

THE TRAIL BLAZER



The Appalachian Society of American Foresters

Spring 2020

APSAF Web site: www.APSAF.org

National SAF Web site: www.eforester.org

Stay True to Your Compass



by **Dan Goerlich**
2020 APSAF Chair

Growing up, forestry was the only career I considered. All I ever wanted to be was a forester. When I was in third grade my mother wrote to the USDA Forest Service inquiring about careers in forestry. They actually wrote back,

sending the requested information along with a suggestion that we get back in touch when I became a bit older. I still have that letter, received four decades ago this year. And, I did go on to attend forestry school at Virginia Tech, finding their program quite by accident in the pre-Internet era. Ironically, the first job I was offered after graduating was as a forest technician with—you guessed it—the USDA Forest Service.

At Virginia Tech many of our classes had field labs, and one stands out in particular: the Forest Ecology and Silvics outing to Mount Rogers, Virginia's highest peak. If you attended forestry school at Virginia Tech in the "Shep era" you likely remember that experience. In case you were not so fortunate, however, here is a brief description. The class departed early in the morning and took vans down through the mountains to the Mount Rogers trailhead. I recall the hike from the trailhead to the top of the mountain being about six miles and climbing over 2,800 feet. At the summit students were divided into their teams, spaced along a transect, given a compass bearing and destination—a comparatively narrow strip of Forest Service land along a state-maintained road at the bottom of the mountain--and sent on their way. Students bush-wacked down the mountain periodically taking measurements to learn how tree species composition changed with elevation.

I don't recall the month that this outing took place but I do remember that it was leaf-off and very cold. I also remember that, on our way down the mountain--somewhere in the northern hardwoods cover type--my team crossed paths with a group of our fellow students who were de-

scending at an angle from higher up the slope. When we met, discussion ensued. The other group tried to convince us that our compass was wrong. One member of our group started advocating that we join the other students on their path. The conversation grew strained. Eventually our respective teams parted ways, each intact and keeping to our original paths. My team continued down the mountainside for the rest of the day, finally arriving smack dab in the middle of the rendezvous point. I will come back to this story later in the column...

I have often contemplated the paradox that, although I was drawn to a profession where I frequently went all day, often for several days, without speaking to another person, through the Virginia Cooperative Extension I have found a great sense of place serving people. My employer has offered me an opportunity to serve in several leadership roles throughout my career, and I have thus been able to develop personal perspectives on what leadership is, and what leadership is not. For example, I believe that leadership is not about accumulating power. Leadership is not about manipulating and sacrificing others for personal gain. Leadership is not about status or title. Leadership is not about being the boss.

If leadership is not about these things, then what is it about? In my view, leadership is about helping others achieve their full potential. It's about putting people in situations where they can succeed. Leadership is characterized by accountability, honesty, and personal responsibility; by sincerity, integrity and being a good steward of trust. Leadership means having respect for the wisdom inherent in all levels of the organization and seeking it out. Leadership is helping others even if it is not "our job." Leadership is about making everyone else around us better and putting the needs of others before our own best interest.

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The Trail Blazer

The quarterly newsletter of the Appalachian Society of American Foresters. ©2020

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Hi everybody,

There's a lot of good stuff happening in APSAF. We want you to share and be seen.... and have launched a *NEW* Facebook page.

Yes, there are not one, not two, but three APSAF Facebook pages. Seriously, who wants to sit in the bathroom when the real party's in the kitchen, right? So please come follow/friend our REAL party... I mean page.

Ignore all impostors. Go to Facebook and search [@APSAFORESTERS](#). (Or click on the words.) You'll know you're in the right place if you see posts on the recent hurricanes and the Winter Meeting. And then, once you've done that, join us in sharing your CFE opportunities, meeting photos, and other relevant professional information.

I sure do appreciate your support, especially because Facebook sent me a note congratulating me on 20 friends. whoo. hoo.

All my best,
Jen Howard, your APSAF communications chair who really wants y'all to connect. Hey! Down here! See me? I'll take you to some cool stuff.



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District 8 Board Report, by Anne Jewell

Happy to serve

It's a pleasure to be contributing to the *Trail Blazer* again and an honor to be contributing as APSAF's representative to the SAF Board of Directors. I am looking forward to this opportunity and to working with other dedicated SAF members from around the country. I appreciate having the opportunity to engage with and guide our professional organization in new ways. I do have big shoes to fill and want to convey a special Thank You to **Christa Rogers** as my predecessor in this role. It is very clear that Christa was highly passionate and effective in creating beneficial input and change, particularly related to student and young professional engagement within SAF. She prepped me well as she passed the baton, and I'm happy to carry it forward.



The SAF Board recently held their first meeting of 2020 by teleconference with SAF President, **Tammy Cushing** taking the lead and setting a new agenda in motion to continue to develop and build on efforts that were initiated in 2019. This includes continuing to develop and formalizing a new Young Professional position on the Board. Additionally, initiatives include evaluating the future role of the three focus teams addressing: increasing student recruitment and retention, further benefits and/or impacts of monetizing CFEs for non-SAF members and entities, and evaluation of integrating CF into academic programs. Tammy has also filled all national committee vacancies and is integrated with each as they develop their work plans for the coming year.

The SAF National Office has been busy with a variety of initiatives including hiring **Ms. Angela Colonna** as Manager of Communications and Marketing and **Mr. Christopher Bellerdine** as Manager of Membership. Both will work directly with the recently new Director of Membership, **Steven Glover**. The Professional Development position currently remains vacant and has been re-advertised. The additional bench-strength in the national office will streamline services and allow CEO, **Terry Baker** to focus on more strategic organizational objectives as well as public, congressional, and partnership engagements.

Mr. Baker and Ms. Cushing have also been busy attending state society meetings around the country and are engaged with the 2020 SAF Convention to be held in Providence, RI with the theme "**From Metropolis to Wilderness: Foresters Rooted in Conservation.**" Additional focus areas for SAF include continued development of a CFE review and approval process/procedure, ForestEd material development (ForestEd.org), on-going accreditation work, and a new marketing approach with increased social media presence as being developed by Mosaic Marketing. SAF has a strengthening team with new perspective and increasingly clear vision for the future. We are in good hands as we face on-going challenges.

You may now know that SAF has a serious offer on the sale of the Pinchot building. The offer comes from a developer and a counteroffer from SAF was accepted by them with procedures underway now to finalize the sale. SAF staff and representatives are currently working through the legal process of proceeding with the sale. CEO Terry Baker is on the lookout for suitable office space to lease in the DC area that will be more meeting-friendly and appropriate for the size of SAF staff. The Finance Committee will also be evaluating options and recommended course of action for managing property sale revenue. More detailed information will be shared as it becomes available.

Continued, next page



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

APSAF Executive Committee Meetings

March 17, by phone, Zoom
June 2020: Date and Location TBA
September 10, 2020, Asheville, NC
January 27, 2021, Asheville, NC
Other meetings as required

2020 Summer meetings

- Virginia, August 11-14 Harrisonburg,
- South Carolina, June 4, Winyah Chapter
- North Carolina, June 17-19, Raleigh

2021 APSAF Annual Meeting

January 27-29, Asheville, NC

2020 National SAF Meeting

Oct. 28-Nov. 1, Providence, Rhode Island

2021 National SAF Meeting

November 1-5, Sacramento, CA

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For the Students out there.... If you think you might be interested in serving on the National SAF Student Council please reach out to Sam Cook (843-344-0637), and I will pass along all the information and details on how to get involved with other forestry students from around the country and what this position entails.

Lastly, if you would like any additional information or details on anything provided here or have something you would like to have conveyed to the national office staff or Board of Directors, please feel free to reach out at any time (ajewell2204@gmail.com). I look forward to representing you on the Board for the next few years!

News briefs

APSAF Leadership Academy

Calling All Future Leaders!

SAVE THE NEW DATE: August 19-21, 2020

The APSAF Leadership Academy 2020 is coming in **August** (postponed by the virus) and will be led by a team of highly skilled trainers. The Leadership Academy will provide you with skills that promote personal and professional development, adding tangible value that is recognized by employers and prospective members. At the Academy you will learn to:

...grow interpersonal skills

...motivate others

...communicate effectively ...and more



It is **August 19-21**, at Haw River State Park, NC. For details contact Rick Cantrell, RickCantrell@BlackBriarEnv.com or 864-653-7224. **NOTE THE NEW DATE.**

Our national leadership expert and forester, **Tom Davidson**, delivers a distinctive blend of leadership services that combines years of experience in natural resources with expertise in forestry and natural resources, manufacturing, communication, human resources, organization development, and team development.



Haw River State Park is located in the northern Piedmont Triad region, and picturesque terrain makes Haw River State Park the perfect place to connect with nature. Housed within this natural setting is The Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center, N.C. State Park's first residential environmental education center.

APSAF Centennial: 100 Years and Counting

Celebrating Our Roots, Inspiring Generations

by Kelley Duffield McCarter

Folks, this is the BIG one! When was the last time you played an important role in the 100th year anniversary of your profession? The Society of American Foresters was founded in 1900 and only a few years later, so was the Appalachian SAF. Back in 1921 founders of what would become our tri-state section of SAF gathered in Asheville, North Carolina for the first of what have been 99 annual meetings. Imagine what they would think if they knew that you are reading about the 100th anniversary of their humble first meeting!

A 100th anniversary of anything requires a monumental celebration, and the winter meeting being planned for **January 27 - 29, 2021** will be a doozy! The planning committee has been at work on this meeting for over a year already, stretching across the tenures of two different executive committees and likely will be a third when the actual meeting takes place.

We'll all be getting updates and reminders this summer about meeting planning, special dates and deadlines, and a few surprises. Until then, here are the basics:

- Hold on to your Calendar:** Wednesday, January 27 (Excom meeting, workshops and CFEs); Thursday, January 28 (general sessions, CFFEs, excursions, awards, surprises, and celebrating); Friday, January 29 (more CFEs and a grand finale).
- Lodging and Meeting Headquarters Hotel:** DoubleTree by Hilton Asheville-Biltmore, nights of January 28 & 29, 2021, rates \$112/night while they last. Reservations available starting September 1, 2021.
- Meeting Registration and Details:** Online registration will open by October 1, 2021 when the meeting details, speakers, workshops and excursions are finalized.
- Exhibiting and Sponsorship:** Get a jump on your sponsorship and exhibitor space now by contacting Chip Maley whose aligning companies, universities, and agencies to make sure everyone can participate fully in this unique winter meeting. Email: chip.maley@threetygersforestry.com, phone: (864) 574-7454.

#APSAF100

www.apsaf.org/new-events

APSAF: The Next 100-year Rotation

by Adam Downing, APSAF Chair-elect

As we approach our 100th birthday... the often added ending from the Happy Birthday song comes to mindand many more...

We have an amazing history to celebrate, and there is more “amazing” to come... not only in APSAF but for forestry in the United States overall. In forestry terms, APSAF is on the far end of one hardwood rotation old. Now is the time to think about what we want the next rotation to look like.

Imagine your answers to these questions:

- What do we dream this profession will look like a 100 years from now?
- How will society see the profession?
- What major societal problems will we be central to solving?
- How will forestry grow in offering even more solutions to our material, environmental and societal needs?
- Who will make up the future APSAF and who will lead it? Who will lead forestry?
- What can we do now, to be in the right place at the right time 100 years from now?
- When... ____ Why... ____ (fill in the blanks)

As we approach our celebration of the past 100 years in Asheville this coming January, I want to wrestle with these and other BIG questions! To that end, I am recruiting a team that will work together over the next 10 months to brainstorm, develop processes, implement actions and pull together a game plan that will serve to inspire and invent our future.

If you might like to be part of this process please e-mail, call, text or send smoke signals to me. No commitment is required at this juncture... if you are even mildly interested and would like to talk more, give a holler.

As the famous and successful businesswoman, Mary Kay Ash, puts it, “There are three types of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.” Thank you for joining together to *make things happen* right away for the *next rotation* of APSAF.

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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



As I start my tenure as the SC SAF Division Chair, I am excited, apprehensive, and just a little scared. I am excited to be serving in the role and consider it a privilege and honor to serve our state SAF members. I am apprehensive since I am following the great leadership of Dan Scheffing. I am a little scared because a lot of what will unfold during 2020 is unknown. However, we have great leadership, past and present, that will guide us to remain steadfast as we work toward serving the forestry profession.

Let me start by thanking Dan Scheffing for all of his work in 2019 and for his willingness to serve as my mentor in 2020 – he will be getting a lot of emails from me! At the 2020 APSAF meeting held in Norfolk, VA in January, Dan set the stage for me to start a conversation about the SC Division structure. As many of you may know, some of our local chapters struggle to find leadership, if they can find it at all, don't have regular meetings, and if they do have meetings, they are poorly attended. There is a lot of debate as to why our membership has dropped off, and I will not attempt to address this issue. Instead, as Dan noted at the APSAF meeting, perhaps it is time to consider what our chapters in the SC Division look like and how they function. Can we reorganize our chapters to be more active, relieve some leadership duties from those that have served long past a one-year tenure, and revitalize the function of the local chapters? Of course, this is all subject to national SAF, APSAF and SC Division bylaws, but should we start considering it? I want to hear from all members of the SC Division on this topic, so if you have thoughts, comments or criticisms, please email them to me so I can articulate the "collective" voice of the SC Division members.

Our 2020 Summer meeting is being planned by the Winyah Chapter and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 4th. The chapter has decided to host a one-day meeting in consideration of the upcoming January 2021 APSAF Winter meeting. Stay tuned for more details on the summer meeting. And speaking of the **2021 APSAF Winter meeting**, don't forget to mark your calendars for this event, **January 27-29, 2021** in Asheville, NC. ~ Susan, sguynn@clemsun.edu.

Clemson Chapter

The Clemson Student Society of American Foresters chapter has participated in national, regional and local SAF meetings. In October 2019, undergraduate and graduate students attended the SAF National Convention in Louisville, KY to present research and network with professionals. Bridget Blood, a PhD student at Clemson placed third overall in the poster competition.

This January, students attended the APSAF Winter Meeting in Norfolk, VA. Here, graduate students Keith Phelps and Kipling Klimas presented their research projects. Keith Phelps placed first in the poster presentation competition. Kipling Klimas was awarded first place in the student flash presentation section. The Clemson Student SAF chapter regularly attends local Keowee SAF Chapter meetings. The most recent was a meeting at the SC Botanical Gardens in February. Here, students are able to gain valuable professional connections.

The Clemson Forestry Club participates in timber-sports competitions. The most recent was Timberbeast, hosted by Virginia Tech. Here, students participated in technical and physical events and placed first overall. This March, Conclave will be hosted by the University of Tennessee in Crossville, TN and will be a combination of technical and physical events. 🌲



The Chair's column, from page 1

As a good friend and colleague reminded me recently, finding ways to keep work fun is an important aspect of leading and serving others. This was an important reminder for me, as I enjoy staying busy and working hard and thus tend to make life all about work. Growing up I spent a lot of time working for my parents and grandparents. My first "real job" paid by somebody else, was with the Otsego County Highway Department. I flagged traffic, learned to drive heavy equipment, picked up roadkill, and even shoveled raw sewage out of culverts. But we had so much fun together as a crew that summer I never forgot the experience...just the lesson on occasion. Leadership is about mentoring others and also about listening to the lessons that others can teach us.

Back to Mount Rogers for a moment...

After darkness fell the teaching assistants began periodically blaring the van horns in hopes that the missing group of students would be able to follow the sound. Eventually, much to everyone's relief, the group emerged from the dark woods into the headlights of the vans. One student had a big knot on his head where he ran into a tree limb in the dark. Their story was, after losing faith in their compass, they started following creeks and eventually became hopelessly lost.

The moral of this story is, whether your guide is spiritual, ethical, or literal...stay true to your personal compass on your own leadership journey.~ Dan, dalego@vt.edu

From . . . The Forest History Society

Good afternoon FHS Members and Supporters, The safety of our members, patrons, and staff is our top priority. In light of the Covid-19 virus situation, FHS is taking recommended safety precautions and making the following changes as of Monday, March 16, and until further notice.

The library and headquarters will remain open to staff and volunteers only.

- All visiting researchers scheduled for March and April will be rescheduled.
- We will not be open for casual visitors to the library and headquarters for the time being.
- All group visits have been suspended until further notice.
- We have cancelled our April Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta and will conduct an abbreviated meeting electronically.
- The American Society of Environmental History (ASEH) has postponed its annual conference, scheduled for March 25-28 in Ottawa, Canada. Therefore, we will not be holding the FHS luncheon previously scheduled for March 26.



FHS staff will otherwise be available to conduct work and answer inquiries as usual. They will be working onsite but we have instituted plans to work from home if necessary. Staff will continue to have access to email and phone messages. We will continue to accept new archival collections by mail and delivery. Because of the fluidity of the situation, please contact us first before sending any packages.

Our leadership team is evaluating the circumstances, which, as you know, are changing daily. We will send email notifications with any changes to our schedule.

Our website (www.foresthistory.org) and social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) will also include these updates. Please call us at 919-682-9319 if you have any questions.

We encourage you to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself. Your safety is our number one concern. Sincerely, Steve Anderson, President & CEO

Forest History Society 919/682-9319 | 2925 Academy Road,
Durham NC 27705 | foresthistory.org



Student members ...please keep abreast of upcoming SAF events and check the APSAF website or consult with your chapter advisor periodically for APSAF funding opportunities and accompanying deadlines.

The 2020 APSAF Annual Meeting

“Gaining a Competitive Edge”



The Meeting Wrapup by Neil Clark

Over 200 of America's best foresters from across the Mid-Atlantic converged on Norfolk, Virginia on the last week of January 2020 to engage in a rip-roarin' 99th Annual Winter Meeting of the Appalachian Society of American Foresters (APSAF). Things kicked off with an excellent pre-conference workshop from Landmark Spatial Systems, Inc. led by **Mark Books** who also happens to be the chair of the Rappahannock Chapter of the SAF. Mark is extremely



helpful and knowledgeable in showing how these technological solutions can add to efficiency and marketability to your projects. There was also a pre-conference tour to the Stihl manufacturing facility. This was a unique opportunity to see where the iconic orange and white chainsaws are made that we all know and love. It is great to know that many of these saws and other small engine tools are made right here in the U.S.A. Many thanks go out to **Dave Milby**, past chair of the Virginia Division, for getting these pre-conference opportunities up and running.

Society of American Foresters (SAF) CEO **Terry Baker** kicked off the event in outstanding fashion by challenging us with points to the theme of "Gaining a Competitive Edge." His points were further bolstered with perspectives given by **Deb Hawkinson**, **Dave Tenny**, and **Tom Martin** of Forest Resources Association, National Association of Forest Owners, and American Forest Foundation, respectively. **Mike Powell** of **Forest2Market** then offered a prognostication of future market changes and challenges. Great gratitude goes out to **Rick Cantrell**, **Tom Davidson**, and **Jason Fisher** for assembling this monster lineup of power presenters, and of course we thank each of these presenters for sharing with us what goes on in the "sausage-making" capital of the world.



Some great individuals received special recognition at the awards luncheon. Among those were **Nate Herring**, who received the Young Foresters Leadership award for his unique approach in getting the Catawba Chapter active by priming them with topical discussions. **Lee Spradlin** so deservedly, was bestowed the Volunteer Service Award. A member since 1976, he has remained active and has received just about all of the accolades that SAF has to offer, even becoming a SAF Fellow in 2005. But if you know Lee, he does not seek accolades and would probably say "aw shucks" to them all, but it is his deep dedication to fellow foresters and the profession that keeps him motivated to press on. And to cap off such an awe-inspiring slate of awardees, **Elizabeth Bourgeois** was so fittingly honored with the highest award, the Distinguished Service to Forestry Award. There is no doubt that all of us in Appalachian SAF owe such a great debt of gratitude to Liz for the years of dedication that she has invested into, not only this organization, but more so the lives of so many of us in it. She is such a wonderful person and an example to us all and now joins such a prominent group of foresters who have achieved the Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations Liz!



There are also many foresters who have achieved Golden status for 50 years of membership. Adding to that distinguished list this year are: **Richard Bernard, Gerald Foltz, Gary Gilreath, Van Hoffman, George Kessler, William Miller, Robert Phippen, David Slack, Douglas Staiger, and Dwight Stewart.** Thank you all for your dedication to APSAF.

We did not have long to digest the scrumptious lunch (that Charlie Finley so gladly observed was NOT chicken) and visit with our indomitable exhibitors and sponsors. Please review the list of these folk who are listed in the winter meeting programs (that I know that you took home and placed on your coffee table right next to the stack of *Southern Living* and

Outdoor Life magazines) and make a fuss whenever you do business with them, that you are so very appreciative of their support of APSAF. These folk are getting stretched so very thin and far these days serving massive territories and often have multiple conflicting engagements, so let us make sure that they know that APSAF appreciates their support. Then it was off to fun and festivities while we tried to remember all of Robert's Rules of Order in conducting some APSAF and state divisions business. We are so very thankful for **Rick Cantrell, Eric Goodman, Travis Hughes, and Dan Scheffing, CF** for serving in the chair roles, and for **Tony Doster** who makes sure the IRS is happy and that the bills get paid. It is such a relentless and painstaking task. Tony, our collective hats are off to you.



Then for the main reason for us to all gather up every year -- a time-honored tradition that can never be outsourced or virtually replaced by a mobile app -- having a drink and sharing some great memories and experiences as we actually converse and connect as human beings. As we discover that beyond the funds and the fiber and frustrations, that we also enjoy our families and friends and collegial experiences. We actually get some precious minutes to get to know one another in areas besides the nuts and bolts of business. Though the world is forcing change at corporate levels, woe be unto us if we let it get in the way of relationships with each other. Or for those who aren't that talkative, I heard there may have been some who got in a tussle with a mechanical bull, but I won't name any names..... you know who you are.

After a memorable evening, morning came early and it was a great thing as we were all greeted by **Pat Straka** and **Mike Skinner** reminding us to bid, bid, bid on the fabulous items that everyone contributed to the silent auction. I am always impressed with the personal creations as well as the quirky items from across our region. It is a fun exchange that provides another layer of activity and reminds us of the great causes that we support through the Forester's Fund and the Kenney P. Funderburke Endowment. And this year a student won the 50-50 raffle, so either a few years were knocked off of those student loans, or a big party was hosted. Either way, thank everyone for supporting these efforts, and for **Pat** and **Mike** and **Hans Rohr** and so many other volunteers for doing all of that grunt work!



☺☺☺



We are also excited and acknowledge **Derryl Walden** and **Charlie Finley** for the great historical work they have compiled on the 100 years of APSAF. Charlie continues to do so much in the publications realm with *The Trail Blazer*, numerous conference programs for the last several decades, and his *Appalachian Woodlands & Sportsmen's Review* magazine, and I know many many other outstanding, thought provoking and brain stimulating articles.

You can't focus on gaining the competitive edge these days without discussing exports, which is what we did, followed by some outstanding student presentations. And then Clemson really showed that there is more to that University than a great football team, as **Pat Layton** and **David Coyle** wrapped up discussing the role of foresters and utilizing social media to compete for eyes and ears of the next generation. This is something that we MUST do: continue to engage and bring the next generation into greater leadership within APSAF so that foresters aren't forgotten as the stewards of some of the most important economic, societal, and ecologically important renewable natural resources on which everyone is depending.

Great kudos to all who were involved in the nitty gritty of 1000 conference calls, contract negotiations (thanks **David Powell!**), and last minute deadlines to pull off this whole thing. The list is long and I hope everyone got their gift bags? Just one quick special mention of thanks to **Elizabeth Buhl** from the Virginia Forestry Association who provided SO MUCH expertise and gave so much effort to us group of adoptees. Thank you VFA for allowing her assistance. Thank **Sam Cook** and all the other student advisors for all of the extra efforts that you put forth in providing value to these new members. **Jason Fisher** for herding the speakers and making sure the AV details all worked smoothly...huge! And to **Adam Downing** (who really kept things organized and prodded along on many fronts and bringing many partner resources to the endeavor), the only person that I know that has actually been hospitalized by attending a conference. All kidding aside, we are thankful that his minor flare up was resolved readily and he was able to depart Norfolk on his own recognizance and is now back in action as APSAF's Chair-elect just in time for 2021 Centennial celebration. Speaking of which



Rick Cantrell (left) hands over the reins, power and authority to incoming APSAF Chair Dan Goerlich.

At the end of the meeting, **Orrin Goure** (Pisgah Chapter Chair-Elect) and **Pat Straka** talked about the upcoming APSAF 2021 meeting. In 1921, APSAF was founded in Asheville, North Carolina, and the 2021 meeting will be back in Asheville to celebrate our first 100 years. The dates of the meeting will be **January 27 - 29, 2021** and the place will be the DoubleTree Hotel in the Biltmore Village area of Asheville. Room rates will be \$112 (+ tax), and the rates will be good for 3 days before the meeting and 3 days after the meeting. The program committee has been busy working on a program that promises to be really different than any other APSAF meeting. Look for more information in the *Trail Blazer* and your email Inbox !The 2021 meeting will be Affordable, Memorable and Fun! [Many thanks to Neil Clark and Rick Cantrell for the excellent photos.]

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!"



SAF – a Maturing Organization



by **Billy Newman**
Virginia Division Chair

GREETINGS and SALUTATIONS
from the OLD DOMINION!!!

Organizations!! Been around since a couple of folks had a sustained collaboration to achieve a goal!! (Likely centered around food!!!! Kinda think like that myself!)

An organization is best defined by its members!! Unfortunately, this is seldom the case these days!! Organizations are often defined by the culture (i.e. ever heard the term “corporate culture,” “business culture,” or “office culture”???) that seems to be about as consistent as the next merger, next CEO, next president, or next manager these days.

Simply put, true organizational culture is about shared attitudes, values, and, “this is how our organization strives to conduct business”!

The Society of American Foresters has been around since 1900, APSAF for 100 years, and through thick and thin, both have survived in large part due to committed values, a deeply embedded culture that guides the way we operate, and through volunteer leadership.

As a profession, forestry seems to attract people that have an innate interest in stepping up to the leadership plate – generation after generation! I recall those SAF leaders from my days as a baby forester and was (still am) in awe at their abilities.

In that light, our Virginia Division Chapters, through their leaders and members, in the Old Dominion will take center stage in 2020! ~ Billy Newman, enviroforllc@netscape.net

PS – Congratulations, kudos, and many thanks to the 2020 APSAF Planning Committee for putting on a really great winter meeting in Norfolk! Good show!!

Chapter Reports

Skyline Chapter, by **Michael Downey, Chair**

The Skyline Chapter had a great presence at the APSAF Annual Winter Meeting in Norfolk. The chapter was awarded the Annual Membership Award (AKA the podium). This will be the second year running, thanks to the hard work of **Charlie Huppoch**. Skyline will have our first chapter meeting on Friday March 27th in Charlottesville. The topics will be on carbon markets for

landowners, **David Shoch**, Terra Carbon and an update on forest markets and products, Charlie Becker, VDOF. On Saturday February 22nd we had a group out cutting and splitting firewood for our annual wood cutting for the needy. Six members cut and split 1 1/2 pickup loads of dry oak. One pickup was delivered to a home heated mostly by stove. This is the 4th load delivered this year. We have several chapter meetings planned for 2020 including the Annual CFE Extravaganza that will be held in September at VDOF Headquarters, this will be the 5th year.

Rappahannock Chapter, by **Mark Books, CF, Chair**
Many chapter members enjoyed the APSAF Winter meeting and thank all the organizers for, yet another, great meeting.

2020 chapter events were scheduled to kick off March 14 with an outreach event from 12 noon–2:00 pm, but a pesky virus seems to have invaded our planet, and it, like so many events, was cancelled. We were to participate in the “Free Tree For Me” event as partnering with the South East chapter and the Newport News Dept. of Parks and Recreation. The event was to be held at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center 570 McLawhorne Dr, Newport News, VA 23601. Stay tuned as we reschedule this popular forestry outreach effort.

April was to bring our first chapter meeting of the year with VDOF’s **Matt Poirot** speaking on water quality. The meeting was to be held April 3, 2:00 pm – 5:00 at James River Equipment, 11047 Leadbetter Road, Ashland, VA. BUT our Governor has forbidden meeting gatherings of over 10 people. We’re all hunkering down, working from home, doing jigsaw puzzles and watching our seedlings grow!

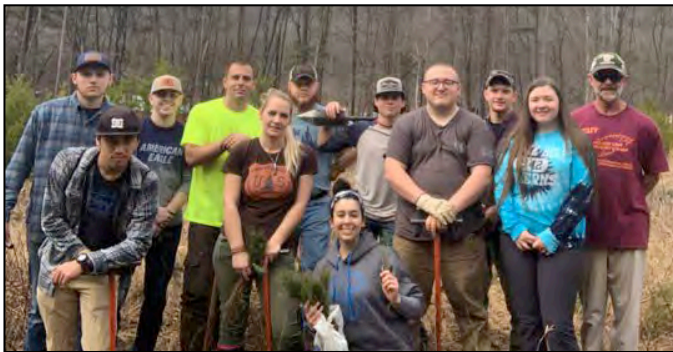
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
by **Caroline Fitzgerald, Student Chapter Sec.**

Spring semester at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College has begun and spring weather is starting to settle into the Allegheny Mountains. DSLCC Forestry was well represented at the Western Virginia Sports show in Fishersville, Virginia, on February 21-23, with enthusiastic students and professors informing about the programs we offer. Our students will be attending the Virginia Forestry Summit the last weekend of April. In May our first and second year students will

be traveling to the East Coast Logging Equipment and Exposition held in Richmond, Virginia. (Virus pending!)

Our second year forestry students are working very diligently on their forest management plans, and their sawmilling practices and techniques. In March, these students will also obtain their American Tree Farm System inspector training. First year students at the end of February planted shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) at our Wad-dill Kirts Teaching Lab.

We are preparing and are excited for our 50th anniversary celebration of Forestry at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College on April 4th. DSLCC will be holding an alumni banquet on campus with VIP guests **Bettina Ring**, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, and **Rob Farrell**, Virginia Department of Forestry State Forester. On April 4, DLCC's woodsmen's team will also be holding the Mid-Atlantic Woodsmen's Competition. There will be a big-rig show and shine, vendors, crafts, and many activities for children.



Celebrating our Newest Virginia Division Members and our two Student Chapters

by **Lee Spradlin**, VASAF Membership Chair
Please welcome our newest professional member, **Patrick Green** who is in the Blue Ridge Chapter, and our newest student member, **Laura Lambert**, who is a student at Virginia Tech!

Our Virginia Tech Student Chapter has 30 members which is the largest student chapter membership in APSAF! Our Dabney S. Lancaster Community College student membership is 23, which is the second highest membership in APSAF! We love our students!

We also want to recognize **Gerald "Jerry" B. Foltz** (rt.) of the Robert E. Lee Chapter for receiving from **Lee Spradlin** his Golden Award last February. 🌿



Some Breaking Virginia News . . .

Incentives for Forest Management

Richmond, VA., March 20, 2020 – When used responsibly, credit can help us achieve some big goals in life. It can also be used to promote responsible stewardship of natural resources. When it comes to greenhouse gases, forestland can actually be money in the bank with an acre of eastern hardwoods sequestering 85 tons of CO₂ equivalent.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to support sustainable forests and carbon market development in targeted areas of Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky through the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). Participating landowners develop a carbon forest project with TNC and get assistance with carbon credit development and marketing as well as potential additional income from the sale of those credits.

The HFRP offers financial assistance in the form of easement payments for specific conservation actions on private forest and tribal lands. Participants can opt for 30-year term or permanent easement options, and a 30-year contract is available for tribal lands. USDA pays 75% of the value of land enrolled in 30-year easements, plus 75% of the average cost of the approved conservation practices. Landowners opting for permanent easements can receive 100% of the easement value of the enrolled land as well as priority in the ranking process.

"Integrating an emerging voluntary forest carbon market with HFRP supports local economies and fits seamlessly into our new five-year initiative to improve forest health in Appalachia," said Virginia State Conservationist **Jack Bricker**. "The restored and protected woodlands promote biodiversity of plant and animal populations, helping threatened or endangered species like the golden-winged warbler, a focal species for Virginia."

Virginia is offering HFRP through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project with TNC in the following counties: Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe. Eligible landowners should submit applications on or before **May 31, 2020**, to be eligible for Fiscal Year 2020 funding. All HFRP applicants *must* provide proof of ownership, and operators (tenants) must provide written concurrence from the landowner of tenancy for the HFRP restoration agreement period.

At this time, all project inquiries should be made by phone or email. Contact TNC representatives Steve Lindeman or Greg Meade (276-676-2209), NRCS Easement Program Manager Diane Dunaway (804-287-1634) or the NRCS field offices serving eligible counties. Find your local USDA service center. Learn more about HFRP and other Farm Bill programs at www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/. 🌿

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

Henry Randolph, NC Chair. Favorite quote: "For every complex problem, there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong."
~H.L. Mencken

Our 2020 Vision: Where to Focus

by Henry Randolph



It feels like we were all just together in Norfolk for the APSAF 2020 Winter Meeting focused on "Gaining a Competitive Edge." From the pre-conference tour of the Stihl manufacturing facility, to SAF CEO **Terry Baker's** opening comments, and the Student Flash Presentations, this meeting embodied many of those components of SAF that we value. The final action at the NC Division Meeting in Norfolk was the formal "Pass-

ing of the Gavel" from 2019 Chair **Travis Hughes** to me.

Since Norfolk, I must confess that I and many other foresters have been focused on the trees. Planting season requires a laser like focus on the trees (family selection, seedling quality, nursery coordination, etc.). As I have turned my focus from planting season to developing a 2020 vision for the NC Division it's easy to be distracted by the obvious play on words that we have all heard regarding 2020 and vision.

The Mencken quote above was presented at a recent continuing education class I attended related to "Improving Decision Making." There are many complex problems such as climate change, carbon footprints, and professional membership decline that demand our attention. I tend to agree that the simple and obvious answers are generally not the correct ones. As I think about our vision for 2020, I believe that the profession of forestry is well positioned to be problem-solvers. However, in order to be a part of the solution, we must focus our vision on *Our Forest* not just the *Trees*.

Focus on Our Forest means we must avoid the tendency of "over confidence" and a narrow focus on the *Trees* that is common in our profession. As foresters, we are often quick to point out that we have the answers and the solution is to simply educate those folks who don't get it. This is exactly the biased attitude that limits our ability to reach other groups with our message.

I believe NC Division's 2020 Vision should be focused on *Our Forest* through membership growth. This vision means that we can't lose sight of the individual *Trees* (our members), but we must recognize the collective value of *Our Forest*. In order to achieve this 2020 Vision for our NC Division we must focus on retention of current members and recruitment of new members at the individual and chapter level. Norfolk provided

a great foundation for this focus on *Our Forest* of membership growth.

The Triangle Chapter and the NC Division executive committee are working on an incredible summer meeting in Raleigh, June 17-19 that will allow us to continue this focus on *Our Forest* through membership growth. Professional meetings with relevant continuing education opportunities is only one of the benefits that should help maintain and recruit members to *Our Forest*.

From APSAF Winter 2020 to the NC Division Summer Meeting, our 2020 vision will culminate in an incredible centennial celebration in Asheville with the 2021 APSAF Winter Meeting. We must focus on continued growth in *Our Forest* as we prepare the problem solvers for the next 100 years.

I look forward to seeing you in Raleigh, in June, and I am excited to be working together to grow *Our Forest* in 2020.

~ Henry, hrendolph@gfrforestry.com

Chapter news

Waccamaw Chapter News, by Hans Rohr

The Waccamaw chapter of NC APSAF was fairly inactive last year. Some of our members came together to wake us up again. We started with a meeting and tour of the Wildlife Action Center in Whiteville, which was well attended. Then some of us followed up with helping out at the Forestry and Environmental Camp at Hugh McRae Park in Wilmington the next day. On January 17-18 one of our members attended the yearly tree fest in Wilmington.

For this year we are planning to organize 3 or 4 tours with CFE credits in addition to our bimonthly meetings. The first meeting was planned to tour (again) Orton Plantation to see their accomplishments in changing the property into a longleaf savannah. Unfortunately, they were not able to accommodate us for this year. So for our first outing we are planning to visit Camp Lejeune this year.

The best thing for last. We have two new members in our chapter: **Christopher Rosier**, and **Robert Evans** both from RMS. Robert is officially our Chapter Chair elect for this year. We all are hoping for a successful year ahead.

Sandhills Chapter, by Alex Thompson

The Sandhills Chapter continues to maintain our monthly meetings with the Central Carolina Forestry Club (CCFC). Our most recent speakers were **John Hatcher** the NCFE Executive Vice President and **Ewell Smith** Executive Director of the Carolina Loggers Association. John Hatcher updated us on current events on the legal front with a highlight on the status of log truck weight limits on new interstates in NC. Ewell

Smith discussed the challenges NC loggers face, including public perception and the increasing costs of logging. An important take-home from these speakers is that we must take the opportunity to educate “non-forestry” individuals on the importance and benefits of forestry whenever we get a chance.

I would also like to put a spotlight on **Dylan Hurley** and **Josh Hussey**, the Forest Management Technology instructors at Montgomery Community College. They recently took over the leadership roles for the CCFC and have gone out of their way to encourage student involvement in the two clubs. Student involvement is a key component for shaping the next “rotation” of foresters, and we appreciate the efforts of these gentlemen to support students.

Triangle Chapter by AJ Lang

Several Triangle Chapter members attended the APSAF meeting in Norfolk, Virginia this past January. While the Chapter did not officially meet this past quarter, members are hard at work planning and organizing the upcoming North Carolina SAF summer meeting this June. Stay tuned for June 17-19, our summer meeting in Raleigh. 🌿



From the Trail Blazer editor:

Three times now in the past week, I’ve thought the Spring *Trail Blazer* was finished and ready to be put to bed, ready for you to receive it by Constant Contact. As the Chinese virus has taken its toll on scheduled meetings and other events, I initially tried to modify your columns from the states to reflect this. As the situation is changing each day, I decided it would be better to keep your original columns intact to reflect all the work you in the states and chapters have done in carrying out your missions and volunteer efforts.

It is obvious that we are now in a different world (hopefully temporarily) and you all within your state know better than I how meeting dates have changed. The reach of all this has even extended to the world Olympics; the Japanese have just announced them postponed for at least one year. All I can say is that with the strange run on toilet paper in Virginia it is a good time to own a tree farm! (And sales at ABC stores are up 59%.)

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 WayBethesda, MD 20814. 🌿

The Treasurer’s Report by Tony Doster, TDoster@resourcemgt.com

Net Worth - As of 2/29/2020

(Includes unrealized gains)

Account	12/31/2018 Balance	3/31/2019 Balance	6/30/2019 Balance	9/30/2019 Balance	12/31/2019 Balance	2/29/2020 Balance
ASSETS						
Cash and Bank Accounts						
First Citizens Basic Business Checki...	31,224.98	19,114.03	9,660.53	15,548.82	32,414.12	27,729.36
First Citizens Money Market Savings	20,010.37	20,012.84	20,015.34	20,017.86	20,020.38	20,021.23
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	51,235.35	39,126.87	29,675.87	35,566.68	52,434.50	47,750.59
Investments						
APSAF First Citizens Brokerage	37,282.86	39,777.26	41,213.75	42,357.53	43,373.01	43,594.65
KP Funderburk Endowment	84,304.23	91,923.02	105,054.20	106,814.56	112,438.11	111,651.67
TOTAL Investments	121,587.09	131,700.28	146,267.95	149,172.08	155,811.11	155,246.31
TOTAL ASSETS	172,822.44	170,827.15	175,943.82	184,738.76	208,245.61	202,996.90
LIABILITIES						
Credit Cards						
First Citizens Visa Business Credit C...	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL Credit Cards	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	172,822.44	170,611.15	175,943.82	184,738.76	208,245.61	202,996.90

Among the trees at Bee City The New Nature Center Display

Late news from South Carolina!

by **Liz Bourgeois, CF**



Among the gum trees along the Edisto River, the Nature Center at Bee City in Cottageville, SC, now includes a forestry exhibit. Members of the Edisto Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the dedicated staff members of Bee City have been working on an expansion project for the Nature Center for nearly four years as part of a Foresters' Fund Grant. The display includes colorful dioramas and panels describing different aspects of forestry. There's even a mannequin "lighting" a prescribed fire. The exhibit provides a thorough introduction to the importance of forests and forest products. The dioramas highlight forest management, forest products, forest protection, and environmental services that the forest provides.

The Biering family started Bee City over 30 years ago, with the love of honeybees and a passion for educating people about the importance of the honeybee. Bee City has evolved into a one-of-a-kind interactive and educational bee farm and zoo. It is still family-owned and operated. The exposure potential is great: Bee City has over 45,000 school-aged children and their chaperones visit every year, and more than 25,000 visitors come through their normal zoo admissions.



The South Carolina Forestry Commission, Edisto Chapter of the SAF, WestRock, Tree Farm, SFI Implementation Committee, and the South Carolina Timber Producers Association all contributed to the funding of this project. Bee City is located off Highway 61 in Cottageville, SC. ☺☺☺

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Foresters Fund

The **deadlines** for Foresters' Fund requests and Special APSAF funding are **May 1, August 1 and December 31, 2020**. Questions and requests to be submitted to Bill Worrell, bworrell@vt.edu. The APSAF Executive Committee will review Forester's 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.

We have a new Website! APSAF.org with a major makeover with improved ways to display who we are and what we are involved in. Please check us out and send our webmaster information you'd like added to the website. Contact the webmaster at APSAFwebmaster@gmail.com. Thank you. ~Jessica Soffee, APSAF webmaster

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