

# The TRAIL BLAZER

FALL 2023

## In Defense of Civil Discourse

by Ed Zimmer, 2023 APSAF Chair



I'm not a huge devotee of Chinese food (a handful of times a year is enough for me), and I don't often bother to crack open the fortune cookies because they are way too sweet for me to enjoy eating, but I

did both recently, and that really was the fortune that popped out. It put me in mind of the general tone of discourse in America today and how more and more a similar tone seems to inject itself into the world of natural resources.

We have all seen it on TV. As soon as two paid "guests" on a news or talk show start debating, they inevitably quickly veer into the world of *ad hominem* attacks, gross misstatements of the other's opinions, even outright lies, and the most grating but often used: calling their opponent a fascist or a communist. All this not to arrive at the truth but solely to score points for a specific opinion. In what possible way can verbally beating your opponent help build community, consensus, and amicable resolution? They of course cannot, so the show ends with no resolution, no viewers with changed minds or even empathy for opposing views, and ever more entrenched viewpoints that self-reinforce the same Us versus Them attitude that draws viewers back the next day.

We can see the same symptoms of toxic communications in interactions in our everyday lives. It is easier to believe things that reinforce our current opinions and preconceptions than to evaluate statements on their own merits and, best of all, go to a primary source to find out the facts or the context in which the statement was made. Again, these actions do not build commu-

nity, allow for consensus, or lead to amicable resolution. Common ground, or what Dr. Frank Dukes once described as "Higher Ground," cannot be reached unless we strive for civil engagement with both those we agree with and those whose ideas and opinions greatly diverge from ours.

In the natural resources world, we have many areas where legitimate disagreements over causes, solutions, and courses of actions occur. I still routinely disagree with fellow foresters on whether a landowner's desire to make the most money from a single harvest should outweigh any ethical concerns about high-grading and

**"Politeness costs nothing and gains everything."**

– my last fortune cookie

the future quality of the stand. We all probably have varying opinions on how many acres of current forestland should be lost to solar arrays in our efforts to get fossil fuels out of the energy economy.

The same opportunity for legitimate disagreement exists for issues within APSAF and the national society as a whole, and that has not changed during my 30-plus years in the profession. Currently we will be reviewing and making significant changes to our articles of incorporation based on guidance from SAF National. (Read more about this on page 8.) This will be frustrating to everyone involved in the tedious paperwork, even more so to the folks who did the heavy lifting of getting APSAF incorporated ahead of direction from national a mere 12-18 months ago. But it must be done and done relatively quickly. As you can see elsewhere in the issue, there is significant disagreement on how best to

—continued on page 2





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## In Defense of Civil Discourse, *continued*

engage with our student membership and to what degree our current engagement is effective. Does subsidizing student participation in APSAF and national meetings result in future retention as members after they leave school? I don't know the answer to that question, but I do know the most fertile ground for member recruitment lies with students and recently graduated young professionals. Our next APSAF annual meeting is likely to have our most expensive registration cost we have ever had. Knowing the inherent frugality of foresters, including myself, that will lead to some disagreements on the value of various aspects of the meeting. Will this significantly higher cost result in lower attendance? That remains to be seen, but we should all be able to agree that the meetings need to at a minimum break even. We should also all be able to acknowledge we have seen significant

inflation in all aspects of our lives, and there is no reason to expect conference facilities and meals to be any different.

Whether resource-based or societal affairs, these areas of potential disagreement, as well as many, many others, can be handled maturely and politely, allowing for legitimate disagreement and discussion, or they can be derailed by entrenched opinions, inappropriate discourse, deliberate misstatement of someone's position, and a lack of willingness to listen and actually hear the other side's viewpoint. I suggest to you today the path to the best solution for any point of disagreement or debatable topic lies in choosing civil discourse and seeking consensus, and I encourage all of us to practice them as we navigate the many points of disagreement and frustration we will face in the coming months and years.

## CHARLIE FINLEY RETIRES AS EDITOR OF THE TRAIL BLAZER

### Thank you for your service!

by Scott Wallinger

Since 1997, when APSAF Chair Pat Straka hired him as the paid editor of our newsletter, Charlie Finley has led the publication of 99 quarterly issues of *The Trail Blazer*. For 26 years under Charlie's guidance *The Trail Blazer* has provided APSAF members with information about our organization as well as its State Societies and Chapters. Charlie also made the first format and edits to *APSAF From the Beginning*, our 100th anniversary, 254-page publication.

With a master's degree in forestry from Duke University, Charlie is a Golden Member of SAF and was a recipient of SAF's W. D. Hagenstein Award in 2018 that recognized his innovative and exemplary communications. In 1979, he received Virginia SAF's Young Forester Leadership Award. Prior to APSAF, for 20 years Charlie was Executive Director of the Virginia Forestry Association, and publisher of *Virginia Forests* magazine. He received VFA's Distinguished Service Award in 1991. In the 1970s he initiated and did the record-keeping for Virginia's Big Tree Program in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension. He is a certified Tree Farmer and manages several forest tracts. Thank you, Charlie, for four decades of visible service to APSAF and an even longer service to forestry in Virginia!

Beginning with this issue of *The Trail Blazer*, Leshia Berkel will become its new editor. You may contact her at APSAFTrailBlazer@gmail.com.



Getting information out to APSAF members in word (and song, when needed) for more than 25 years.

# Report FROM THE TREASURER

by Ed Stoots, APSAF Treasurer

Hoping this finds folks doing well as we head toward the leaves of fall. On the following page you will find a Statement of Financial Position generated by QuickBooks online (current accounting software being used, and with **big help** from our current accountant/bookkeeper Susan Culbertson). It has taken quite a bit of time to get things hopefully in order with the transition of Treasurer positions and to using QuickBooks.

Please look over the position statement—especially if you are a State Division or Local Chapter Treasurer. If we do not balance, please let me know of any errors, along with how much we are off, and any reasons you might know for the difference. Remember the balance sheet is from January 1st, 2023, through July 31st, 2023, so it does not include the recent dues disbursement from National or any monies received or spent since July 31, 2023.

We also need your help to ensure we get receipts and, when sending me receipts or credit card statements for items purchased that either need reimbursement or payment, always tell us what the expense was for and, if multiple items were included, give a breakdown (for example, food versus meeting room, etc.) The more information the better. You should also include a statement as to how the expense should be coded (as a local division, state division, or APSAF expense).

There are also a few local chapters that have not closed out and rolled up their accounts to APSAF—you know who you are. As National distributes dues each quarter your dues apportionment goes into a “bucket” with your chapter name and is not sent on to local treasurers to account for.



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

Thank you to all that each of you do in making APSAF and this career we call Forestry a success.

## Silent Auction Team Still Not Worried, But...

The 2024 APSAF Silent Auction Team and their mascot Gifford Pea are still living by their motto “What? Me Worry?” But as you read this, the 2024 Annual Meeting is only about three months away. Auction items are trickling in, as they always do around the end of summer. A sampling shows a sweet grass basket, a rare book about the Paul D. Camp pulp mill in SE Virginia and a Christmas stocking fit for a forester.

BUT – it’s time to turn the trickle into a flood!! The SA Team is woeful at being worried. We’re awful at being anxious. We’re crappy at being concerned. So Gifford Pea wants to REMIND all you folks who have supported the auction in the past and all you folks who want to, NEED to get behind this happy fund raiser this year: Quit sitting on your hands, get off your duffs, and roll up your sleeves. Get to knittin’ and whittlin’. Look behind the sofa, in the back of the closet, and down in the basement. Have some fun at your local fall craft fair and buy a thing or two to donate. No donation is too small, but we probably can’t use anything larger than a milk cow. Let us know what you’ve got!

Don’t think you can make the meeting? Not to worry! Contact us, and we can arrange mailing or a transport by an attendee from your neck of the woods. All proceeds—every penny—go to the Foresters Fund and the K.P. Funderburke Jr. Fund to support APSAF programs.

Let’s help the Committee keep its cool.



Some of the items that will be sold to the highest bidder at our Silent Auction.

### Questions, concerns or crazy ideas for the Silent Auction Team?

Contact Mike Skinner, SA Chair

Email: [confluencefstry@comcast.net](mailto:confluencefstry@comcast.net)

Phone: 540-320-3737

Available 24/7... except nights and weekends, during nap time, and when the Hokie game is on...

# APSAF FINANCIAL STATEMENT (as of July 31, 2023)

## Appalachian Society of American Foresters 2

### Statement of Financial Position

As of July 31, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 APSAF Checking (0804) - 1	0.00
10050 APSAF - Regional	-198,104.27
10100 Virginia APSAF Checking	30,099.79
10110 Blue Ridge (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	2,389.84
10120 Rappahannock (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	9,403.60
10130 Robert E. Lee Chapter (VA) APSAF Checking	-183.39
10140 Skyline (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	16,706.98
10150 Southeastern (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	4,606.15
10160 Southwest (VA) Chapter APSAF Checking	1,735.00
10190 Virginia Tech (VA) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	262.66
10200 NC APSAF Checking	24,508.74
10210 Albemarle (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	138.00
10215 Catawba (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	5,612.59
10220 Croatan (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	6,798.55
10225 Piedmont (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	5,339.86
10230 Pisgah (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	1,762.02
10235 Sandhills (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,721.53
10240 Tar River (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,193.25
10245 Triangle (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	7,950.17
10250 Waccamaw (NC) Chapter APSAF Checking	3,324.33
10270 Duke University (NC) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	-1,600.00
10280 NC State University (NC) Student Chapter APSAF Checking	754.56
10300 SC APSAF Checking	52,093.32
10310 Central Carolina Chapter APSAF Checking	385.00
10315 Edisto Chapter APSAF Checking	11,473.88
10320 Enoree Chapter APSAF Checking	2,597.60
10325 Keowee Chapter APSAF Checking	1,748.55
10330 Old Hickory Chapter APSAF Checking	8,312.02
10335 Pee Dee Chapter APSAF Checking	4,890.35
10340 Santee Chapter APSAF Checking	55.00
10345 Winyah Chapter APSAF Checking	1,498.94
<b>Total 10000 APSAF Checking (0804) - 1</b>	<b>11,474.62</b>
11000 APSAF Savings (5123) - 1	18,557.56
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
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$388,772.19</b>

## NEW IN 2024: APSAF LEADERSHIP MENTORING PROGRAM

# Helping Young Professionals Succeed in Leadership Positions

by Patrick Hiesl, 2023 APSAF Chair-elect

**Y**oung professionals are the future of forestry and SAF. Multiple efforts, such as the APSAF Leadership Academy, are in place to help young professionals develop leadership skills and become more engaged in APSAF. However, in my experience, many young professionals are hesitant to take on a leadership role in a local chapter or state division as they are unsure of what to do in that role. I have seen this even with APSAF Leadership Academy graduates.

To encourage young professionals to take on a leadership position and be successful, the APSAF Board of Directors voted to initiate a Leadership Mentoring Program. The goal of the program is to pair a young professional who will assume a leadership position in 2024 with an experienced APSAF member who will guide them through the process of serving in that position. Potential leadership positions are varied and include chapter chair, chapter treasurer, as well as state division or APSAF positions. Many leadership positions for 2024 have not been filled yet, and this program may help to attract young professionals to step into these positions.

Having a mentor-mentee program is nothing new to APSAF and some formal relationships were formed a few years ago as part of the APSAF Leadership Academy. We also have many informal mentor-mentee relationships within the chapters and state divisions. With this new leadership mentoring program, the Board of Directors is investing in young professional leaders and experienced members by providing each mentor-mentee pair \$100 in support of the initiative. The funds can be used, for example for an initial dinner to discuss leadership position activities and then have subsequent meetings for breakfast, coffee, or some other activity that will help guide the young professional in their leadership journey throughout the year. This will provide young professionals with continued support and a person to discuss ideas with during their leadership tenure. Serving in a leadership position within APSAF will also provide young professionals with skills (communication, conflict resolution, people management, time management, etc.) that will transfer into their professional careers.

This initial program will start in 2024 after the APSAF Winter Meeting in Roanoke, VA, and will last for one year. The program is limited to ten mentor-mentee pairs across the APSAF region (\$1,000 program budget limit). To facilitate the interaction of young professionals with the APSAF treasurer, the young professional will manage the mentorship budget and initiate reimbursements up to the \$100 cap.



**Applications for this program are open now and young professionals interested in serving in a leadership position within their local chapter, state division, or APSAF should contact Patrick Hiesl at [phiesl@clemson.edu](mailto:phiesl@clemson.edu) or 518-637-9650.**

Young professionals are encouraged to seek out chapter leadership positions that have not been filled yet; however, I am willing to help find open positions at the state and APSAF levels for interested individuals. The Board of Directors and I will also help to find a willing mentor as part of this program. Any potential mentors are also welcome to reach out to me.

Once the mentor-mentee pairs are selected, an initial Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 5 pm to provide details on the mentorship program, the expectations throughout the year, and an overview of how to conduct a business meeting. All mentors and mentees are encouraged to attend the APSAF Annual Winter Meeting in Roanoke, VA, from January 23-25, 2024.

## APSAF Needs to Invest in our Future

By Joann Meyer Cox, SAF Fellow

I admit right up front, I strongly believe there is room to improve how APSAF achieves elements of our Strategic Plan. If you haven't read or reviewed the Strategic Plan, find it on the website at [apsaf.org](https://apsaf.org). This document guides APSAF and Division Executive Committees to advance APSAF's mission. Objective #2 details how we "Promote the forestry profession." There are four action items to accomplish this objective. The one that truly resonates with me and links directly to the future of SAF is Action Item #2, which states: "Promote student involvement in SAF, APSAF, State Division, and Chapter meetings."

I came up with two examples on how APSAF promotes student involvement. I suspect you can identify others. The first is to acknowledge the positive changes at APSAF meetings. I enjoy watching students as presenters and moderators. The second is financial support to attend meetings. At present there are two "funding" options, 1) the K.P. Funderburke Jr. Educational Endowment (KPF), and 2) APSAF Project Funds. Each option has protocols on the website to request these funds.

Why promote student involvement in professional meetings? Exposing students to the workings of a professional organization helps to improve their professional skills and demonstrates how a professional society works. Ideally this leads to a better forester and a better professional society.

Think back to your college days: What were the biggest problems you faced? I suspect money may be on that list.

The topic to promote student involvement by securing funds for students to attend the National Convention was discussed at the recent NC Division 2023 summer business meeting in Rocky Mount, NC. It was noted the K.P. Funderburke Jr. Educational Endowment 2023 allotted funds had been extinguished. Nathan Gatlin, NC Division Chair, was tasked to seek additional funds for students to attend the 2023 Convention at the next APSAF Executive Committee (EC) meeting.

Nathan did just that and summarized the outcome of the August 14, 2023, APSAF EC discussion as follows:

- 1) The proposal did not get any traction and no vote was taken;
- 2) The reoccurring request to support students' attendance at National Convention was characterized as unfavorable and unsustainable;
- 3) The "unfavorable" aspects were observations of students attending national conventions and not actually attending the meeting (e.g., staying out late in the bars and not showing up the next day, renting cars and touring the city or area where the Convention was held); and
- 4) The perceived benefit to support student attendance at APSAF meetings where their presence is more easily scrutinized.

I believe most APSAF members support the idea of assisting APSAF students to attend the National Convention. Currently there are nine APSAF student chapters: two in Virginia, five in North Carolina, and two in South Carolina. I venture to say APSAF may have more student chapters than any other state/multi-state SAF society.

The response to the funding request by the APSAF EC prompted me to write this opinion piece. If the APSAF EC feels it's "unfavorable and unsustainable" to support students to attend National Conventions, what are they doing to address these concerns?

The summer issue of *The Trail Blazer* showed as of May 31, 2023, APSAF net worth of \$381,695.89 of which approximately \$136K was in the KPF Fund. If you net out the KPF funds, the APSAF net worth is over \$246K.

The current U.S. economy and inflation make the KPF option inadequate, and perhaps even misleading, in order to support the stated objective to "help support students attend the APSAF winter meeting, leadership workshops or National Convention." I support the KPF objective to "assist" with expenses. However, what is a sustainable expectation for the KPF funds? Is it realistic to set an expectation that funds are available to attend one or more of the stated functions, considering the number of APSAF student chapters? Or is there benefit to revisit the KPF objectives and process

to perhaps target which activity yields the “best benefit” as defined by the stakeholders—APSAF members, student members, APSAF EC, etc.?

The APSAF Project Fund policy (November 2016) identifies four (4) objectives, which include providing “for professional and leadership development for APSAF members that enhances knowledge, skills, abilities, and leadership potential with the organization.” Per the stated policy, this option is to be used after all other funding options (KPF and Forester Funds) have been leveraged. My understanding of the Forest Funds (FF) grant process precludes using FF to assist students attendance at meetings.

There is no reporting that I can find related to how or if the APSAF Project Fund is used. What are the statistics, including the benefits, and application of the APSAF Project Fund? Are there opportunities to improve, perhaps focus this funding option to invest in the future leaders and members of SAF, our students?

My better half, Joe Cox often says, “You learn what you live, set a professional example.” The APSAF EC’s opinion that financial assistance is given when “their presence is more easily scrutinized” is most disturbing. I do not know how many students, or for that matter, APSAF members who received APSAF financial support, “socialized” rather than attending meetings/Conventions over the years. The APSAF Mission Statement states one of our tasks is to promote the forestry profession. How do we/APSAF model professional behavior? How do the two funding options emphasize being a professional?



A native of Aiken, South Carolina, Joann was one of the first women to receive a bachelor of science degree in Forestry from Texas A&M University. She has over 45 years of forest management and research experience across the southeast United States, with 14 years in key senior management positions for leading forest products companies. In 2006 Joann began the next phase of her forestry career as Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor conducting forest certification assessments across the U.S. She has been an active Society of American Forester member since 1976. She was elected a SAF Fellow, served on SAF Council, second woman to serve as SAF President, recipient of SAF John A. Beale Memorial and Diversity Leadership Awards, and NC Division SAF Merit Award. Joann can be reached at Joanncox76@gmail.com

The Trail Blazer is published to provide information and stimulate discussion among the members of the Appalachian Society SAF. Opinions expressed in this column are solely the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society of American Foresters or APSAF.

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# APSAF Governance Updates Underway

## Aligning with SAF guidelines for incorporation will ensure autonomy for state societies like APSAF and reduce liability for our volunteer leaders.

Over the last 120+ years, SAF has grown from a single entity to a complex network of 30 state societies, 16 divisions, and over 150 chapters. During this growth, changes in federal and state regulations, and SAF policies, have impacted business requirements and operations that have resulted in SAF unit leaders experiencing challenges and uncertainties in how to manage their units. Questions related to banking, tax reporting obligations, legal protection of volunteer leaders, need to incorporate, and charity solicitation registration requirements were becoming common, and local leaders were looking to SAF National for answers.

To untangle these complexities, SAF engaged legal counsel to review our business structure and governance from operational, legal, and sustainable perspectives. One of several recommendations that came out of that review was for state societies to become individually

incorporated under their respective state laws. This action accomplishes two things: (1) it ensures that state societies are recognized as having autonomous legal standing; and (2) it reduces liability for volunteer leaders by establishing separation between personal and corporate assets.

In July 2021, the SAF Board supported the findings and authorized the SAF CEO to proceed with incorporation. In September 2021, the House of Society Delegates (the SAF body composed of all state society chairs) affirmed this recommendation, and an implementation strategy was developed to incorporate all state societies. (For details on the state society incorporation process, check out the March 2022 article in the *Forestry Source*. You'll need to log in with your SAF username and password to access the article.)

In APSAF's case, we recognized the benefits of being incorporated early on,

and we were a major driver in the effort to incorporate all state societies. In fact, APSAF independently incorporated in September 2021. With the rest of the state societies getting incorporated, it's now time to update APSAF's corporate structure to align with a standard approach to how all state societies are incorporating. This includes amending and restating our Articles of Incorporation and adopting new bylaws to reflect the corporate structure, state laws, and current operations.

APSAF originally incorporated as a non-member nonprofit, thus amending and restating the Articles of Incorporation is being handled by the APSAF Board and is in process. An update of the bylaws will take place in the coming months and, in accordance with our current bylaws, will need to be approved by the APSAF membership (two-thirds of members voting will be required for approval). We anticipate this vote to take place at our January 2024 meeting in Roanoke, VA, so be on the watch for additional information.

The APSAF leadership team is providing this background information for member awareness. Approving these actions will put Appalachian SAF on even more solid governance footing into the next 100 years and maintains SAF's legal accountability as part of our duties to our members, our community, and stakeholders. If you have any questions regarding the process or the changes, please reach out to your current leadership team.



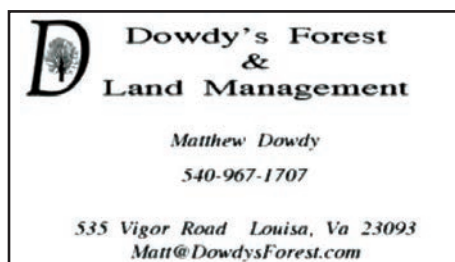
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# NORTH CAROLINA

**All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, then success is sure. –Mark Twain**

by Nathan Gatlin  
North Carolina Division Chair

NC SAF recently had its 2023 summer meeting. It was one of the best meetings we've had as well as being one of the best attended. The speakers were relevant and the atmosphere was lively as everyone seemed to be anticipating what is coming next in the forestry world. Now, you may be thinking to yourself that everyone in forestry normally looks to future developments so that they can stay ahead of the game. But I think that there was more to it this time.

I believe that forestry is sitting at a juncture. The old world of forestry, we always know, seems to be morphing into something new. Sure, people need lumber and pulp for the products we have always helped produce. But now, the world has developed new appetites that hunger for carbon sequestration and innovative building materials that will fundamentally transform the way we construct buildings. It's as if forestry is waiting for the crack of the gun, and we'll lunge forward towards the prize. But which direction do we go? How will we get it done? How will forest management change to meet the demand? What education should we conduct to make sure society is on board with our processes?

It is time to get creative. The challenge is to think outside the box and generate new processes and modernizations. It is my hope that future generations will look back upon this time as we do upon the post-WWII era. That time established forestry as a cornerstone industry that was positively viewed by our nation. These new advances in forest products bring with them opportunities for forestry to once again prove its worth in the eyes of the nation.

## ■ Croatan Chapter

We had a great first meeting of the year in Washington, NC, back on May 11, where we learned about the North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries Multi-species tagging program from Ami Staples.

We had a busy summer and also have several events coming up this fall:

- **JUNE 27:** Croatan Chapter sponsored lunch at Cool Springs for NCFAs Sustainable Forestry Teacher's Experience. Teachers from all over the state were in attendance. Craig Manzene gave them a walking tour and overview of the history of Cool Springs following lunch.
- **JULY 5-7:** Croatan Chapter hosted students from Heartworks in Pamlico County. Each day, a new group of students joined us to learn about forestry. They participated in multiple PLT activities, an educational hike, pizza for lunch, and a drone demo.
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:** We are planning our third road cleanup of the year at 7:30am at our usual spot along Hwy. 17, starting at White Oak Community Church (6181 New Bern Hwy, Maysville, NC 28555).
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12:** We will hold our Fall Meeting at Baron & the Beef in Kinston (1631 US Highway 70 E, Kinston, NC 28501) from 5pm-8pm. Jeff Hall, a Reptile & Amphibian Biologist from NC Wildlife will be speaking on Snakes and Turtles in North Carolina.
- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1:** Our annual Oyster Roast will be held at Cool Springs from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and we are excited to announce that we will have an axe throwing station from Beary the Hatchet for y'all to enjoy!



*In June, the chapter sponsored lunch at Cool Springs for NCFAs Sustainable Forestry Teacher's Experience.*



*Croatan Chapter hosted students from Heartworks in Pamlico County.*

## ■ Piedmont Chapter

After our annual summer break, we begin the fall season with a great lineup of speakers that will carry us into the winter. The chapter has been moving each meeting around the chapter boundaries, and it has encouraged participation. Attendance has been strong with a new attendee or two each meeting. September's meeting will be in Elkin. The NC Wildlife Commission will discuss wildlife present use value.



## UPDATES FROM THE PALMETTO STATE

# SOUTH CAROLINA

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. —Eleanor Roosevelt

by Puskar Khanal  
South Carolina Division Chair

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. Keeping its annual tradition, SC division organized a successful annual summer meeting from June 7-8 in the Upstate South Carolina. The summer meeting host committee—led by Stephen Peairs and Russell Hardee—was successful in offering an interesting and engaging series of events for all the participants. Kudos to both and the organizing committee! The meeting had good participation of members from the different parts of the state.

### APPALACHIAN SAF SC DIVISION 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Division Chair – Puskar Khanal  
Past Chair – Barry Graden  
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 Chastain  
Enoree Chapter – Michael Mills, Mike Keim  
Santee Chapter – Gary Bratton  
Clemson Forestry Student Chapter – NA  
Horry Georgetown Student Chapter – NA



Edisto Chapter chair Asija Rice at the SLFR's 10th Anniversary Conference. (Photo from Asija Rice)

### Edisto Chapter

Edisto Chapter held a meeting on September 15, from 6pm-8pm. Adriana Hamilton, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Conservationist for Charleston/Berkeley counties, presented information on Pollinator Habitat Planning and Establishment during the meeting, as well as how it will improve forestry operations. Another meeting is scheduled on October 12, 2023, via Zoom from 6pm-8pm. The speaker will be Henry (Hank) Poole, Center for Heir's Property Preservation. The planned topics include Forest Economics for Landowners and Foresters. The meeting will focus on inflation, offset inflation with investment, risk, compound interest, discount rate/alternatives, net present value, and other financial criteria. Asija also plans to highlight Land, Legacy, and Family: Celebrating a Decade of African American Land Protection, which was the theme of the SFLR's 10th Anniversary Landowner Conference.



Edisto Chapter chair Asija Rice at the SLFR's 10th Anniversary Conference. (Photo from Asija Rice)

### Old Hickory Chapter

Old Hickory Chapter is planning a meeting for Tuesday, September 19 at 5pm at Wagon Wheel restaurant in Fort Lawn in Chester County. Aaron Gilland from Dendro Resource Management Inc. is scheduled to give a talk on timberland security and laws. Hank is expecting a great participation for great meal and

fellowship as the location is central to most members. The meeting is approved for 1.0 continuing education credits from SAF.

## ■ Summer Meeting Highlights

Keowee Chapter was the host chapter for this year's summer meeting. The meeting was in the Clemson area so various demonstration sites at the Clemson Experimental Forest were visited to highlight forestry practices.

**Post Thinning mid rotation woody release.** A portion of the Clemson Experimental Forest with a recent pine thinning was used to discuss herbicide application to suppress hardwood encroachment in the understory. A demonstration of a skidder mounted sprayer was an interesting innovation by Russ Hardee and his team at the Clemson Experimental Forest.

**Oak shelterwood and herbicide treatment.** Yellow-poplar suppression study after 90-day post-spray was another



*Demonstration of herbicide practice at the Clemson Experimental Forest. (Photo credit: Puskar Khanal)*

highlight of the field demonstration. Stephen Peairs, Clemson Extension Specialist, discussed findings from the study and potential implications with silvicultural practices to encourage natural oak regeneration, and midstory control (hack and squirt).



*Discussion on mass timber and CLT buildings by Pat Layton. (Photo credit: Puskar Khanal)*

Overall, it was a very eventful meeting. The following four individuals received awards in the meeting. Scott Danskin (Volunteer Service Award) is Forest Resource Analyst at South Carolina Forestry Commission; Emily Oakman (Young Foresters Leadership Award) is director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs at the Forestry Association of South Carolina; Trisha Markus (Student Professionalism Award) is a graduate Student Research Assistant at Clemson University; and Barry Graden (Service Award) is an immediate-past chair of the SCSAF.



*SCSAF summer meeting group picture at the Tiger Stadium in Clemson. (Photo credit: Puskar Khana)*



By Michael Downey,  
Virginia Division Chair

# VIRGINIA

**“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.”**

—Theodore Roosevelt

The Virginia Division has had a busy summer this year with chapter meetings as well as workshops educating middle and high school teachers. The planning committee has been in full swing in preparation for the 2024 Annual Winter Meeting that will be held in Roanoke, VA. We have been meeting monthly and have made tremendous progress. Stay tuned for more information on sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities as well as early bird registration.

VA Division Past Chair David Powell was chosen to receive the 2023 Presidential Field Forester Award. This 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. The awards will be presented to individuals who have displayed uncommon talent, skill, and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management. Congratulations David, on this well-deserved recognition.

The VA Division SAF partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension to help Virginia Department of Forestry Conservation Education Coordinator Ellen Powell and Project Learning Tree (PLT) Coordinator Lesley Newman hold the annual “Teaching Trees” workshops in Louisa County and Newport News in July. Seventeen middle and high school teachers attended. These workshops are a unique “hybrid” of PLT’s secondary workshop and a local forestry tour. Generous funding from the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation allowed teachers to take home materials kits for use with their students. In addition to the partners listed, special thanks goes to consulting forester Matt Dowdy and to Newport News Waterworks for providing the tours on their property.

The Annual CFE Extravaganza will be held Thursday, September 28 at the Virginia Department of Forestry’s Headquarters in Charlottesville, VA. Scott Reigel has worked diligently putting together a great group of speakers that will be covering forest management, wildfire, pest, and disease. Our very own Suzanne Ryan, Virginia Tech Master Graduate, will present on her natural regeneration silviculture thesis and oak stand conversions.

## Blue Ridge Chapter

By Corey Green, Chapter Chair

The Blue Ridge Chapter had a great summer meeting at the Speyside Bourbon Stave Mill and Cooperage in Southwest Virginia. It was so interesting to see white oak logs in the morning and completed barrels by the afternoon. It really puts into perspective the importance of good management!



(left to right) Drying white oak staves, and completed bourbon barrels ready to ship.

Work continues on the Forester’s Trail at Explore Park in Roanoke. We have a work day and several hikes planned for the fall.

## Rappahannock Chapter

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

On July 27, 2023 the chapter partnered with Ellen Powell, Conservation Education Coordinator VDO, and Neil Clark, VT Extension Agent, to conduct the “Teaching Trees Newport News 2023” one-day event. A grant from Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation was awarded to the chapter to support this event. Six teachers participated, with the potential for reaching over 800 students in the upcoming school year, and participants indicated that this event will have a positive influence on their teaching.

The chapter would like express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the individuals involved in planning and executing this event, including chapter member James McCabe, Ellen Powell, and Neil Clark. Thank you to Newport News Waterworks for hosting this event and supporting James' involvement.

We look forward to meeting a future forester who was inspired by one of the teachers who participated in this event.

## Mountain Gateway Community College

By Billy Newman, Chapter Advisor

Spring culminated with graduation on May 12, 2023, and we look forward to the next wave of MGCC graduates for 2024.

The 2023 Fall semester began August 21. We welcomed returning students to campus with great expectations for the 2023 – 2024 school year! We are excited to share that there are 17 returning second-year students and 12 first-year students joining the program for the Fall semester. We will be following their accomplishments throughout the year.

Timbersports team, student SAF Chapter, and Forestry Club officer and committee chair elections for the year will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!



Teachers listening intently to James McCabe's wisdom during the Newport News Waterwork property tour.



Teachers discussing what they have learned at "Teaching Trees" in Newport News.



By Tony Doster  
SAF Representative

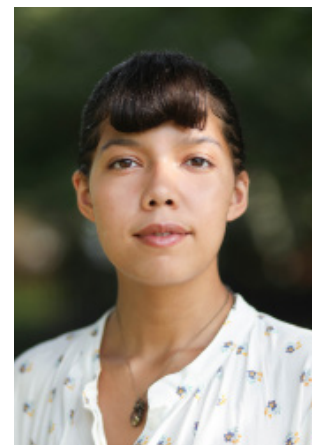
## NATIONAL REPORT

There was a slight increase in SAF membership numbers in July and a slight increase in our membership revenue projection for the year. Both are great signs as we prepare to launch the new membership structure on Oct. 1.

SAF signed agreements with the USDA Forest Service for the Mature and Old Growth Summit next year and support for additional 2023 Diversity scholars students/future year scholars with a draft agreement submitted for the Job Corps Conservation Education training program.

**Convention Update:** Board members will receive hotel reservation details from Elizabeth Buhl, Director of Events and Sales, by the beginning of December. All Board members will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. A very positive sign for this year's convention is that both group hotels are sold out at the discounted group rate. Rooms are still available at both properties at their current rates.

An impressive highlight for our ForestEd platform is that we had 43,066 Visitors YTD (July 2022) v. 142,898 Visitors YTD (July 2023). This shows that the increase in content and partnerships is helping word get out, and more members and non-members are coming to us for information!



SAF welcomed Samantha "Sam" Nicholson-Sarmiento as the new Executive Assistant to the CEO. You'll be able to meet her in person at the SAF Convention in October.

# EVENTS



## SAF 2023 National Convention October 25-28, 2023

This premier event offers attendees numerous opportunities for professional development, networking and community connections. This year, the convention will be held on October 25-28, 2023, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center to explore the theme, "Forestry: It's in Our DNA." The largest event of the year for professionals in forestry and natural resources sector, SAF2023 will include more than 250 speakers and up to 27.5 CFE and CE credit hours. Visit [safconvention.org](http://safconvention.org) for full details and registration.

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## APSAF AWARDS Nominations Due October 6

The deadline for submitting your APSAF award nominations from all three states is October 6, 2023. Nominations are being accepted for the following awards:

- Distinguished Service to Forestry
- Young Forester Leadership
- Volunteer Service

The APSAF Professional Awards will then have a meeting later in October to select the winners and to put forth nominations for the national awards and Fellows.



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

## APSAF Board of Directors Meetings


Board meetings are held monthly via Zoom. Scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2023 are as follows:  
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

## Seminar on Death and Taxes Related to Forestry Thursday, October 19, 2023

Hosted by the South Carolina Association of Consulting Foresters  
8am-5pm • Harbison Environmental Education Center

The South Carolina Association of Consulting Foresters will be hosting a meeting on Death & Taxes on October 19, 2023, at the Harbison Environmental Education Center in Columbia, SC. This meeting is open to the public. Topics include various tax issues, estate planning, transitioning a business, and updates on timber markets, the FASC and the SCFC. Early registration is \$125 and includes coffee breaks, lunch and dinner. CFE's have been applied for. For more information, email Nate Larck at [nate@forestresourcepro.com](mailto:nate@forestresourcepro.com)

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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](http://apsaf.org)

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