



## Chair's Report January 11, 2012

### 2011 National Convention in Honolulu

I was invigorated by the National SAF Convention in Hawaii the first week of November. If you have never been to a national convention, try to make one. I know times are tough and many employers (including mine) won't foot the bill, but grab your spouse and call it a vacation and just do it! It's fun to get to know the Council reps and the national President on a first-name basis, and to realize that these folks are unpaid volunteers just like you and me. The December Forestry Source contains an excellent recap of the meeting, with summaries of the plenary sessions.

The main item of business at the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting consisted of four break-out sessions where smaller groups brainstormed on one of four topics: membership, forest policy, the Certified Forester program, and SAF publications. The Membership discussion, of course, dealt with dues, and also with the larger issue of "broad" vs. "elite" that has been bandied about in the Journal and the Source lately. The Publications group dealt with questions of print vs. electronic, scientific research vs. politics vs. philosophy vs. applied research, etc. The basic questions we all faced were, What is SAF doing well, What could SAF do better, and Do we have a specific resolution for Council?

Speaking of dues, the new tiered dues structure is in place. Basically, there are three levels—Silver, Gold, and Platinum—with the Gold level being the basic package while Silver is a bargain level and Platinum is a premium level. These are explained in detail on your dues invoice which I hope you have paid already.

Wisconsin SAF donated five books to the Foresters' Fund:

Cut and Run—A History of Logging in the Lake States (with lots of old photos),  
Up North, by Sam Cook (a lot like Sig Olson's books, with pen & ink drawings),  
A Grouse Hunter's Almanac,  
Another Lousy Day in Paradise, and Dances with Trout (a double issue),  
Poachers Caught!

Each of these is a good book to read by the fire in your favorite chair. Two of the books were in the silent auction, while the other three were raffle prizes. Over \$9,000 was raised for the Foresters' Fund.



### **National Convention Bid**

We made our voices heard, we collected letters of recommendation from various forestry organizations in the Lake States, including the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and our council rep Ernie Houghton made sure the national convention committee gave due consideration to Duluth, Minnesota as a possible site for the 2014 convention. The committee has made their decision. The 2014 National SAF Convention will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. It's a done deal. Whether we want to push for 2015...

### **Deer Management**

I received a letter in November from a group of organizations, including Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc., the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, the Wisconsin County Forests Association, The Nature Conservancy, and Nicolet Hardwoods Corporation, among others, concerning the impacts of over-browsing by deer on the forests and the forest industry of northern Wisconsin, especially in light of Assembly Bill AB-99 and Senate Bill SB-75 which were recently passed restricting the ability of the Wisconsin DNR to control the size of the deer herd. This group is writing letters to their representatives, attempting to arrange a meeting with Dr. James Kroll (the "Deer Czar"), and is encouraging Wisconsin SAF to join them in this effort.

Our current WI SAF Position Statement regarding deer herbivory was adopted in March, 2007. Perhaps it is time to revisit/revise/amend/extend this position statement.

Jerry Van Cleve, CF  
Chair, Wisconsin SAF

