, LandMark Spatial Solutions, LLC
- 13:30–14:00 “Utilizing Drones (UAS) on State Game Lands: A New Tool Available for Habitat Managers?” – Curtis Noll, PA Game Commission-
- 14:00–14:45 “Making Forestry Relevant to the Majority of Woodland Owners” – Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Extension (Emeritus)
- 14:45–15:00 *BREAK*
- 15:00–16:00 Career Phase Panel: “Realizing the Value of SAF” – Abby Jamison, PA DCNR; Thad Taylor, FORECON, Inc.; and Howard Wurzbacher, Retired, PA Game Commission
- 16:30 Student Quiz Bowl
- 18:00–19:00 *SOCIAL HOUR*
- 19:00 Banquet Dinner, Awards, and Evening Presentation by Matt Gabler, Executive Director, PA Forest Products Association, on “State of PA Agriculture”

## **Friday, February 23**

- 07:30–08:30 Chair’s Breakfast – Motivational Speaker TBD (*Registration Required*)
- 08:30–09:00 Division Business Meetings
- 09:00–09:45 Allegheny SAF Business Meeting
- 09:45–10:00 *BREAK*

- 10:00–11:00 “Carbon Markets Today” – Dylan Jenkins, Finite Carbon
- 11:00–11:30 “NTFPs in Riparian Buffers to Diversify Forest Landowner Income” – Catherine Pugh, Penn State Extension
- 11:30–12:00 Program Wrap-up
- 13:00–14:00 Post-program Tour of “Woodside Oils” Birch Oil Distillery at 80 Wetmore Ave, Kane, PA, 16735 (*40-minute Drive – Carpool or Drive Yourself*)
- 14:00 Post-program Tour of “Logyard Brewing” Brewery and Taproom at 103 N. Fraley St., Kane, PA, 16735 (*5- to 10-minute Walk from Woodside Oils*)

## **4<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic/Northeast SAF Leadership Academy**

By Kenneth Laustsen

The academy was held over the 11/15-17/2023 period at Grey Towers in Milford, PA. Attendance, at 12, was reduced from past academies, but ANSAF was still represented by 4 attendees. These included Jeremy Newman and Steve Laskowski from PA DCNR, Ben Larson from Ruffed Grouse Society (Maryland) and Steve Chhin from West Virginia University. In addition to the ANSAF attendees, there were 4 attendees from the New York State Society, and 5 attendees from New England SAF.

The academy was held at Grey Towers, home of Gifford Pinchot, and a National Historic Site. Training on Day 1 included insights into your personality type (DISC), communications, asking powerful questions and then listening. Day 2 had a focus on teams and teamwork, decision making, delegating, and how to manage volunteers. As a half day, Friday closed out with the topics how to make the most of meetings and an overview on the structure of SAF, covering awards, finances, and publications.

An exit satisfaction survey asked four questions with a scoring scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest): 1) How would you rate your overall experience and what would have made your score higher? Scores ranged from 8 to 10; 2) How would you rate the facilities and what would have made your score higher? Scores ranged from 8.5 to 10; 3) How would you rate the administration and what would have made your score higher? Scores were 5 to 9.; and 4) How would you rate the trainer and materials and what would have made your score higher? Scores were 8 to 10.

Is the academy successful in encouraging attendees to take on a leadership role? Based on the first three academies, held in 2018, 2019, and 2022, and as of June, 2023, 75% of those attending have continued or stepped into a leadership role at one of the following levels, Chapter, Division, State Society, and even one at the National level. In follow-up surveys, six months after the academy, many participants have commented on how the training has also benefited their skills at their place of employment. A triple benefit for SAF, the attendee, and their employer.

## Science Update

Contributed by Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy



### **Embracing a Disturbance: research review**

The findings and conclusions in this publication are those of the author and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.

I told myself, “Don’t try to address deer browsing for a newsletter article, particularly one going to foresters in the mid-Atlantic states.” But then a few things personally and professionally combined to cause me to think about herbivory. Personally, it was a rough spring and summer for my flower beds. The local deer herd was large; groups of 3-4 deer were spotted in town using the streets and alleys. I took their need for forage personally and irrationally, as I know my house was built in their habitat.

Professionally, a recent publication from the Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station challenged me to view deer herbivory in a different context than my own back (and front, and side) yard. The paper, titled *Re-framing deer herbivory as a natural disturbance regime with ecological and socioeconomic outcomes in the eastern United States* (Hanberry and Faison 2023) describes the characteristics of herbivore disturbance regimes and highlights the potential benefits. The authors start by reminding us that herbivory is one of many disturbances that have influenced ecosystems for a long time and that plants have evolved with - including herbivory in the usual list of fire, flood, drought, and wind. In framing herbivory and its effects, the authors suggest we keep in mind that deer populations are difficult to measure and, maybe more importantly, the effect of herbivory on an ecosystem is not directly proportional to herbivore population levels.

Since the audience here is mainly foresters, I will focus my review and thoughts on the paper in terms of impacts to tree seedlings, though the authors also include herbs, animals, and non-native species. In their review of impacts to tree seedling density and diversity, Hanberry and Faison highlight the issue of scale they describe a chain of events where deer browsing reduces tree density at the small scale leading to canopy gaps in the longer term. They expand on this to note that increased light in those gaps benefits biodiversity overall. The authors state, however, that at current deer densities, herbivory is not enough to cause a closed-canopy forest to transition to an open-canopied state.

Hanberry and Faison outline other benefits of canopy gaps due to reduced tree seeding density from herbivory. We know that certain birds and bat species need open foraging space provided by reduced canopy density. Additionally, in some areas, herbivory serves to reduce shrub and understory fuel loading. In terms of forest products, the authors summarize evidence where herbivory served as silvicultural thinning decreasing competition for resources.

The authors cite a meta-analysis that found mixed evidence for ecological effects of deer browsing (Habeck and Schultz 2015). The analysis concluded that deer exclusion did not significantly affect the whole understory community but that the impact of excluding deer was strongly positive for the woody community. The authors of that cited work discuss reasons why

the effects of deer exclusion were mixed depending on which component is considered. One reason that stands out as a concern in our mid-Atlantic forests is that chronic deer overabundance has degraded the understories of the study sites. This chronic condition may have reached the point where reducing deer browsing with fencing for few years does not compensate for past browsing. This degradation is quantified in seed bank studies in suburban forests with high deer browsing over a long time (Beauchamp and others 2013). However, we do have evidence that a certain level of deer browsing does result in higher diversity overall (Royo and others 2010).

In the past, I've gone down "rabbit holes" about bison trails in the mountains of West Virginia and how their presence may have impacted the forests so far away from the prairies of the Midwest. Thinking that bison were the last in a series of large animals to follow trails by previous mega herbivores to springs and salt licks in the higher elevations is fascinating to me. So why do I not feel the same fascination with our remaining ungulate and their trails through the woods? I think my main resistance to framing deer browsing as a positive, particularly in the creation and stabilization of open canopied forests and woodlands, is that those forest structures are not appropriate, or desired, everywhere.

This brings me back to questions of scale and site factors. Hanberry and Faison bring this up in several places, stating that the effects of deer browsing on understory tree species composition is less common at landscape and regional scales. I can agree with this statement but also counter with the idea that as forest managers, we are very concerned about stand level effects and how those accrue on the landscape. With respect to scale, I see a parallel to fire as a disturbance regime – a "global herbivore" (Bond and Keely 2005). We can point to research showing the positive impacts of fire in some forests, but fire is not appropriate in all forests or places. Perhaps the same can be said for deer browsing. In describing herbivory as a disturbance regime, Hanberry and Faison characterize browsing effects on vegetation as sustained and suppressive rather than episodic like fire or wind, though I would argue that fire and wind regimes are also sustained when considered as disturbance regimes.

The authors conclude that the negative impacts of deer browsing, presumably even what we'd consider chronic browsing, are minor when considered in the palaeoecological and historical context. Indeed, a lot of problems are minimized when you stretch out the timeframe that far. This is the point where I feel the ecologist side of my brain in conflict with the forester side. As a forester, I know my bias is to see or expect some positive change in my lifetime and at a spatial scale that is manageable or operational, a bias toward doing *something*.

In their concluding remarks, the authors approach the idea of where in the northeastern US this disturbance is appropriate, stating, "Where there is a historical precedent for herbivory and the structural outcomes that emerge from it, browsing by deer and other ungulates is a fundamental ecological interaction ...." As I read and re-read the paper for this essay, I eventually noticed the authors also addressed the appropriate place for this disturbance under the tree diversity and density section. They note that many past ecosystems of the eastern US were open forests, with the qualifier that these open forests were mainly south of the northern forest zone.

The authors also conclude that whether browsing that decreases tree densities is seen as a forest health concern or an important disturbance depends on the lens used to view the current

ecosystems. Although the authors present their expert perspectives as a discussion paper to spur conversation, additional thought, and possibly guide research, I think they could have expanded on the “historical precedent” referenced in their conclusions. Perhaps those sorts of management guidelines were outside the scope of their discussion paper and could be the basis for a designed study on herbivory.

For more information on deer browsing impacts, check out the USDA Forest Service’s Rooted in Research round-up from August 2023 <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/RiR-Science-Roundup--Oh-My-Deer-.html?soid=1134554262846&aid=DuOS6VczfhI> or search Treearch - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treearch>.

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## **HELP WANTED**

### **Allegheny SAF Treasurer Needed!**

After many years of service to the Allegheny Society, Treasurer Steve Resh has decided to ‘retire’ from his position. So, Allegheny SAF is looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in serving ANSAF for this important position, please contact Cecile Stelter at 814-688-7133 or [cstelter@pa.gov](mailto:cstelter@pa.gov). Thank you for your consideration.



## In Memoriam

### David Marquis



David Alan Marquis, 89, of Warren PA passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at Kinzua Healthcare and Rehabilitation. Dave was born on Jan. 16, 1934, in Pittsburgh PA to the late William Calvin Marquis and Mary Jane (Moore) Marquis. He graduated from Connellsville High School in 1951. He enrolled at Penn State University, hitchhiking back home to Connellsville each Friday night to work a weekend shift at the Clairton Steel Works to help pay for his education. He earned a B.S. in Forestry from Penn State in 1955. Following graduation, Dave served in the US Army from 1955-1957, and was honorably discharged at the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Dave joined the USDA Forest Service as a forestry researcher in 1957. He continued his education, attaining both an M.S. in Forestry and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology and Silviculture from Yale University. Following career positions with the US Forest Service in eastern Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, Dave and his wife, the late Patricia Grace (West) Marquis moved to Warren in 1970 where he became project leader at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory for the Allegheny National Forest. Dave was a noted forestry researcher, publishing over a hundred scientific papers and frequently presenting at forestry conferences. He was instrumental in the early development of computer software programs for use in forestry.

Dave, with his wife Pat, was very involved in local theater, through both Warren Players and the Struthers Library Theater, holding many leadership positions. In March 2023, Dave was honored with the Struthers Library Theater "*Peacock Award*" in recognition of his work during the 1983 renovations. Additionally, Dave had an avid interest in trains, model railroading and photography. He was a lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He loved to travel and visited all seven continents. He was a member of the First Methodist Church of Warren.

In addition to his parents, Dave was preceded in death by his first wife Patricia (West) Marquis, his second wife, Gloria (Larson) Marquis, his daughter, Beth Ann Burkey, and three siblings. He is survived by his loving children: Barbara G. Zawacki (Jon Marti) of Warren and David R. (Linda) Marquis of Silverdale WA; nine grandchildren, Derek Zawacki (Laura Guncheon), Tyler (Emily) Zawacki, Jared Zawacki (Alyssa Gray), Nina Johnson (Nathan Cox), Katelyn (Brandon)

Yates, Michelle (Ray) Roberts, Donna (Chris) Palumbo, Troy Hammerbeck, and Lindsay Albaugh (Matt Consalvo); and 13 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at 11 am at the First Methodist Church, 200 Market St., Warren PA with the Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht, pastor, officiating. Family will receive friends prior to the service in the church parlors from 10 to 11 am.

Those wishing to place memorials may do so through Struthers Library Theater, 302 W. Third Ave, Warren PA, First Methodist Church, 200 Market St., Warren PA, or Hospice of Warren County, 1 Main Ave., Warren PA, [www.hospiceofwarrencounty.org](http://www.hospiceofwarrencounty.org). Email condolences may be sent by visiting [www.delewisfuneralhome.com](http://www.delewisfuneralhome.com). The Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home Inc. has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

## **R. Scott Miller**



R. Scott Miller, 71, affectionately known as “Frog,” passed away unexpectedly at his home, Friday, November 3, 2023. He was born, June 21, 1952, to Raymond and Ruth (McJunkin) Miller.

Scott was an avid outdoorsman, a veteran, and a Licensed Forester. He graduated from Jamestown High School in June of 1970, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was a Vietnam Era Veteran who served as a MP, earning several medals and awards before his Honorable Discharge. He considered it an honor and a privilege to have served his country. He then attended JCC and graduated in June of 1977. He went on to attend the University of Maine, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. He was a member of ACF and SAF. For many years he worked along-side of his father and his brother, David, where they created Allegheny Forestry Inc. After his father's retirement, he continued his father's legacy with his brother until he retired at the end of 2022.

Scott loved football, especially his Buffalo Bills, and would go out of his way to try not to miss a game. He also loved his Mountain Dew, and you would never see him without a bottle of it in his

hands. He was a big Civil War buff who loved taking trips to Gettysburg and walking the battlefields. One of his passions was collecting Civil War memorabilia. Scott was also very passionate about hunting. He loved to travel to different places just to hunt and holds many records in the Record Book of Exotic Animals. In 1995, he married the love of his life, Helen, and he became Dad to both of Helen's girls. The two of them continued to travel and hunt as they raised their blended family and built a wonderful life together until Helen's passing in July of 2023.

Scott's sudden passing leaves a huge void in the hearts of all who knew him and loved him that can never be filled. He was a man of few words but a rebel at heart, so when he spoke about something, it was something he cared deeply about. His quiet strength and gentle nature will be missed more than words can express.

Scott is survived by his two daughters – Maria Linkerhof and Vanessa Sweeney (Patrick), two granddaughters – Jordyn Armstrong and Kaitlyn Zuzzio; two grandsons – Ethan and Aidan Sweeney; three great grandchildren – Jaryan, Juliana, and Jaelyn; two brothers – David Miller (Cheryl), and Walter Miller (Ginger); three sisters – Sue Unen (Bo), Nancy Hansen (Robert), and Kathy Miller; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Helen (Thorpe) Miller, and brother-in-law, Phil Calavitta.

A Celebration of Scott's life will be held in the spring of 2024 with a day and time to be announced. Those wishing to submit e-mail condolences may do so by visiting [www.delewisfuneralhome.com](http://www.delewisfuneralhome.com). The Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home, Inc., 304 East Street, Warren, PA, has been entrusted with Scott's last wishes.

# Allegheny Society of American Foresters

## Officers

**Chair**  
Cecile Stelter, CF  
(o) 814-723-0262  
[c.stelter@pa.gov](mailto:c.stelter@pa.gov)

**Chair-Elect**  
Bud Reaves  
(o) 410-746-7402  
[budreaves@gmail.com](mailto:budreaves@gmail.com)

**Secretary**  
Sara Fitzsimmons  
(c)814-404-6013  
[sff3@psu.edu](mailto:sff3@psu.edu)

**Treasurer**  
Steven F. Resh  
(h) 301-722-2834  
[sresh1952@gmail.com](mailto:sresh1952@gmail.com)

**Past Chair**  
Mike Huneke, CF  
(c) 410-322-5519  
[mike.huneke@usda.gov](mailto:mike.huneke@usda.gov)

## Executive Committee

Bryan Seipp  
(o) 301-509-5617  
[btseipp@hotmail.com](mailto:btseipp@hotmail.com)

Brad Elison  
570-739-4670  
[bcelison@hotmail.com](mailto:bcelison@hotmail.com)

## Executive Director

Susan E. Lacy, CF  
(o) 610-273-0118  
[ansaf@comcast.net](mailto:ansaf@comcast.net)

## Board of Directors Representative

Aaron Cook  
(o) 717-860-7404  
[amc339@gmail.com](mailto:amc339@gmail.com)

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## Division Chairs

**Maryland/Delaware**  
Dave Wigglesworth  
(o) 240-429-8256  
[dave.wigglesworth@gmail.com](mailto:dave.wigglesworth@gmail.com)

**New Jersey**  
Joseph Dunn  
(o) 973-285-8339  
[dunnjose@gmail.com](mailto:dunnjose@gmail.com)

**Pennsylvania**  
Joe Glover  
(c)814-229-0496  
[jglover@threeriversforest.com](mailto:jglover@threeriversforest.com)

**West Virginia**  
Rexana McCourt  
[rexana.mccourt@pardee.com](mailto:rexana.mccourt@pardee.com)

## Chapter Chairs

**Keystone**

**Northern Hardwood**  
Bryan Rose  
814-590-2793  
[bryan.rose@domtar.com](mailto:bryan.rose@domtar.com)

**Pinchot**  
Richard Schwab

**Plateau**  
Robert Laverick  
[rdlaverick1@zoominternet.net](mailto:rdlaverick1@zoominternet.net)

**Rothrock**  
Paul Lupo  
(o) 814-270-6903  
[plupo@pa.gov](mailto:plupo@pa.gov)

**Valley Forge**  
Owen Martin  
484-752-5791  
[omartin30@hotmail.com](mailto:omartin30@hotmail.com)

**Western Gateway**  
David O'Barto, CF  
(o) 724-537-3797  
[obarto@comcast.net](mailto:obarto@comcast.net)

## Coming Events

### February, 2024

**21-23** Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting  
Red Fern Conference Center  
St. Mary's, PA

### September, 2024

**25-27** Allegheny SAF Summer Meeting  
Cacapon State Park  
West Virginia

### February, 2025

Allegheny SAF Winter Meeting  
Rothrock Chapter  
Central Pennsylvania

### Future SAF National Conventions

**2024: Loveland, Colorado**

**2025: Connecticut**

## Allegheny SAF Committee Chairs

<b>Auditing</b>	Vacant
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Calvin Norman</b> <a href="mailto:Cmn5525@psu.edu">Cmn5525@psu.edu</a>
<b>Communications</b>	Vacant
<b>Education</b>	Vacant
<b>Ed. Endowment Forest History</b>	Vacant
<b>Forest Science</b>	Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy 304-478-2000 x5552114 <a href="mailto:melissa.thomasvangundy@usda.gov">melissa.thomasvangundy@usda.gov</a>
<b>Hall of Fame</b>	Champ Zumbrun <a href="mailto:champzumbrun@gmail.com">champzumbrun@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Bud Reaves, CF 410-746-7402 <a href="mailto:budreaves@gmail.com">budreaves@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nominations</b>	Mike Huneke, CF 410-322-5519 <a href="mailto:mike.huneke@usda.gov">mike.huneke@usda.gov</a>
<b>Policy/Legislation</b>	Tim Kaden 302-697-7066 <a href="mailto:greatnowandthen@yahoo.com">greatnowandthen@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Program</b>	Dave Trimpey 814-598-4640 <a href="mailto:dtrimpey@hotmail.com">dtrimpey@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Student Quiz Bowl</b>	Marie Miller 301-784-5256 <a href="mailto:mperrin@allegany.edu">mperrin@allegany.edu</a>