

# THE TRAIL BLAZER



The Appalachian Society of American Foresters

Winter 2020-21

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

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

## Looking Ahead

by **Dan Goerlich**  
*2020 APSAF Chair*

2020 has been a year to remember. As you have all experienced it first-hand I don't need to belabor that point. I am



### *Let's cruise!*

published in the Summer 2020 *Trail Blazer*. This edition includes a synopsis of accomplishments for the latter half of the year. Taken together, I hope you will agree that we have collectively accomplished a lot in the face of adversity.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the APSAF leadership team for their efforts this year, the members of which are listed on page 3. I would also like to thank those serving in Division and Chapter leadership positions, and the members who serve on one of the many committees that are working on special projects and events. I would also like to thank the general membership. Without you there would be no APSAF.

Looking ahead APSAF is in good hands. Adam Downing, APSAF 2021 Chair, is a strong and dedicated SAF leader. The same is true for Chair-elect Susan Guynn. Together, with support from their leadership team, I have no doubt that they will continue the high standard of excellence that APSAF members expect and deserve. As Past Chair I will support them to the best of my ability while working on

both traditional assignments that accompany that role as well as several special projects. I can assure you that this will be a peaceful and seamless leadership tradition.

Over the course of the year you have probably noticed that I enjoy sharing stories. And I would like to share a final story in this, my last column as APSAF Chair. It goes something like this...

When I was a boy I owned a dog that loved to chase sticks. Brandy never retrieved the stick, mind you. Just chased it, threw himself down on the ground, and chewed the stick into oblivion. Try to get the stick back and nine times out of ten he would run off a short distance, lay down, and commence chewing again. Of course, the game was great fun for both of us. Boy and dog whiled away many a summer afternoon maneuvering around the yard and woods, each of us focused on possessing—or gaining possession of—the stick.

Then one day I walked up to him with a second stick while he chewed on the first. He quickly dropped his stick and went for mine. Unfortunately for him, I kept my stick out of reach while simultaneously snatching up his. We replayed that scenario many times, and though the dog grew more cautious, he *always* ended up dropping his stick and trying to grab the one I held.

I thought playing that trick on my dog would eventually teach him something about greed, but I was wrong. And I eventually figured out that I wasn't actually teaching the dog a lesson about greed, but rather, he was teaching me a lesson about life. Despite repeated failed attempts, the dog never gave up trying to obtain the second stick. Never. A lesson I learned from my dog that I figured out long after he died: Keep reaching, keep striving, keep endeavoring to reach your goals...and never give up.

~Dan Goerlich, [dalego@vt.edu](mailto:dalego@vt.edu), December 15, 2020

# The Trail Blazer

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

## 2020 Executive Committee

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

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## The Treasurer's Report, by Tony Doster, [TDoster@resourcemgt.com](mailto:TDoster@resourcemgt.com)

Banking Summary Without Annual Meeting

1/1/2018 through 12/31/2020

12/7/2020

Category	1/1/2018-12/31/2018	1/1/2019-12/31/2019	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
CD Interest	7.08	0.00	0.00	7.08
Div Income	1.26	0.00	0.00	1.26
Dues	18,292.00	17,428.50	16,344.00	52,064.50
Foresters Fund	12,094.00	13,034.00	1,200.00	26,328.00
Fund Raising	23,732.34	3,406.50	1,622.00	28,760.84
Interest Inc	17.88	10.01	2.95	30.84
Trailblazer Income	4,735.50	1,395.00	2,295.00	8,425.50
_DivInc	2,729.52	3,445.92	2,501.89	8,677.33
_IntInc	69.60	44.57	10.15	124.32
_LT CapGnDst	1,503.91	528.23	154.81	2,186.95
_ST CapGnDst	0.00	92.88	42.22	135.10
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>63,183.09</b>	<b>39,385.61</b>	<b>24,173.02</b>	<b>126,741.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Expenses	1,021.49	0.00	72.22	1,093.71
Annual Meeting Costs	0.00	0.00	7,860.71	7,860.71
APSAF Leadership Academy	0.00	0.00	4,305.00	4,305.00
Awards	2,256.00	2,915.03	1,288.80	6,459.83
Bank Charges	75.50	60.11	50.00	185.61
Bulk Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Dues Payments	7,400.60	6,922.50	6,473.25	20,796.35
EC Expense	0.00	187.04	0.00	187.04
Elections	38.34	262.64	0.00	300.98
Grants	37,967.21	19,608.72	5,180.00	62,755.93
HSD Assessment	1,123.67	1,154.37	0.00	2,278.04
Internet & Phone	987.89	1,245.50	930.00	3,163.39
Meeting Registration	0.00	473.68	0.00	473.68
Membership	500.25	0.00	0.00	500.25
State Division Meeting Transactions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trail Blazer Costs	8,192.41	4,601.08	3,593.34	16,386.83
Travel Expenses	2,347.16	119.37	0.00	2,466.53
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>61,910.52</b>	<b>37,700.04</b>	<b>29,753.32</b>	<b>129,363.88</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,272.57</b>	<b>1,685.57</b>	<b>-5,580.30</b>	<b>-2,622.16</b>

Net Worth - As of 12/7/2020

(Includes unrealized gains)

12/7/2020

Page 1

Account	6/30/2019 Balance	9/30/2019 Balance	12/31/2019 Balance	3/31/2020 Balance	6/30/2020 Balance	9/30/2020 Balance	12/7/2020 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Cash and Bank Accounts</b>							
First Citizens Basic Business Checki...	9,660.53	15,548.82	32,414.12	22,538.09	25,324.33	24,496.84	18,411.02
First Citizens Money Market Savings	20,015.34	20,017.86	20,020.38	20,022.56	10,022.91	10,023.16	10,023.33
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>29,675.87</b>	<b>35,566.68</b>	<b>52,434.50</b>	<b>42,560.65</b>	<b>35,347.24</b>	<b>34,520.00</b>	<b>28,434.35</b>
<b>Investments</b>							
APSAF First Citizens Brokerage	41,213.74	42,357.52	43,373.00	40,117.27	53,496.34	54,510.68	57,114.94
KP Funderburk Endowment	105,054.20	106,814.56	112,438.11	99,636.43	114,935.40	121,989.97	130,693.34
<b>TOTAL Investments</b>	<b>146,267.95</b>	<b>149,172.08</b>	<b>155,811.11</b>	<b>139,753.70</b>	<b>168,431.74</b>	<b>176,500.65</b>	<b>187,808.29</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>175,943.82</b>	<b>184,738.76</b>	<b>208,245.61</b>	<b>182,314.35</b>	<b>203,778.98</b>	<b>211,020.65</b>	<b>216,242.64</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
<b>Credit Cards</b>							
First Citizens Visa Business Credit C...	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL Credit Cards</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>216.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>216.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>175,943.82</b>	<b>184,738.76</b>	<b>208,245.61</b>	<b>182,098.35</b>	<b>203,778.98</b>	<b>211,020.65</b>	<b>216,242.64</b>

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## Mark Your Calendar for the January 28, 2021 Annual APSAF Meeting!

Far more engaging, interesting and substantive than you might think possible for a business meeting, this will offer SAF members a chance to reconnect, conduct APSAF and Division business, honor award recipients, and listen to remarkable little known but historically significant stories from APSAF members. This will be a virtual meeting held at no cost to attendees. Advance registration is requested: <https://virginiatech-zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvcuGsrzgiHNNgmWaKoYnn7wRBmyEZOGpe>



### Working Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introduction
- 8:50 APSAF Living History I
- 9:05 Award Presentations
- 9:15 Break
- 9:30 APSAF Living History II
- 9:45 Award Presentations
- 10:00 APSAF Business Meeting
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 APSAF Living History III
- 11:00 Award Presentations
- 11:15 Division Business Meetings  
(note separate meeting links)
- 11:45 Passing of the Gavel
- 12 noon Meeting Adjourn
- 7:00 p.m. Alumni Socials  
(note separate meeting links)


### Special Thanks to the APSAF 2020 Leadership Team Members!

Liz	Bourgeois	Auditor
Rick	Cantrell	APSAF Past Chair & Nominating Committee
Neil	Clark	Secretary
Sam	Cook	Student Engagement Chair
David	Coyle	Science & Technology Chair
Tony	Doster	Treasurer
Adam	Downing	APSAF Chair-elect
Charlie	Finley	Newsletter Editor
Dan	Goerlich	APSAF Chair
Susan	Guyenn	SC Division Chair
Jen	Howard	Communications Chair
Tres	Hyman	Membership Chair
Anne	Jewell	Council Rep
Barry	New	Historian/Archivist
Billy	Newman	VA Division Chair
Henry	Randolph	NC Division Chair
Daniel	Scheffing	Election Chair
Scott	Shallenberger	Professional Recognition
Pat	Straka	Annual Meeting Planning
Bill	Worrell	KPF, Foresters Fund and Other Grants

### APSAF 100 year History Document available

The documented history of APSAF from its beginning in 1921 to the present is now available for viewing on the APSAF website. The 242 page document, titled “*APSAF from the Beginning, the First Century*” includes details on the origin and development of our Society and chronicles the perseverance and fortitude of the many professionals who made forestry in our area what it is today. To access the text, go to [www.APSAF.org](http://www.APSAF.org) and click on “About,” then “History.” Or use this direct link: <https://www.apsaf.org/history>. You’ll be glad you did!

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**Talk to yourself.  
 There are times you  
 need expert advice.**



## District 8 Board Report, by Anne Jewell

### Happy to serve . . . . .

Happy New Year! Seems the consensus is that 2021 cannot possibly be as tumultuous, unpredictable and challenging as 2020, and that hope is on the horizon and perhaps even the calming of an over-stimulated American population. While that may be an overly optimistic charge for 2021, we can rest assured that it will be different than 2020, and like each new calendar year, it brings the opportunity for improvement and the communities in which we are involved.




Likewise, SAF has been preparing for this new calendar year with transition of our elected leadership, preparing the new office space, staffing and program changes, updated strategic plan, participation in pending legislative initiatives, and expanded partnerships. I've outline a few of the updates and efforts that have been on-going this year, and I am always happy to provide more information or find answers to additional questions or needs you have from SAF, so please reach out at any time as I represent you on the SAF Board of Directors. Additionally, if you really want learn more about the Board of Directors and other committee happenings, all Board minutes and financial documents are available for your reading pleasure and can be accessed through this link: [SAF Organizational Transparency](#).

With the Gifford Pinchot building sale finalized and office move complete, construction and renovation are underway in SAF's new national office located at **2121 K Street, NW, Suite 315 in Washington, D.C. 20037**. The D.C. location provides enhanced opportunity for organizational networking, partnering, and maintains access to SAF as a trusted, science-based subject matter expert within our political hub. The staff made efforts to maintain accessibility and services while the move occurred and have found unique, thoughtful ways to incorporate the old with the new by honoring the history and home that the Gifford Pinchot building provided in the design and décor of the new location. Watch for more on this story from SAF CEO, Terry Baker as these renovations are finalized.

Virtual SAF National Convention took place October 29-31 with speaker session recordings remaining available for viewing through December for conference attendees. There were nearly 1,400 attendees, comparable to in-person conference attendance. Additionally, following multiple requests, registration re-opened for additional interested individuals to attend recorded session and option to earn nearly double the CFEs available during a typical conference. CommsPartners managed the SAF within a virtual platform allowing for opening and closing plenary speakers, 116 sessions across a broad range of interest areas, including poster chats, science flashes, presentations, seminars, People, Policy & Popcorn, panel presentations, and interactive discussions featuring approximately 400 speakers. Four dozen volunteers moderated sessions, and the virtual silent auction

### **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](mailto: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/](http://tinyurl.com/hb2uamr/). All events must offer Continuing Forestry Education Credits. Space is limited. **NEW address: 2121 K Street, NW, Suite 315, Washington, DC 20037.** 



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

### APSAF Executive Committee Meetings

December 8, virtual  
January 27, 2021, time & place TBD  
Other meetings as required

### 2020 Summer meetings (all over)

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

### 2021 APSAF Annual Meeting

January 28, virtual meeting

### 2021 National SAF Meeting

November 1-5, Sacramento, CA

### 2022 National SAF Meeting

September 18-23, Baltimore, MD

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raised \$3,800 to support the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund and Forester' Fund. While we were not able to reunite with familiar colleagues or meet new members with casual social interactions, feedback received to-date has been positive, with most expectations exceeded for attending in a virtual platform.

I would like to extend my congratulation to our incoming elected volunteer leaders including Chris Maisch, CF of Fairbanks, AK to be serving as our in-coming Vice President, Chris Schnepf – District 1 representative, Kelly Norris - District 4 representative, Sarah Wurzbacher - District 7 representative, Tom Fox - District 10 representative, and Audrey MacLennan – Young Professional representative. All have stepped forward to help guide the future of SAF. Likewise, much appreciate to the time, service, and dedication of those whom they follow.

On the policy front, the Forest-Climate Working Group released a new federal policy platform on November 9<sup>th</sup> intended to shape climate action in Congress. This platform is endorsed by SAF and 42 other CEOs and organizations. It includes detailed proposals in five key areas, demonstrates how policymakers can help private forest owners and public land managers, and outlines the climate solutions offered by our forests. SAF is also supporting the bipartisan [Rural Forest Markets Act](#) aimed at creating loan/bond guarantees for organization that help landowners participate in carbon and other environmental markets. Click the embedded link for additional information. Additionally, SAF and its partners shared a series of principles with policymakers outlining priorities related to forest health and resilience, climate change, and wildfire. SAF members are encouraged to share this statement within their networks and elected representatives. Click [HERE](#) to find the joint statement and learn how to participate.

Some of the other, many Board and Committee activities include charter reviews/updates, position statement drafting and updating, working group revitalization and communication improvements, updated SAF accreditation standards/policies/procedures, marketing initiatives and a variety of other activities.

Final reminders and nudges – **First**, local units should consider applying for a [Foresters' Fund](#) grant to support public outreach and education, and other projects. The first deadline for regular grant proposals for funding up to \$1,500 is February 15<sup>th</sup>. **Second**, always be considering deserving nominees within APSAF for SAF awards and recognition! Review options and nomination process/deadlines [HERE](#) and contact your local unit or division to coordinate nominations. **Third**, keep informed on the latest SAF position statements or learn ways you can take action in advocacy and outreach with these resources: [Advocacy & Outreach](#). Lastly, the election to fill the District

8 representative to the SAF Board of Directors will occur in 2022 (not that I'll be ready to go just yet, I'm quite enjoying this role..!) It is never too early to reach out for position description information and nomination application requirements if you would like to be considered for the ballot and believe you, or someone you know, meet the criteria for this position. Contact [me](#) for more information on this or other ways to get more involved and advocate for your profession.

I wish you continued wellness, discernment, and optimism as we journey into this New Year...Warmest Regards,  
**Anne Jewell**, [ajewell2204@gmail.com](mailto:ajewell2204@gmail.com) / 804-994-3690

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# Incoming APSAF Officers

by Rick Cantrell

APSAF Immediate Past-Chair

We are pleased to announce the incoming chair-elects for 2021! The results are in and have been certified. Thanks to all the candidates who agreed to serve if elected. This year we employed a new nominations process on-line whereby any APSAF member could nominate someone (or themselves!) to be considered for a division or society leadership position. And it worked very well as we had several nominations submitted! Thanks to Anne Jewel for the outstanding idea and for Adam Downing for developing the on-line tool! And now...(drum roll)... here are your new leadership team members!

## APSAF Chair-Elect



Susan Guynn, Director of Assessment and Scholarship, Clemson University – Cooperative Extension Service, Clemson, SC



## North Carolina Chair-Elect

Tara Dickson, IT App Specialist – Forest Management System, Weyerhaeuser, New Bern, NC



## South Carolina Chair-Elect

Barry Graden, Director, Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, Greenville, SC



## Virginia Chair-Elect

David Powell, Senior Area Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry, Charlottesville, VA

Please join me in welcoming these new officers and in showing our appreciation for their commitment and service to the profession.

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Joe Trihey  
Forester / Member

## Your Leaders in the State Divisions



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Chair-elect

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## **Report to the Members: July through December 2020**

The following paragraphs describe various activities that APSAF leaders have been involved with from July through mid-December 2020. Please note that this list is not comprehensive. ~ Dan Goerlich

- The full Leadership Team met virtually September 10 and December 8 to conduct APSAF business, for a total of five full leadership team meetings held this year. In addition, the voting members of the Executive Committee met on October 19 to discuss the APSAF business entity and time-sensitive voting matters.
- Significant progress has been made updating the APSAF website, to include removing outdated events, adding current events, posting event recordings from the NC 2020 Summer Meeting, and creating a dedicated page for the 2022 Centennial Meeting (in progress). Chapters and Divisions can submit events for posting by using the form on the APSAF.org events page.
- APSAF supported 12 students who requested funds to attend the National Convention. Support was provided at 100%. The total amount was \$1,200 (12 students x \$100 each registration fee). \$880 of this came from KPF as allowed by the current KPF procedures and \$320 came from APSAF general funds.
- Three APSAF members delivered presentations at the SAF National Convention.
- The APSAF Leadership Academy took place from September 17 through November 19. Overall, 23 members completed the program. Due to the unique and comprehensive virtual platform, the APSAF Leadership Academy received broad interest from SAF and was demonstrated for the National SAF leadership committee, to include the HSD Chair. SAF CEO Terry Baker joined the Leadership Academy for a special guest appearance following one of the weekly sessions. The Leadership Academy has entered the mentoring phase. More details regarding the APSAF Leadership Academy are included in a separate article in this edition of the *Trail Blazer*.
- A letter entitled *Touching Base* was mailed to all APSAF members in November. The purpose of this communication was to invite members to share any difficulties receiving the *Trail Blazer* so that we can investigate; encourage members to update their contact information with APSAF; make sure members know about the 2021 and 2022 meeting plans if they are not already aware, and to help them differentiate between the two; and explain to members how to access the *Trail Blazer* through the APSAF website, if needed.

Thus far 16 members have reached out to share that they have not been receiving the *Trail Blazer* or other electronic communications from APSAF and the circumstances are in the process of being addressed.

- The 2021 APSAF meeting will be held virtually on January 28. This will be a virtual business meeting and awards program with some interesting “living history” presentations by members who have been engaged with historically significant but little-known efforts.
- After a brief hiatus, the Centennial Meeting planning committee has reconvened and meets monthly, working toward what we hope will be a full-scale in-person celebration in January 2022.
- A committee has worked diligently to design a monument that will be placed at the Cradle of Forestry in April commemorating the APSAF Centennial. The monument is funded by a Foresters Fund grant, two individual member contributions, and APSAF. A member-contributed white oak will be planted to accompany the monument dedication.
- The Professional Recognition Committee has identified a complete slate of highly qualified APSAF nominees for SAF national awards. The Young Forester Leadership, Special Volunteer Service, and Distinguished Service to Forestry Awards will be presented at the 2021 annual meeting.
- The APSAF Treasurer continues to do an exceptional job with the finances, and APSAF remains in a strong position financially.
- And last but not least, the winter issue of the *Trail Blazer* is the 89<sup>th</sup> issue by the same editor. Maybe a SAF / Guinness record???

### **We have a new Website!**

It is [APSAF.org](http://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 to our webmaster information you'd like added to the website. Contact the webmaster at [APSAFwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:APSAFwebmaster@gmail.com). Thank you so much.  
~Jessica Soffee, APSAF webmaster . ❖

<i>Trail Blazer</i> Publication Calendar		
Issue	Submission deadline	<i>Trail Blazer</i> sent now via email, to you by:
Spring 2021	MARCH 1	April 1
Summer 2021	JUNE 1	July 1
Fall 2021	SEPTEMBER 1	October 1
Winter 2021-22	DECEMBER 1	January 1

# Is Forestry a Profession?



The following article helps to substantiate one of the salient purposes of the APSAF *Trail Blazer*. We welcome more deliberate thinking as this from Scott Wallinger. “*The thoughtful and insightful article by Mike Wetzel, following Jim Coufal’s paper, on the subject of a Profession was particularly interesting [in the Fall 2020 Trail Blazer]. It got me to think about APSAF and SAF in a new light. Mike and I exchanged a couple of emails on the subject, and he suggested I send you a potential follow-up article for your consideration. In past correspondence in the Trail Blazer, I’ve expressed concern that professionals in related fields who manage forests are not members of SAF. But, the first concern should be why many graduate foresters do not join SAF. So, I offer this for your consideration.*” With best regards, Scott Wallinger, <[scott@scottwallinger.com](mailto:scott@scottwallinger.com)>

In the Fall 2020 issue of the *Trail Blazer*, Mike Wetzel wrote a very thoughtful article about aspects of the forestry as a profession and what comprises a profession. Mike’s column followed an earlier paper by Jim Coufal. Mike’s ideas resonated with many of my own thoughts, and he and I exchanged emails on the subject. I agree substantively with what he wrote. Beyond his article’s focus on elements of a profession, it sparked renewal of my long-standing question of the last few decades – why do a significant number of forestry graduates not participate in SAF as members?

Five decades ago within Westvaco’s Timberlands Division that I managed, the staffs at the Division, regional Woodlands and District levels were 100% foresters – a big pool for active SAF membership and participation – and they *were* members of SAF and active in APSAF. In many of today’s forest management organizations, a staff that was once comprised of 10 graduate foresters may consist of four foresters, a wildlife game biologist, a birds and herpetofauna biologist, a forest ecologist, a hydrologist, a forest soils specialist, and a GIS professional. That’s only 40% of the original number of professional foresters who belonged to SAF. The wildlife biologists may instead belong to The Wildlife Society, the ecologist to the Ecological Society of America, the soils specialist to the Soil Science Society of America, and the hydrologist to the American Institute of Hydrology. There is no doubt that the forestry organization of today is far more multidisciplinary in its structure and competencies than 50 years ago, and the relative role of professional foresters and members of SAF is often significantly reduced in proportion. Within that context, unless the broad field of professional management of forests grows significantly, the potential membership of SAF is reduced, as many positions once held by foresters are replaced by professionals in complementary disciplines and professions.

From its inception, the Society of American Foresters was driven and led by individuals who were educated in forestry. They considered themselves to be members of an educated and disciplined *profession*. Virtually all of the early publications and technical literature were written by foresters who were members of the Society of American Foresters and who considered themselves to be members of a *forestry profession*. They considered the Society of American Foresters to be the center of that *profession*. The Society of American Foresters set the standards for educational requirements of the forestry *profession*, accredited the forestry schools, and defined the code of ethics of the *profession*. Foresters who had acquired an education at an accredited forestry school and were working in the field of forestry as a forester gladly participated in SAF and its activities as an important definer of their status within the *profession*.

When I began my forestry education at NC State in 1957, in the first session of our sophomore class in silviculture, Professor George Slocum distributed forms for us to apply to become student members of SAF. He explained that *forestry is a profession* and the *Society of American Foresters is the national professional organization*. He and all of our other forestry professors were members of SAF, participated in its activities and received its publications. If we were going to become graduate foresters, we must understand *we were going to become members of a distinct profession* and we must adhere to its principles and participate in its professional society. Period! And throughout forestry school for the next three years the idea we were being educated into a *profession* was continuously driven home.

It’s important to distinguish here that we were being educated to become members of a *profession*. We were not being educated to become “professionals.” There’s a distinction that has become ever more significant as more and more individuals in disparate fields seek to establish their credentials – often through state level licensing – as “professionals.” As in professional barbers and hairdressers, firemen and carpenters, mechanics and whatever. But while they are professionals



in the sense of certain demonstrated skills, they are not members of a *profession characterized by a combination of higher education, a distinct field of expertise, membership in a professional society, and commitment to a professional code of ethics.*

As noted above, it's not illogical that the number of positions for graduate foresters has diminished in proportion to the overall positions associated with management of forests. *The broader question for SAF is why so many graduate foresters today choose to not belong to the Society of American Foresters.*

As in the past, some of the strongest and most dedicated leaders within APSAF and SAF nationally – today and recently – are foresters on the faculties at Clemson, NC State, Duke and VPI&SU. *The broader question is whether today's forestry students perceive themselves to be becoming educated members of a profession as opposed to being college graduates who will be licensed by a state to practice forestry? Are all of the foresters on the forestry faculties members of SAF? Do all forestry students participate in the student SAF chapters? Is the notion of being part of a forestry profession driven home there (in contrast to the forestry club)? In other words, is the notion students will become members of a profession ingrained in them by example throughout their forestry education?*

Clearly, SAF does not own a monopoly on forest technology and literature today as it did in its early years when the *Journal of Forestry* and *Forest Science* and the *Dictionary of Forestry* anchored thought and advances in technology for the profession. The Internet places forestry information from global sources at one's fingertips. Forestry education itself is today embedded for the most part within a broader school of environmental studies or similar description – no longer within a distinct School of Forestry – and is often a smaller discipline with the entity.

None of that fully explains—or excuses—the fact that far too many graduates in professional forestry see no need to be a continuing member of SAF and participating in the professional society. It suggests, perhaps, that SAF as an entity, its members as individuals, and perhaps some faculties have not done an adequate job of instilling in forestry graduates that they are not just recipients of a university degree that qualifies them to become licensed to practice forestry. They are members of a distinct, centuries old global profession – graduates from accredited schools with professional degrees, holders and creators of a distinct body of knowledge, adherents to a distinct code of ethics and practice, with a professional obligation to the publics they serve. And, the Society of American Foresters is the professional society of that profession *to which all practicing foresters should belong and to subscribe to SAF's Code of Ethics* “to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives.” Foresters should be proud to visibly be a part of the profession and the professional society that sets its standards.

Some foresters who choose not to belong to SAF say they would join if their employer would reimburse their membership expense. That begs the fundamental question of the forester as a member of a *profession*. SAF is not a state forestry association or an industry association in which an employer has a vested interest in employee participation. The forester's membership in SAF is not a core benefit to the employer, although some employers may choose to encourage active participation. This suggests the forester's fundamental lack of appreciation that they are a member of a recognized *profession* with an obligation to be a part of its professional body.

This should be foremost within APSAF and SAF in its relationship with all forestry graduates and within the faculties of forestry schools – but is it? And, if not, why not? It should be the core of outreach to foresters who are not members. It's a matter of selling professional value to foresters, to forester employers, to the public. SAF's work on forest policy and technology are important facets of its activities, but SAF's core and differentiating role is sustaining a *profession* of foresters through its accreditation requirements for professional education, through its active promotion of itself as the American center of a valued *profession* with ethical standards to which its members subscribe and visibly adhere. Every forester's business card should proudly state: **Member, Society of American Foresters.** ●●

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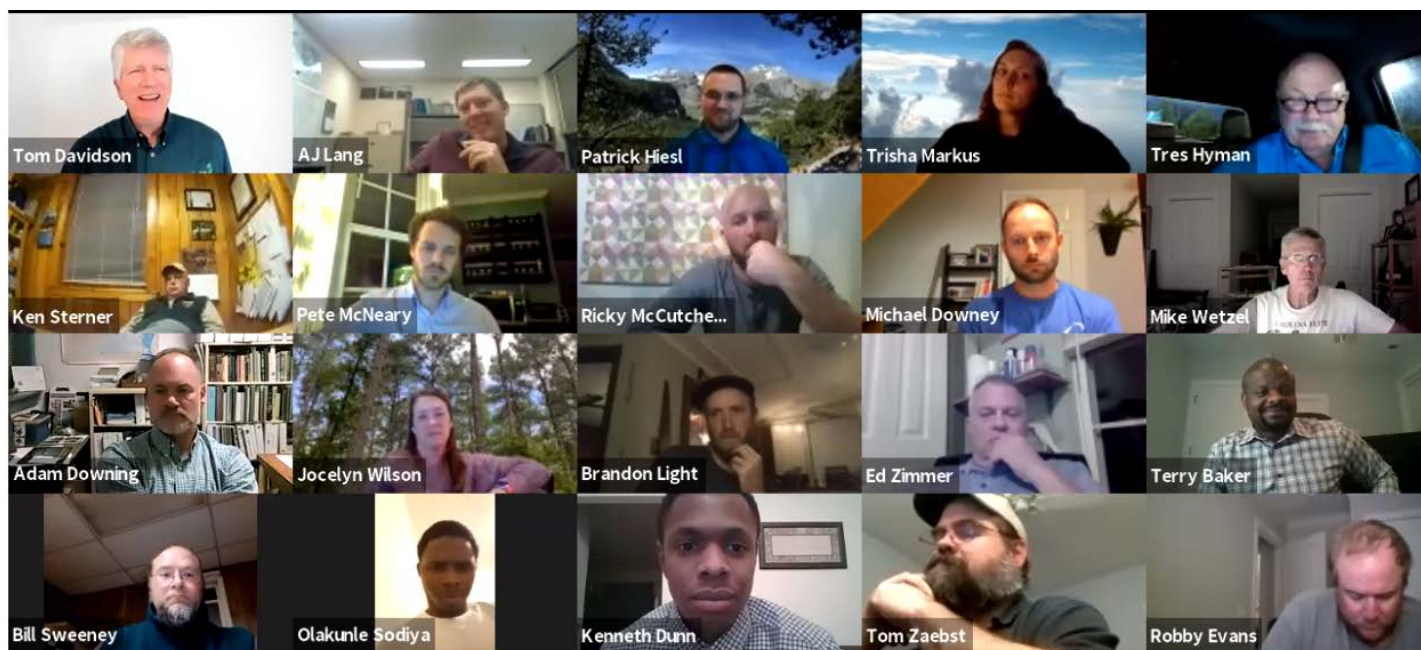
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# APSAF 2020 Leadership Academy Training Complete—Mentoring Begun

by Tom Davidson, CSP, PCC, SPHR

APSAF Chair, 2018

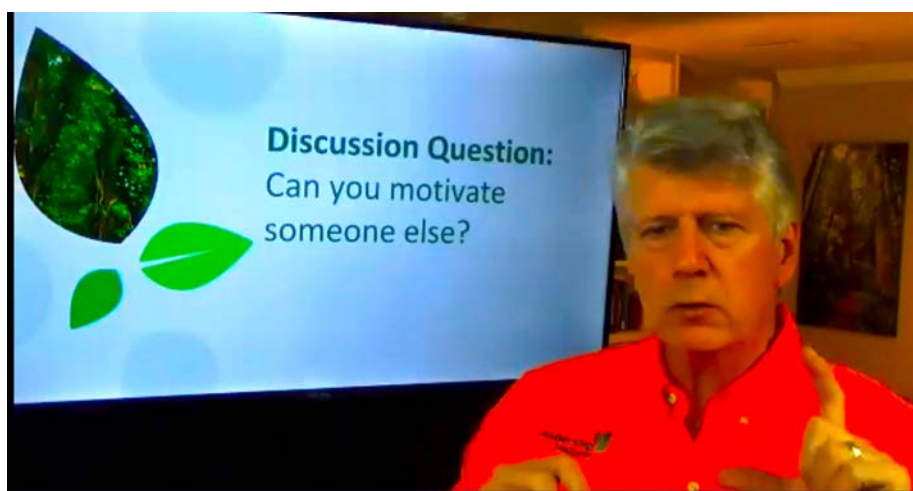


**In keeping with the outdoor adage of “adapt, migrate or die,”** APSAF rose to the COVID occasion by adapting, creating, and executing the first-ever online version of an APSAF Leadership Academy, which took place from September 17 through November 19. Not only that, most participants transitioned to an all-new Mentoring Program, which kicked off on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through 2021.

Taking advantage of an SAF Foresters’ Fund Grant and a range of internal talent, The Academy delivered on its promise to provide much more than a series of *talking-head* videos but still could not fully replace the personal connections and networking that come with a more traditional in-person model. Nevertheless, making the most of a bad situation while still investing in our future, the Academy broke new ground and invented methods that have been and will be shared with the rest of SAF.

## Features

The backbone of the program was a series of 90-minute live-led modules, each focused on one of eight leadership competencies, with all conducted via Zoom. These were surrounded by a substantial offline workload and significant pre-approved Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) opportunities for most of the assignments involved. These included pre- and post-work tasks, social and guest-speaker time after each module, three personality assessments, in-session activities, what-and-why videos, accountability



partners, an online discussion group, learning journals, summary reports, custom-made *SAF Works* videos, and individual development plans.

## Participation

Applicants were asked to state their reasons for joining the program and describe their intentions to apply the learning. All were accepted, and the program started with 25 individuals, including 3 participant/observers from the APSAF Planning Committee. Of the original number, two participants withdrew early for workload reasons, and one of those three was replaced by a fourth participant/observer. One participant did not finish the program, and 23 participants completed the Academy, each earning a unique *Certificate of Achievement* from APSAF.

Not counting the four participant/observers, participants earned 273.5 CFEs, about 84 percent coming from live-led module participation alone. Additional CFEs were earned by doing the pre- and post-work assignments and/or by viewing any number of the seven self-paced *SAF Works* videos.

## Results

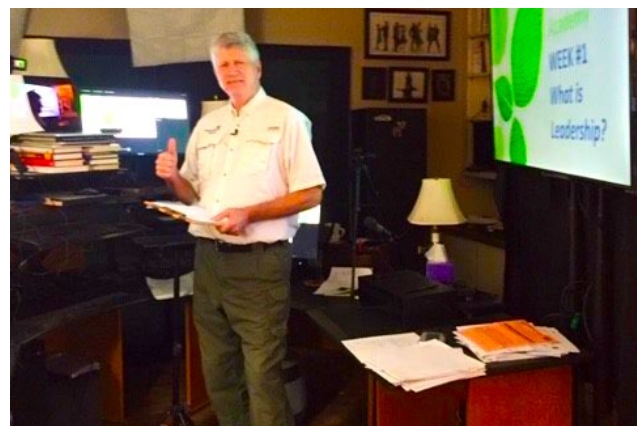
Full results will not be apparent for some time as participants are expected to apply their new skills and perspectives at work, in their communities and in SAF for months and years to come. However, participants were offered a comprehensive post-academy survey over a 14-day period, to which 17 participants responded. Their responses yielded valuable insights about the features, length, timing, content, and delivery of the program as well as their motivations for joining. These data are being analyzed more fully for all the learnings; however, here are a few highlights.

Eighty two percent of respondents indicated that they would be “very likely” or “extremely likely” to recommend this Academy to others, some indicating that an in-person version would be much preferred and some indicating that the program requires a high-level of self-motivation and therefore is not for everyone. Below are a few excerpts of their anonymous comments provided in the survey:

- *Overall, great experience. Topics, work assignments, videos, groups were well thought through. It shows that a lot of time and effort was spent, and brought meaning to the program.*
- *I learned a lot about leadership and ways to learn to work with and lead others. The trick is putting everything into practice.*
- *The lessons in the Academy can be powerful, if integrated into a leader's perspective. It will take a long time to work this information into my life, in a comprehensive way; but I now have the resources and understanding to do it.*
- *It was ok. I did not feel that the networking opportunities were very good in a virtual setting, and that the topics we were covering did not translate well to a virtual setting. The information was excellent, the presentation in a virtual world was not as good.*
- *The Leadership Academy was an opportunity to learn and spend time alongside leaders and future leaders. I plan to seek out experiences whereby I can utilize all the information gained throughout the course.*
- *Practical, beneficial, and fun. The Leadership Academy was well planned and executed, enabling participants to learn, recognize and react to unconscious behaviors of themselves and others in an array of professional and personal situations.*
- *It is a very useful program to someone starting out in their career and desiring to be committed towards helping SAF be a relevant professional organization.*

## Mentoring

To provide further support to the participants, help them apply their learnings, and navigate their careers (no matter where they are now), 17 participants chose to continue with the follow-up Mentoring Program. Incorporating his long experience as a mentor and mentoring resources from across the profession, this program is being coordinated and facilitated by incoming NC Division Chair Sam Cook. During the Leadership Academy, participants were thoughtfully paired with an abundance of volunteer APSAF Mentors who met with their Mentees for a kick-off event on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and they will fully begin their monthly sessions in January. This program will be reported on separately as it unfolds, but if any APSAF Member wants to volunteer as reserve or future Mentor, please contact Sam at [scook4@ncsu.edu](mailto:scook4@ncsu.edu), or 804-339-4653 for Tom@leadershipNature.com. □□





# VIRGINIA— REAL NEWS . . . FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SALT MARSHES

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!"

## 2020—The year in Retrospect, Reflection, and Relief!



by **Billy Newman**  
**Virginia Division Chair**

–Retrospectively, remember what a great time we had at the APSAF Conference in late January ?????!!

Great venue, great program, great fellowship, and great friends! And with that, 2020 in-person SAF meetings ended.

I never heard much about Zoom, MS Teams, etc. prior to mid-March. Just was not on the

radar.

Since.....SAF meetings.....*virtually!* And virtually everyone has heard of and/or participated in a virtual meeting. It has become the new normal (never quite sure what *normal* was before the Coronavirus!! Darn sure do not know now.)

Since, there have been VASAF Executive Committee meetings, The Virginia Forestry Summit and general VASAF meeting, the annual CFE Extravaganza, **GREAT** Chapter meetings, and VASAF committee meetings all via Zoom!

You could have knocked us all over with a feather at Christmas a scant year ago, if you had prognosticated what 2020 held ahead of us! Who'd have thunk it??

The year had its upside for VASAF however. To reflect, on our Virginians:

- APSAF Chair – Dr. Dan Goerlich
- APSAF Chair-Elect – Mr. Adam Downing
- APSAF Secretary – Mr. Neil Clark
- APSAF Professional Recognition Chair – Mr. Scott Shallenberger
- APSAF Forester's Fund/Grants Chair – Mr. Bill Worrell
- APSAF Representative to National SAF Board – Ms. Anne Jewell
- APSAF Newsletter *Trail Blazer* editor - Mr. Charlie Finley
- 3 VASAF Executive member and Committee Chairs appointed:
  - Suzanne Ryan, VASAF Secretary
  - Scott Reigel, Science & Technology Chair
  - Walker Wolfe, 2021 Communications Chair

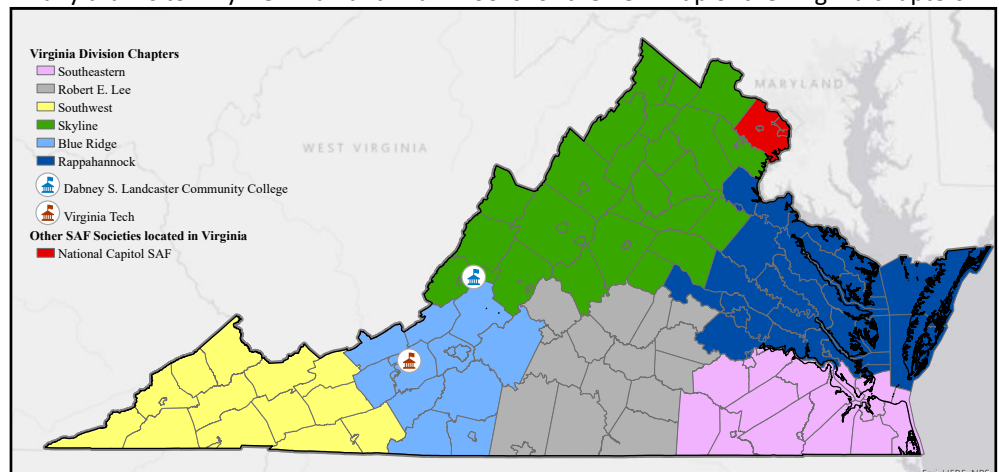
- New SW Chapter Chair, Mr. Greg Gambrel
- Bylaws reviewed, revised and approved,
- 17 VASAF volunteer members serving on the Boundary Realignment Committee,
- VASAF Student Chapters at VT and DSLCC are largest in APSAF,
- National SAF John H. Beale Award recipient – Mr. Lee Spradlin,
- National SAF Professional Field Forester for APSAF - Mr. Stanley Warner
- All 3 2020 SAF Fellows from APSAF are VASAF members – Mr. Adam Downing, Mr. David Powell, and Mrs. Jennifer Gagnon.
- Several VASAF members serving on APSAF and National committees

Committee and Chapter Chairs have been outstanding amid the crisis! Business has been conducted at a high level in spite of the situation! VASAF membership thanks you!

In relief, the **best thing** about 2020 is it's **almost over** as I complete the VASAF report for the Winter edition of the *Trail Blazer!*

Please join me in welcoming two young fellows who are no strangers to VASAF, **Mr. Jason Fisher** as 2021 VASAF Chair and **Mr. David Powell** as 2021 VASAF Chair-Elect!!! Looking forward to a healthy and prosperous 2021! Stay safe and well VASAF' ers!!! It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as 2020 VASAF Chair. ~Billy [enviroforllc@netscape.net](mailto:enviroforllc@netscape.net)

Many thanks to Billy Newman and Mark Books for the new map of the Virginia chapters.



## Chapter Reports

**Dabney S. Lancaster Community College**—SLCC students and faculty entered Fall semester as we exited Spring semester...via Zoom!!! We were very fortunate to be able to return to in person labs, however! Thankfully!

We completed Fall semester in good fashion and students did well amid the challenging learning environment. No one became ill or tested positive for the Coronavirus and that was a blessing in and of itself!

First year students were consumed with learning Dendrology along with Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students completed wildland firefighting certification trainings in ICS 100,110,130,190,212 and FEMA IS 700 along with wildland fire work capacity fitness “pack” testing. Each student that attempted the pack test received a fitness level certification enabling them to participate on fire crews in Virginia and/or nationally.

2<sup>nd</sup> year folks also studied hard and sat for the VDACS Commercial Pesticide Applicator Exam in early December.

Looking forward to the last semester with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and seeing where this degree takes us.

After a year and a half in preparation and SAF review, the DSLCC Forest Management Technology program is fully accredited for another 10-year period by SAF!

Respectively Submitted,  
Emily Otero, DSLCC SAF Secretary

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

It is with great sadness I need to share that a treasured chapter member has passed away. Mr. Roland Geddes died October 9. Copy and paste the link below into your web browser if clicking on it doesn't work.

<https://memorials.faulknerfuneralhcs.com/roland-geddes/4353906/obituary.php#details>

The chapter sent a letter to Roland's wife recalling what an excellent forester he was and a true missionary for conservation.

I would encourage you to send his wife a card. In difficult times like these, the more cards the better.

Mrs. Betty Geddes  
19979 Tidewater Trail  
Tappahannock, VA 22560-5201



A Virginia Division Chapter map is now available. Please use the link to the ASPAF website <https://www.apsaf.org/virginiaa-division> A georeferenced PDF and a list by county/city is available upon request. If you would like an interactive version, please use this link [interactive map](#). This is an example of sharing a map via Esri's ArcGIS Online. I'd like to give a shout out to **Lee Spradlin** for his assistance with this map. Thank you, Lee.

Camaraderie is one of the many valued benefits of membership in SAF. On Dec. 17, the chapter held a holiday-themed virtual meeting and enjoyed such camaraderie. A brief chapter status update was provided, which included welcoming 3 new student members. Reflections on past Christmas adventures brought smiles and laughs as did a couple of games. We closed with a toast acknowledging this year's challenges and hoping for a better 2021 when we can safely meet in person. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Casual passersby could have easily mistaken this Red Oak, VA traffic jam as being the result of forester enthusiasm for a good tract of wet weather logging. In reality, it was due to the R.E. Lee Chapter meeting.

### SAF Skyline Chapter

Once again the Skyline Chapter had its Annual Firewood Cut on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> that was held in Madison County and Augusta County. Participants volunteered to cut and split firewood for two families in need, it was a very successful turn out!

The first firewood cut started around 1998 with Charlie Huppuch and Mark Hollberg. Their first donation of firewood was to a disabled WWII Vet who once worked for Augusta Lumber in Staunton, VA. This tradition has continued for 22 years and has been well received by our communities and SAF members.

Have a great day and wonderful holiday season. □

# SOUTH CAROLINA—ALL THE NEWS (SHO NUFF)

**Susan T. Guynn, SC Division Chair.** Favorite quote: “Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.” Nido Qubein.”



## Ponderings

by Susan T. Guynn, SC Division Chair



I feel like a broken record. We are still dealing with Covid and it has interrupted much of our lives. It has also changed how we operate, at least for now, as a profession. While many foresters continue to serve landowners, we are not able to congregate as a profession and discuss various aspects of our jobs – which prevents us from having the ability to learn and grow from each other.

In my first article of the year, I stated that I was a little scared to be in the new role as Division Chair because we did not know what 2020 would bring. Looking back, I had no idea how true those words would be across the world. But, I always try to find a lesson in any situation. So, despite all of the chaos, heartbreak, and misery brought on by covid in 2020, we have learned a few things. First, we learned that the human spirit will prevail. We can overcome obstacles and depend on each other to help us through a pandemic or any other crisis. Second, we learned how to operate in a virtual world. While most of us still prefer to meet face-to-face, we all conquered Zoom - mostly!

Our 2021 APSAF meeting will be held virtually, and while it was not how any of us envisioned celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year, we were not deterred from coming together as a profession. Finally, we remembered what is most important to us while we were all quarantined at home – family, friends, and our forestry profession. I hope we are coming to the end of the pandemic, and we can all go back to living our lives and doing our part to conserve our natural resources.

In other matters, the proposed regulation change for continuing education requirement waiver for registered foresters in SC is for persons age 60 and older AND 30 years of experience. The comment period for this proposed change closed on November 23<sup>rd</sup> but you will likely still have time for commenting on it during the House and Senate Committee meetings. Letters were sent to registered foresters, but in case you did not receive one, you can look for the *South Carolina State Register* Vol. 44, Issue 10 dated October 23, 2020 to read more about this and other proposed changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the SC Division Chair. While I feel I have not had the opportunity to meet many of the members across the state due to COVID, I hope we will

come together again soon. I would like to welcome **Janet Steele**, who is our incoming SC Division Chair, and will be writing the SC Division article in the next issue of the *Trail Blazer*. Many of you probably already know Janet but for those who have not met her yet, please make an effort to connect with her. She will be a valuable asset for the SC Division! Thanks to **Dan Scheffing** for his guidance, wisdom, and mentorship throughout my time as Division chair. With so many obstacles creating havoc with how we operate, his support was invaluable in helping to navigate the challenges of 2020.

The only other information I can pass along is Chapter updates. As you can imagine, we have not had much chapter activity so there is not much to report.

**Keowee Chapter** - The Keowee Chapter had one virtual meeting since Covid hit, and we may have a second virtual meeting before the end of the year. No in-person meetings are planned for this year.

**Edisto Chapter** – hosted two virtual chapter meetings.

Happy holidays to everyone and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and covid-free 2021!! ~ [sguynn@clermson.edu](mailto:sguynn@clermson.edu) ✦

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

Henry Randolph, NC Chair. Favorite quote: "This is the way the world ends, Not with a bang, but a whimper." T.S. Eliot

## "Transition"



by **Henry Randolph**,  
NC Division Chair

*"This is the way the world ends,  
Not with a bang, but a  
whimper." ~T.S. Eliot*

As I approach the end of my term as NC Division Chair, the familiar quote from T. S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men" comes to mind. When Travis Hughes passed the gavel for NC Division Chair in Norfolk last January, I was expecting my term

to end with a bang as the North Carolina Division was scheduled to host the APSAF Centennial in Asheville in January of 2021. The last twelve months bring to mind a second familiar quote related to our plans "The best laid schemes of mice and men, go oft awry." 2020 has certainly been a year of disruption and adapting for all of us in our professional and personal lives. In spite of it all, I am thankful for the great opportunity to be a part of SAF leadership in NC and APSAF for the past year. I have met and interacted with a lot of super folks committed to advancing the profession of forestry, and I have a new appreciation for the personal growth that occurs when you accept new challenges.

The great news in the NC Division is that **Sam Cook** and I have already been hard at work scheduling a peaceful transition of power in January. I have been fortunate to know Sam professionally for many years. More recently I have observed Sam interacting with students at NCSU and other professionals participating in the APSAF Leadership Academy. I am confident that Sam will lead the NC Division through 2021 and the delayed Centennial Meeting in the same manner that he has successfully navigated his career in industry and academia. Sam will be joined by our recently elected Chair-Elect from the Croatan Chapter, **Tara Dickson**. The future is bright in the NC Division.

I want to thank the leadership at the chapter level in NC for their continued efforts to meet and promote SAF during this unusual year. From virtual meetings to roadside cleanup projects, outdoor field tours and oyster roasts, the local chapters continue to lead from the ground up in NC. I am certain that as things return to normal in 2021 that we will continue

to utilize some of the virtual platforms that were necessitated by the Covid pandemic. I am also certain that the personal interactions and fellowship that occur during our local chapter meetings will return and hopefully generate a renewed appreciation for meeting together.

A special "Thank You" to **Dan Goerlich** and the entire APSAF Executive Committee for the incredible behind-the-scenes work that gets done annually to keep our organization functioning and healthy. This group is truly the epitome of servant leadership. Kudos especially to **Pat Straka** and the entire Centennial Meeting Planning Committee for their continued vision and tireless efforts to make the APSAF Centennial in 2022 an incredible event. I look forward to seeing you all at the virtual meeting this January.

This is the way my term ends.....~ Henry,  
[hrendolph@gfrforestry.com](mailto:hrendolph@gfrforestry.com)

### Don't forget SAF national has a new address

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