

The **TRAIL BLAZER**

WINTER 2024



A season for thanksgiving

by Ed Zimmer, 2023 APSAF Chair



In this time of year when we tend to think more of what we are thankful for, I'll start by telling you to be thankful for a mercifully short column from the APSAF Chair. Not because I don't have much to

be thankful for, but because it's my gift to you.

First, I want to thank the many dedicated APSAF board members and other society members who devote so much of their time and effort to making APSAF the organization it is. Once you start calling out specific folks you run the strong risk of omission, but I'm going to do it anyway. Thank you to Susan Guynn, Patrick Hiesl, and Adam Downing for your guidance and

advice over the past year. Thank you, Ed Stoots, for taking on the difficult and never-ending tasks of the Treasurer's role. Thank you, Neil Clark, for serving as the Secretary for the record-breaking 97th year in a row (at least it seems that long to me). And a big thank you to the folks who lead the state divisions: Nathan Gatlin (NC), Khanal Puskar (SC), and Michael Downey (VA).

Thank you to all the other members of the APSAF board, the leaders of our various committees, our chapter leadership across three states, and especially to our over 900 members across APSAF. I hope every one of you will give your support to the new leadership team in 2024.

Finally, I want to thank the Lord for the incredible natural world He has given us and the incredible profession of forestry. I pray that each of you will have a joyous holiday season and a great 2024, both professionally and personally.

Sending best wishes for a happy holiday season

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR





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SILENT AUCTION TEAM: Good Stuff in Store, But We Still Need More!

APSAF 2024 Silent Auction Chair Mike Skinner is “getting the band back together,” rounding up the intrepid team of volunteers who have staged highly successful Silent Auctions at the Annual Meeting in years past. We’re rallying around our happy mascot Gifford Pea, and our confident motto “What? Me Worry?” The technical team is dusting off the spreadsheet to track donations, bids and payments. Design folks are standing by to set up the displays. Student Chapters have been recruited to help manage the auction closing and item sorting. We’ll be ready!

... BUT the donation commitments are just trickling in! We have a framed mint-condition Smokey Bear 40th Anniversary patch and post-mark dated envelope (c. 1984). We have a commemorative poster and two books about the 1910 fires in Idaho/Montana. There will be custom-made, hand-knitted wool mittens. There is a rumor about a deliverable Chesapeake Bay seafood meal and some Franklin County moonshine; (you didn’t hear that here). STILL, the intrepid committee deserves more support. We need commitments for more stuff! Please, please don’t let us get worried.

We’ll take new stuff and vintage stuff. New stuff that looks vintage. Stuff you make. Stuff you buy. Provide a service. Re-gift a Christmas gift...

While we appreciate advance notice of your donations, that is not required. Just bring something when you come to the meeting. Can’t make the meeting? We can facilitate mailings or arrange for someone from your neck of the woods to deliver. The Silent Auction is a fine, fun fundraiser. All proceeds go to the Foresters Fund and the KP Funderburke Fund to support APSAF programs.

Wanna get involved? We’re looking for a few fresh volunteer recruits. No experience necessary (but fun lovers will be given priority consideration).



Some of the items that will be sold to the highest bidder at our Silent Auction include a package of books and poster about wildfires and a framed Smokey Bear 40th anniversary patch.

Questions, for the Silent Auction Team?
Contact Mike Skinner, SA Chair
Email: confluencestry@comcast.net
Phone: 540-320-3737
Available 24/7 ... except nights, weekends, and nap time...

Read more about the details of the upcoming Annual Meeting on page 14. Registration is open and available at www.apsaf.org/new-events

APSAF Election Results

Submitted by Susan T. Guynn, APSAF Immediate Past Chair

The APSAF election results are in, and we are excited to welcome the incoming officers to the APSAF Board of Directors. We would like to thank each of the candidates for agreeing to serve the 3-year term required of officers and look forward to their leadership. We would also like to encourage anyone that is interested in serving as an officer in the future to let Ed Zimmer know. Serving as an officer in APSAF is rewarding and a great way to build friendships you would not have known if you hadn't served. It also develops great leadership and time management skills! Please consider running for an office next year.

We are pleased to announce the results of our election for incoming officers and congratulate the winners::



Tara Dickson
APSAF Chair-elect



Seth Plank
NC Division Chair-elect



Russ Hardee
SC Division Chair-elect



Robbie Talbert
VA Division Chair-elect

Report FROM THE TREASURER

by Ed Stoots, APSAF Treasurer

Happy post-Thanksgiving to all, and to all my wish is for each of you to have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to remember the real reason for the seasons!

Attached you will find the State of Financial Position for APSAF through October 2023. Every State Division and Local Chapter balances are listed along with APSAF's through October 2023. As usual, for those "local" Treasurers of the chapters or divisions, if you see an issue with the balance shown for your chapter, please let us know. Thank you to Susan Culbertson, our current accountant!

Through October 2023, our Total Assets are \$380,518.93 with the bulk of our assets located in two investment accounts. One is the KP Funderburke Account with \$143,051.24 through October, and the other is the APSAF Brokerage Account (which largely consists of the various chapter monies rolled over to APSAF in 2022 or early 2023) consisting of \$215,688.77 through October. The other accounts are a business checking account and savings account where most of

APSAF's regular business is conducted during the year and includes the many deposits and charges incurred for APSAF's annual meeting, chapter and division meetings, Forester Fund grant receipts and disbursements, National SAF quarterly dues distributions, various other chapter activities, and other administrative expenses incurred by APSAF (such as bookkeeping, etc.). Not all local chapters have rolled up their funds to APSAF yet. If you are one of these chapter, please do this soon.

As you will see, APSAF's net revenue has decreased by \$41,479.79 from January 1st through October 2023 with most of the decrease attributed to various meeting costs exceeding revenues. Please keep this in mind when serving on meeting planning committees whether at the APSAF, State Division, or Local Chapter level. Email me with requests, questions, receipts, or payment needs to apsaftreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation in this profession we call Forestry.



Please direct questions, items for discussion, and receipts to apsaf_treasurer@gmail.com. All checks should be made out to APSAF and mailed to:
ED STOOTS, 194 Jay Ridge Road
Cloverdale, VA 24077

APSAF FINANCIAL STATEMENT (as of October 31, 2023)

Appalachian Society of American Foresters 2

Statement of Financial Position

As of October 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 APSAF Checking (0804) - 1	0.00
10050 APSAF - Regional	-195,763.49
10100 Virginia APSAF Checking	31,210.67
10110 Blue Ridge (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	2,415.50
10120 Rappahannock (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	8,086.32
10130 Robert E. Lee Chapter (VA) APSAF Checking	-180.39
10140 Skyline (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	14,987.24
10150 Southeastern (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	4,606.15
10160 Southwest (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	2,119.69
10190 Virginia Tech (VA) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	262.66
10200 NC APSAF Checking	21,342.19
10210 Albemarle (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	150.00
10215 Catawba (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	5,528.57
10220 Croatan (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	6,393.11
10225 Piedmont (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	5,339.86
10230 Pisgah (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	1,777.02
10235 Sandhills (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,727.53
10240 Tar River (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,223.25
10245 Triangle (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	6,115.40
10250 Waccamaw (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,326.83
10270 Duke University (NC) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	0.00
10280 NC State University (NC) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	1,831.37
10300 SC APSAF Checking	51,896.63
10310 Central Carolina Chapter APSAF Checking	405.00
10315 Edisto Chapter APSAF Checking	11,338.36
10320 Enoree Chapter APSAF Checking	2,602.60
10325 Keowee Chapter APSAF Checking	1,751.28
10330 Old Hickory Chapter APSAF Checking	8,071.75
10335 Pee Dee Chapter APSAF Checking	6,421.23
10340 Santee Chapter APSAF Checking	55.00
10345 Winyah Chapter APSAF Checking	1,350.94
Total 10000 APSAF Checking (0804) - 1	10,392.27
11000 APSAF Savings (5123) - 1	10,599.14
11500 APSAF-PayPal	0.00
12200 APSAF First Citz Brokerage Shell Account (4992) - 1	215,688.77
12400 KP Funderburke Endowmwnt Brokerage Shell Account (4984) - 1	143,051.24
Total Bank Accounts	\$379,731.42

Statement of Financial Position

As of October 31, 2023

	TOTAL
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
12800 Other Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
Payments to deposit	0.00
Uncategorized Asset	
12900 Credit Card Receivable	787.51
Total Uncategorized Asset	787.51
Total Other Current Assets	\$787.51
Total Current Assets	\$380,518.93
TOTAL ASSETS	\$380,518.93
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Wash account	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Credit Cards	
AJ Lang - Triangle Chapter (4748) - 1	0.00
Alex Thompson - Sandhills - 0856 - 1	0.00
Barry Graden - SC Division (4986) - 1	0.00
Casey Wofford - Triangle Chapter (7755)	0.00
Clara Clark - Catawba (5900) - 1	0.00
Ed Stoots - Regional (3032) - 1	0.00
Gary Blank - NCSU Student - 3261 - 1	755.37
Henry Higgins - Old Hickory (6259)	0.00
Kyle Peer - Blue Ridge Chapter (0799) - 1	0.00
Madison West - SE VA Chapter (2757) - 1	0.00
Pete Hancock - Tar River Chapter (6590) - 1	0.00
Richard McCutchen - Pee Dee Chapter (6219) - 1	0.00
Scott Danskin - SC Division SAF (6921) - 1	0.00
Tara Dickson - Croatan Chapter (1960) - 1	0.00
Tony Doster - APSAF (7165) - 1	0.00
Trisha Markus - Keowee (9129) - 1	0.00
Total Credit Cards	\$755.37
Total Current Liabilities	\$755.37
Equity	
Fund Balance - Unrestricted	
Opening balance equity	421,243.35
Net Revenue	-41,479.79
Total Equity	\$379,763.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$380,518.93



NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

NORTH CAROLINA

The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for those realities. – Gifford Pinchot

by Nathan Gatlin
North Carolina Division Chair

As fall and winter were kicking in, North Carolina was heating up for a busy fall fire season. It was an all-hands-on-deck kind of year as our state forest service and many of our wildland firefighters, who traveled across the nation, took action to ensure the public's safety in North Carolina. North Carolina Forest Service personnel worked for days and weeks on end without a break to ensure complete coverage. Where their reach fell short, it was picked up by the many wildland firefighters that traveled from Washington, Colorado, Florida, Arizona, and the list goes on. It was dry and the forest fuels were ready to burn, but the training and determination of these brave firefighters persevered, and the event passed relatively uneventfully. The seasonal December rainy season began, and precipitation started to fall, giving our firefighters a much-needed break. Mid-January is coming soon, however, and I am sure that their vigilance will be ready to kick back in to meet whatever challenges lay ahead.

North Carolina SAF is doing well. Participation in many of our chapter meetings is steadily increasing. We have a strong complement of incoming leadership who are all very active and eager to promote the profession. Communication through the website and social media is increasing, helping announce events and draw more attention to the activities occurring throughout the state. Look us up on Facebook by searching 'safnc' and on LinkedIn in at 'North Carolina Society of American Foresters.'

Lastly, I would like to recognize Dr. James Lewis of the Forest History Society as recipient of the Society of American Foresters W. D. Hagenstein Communicator Award. Dr. Lewis is a true asset to the forestry community as he has provided essential context for how forestry has been practiced in the past in relation to how it is employed today. If you have not watched his documentaries or read his articles, don't wait. They are as entertaining as they are educating.



Croatan Chapter members gathered for their Fall Meeting.



The ForestHer Workshop at Cool Springs in October.

■ Croatan Chapter

The Croatan Chapter has continued to have an active year. We hosted our Fall Meeting back on October 12 at Baron & the Beef in Kinston with guest speaker Jeff Hall, who is a Reptile and Amphibian Biologist from the NC Wildlife Commission. Our chapter also sponsored lunch for a ForestHer Workshop at Cool Springs on October 14. By the time you have read this, we will have hosted our Annual

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Oyster Roast at Cool Springs and conducted our final roadside cleanup of the year as well!

■ Piedmont Chapter

Most recently we met in Elkin and had a presentation by the NC Forest Service updating us on the legal changes that the 2023 NC Farm Bill brought to prescribed burning and timber theft. The meeting was well attended, and our chapter is holding strong. We have a strong spring speaker schedule. We would love to have you join us at our next meeting.

■ Triangle Chapter

We had our 4th quarter meeting on Friday, November 17 at the Forest History Society in Durham. Our speaker was Johnny Boggs, USDA Forest Service, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC). He spoke about the organization's research into and resulting management implications for harvest and forest types effects on stream-flow, nutrients, and productivity. After his presentation, we were given a brief tour of the FHS facility. Then, we had our business meeting that included voting for 2024 chapter positions. Our new Chair will be Michelle Kaiser, and our continuing Treasurer will be Casey Wofford. Additionally,



Triangle Chapter meeting attendees in the FHS Carl Weyerhaeuser library.

some NC State students who attended the National Convention in Sacramento spoke about their experience and thanked the chapter for donating funds to their registration and travel.

■ Pisgah Chapter



Members gathered to recognize Golden members and award winners.

Pisgah Chapter has had a hearty turnout in its last two meetings. We recently had the opportunity to recognize several of our distinguished members: John Palmer, Joe Stancar, and Claude Haynes, who all became Golden Members. Robert and Judy Beanblossom received the Robert E Browning Award for excellence in fire prevention in the southern area. Christine Martens, our new Chair Elect, received the SAF National Student Leadership Award. In our last meeting, Rob Elliot, gave us an informative presentation about the *Past, Present and Future of the Canton Mill*. The chapter has elected Dan Callaghan to step in as the new Chapter Chair.



Participants gather for a group photo at Pisgah's most recent chapter meeting.

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by Puskar Khanal
South Carolina Division Chair

UPDATES FROM THE PALMETTO STATE

SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Executive Committee Fall Meeting in Columbia, September 14. (Photo by Puskar Khanal)

SC Division of the Appalachian-SAF continues to support the SAF mission to advance professional forestry practices, provide opportunities for communication among members at various levels, and actively support APSAF and SAF activities. SC's Executive Team had a fall meeting in Columbia on Thursday, September 14. The Executive committee nominated Asija Rice (currently Edisto Chapter Chair) to the Communication Working Group Chair while Barry Graden (currently the Division Past-Chair) was nominated to represent SCSAF at the Foresters Council of South Carolina. Asija has created Facebook and Instagram pages for the South Carolina Division. The 2024 summer meeting host committee was also delegated.

APPALACHIAN SAF SC DIVISION 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Division Chair – Puskar Khanal
Past Chair – Barry Garden
Chair Elect – Ricky McCutchen
Treasurer – Scott Danskin

Chapter Chairs

Keowee Chapter – Nilesh Timilsina
Central Carolina Chapter – Steve Grindley
Pee Dee Chapter – Teddy Thompson
Old Hickory – John Hiott, Hank Higgins
Edisto Chapter – Asija Rice
Winyah Chapter – George Chastin
Enoree Chapter – Michael Mills, Mike Keim
Santee Chapter – Gary Bratton
Clemson Forestry Student Chapter – NA
Horry Georgetown Student Chapter - NA

Edisto Chapter

Edisto Chapter has been doing wonderful things under Asija's leadership. On October 1, the chapter hosted a *Secret of Fall Colors* event at the South Carolina State Museum. Leaf rubbing and tree identification were among the activities. There were 50–65 participants throughout the day, ranging in age from 1 to 80.

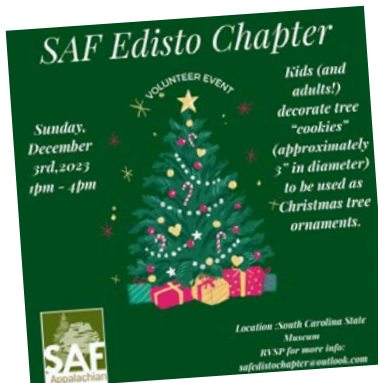
Likewise, the chapter met on October 12 over Zoom with Henry "Hank" Poole, Center for Heirs' Property Preservation Midlands Forester, and other presenters on the topic Forest Economics for Landowners and Foresters. Topics discussed included Inflation, Offsetting Inflation with Investment, Risk, Compound Interest, Discount Rate/ Alternatives, Net Present Value, and Other Financial Criteria.



Edisto Chapter event, *Secret of Fall Colors*. (Photo by Asija Rice)



Edisto Chapter Chair Asija Rice and Secretary Liz Bourgeois during a recent chapter event. (Photo by Asija Rice)



On November 9, Pennsylvania's Department Of Conservation And Natural Resources presented the Edisto SAF Chapter a chance to learn about effective collaboration with neighboring organizations, underprivileged communities, outreach, and assistance. Much appreciation to the guest speakers Kalaia Tripeaux and Luke Arnold.

Also, the Edisto Chapter volunteered at the South Carolina State Museum on December

SOUTH CAROLINA UPDATE, continued

3, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event featured an activity where kids (and adults!) decorated tree “cookies” (about 3-inches in diameter) to be used as Christmas tree ornaments.

■ Winyah Chapter

The Winyah Chapter has been busy the last few months. The chapter met jointly with the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Student Chapter on September 26 for a tour of the Interfor facility in Georgetown. The facility includes a modern sawmill on 400 acres that has been continually improved since Interfor’s purchase. Winyah Chapter Chair-elect Trent Moore provided a tour of the mill for members and students, followed by a presentation by the mill manager and a dinner of chicken pilau (pronounced per-lo), a one pot dish of chicken, sausage, and rice served in the former South Carolina rice-growing region.



Winyah Chapter Chair-elect Trent Moore teaches children about solid wood products at the sawmill station during the SC Wood Magic Forest Fair. SAF and the Winyah Chapter provided financial support and numerous volunteers during the four-day event in Georgetown. (Photo by George Chastain)

The chapter met again on November 7 at the Resource Management Service (RMS) office in Georgetown for our annual oyster roast and fellowship. Member David Watford and his team at RMS provided a great location for the event. Gene Prevatt, Code Prevatt, and Ethan Chastain served up the oysters for a large group of members, students, and guests.

The chapter also assisted with the SC Wood Magic Forest Fair session held at Hobcaw Barony in November. The program featured sessions on forest products, prescribed burning, and ecosystem services. Wood Magic reached over 1,800 fourth grade students in South Carolina this year with nearly 600

students attending the session in Georgetown. The chapter provided financial support and numerous volunteers for the four-day session in Georgetown.

■ Know your SC Division (State) Award Winners, 2023!

EMILY OAKMAN

Young Forester Leadership Award

Emily is involved in Forest Landowner Outreach, Program Development, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, County Forestry Associations, SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers’ Tour, Project Learning Tree, Wood Magic Forest Fair, Log A Load for Kids, and FASC’s Young Professionals in her current position with the Forestry Association of SC.

SCOTT DANSKIN

Volunteer Service Award

Scott has been Secretary/Treasurer for the SC Division for several years and is a member of the Central Carolina Chapter. He is well known for his meticulous record keeping and financial reporting for the SC Division. He also served in a noteworthy capacity on the 2023 APSAF Winter Meeting Planning Committee.

TRISHA MARKUS

Student Professionalism Award

Trisha is currently a Ph.D. student at Clemson University with interest in researching invasive plants and silviculture. She received her Masters in Forest Resources and Bachelor’s in Environmental and Natural Resources at Clemson University in 2021 and 2018 respectively. Trisha has been active in SAF as a student member since 2019. She served as Co-Chair of the Keowee Chapter in 2022 and currently serves as Chapter Treasurer. Trisha also served on the 2023 SC Division Summer Meeting Planning Committee and has attended the annual APSAF Winter Meeting and SAF National Conventions.

■ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Meeting: June 2024

SC State Division will host its 2024 summer meeting in Newberry from June 12-13, 2024. The meeting host committee includes Mike Keim, Micheal Mills, Tom Brant, Ricky McCutchen, and Tres Hyman. The committee has already started preparing for a wonderful meeting for the upcoming summer. The committee had its first meeting last week in Newberry.



South Carolina Arbor Day 2023 Celebration.
(Photo by Tommy Fallaw)

South Carolina Arbor Day in Clemson

South Carolina celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, December 1 this year. The celebration, held annually on the first Friday in December, marks the start of planting season in South Carolina. S.C. SAF Division Chair Puskar Khanal collaborated with multiple organizations to host tree planting and educational events on Clemson’s campus this year. SAF members from Clemson forestry student club and Keowee Chapter along with several non-SAF members participated in planting and demonstration activities. Clemson University is a Tree Campus USA certified educational institution since 2012.



Forestry students pictured with faculty originally from Nepal during the SAF National Convention, October 25-28. (Photo by Doug Wood)

SAF National Convention

South Carolina had active participation in the SAF National Convention, Sacramento, California this year. APSAF forestry schools had a joint social program which made it more interactive and refreshing for the attendees. Doug Wood, Director of Communications at South Carolina Forestry Commission, won a prestigious national award. Congrats Doug!



Joe Trihey
Forester / Member

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By Michael Downey,
Virginia Division Chair

VIRGINIA

“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Virginia Division had yet another busy quarter kicking it off with the annual CFE Extravaganza that had a great lineup of speakers and topics with high attendance.

The APSAF Planning Committee continues to meet monthly. We are counting down the days until the annual winter meeting. See more details and information on page 14.

Rappahannock Chapter

By Mark Books, CF, Chapter Chair; Photos by Ellen Powell

On Wednesday, October 11, the chapter joined efforts with Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program to support The King and Queen/Essex Fall Forestry and Wildlife and Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Field Tour along with Three Rivers Forestry Virginia Department of Forestry, and Quail Forever in Virginia for an engaging and successful event.

The first stop, Smith Tract in Essex County, talked about quail and wildlife habitat in a one-year-old loblolly pine plantation. Adjacent to this site is a hardwood stand that was thinned for wildlife, leaving mostly oaks. Possible future treatments include understory burning.

Stop number two was in King and Queen County. Tomlin Tract looked at a NRCS pine savannah thinning, that was understory sprayed to control hardwoods and then burned

The final stop, also in King and Queen County, was McDaniels Tract. This stop highlighted a young longleaf pine stand that has been burned twice.

We returned to the Ruritan Building at 5:30PM for dinner and wildlife talk by Alison Menefee, Senior Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, and Quail Forever.

The chapter would like express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the individuals and organizations involved in planning and executing this event: John Magruder, Jennifer Gagnon, Lisa Deaton, Neil Clark, Alison Menefee, Quail Forever, and others.



Quail habitat on Smith Tract in Essex County.



Tomlin Tract, King and Queen County.



McDaniels Tract, King and Queen County.



Smith Tract in Essex County.



McDaniels Tract, King and Queen County.



Dinner and wildlife talk at the Ruritan Center.



US Forest Service Fire Module 31 out of Covington, VA demonstrates fire-fighting equipment to local elementary school students at MGCC.



Aerial ignitions on the Matt's Creek Fire as seen by some MGCC students from the base camp in Natural Bridge Station, VA.

Mountain Gateway Community College

By Billy Newman, Chapter Advisor

Fall is a busy time for our MGCC Chapter! Students are diligently working on various projects while enjoying the cool, fall weather. First-year students have immersed themselves in their Dendrology class, studiously learning how to identify over 130 tree, shrub, and vine species both native (and not) to Appalachia. Second-year students have been getting their hands dirty in Mensuration II, with lots of hands-on practice “cruising” timber out on the GW-Jefferson National Forests for various projects.

Back in October our Timbersports team competed at the 32nd Annual John G. Palmer Woodsmen's Meet at the Cradle of American Forestry near Asheville, NC. They are planning to compete again in May, while also working on a yet-to-be-announced project!

Fire has drawn a lot of attention lately in Virginia. MGCC's Forestry Program alongside the US Forest Service hosted a “Fire Wise”



Timbersports team at the 32nd Annual John G. Palmer Woodsmen's Meet.

safety program for over 180 local elementary school students, helping to keep our local community safe. A team with the Bureau of Land Management all the way from Oregon visited to discuss fire ecology with MGCC students and the organization's summer internships. When not busy with classes, some MGCC second-year students even assisted fire-fighting efforts on the 11,000+ acre Matt's Creek Fire on the GW-Jefferson National Forests.

As we come to the end of the busy fall semester, most students are already looking forward to spring with at least half scheduled to graduate in May. The spring also offers many additional, exciting opportunities for students, with first-year students already hunting for summer internships. From the whole MGCC Forestry Program, we wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a productive New Year!

Virginia Tech

By Jennifer Gagnon, Chapter Advisor



Rebecca Barkman and Connor Austin attended and presented posters at the National SAF Convention in Sacramento.

The Virginia Tech Student SAF Chapter had a successful fall semester, with 27 new and returning members. At the start of the semester they held a well-attended interest meeting to recruit new members. Later in the semester several guest speakers visited with the chapter, including representatives from the Southern Pine Beetle Inspection Program and Ed Zimmer, ApSAF Chair and Deputy

State Forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry. Their presentations were focused on what employers are looking for and how to get yourself hired.

Two chapter members attended the SAF National Convention in Sacramento in October. Attendees included Connor Austin, Virginia Tech Student Chapter Chair, National SAF Student Executive Committee Chair, and SAF Board of Directors Member; and Rebecca Barkman, Virginia Tech Student Chapter Graduate Student Liaison and MS Student. Both presented at the Poster Symposium. Austin's poster was titled "Impact of Thinning Immature Eastern White Pine on Growth and Timber Value in Grayson County, VA." Barkman's poster was titled "Operational Challenges and Issues Related to the Economic Sustainability of Logging Businesses in Virginia." Many SAF members attended the symposium and interacted with the students.

Incoming Chapter Secretary Jessica Showalter created a fantastic t-shirt design, and the Chapter is now taking pre-orders (final cost will be \$20-25). You can see the design and place your pre-order here: <https://forms.gle/C9XKERiP6PvVThNp7>. Social Media Coordinator, Jessica Rodriguez, created



Student Chapter Chair elect, Ethan Elder, shares his experience attending the Winter ApSAF meeting in Columbia earlier in the year with potential members.

an Instagram account for the Virginia Tech Chapter of Society of American Foresters. You can follow it at [vtsaf2023](https://www.instagram.com/vtsaf2023).

The semester activities wrapped up with a tree identification review that was held the weekend prior to the dendrology final with MS Student and dendrology teaching assistant Austin Holloway.

Students are also making plans to attend the January ApSAF meeting in Roanoke. Expect to see lots of Hokies there!



*By Tony Doster
SAF Representative*

SAF NATIONAL REPORT

National membership is 9,175 as of September 30, 2023, compared to 9,448 in 2022 and 9,269 in 2021.

INCORPORATION OF STATE SOCIETIES:

Two-thirds of our state societies are incorporated, and work is under way to complete the final third within the next few months. Incorporation of our state societies creates a level of legal standing and recognition for each state society and establishes a separation between organizational and personal assets. All this helps to mitigate legal and financial risk to the organization and volunteers at every level. Reach out to Lori Rasor at lraser@safnet.org for more information.

Below is a brief summary status as of September 30, 2023.

- 23 of 30 state societies are incorporated.
- 2 state societies have paperwork in the hands of the legal team for filing.
- 3 are in the process of voting; upon approval, signatures will be gathered for filing. (Note: 14 of our 30 state societies have a voting requirement, so this does not apply to all.)
- 2 state societies are taking active steps in the process. Both will require a vote of the membership to move forward.
- Staff has implemented a compliance tracking system within our database to track state society regulatory requirements and renewal dates. Several of our early incorporations are approaching annual report renewal dates.

STATE SOCIETY BYLAWS TEMPLATE:

With changes in our legal and business structures, all state societies will need to update their bylaws after incorporation and any foreign entity registrations are filed. A generic state society bylaws template and accompanying guidance is available from Lori.

REMINDER!! D&O AND LIABILITY INSURANCE *Provided to Local Units at No Charge.*

SAF National provides comprehensive general liability coverage and Directors and Officers insurance for local leaders and units. Highlight sheets of both coverages and the full D&O policy is posted on Leadership Central. If you need a certificate or insurance for an upcoming event, reach out to SAF's broker, Dan O'Leary at dan@preferins.com.

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

JANUARY 23-24, 2024
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

All communities depend on forests. Healthy forests are vital for social, environmental, and economic health—the three pillars of society. The APSAF 2024 Winter Conference, “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities,” will explore the diverse ways in which forests impact the health and vitality of communities, from human physical and mental well-being, to wildlife habitat, to economic and ecological impacts.

[The full agenda for the Winter Meeting can be found by clicking here.](#)

REGISTER TODAY

EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
ENDS DEC 20.

Registration will remain
open online until
January 16, 2024.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM

SEE THE FULL AGENDA

HEAR FROM EXPERTS ON TOPICS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

This year's conference will have a great lineup of speakers from all walks of life.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND TOURS

Join us on Tuesday, January 23, from 12:30 - 5:00 pm, for our pre-conference workshops and tours. Sign-up for a workshop or tour when you register for the meeting.

- **Hardwood Silviculture Update and Refresher workshop**
The APSAF region boasts an abundance and variety of hardwoods. This large and important forest resource deserves our best. The future supply of valuable wood needs our innovative applications of the science. Join us for an in-depth Silviculture refresher and exploration of Virginia's Hardwood Assessment Tool (HAT) to make the application of the science easier and more consistent. We grow better together.
- **Catawba Sustainability Tour: (Limited to first 27 registrants)**
Farming and Forestry together? In the same place, at the same time? The Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center (CSC) is a 377-acre living laboratory for sustainable land management research and demonstration including various agroforestry practices (to include forest farming) relevant for the Appalachian region. Join us for a walk around the CSC looking at multifunctional riparian buffers, swales, forest farming, silvopasture and alley cropping experiments.

AN INTRODUCTION TO FOREST HEALTH

Bettina Ring, Virginia Director of The Nature Conservancy, will discuss the vital components for healthy forests and the strategies, work, and research that helps us determine when forests are in the best condition to benefit wildlife, habitat, and humans — or when our forests are in danger and require planning and work in order to thrive. Her remarks are followed by a panel discussion from experts across the forest sector.

FOREST IMPACTS ON MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

In separate sessions, we will hear from speakers whose discussions focus on the connections and interactions among humans and nature. **Dr. Nils Peterson** and **Myron Floyd**, both from North Carolina State University, will share their expertise and understanding about the importance of forests for our minds and bodies.

FOREST THREATS: INVASIVES, INSECTS AND WILDFIRE

There are challenges to maintaining beneficial connections for forests and communities. In three sessions, our speakers will tackle each topic with important trends and information that guide our response to forest threats. **David Coyle** begins with a look at destructive forest plants and insects, followed by a look at wildfire threats from **Katie Martin** of Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and the One Health project from DWR veterinarian **John Tracey**.

EVENTS

International Oak Symposium



Science-based Management for Dynamic Oak Forests

International Oak Symposium: Science-Based Management for Dynamic Oak Forests

October 7-10, 2024 • Knoxville, Tennessee, USA

(registration will open March 2024)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS DEADLINE IS JANUARY 19, 2024

Please consider submitting an abstract for an oral or a poster presentation at the 2024 International Oak Symposium. Oral presentations and posters should showcase research in silviculture, ecology, forest management, health, applied genetics, economics, forest products, or similar fields for a better understanding of oak regeneration, trees, stands, ecosystems, or landscapes. Oral presentations and posters on science-based collaborative projects or programs such as technology transfer, tree improvement, or other initiatives are also welcome. The deadline for abstract submission is January 19, 2024.

For more information about the abstract submission process, please visit the [symposium website](#). Direct any questions you have to Stacy Clark (stacy.l.clark@usda.gov) or Callie Schweitzer (callie.schweitzer@usda.gov).

SPONSORSHIP

The planning team encourages interested individuals, agencies, organizations, and businesses to join our wonderful sponsors to help support the International Oak Symposium in 2024. Your sponsorship will help reduce overall costs for attendees, increase opportunities for attendance of students and underserved professionals, and will enhance the attendee experience. This symposium will be an opportunity to showcase the work and opportunities available in your organization, agency, or business to professionals, researchers, and students. Sponsorship packages are available on the [symposium webpage](#), and sponsorship can also be tailored to your specific needs.



APSAF Annual Meeting
January 23-25, 2024
Roanoke, Virginia

APSAF Board of Directors Meetings

The first meeting for 2024 will be held in-person on Tuesday, January 23 at The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA, prior to the start of the Winter Meeting. Regular monthly board meetings are held via Zoom.

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APSAF is one of 31 state/multi-state societies that make up the national body known as the Society of American Foresters (SAF). All forestry and natural resource management students and graduates are eligible for membership with SAF. For more information, visit apsaf.org

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS (SAF) HEADQUARTERS:
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