

The Allegheny News



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

The Allegheny News
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Cover Photo

Photo – Attendees and presenters for the 2018 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic SAF Leadership Academy pose in front of Grey Towers National Historic Site. (photo by Steve Kallessen)

Advertising in the Allegheny News

Rates:	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>All Four Issues</u>
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

Dennis Galway



This is an amazing time to be a member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The now and future SAF themes of SAF being a community and diversity has never been more apparent, stronger and supported. The infusion of millennials, woman, different races and ethnicities has been a seemingly effortless meld with the old guard helping to ensure the stewardship of the world's forests is safe for another generation. Our commitment to diversity, engagement and our mission is further validated by our new leadership CEO Terry Baker and candidates for SAF VP Tamara Cushing and Julie Lydick.

We are a strong community that values all our members from students to golden members. We value those that brought us to this point 118 years from our inception and those that will sustain our future and credibility as the professional organization that seeks to advance the science, education, and practice of forestry with the help of our traditional partners and non-traditional partners.

On another note we (ANSAF leadership) have notified national of our desire to host the national convention in 2023 or 2024. We are in the very initial stages and to move on we will need volunteers. We are considering Philadelphia and Baltimore as possible host cities. Both have close access to our 5 states with the possibility of having tours to each member state. Transportation, especially airports, is very good with schedules to either city from anywhere in the country very accommodating and financially reasonable. Both cities have great history! We the executive committee are interested in hearing from you regarding the choice of cities, theme, topics, and speakers. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or sub-committees for the convention let me know.

Wishing you all and your family and loved ones a safe and great holiday season and happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

Board of Directors Report

District 7 Representative – David Gwaze



New CEO

Terry Baker was appointed as the new CEO with effect from September 17, 2018.

2018 SAF Convention

The convention was a huge success. About 1,857 registered for convention, and there was an increase in student participation. Convention sponsorship exceeded expectations.

A rough analysis of presentation revealed:

- 4 plenary presentations
- 124 posters
- 249 technical session presentations
- 14 workshops or seminars
- 67 science flashes

House of Society Delegates

HSD met at the SAF convention. The Forest Technician Member Education Pathway was discussed. SAF has no current pathway to recognize the educational or professional accomplishments of Forest Technicians. This is problematic for agencies that hire forestry field staff, and for SAF since graduates of these programs are not likely to enter into, or maintain, their tie with the professional society. A Certified Forest Technician Program would cost \$40,000 to set up without staff time. HSD requested that the Board ask staff to investigate and report on the feasibility of a certificate pathway for Forest Technician member recognition.

Also discussed was the State Society Business Operations. There continues to be confusion regarding State Society responsibilities regarding IRS tax reporting. The State Treasurer's survey showed significant financial reporting inconsistencies. HSD requested that the Board ask the Governance Committee and staff to develop guidance and educational materials needed by local unit leaders for them to perform their IRS reporting, state registration requirements, and board member liability insurance needs. Jeanne Kavinski of National Capital SAF was elected HSD Chair-Elect for 2019. Ryan Armbrust will assume HSD Chair in 2019.

Leadership Advisory Group

As you are aware, a national Leadership Advisory Group was formed to begin efforts to tackle leadership issues, in particular leadership recruitment, development, training and support, particularly at the local level. The group has made significant progress, including early implementation of several concepts such as the Advanced Foresters' Fund Concept. The Group is working to develop criteria around the concept of increasing Foresters' Fund grant money to State Societies or regions for the production of leadership conferences or academies in order to (1) encourage the production of a session where there is currently (or has been previously) an absence or lack of training, and (2) to support the production of sessions with top-quality topics and speakers, that might otherwise not be possible.

At this point it is clear that the work of the group necessarily needs to continue, and it is also now clear that an ongoing or standing group effort is needed and desirable for 2019 and beyond. To that end, the Board is looking at officially chartering the group as a standing advisory group to the Board and SAF senior staff.

Board progress

The following is a summary of progress made by the SAF Board this year:

1. Establish Financial Security for SAF
 - a. Agreed on a balanced budget
 - b. Working toward a balanced operating budget
 - c. Decided to sell the HQ building and rent office space
 - d. Decided to move ahead with charging for CFE's for non-members and non-SAF entities
 - e. Looking at alternate revenue sources, donations, and working on Revenue Development Plan
 - f. Changed auditors and lowered auditing expenses for next year
2. Increase Tangible Values to Members
 - a. Established Leadership Advisory Group
 - b. Approved \$140,000 from Foresters Fund for leadership through 2021
 - c. Began to untangle state society issues and look at ways to strengthen local units
 - d. Working to make members more aware of their current benefits
 - e. Looking at increasing/improving employer support

3. Grow Membership in 3 Dimensions – Numbers, Diversity, & Generational
 - a. Agreed to establish a team to look at increasing student recruitment/retention
 - b. Mobilized Forester Inventory team to identify the potential pool
 - c. Re-establishing Young Professionals Group
 - d. Agreed to have membership renewal feature “opt out” rather than “opt in” for local dues
 - e. Looking into monthly dues charges for those who want that
4. Elevate the Professional Status of Forestry
 - a) Agreed to establish a team to look at integrating CF into forestry school programs
 - b) Studying other professions to see what works for them and how forestry measures up
 - c) Identified Certified Forester as the next program to audit
 - d) Negotiated new contract for the professional development platform
 - e) Beginning to look at our Code of Ethics to see if it is strong enough
 - f) Raised significant funds for the Gottschalk Science Fund
 - g) Worked or working on 8 policy statement renewals
 - h) Signed MOU with Society of Range Management
 - i) Recruited new Journal of Forestry editor
5. Hired a new CEO.

The SAF Board has made considerable progress this year, and it is aware that more needs to be done.

Allegheny SAF Summer Training Summary

By Bryan Rose

Nestled in the northern reaches of the Pennsylvania Wilds (McKean County) Bradford, PA has its own beauty and individualism to offer to those who visit. On August 8-10, 2018 the Northern Hardwood Chapter hosted the Allegheny Society of American Foresters Summer Training at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB), the weather was favorable and the company was exceptional. Our theme was “Restoration Forestry of Disturbed Forests on the Allegheny Plateau”, which seemed suitable given the current condition and challenges we face on not only on the Allegheny Plateau but all across the Northeastern United States. There was also a very informative and interactive field tour conducted on the City of Bradford Watershed where we talked about and witnessed some of the different management activities that are being conducted to combat against forest disturbance and regeneration issues.

Upon arrival on August 8th attendees had the options of participating in a guided mountain bike tour of the Jake’s Rocks Trail on the Allegheny National Forest conducted by Tom Kase (Collins Pine) and Kenny Kane (Generations Forestry) or a guided tour of the Kinzua Viaduct conducted by Nancy McCloskey (Three Rivers Forestry). In conjunction with the optional activities the Allegheny SAF Executive Committee held a meeting from 2pm-6pm at UPB. After completion of the optional arrival day activities and executive committee meeting folks made their way to the icebreaker event at 7pm.

Thursday the 9th was kicked off with a morning breakfast and led into the day’s agenda by opening remarks from NHW Chapter Chair Matt Gayley (Collins Pine) and a welcoming address from Cliff Lane, McKean County Commissioner. The first presenters were Andrea Hille and Susan Stout from the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station. Andrea and Susan talked about various factors effecting the forest stand structure and health of the Allegheny National Forest. The foundation they laid out for the issues we face built a nice platform for Chief Forester of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dave

Gustafson to talk on some other forest health issues we face such as the very popular and well known topic of the deer herds impact on our forests.

From here Ned Karger (Retired-Collins Pine) gave a very insightful and interesting talk on thirty years of disturbance and remediation on the Collins Pine Forest in Pennsylvania. This gave way to Ken Kane (Generations Forestry) and Steve Disney (Bradford City Water Authority) to talk about the management challenges and progression of the Bradford Watershed.



Lunch was served and as we got our bellies full and boots tied we loaded up for our Bradford City Watershed Tour. John Saf and Ken Kane gave an excellent field tour and demonstration of the different management activities they are conducting on the watershed to promote sustainable forestry and clean water for the City of Bradford. A great part of the tour was the interaction our presenters offered as we trekked off into the forest in order to see firsthand what was happening on site. John

and Ken talked about many different strategies from whole tree chipping in disturbed sites, deer fencing, and herbicide/no-herbicide objectives on the Bradford Watershed. It was very interesting to hear of the progression of their management and how they learned from mistakes *and success* to offer a better expectation for the City of Bradford, it was the hi-light of the meeting I believe.



Upon arrival back to UPB we enjoyed a delicious chicken BBQ and fellowship where Straub Brewery had a representative attend to talk on the prestigious title of being named a legacy brewery in the United States and how the Straub family themselves practice sustainable forestry on their property in Elk County, PA through the use of a consulting forester.

Friday August 10th started with a Chair's Breakfast followed by the founder and Executive Director of the PA Wilds Center, Tataboline Enos. Ta, a PA native gave a very informative talk on the PA Wilds and how it has grown through word of mouth and social media. It became very evident that our beautiful part of the world has a lot to offer to not only natural resource professional such as those in SAF but to anyone who has a love for the outdoors.

Division meetings took place from 8:05am-8:20am.

Allegheny SAF business meeting took place from 8:20am-8:55am

The last two speakers of the summer training tied together some of the options we have available to us to aid in management of disturbed forests. Peter Hoagland from the USDA-NRCS spoke on assistance opportunities available through cost share dollars from government programs that landowners can implement towards conservation and sustainable management. Bryan Rose from Arborchem Products was the last presenter before the panel discussion. Bryan spoke on the use of herbicides in a disturbed forest setting and some of the different application options we have in the tool box to control invasive/undesirable vegetation.

The panel discussion that took place highlighted the Kane Area High School and how they implement USDA Forest Service Stewardship Contracts to supply fiber for the Kane High School biomass system. This turned out to be a very interesting and emotional discussion since a lot of what was touched upon related to the new “cohort” of foresters we have showing interest in the profession, especially in an area where some may be starting to believe that foresters are a dying breed.

Kimberley Bohn did an excellent job throughout the training as a coordinator and kept the flow of presentations moving and everyone on time, along with Sarah Wurzbacher who worked with Kim and was a technical liaison for presentation equipment. In closing, Matt Gayley-Northern Hardwood Chapter Chair gave a speech that wrapped up our few days together in Bradford, PA to collaborate as professionals and learn from each other’s opinions and beliefs. From the Northern Hardwood Chapter, we greatly appreciate everyone who attended and helped make our 2018 Summer Training a success!

Fellows Selected in Allegheny SAF

Steve Goodman, CF



Steve Goodman, CF has recently been selected as a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. He received a BS in Forest Resources from SUNY ES&F in 1975 and an MS in Forest Management from Penn State in 1978. After school he went to work for Weyerhaeuser Company in Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi, serving as a technical forester (making harvest plans and layouts, inventory tracking and landowner assistance), as a log scaling, log yarding and accountability supervisor and as a research and development intern establishing and evaluating field studies related to forest fertilization and brush control.

In 1985, he continued his career as a Forester with the Internal Revenue Service in New York City, retiring in June 2017. While employed with the Service, his forestry work dealt with assisting Revenue Agents and IRS Counsel with the examination of timber aspects of all types of tax returns from individuals to the largest corporations. He also assisted estate tax attorneys with the timber aspects of estate tax returns. The tax issues he worked on included timber valuation, basis determinations, depletion, casualty losses, conservation easements, determinations of capital and ordinary income and others. He also assisted with formal IRS studies including the reporting

of income from timber sales. His favorite part of the job was giving numerous presentations to foresters, landowners, accountants, and attorneys explaining the basics of Federal timber tax. Although he worked out of New York, Steve dealt with timber tax issues throughout the country. Because of his many contacts made over the years, Steve continues to informally assist others with their understanding of Federal timber tax issues and the IRS examination process.

Steve has been an SAF member since 1975. Recently, he has held positions within NJ SAF and chair of the bylaws review committee, including serving on the program committee. From 2009 to 2014, he served National SAF on the Certification Review Board, 2 years as co-chair. Steve has recently joined the SAF Philosophy and History Working Group and has been involved with the distribution, collection and summarization of ethics surveys. Steve has elected to also belong to NYSAF for many years and participate in activities with them.

In addition to SAF, Steve is a member of the New York Forest Owners Association and the USDA Forest Service Timber Tax Network. Steve currently volunteers as a member of his town's Environmental Commission giving input on things such as Emerald Ash Borer, community education, and the nature of natural ecosystems including control of deer populations. Steve also volunteers informally at a local nature center as an advisor including assistance with the identification of ash trees for further monitoring and with the field layout of deer exclosures to decrease browsing. Steve also uses these volunteer activities as continuing learning experiences to increase his own knowledge base.

Steve has been married for 46 years and has two sons and three grandsons. He and his wife live in the town where they were raised. Steve acquired his interest in forestry early in life due to his membership in the Boy Scouts and exploring a large woodlot behind his family home. Steve's other interests including reading fiction and nonfiction, bass fishing and cooking. For many years, he has assisted the coach of his local high school girls varsity basketball team.

In 2006, Steve received a NY Federal Executive Board Distinguished Government Service Award for volunteering in the South with FEMA to assist survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Steve volunteered for this effort because he was so moved by the response of the American people after the September 11th attacks and the many people from across the country he met while volunteering to prepare meals for the September 11th first responders.

Kip Powers



Kip Powers, currently the eastern Regional Forester for Maryland DNR Forest Service, was selected as an SAF Fellow. He holds an AS in Forest Management from Paul Smith's College and a BS in Forest Management from the University of Massachusetts. He is licensed professional forester and a commissioned forest warden in Maryland as well as a certified tree inspector and certified pesticide applicator.

In 1978, Kip started his career as technician with the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Forest Experiment Station on collecting forest inventory data in the states of New York, Ohio and Maine.

He moved on to the Maryland Forest Service as a forester in Charles County in 1980 where he instituted a program of connecting landowners to pulpwood buyers to establish a market for small acreages of Virginia

Pine. During this same time period with the assistance of my local Forestry Board (this is a Citizen Advisory Committee made up of local people that have a connection to forestry, the County Forester chairs each County Forestry Board) Kip started a Forestry education program at the annual Charles County fair to reach out to local forest landowners. As county forester, Kip worked with landowners to encourage their involvement in the American Tree Farm Program, was successful in certifying a large number of tree farms and he was awarded the Bronze Tree Farmer Hat in 1985.

In 1993, Kip was recognized for the establishment of our local Forestry Awareness Week on the lower eastern shore of Maryland, a program which ran for several years that was held outdoors on our State Forest. This program instructed thousands of 6th graders on the importance of Forest Stewardship, protection of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and on the protection and management of wildlife species.

He was appointed to a group of resource professionals in 2000 which helped establish the long-term management of Chesapeake Forest Lands. This 58,000 acre State Forest was part of the former industrial forestlands of the Chesapeake Forest Products Company and acquired by the Hancock Group. Hancock in turn sold half of these forest lands to the State of Maryland and half to the Conservation Fund who later gifted their portion to Maryland in 2003. He worked with a team to develop the new Sustainable Forest Management plan and to make the Chesapeake Forest one of the first dual certified (FSC & SFI) State Forest in the Nation. A unique private\state partnership was developed to assist in managing these forestlands. This partnership employs a private forest consultant firm to enable forest products to continue to flow from these woodlands. One of the primary goals of this State Forest, which has grown to almost 90,000 acres today, is to maintain a steady supply of forest products to support local economies.

In 2014, Kip responded to a request from an editor for a new text book being developed titled *FOREST PLANS OF NORTH AMERICA*, to write a chapter on the process that led to the development of the management plan for Chesapeake Forest Lands. He was the lead author for writing this chapter. The book was published in May of 2015, listed as chapter 17 in this book.

Kip served on the Allegheny SAF Executive Committee from 2014 to 2018. He was awarded the 2008 Robert Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry Award. Throughout his many years as an SAF member, Kip has served in several positions in the MD/DE SAF Division including Division Chair and Membership Chair, along with participating in numerous committees.

Away from work, Kip has actively participated in the Wicomico Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. He has chaired the Construction Committee and in 1992 he received the Volunteer of the Year Award for that chapter. For the past 20 years, he has served on the Property and Grounds Committee at his local church and now chairs that committee.

Christina Harrigan Honored as Presidential Field Forester

Christina Harrigan, CF, is vice-president and co-owner of Gracie & Harrigan Consulting Foresters, Inc. She earned a bachelor's degree in natural resources management at Cook College, Rutgers University in 1989 and joined SAF in 1990.

Since beginning her career at the company that now bears her name, Harrigan has practiced on-the-ground forestry in a manner worthy of this award. Her talents for prescribing and following appropriate silvicultural treatments are evident through the large number of clients who continue to work with her, as well as the health, diversity and beauty of their forests. She works on the inventory of forest properties

and on the preparation of maps and management plans for these properties. Her inventories for client properties are detailed, thorough, and appropriate to the scale of the work asked for by the client. Her ability to understand and work with complicated family ownerships is excellent, as is her ability to manage relationships with clients.

In addition to her work with small nonindustrial private forest landowners, Harrigan has participated in continuous forest inventory work on state-owned lands, including Stokes State Forest, High Point State Forest and adjacent wildlife management areas, Trout Brook Wildlife Management Area, and Weldon Brook Wildlife Management Area. Together these areas total more than 33,000 acres.

Harrigan's counsel is often sought, particularly by other consulting foresters in New Jersey, on matters relating to field forestry and other aspects of consulting forestry.

Harriagn is a two-time recipient of the SAF Certificate of Continuing Forestry Education Accomplishment. She has also received the American Tree Farm System's Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards. Harrigan has served as SAF New Jersey Division vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, and treasurer, and as a member of the division's Policy and Membership Committees.

Rachel Reyna Receives National Diversity Leadership Award

The Diversity Leadership Award recognizes outstanding individual achievement leading to innovative and exemplary diversity and inclusion efforts.



Rachel R. Reyna, CF is the forest program manager for the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry's rural and community forestry section. Much of her effort as a leader within SAF has been devoted to promoting diversity and inclusion within the Society and the profession. In 2016, as a member of the Board of Directors, the Board embarked on a process to develop a first-ever national policy on diversity and inclusion. From the beginning, Reyna took on a leadership role in this effort. She helped develop policy goals and wrote drafts of policy statements.

Reyna was involved in the creation of the new national Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, which focuses on professional diversity and inclusion dialogue, planning, teaching, training and discussion by a wide variety of SAF members from across the country. Her involvement has been instrumental in getting the new group up and running. Reyna has also been involved with the National Diversity Ambassadors Program since 2015, when she became the program coordinator. The program has supported the growth and development of a diverse group of participants over the years, many of whom have become leaders in SAF. The program includes the management of the Student Diversity Scholarship Program for attendance at the SAF National Conventions. Reyna coordinates evaluations of student applications and selecting scholarship recipients and helps organize program events at national conventions, including the two-hour leadership skills and networking workshop.

Since 2015, Reyna has organized and moderated a Diversity Reception at each SAF National Convention, in addition, at the 2015, 2016 and 2017 conventions, she planned, presented and/or moderated numerous sessions.

National Technology Transfer Award for Susan Stout

The National Technology Transfer Award recognizes outstanding performance in the areas of technology transfer, implementation and extension.

Susan L. Stout, research forester emeritus, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, has provided outstanding leadership in fostering technology transfer through a variety of activities. First, she helped develop and implement the Allegheny Hardwood Silviculture training sessions that promoted the computer-based forest management expert system, known as SILVAH (Silviculture for Allegheny Hardwoods). She developed and promoted the concept of a “community of practice” whereby there is a common vocabulary among researchers and practitioners and a regular mechanism for exchanging information about management needs and research progress. This emphasizes a cycle of activities that Susan promoted involving research, education and application. This cycle provides regular feedback and suggestions from practitioners to enhance science-based silvicultural practices that meet the needs of practitioners.

Stout was a founding committee member of the Ben Roach Forestry Forum (now the Roach-Bauer Forestry Forum), a seminar series that brings speakers with diverse perspectives before the forestry community on the Allegheny Plateau. After 30+ years, these forums still regularly bring more than 100 people together twice a year for dinner and a technical presentation. More recently, Susan is expending her technology transfer efforts through the Allegheny National Forest Health Collaborative, a public-private partnership to share information and develop management recommendations to respond to forest health issues across ownerships on a landscape scale.

Stout has taught more than 2,500 individuals from 30 states and four countries the concepts, principles and methods of Allegheny and oak hardwood silviculture. In 2017, the 50th anniversary of SILVAH training sessions for practicing foresters and silviculturists in the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and northern Appalachian regions of the US was the impetus for an SAF training session. As part of the 50th anniversary, Stout organized and SAF training session to summarize and present the latest research findings to forest practitioners. More than 130 forestry professionals from Pennsylvania and surrounding states attended this meeting in September 2017.

The Pricing Effect of Lumber

Costs hit a record, but that increase has been years in the making.

By Caitlin McCabe – originally published in The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 21, 2018

With so many things that homeowners need to focus on when buying these days – price, location, taxes, and more – it’s likely that most have never given much thought to the wood holding their house together.

It’s probably time they start.

The conversation surrounding lumber – meaning wood that has been cut into different pieces - transitioned from an inside-baseball kind of topic to one far more mainstream this year as the price of lumber surged to its highest price on record, prompting outcry everywhere from construction sites to Washington. But there’s also a reason why homeowners should care: Higher lumber prices mean higher home prices, some argue.

Today, the price of lumber has fallen far from its height of \$638 (for 1,000 board feet) in May, hovering, instead, Wednesday morning around \$340. But the price of lumber remains volatile. The market shows,

and recent events – wildfires, hurricanes, and a new trade deal under President Trump – suggest that it could drastically change again. Here, we break down what it all means for the US housing market – and you.

What is lumber, anyway, and how do we use it?

While they might sound interchangeable, timber and lumber are different. On top of that, two types of lumber exist. If it seems complicated, don't worry. We're keeping things simple.

In the United States, timber refers to a tree that has been cut down to be sold. (Hence, the old lore that a logger might shout "Timber!" as a tree falls.) In contrast, lumber – the focus here- is wood that has been sawed into finished products, such as beams and planks. For construction, builders rely heavily on softwood lumber, meaning wood that comes from evergreen trees, such as spruce and pine, because they tend to grow faster and, comparatively, are less expensive. Mostly, softwood lumber is used to construct "framing" – or the skeleton - of a house. To construct a 2,426-square-foot house, the US median for size last year, a builder needs about 15,000 board feet, which takes about 300 trees. In contrast, oaks and maples produce hardwood lumber, which is typically used for high-end furniture or flooring, among other products.

Why are people suddenly talking about lumber?

Controversy surrounding softwood lumber has been brewing for decades, but it wasn't until 2017 that things really started heating up (again).

A quick backstory: Canada is one of the largest producers of lumber in the world and supplies more than one-third of the lumber the United States needs. But that relationship has been complicated since the 1980s, when the US accused Canada of subsidizing its lumber industry. Because most forests in Canada are owned by provincial governments – meaning the law, not the free market, dictates the price that loggers pay landowners to harvest their trees – the US alleged then (and now) that the US logging industry is at a disadvantage largely because the prices that Canadian governments set are typically lower than rates in the US, where competition to harvest privately owner forests is strong. The US lumber industry says that makes the final price of Canadian lumber artificially low – giving Canada a competitive edge.

So, in 1982, a group now known as the US Lumber Coalition argued that a tariff should be applied to Canadian lumber imports to make American products competitive again. And thus began a decades long dispute. Most recently, the dispute flared in April 2017, when the Trump administration decided to impose a 20 percent tariff on Canadian softwood lumber. About one year later, the price of lumber hits record highs.

So, Trump should be blamed?

Depends on who you ask. For the last year, much has been written about "Trump's lumber tariffs." And the president has been known to send an early morning tweet or two on the subject.

Yet Brendan Lowney, a principal of Forest Economic Advisors, a forest industry analysis company, said the tariffs likely would have happened no matter who was elected. "This is really a bipartisan dispute," Lowney said. "You have Republicans in the South and Democrats in the Northwest who agree, the US has always had a very similar stance, whether or not Trump was elected."

Plus, Lowney argues, there have been other reasons why prices have jumped. First, he notes, Canadian trees have been diminished by recent pine and spruce beetle infestations in British Columbia. Wildfires in Canada, Oregon, and Washington have also reduced supply and kept loggers out of the forests. Canada's abnormally cold winter last winter was detrimental to its rail lines, preventing lumber from being transported as frequently or as quickly. And all the while, US lumber production has not been able to meet the demand that the current housing recovery requires.

Is this making housing more expensive?

Definitely – though to what extent depends, again, on whom you ask.

Earlier this year, The National Association of Home Builders, a trade association, released an analysis that said the lumber tariffs have added \$9,000 to the price of a new single-family home since January 2017. "A builder can only absorb so many cost increases and still make a profit before they have to change the business model or build smaller homes," said David Logan, NAHB's director of tax and trade policy analysis. "And the population of people who can afford a home can decline." Lowney, however, has argued that the NAHB's analysis is exaggerated. Instead, he says, it's more likely that rising lumber costs add less than \$4,000.

Either way, in the Philadelphia region, builders say things are more complicated. Though they say rising lumber costs have made materials more expensive, that does not necessarily mean it can all be passed on to the customer. (And it certainly can't be when sales contracts are locked in before a house is finished). "In our market, we don't really have the ability to move prices, so it really has an effect on our margins more than anything else," said Bruce Paparone, a home builder in South Jersey, a market that has been slower to recover than Philadelphia. "We don't really have the ability to raise prices the same way [builders can] in other parts of the country.

Isaac Ohayon, founder of Masada Custom Builders in Philadelphia, says that's true even in the city's robust housing market, in which he's currently planning a five-story 40-unit apartment complex in Northern Liberties. The cost of lumber alone today will cost him about \$50,000 more than it would have two years ago, when he first purchased the property, he said. "Philadelphia has a cap – a wall that we cannot break in terms of pricing and selling," Ohayon said. "It's not like New York. It's not like I can finish the building and say, 'You know what? I'm going to charge you \$3 a square foot. In New York, I could get \$5 per square foot. But in Philadelphia, you hit a wall.'"

As for whether that will make its profitability difficult, Ohayon said: "I don't have room for a mistake anymore. If I'm going to have more increases [in cost], it's really going to hurt the project."

What's next?

Many are still figuring that out. The spate of natural disasters the US has recently experienced – Hurricane Michael, for example, or the spread of wildfires – could put upward pressure on lumber prices when cities begin to recover, some have argued. But even if it does, others say, a noticeable price change would take months or years, as rebuilding will not begin for a while.

In addition, there is hope that Canada and the US could re-open negotiations surrounding lumber now that a new trade deal has been struck between the countries and Mexico. While the new agreement, called the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement or USMCA, still has a long way to go – it is still subject to ratification, before it can replace NAFTA, and it doesn't directly address lumber – many are hoping Canada and the US can work something out. It wouldn't be the first time: Under George W. Bush, the US

managed to sign and keep a nine-year agreement that essentially halted the fighting. But if they can't work it out, it's difficult to know where the fight could go.

To view the article in its original published format, see the link below:

http://www2.philly.com/philly/business/real_estate/residential/lumber-tariff-trump-canada-softwood-forest-housing-price-affordability-costs-20181017.html

Inaugural Northeast/Mid-Atlantic SAF Leadership Academy Succeeds Despite Snowstorm

By Steve Kalleser and Ken Laustsen



From November 14th through the 16th, Allegheny SAF, New York SAF, and New England SAF held their first joint leadership academy at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, PA. These three societies aimed to both challenge the attendees' knowledge and skills, but also to educate the ways that other state societies handle such training. The joint organizing committee considers the academy a success in spite of a very rare pre-Thanksgiving snowstorm that dumped 8-10 inches in the area and snarled travel throughout the region.

Getting the three state societies to agree to put together the Leadership Academy was extremely

easy, says Steve Kalleser, who is the chair of the Program Committee for Allegheny SAF and the event's chair. "We found that the leadership of the three societies were extremely concerned that forestry professionals are increasingly viewed as technicians and are being marginalized in our region. And, frankly, that doesn't make much sense. We have terrific training across a breadth of natural resources issues, training in decision-making theory, and by all accounts we are master planners. Why is that not translating? Many of us believe it is a lack of leadership."

So, about 18 months ago, after gaining commitment from the three state societies, Kalleser and his team began a comprehensive review of how to approach the problem. That team includes Kenneth Jolly and Susan Lacy (both of Allegheny SAF), Ken Laustsen (New England SAF), and Tom Martin (New York SAF). Like most foresters, they started by drawing up a list of goals and objectives. "We wanted to make this as useful as possible for our members: personally, for their local SAF units, and also to their employers," Kalleser said. "We wanted to make sure that they fully understood the skills needed to lead, that they had a safe place [SAF] in which to practice their leadership skills, and that they were properly trained to put that knowledge to use through collaborative methods."

These goals were met by spreading subject matter over three days of training. The first day was led by Tom Davidson of Leadership Nature. It focused on personality types (both to understand yourself and how you may be perceived as well as how to work with others who have different personality types), effective listening and communication (including effective use of questions), and the role of a leader.



The second day was led by the planning team and staff from the national SAF office. It focused on the organization and the roles of the various facets of the volunteer structure of SAF. Particular emphasis was placed on opportunities to apply leadership and what the planning team and SAF staff consider to be best practices for different responsibilities of local SAF units. “We can talk a lot about leadership and leading, but in the end you learn by experiencing and you learn by practicing,” Kallesser explained.

“Do you want your first leadership challenge to be during a major initiative for your department or during the

annual membership drive for your local SAF chapter?”

The third day was led by Dr. Allyson Muth of Pennsylvania State University. It focused on collaborative learning and decision-making processes and how to facilitate discussions with professionals from other fields, as well as stakeholders. Practical exercises were used throughout all three days, but the facilitated discussion held during this last day challenged attendees’ skills learned throughout the entire academy, and also received the most positive feedback from participants.

Prior to the academy, the planning team’s due diligence included contacting other SAF units that had conducted leadership academies to learn about their approaches and results. The team learned a great deal, but was generally unsatisfied with what they perceived as the results. This led them to dramatically limit the number of attendees. Only 25 attendees were selected from the 12-state area, and only after first gaining the nomination of their state society or their division, as a potential leader. The team felt strongly that small group sizes and close attention were critical to the subject matter.

Equally important was their realization that none of them felt like subject matter experts in leadership skills. “My friends in the NJ Division [of the Allegheny SAF] say that I like to lead,” Kallesser said, “Specifically, that I like to lead with my chin. I knew that I was not the one to teach most of this material. That is where Tom Davidson of Leadership Nature, the national SAF office staff, and Dr. Allyson Muth from Pennsylvania State University came in – they are the experts.” Costs associated with these speakers were defrayed by a grant from the Foresters’ Fund. Attendees were awarded 10.5 Category 1 CFE credits over the course of the three-day academy.

When the time came for the leadership academy, the staff at the Grey Towers National Historic Site was welcoming, the facility did not fail to inspire, the food was excellent, and speakers were well-received. However, the snowstorm ended up causing some speakers to not be able to attend and brought an early closure of Grey Towers. “Happily, the planning team pulled together to plug the holes in the agenda and also made sure that our ‘Plan B’ meeting space back at the hotel was ready to go at almost a moment’s notice,” Kallesser reported. “I’m happy that we got most of what we wanted to get across, and across effectively. I’m just happy that everyone had a good sense of humor about the situation with the snow.”

Despite necessary changes, the academy was well-received. Jacob Schultz of the Valley Forge Chapter of the Pennsylvania Division of the Allegheny SAF said “Everything was fantastic, and this was one of the best workshops that I have been to.” Still, the planning committee recognizes that there is plenty of room for improvement, is actively digesting feedback, and is looking forward to the next academy.

In a closing remark, Kenneth Laustsen added, “Ten years ago, I was very concerned about the future of my profession. Now after hosting three New England SAF leadership trainings and being an integral part of this academy, I am no longer worried. There is a cadre of young, enthusiastic, and capable leaders ready to step up and take over in the region.”

**Allegheny Society of American Foresters Winter Training
Draft Agenda
Morgantown, WV – Lakeview Conference Center
February 20-22, 2019**

Announcements:

Please enter the Reginald D. Forbes Art Show! (Contact Barb Breshock: breshock@hotmail.com. Please donate to the Silent Auction--contact Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy (mthomasvangundy@fs.fed.us) if you have any interest or questions. Also, please consider sponsoring a student for this meeting!

PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Tree Farm Inspector Certification, *tba*
1:00 - 4:00 PM Pesticide Certification Training with Todd Hagenbuch, Arborchem Products and Dave Jackson, Penn State Extension
12:00 - 2:00 PM Optional Forestry/Wood Products Tour, *tba* (advance registration required)
2:00 - 6:00 PM Registration Desk Open
2:30 - 5:30 PM Allegheny SAF Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 - 8:00 PM Icebreaker Social (Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar): Lakeview Conference Center

Thursday, February 21, 2019

8:00 AM Registration Desk Open Reginald D. Forbes Art Show (Photography, Flat Art, 3D Art), Exhibitors, and Silent Auction areas open. Breakfast on your own.
9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks, Jamie Schuler, WV SAF Chapter Past-Chair

PLENARY TALK

9:10 AM Plenary Talk, Impacts of Tariffs on the Regional Forest Industry, Tripp Pryor, Appalachian Hardwood Export Council
9:50 AM Student Introductions
9:55 AM *Morning Break*

PLENARY TALKS

10:15 AM Forest Management on Federal Lands, USA Forest Service, *tba*
11:00 AM Management of Private Lands, Dr. Alex Finkrel, The Forestland Group
11:45 AM *Lunch* -

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (12:30 TO 2:00PM)

I: Silviculture/Forest Management

12:30 PM, Nick Skrowonski, Fire in NJ Pine Barrens
1:00 PM Kimberly Bohn, PSU Extension, Managing Degraded Woodlands
1:30 PM, *tba*
2:00 PM, *tba*

2: Future of Forests—impacts of exotic species

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Status of EAB, HWA, BBD, and GM Hosts in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Data
Dashboards for Broad-Scale Impact Assessment, Randall Morin, USDA Forest
Service

3: Student Session

12:30 PM – 1:30PM

2:30 PM Afternoon Break

PLENARY TALK

3:00 PM National SAF Updates and Accreditation Standards for Forestry in the Future, Terry
Baker, SAF CEO

4:00 PM Summary Remarks, Todd Lotter, WV SAF Chapter Chair

4:15 PM College Quiz Bowl

7:00 PM Banquet Dinner

8:00 PM Banquet Presentation, Diversity and Inclusion in SAF, Susan Stout & Jamie Dahl

8:30 PM Awards and Announcements

Friday, February 22, 2019

7:00 AM Chair's Breakfast and Presentation (included in your registration fee!)

Art Contest, Exhibitors and Silent Auction Areas Open

8:15 AM State Society Business Meetings

8:30 AM Allegheny SAF Business Meeting

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (9:30 TO 11:00AM)

1: Energy Impacts on Forest

9:30 AM Land use considerations for energy development, John King, WV DEP

10:00 AM Shawn Grushecky, WVU DFNR

10:30 AM, Restoration of well pads for pollinators. tba

2: Climate and Forests

9:30 AM Changing forest distributions under climate change, Steven Matthews, OSU

10:00 AM TBA

10:30 AM TBA

11:00 AM Morning Break

PLENARY TALK

11:30 AM Future of silviculture research in the USDA Forest Service, Dr. Thomas Schuler,
National Silviculture Program Leader

12:00 NOON Closing Remarks, Todd Lotter, WV SAF Chapter Chair

In Memoriam

REMEMBERING ROGER L. SHERMAN

(The following text is taken from "The Congressional Record", July 11, 2018; 115th Congress, 2nd session. Issue: Vol. 164, Number 116)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the loss of one of West Virginia's brightest and recognize the life of a dedicated advocate, educator, veteran, and good man: Roger L. Sherman.

Throughout his life, Roger was known for his dedication to responsible forestry and the people of rural West Virginia. From championing economic development to advancing graduate-level education, Roger made significant contributions in the areas of public advocacy, education, and community service that benefit West Virginians to this day. Above all, Roger was highly regarded as a man of conscience, whose integrity pervaded every aspect of his life and work.

A veteran, Roger served in the U.S. Army for 3 years until 1969. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's of science in forestry and went on to obtain a master's degree in forestry from Yale University. He joined Westvaco as public affairs forester in 1977, and from there, embarked on a more than 40-year career advancing the interests of private landowners in West Virginia. During this time, he served as volunteer chair of the legislative committee of the West Virginia Forestry Association, WVFA, a position he held for 38 years. He also received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Outstanding Service to Forestry and the President's Service Award from the WVFA and the Society of American Foresters' John A. Beale Memorial Award; and in 2011, he was inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame.

In addition to his storied career, Roger was an active participant in his community and various organizations. He was a board member of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and forcefully advocated for the interests of rural West Virginia, organizing the informal rural caucus in the West Virginia House of Delegates. He also organized and obtained funding for a graduate-level course in economics that he co-taught with professors at West Virginia University.

Above all, Roger was a man of faith and family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Marlo, and son, Zachary, as well as his mother and sister.

Roger's love of forestry and West Virginia lives on through the positive impacts he made on the State and countless West Virginians. He approached his job with integrity and positivity, and I think I speak for many when I say he will be sorely missed. It was an honor to call him a friend and fellow West Virginian.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters

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Coming Events

February, 2019

20-22 Allegheny SAF Winter Training
Lakeview Conference Center
Cheat Lake, WV

Summer, 2019

Allegheny SAF Summer Training
Western Gateway Chapter

February, 2020

Allegheny SAF Winter Training
Rothrock Chapter

Future SAF National Conventions

2019: Louisville, KY Oct. 30 – Nov. 3

2020: Providence, RI Oct. 28 – Nov. 1

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