

The DC Forester



National Capital
Society of American Foresters



Spring 2016



NCSAF Brown Bag Presentation April 13, 2016 on Indian Forestry with guest speaker:

Dave Koch, Timber Sale Forester and Acting Division Chief of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs

NCSAF Chair's Message— Report on Allegheny SAF

In February 2016, the Allegheny SAF had an excellent winter meeting in Baltimore, MD. The theme was “Traditional and Urban Forestry: At the Crossroads”. The meeting provided an opportunity for managers and scientists to network and exchange the latest information on traditional and urban forestry. It was attended by 149 participants, including students, retirees, private landowners, resource managers, consultants, and scientists from the five states in the Allegheny SAF region (MD, DE, PA, NJ, WV) as well as members of the National Capital SAF (NCSAF) chapter. NCSAF was represented by David Gwaze (Chair), Wilhelmina Bratton (Service Chair) and Sunny Ng (Webmaster). Steve Koehn, Chair of the Allegheny SAF, gave the keynote address. Steve highlighted that forest management is the solution to the challenges facing public and private lands (e.g. storm water runoff, water quality and quantity, air quality, climate change, species recover, resilient communities). He challenged forestry professionals to “find better ways to tell our story” so that the public can appreciate what the forestry professionals do.

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Upcoming Events

COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION WORKSHOP—APR 26-28, 2016

GENE CONSERVATION OF TREE SPECIES WORKSHOP—MAY 16-19, 2016

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NCSAF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elaine Chalmers to serve as Policy Chair

Elaine Chalmers received US Forest Service Fellowship for Hispanic Leaders in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Environment/ Hispanic Leadership in Agriculture and Environment for 2003 and 2004, respectively. In 2004, Elaine received a Master's in Science, Justice Policy, Environment from the University of Texas. Elaine was hired by the office of Legislative Affairs in 2005 as a Legislative Analyst. In addition, Elaine has been an active member of the American Law Section of the Texas Bar Association during her tenure as a Texas ALS's legal researcher which began rather informally during her graduate program at the University of Texas, San Antonio where she interned under retired Texas Judge, Steve Russell, member of the Cherokee Nation.

Elaine's interest are in community involvement in Forest health, restoration, restoring some levels of fire or simulated cycles thereof in fire dependent stands, and public education initiatives regarding forest health.

Elaine has continued to further educational inquiry into Forest management, by taking graduate courses at Virginia Tech's Natural Resource Management program in Forest management and Conservation Ecology. In addition, Elaine completed all-but-thesis in a Masters of English program, and holds a dual Bachelors in English and American Studies, Legal Jurisprudence from the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Currently, Elaine has been working in the Office of Civil Rights on Diversity and Outreach Initiatives, establishing the agency's Limited English Program, and current high-profile issues related to Environmental Justice for the upcoming National Environmental Justice Conference

Originally from South Texas, Elaine, currently works in the Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, DC and resides in Woodbridge, VA with her 6 year old son; Joseph.

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Elaine Chalmers

2017 NCSAF Membership Dues Increase

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To better support the NCSAF activities and events, the Executive Leadership approved an increase to our State Society membership dues from \$10 to \$20. The increase will take effect on the upcoming dues renewal cycle.

Despite rising programming costs, NCSAF dues have not changed for the past ten years. In the past few years expenses have exceeded revenue by at least 46% with the net effect of having to draw from our savings. Continuing at this rate, NCSAF will run out of money in about five years.

Even with the increase, NCSAF dues remain the lowest among all SAF chapters. Across the country, State Society dues range anywhere from \$12-\$30, with members paying an *additional* chapter fee of \$2.00-\$7.50. Because NCSAF was uniquely established as a State Society with no corresponding chapter, our members pay one level of membership dues.

Your membership allows us to continue to provide a wide range of activities, including: bi-monthly, high quality luncheon seminars; SAF National Convention scholarships; fun networking events; membership recruitment events (e.g. Professional societies fair) to increase the diversity and interests; awards for distinguished and long-term members; and the ever popular annual Holiday Party. For a listing of all our current programs and more information please explore our website.

Your membership and active participation in NCSAF is greatly valued. If you have any questions, please contact David Gwaze, Chair NCSAF, at dgwaze@fs.fed.us.

Featured in the SAF Forestry Source: NCSAF Luncheon

The February luncheon was co-hosted by the National Association of State Foresters featuring Paul Trianosky, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Chief Conservation Officer. The presentation marked SFI's twenty-year history as a certification program, its commitment to engaging communities all across the country with their grants program, and SFI's more recent Conservation Impact initiative.

Paul covered SFI's work to bring conservation to scale in the U.S. and Canada through sustainability leadership over the 280 million acres of forest land in North America certified to SFI's forest management standard. He also discussed SFI's Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program. Since 2010, SFI has awarded 85 grants, totaling more than \$2.7 million. Coupled with project partner contributions, that total exceeds \$9.2 million.

More recently, SFI has embarked on a Conservation Impact program aimed at illuminating the benefits of forest certification to stakeholders and sharpening SFI's proven message of responsible natural resource utilization. SFI has identified three key topics most important to the public to drive home their contributions to our shared environment. These include

water quality, climate change, and biodiversity.

To learn more, please see the full article in the April 2016 SAF Forestry Source. Or contact Rocco at rocco.saracina@sfiprogram.org

See you at the next luncheon!



Paul Trianosky (left) and Brian Bartels (right).

Northern Long-Eared Bat Policy by Danielle Watson, SAF

The US Fish & Wildlife Service released the much-anticipated [final 4\(d\) rule](#) for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) in February. The final rule has streamlined, changed, or even removed several provisions that were concerning to SAF and the broader forestry community.

The positives:

The prohibition against cutting around known maternity roost trees during the pup season (June 1 - July 31) has been reduced from a 0.25 mile radius to a 150 ft. radius.

The language about avoiding clearcuts and other similar harvest methods (e.g., seed tree, shelterwood, and coppice) around known roost trees has been removed.

The provision stating that "the conversion of mature hardwood, or mixed, forest into intensively managed monoculture pine plantation stands, or non-forested landscape, is not exempted" has been removed.

The final rule more clearly articulates how private landowners can meet due diligence requirements, and emphasizes that they are not required to conduct surveys on their lands if no data is available.

Thanks to hard work by FWS staff and information from SAF, its members, and other forestry organizations, this final rule better reflects that white-nose syndrome is the overwhelming threat, highlights the potential benefits of forest management activities including prescribed fire, and seeks to implement more focused protections than previous iterations of the rule.

Remaining concerns:

The prohibition against year-round harvesting for trees within a 0.25 mile radius of a "known, occupied hibernacula" has been changed to "known hibernacula." According to FWS, this was an intentional change designed to protect any hibernacula where the NLEB



least once. FWS did clarify that short-term sites are not considered hibernacula nor are sites that are no longer suitable as hibernacula.

Although scientists are working hard on solutions, white-nose syndrome continues to spread and affect bat populations. If populations continue to decline, FWS may be forced to consider upgrading the listing to "endangered," which would void all 4(d) exemptions. Another comment period would precede any status change.

Implementation of the interim rule suffered from inconsistencies in communications and expectations across the various FWS offices. We are hopeful that coordination and consistency will be improved with the final rule, but with such a broad habitat range there are bound to be some hurdles.

Help us identify issues:

Please contact Danielle at watsond@safnet.org with any questions and let us know what issues you come across as you try to work within these new restrictions.

Allegheny Update by David Gwaze, cont. from page 1

There were two concurrent sessions: urban and traditional forestry. The urban forestry session included topics on utility forestry, storm water forestry, and urban wood recovery and utilization. The traditional forestry session included topics such as landscape scale forest management, intergenerational land transfer, northern long-eared bat policy, and forest health. Below are a few highlights from these presentations:

Urban forestry is as important as traditional forestry. In both cases, there is a need to demonstrate value of the work forestry professionals do. In particular, the public cares more about why we do what we do rather than what we do.

The urban forest inventory analysis program has started, and Baltimore was the first city to get plots established and measured. Data is being collected to estimate the quantity, health, composition, and benefits of urban trees and forests.

A lawsuit was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and three others challenging the new Northern Long-Eared bat policy. They say that the Northern Long-Eared bat should have been listed as endangered and that the final 4 (d) rule is unlawful.

To recover costs for creating or maintaining resilient forests we need to create markets for small diameter logs.

A consulting forester discussed urban wood utilization and the significant amount of urban wood disposed of in landfills or left in place to decay. Potential niche markets for urban wood include the high end furniture market for smaller logs and lower cost tools to mechanically create wood boards.

The Plot Hound app for smartphones or tablets, created by Silvia Terra, utilizes FIA plots, dynamic biometric equations and satellite imagery to improve timber cruising accuracy. This simple timber cruise application can record diameter, height, species, and grade. It can navigate to plots and view maps of plots. The app is currently used for data collection by the PA Bureau of Forestry.

Baltimore Gas and Electric discussed the balancing act in protecting their infrastructure, preserving the character of streets, and protecting its customers through tree trimmings and tree felling in their right of way and land easements.

ENVIVA is the world's largest producer of wood pellets. It is supplying pellets to utility companies in Europe. The utility companies are able to cut greenhouse gases by 80% when they switch from coal to wood pellets.

This year, Tree City USA - an Arbor Day Foundation program- will celebrate its 40th Anniversary and the American Forest Foundation will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of its American Tree Farm System. SAF societies/chapters were encouraged to develop partnerships that help promote these celebrations.

The meeting was marked by a successful College Quiz Bowl event in which students from various forestry schools competed against each other. The event was a lot of fun for both the students and participants. It reminded some of us who left college many decades ago how much we had learned and didn't remember.

NCSAF's proposal to work together with neighboring state and regional SAF societies/chapters was enthusiastically received. We agreed to continue discussing areas where we can collaborate. There is no doubt that our SAF societies/chapters can only thrive if we work together.

Report on NCSAF Leadership Meetings by David Gwaze

The NCSAF leadership met twice this year: January 19 and March 9, 2016. A summary of the issues discussed are highlighted below.

It was agreed to increase the membership dues to \$20.

Two new members were welcomed to the leadership team: Elaine Chalmers (Policy Chair) and Wilhelmina Bratton (Service Chair).

It was agreed to have programs every other month. Suggested future luncheon presenters are 1) Pipa Elias, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy (Presentation will be on Paris Climate Talks) and 2) Jeff Ghannam, SAF Strategic Communications Director (Presentation will be on the SAF's Evolving Forestry Campaign).

It was agreed that NCSAF should have a BBQ this year. Discussion are taking place about how/where to hold BBQ. Wild Acres is under consideration. MoCo parks is another potential option.

It was agreed that the NCSAF strategic plan should be updated. All the chairs were asked to review the plan and update it. At the minimum, Chairs should update the specific NCSAF actions that pertains to their committee.

Our Webmaster reported that the website has a new background and the content has been updated. Please check it out.

A potential park cleanup project between NCSAF and National Parks was discussed. Members will be informed on the date and location.

Recognition of members was discussed. Two awards were suggested: Volunteer Leadership Award and Young Leadership Award. Volunteer Leadership Award will recognize outstanding efforts over a sustained period of time by a NCSAF member in the promotion of forestry through voluntary service to the Society. Young Leadership Award will recognize a young forester in an emerging leadership role benefiting the practice of forestry and SAF. This issue is still under further discussion.

Length of service for the Chair was discussed. It was suggested that a 2-year term would be more effective, but likely requires a change to bylaws. This issue is still under further discussion.

The 2016 NCSAF budget was officially approved.

It was agreed to have the 2016 wine tasting auction event at the American Forest Foundation.

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