

THE TRAIL BLAZER



The Appalachian Society of American Foresters

Fall 2020

APSAF Web site: www.APSAF.org

National SAF Web site: www.eforester.org

My SAF Odyssey: A Complicated Journey with an Amazing Destination



by **Dan Goerlich**
2020 APSAF Chair

In the Spring 2020 *Trail Blazer* I told a story about wanting to be a forester ever since I was old enough to understand what a career was. In this column I am going to expand that story a bit and incorporate my SAF journey into

the tale. It is a wandering path, but I promise we'll get to the destination eventually.

I joined SAF around 1991 at the suggestion of my good friend and mentor Dave Smith. Back in those days Dave was not a friend, mind you, but rather a respected professor whom I viewed with a fair amount of awe. When Dr. Smith told me to do something, I did it. I labored at SAF matters in college for several years, often working on SAF business when my friends were out having a good time. As Chapter Chair my senior year I was late paying my dues and I received a letter from the national office stating bluntly that I was not qualified to serve as an officer because I was not an SAF member. I remember feeling insulted at the time and thinking that being a member had no bearing on how qualified I was to lead the chapter. That perspective seems funny to me now, since naturally one can't lead an organization that they are not a member of. The letter had the desired effect, and I paid my dues. I finished out the year with a very active chapter and we tied with Idaho State for the Outstanding Collegiate Chapter Award. But that damn letter...I told myself I was done with SAF.

After I graduated I moved around for work from state to state for a period of time, lost track of SAF in the process, and SAF lost track of me. That lapse likely cost me several thousand dollars, as a few years later I accidentally overheard a conversation one night when working late as a graduate student. Two professors were discussing graduate student scholarship applications, and I realized that I was one of the two finalists. The committee chair's opinion was that my application was the stronger of the two, but the other applicant was an SAF member and I was not at the time. That made the difference.

I rejoined SAF in 1999 when I began working for Virginia Cooperative Extension. When I expressed interest in SAF

my supervisor told me that my involvement in SAF was my personal contribution to my professional development. For many years' dues, travel, meeting registrations, hotels, etc. were all out-of-pocket expenses. To save money early on I camped out or stayed in budget motels and ate break and reception food for my meals. SAF members familiar with my situation began taking me under their wings, and I was soon benefiting repeatedly from their generosity. I was invited to carpool, crash in hotel rooms, and many times another SAF member would quietly place my meal on his or her tab.

Over the years and VCE leadership transitions that followed my co-workers and I were eventually able to institutionalize support for SAF functions as a reimbursable travel expense, putting me in a position to return the favor to others on occasion. Old habits die hard, however, and it is still common to find three or four VCE foresters camped out in a room together at meetings to save travel dollars.

Over the next 10 years or so SAF members in my Chapter, Division, and other APSAF states became like an extended family to me. I spent perhaps 20 hours a week on SAF activities and treated SAF like a part-time job. I benefited a great deal both personally and professionally from those opportunities. My continued SAF membership baffled some, however, since in 2005 I transitioned to a position at VCE that was no longer directly forestry related. I recall being interviewed by Joe Smith in 2007 for the "Profiles in Forestry" column in *The Forestry Source*. Joe expressed thinly-veiled surprise that I was not working in the field of forestry and yet was still an SAF member. To me the answer was simultaneously simple and complicated. What I shared with Joe then was the simple part. By training, inclination, and in my heart, I was still a forester. And now that I was in a non-forestry related position, SAF enabled me to stay in contact with my friends and colleagues in the forestry community. Time spent with these individuals is invaluable to me. The cost of membership is a small price to pay for that privilege. What I wasn't prepared to share with Joe then but am able to share with you now, is the more complicated part. SAF members helped

The Trail Blazer

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me through some of the darkest days of my life. I buried my SAF National Young Forester Leadership Award with my mother. I buried my NACAA Achievement Award with my father. I kept the pile of cards and letters from SAF members and the broader forestry community close at hand.

In 2009, a partially implemented Extension restructuring effort eliminated two of VCE's six district offices and 50% of the faculty and staff in the remaining offices, including my District Program Leader position. I was rolling off as VASAF Chair and was asked to run for APSAF Chair-elect, but declined as I did not know where I was going to be in the coming year. That year I applied for the VCE Central District Director position, among others, and was fortunate to be offered the position. Becoming an Extension administrator answered my family's immediate needs of having gainful employment but made active SAF involvement nearly impossible as I became the direct or indirect supervisor for 150 faculty and staff, over one fourth of the state. I maintained my membership in SAF for the next nine years due primarily to a strong sense of moral obligation and, like I told Joe, it helped me stay in touch with my friends. But despite maintaining a chapter Historian position and offering occasional bouts of institutional memory when asked, I was not able to attend Division, APSAF, or most chapter meetings. I was doing the job of three people for VCE. My family moved to Blacksburg in 2014 and I subsequently sold our tree farm after two and a half years on the market. When I finally made it to an APSAF meeting I was overjoyed to renew old acquaintances but didn't know most people and felt out of place. For the first time I began to experience questions that dues paying members who are not actively engaged with SAF start to ask themselves. In my case, I also started to think that perhaps I should stop pretending that I was still a forester.

After much soul searching in late summer 2018 I concluded that I should stop living in the past and decided that, at the end of the year, I would let my SAF membership go. On September 10, 2018—almost two years to the day as I write this column—Anne Jewell reached out to me (and others) asking that we consider running for APSAF Chair-elect. Anne's note caught me off guard, and it took me six days to reply to her because I had to revisit the whole thought-process I had just gone through, only now with the additional context of whether I could do justice to the position and contribute leadership to the organization in a manner that the members would expect and deserve. I agreed to serve as a candidate and in doing so retreated from the precipice of saying goodbye to SAF, and in a way, saying goodbye to the person and career that I had always wanted to be, and held

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**The difference between
try and triumph is just
a little UMPH!**

onto the hope of for so long, even when it didn't make sense to anyone except me. And then when it stopped making sense even to me I am thankful that once again an SAF friend was there.

It is hard to express how much I have benefited over the past two years by re-engaging with SAF in an active volunteer leadership role. Serving as APSAF Chair-elect and now Chair, and with such wonderful people on the leadership team and beyond, has been a gift...one that has helped me rediscover what I value, who I am, where I am happiest professionally, and provided insight into how to bring those things back in alignment. Thank you for this.

I don't spend a lot of time talking about SAF membership trends. I have always maintained the viewpoint that commiserating about declining membership drives away members, both existing and prospective. I hold strong opinions that if we create an SAF that individuals want to be part of, and realize significant value from, we will attract and retain members. I have seen and experienced SAF membership from a variety of perspectives. For those who

have questioned, or are questioning, the value of SAF membership, I would ask you to consider this. I have been where you are and I understand those thought processes. Speaking from personal experience, on occasions where I have dropped my membership or became less actively engaged, doing so has harmed me in tangible ways. I lost opportunities...I lost connections...I lost my way. By contrast, as an actively engaged member I grew in measurable ways. I gained skills, made new friendships, and new doors were opened. A simple observation with a complicated history.

As this year has progressed I have realized that serving as an APSAF officer has truly been a gift. I have received so much enjoyment and satisfaction from working alongside this awesome leadership team and volunteers. I am thankful for the opportunity to rediscover my love for forestry and foresters through service to SAF. I may be less than two-thirds of the way through my officer commitment, but I feel like I have already arrived at my destination.

~Dan Goerlich, September 13, dalego@vt.edu ◆◆

The Treasurer's Report, by Tony Doster, TDoster@resourcemt.com

Net Worth - As of 8/31/2020

(Includes unrealized gains)

Account	6/30/2019 Balance	9/30/2019 Balance	12/31/2019 Balance	3/31/2020 Balance	6/30/2020 Balance	8/31/2020 Balance
ASSETS						
Cash and Bank Accounts						
First Citizens Basic Business Checki...	9,660.53	15,548.82	32,414.12	22,538.09	25,324.33	26,785.16
First Citizens Money Market Savings	20,015.34	20,017.86	20,020.38	20,022.56	10,022.91	10,023.08
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	29,675.87	35,566.68	52,434.50	42,560.65	35,347.24	36,808.24
Investments						
APSAF First Citizens Brokerage	41,213.74	42,357.52	43,373.00	40,117.27	53,496.34	54,814.71
KP Funderburk Endowment	105,054.20	106,814.56	112,438.11	99,636.43	114,935.40	123,886.43
TOTAL Investments	146,267.95	149,172.08	155,811.11	139,753.70	168,431.74	178,701.14
TOTAL ASSETS	175,943.82	184,738.76	208,245.61	182,314.35	203,778.98	215,509.38
LIABILITIES						
Credit Cards						
First Citizens Visa Business Credit C...	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL Credit Cards	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	175,943.82	184,738.76	208,245.61	182,098.35	203,778.98	215,509.38

Portfolio Value - As of 9/18/2020

Security	Symbol	Shares	Quote/Price	est	Cost Basis	Gain/Loss	Balance
APSAF First Citizens Brokerage							
Liquid Insured Deposits	RIDD	10,097.490	1.000	*	10,097.49	0.00	10,097.49
Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund Investor ...	VWINX	1,606.243	27.930	*	41,696.81	3,165.56	44,862.37
TOTAL APSAF First Citizens Brokerage					51,794.30	3,165.56	54,959.86
KP Funderburk Endowment							
Liquid Insured Deposits	RIDD	3,395.440	1.000	*	3,395.44	0.00	3,395.44
Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Admiral S...	VBIAX	2,850.513	41.360	*	101,002.49	16,894.73	117,897.22
-Cash-					647.00	0.00	647.00
TOTAL KP Funderburk Endowment					105,044.93	16,894.73	121,939.66
TOTAL Investments					156,839.23	20,060.29	176,899.52

District 8 Board Report, by Anne Jewell

Happy to serve

My fellow APSAF members, we are hiking down an unfamiliar, surprising, and challenging trail that we have found ourselves on during 2020. We continue to experience highly transitional times and all the insights that may surface in the churning wake of this journey. Likewise, SAF is managing its own transitions with changes in physical location, staffing and structure, fully new version of a national convention, and impending elections with the honor for new, select individuals to serve in our leadership positions. SAF national staff and elected leaders have remained extraordinarily busy with increasing efficiencies in our virtual interactions. I've outlined a few of the updates and efforts that have been on-going this summer, and I am always happy to provide more information or find answers to additional questions or needs you have from SAF, so please reach out at any time as I represent you on the SAF Board of Directors. (You like my Zoom photo?)




The Gifford Pinchot building sale finalized, and a new location was approved by the Board with a lease now successfully in place. The new office is in Washington, D.C. in close proximity to partner agencies and organizations and is even located in the same building as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) headquarters office. This location provides enhanced opportunity for organizational networking, partnering, and maintains access to SAF as a trusted, science-based subject matter expert within our political hub. The revenue from the building sale (\$2.25M gross / \$2.09M net) will be invested separately from SAF general funds to maintain financial transparency. Income generated by the investment will be used to offset the office lease expenses.

Our CEO, **Terry Baker**, invested considerable effort in evolving national office staffing structure, level, and function to best support SAF's vision, mission, and strategic plan. Position hires are complete, and SAF is again fully staffed with talented and motivated personnel. The newest hires include: **Franklin Parham** to manage Fundraising and Development, and **Darnell Pinson** who is the Membership Manager to be working with **Steven Glover** and his team. Mr. Parham comes to SAF from George Washington University where he was Director of Donor Relations, and Mr. Pinson comes from General Agents and Managers Association (GAMA) International where he was their Database Administrator. Learn about the full SAF staff at this link: [SAF Staff](#)

The SAF National Convention "Virtual Edition" will take place October 29-31 with speaker session recordings remaining available for viewing for about a month for conference attendees. CommsPartners has been contracted to manage the SAF within a virtual platform that will allow for interactive live speaker sessions, vendor/sponsor engagement, and many other features available to conference attendees. While we will not be able to reunite with familiar colleagues or meet new members with casual social interactions in the ways we love to do at the in-person conference, SAF has been dedicated to creating the best alternative possible within our current situation with rich and diverse conference content. The virtual offering will provide increased opportunities for professionals to partici-

NOTICE!

When you move . . or pass on! We want to know about it.

Change of address, news, etc. Send to Steve Wilent, Editor, The Forestry Source wilents@safnet.org, Or Phone 503-622-3033 *Continuing Education Calendar*. All events in this category are drawn from the Events Calendar of SAF's Website, tinyurl.com/hb2uamr/. All events must offer Continuing Forestry Education Credits. Space is limited. Mailing address: 10100 Laureate Way, Bethesda, MD 20814. 



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

APSAF Executive Committee Meetings

December, time & place TBD
January 27, 2021, time & place TBD
Other meetings as required

2020 Summer meetings (all over)

- South Carolina, June 4, postponed
- North Carolina, June 17-19, Raleigh
- Virginia, August 11-14 virtual

2021 APSAF Annual Meeting

January 28, virtual meeting

2020 National SAF Meeting

Oct. 28-Nov. 1, Providence, Rhode Island,
Virtual meeting, a first for SAF!

2021 National SAF Meeting

November 1-5, Sacramento, CA

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pate, since travel costs and restrictions are alleviated. Additionally, there are increased opportunities to earn CFEs by attending multiple concurrent sessions with flexible accessibility to conference content. If you have yet to register, and would like to view a demo of the virtual platform, or would like more information about the conference agenda, please visit this site: [SAF Convention 2020](#)

Once again, APSAF made a strong and significant showing in the national awards categories with many well-deserved professionals from our society being recognized at the national convention. A sincere congratulations to our newly recognized SAF Fellows, Presidential Field Forester, and other national award winners! (See pages 10-13.) APSAF's sweep of nominations does not go unnoticed within SAF, and it is all due to tremendous coordinated efforts of the APSAF Awards Committee, effective, nomination process, and dedicated volunteers. Thank you all!

Some of the other, many Board and Committee activities include charter reviews/updates, position statement drafting and updating, working group revitalization and communication improvements, updated SAF accreditation standards/policies/procedures, marketing initiatives and a variety of other activities. Additionally, SAF joined the Forest-Climate Working Group to support the Great Amer-

ican Outdoors Act in the U.S. Senate.

APSAF District Representative to the SAF Student Executive Committee is **Josh Anderson** from Haywood Community College, who served in this position last year and was highly interested in remaining engaged with SAF in this capacity. SEC activities traditionally revolve around the National Convention, so this will be a new approach to how that committee engages students nationwide. Thank you, Josh!



Lastly, a new Young Professional seat on the SAF Board of Directors has been formalized. The intent is to have representation for young professionals in order to discern improved ways to engage this membership demographic within SAF activities, planning, and development. It's also an opportunity to invest in developing organizational leaders within SAF. Several nominations have already been received, and additional nominations can be sent to me (ajewell2204@gmail.com) through October 1st. To learn more about this new opportunity to serve your organization as a Young Professional and to access details on the nomination process, please visit the following site: [SAF Board of Directors Nominations](#).

I wish you wellness, discernment, and optimism as the remainder of this odd year unfolds... ~Anne



Off and Running: First-Ever Online Leadership Academy is Underway

By Tom Davidson

APSAF has been the birthplace of SAF leaders since the founding of SAF, and if the APSAF Leadership Team has its way, that is not about to change, even in the face of COVID-19. In fact, APSAF may very well be leading the way for the rest of SAF with our first-ever online leadership academy, which got underway on September 17th. This all-new design followed two postponements of the more traditional event earlier this year when it became clear that an in-person Academy would not be tenable any time soon. Not only is the Academy leveraging the same 2020 Leadership Development Grant from the Foresters' Fund, it has also been developed by and delivered by APSAF leaders in partnership with Leadership Nature.



Don't let the term "online" fool you. This is not a series of talking-head webinars or videos where multitasking is high, and impact is low. Twenty-five participants are now piloting the new Academy, and they represent APSAF forestry professionals from state agencies, consulting firms, industries, student chapters, and academia. National SAF leaders and staff have also supported the project beyond the Foresters' Fund Grant as planning partners and guest speakers.

Here is what the Academy participants are doing to accelerate their leadership for SAF, their employers, their careers and their communities from September through November and beyond:

- Participating in eight 90-minute instructor-led modules, each followed by 30-minute social and networking time.
- Learning about leadership styles, communication, motivation, teamwork, decision-making, trust, conflict, and more.
- Doing extensive pre- and post-work assignments for each module to prepare for, practice, and apply the learning.
- Meeting with accountability partners weekly to discuss their assignments, take-aways, and application plans.
- Taking three leadership-style assessments to improve their awareness and ability to adapt and succeed with different people and situations.
- Viewing up to seven newly created interview videos with top SAF leaders to gain the orientation, inner-workings, and insight they will need as SAF leaders.
- Taking part in a community chat feature to get to know one another further, discuss the topics at hand, ask questions, and share perspectives.
- Meeting with APSAF leaders via the built-in weekly social time and the community chat feature to get additional viewpoints, ask questions, and grow their network.
- Taking quizzes, surveys and self-assessments to measure progress along the way and the impact months later.
- Working one-on-one with volunteer APSAF mentors beginning with a bonus session on December 3rd and continuing through 2021.
- Earning up to 22.5 CFE Credits for eligible activities, depending upon their action level and assignment followthrough.

Continued, next page

Of the new APSAF Online Leadership Academy, Past SAF President and Chair of the SAF Leadership Committee **Clark Seely** said the following: "In SAF, we know that leadership development, at all levels, is vital to our health and success as an organization, both in the present and the future. In dealing effectively with the impacts of the pandemic, APSAF's efforts this year, with their virtual leadership academy, are taking leadership training and preparation for the future to new and exciting levels. We're hopeful that the results of their efforts can be a model for other SAF units around the country in the coming years. It also shows what a State Society can do with outstanding current leadership leveraging the national SAF Foresters' Fund Leadership Development Grant program."

Finally, if you would like to be mentor for the program or learn more about being a mentor for Academy participants, please contact APSAF Student Engagement Chair and NC Division Chair-elect **Sam Cook** at scook4@ncsu.edu immediately.

News briefs

APSAF 2021: Mark your Calendars!

The 2021 Annual APSAF meeting will be held virtually on January 28 from 8:30 am to noon. Far more engaging, interesting and substantive than you might think possible for a business meeting, this will offer SAF members a chance to reconnect, conduct APSAF and Division business, honor award recipients, and listen to remarkable little known but historically significant stories from APSAF members. Later that evening plan to rejoin your friends for the alumni social breakout rooms starting at 7pm. The meeting is free and will serve to kick off APSAF's year-long centennial celebration that culminates with the big birthday bash January 26 through 28, **2022** in Asheville, NC. Registration information is coming soon!

SAF Creates Young Professional Board Seat

Call for Nominations for a Young Professional to serve on the SAF Board of Directors. This is a new position and new leadership development opportunity for our Young Professional members, with the position starting January 1, 2021. It is a one-year, non-voting position to be appointed by the SAF President from a pool of candidates nominated by the SAF Board District Directors. Young Professionals are SAF's window into the expectations and interests of the future, allowing a Young Professional important insights on SAF issues, initiatives, and critical issues impacting forestry and SAF.

Eligibility: • A Young Professional is defined as a college graduate, an SAF member in good standing under the age of 40 at the time of board appointment. Nominations require a consent form, bio, statement of interest, and recent photo all due to Anne Jewell as the District Rep by October 1st. 📧📧📧



Joe Trihey
Forester / Member

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Foresters Fund

The deadline for Foresters' Fund requests and Special APSAF funding is **December 31, 2020**. Questions and requests to be submitted to Bill Worrell, bworrell@vt.edu. The APSAF Executive Committee will review Foresters' Fund requests and send them to national SAF for consideration if appropriate. Special APSAF grant funding requests will be reviewed by and decided upon by the APSAF Executive Committee for approval and funding. GET BUSY with your idea.

What??? You've moved!

Are we going to have to warp your Biltmore stick to get you to change your address? OK. Here's how to let SAF know where you are. Please send to E. Cooke your new mailing address: Society of American Foresters, 10100 Laureate Way, Bethesda, MD 20814. This will also ensure you keep receiving your *Trail Blazer*.

APSAF Elections coming

In a few weeks, elections will be held to determine our Chair-Elects for APSAF and the North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia Divisions. In each case the successful candidate will serve one year as Chair-Elect, followed by a year as Chair and then one final year as Immediate-Past Chair. This is an incredible opportunity to serve the forestry profession, meet and network with numerous professionals from throughout our region, and gain valuable experience in providing leadership to a diverse organization. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a leader within our profession, whether it be as a Chair-Elect candidate or in another capacity, please contact Rick Cantrell at 864.653.7224 or RickCantrell@BlackBriarEnv.com

A Word about APSAF Electronic Communications

It has come to the attention of APSAF leadership that some members are not receiving electronic copies of the *Trail Blazer*. We knew that there were APSAF members without e-mail addresses when moving to electronic distribution and made a concerted effort to contact those members early this year to learn about their communication preferences. As a result of this effort we identified additional e-mail addresses and also continued to mail a small number

of *Trail Blazers* to members without e-mail addresses. What we did not anticipate was the rejection and/or re-routing of APSAF communications, to include the *Trail Blazer*, by a percentage of member e-mail servers. Review of Constant Contact data shows that about 5% of APSAF members have communications impacted in this manner. In addition to this our previous practice was to replace our member contact list in January/February with the updated roster from the national office, and we have learned that roster contains some outdated information.

APSAF leadership has developed a process to work toward addressing these issues. As an early step we will be distributing the *Trail Blazer* both through Constant Contact and also asking Division Chairs to disseminate via e-mail to Chapter Chairs to share with their own e-mail lists. (E-mail servers are less likely to classify an e-mail as spam if it is being sent to a smaller distribution list).

Thus, for a period of time, some of you may receive the *Trail Blazer* twice, while others will likely receive it from one method or the other. Going forward, we will also be maintaining our own master mailing list at the APSAF level and comparing the national roster to that, rather than the other way around. In addition, we will be sending a letter via U.S. Mail to all members this fall describing upcoming events, how they can stay in touch with APSAF--such as downloading the *Trail Blazer* from the APSAF website--and inviting members to update their contact information with us.

If you learn about members who have not received a *Trail Blazer* from APSAF this year, please forward the member's contact information to Dan Goerlich dalego@vt.edu so we can look into the matter. We appreciate your patience as we make process improvements.

We have a new Website!

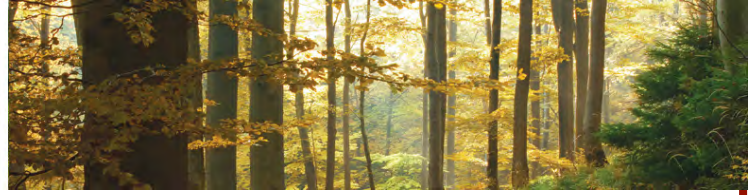
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Is Forestry a Profession?



by Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, CF

The following article helps to substantiate one of the salient purposes of the APSAF *Trail Blazer*. We welcome more deliberate thinking like this and anticipate your reaction to Mike's constructive op/ed. Mike can be reached in Aiken, SC at 803-646,4554, or wetzelm@me.com.

Dr. Jim Coufal, one of SAF's most thoughtful members, always challenging SAF members' and SAF's complacency, in the March 2019 *Journal of Forestry (Forestry: Profession, Professional, Professionalism)* asked if forestry is a profession. Because this question was a title to a section of the essay, I wonder if the editor formulated this question and not Dr. Coufal. Be that as it may, Dr. Coufal does ask "Can we fully be a profession if we don't agree on what we openly profess?"

For sure and for certain, I thought such a controversial question accompanied by a battery of challenging observations and assertions would rile up more than a few members. I anticipated an energized conversation in the *Journal* or *The Forestry Source* about forestry as a profession. But . . . Crickets. Really? Perhaps it is worse than he fears. We may not only not agree "on what we openly profess," but we may not care one way or the other. No interest, let alone passion, no profession? Possibly, but because I am certain APSAF members have passion for the profession, I thought I would respond to Dr. Coufal in *The Trail Blazer*.

To begin with, a foundation—a society of professionals is not the profession to which those professionals are called or in which they are engaged as much as professionals who are members of that society may wish otherwise. As do many within, and perhaps outside SAF, Dr. Coufal conflates SAF and the forestry profession. He fuses the two into one; but they are two, not one. In fact, the profession necessarily antedates the professional society. In explanation and analysis of what he considers unsettling issues within forestry, he refers primarily to SAF policies and internal issues past and present, as if SAF's shortcomings and challenges are the profession's. This conflation permeates the essay, thus obscuring the question he seeks to explore and colors his premature conclusion of forestry as a ". . . low end of the scale . . ." profession.

At the outset, Dr. Coufal engages the reader's attention with a definition of the word "profess" —to affirm, proclaim, announce, state, vouch, to declare openly. One paragraph later he defines "profession" as a calling that requires specialized knowledge often based on long and intensive academic preparation. He starts well and agreeably with these definitions. Particularly, I am partial to identifying a profession as a calling.

Unfortunately, he adds definitions of "professional calling" and "professionalism." He does so because in addressing his concerns about forestry as a profession he critiques the formation of foresters—foresters as professionals—and the values, attitudes, and conduct of foresters—professionalism. These last two definitions and the associated analysis and discussion are not useful or necessary in making a case for or against forestry as a profession. He runs down this rabbit trail because of the conflation error and so muddles his argument about the profession.

The argument in part is structured around a list he introduces of characteristics which differentiate professions and occupations. I modified his nine-item list by splitting one item, Number 2 into two, 2 and 3. He concedes the list is not comprehensive, but the distinguishing characteristics are generally accepted in evaluating the status of a profession. I have seen similar lists and have no fundamental disagreement. Furthermore, Dr. Coufal asserts the characteristics exist in a continuum of high to low, but he does not clearly explain a ranking order. No matter, though, because it is a list offered as a tool to help the reader decide if forestry is a profession.

I will use the list as just such a tool. Characteristic 1 marks a profession in that it "deals with theory and intellectual technique." Forestry checks this box. Characteristic 2 is a profession's discipline, has ". . . high relevance to social values . . ." Check. Wood is good and clean water is essential. Forests provide essential ecosystem services, and foresters manage elements of the ecosystem. Characteristic 3, the added trait from splitting the original list's Characteristic 2 into two traits, recognizes a profession's discipline is "not often understood by lay people." We all know this is true. Check.

Continuing through the list, Characteristic 4 marks a profession as it requires "a long and specialized educational training period dealing more with symbols than things." I presume symbols mean ideas and abstract concepts. Check again, although Dr. Coufal and I both note the entry level education and training period for forestry is not near as lengthy as that required for medicine, dentistry, veterinary, or the law. Characteristic 5 identifies a profession as having "a highly developed and important subculture." Frankly, I have no idea what this trait is about. I am scratching it from the list. Characteristic 6 states a profession "has a motivation of service rather than self-interest." The wording is awkward because it appears to be written to describe an individual. Individuals—people, not professions—are motivated and respond to moti-

vation. They act out of both self-interest and selfless service to others. Instead, I propose a profession is oriented to service to people and organizations and through them, society. Forestry checks this rewritten but similar characteristic.

The next two characteristics are questionable. Characteristic 7, states a profession "operates with a high degree of autonomy." Revisiting the subject of confusing the nature of things, a profession is not an organization, rather it is an amorphous body of individuals. Individual professionals may or may not operate with a high degree of autonomy. Organizations of individual professionals such as SAF generally do operate with a high degree of autonomy, but these types of organizations are not the profession. Scratch this characteristic from the list. Characteristic 8, "has a meaningful and used code of ethics," suffers from the same shortcoming as Characteristic 7, that is, an amorphous body of individual professionals has no code of ethics. We trust individual professionals act ethically, but only an association of professionals is able to have a formal code of ethics. Characteristic 8 joins 7 and 5 on the discard list.

My initial inclination with Characteristic 9 was to discard it, too. How can a profession, an amorphous group of professionals have or assume, "great responsibility and accountability?" Then I considered my experience over the years as a professional forester. This experience convinces me that most foresters are sensitive to the misdeeds and mistakes of their colleagues and to the various failures and successes of forestry operations. In a sense, the profession—the individuals in the amorphous group—are angered or embarrassed by these misdeeds and failures and resolve in their own professional lives to work to avoid the pitfalls and to take on tasks to repair the profession's image. This characteristic is tricky to assess, but I think forestry checks this box.

Looking back to the ethics trait I just rejected, is it possible this "sensitivity" might be construed as an unwritten, rudimentary ethics code? Yes, I certainly think we could consider it an informal, non-specific code of honor, but pointedly not an enforceable ethics code.

The last characteristic in the list states a profession is "often licensed." While this statement is true, licensing or certification or registration is usually external, state imposed regulation of a profession and is neither an innate nor necessary attribute of a profession.

Dr. Coufal observes that the subjects of profession and professionalism are not formally taught to forestry students. For better or worse, I attended an institution in which these subjects were taught in specific courses and were emphasized in many of the other classes I took. What was I taught about a profession that I can add to the elements of Dr. Coufal's list, which I have retained?

1. A profession is marked by the lifetime commitment of its members to the discipline. Forestry is so marked.
2. A profession is marked by an oath members of the profession take upon entering the profession. There is no forestry oath.
3. A profession is marked by life sacrifices required of its members. This subject may be debatable, but I think appropriate to forestry.

The heart of Dr. Coufal's concern about the status of forestry as a profession centers on the question of what foresters profess and, derivatively, for what the profession stands. He uses the word "profess" fifteen times in his essay. In other words, he asks what are the generally agreed-upon core values of foresters, thus of the profession? He argues the profession has no generally accepted core value or values, that there is no agreement on what foresters profess. This values agreement void, he attempts to demonstrate, has adversely affected the profession's status and credibility. He writes, "A solid profession is one where the large majority of members agree on the values of their profession and how to act upon them. Here . . . forestry has failed and that has lowered its professional acceptance by the public . . ." In part because of the conflation error he uses disagreements internal to SAF, public policy differences among foresters, and the assertion of a "long held view . . . the public thinks of foresters as loggers . . ." as evidence to buttress his view. As already noted, Dr. Coufal grudgingly concedes forestry is a profession, but a lower order one because it has no profession-wide accepted creed. Is he correct? You decide. I will review.

Forestry fulfills the following generally-accepted markers of a profession as posited by Coufal and me.

1. intellectual theory and application
2. highly relevant to social values
3. not clearly understandable by the public
4. requires initial rigorous, specialized education and training in its art and science
5. oriented to service to individuals and organizations and through them to society

Continued, page 20

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Five APSAF Members honored with national awards

John A. Beale Memorial Award: **Shelby L. (Lee) Spradlin**

The John A. Beale Memorial Award recognizes outstanding efforts over a sustained period of time by an SAF member in the promotion of forestry through voluntary service to the Society. Lee has been awarded many times over his 40-year career. He has received SAF awards for outstanding service in each of the four decades spanning his career. Lee Spradlin epitomizes the very reason the John A. Beale Memorial Award was created.

Lee has served extensively in SAF since joining in 1976. He has served as the Robert E. Lee Chapter Chair, Virginia Division Chair, APSAF Chair and finally as APSAF's representative on SAF Council 2002-2004 as well as on other various SAF committees throughout his career. His peers in SAF recognized this service by awarding him the Virginia Division Young Forester Leadership Award Virginia in 1986, the Division Merit Award in 1996, APSAF's Distinguished Service to Forestry in 1996, SAF Fellow in 2005, the Presidential Field Forester Award in 2017, and APSAF's Special Volunteer Service Award in 2019. Although, Lee "retired" in 2015, he still remains professionally active. Recently, Lee took the responsibility of Division Membership Chair, a very critical committee in the Virginia Division.

Lee worked as a field forester in forest industry (Westvaco, Continental Forest Investments, MeadWestvaco, and WestRock). Much of his career was spent assisting private landowners in managing their forestland. During his career, he assisted well over 500 landowners, wrote many stewardship and forest management plans and facilitated the establishment of over 30,000 acres of loblolly pine plantations on private land. In 2017, he was awarded the Presidential Field Forester Award by SAF for a stellar career as a field forester. While remaining highly active in on-the-ground forestry Lee found time and energy for volunteer leadership service. He not only served SAF, from the Chapter to the National level, but also served the American Tree Farm System, the Virginia Forestry Association and was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to represent the interests of Virginians on the Board of Forestry, advising the State Forester. Lee has also promoted forestry through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. He manned a SAF display for two days at both the 2017 BSA National Jamboree and the 2019 World Jamboree. Locally, he is assisting the Blue Ridge Mountains Council in their forest management work and received the BSA's William T. Hornaday Badge for Distinguished Service in Conservation in 2013. Lee has demonstrated an awareness that the promotion of forestry in the field goes along with a healthy professional, political and cultural environment for practicing foresters. His career in part was dedicated to this very concept.

Lee's cheerful demeanor and willingness to volunteer have been well known throughout APSAF. He has exemplified throughout the four decades of his career, promotion of forestry, outstanding service to SAF, and leadership in volunteer work that supports SAF, the very characteristics the John A. Beale Memorial Award has sought to honor.~Contributed by Scott Shallenberger

Diversity Leadership Award: **Alex Singleton**

Alex Singleton, Fiber Supply Manager at International Paper, was selected for the 2020 Diversity Leadership Award, making him only the fourth SAF member to earn this recognition and the second from APSAF. According to the specifications, this award "recognizes an SAF member who displays the ability, talent, and skill to lead innovative and exemplary diversity and inclusion efforts." Those who know Alex's story will wonder why he was not thanked and recognized by his profession and colleagues much sooner. Those who do not know him will be inspired by how he saw a problem and worked against the odds to solve it with passion, grace and undying diligence for decades without fanfare or any expectation of recognition such as this award.

In short, his accomplishments can be summarized in three large areas of impact:

1. Initiating and promoting the profession to underserved minority young people at a time when very few were aware of, or troubled by, the lack of minority professionals in forestry and natural resources.
2. Helping to pioneer, organize and systematize forestry assistance to underserved minority landowners to return their lands to productivity and sustainable family wealth as an early part of the Center for Heirs Property Preservation and beyond.
3. Sharing his experiences as an African-American forester with young people wherever he has lived and worked, encouraging and informing hundreds of students at critical times in their careers, many of whom might never have considered our profession for themselves.

The longer story includes a career beginning when a forest industry representative visited his Black History Club during his junior year at Summerville High School in South Carolina. After showing interest in and attending a woodlands tour at Westvaco, Alex set aside his original plans to go into engineering and applied to attend Clemson University's School of Forestry and Environmental Conservation. There he earned his BS degree and thereafter joined Westvaco as their only Black forester.

In just one part of a lifelong story that earned this national recognition, Alex was frustrated as a young forester by the lack of diversity in the profession, and he was also sought out by minority landowners who needed someone they could

trust to help them with their land. He took personal action to solve both problems. One such solution was to initiate, coordinate and operate the first private-sector conservation camp with Westvaco. The week-long Natural Resources Career Camp ran 13 years, from 1993-2006, and it introduced nearly 200 high school students to careers in natural resources. This alone resulted in several young people becoming foresters, biologists and medical professionals, including a PhD in pathology. As Alex puts it, "We were building a pipeline. Each year we would have students apply to Clemson. Also, during that camp, we hired African-American interns who gained additional exposure, networks and career paths at Westvaco. Not only did it benefit the students, it benefited the companies who hired them." ~Contributed by Tom Davidson

Presidential Field Forester Award: Stanley Foster Warner

A committee of foresters selected Stan Warner, retired Virginia Department of Forestry state silviculturist and 60-year SAF member, as the 2020 Presidential Field Forester Award recipient from APSAF. The Presidential Field Forester Award recognizes foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies and are presented to individuals who have displayed uncommon talent, skill, and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management.



A creative thinker, Stan espoused the virtue of listening and observing closely to what the woods are telling us. His powers of observation led to innovative management theories such as establishing pine plantations for the ultimate purpose of regenerating oak, which grew well in the understory. Stan was always willing to share his extensive knowledge with forest landowners, practicing professionals, and others through educational programs and resources.

Stan earned his B.S. degree in forest management from Penn State University in 1961. He participated in the USDA Forest Service Advanced Studies in Silviculture program in 1986-87, spending 12 weeks at Clemson, West Virginia, and the University of Wisconsin. He joined the Virginia Department of Forestry in 1961 as a Service Forester in Goochland and Powhatan Counties. He then advanced to the Pocahontas State Forest Resident Forester, a position he held from 1963 to 1967. He subsequently served as Staff Forester for a year prior to becoming the Assistant/Acting Superintendent of State Forests, a position he held from 1968 through 1991. Stan served as the Virginia Department Forestry State Silviculturist from 1991 until his retirement.

A recognized expert in hardwood silviculture, Stan's work nurtured the growth of many thousands of acres of high-quality forests across Virginia. Stan's professional accomplishments also include authoring 21 comprehensive forest management plans for the Virginia State Forests, selected state parks, and private foundations totaling approximately 2,400 pages. He was an invited instructor for forestry, biology and ecology classes and special tours for 14 colleges or universities. He served as an instructor for the USDA Forest Service (PASS) program. Stan served as a mentor to forest industry, private business, government, conservation organizations, and consulting foresters as requested. He authored over 65 technical training papers, many in hardwood silviculture. He also wrote articles and/or contributed interviews for newspaper or magazine stories in eight additional publications. Stan was actively engaged in his community. He was married to his wife Kris for 57 years.

Stan received the Virginia Division SAF Merit Award in 1998 and is an SAF Golden Member and Fellow. Also, he received the National Wildlife Federation Virginia Forest Conservationist of the Year in 1986. Congratulations and well-deserved Stan, with appreciation and respect from your fellow foresters. ~Contributed by Dan Goerlich and team

Employer Leadership Award: Resource Management Service LLC

The Employer Leadership Award recognizes an employer of SAF members that demonstrates leadership by consistently and significantly supporting their employees' participation in SAF and broader engagement in the profession. Founded in 1950 by John M. Bradley, a Yale University forestry graduate, and Harry E. Murphy, a forestry graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Resource Management Service (RMS) is this year's Employer Leadership Award recipient.

In support of his company's nomination, Tony Doster, RMS Manager for the NC Region, wrote the following in part: "Those of us who serve the Society know that we cannot do it without the sustained commitment by our leadership and by our managers. Any award we win, any election, and volunteer activity, we make happen because of the culture of our company and because of the support of our management...I'm a manager myself, leading our North Carolina Region. It has been an honor serving the Society, now as APSAF Treasurer, but I do not serve alone. In my office sits the NC Division Immediate Past Chair, the incoming Waccamaw Chair, and several other members who, like me, appreciate a company that supports and encourages SAF involvement as a crucial part of being a successful and respected forestry company."

Ken Arney, USDA Forest Service Regional Forester, offered the following remarks about RMS suitability for this award: "RMS's leadership is well-known across the South where they operate for supporting SAF activities and meeting events as well as encouraging RMS staff to becoming SAF members and take on leadership roles within SAF...As a member of SAF and in my posi-

tion with the USDA Forest Service, throughout all of my interactions with RMS, they have demonstrated a passion for advancing the SAF mission as well as the profession of forestry.”

And finally, Fred Cabbage, Alumni Ass’n. Distinguished Research Professor at North Carolina State University, provided the following perspective: “RMS North Carolina exceeds every standard of leadership in the Society of American Foresters, and is a model for organizational support. They surely have had the largest single impact of any single private organization in the APSAF for promoting SAF and leading in meetings and officer positions, for every single forester they employ. They are a model for SAF and the forestry profession, and have made unmatched impacts forming positive perceptions of forest resource management in North Carolina.” Congratulations, RMS, on your well-deserved recognition! ~Contributed by Rick Cantrell

Honorary Membership Award: Kathy Abusow

It is with great pleasure that SAF recognizes Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), for the Honorary Membership Award.

Since joining SFI in 2007, Kathy has greatly expanded SFI’s network across the U.S. and Canada to include the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous peoples, governments, and universities. Kathy and her work to advance forestry in North America embodies the criteria for the SAF Honorary Membership Award of distinguished service to forestry through development, diffusion and application of forestry knowledge.

Since Kathy joined SFI, forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard have grown from 140 million acres to almost 370 million acres across public and private lands from Canada’s boreal forests to the US South. This impressive expansion of certification means more forests are subject to rigorous sustainability standards than ever before. Kathy has encouraged the application of forestry knowledge in many ways. Chief among them is her work supporting and enhancing logger and forester training. By the end of 2018, more than 200,000 loggers and foresters had completed SFI-approved training programs. The SFI Conservation Grants Program, established by Kathy and her team, fosters partnerships between organizations interested in improving forest management in the United States and Canada, and responsible procurement globally.

Kathy believes that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. Under her leadership, SFI has become much more than a set of forestry standards and is now a strong community. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that local communities value and benefit from sustainably managed forests through collaboration with the SFI network. She has signed MOUs with Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity Canada, and the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business. A memorandum of mutual support with Scouts BSA is helping to demonstrate forest stewardship and environmental education. Kathy established the SFI Community Grants program to encourage collaborative community-based projects, activities or events that support SFI’s efforts to connect communities to forests.

SFI acquired Project Learning Tree (PLT) in 2016, an award-winning environmental education program that increases youth understanding of the environment. Since 1976, PLT has reached 138 million students and trained 765,000 educators. After acquiring PLT in the U.S., Kathy decided to bring this successful program to Canada. The achievements listed here are just a sampling of Kathy’s accomplishments during her tenure at SFI. Congratulations, Kathy! ~Contributed by Rick Cantrell

And three more SAF Fellows from APSAF!

JENNIFER GAGNON, SAF Fellow

Jennifer Gagnon was named a Society of American Foresters Fellow in 2020 for her dedication to the Society and her contributions to educating forest landowners. Jennifer has been a very active member of SAF for the past 15 years, serving on many meeting planning committees and leading at multiple levels through her positions as Chair of her local Blue Ridge Chapter, Chair of the Virginia Division, and Chair of the Appalachian Society. She also was the APSAF representative for the National House of Society Delegates in 2014-15. Jennifer has served as an advisor for the Virginia Tech student SAF Chapter and has worked to increase the students’ interactions with professionals by fostering joint meetings between the student chapter and the Blue Ridge Chapter.

Jennifer is noted as having implemented the first online annual meeting registration for the Appalachian SAF when she was the Registration Chair for the 2008 APSAF meeting held in Norfolk, VA. Jennifer has had a significantly positive impact on the forests and forest landowners in Virginia through her position as an Extension Associate, specializing in landowner education at Virginia Tech since 2005. She organizes, facilitates, sometimes teaches, and leads many landowner educational programs. Examples include: 54 Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours conducted to the date of her Fellow nomination, reaching 3,000 participants; 18 Woodland Owner Retreats conducted, reaching 450 participants; Generation NEXT events, reaching 517 participants; and, the Forest Landowner Update publication, distributed quarterly to 10,000 individuals. Additionally,

Jennifer is one of four certified American Tree Farm Inspector training facilitators in Virginia, and, in this role, helps to train/re-certify all Tree Farm Inspectors in the state. Further, Jennifer has served on the Virginia Forestry Association's Board of Directors.

In summary, Jennifer Gagnon is widely respected for her leadership and dedication to the Society of American Foresters as well as her contributions to the education of Virginia's forest landowners. She has worked extensively to make a positive and lasting impact in both arenas, and she is a noted leader and role model in her profession. *Contributed by Greg Scheerer, Area Manager, WestRock*

ADAM K. DOWNING, SAF Fellow

Given his extensive body of work for both the Society of American Foresters and the forestry community overall, it is hard to imagine a more deserving person for the Fellow honor. Adam's commitment to the Society is shown in his over 25 years as a member and the many roles he has accepted over that time, including Chapter Chair, Division Communications Chair, Division Chair, Science and Technology Chair, and soon-to-be APSAF Chair. Over that time, he also served on at least three APSAF annual meeting committees, including one as Chair. He has received the Young Forester Leadership Award, the Merit Award, and the Distinguished Service Award. He has also been a presenter at two SAF National meetings.

Most of his professional career has been as an Extension Agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension, and he has become known as a premier agent, educator, collaborator, and colleague to everyone who has worked with him over that tenure. He has helped develop several innovative programs and initiatives, including the Northern Virginia Urban Roundtable, the Generation NEXT land conservation education program, and an extensive series of invasive species trainings and interest groups.

In short, Adam embodies everything the Society would expect in a member and a Fellow. Congratulations, Adam...it was a true honor to submit this nomination! *Contributed by Ed Zimmer, Deputy State Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry*

DAVID B. POWELL, JR., SAF Fellow

David B. Powell, Jr. has been recognized as an SAF Fellow in 2020 for his outstanding contributions to the forestry profession and to SAF. David has been a member of SAF since 1990 and has exhibited exceptional commitment to the organization in many ways. He has held leadership positions at the local (Rappahannock & Skyline Chapters), state (Virginia Division), Society (Appalachian), and National (House of Society Delegates) levels. David has also led or helped lead several annual APSAF meetings during his tenure with the SAF, as well as assisting with VASAF meetings. He has also donated his time and skills as a Finance Audit committee chair or member several times and has been noted for his technological talents and efforts to transfer this knowledge to the SAF. David helped develop APSAF's earliest Webpage way back in 1999! He also has helped move the Society to an electronic communication platform over the years.

David's work as a field forester and middle manager for nearly 30 years with the Virginia Department of Forestry, the state's respected forestry leader, is hard to overstate. As a field forester for over 13 years, his knowledge of Virginia's woodlands, owners and markets is broad and deep. His on-the-ground work with thousands of landowners over the years has directly impacted thousands of forestland acres for generations to come. He carries this dedication to his field beyond his job and has been the Chair of the Albemarle County Agricultural & Forestal District Committee since 2019, in which he works with landowners to voluntarily commit to continuing to use their rural lands for farming or forestry.

In summary, David has made significant contributions to both the Society of American Foresters and the forestry profession from nearly every side and angle over the past 30 years. While his leadership and contributions are many and varied, there is a single common thread through it all. David leads and contributes not for attention, recognition, or accolades... but through a truly selfless motivation for the good of the profession, our fellow professionals, and society as a whole. *Contributed by Greg Scheerer, Area Manager, WestRock* ☘☘

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Billy Newman, VA Division Chair . . . favorite quote: "Say what you'll do, do what you say, and if that goes south, do the right thing!"



Great Expectations!!!



by **Billy Newman**
Virginia Division Chair

In the last issue of the *Trail Blazer* and in honor of Memorial Day, we reviewed the service and sacrifices made by our military through the generations to preserve the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Healthcare workers and all first responders fit in that mold in this current "war" and are on the front lines of the Coron-

avirus pandemic. It is what was then and is now, *expected*. My ending question in that issue was, as foresters, what is *expected* of us???

So, **what is expected** of us as foresters and natural resources managers? The first step is to develop credibility with the public that we serve. In order to be credible, we firstly are *expected* to learn as much as possible about the resources within which we have been entrusted to "manage."

The process starts for us as students trying to ID one tree species from another, learn how *trees*, then how *stands* and *forests* grow and develop, and then interrelate to form *ecosystems*. How to protect those resources from harmful impacts from wildfire, insects, diseases, invasive species, high-grading, development, poor choices and lack of, and for the benefit of, those who will come after us. Also, how to measure, value, and utilize those resources for the benefit of present and the society of the future.

Looking into the future and how we manage the bad, such as environmental carbon for example, while developing new methods and products to enhance our forests through research.

Honesty and integrity dealing with the public, our landowner clients, and within the profession and forest industry? You bet 'cha! Especially when dealing with silvicultural recommendations and operations that involve the exchange of money for forest products. This is the area where forestry often comes under public scrutiny. Sometimes, rightfully so! Most of the time, thankfully not!

As *professionals* in our field, we are *expected* to perform operations with honesty and integrity. As SAF members, our Code of Ethics requires it.

"*First, do no harm*," implied and known as the Hippocratic Oath in the medical profession, once was a requirement for newly minted physicians for the *practice* of medicine. It is equally applicable in the *practice* of forestry, too! Through our studies,

the *practice* of forestry, and continuing education, foresters have a very good knowledge of how forests grow and develop over time.

The initial thought during stand evaluation, prescribing silvicultural recommendations and operations for a timberstand should be, "*First, do no harm*." It is what is *expected*!

Continual improvement. Business efficiency concepts from the 1980s and 1990s when businesses and corporations began to develop new management techniques designed to improve operations by not feeling satisfied with the present. It did not always shake out like it was drawn up on the chalkboard, but the concept was valid. As foresters, we are *expected* to strive toward *continual improvement* in gaining new knowledge and skillsets to ply our trade.

SAF provides foresters numerous opportunities to gain additional information, knowledge, and skills through programs such as Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) and conferences featuring currently relevant topics. This is where the concept of *life-long learning* enters our profession.

An old organizational adage states, "The first nail in the coffin of an organization is to believe that we have arrived!" Same for individuals, too! (This ol' dirt forester sees a little something new or different almost every time he steps in the woods or attends a professional or SAF meeting. Researching the new or different then adds to the knowledge bank for the next time out. Staying current and up to date is what is *expected*.)

Passing it along and paying it forward. I frequently mention to our forestry students at DSLCC the one thing that separates their instructors from them and that is the ability to look in the rear view mirror!

Mentoring and coaching based on *experiential knowledge* is an integral part of the educational process for the next generation of forest managers. It does the profession zero good for well experienced foresters not to share knowledge and experiences with younger foresters as they, like a stand of forest trees, grow and develop. It is what is *expected*!

I have been the fortunate and grateful recipient of knowledge, experience, and advice of numerous wise, experienced foresters over the course of my career. My ultimate hope is to pay it forward and pass it along. For this old forester, it is what is *expected*! ~ Billy Newman

VA Division Membership, by Lee Spradlin, Chair

WELCOME to our newest Virginia Division SAF Members! Students: **Thomas De Triquet** and **Laura Katherine Lambert**. Professional: **Patrick Green** and **Delton Alderman**, (Blue Ridge); and **Kyle Rhodes** and **Walker Wolff**, (Skyline).

It's easy to join SAF! Type www.eforester.org/JoinNow, fill out the application, pay on-line, email us your confirmation from SAF, and new, first-time Virginia Division Professional Members will receive \$50 back from the Virginia Division. The Virginia Division also will pay half (\$20) of DSLCC and Virginia Tech Student Member's dues. Why wait? Join Today! For more information, please contact Lee Spradlin, Virginia Division Membership Chair, 434-221-9517, lee.spradlin@icloud.com.

Skyline Chapter, by Michael Downey, Chair

On May 13 we had our first ever virtual chapter meeting with guest speakers **David Shoch** (TerraCarbon) and **Charlie Becker** (VDOF). There were over twenty attendees that included other VA SAF Chapters. We welcome two new members **Walker Wolff** and **Kyle Rhodes**.

The Skyline Chapter has historically hosted the CFE Extravaganza, however, due to COVID-19 it will be virtual this year. The next chapter meeting is set for late October or early November and topics to discuss will be Oak Regeneration, Deer Management and Invasive Pest Management. We will continue to have our Annual Firewood Cut in the valley and a second firewood cut in Madison/Greene county.

Rappahannock Chapter, by Mark Books, CF, Chair

On Wednesday, June 17, we held our 2nd Virtual Chapter Meeting, and it was a home run. Rappahannock Chapter Member and Past APSAF Chair **Tom Davidson** virtually led (Zoomed) us in a program called *The Virtual Leader*. This was a timely program that overviewed the eight major success competencies for leading and managing virtual (or remote) teams. The program covered what makes virtual teams particularly challenging and what skills need special emphasis in the remote environment that *Forbes Magazine* and many others say is "here to stay." If you know Tom, then you know it was an excellent presentation topped off with handouts and notes that are a must have for future reference. I think my favorite key point for communication is "Hit 'em Where it Works," which articulates the principle to appeal to both sides of the brain to ensure how the message is received. After the presentation, we enjoyed catching up during our social time. The Rappahannock was honored with many from outside of the chapter, including **Terry Baker**, SAF's CEO. By the way, if your chapter is interested in a similar meeting, please contact Tom at tom@leadershipnature.com as he'd be glad to help. Other chapter news included promoting The 2020 Virginia Forestry Summit (virtual) in which several members participated. A socially-distanced gathering is in the works for Saturday, November 7 in Mathews County.

Robert E. Lee Chapter, by Jason Fisher

We held our first ever virtual chapter meeting on July 29

from 10 am–11 via Zoom. In light of the superb and informative chapter meeting recently held by the Rappahannock Chapter, our R.E. Lee Chapter leadership organized "*Reforestation of Timberlands (RT), Then and Now: 50 Years of Growing for VA.*" Communications Chair Jason advertised the meeting to VASAF members, and to *Finding our Futures* database potential persons. Some 18 were in attendance. We are grateful to our guest presenters **Todd Groh** and **Dean Cumbia** of the VA Dept. of Forestry, and thank **Greg Scheerer**, Chapter Chair, for putting our topic together. There was a short chapter meeting and updates following the program where a new Chapter chair-elect was elected and the upcoming VFA Summit was promoted encouraging attendance.

Virginia Tech Student Chapter Faculty by Co-Advisors Dr. Carolyn Copenheaver and Jennifer Gagnon,

This summer we created an on-line virtual platform for the Virginia Tech SAF student through Virginia Tech's Canvas system. This has been a good experience for us because we sorted through our old paper files (formerly stored in a file cabinet in Cheatham Hall) and converted them to electronic documents. Now membership lists, the SAF Code of Ethics, SAF Bylaws, our chapter's Constitution, and a list of reoccurring annual deadlines are available to all members through Virginia Tech's student chapter's Canvas site.

University regulations will preclude our traditional in-person chapter meetings; therefore, we will be using the Zoom video conference platform, which interfaces with our chapter's Canvas site to hold our election of officers on September 2nd. We view these transitions in format and structure as a great opportunity for us to improve our leadership skills. Therefore, we will be holding a Zoom-based leadership training workshop for our newly-elected officers, organized by the Virginia Division of SAF. We are looking forward to this training event, and please be aware that some APSAF members may receive requests from us to serve as virtual meeting speakers; we hope you will say yes!

Dabney S. Lancaster Comm. College Student Chapter, by Caroline Fitzgerald

Fall classes began at Dabney S. Lancaster on August 24. DSLCC is conducting virtual classes this semester apart from some programs allowing in-person labs. The Forestry program is one of these programs allowing in-person labs. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be enforced to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty, and community.

The Woodsmen's competition at Twin Falls, West Virginia has been cancelled, as likely the John G. Palmer annual event at Pisgah National Forest this fall at the Cradle of Forestry. In June, the Virginia Community College System approved our new parallel AAS in Forest Management Technology with a Specialization in Arboriculture and Community Forestry degree. Students will begin taking classes this semester to earn this new degree offered at DSLCC. We at the DSLCC forestry program are looking forward to the new academic year. ♦♦

SOUTH CAROLINA—ALL THE NEWS (SHO NUFF)

*Susan T. Guynn, SC Division Chair. Favorite quote: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."
~His Holiness the Dalai Lama*

Ponderings

by Susan T. Guynn, SC Division Chair

Well, what can I say? Six months later and we continue to deal with the effects of COVID. While it appears that it may be getting better, we are still operating and living under different circumstances than we have previously. However, we are a strong profession with outstanding members, and we will adapt in order to continue to provide services that benefit society and the environment.

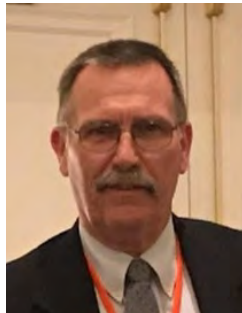


And speaking of outstanding members, I would like to congratulate the 2020 SC SAF Division award winners. While obviously we would have recognized them at our state meeting, we will make sure to recognize them at the first opportunity for their work and dedication.

The SC Division Distinguished Service to Forestry Award goes to **Chip Maley**. Dr. Tom Straka described Chip's work in his letter of support for the nomination as "tireless devotion, sustained commitment, and resolute volunteerism." I, and many others, echo this sentiment in our gratitude and recognition of Chip.

The SC Division Young Forester Leadership Award is presented to **Dr. Patrick Hiesl**. Patrick has taken on several roles within the SC Division of SAF since joining the faculty at Clemson, but is most noted for his work in developing forestry students to be professional foresters. He works tirelessly to engage forestry students in SAF activities, and provides mentored leadership opportunities, while all still teaching basic forestry concepts and principles students need to enter the workforce. Please congratulate Chip and Patrick on their awards, and thank them for their service to SAF next time you see them.

On another note, the SC State Museum has a new Executive Director and efforts are underway to re-establish a relationship with them and the SC Division SAF. The new Executive Director started only in early August, but we hope to hear from her soon to start discussions about updating the forestry exhibit at the museum. Thanks to **Dan Scheffing**, **Tres Hyman**, and **Mike Wetzel** for their continued efforts to



revive this project. Stay tuned, and we will keep you updated as the project moves along.

I would also like to pass along a note to registered foresters in SC. The SC Labor Licensing, and Regulation Board of Registration for Foresters plans to provide a CFE waiver for foresters 65 years old and older who have 35 years or more of practice. I do not have a website that discusses this topic where I can direct you, but be on the lookout for more information.

Finally, I would like to pass along Chapter updates. Most chapter meetings are moving to an online format, which has some advantages and disadvantages. The good side is that more people will attend since they don't have to travel. Chapter meeting attendance may also increase, since members across the state can also attend without having to travel. Of course, the down side is the lack of personal interaction and time for fellowship. Nonetheless, thanks to everyone involved in planning chapter events, regardless of the format! ~ Susan

Keowee Chapter (by **Dr. Patrick Hiesl**) – setting up a Zoom "get-together" in September/October.

Edisto Chapter (by **Dan Scheffing**) – **Tim Evans** with the Audubon Society presented a Zoom webinar on September 10 titled "An introduction to Audubon: South Carolina's Forest Management Program."

Clemson Student Chapter (by **Caleb Watson**) - My name is Caleb Watson. I am a senior at Clemson university and currently student chapter president. Over the summer, there was little activity from our chapter due to the COVID19 pandemic. Although there was little activity, many of the student members were able to secure internships during this time in the forestry field.

Rachel Cribb, a junior at Clemson, worked with **Emily Oakman** from the South Carolina Forestry Association. During her time there, they worked on a huge project that was very exciting. Their goal was to create a video series to help educate people (landowners and young students) of the realities of the forest industry. They travelled all over the state to landowners and professionals to film these videos. Doing this gave her a huge and much needed opportunity to see the landowner's perspective, and to meet professionals in the forestry field.

Austin Hilton, a senior at Clemson, worked for Pisgah Hardwoods in Canton, North Carolina. During his time there, he was able to work on a skyline logging unit on a Nantahala Mountain known as "wet face". He also worked in the sawmill hand stacking the lumber coming out of the mill and learned the process of lumber grading

and drying. Lastly, he was able to work at the chip mill and oversee the grapple crane operations. This summer internship allowed him to learn the harvesting process from stump to exporting of lumber and chips.

Campbell Paine, a senior at Clemson, worked for Canfor Southern Pine at their newly acquired mill in Estill, South Carolina. During his time there, he was given the responsibilities of checking on logging operations in the Hampton and Allendale area. He also was tasked with performing occasional timber cruises and sale boundary flagging. This summer internship provided him with field experience and a better understanding of the forestry industry.

Noah Cox, a senior at Clemson, worked for Long Cane Logging out of Hodges, South Carolina. While working for Long Cane, he was able to operate logging equipment such as the skidder loader and feller-buncher. This internship opportunity allowed him to expand his knowledge and further his experience of the logging industry.

Caroline Myers, a senior at Clemson, worked as a wildland firefighter for the Ottawa National Forest in northern Michigan. During her time as a wildland firefighter, she was able to fight numerous small wildfires and perform prescribed burns on the eastern half of the US despite COVID-19 postponing travel out west for many firefighters. She also had a lot of training opportunities on heavy equipment and in other fields within the US Forest Service such as wildlife. The highlight of her summer internship was being able to work with her crew and the bond they grew through work, training, and hanging out after work.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to work at Harbison State Forest with the South Carolina Forestry Commission in Columbia South Carolina as a forestry technician. During my time with the Forestry Commission, I was given the responsibility of cruising timber, performing herbicide applications, marking and tallying timber for timber sale, and miscellaneous upkeep of the forest. This summer internship provided me with a lot of experience in cruising timber and herbicide applications along with giving me a better understanding of the process and what it takes to create a forest management plan. ★★

IN MEMORIAM

John Ellis Cathey Jr., former Enoree Chapter Chair and longtime SAF member passed away August 24, 2020, at his home. John was an instrumental member of the small group of foresters that reinvigorated the Enoree Chapter



in the late 1990s and has seen its continuance to today.

John was born in Mountain City, GA. He was a graduate of Rabun County High School and a 1962 graduate of the University of Georgia. He retired from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service after more than 34 years of service. At retirement he had been the Long Cane District Ranger for 15 years. He had previous service with the Forest Service throughout the country. After his retirement he continued to work as a forestry consultant. John felt that it was important to encourage young people to consider careers in Forestry or Natural Resources.

He was a staunch supporter of the local Woodland Clinic Forestry Field Skills Competition and Career Day for high school students. His support, in part, has allowed the competition to take place for over 40 years now. John was also an active member of the Greenwood County Forestry Association and was awarded their 2018 Greenwood County Forest Steward of the Year Award. John will be missed by his Enoree Chapter friends and colleagues. Photo above shows John receiving his Forest Steward Award from Jim Cox (r) Association President. Many thought of him as the last *real forester* in the USFS! 🌲



Dwight L. Stewart, Jr. (left) of the Santee Chapter, SC Division APSAF proudly receives his 50-Year membership certificate from Tres Hyman and is congratulated using the OSHA approved COVID-19 handshake.



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

Henry Randolph, NC Chair. Favorite quote: "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." Leon C. Megginson

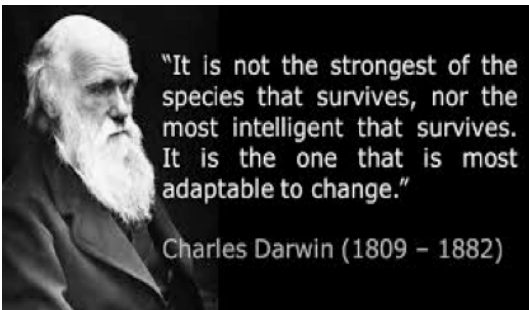
"Adaptaton"

by Henry Randolph



My favorite above quote above is often **mis-attributed** to Charles Darwin. It takes only a quick Google search to locate a nice meme with an image of Darwin himself and this particular quote on the internet. This popular quote is often utilized in business reorganization roll-outs and motivational seminars when the desired objective is a change from status quo.

This quote strikes me as especially appropriate during our current Covid-19 disruption, not only from the adaptability angle but also from the incredible amount of misinformation that we are faced with daily. From intentional misinformation regarding political campaigns to climate change it feels that we are all in the midst of chaos and our comfort zones have been destroyed. The current wildfires in our western states are just one of the many opportunities for foresters to step up and be the voice of reason during these uncertain times.



In North Carolina, we have adapted to the Covid-19 environment by conducting our first ever "Virtual Summer Meeting" in July. Over

120 attendees attended the NC Division's Virtual Summer Meeting planned and hosted by the Triangle Chapter and it was a glowing success. Members participated in an informative and engaging meeting that included virtual presentations on a variety of topics including a look at the science of Covid-19 and its relation to natural resources, pro-active forest management utilizing high-frequency satellite imagery, and new opportunities in the wood products arena. The virtual platform allowed for a lightning round of speakers from NCSU, Duke University, NC Forest Service, Tree Farm, and student SAF Chapters. Following a break for lunch, the attendees were allowed to break out into small group chat rooms for a more informal discussion of current topics. A special "Thank You" to A.J. Lang and the host Triangle Chapter's planning team. **Well Done.**

I am also very pleased to see how other local chapters are adapting to make the most of these difficult circumstances through either meeting virtually or meeting together outdoors. The Pisgah Chapter is planning a zoom meeting in early October to discuss the newly released Pisgah Forest Management Plan.

The Croatan Chapter has continued to meet in person by scheduling outdoor activities such as a road-side clean up project through NC's Adopt-A-Highway program. What a great way to get some publicity for the forestry profession while making a difference locally.

The Sandhills and Piedmont Chapters are also planning in person meetings to be held outdoors to accommodate the current Covid-19 guidelines in September and October. Who would really want to have an oyster roast indoors anyway?

A final thanks to all of the NC Chapters and members who are adapting to this disruption. I feel confident that this adaptability is the trait that will ensure the continued success of the profession of forestry.

Best and Stay Safe!, Henry, hrendolph@gfrforestry.com

Chapter Reports

Sandhills

The Sandhills Chapter has been much quieter than usual this year; I'm sure many of you can relate. One thing I personally learned in this time of social distancing is how intentional you must be to stay in touch when your normal schedule get interrupted. Between cell phones, tablets, and computers we have dozens of ways to communicate with each other, but you actually have to act on it. I am taking this opportunity to challenge myself to do better at reaching out to others.

On lighter note we are planning our first "get-together" this year in conjunction with the Central Carolina Forestry Club this October. We plan to host our annual oyster roast that we so sorely missed back in March. I would like to extend a special thanks to long time member Jim Gray for heading up the planning on this. by Alex Thompson, NCRF #1794 Gelbert, Fullbright, and Randolph Forestry Consultants, PLLC www.gfrforestry.com Phone: 336-934-3400

Croatan

Hello All!

I hope everyone is doing well. I can't believe it is already September. What a strange year 2020 has been! I thought it was about time for a Chapter update. We completed our 1st Adopt-A-Highway clean-up day on Saturday June 27th. The weather cooperated and we were able to beat the heat.

We collected 21 large bags of trash!!!! We had 12 volunteers...Thank you so much everyone!!! Check out the photo on the next page.

We plan on doing our 2nd Clean-Up Day on Saturday 10/10. If you would like to volunteer for round 2, please reach out to me by September 30. There is a form that I will need participants to sign and a short video that will need to be watched. I will send the paperwork to those who are interested. I do need a head count so I know how many safety vests to ask for. The rain day is scheduled for Nov 7th.

We are still planning to organize the chapter t-shirt order. I welcome any design ideas or color suggestions. Anyone that volunteers for road clean-up will get a free t-shirt. I'm shooting for the 1st part of 2021 for those to be completed, ordered, and delivered.

Our chapter also sponsored an Eagle Scout project this year. The Scout's name is William Blowe, and he is a student at Havelock High School. See below for a brief description of his project. He plans to finish by Nov. 8th!

For my project, I'll be clearing and widening the Piranha Pit Trail on MCAS Cherry Point. My goal is to have this completed by August 2. The trail has become severely overgrown, few markers are present, and there are no defined trail maps. This creates confusion and potentially unsafe conditions. I am also identifying different tree species along the trail. I plan to install distance and directional trail markers as well as tree identification plaques with QR codes. A large trail map is needed of the entire area from many changes over the years. This trail is heavily traveled and will add great value to the community.



The Croatan Chapter officers approved funding \$300 for the project, and an anonymous chapter member kicked in an additional \$120. I look forward to seeing the final results and we will share pictures as soon as possible.

We would really like to finish out 2020 with at least one meeting...if possible. We have created a quick 3 question survey to gauge how the Chapter feels. Please use the link below to access and provide your feedback. Many ideas have been tossed around, and if we do decide to move forward, we are shooting for November. We really look forward to hearing your thoughts. It is anonymous, and we will share a summarized analysis with the group. [Survey Link](#) Reach out if you have any issues getting the link to work. ~by Tara Dickson, Treasurer/Secretary, Croatan Chapter, phone 252-514-8703. ☐☐



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Is Forestry a Profession?, from page 9

- 6. practitioners accept responsibility and accountability for their work results and in a collective sense for the failures and successes of their colleagues
- 7. practitioners make lifetime commitments to the profession and its discipline
- 8. practitioners make life sacrifices to pursue the profession
- 9. the profession stands apart from, but not above, the society of which it is a part.

Until Dr. Coufal's 2019 essay in the *Journal*, I do not recall ever reading or hearing any forester question forestry's status as a profession, or even rank it in some arbitrary profession status continuum. Does forestry have the same professional status as medicine? I suppose this question is answered relative to its status with the public, with the person on the street so to speak. No, it does not, but how is status or "ranking" relevant to the question of whether or not forestry is a profession? The question answers itself.

What do foresters profess? What is the profession's commonly accepted core value? I suggest most foresters—professional foresters—profess that it is their responsibility to manage forests to the best of their ability for the expressed benefits of the owners or trustees of the forests they manage. Dress up this basic profession however you wish. Foresters certainly are accountable to the forest owners or trustees for how they manage these forests. A professional creed does not and should not embrace particular policy choices.

Lawyers, clergy, military officers, most doctors and other medical professionals take a professional oath, which is a profession of belief and commitment. Foresters do not formally profess an oath. I am not opposed to a forester's oath if one could be formulated and generally accepted. Such an oath would answer the question, "What do we profess?"

What about forestry's credibility? The legal profession's credibility is perpetually abysmal. The medical profession's credibility during these COVID days has suffered. The military profession's credibility ebbs and flows with the ebbing and flowing of public support for our national wars. I do not deny foresters should be concerned about the standing of our profession with the public, but a profession exists and survives independent of its public credibility. I think Dr. Coufal's concern about forestry's credibility is unwarranted. Others, of course, may share his concern. In either case, though, our profession's foundation is solid.

Forestry meets most of the "generally accepted" markers of a profession. While forestry has no formal creed which foresters profess, there is a basic and widely held commitment to service and to professional excellence. The profession has existed in this country and on this continent for more than a century. Public opinion is fickle at best.

I like the notion of forestry as a calling. My 1974 *Merriam-Webster Dictionary Pocket Book* edition includes

this definition of "profession": *the whole body of persons engaged in a calling*. A whole body of people, may be amorphous, maybe not. A calling brings to mind associations with every day, common life among the common and not so common people we encounter as we practice our profession. Our profession, our calling, has deep, strong roots here and extending across the ocean to Europe whence our American profession sprouted. They cannot be easily disrupted. Our profession is not fragile. Allow me to paraphrase from an article in the March 2020 volume of *First Things*. *We draw from these roots and strengthen them further by practicing the art and science of our craft with discipline and care for that which we manage, having undertaken an extended period of formal education, training, and apprenticeship. While in pursuit of professional excellence we work with creation to supply human material needs and peace and comfort for the soul* (Valis, 2020).

This is what we do. This is what we profess. Reflecting on this project, one prominent forester reported to a crowd of foresters that a retired Marine client of his told him, "forestry is the last noble profession" (Shaw 2018). ◆◆◆

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- Coufal, J. 2019. Forestry: Profession, Professional, Professionalism. *Journal of Forestry* 117(2): 180-181.
- Shaw, B. 2018. Unpublished remarks. ACF Awards Luncheon, ACF Annual Meeting, Asheville, NC.
- Valis, N. 2020. An Ordinary Life. *First Things* 301: 29-34. 🌿

Michael R. Wetzel, Ecce Silva, LLC

Mike is a consulting forester based in Aiken, SC. He has been in the consulting business for 26 years. He spent several years in the association management world as the Southeastern Technical Division Forester for the Forest Resources Ass'n, and three years as an Extension Forester with the Clemson Co-operative Extension Service. He earned a Master of Forestry degree in 1982 at Colorado State University and a B.S. from the U. S. Air Force Academy in 1973. He has been involved in SAF and interested in leadership issues since 2005, when he was asked to be the SC SAF Division Membership Chairman. He has held various leadership positions and committee chairmanships in SAF and ACF. He was the SC SAF Division Chairman in 2014, is the National ACF Immediate Past President, and is an SAF Fellow. Mike can be reached at 915 Tolt Trail, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, 803-646-4554; email, wetzelm@me.com.



Trail Blazer Publication Calendar

Issue	Submission deadline	Trail Blazer sent now via email, to you by:
Winter 2020-21	DECEMBER 1	January 1
Spring 2021	MARCH 1	April 1
Summer 2021	JUNE 1	July 1
Fall 2021	SEPTEMBER 1	October 1