

# THE TRAIL BLAZER



The Appalachian Society of American Foresters

Summer 2023

APSAF Web site: [www.APSAF.org](http://www.APSAF.org)

National SAF Web site: [www.eforester.org](http://www.eforester.org)

**"You know, I often wish I had gone into a field like forestry. If I had it to do all over again, I probably would."**

by **Ed Zimmer**

*2023 APSAF Chair*



*So said any one of a few dozen doctors, lawyers, engineers and politicians at a cocktail party in the last 30 years.*

If you haven't heard that quote at least once in your career, I am certain two statements probably apply to you:

- You are very new to the forestry profession and,
- The COVID pandemic has severely cut

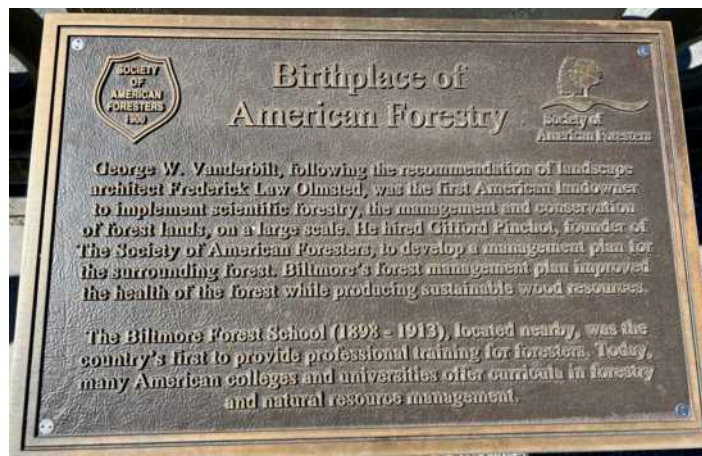
down on the number of cocktail parties and other social engagements you attended over the past 3+ years.

I know I have had folks tell me that many, many times in a variety of venues. My first thought, and usually my response, is "It is a great career and I'm glad to have been a part of it over the years." My second, albeit unspoken, response is "well, you don't know about the pay. And you might think twice about that when you were cruising a river bottom in Southeast Virginia in August or planting pine trees on a bitter cold January morning." But in the final analysis, I always return to my first response and know it is my true feelings. I have had a wide variety of jobs in the field for multiple employers and have enjoyed every one, at least most days. A recent trip I took helped highlight the two big reasons I love the field so much – The grandeur and beauty of God's creation in nature and the benefits the field provides to a greater society.

My Dad (Jack Zimmer) has badgered me for years about going to the Asheville area and seeing some of the forestry meccas like The Biltmore Estate and the Cradle of Forestry. The clear unspoken (or maybe even spoken, I don't quite recall) undertone was any true, self-respecting forester needed to make this pilgrimage to be considered a real forester. Well, I am glad to say, after over 30 years in the profession, I made that journey and visited these exciting places. The best part for me was that my dad was able to come with me, as well as my oldest sister. He is the old guy in the photos. Somehow my sister managed to avoid being in the photos, which is a skill a lot

of foresters seem to also have. Maybe she should have considered natural resources instead of teaching?

Back to the pilgrimage. We started with a trip to the Biltmore mansion. Most folks will know that George Vanderbilt built Biltmore and initially employed Gifford Pinchot to manage the vast tracts of timberland associated with it. This picture shows the plaque at the Biltmore that tells that story.



The house and gardens are truly both magnificent and indescribable, so make the trip and pay the price of admission at least once.

Our second day was where I was reminded of the two broad reasons I love the profession that I mentioned above – nature's beauty and bounty. We drove a long two hours, mostly on mountain roads and through beautiful country and visited the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest on the Nantahala National Forest. Fortunately, my dad didn't think less of my

# The Trail Blazer

The quarterly newsletter of the Appalachian Society of American Foresters. ©2023

## 2023 Board of Directors

*Chair*

**Ed Zimmer**

[ed.zimmer@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ed.zimmer@dof.virginia.gov)  
757-653-7511

*Chair-elect*

**Patrick Hiesl**

[phiesl@clemson.edu](mailto:phiesl@clemson.edu)  
864-656-7293

*Immediate Past Chair*

**Susan Guynn**

Clemson, SC 29634  
864-656-0606  
[sguynn@clemson.edu](mailto:sguynn@clemson.edu)

*Secretary*

**Neil Clark**

757-653-2572  
[neclark@vt.edu](mailto:neclark@vt.edu)

*Treasurer*

**Ed Stoots**

[ed.stoots@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ed.stoots@dof.virginia.gov)  
540-492-0152

*North Carolina Div. Chair*

**Nathan Gatlin**

[ngatlin@yahoo.com](mailto:ngatlin@yahoo.com)  
828-772-6324

*South Carolina Div. Chair*

**Puskar Khanal**

[pkhanal@clemson.edu](mailto:pkhanal@clemson.edu)  
225-454-9534

*Virginia Division Chair*

**Michael Downey**

Va. Dept of Forestry  
[michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov)

*Forest Science & Technology Chair*

**David Coyle**

864-656-9766  
Box 340317, Clemson, SC 29634  
[dcoyle@clemson.edu](mailto:dcoyle@clemson.edu)

**Ex-Officio Member:**

*SAF Board Member*

**Tony Doster CF, RF**

Resource Management Service LLC  
910-790-1074 x409  
[tdoster@resourcemgt.com](mailto:tdoster@resourcemgt.com)

*Trail Blazer Editor*

**Charles F. Finley, Jr., CAE**

The *Trail Blazer* is published to provide information and stimulate discussion among the members of the Appalachian Society, SAF. Send comments to

**Charlie Finley, editor**

1900 Lauderdale Dr, CH202  
Henrico VA 23238  
phone 804-521-9611  
[charfinley@mindspring.com](mailto:charfinley@mindspring.com)

forester credibility when I admitted I hadn't previously known Joyce Kilmer was a man and a war hero, no less. This area is one of the last truly old-growth forest areas in the Eastern US and some place everyone should see, forester or otherwise. Sadly, the eastern hemlocks have all succumbed to the woolly adelgid and can be seen only as deadfall and stumps on the forest floor but the yellow-poplars are magnificent and breath-taking. Having never been to our western forests, they are the biggest trees I have ever seen, with some measuring 20 feet in circumference, 100 feet tall and up to 500 years old. I walked into the hollow stump of one that had fallen over recently and could just stretch out my arms and touch each side of it. That picture is me next to one of the bigger yellow poplars measuring over six feet in diameter. Neither pictures nor my description can do them justice, so put this on your forestry bucket list and get there early in your career and often, if you can.



From there, we made the real pilgrimage of the journey to the Cradle of Forestry and the home of Carl Schenk's first Forestry School in America. From these humble beginnings came the many excellent schools of learning we all at-



tended where we learned the skills and techniques all foresters practice that allow humans to benefit from the many products forests provide, from wood to paper to clean air and water to wildlife habitat and beyond. Besides seeing the beginnings of our profession, it was cool to be asked to sign the special guest book for foresters (I wore my "I'm a forester" t-shirt and Southern Group of State Foresters hat so I was easy to spot) and to see the memorial to 100 years of APSAF. That's my dad and me standing next to it.

I'm sorry if this article was a little too much like watching a slide show from my vacation, but the real point I want to make is that we have a lot to be proud of as foresters and a lot of people, at least in theory, would like to have been a part of what we do. Seeing the glory of God's natural world and doing so many good things for that world and society are things anyone would be proud of and take joy in. Despite the ticks, the weather, and sometimes the remuneration, take pride the next time (or the first time) someone tells you they would want to be a forester if they had it to do all over again. 🌲



# The Treasurer's Report

by Ed Stoots, APSAF Treasurer

June 2023



The treasurer with his advisor!

APSAF's Balance Sheet as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, has the following balances:

- First Citizen's Checking Account = \$26,060.16 – yet to be fully reconciled.
- First Citizen's Savings Account = \$18,658.44
- First Citizen's Investments Brokerage Account = \$227,035.65
- First Citizen's investments KP Funderburke Endowment Account = \$136,748.02

**Total Current Assets = \$395,940.91 (includes Uncategorized Assets)**

**Total current liabilities=\$14,245.02**

**APSAF net worth= \$381,695.89**

Pease let me know if you would like to see a complete Statement of Activity since January 1, 2023, and a Statement of Financial Position that also shows the value of each State Division & Local Chapters Balances through May 2023. I would ask if the balances were incorrect to please let me know, and to please remember that we still have a few chapters who still need to roll up their accounts to APSAF.

Thank you to Tony Doster for his past services as APSAF Treasurer and in helping with the transition of the Treasurer's duties.

Would like everyone to think about the APSAF Accounting as having three buckets for categorizing income and expenses.

- APSAF Overall Account or Region Account
- State Division Accounts
- And Local Chapter Accounts

Some things to remember:

- Payments via checks to be deposited by APSAF need to be made out to APSAF – not Ed Stoots, the local chapter, or National SAF.
- Checks, receipts, invoices, etc. that need mailing should be sent to Ed Stoots, 194 Jay Ridge Road, Cloverdale, VA. 24077
- Emails to the Treasurer should be sent to [apsaftreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:apsaftreasurer@gmail.com) – **not** [ed.stoots@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ed.stoots@dof.virginia.gov)
- Credit card activations – should be using Ed Stoots zip code 24077, and if needed, by calling Ed's cell #540-492-0152. ❖



Boots on the ground ...  
to these upcoming SAF  
and APSAF Meetings

## APSAF Board of Directors

**Meetings**, by zoom

June 5, July 10, August 15, September 5,  
October 2, November 6, December 4, and  
January 2024, TBD

**2023 State meetings–**

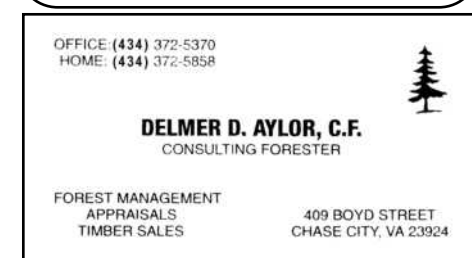
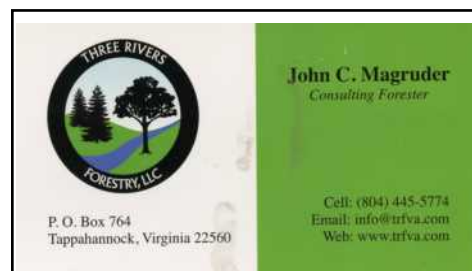
- South Carolina, Clemson, June 7-8
- North Carolina, Rocky Mount, July 19-21
- VA Summit April 26-28, Williamsburg

## 2024 APSAF Annual Meeting

Roanoke, VA, January 23-25

## 2023 National SAF Meeting

October 25-29, Sacramento, California  
"Forestry: It's in our DNA"



## News items



### APSAF Leadership Academy, by Greg Cooper, Leadership Development Chair

Back for the third year, the Leadership Academy was held April 3-6 at the Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, SC. We had 16 participants from consulting, private business, academia, etc. One person even arrived by train. Everyone really bonded in a hurry. Sam Cook was there, Adam Downing, Tom Davidson, and Greg Cooper. There were a number of participants who were not members but then did join SAF, as the cost rate was incentivizing.

Participants were assigned learning projects. Past projects were recommendations to this board on how to retain members. This year, the task was a tiered approach for mentorship. What will come out of this, we do not know just yet as they are developing now. Action learning exercises and we are hoping for some time to present at the BOD meeting on August 15. There will be a presentation and written document delivered. We would also like some time at the next BOD meeting for discussion around the future of this event, talking about potential next steps. It was a huge success and everyone left feeling great and grateful. Ed Zimmer reiterated that this is a pretty important effort at APSAF and with employers, and we should devote time for this discussion. Cooper will present three ideas at the next meeting. If you have ideas for next year contact **Greg** at [greg-cooper@tnc.org](mailto:greg-cooper@tnc.org), or (828) 350-1431 x 107.

### Breaking News... Silent Auction Committee Adopts Mascot and Motto

The intrepid APSAF Silent Auction Committee, still basking in the glow of a highly successful 2023 silent auction, which raised thousands for the Foresters Fund and KPF Endowment, is kicking off the 2024 auction donation drive with our new SA mascot, Gifford Pea, whose motto is "What? Me worry?" Although the committee would like to take a chunk of the credit for the auction success, the *real big credit* goes to all the APSAF members and friends who, year after year, support this great fun fund raiser. So why should Gifford Pea worry?



Gifford Pea's job is not to beg or cajole. His job is to *remind* all the fine folks who, year after year, donate a treasure or two, things worth five bucks, things worth fifty bucks or more, to start warming up the creative skills and/or digging around in those closets. Gifford Pea wants to *invite* those new to the SA to *get involved* in this win/win feel-good program. Look around the house, the garage, the barn.

Support your local craft community and buy something to donate.

**And** Gifford Pea and the SA Committee can say "What? Me worry?" because, *this just in*, our first donation has been delivered!! Tom Davidson (who knows a little bit about leading) is leading off the 2024 Silent Auction donation drive by donating a ready-to-hang on-canvas print of a photo by the talented Ellen Davidson, of a white birch tree against a background of fire. The donation doors are open!

So... It's not too soon, folks. The last thing we want is for Gifford Pea (and his SA buddies) to get worried! Think about, look for, dig around for, or just purchase items to donate. Going on vacation to Scotland? Bring back a kilt or a dram of scotch. We know you will be creative and supportive. **Gifford Pea ain't worried!!** We're looking forward to your APSAF 2024 Silent Auction donations!

Questions or ideas? Contact Mike Skinner, SA Chair at [confluencestry@comcast.net](mailto:confluencestry@comcast.net) or call 540 320-3737. As always, open 24/7, except nights and weekends, and during nap time, or while on vacation in Scotland...



### Legislation to Modernize Forest Data Collection

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On June 9, U.S. Representatives Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA) and Barry Moore (R-AL) introduced the Forest Data Modernization Act, a bipartisan bill that would modernize data collection efforts of the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. This legislation will meet the needs of forestry stakeholders who have identified a need to modernize the FIA program to meet the rapidly growing market demand for standardized, high-quality data to support sustainable forest management decisions. This legislation accomplishes a necessary upgrade of our national forest data by delivering the most accurate, helpful information possible to key forestry industry stakeholders and the public alike. It improves:

- **Data accessibility** - by requiring the publication of summary statistics every two years and the creation of a fee-for-service program to handle complex data requests.

## News, Continued from page 4

•**Data usability** - by directing the FIA to measure forest carbon and requiring that clear definitions are provided with FIA data to ensure better interpretability of datasets which would allow the forestry sector to leverage collected data consistently.

•**Data collection** - by recommending consideration of advanced technologies for data collection, such as satellite sensors and computer models that could improve data accuracy and reduce costs as well as codifying existing surveys on wood use and forest landownership to ensure continued availability of datasets on which forestry stakeholders rely.

•**FIA program transparency** - by requiring the existing FIA strategic plan to be updated, that future updates be made every 5 years, and that FIA costs and priorities be published annually.

The Forest Data Modernization Act was also introduced by U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and is endorsed by the National Alliance of Forest Owners, National Association of State Foresters, Society of American Foresters, American Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Washington State University, Vermont Woodlands Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Enviva, National Woodland Owners Association, L&C Carbon, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition.

### Reference

Schrier Press release- <https://schrier.house.gov/media/press-releases/congresswoman-schrier-introducing-bipartisan-bill-modernize-forest-data>

## Registration for the 2023 SAF National Convention is NOW OPEN!

Join us for **SAF2023**—the premier forestry professional development, networking, and community connection event of the year—in **Sacramento, CA, from October 25 to 28**. As one of the largest forestry and natural resources conventions in the nation, this is an event you won't want to miss! This year, we'll explore the proud legacy of forestry and the ongoing challenges and opportunities that foresters and natural resources professionals face through our theme: **"Forestry: It's in Our DNA."**

### The 2023 SAF Forest Tech Conference

Join us August 2-3 in Baton Rouge for the SAF Forest Tech Conference. This two-day intensive conference will provide you with access to the latest equipment and advances in forest technology. Sponsoring and exhibiting opportunities are available, and early bird registration is open through June 30. Space is limited—register today!

### The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

Greetings APSAF team: I'm a Forester with the Dept of Interior, and I'd like to share a brief introduction of the ARRI (Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative) program, which restores native forests and wildlife habitat on old mine sites throughout the Appalachian region. Each project site is pre-

## MICHAEL D. NEAL & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Forestry Consultants to Private Landowners Since 1974

[WWW.mdnealforestry.com](http://WWW.mdnealforestry.com)

Phone 252-398-1460

email [mike@mdneal.com](mailto:mike@mdneal.com)

## Your 2023 Leaders in the State Divisions



### North Carolina

Chair

**Nathan Gatlin**

952 Sand Ridge Rd  
Millers Creek, NC 28651  
336-9734104  
[gatlinnp@gmail.com](mailto:gatlinnp@gmail.com)

Chair-elect

**Blair Allman**

### South Carolina

Chair

**Dr. Puskar Khanal**

261 Lehotsky Hall  
Box 340317  
Clemson, SC 29634-0001  
864-656-3079

Chair-elect

**Ricky McCutchen**

[ricky@Cilumber.com](mailto:ricky@Cilumber.com)  
843-992-8547

### Virginia

Chair

**Michael Downey**

6549 S. Spotswood Trail  
Gordonsville, VA 22942  
[michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov)  
434-529-7546

Chair-elect

**Bill Sweeney**

Virginia Dept. of Forestry  
Rocky Mount, VA  
[Bill.Sweeney@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Bill.Sweeney@dof.virginia.gov)  
540-529-8549 cell

---

Chair-elect for APSAF

**Patrick Hiesl**

[phiesl@clemson.edu](mailto:phiesl@clemson.edu)  
757-556-5648



pared to reduce soil compaction and hand planted with native seedlings and the survival rates are amazing.

We host volunteer tree planting events every Spring on mine sites across Appalachia, in observance of Arbor month and Earth Day and you/your team are welcome to attend an event that best fits your busy schedule. The ARRI program is an excellent volunteer carbon credit opportunity for interested parties to consider. Feel free to contact me if I can ever assist you or your team with mineland reforestation info regarding the successful actions we're taking to improve air/water and soil quality on old mine sites & creating jobs for unemployed miners & Veterans.

The ARRI program is a strong partner of the (White Oak Initiative/Longleaf Pine & Shortleaf Pine Initiatives) throughout the Appalachian region—a true Win-Win for landowners, the environment and forest industry. I invite you to review the ARRI website listed in my signature block and I can send additional ARRI facts for you/your team to review and discuss if that's helpful?

Y'all have a good week, travel safe and I look forward to seeing you and your partners in the field soon.

Cliff Drouet, Forester

Office of Surface Mining

Lexington/KY

Work phone: 303-549-7249

Work email: [cdrouet@osmre.gov](mailto:cdrouet@osmre.gov)

ARRI website: [www.osmre.gov/programs/arri](http://www.osmre.gov/programs/arri)

## Releasing global forests from human management: How much more carbon could be stored? Science Magazine, May 18. 2023

### Editor's summary

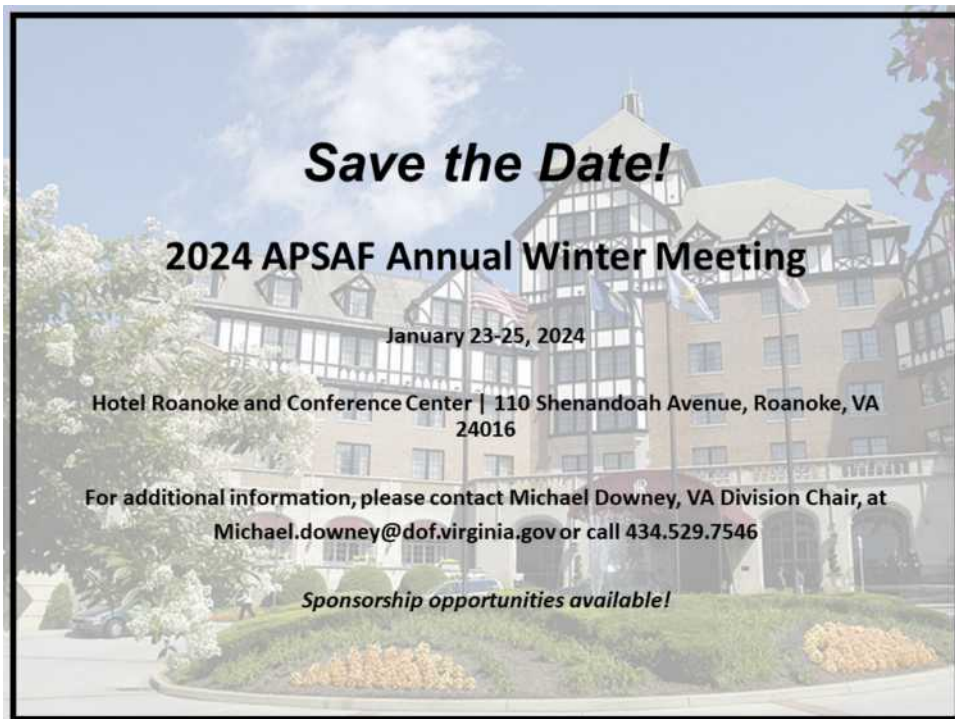
Harnessing the carbon-capturing potential of forests is a key component of plans to mitigate global climate change. Planting new forests is a common strategy, but this approach can have negative social and ecological impacts and substantial costs. Roebroek *et al.* instead investigated how ceasing management (e.g., wood harvesting or fire suppression) of forests would change their global carbon sequestration capacity. The authors assessed the differences between the biomass of similar forests with and without human activities and used machine learning to predict the additional

biomass gain from removing human activities from global forests. Even if all management ceased (an extremely unlikely scenario), global forest carbon would increase by only about 15%. This work provides further evidence that changing forest management is not an alternative to cutting carbon emissions. —*Bianca Lopez*

### Abstract

Carbon storage in forests is a cornerstone of policy-making to prevent global warming from exceeding 1.5°C. However, the global impact of management (for example, harvesting) on the carbon budget of forests remains poorly quantified. We integrated global maps of forest biomass and management with machine learning to show that by removing human intervention, under current climatic conditions and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, existing global forests could increase their aboveground biomass by up to 44.1 (error range: 21.0 to 63.0) petagrams of carbon. This is an increase of 15 to 16% over current levels, equating to about 4 years of current anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Therefore, without strong reductions in emissions, this strategy holds low mitigation potential, and the forest sink should be preserved to offset residual carbon emissions rather than to compensate for present emissions levels. [This item included for your interest and discussion.] 🌿



**Save the Date!**

**2024 APSAF Annual Winter Meeting**

January 23-25, 2024

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center | 110 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24016

For additional information, please contact Michael Downey, VA Division Chair, at [Michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Michael.downey@dof.virginia.gov) or call 434.529.7546

*Sponsorship opportunities available!*



You may recall at the recent annual APSAF meeting two vagrants wandered in off the street, claiming to be itinerant foresters, trying to raise money to make a car payment. They received \$91 before being found out. We're going to need tighter security in Roanoke in January. ≈

# NORTH CAROLINA: WHAT'S NEW IN THE OLD NORTH STATE?

**Nathan Gatlin**, NC Division Chair. favorite quote: "I don't know what you could say about a day in which you have seen four beautiful sunsets." ~ John Glenn

.....



**When I look around at the world in which we live I am constantly amazed at the contributions forestry makes that ensures things happen. I suppose that my 2<sup>nd</sup> love to forestry is the space program. I would love to be the first forester in space, managing some biosphere to ensure that the**



other astronauts have reliable water, air, and resources for their survival. Just when I began to think that I missed the boat to be part of the space program I realized that there would not be a space program without me, or even you.

That program is dependent upon the resources we manage to ensure that they can accomplish their goals. They have to have desks to do their work, paper to write on, computer and phone screens, and the food they eat. And it does not stop there. Those astronauts and the staff that support them all want homes filled with beautiful furniture and an environment that provides recreation and healthy living. Really, forestry is the lynchpin for a productive society. It makes me proud knowing that when I wake up each morning my contributions make for a better world.

NC forestry is doing its part to make the world a better place. The state is celebrating 2023 as **The Year of the Trail**. Many counties, state parks, and organizations are taking advantage of the momentum to develop more opportunities for North Carolinians to get outdoors.



The 2023 Leadership Academy went very well. Ten foresters attended and relayed that it was a very positive experience. (See photo above.) Next year's academy is already being planned!

The 2023 SAF Summer Meeting promises to be a special occasion. Registration is available and ready for you to sign up. The meeting starts on July 20 and finishes up the next day on July 21. Five to seven CFECs will be available to attend the meeting. Chapter activities are detailed below:

## Piedmont Chapter

The Piedmont Chapter had a great spring blowout meeting that was well attended. A chapter member hosted an outdoor picnic at his home. The night was beautiful, and Brian Heath of the NC Forest Service conducted a presentation on the latest updates of pests and pathology affecting the State. The night was completed with a dazzling show of a satellite train from SpaceX's latest satellite launch. We will take a break for the summer and meet back in September.

## Triangle Chapter

On May 16, the Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) hosted the Triangle Chapter's meeting at the Bailey and Sarah Williamson Preserve, a 447-acre preserve located on the border of Wake and Johnston Counties. The presentation was entitled "On Forest Stewardship," and the topics ranged from conservation easements (TLC has 8,000 acres, half of which are working land easements) to current forestry projects on the preserve (including harvesting, prescribed burning, invasive species control, and longleaf restoration) to a new pavilion, with angled cross beams constructed of on-site timber (oaks and yellow-poplar) that was harvested using horse logging and a portable sawmill. The pavilion will be used for agricultural purposes, including hosting a farmer's market. The group also took a short tour of the walking trails where,



among other features, a native perennial wildflower field and apiary are located. The Triangle Chapter thanks TLC for welcoming and sharing with us, and the chapter hopes to hold at least two more meetings this year.



## Duke University Student Chapter

The Duke University Student SAF chapter has been busy! In addition to going through SAF re-accreditation and our usual slate of events, we have greatly expanded our programming. In the fall, we hosted a dendrology competition, toured the Forest History Society, and organized an alumni social in downtown Durham.

Thanks to the hard work of a committee of forestry students, we saw the return of our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Symposium in March. The theme was Resilience in the Face of Climate Change and featured 9 speakers from across the country and a moderated discussion. The event was a huge success with around 90 participants, and we have already begun planning for next year! This spring we also sent a group of students to the regional APSAF conference and organized a paddling tour through the cypress swamps of Black River Preserve.

We have also been expanding opportunities for students to practice practical forestry skills. We now offer annual Game of Logging and Wildland Firefighting trainings. In April students organized an event to remove a tree which fell at Geer Cemetery, a historic Black cemetery in Durham. It was a fantastic experience to engage with our broader Durham community. We hope to purchase chainsaws and PPE before next year so that there are fewer barriers to participation in similar events.

## NC State University Student Chapter

**"Another Way to Use the *Trail Blazer*"**

by Gary B. Blank, Ph.D.

At NC State, we offer a 1-credit course required in our forest management curriculum at the second-year level: Professional Development—Natural Resources Communication. Online and designed to be self-directed, the course involves

weekly short, recorded lectures, assigned readings, and a weekly exercise or a short writing assignment.

For the first week's assignment, I ask the students to examine the winter issue of *The Trail Blazer*. I ask them to familiarize themselves with ideas and issues about which foresters who are members of the **Appalachian Society of American Foresters** (APSAF) concern themselves. I suggest they notice the variety of writing styles and approaches foresters assume when communicating with colleagues.

I ask the students to write a memorandum to me in which they identify which article in the newsletter they find most engaging and explain why. And I ask them to answer a few other questions about content in assorted articles. For example, in January, I asked about Harold Burkhardt's contribution to forestry education. Usually, I also ask them whether APSAF is solvent and how they know, which means they look at our published financial statement.

My point is to underline that we foresters value communication within our organization, as well as to those outside, but that we have varied voices and different styles. The other point is to expose these aspiring foresters to SAF. Thanks to everyone who contributes to *The Trail Blazer*. You are having an impact. ♦♦

## Next-Gen Integrated Spatial Forest Inventory - TCruise + InventoryManager/MobileMap + ESRI

- ✓ **ESRI-Based** – Extend your ESRI investment into forest inventory
- ✓ **Cloud-Based** – Sync with ArcGIS Online & uses ESRI Basemaps
- ✓ **Android-Based** – Rugged devices with great GPS and battery life
- ✓ **TCruise-Based** – Compile and report your cruises with TCruise pro



**LANDMARK**  
Spatial Solutions, LLC

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION (866) 395-5440  
[WWW.LANDMARKSPATIALSOLUTIONS.COM](http://WWW.LANDMARKSPATIALSOLUTIONS.COM)

*Psalms 1:1-8*

GPS | GIS | Forest Measurement | Forest Inventory | Stockpiles | Load Ticketing | Drones



# SOUTH CAROLINA—ALL THE NEWS (SHO NUFF)

**Pushkar Khanal, SC Chair.** Favorite quote: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

## Updates from the Palmetto State



by **Pushkar Khanal**  
**Chair**

The SC Division of the Appalachian-SAF continues to support the SAF mission to advance professional forestry practices, provide opportunities for communication among members at various levels, and actively support APSAF and SAF activities.

The SC Division and chapter activities are slowly gaining momentum with increased opportunities for personal

interaction and collaboration among members. To be precise, the chapters are slowly coming out of the COVID-induced virtual format slumber for meetings and workshops. South Carolina has ten local chapters, including two student chapters at Clemson University and Horry Georgetown Tech. Almost all chapter activities have reverted to in-person format, while the executive team plans to have in-person quarterly meetings starting this fall. SC SAF chapters are – Keowee, Central Carolina, Pee Dee, Old Hickory, Edisto, Winyah, Enoree, Santee, Horry Georgetown Student Chapter, and Clemson Forestry Student Chapter.

The SC Division and chapters have made excellent progress regarding the APSAF bank transition – only Central Carolina and Santee Chapters are left to complete the task. We hope it will be completed soon. I appreciate all chapter chairs and treasurers for this timely transition of the bank accounts to APSAF.

Keowee Chapter of the SC Division is all geared up to host the 2023 SCSAF Summer Meeting from June 7-8 in the upstate South Carolina. The annual meeting theme of *Forest Management and Utilization in Chanting Times* is timely and appropriate to highlight current issues and trends surrounding forestry practices and forest products in South Carolina. I would like to recognize the significant contribution of the select members: Stephen Pairs, Russ Hardee, Pat Layton, Trisha Markus, Niles Timilsina, Chip Maley, and Jon Carter for the meeting. Registration is currently active, and we are hoping for a great turnout.

## Chapter News

**Keowee Chapter-** The Keowee chapter organized its second meeting of the year on April 24, 2023. The meeting started with a treasurer update and a vote to donate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Young Professionals Summit (request from SC Forestry Commission) occurring in Greenville, from May 18 to 19. The chapter members voted (Yes -11, No – 4) to donate at the silver level (\$250), including a ticket for attendance. Chapter members were asked to submit their interest in attending the Summit, and Thomas Buchanan was the winner to attend the meeting. During the meeting, Maziar Mahani and Patricia Carbajales presented and demonstrated the application of drones in forestry, which provided 1.5 CFE credits.



*Keowee Chapter Meeting on Drone Application in Forestry. Photo credit, Niles Timilsina*

**Winyah Chapter** – The Winyah Chapter met jointly with the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Student Chapter on March 21 at the Georgetown campus. The turnout was excellent with the students and faculty from HGTC representing the college well. Unit Forester Ron Holt, Assistant Unit Forester Tonya Smith, and Project Forester GraceAnna Cooper with the SC Forestry Commission spoke to the chapter about the upcoming fire season, as well as some important historical fires in the area. The chapter presented William “Bill” Coleman his Golden Member certificate in recognition of his fifty years as a member of SAF at the meeting.

The chapter met again on May 11 at the offices of White Oak Forestry in Georgetown. Michelle Sinkler with the Open Space Institute provided an update for members on

**Still more** ➡➡

## More South Carolina news, Try to keep up!

the Black River Park project with South Carolina Parks. The Open Space Institute continues to be active in acquiring property for the park, which will be the first new park in the Winyah area in a generation. Significant bottomland hardwood forest along the Black River will be conserved as part of the park.



*William Coleman receives his Golden Member certificate from Chapter Chair George Chastain. Photo credit, George Chastain*

**Edisto Chapter-** The Edisto Chapter has chosen a new chair, Asija Rice, and has begun rebranding the chapter, as well as cleaning up our members' information and reorganizing our chapter. The Edisto Chapter SAF was able to

*collaborate with the Pee Dee Chapter (Kenneth Dunn) to arrange a Landowner Field Trip to the Manchester State Forest on Saturday, May 13. During the field trip the landowners learned about reforestation, the importance of best property management, tax breaks, and generating income. This field excursion was particularly organized for women and minority landowners and their ages ranged from 7-80 years old. Clemson University, the SC Forestry Commission, and the Center for Heirs Property Preservation sponsored this field trip.*

The Edisto Chapter SAF will hold a meeting on September 15, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Adriana Hamilton, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Conservationist for Charleston/Berkeley counties, will be the guest speaker. Pollinator Habitat Planning and Establishment will be covered during the meeting, as well as how it will improve forestry operations. This meeting will be held at The Opportunity Center's Grand Training Hub (GTH), 8570 Rivers Ave. Suite 170. North Charleston, SC 29406. CFEs will be given as well! It is also a potluck (bring food or drink of your choosing). You may now stay up to speed by liking our new Facebook page, SAF Edisto Chapter; and following our Instagram account at saf\_edisto\_chapter. ○



**Photo at left:** Forest Landowner field trip in Manchester State Forest on May 13 by Edisto Chapter in collaboration with Pee Dee Chapter (Kenneth Dunn). Photo credit, Asija Rice

by Puskar N. Khanal, Assistant Professor  
Department of Forestry & Environmental Conservation  
Clemson University, Box 340317  
Clemson, SC 29634  
(864) 656 3079  
[pkhanal@clemson.edu](mailto:pkhanal@clemson.edu)

Don't forget SAF national has a new address

**SAF National office: 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 315, Washington, DC 20037, and NEW phone 202-938-3910**



**Michael Downey, VA Division Chair, favorite quote:** “A good moral character is the first essential in a man. It is therefore highly important that you should endeavor not only to be learned but virtuous.” ~ George Washington

• • • • •

## The Virginia Report



by **Michael Downey**  
*Virginia Division Chair*

**Summer has sprung upon us;** the trees have all leafed out and the wildflowers are blooming. Meanwhile, the Virginia Division executive committee has had several virtual meetings as well as an in-person meeting in Williamsburg, mainly discussing the annual winter meeting and the two critical issues the state is facing: invasive species management and work force re-

cruitment and retention.

The Virginia Division has been very busy these past few months, especially the 2024 APSAF Winter Meeting Planning Committee. We have been meeting monthly and working diligently to make sure that the venue is the right fit for APSAF. I am pleased to announce that we have secured the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center for Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>.

In April, the Virginia Division, along with the Virginia Forestry Association, had the annual VFA Summit in Williamsburg this year. A variety of topics was discussed at the general session as well as the breakout sessions that included rising sea levels affecting forests and the issues related to forestry, legacy planning for landowners and the current outlook on forest products markets. The keynote session discussed the evolution and future of forestry consulting from its roots to

today. Our very own **APSAF Chair Ed Zimmer** was recognized with the distinguished service award. *The Distinguished Service Award of the Virginia Forestry Association gives public recognition to individuals, groups, associations, and/or companies and corporations who make a significant, continuing, and lasting contribution to the conservation of Virginia's forest resources and/or the enhancement of Virginia's forest-based community.* Congratulations Ed, well deserved.

As mentioned in the last issue, we plan to have the CFE Extravaganza August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Virginia Department of Forestry Headquarters located in Charlottesville. Stay tuned for further details.

### Chapter Reports

#### **Blue Ridge, by Corey Green, Chair**

The Blue Ridge Chapter is excited to start showing off the new additions to the Forester's Trail at Explore Park in Roanoke. With leadership from Bob Radspinner, the new trail section does a great job highlighting SAF and forestry as a whole. Despite having to dodge inclement weather, a wonderful hike was led on Earth Day.

We are excited for our upcoming summer meeting being held in July. We will be focusing our meeting on white oak management and have tours planned at a local stove mill and cooperage.

#### **Rappahannock, by Mark Books, CF, Chair**

The chapter, in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension, held an event called “Introduction to Forest Carbon Markets” on March 3 at Brightpoint Community College. While all interested parties were welcome to attend, the event was designed specifically for woodland owners and natural resource professionals. Attendees learned how carbon markets work, discovered opportunities, were introduced to a decision making tool, and heard from woodland owners with carbon market experience. The event was very successful with 102 people attending virtually, and 90 people attending in-person. The link to the YouTube recording of the program, which will be available until December 31, 2023: [Carbon Program Recording](#).

One of the featured speakers was chapter member Dick Porterfield. Mr. Porterfield also received his 50-year SAF membership award at the event, shown on page 12, presented by John Magruder.





The chapter would like to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many individuals involved in planning and executing this event, especially chapter member John Magruder and VCE's Jennifer Gagnon.

### **Skyline Chapter, by Adam Downing**

The Skyline Chapter is in search of new leadership! If you are reading this and are in our chapter, please consider serving. There are lots of great folks to support you, whoever you are. In the meantime, things are still happening!



*Past training featuring our own Matt Dowdy "talking trees" with fellow chapter member, Jon Rockett looking on.*

The Skyline Chapter, in partnership with VCE, VDOF and Grief Paper will be hosting a gaggle of teachers for the annual "Teaching Trees, Teaching Teachers" program. The Project Learning Tree training and field experiences will again be happening in rural Louisa County with generous financial support from the Virginia Forestry Educational Endowment on July 10 & 11. If you know a science or Vocational Ag instructor at the Secondary level, please encourage them to attend. Past participants have raved of the value while having their eyes opened to the great forestry story of use, renewal, and care implicit with forestry.

### **Virginia Tech Student Chapter**

*By Jennifer Gagnon, Faculty Co-advisor*

The Virginia Tech Student Chapter had an eventful and successful 2022-23 year, ending with a Quiz Bowl competition, something that the Chapter has not done in many years. Natalie Hedrick (Chair) and Connor Austin (Chair-elect) moderated the competition. Five teams of three (two graduate student teams, one SAF team, one Forestry Club team, and one FREC faculty team) competed for the championship. To the students' great dismay, the faculty team won by a landslide. However, the SAF student team came in second. The Chapter intends to do this annually at the end of the spring semester.

Our thanks to outgoing Chapter Chair Natalie Hedrick. The energy and creativity she put into planning Chapter events did not go unnoticed and was very much appreciated.

*Natalie Hedrick and Connor Austin moderated the return of the Virginia Tech Forestry Quiz Bowl this spring.*



Keep going ➡ ➡

**FRM, Inc.**  
7840 Richmond Tappahannock Highway  
Aylett, VA 23009  
804/769-3948 Office  
804/769-0853 Fax  
frmva.com Website

**Dowdy's Forest  
&  
Land Management**

Matthew Dowdy  
540-967-1707

535 Vigor Road Louisa, Va 23093  
Matt@DowdysForest.com

**Mid Atlantic Tree Harvestors**  
Buyers of standing timber.  
100 Globe Road, Aylett, VA 23009  
**Andrew B. Shorter**  
Procurement Forester  
Office (804) 769-8826 Fax (804) 769-8815  
Cell (804) 241-2521 Home (804) 695-1474  
Home Fax (804) 695-0402