

Come to the August 6th “Forest Fest”

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) will be one of the co-sponsors of the Forest Fest on Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Trees For Tomorrow will host the event on their grounds in Eagle River. Forest Fest is a family friendly event to celebrate all that the forest offers.

The objectives of Forest Fest are:

1. To provide participants with non-biased, factual information on sustainable forest management and the forest products industry.
2. To broaden participants’ understanding of how and why various logging practices are used and the training and certification programs available to loggers.
3. For participants to gain knowledge about how important the forest products industry is to the economy and how forest products are produced.
4. To broaden participants’ understanding of how forest resources must be managed for multiple uses for the long-term benefit of everyone. These multiple uses include forest products, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife, wilderness and others.

Forest Fest will include activities such as Historical Interpreters, Birds of Prey Demonstrations, Trees For Tomorrow Critters, Forestry Tours, Logging Equipment, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Chainsaw Carving with Carving Demonstrations, Crafts and Fine Art, Paper Making, Live Music, Games, Food, and so much more! It is open to the public, there will be something for everyone, and there is no admission charge.

SAF has contributed \$1,000.00 through its Forester’s Fund Grant Program to help cover some of the costs associated with transportation for the forest management tours, horse drawn wagon rides, tree seedlings, and guided forest trail tours.

If you are in the Eagle River area on August 6, why not stop by Trees For Tomorrow and see how our Forester’s Fund Grant is being used and enjoy the various demonstrations and tours. For more information, visit www.treesfortomorrow.com/forestfest.htm. And, if you can’t attend, consider calling Trees For Tomorrow in advance at 715-479-6456 to purchase raffle tickets for their fundraiser. Prizes include an autographed Charlie Daniels fiddle, hand woven snow shoes, a chainsaw carved bear and more.

New Dues Structure

The national SAF office is developing an implementation plan for a new tiered dues structure. In response to SAF members’ request that the Society replace the “one size fits all” approach, membership rates will now range from \$95 to \$240 and will include different products and services throughout the tiers. Enrolled student members will pay only \$40 per year.

The SAF Council believes a tiered approach will allow members to belong to SAF at a price and services level that suits their individual needs. They approved this new tiered dues structure at their June 2011 meeting in response to the concerns of the membership and the House of Society Delegates, a leadership body of the Chairs of SAF State Societies.

The goal is to have the program articulated and understood by the time SAF sends its annual invoices to its membership. Watch for communications about this new approach to membership at SAF.



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

By Jerry Van Cleve

Wisconsin SAF has been working on several activities and initiatives over the last 12 months. Let me highlight some of them for you.

Wisconsin SAF Bylaws

Early in 2010 we realized that our state society bylaws were in need of revision. The issue that raised the question in the first place was the desire to conduct elections using email rather than US mail. The small committee assigned to this task found good wording about electronic elections in the national SAF bylaws. However, they also discovered other changes that were needed for WI SAF bylaws to comply with the standard minimum bylaws for state societies.

The committee (past Chair Jim Kerkman and Chair Jerry Van Cleve) worked up new WI SAF bylaws incorporating the needed changes. The Executive Committee as a whole finalized the bylaws at our meeting in September of 2010.

The draft bylaws were then sent to national SAF for approval, before being put to the general membership of Wisconsin SAF for a vote at our meeting in the Dells in March, 2011.

The new bylaws may be seen at our website, www.wisaf.org. The main changes include:

1) Electronic voting for state officers, 2) Executive Committee can now conduct business officially via email, 3) New procedures regarding State Society position statements. (Of course, those of you without email will continue to receive paper ballots as in the past.)

National Convention Bid

The last time an SAF National Convention was held in the Lake States was 1998 in Traverse City, Michigan. That was the first national convention I attended, and one reason I was able to go was because I didn't need to fly. Wisconsin SAF has partnered with Minnesota SAF, Michigan SAF, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry in sending a formal request to the SAF National Convention Selection Committee asking that Duluth, MN be considered as the site for the 2014 National SAF Convention. Our letter to the committee is on page 5. It was accompanied by letters from the Michigan State Forester, the Wisconsin State Forester, and the Executive Director of the Canadian Institute

of Forestry, as well as information from the Duluth Visitors' Bureau about conference facilities at the DECC, available hotel space, and airline capacities, and lists of professional and leisure tour possibilities. Now we wait and see.

Deer Management

Deer management continues to be a hot political issue in 2011 as it was in 2010. A public hearing on Assembly Bill AB-99 relating to firearm deer seasons was held at the statehouse in Madison on April 27, 2011. AB-99 would prohibit the DNR from establishing "Earn-a-Buck" seasons, and would also restrict the ability of the DNR to establish early gun doe ("Zone T") seasons.

Wisconsin SAF has an official position statement regarding deer management. Basically: 1) Over-abundant deer cause serious negative impacts to forest ecosystems, 2) Forestry is extremely important to Wisconsin's economy, 3) Deer population goals (by law) need to balance the interests of deer hunting, sustainable forest management, agriculture, and natural resources conservation, and 4) The DNR needs the tools to manage the deer herd at goal levels.

The day before the hearing, I sent a letter on behalf of WI SAF to Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, summarizing our position, and stressing the importance of managing the deer herd at levels compatible with sustainable forest management. (See next page.)

Alex Rahmlow, Chair of the UW-Madison Student Chapter, was able to attend the hearing (on short notice) to provide testimony on behalf of WI SAF. Alex had recently completed coursework on deer herbivory, and with copies of our position statement and talking points in hand, he went forth with our best wishes! Although AB-99 eventually passed in spite of our efforts, at least WI SAF was heard.

Al Nelson

On a somber note, Al Nelson passed away March 13, 2011. Al had been a member of SAF since 1946. You may remember Al as our WI SAF Historian, a position he held for 12 years. Al received the John Macon Award in 1996, and was elected Fellow in 2001. Our condolences go out to Al's family.

April 27, 2011

The Honorable Jeffrey Mursau
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources
Wisconsin State Assembly
Capitol 18 North
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Mursau:

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the largest organization of professional foresters in the world, with about 400 members in Wisconsin including industry foresters, public foresters (state, federal, county, tribal), private consulting foresters, and professors. The mission of SAF is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry to ensure the health and availability of forest resources for current and future generations.

Over 86,000 Wisconsin jobs rely on our \$28 billion/year forest industry. Forest industries and related companies are the #1 employer in 23 Wisconsin counties. Wisconsin produces more paper than any other state in the Union.

Over-abundant deer cause serious negative impacts to biodiversity, forest ecosystems, and sustainable forestry by selectively browsing on understory plants and tree seedlings. White pine, hemlock, and oak, for example, cannot be successfully regenerated in many parts of Wisconsin unless costly measures are undertaken such as putting up fences to keep deer out, or spraying trees annually for several years with a deer repellent. Most private forest owners cannot afford such measures.

The Department of Natural Resources sets deer population goals to balance hunter success with other factors including carrying capacity of the land, ecological and economic impacts to forestry, deer-vehicle collisions, and tolerable levels of crop damage. Years of liberal doe seasons and earn-a-buck requirements have had the desired effect of reducing the deer population to the goal in many deer management units. In fact, the deer population is too low in many northeast Wisconsin units. Herd control measures are no longer needed in these areas, at least not now. However, deer populations are very dynamic and can swing from being low to being excessive in just a few years. In addition, many DMUs south of the tension zone remain above goal.

The DNR needs to have the tools available to maintain the deer herd at the goals, including October doe hunts

and yes, even Earn-a-Buck when needed. The health of our forests and forest-based economy depend on it. Don't let a minority of dissatisfied hunters impede one of our leading industries by raising the costs of growing timber. We foresters are deer hunters, too! Deer hunting is a valuable and important part of Wisconsin's economy and culture. But the interests of a few vocal hunters accustomed to decades of deer over-abundance should not be allowed to threaten the viability of Wisconsin's premier forest industry.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Van Cleve, Certified Forester
Chair, Wisconsin Society of American Foresters
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715-362-1346 (Rhineland)
715-264-2511 (Glidden)



From our National SAF Council Rep

Here are highlights from the June 4-5 council meeting.

Council approved Fellow nominations, including Warren K (Keith) Moser of Minnesota SAF.

The previously discussed 15% dues increase was not voted on. Instead, in response to comments from both HSD and the membership, Council voted to institute a tiered dues structure. The new tiered dues will begin in 2012 and all members will have to decide on a membership level. A new member sign up incentive program will also begin August 1, 2011.

The 2014 convention site has not been decided on. The location of the national convention will be determined by national SAF staff.

The SAF Forest Carbon Offsets and Forest Biomass for Energy Task Force, lead by Dr. Robert W. Malmshemer, submitted it's report to Council on June 10 for review and approval.

Ernest Houghton
District V Council Rep.
houghtone@michigan.gov
(906) 786-2351

Leadership Development Projects - Wisconsin and Beyond

Heartland Leadership Academy

Jerry Van Cleve and Andy LaChance represented Wisconsin at the Heartland Leadership Academy in Carbondale, IL on July 15-17. The weekend-long academy included both new and seasoned leadership from SAF Societies in Districts 5 and 9. Current and past members of Council and HSD served as instructors. The academy provided rich opportunities for establishing peer networks with colleagues in other State Societies. Program content included:

- Group “issue identification”
- Keynote by SAF President Roger Dzeigelenski – “Challenges for Forestry in 2011”
- Team Communication Refresher - “Appreciating and Leveraging our Differences to Build a Stronger Profession”
- Local Chapter/Division/State Society management and roles of the officers
- Interaction with peers in other SAF Chapter/Division/State Societies/other natural resource professional societies
- Interaction with the “next level up” in SAF (Division/State Society/Council District)
- Inviting feedback from membership - How do I know what members want?
- Council/District operations and setting ‘system-wide’ objectives for local meetings
- Establishing strategies and achieving goals for “Team Building Training” at local Chapter/Division/State Society levels
- Role of the National Office and achieving interdependent work objectives
- Wrap-up presentation by Michael Goergen, SAF Executive Vice President, “Bringing it all together – Sustainable Systems within SAF”

Jerry and Andy will be sharing what they learned with us over the coming months. Many thanks to them for representing us at this session as Wisconsin SAF launches a leadership development program (see the article by Brian Spencer on this page and stay tuned as this project gets underway).

Leadership in Many Forms

By Brian Spencer

Training and Education Chair

The Wisconsin Society of American Foresters State Executive Committee is in the process of bringing out the leader in you and you probably didn’t even know it.

By becoming a member of the Society of American Foresters you’ve already taken a first step in being a leader. The second step, although it’s not as easy as putting in your annual dues payment in the mail, is to be proactive. As you already know, being proactive can come in many forms. It can be the person that’s willing to sell raffle tickets, it can be a chairperson of a committee, it can be a committee member, it can be anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved.

The past several months the State Executive Committee has been doing some “looking in the mirror.” What the Committee has discovered are opportunities for improvement for all of us.

An upcoming opportunity currently being worked on is the Wisconsin SAF Leadership Initiative. Several members of the Executive Committee as well as representation from the national SAF office have been working behind the scenes to revamp position descriptions and charters for committees to provide clear up-to-date guidance. This is only one piece of the puzzle. Other pieces include identifying current member skill sets, working along side individual Chapters, and identifying individual leadership training needs.

This process includes both short and long term strategies so you’ll want to stay tuned! For further information contact any one of the State Executive Committee members.

Letter submitted to the National SAF convention committee on April 22, 2011:



Minnesota SAF and Wisconsin SAF would like you to consider locating the 2014 National SAF Convention in Duluth, Minnesota. The last time the SAF National Convention was held in the Lake States was 1998 in Traverse City, Michigan. We think it's time for another Lake States convention! An additional plus would be the opportunity to partner with our friends to the north in the Canadian Institute of Forestry. It will have been ten years since our last joint meeting with the Canadians at Edmonton in 2004.

The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC, www.decc.org) was expanded in 2010, and offers 250,000 square feet of meeting rooms and exhibit halls. It is located on the Lake Superior waterfront near the aerial lift bridge, the William A. Irvin ore boat museum, and the Canal Park restaurant/shopping district. There are 1290 hotel rooms within a 5-minute walk. We have also contacted the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center about tours and possible use for student housing. Duluth International Airport is currently undergoing expansion, with three air carriers serving Duluth that should be able to handle us easily.

The roots of forestry go deep in the Lake States, from the fur trade through the "cut over" at the turn of the last century, to the restoration and planting by the CCC crews in the 1930s and 1940s, to the forest industry of today. Iron mining is also important in the regional economy—Duluth and Superior are ports where iron ore is loaded from rail cars onto ocean-going ships headed for steel towns in the East and beyond.

The Lake States have a vibrant forest economy. Wisconsin has been the leading paper producing state in the nation for 100 years, yet our annual timber harvest is only about two thirds of annual growth, and we have more forests now than at any time since inventories began in the 1930s. Forest products and forest-based recreation are two of the most important industries in the Lake States, and both depend on healthy forests!

Duluth offers a multitude of field trip opportunities, both casual and technical. Options for technical tours include paper mills, saw mills, pellet mills, biomass-fueled powerplants, as well as industrial, federal, state, and county forests, all within an hour's drive. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (most heavily visited wilderness in the US) is less than a half-day drive away. Oak-hickory, northern hardwoods, and boreal forests are all within easy reach. We could show off Lake States silviculture, where strong pulp markets allow for profitable intermediate stand treatments. casual tours could include a kayak adventure in the Apostle Islands, historic mansions, an underground mine tour at Soudan, or charter fishing on Lake Superior.

Attending a national convention is invigorating for any SAF member, especially for our younger members. A Lake States national convention would be good for forestry in the Lake States and good for SAF. The Executive Committees of Minnesota SAF and Wisconsin SAF have agreed to partner up in this convention bid, and have formed a joint subcommittee to carry this forward. We are eager to assist you by researching hotel or airport information, or provide other information you may need in making this decision. If you wish, we would be delighted to show you around! Please let us know how we can help.

Thank you,
Jerry Van Cleve
Chair, Wisconsin SAF

Lori Schmidt
Chair, Minnesota SAF

(also signed by other members of the joint WI-MN committee)

2011 Wisconsin SAF Meeting a Big Success

by Jerry Van Cleve

We had a fantastic spring meeting March 1-3 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells! It was jointly sponsored by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters. The theme of the conference was “Challenges of Managing for Early Successional Forests and Associated Species.” With six plenary session speakers plus thirty concurrent sessions, there was something for everyone!

We had 253 registered participants (104 with SAF), plus another 19 who came for the banquet and fellowship. Awards were presented by both societies after dinner, followed by a private screening of the film “Green Fire” documenting the life of Aldo Leopold.

The SAF awards that were presented include:

- John Macon Award, recognizing a member for their outstanding contributions to forestry in Wisconsin—awarded to John E. Houghton
- Forestry Hall of Fame, awarded to John Kotar
- Michael King Field Forester of the Year, recognizing a member for outstanding contributions to field forestry—awarded to Kimberly K. Quast
- Golden Member Certificate, recognizing 50 years of SAF membership—awarded to Robert Paddock, Miles Benson and Charles Mortensen

In addition to our foresters’ raffle, the wildlife folks had a silent auction and “garage sale.” There were many interesting items to be won or purchased. If you came home empty-handed, you’ve only yourself to blame.

Special thanks to the many people on the planning committees from both The Wildlife Society and Wisconsin SAF who worked to make this conference

a success, especially Carmen Wagner of WI SAF and David Drake of TWS.

And thank you to all of the sponsors who donated items for the fundraisers or helped in other ways, including the Ruffed Grouse Society, Quail Forever, Pheasants Forever, Midwestern Shooters Supply, and Miller Clock Service.



Above: Congratulations to Golden SAF members Miles Benson (left), Charles Mortensen (middle) and Robert Paddock (right)!

Below: Wisconsin SAF Chair Jerry Van Cleve (right) presented the Michael King Field Forester of the Year award to Kimberly Quast.



Kotar Inducted into Forestry Hall of Fame

By Tom Albrecht
Forestry Hall of Fame Chair

Dr. John Kotar was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame on March 2, 2011, at the Society Of American Foresters and The Wildlife Society annual meeting at Wisconsin Dells. He spent his forestry career as a professor in education and research at University of Minnesota – Duluth, Michigan Tech, and UW– Madison.

Dr. Kotar is well known for developing the Forest Habitat Type Classification System (FHTCS) for Wisconsin. The use of this site and vegetation classification tool to evaluate site quality, successional potentials, and ecological alternatives has greatly helped Wisconsin resource professionals manage lands in a better manner. It has been used as a forest certification tool as well since it measures ecological implications of various species, and forest types. He also created FHTCS for Minnesota and Michigan.

Dr. Kotar spent countless hours teaching foresters and other resource professionals how to use the FHTCS guides. He has been a frequent speaker at forest symposia, workshops, and conferences throughout the Lake States. There are few resource professionals who have not been trained by Dr. Kotar, and fewer who do not refer to the FHTCS guidelines in their daily work. He has often used the FHTCS and his technical skill in guiding resolution to forest management conflicts and creating long term policy initiatives.

In addition, Dr. Kotar has been a leader in the Society of American Foresters serving in various roles in the local, state and national level. He represented us on the national SAF Council in 2002 – 2004 and is currently Wisconsin SAF chair-elect.

Kotar's induction plaque contains the following statement:

John Kotar is an innovator and teacher. His development of the forest habitat type classification system has significantly improved forestry, with an



Above: Tom Albrecht (left) inducts Dr. John Kotar into the Forestry Hall of Fame at the 2011 Wisconsin SAF annual meeting.

Below: Dr. Kotar shares the honor with his wife and daughter.



increased understanding of forest communities and their relationships to the environment. His forestry research and education have paved the way for Wisconsin's leadership in forest certification.

The Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame was founded in 1984 to honor those who have made exceptional contributions to the field of forestry in Wisconsin. The Forestry Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the College of Natural Resources at UW Stevens Point. It is open for viewing during school hours and can be found online at <http://www.wisconsinforestry.org/history.php>.

Macon Award to UWSP Leader

Professor John E. Houghton is the 2010 recipient of the John Macon Award, an award recognizing an outstanding member from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters for their outstanding contributions to forestry in Wisconsin. The award was established in 1979, funded by an endowment from the estate of John W. Macon, a former Timberlands Manager for Consolidated Papers. Presentation of the 2010 award was made at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters on March 2, 2011 in Wisconsin Dells.

Houghton served as a forestry professor in the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources (UWSP-CNR) from August 1983 to August 2007 before he assumed his current position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the same institution. John has oversight responsibility for the undergraduate and graduate academic programs of the College of Natural Resources.

Prior to joining UWSP-CNR, Houghton worked for Northern Paper Company and University of Idaho

after serving as a graduate forestry research assistant at Michigan State University from 1971 to 1974.



For 24 years, Dr. Houghton served in the volunteer position of faculty representative to the UWSP SAF Student Chapter. As such, he has been a vital part of the professional partnership that exists between SAF, the schools and the student members. He has introduced students to SAF related opportunities that supplemented and expanded their educational experiences. The UWSP Student Chapter is a particularly outstanding chapter, in large part because of Dr. Houghton's exemplary leadership and guidance.

Dr. Houghton has been consistently recognized for his teaching ability by his students, his peers and the Society of American Foresters. In 1995, he received the Carl Alvin Schenck award from national SAF, honoring his outstanding performance in the field of forestry education.

UWSP Student Chapter Report

By Paul Doruska, faculty co-advisor

- The student group met weekly (Thursdays from 5-6pm) during the spring semester.
- Three tree planting jobs were completed
- Cleaned a two mile stretch of highway
- Assisted with 3 sessions of College Days for Kids programming on the UWSP campus.
- One student attended WI County Foresters Association meeting.
- The timbersports team will be hosting the 60th Midwestern conclave and the STIHL Collegiate Challenge April 13-15, 2012 at the Treehaven facility. Many judges will be needed.
- The timbersports team competed at Trig's Klondike Days in Eagle River in early March.
- The timbersports team competed at and WON the 59th Midwestern Forestry conclave event held at Purdue in Early April. Our representative in the STIHL Collegiate Challenge, Andrew Gollnick, won that event and will now compete in the collegiate finals in Oregon in August.
- The timbersports team thanks its financial sponsors and other supporters: Plum Creek, PCA, Dean Christine Thomas and CNR, UWSP Student Government Association, Mid-Wisconsin Chapter of SAF, Steigerwaldt Land Services, and Nancy Zalewski and Adam LaSalle, (timbersports pros and unofficial "coaches").

CHAPTER REPORTS

Fox River Valley Chapter

By Dave Stoiber, Chapter Chair

A March 16 chapter meeting at the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery included a business meeting in the morning and a tour of the hatchery facilities in the afternoon.

The planning committee met with the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association to discuss the joint meeting we'll be holding in October.

RJ Wickham has begun developing the program for the statewide spring 2012 meeting. Red pine will be the meeting theme.

Chippewa Chapter

By Jay Gallagher

The Chippewa Chapter held a joint meeting with the Minnesota SAF – Lake Superior Chapter on June 16 to learn how Bayfield County manages 11,000 acres by harvesting to create a moving mosaic of various successional stages of forest habitat centered around a 1,000 acre core. Participants learned how this approach was economically profitable and ecologically feasible despite many challenges. After a background presentation, the group headed to the field for site visits. The tour also included Brule River State Forest stops to discuss silviculture, site prep and prescribed burning. The day ended with a BBQ at the Brule River State Forest headquarters at Brule.

Northeast Chapter Report

NE Chapter Officers for 2011 are:

- Chair – Haakon Hagemeister
- Vice Chair/Chair Elect – Matthew Carothers
- Secretary/treasurer – Carmen Wagner
- Past Chair – Lee Steigerwaldt

Mid-Wisconsin Chapter

By Ron Schneider

The chapter met for a business meeting on March 10 at the DNR Tomah Ranger Station. Among the topics discussed was the 2012 Wisconsin SAF meeting the Mid-Wisconsin Chapter will jointly be hosting with the Fox Valley Chapter. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center on the east side of Stevens Point. Fox Valley will line up the program and Mid-Wisconsin will be responsible for logistics. We are working together to pick a date and finalize the schedule.

The chapter next gathered on June 15 for a tour of the new facility at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge and a presentation on oak savannah and prairie management. A business meeting and cookout followed at the city park in Necedah.

Southeast Lends a Hand

by Kendra Johncock, Education Director
Seno Woodland Education Center

Members of the Southeast Chapter donated their time to update the cordwood display at the Seno Center. The old display was an Eagle Scout project spearheaded by Scout Patrick Brix in 1999 and was badly in need of restoration. David Czysz coordinated the foresters who cut oak trees on the property that were marked for thinning. The thinning in the 40-year-old oak stand was part of its long term management plan. The foresters then cut the wood into the proper lengths and restacked it into the display. In addition to showing the two sizes of cords - "standard" and "face" - the display is used to show students how to measure the volume of stacked wood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Forestry Education

By Melinda Vokoun, CFE Coordinator

I have reviewed and approved approximately 13 events occurring in Wisconsin for Continuing Forestry Education Credit since January. I make the best effort to evaluate each event in a timely manner and remind providers of their after event responsibilities. If you are planning an educational event in the state (or know of someone who is) that is at least ½ hour in duration, please let them know to contact me and I can guide you (or them) through the Continuing Education Process.

Forester's Fund

By Ray D. Perry, Forester's Fund Chair

Updates on current Forester's Fund (FF) projects:

1. Oak Forests of the Driftless Area – the first 80% of both the regular FF money and the Special Grant FF money have been sent to the Mid Wisconsin Chapter. Due to extenuating circumstances both of these projects are past the due date. This project was dropped due to the changing scope of the project. The project manager was notified that the money advanced on the project would need to be returned.
2. Distribution of "Tree Farmer" and "My Friend the Forester" booklets was scheduled to start this past fall, due to lack of availability of the booklets this was delayed. A request for an extension for this project through 12/31/11 was applied for and granted. Dave has started distributing the books and doing the readings.
3. Forest Fest will take place on Sat., Aug. 6, 2011 on the Trees For Tomorrow grounds in Eagle River.

There is still interest in pursuing a regular grant to help develop a wash station to help prevent the spread of invasive species. The application form was sent to the project coordinators.

Historian Report

By Willard Kiefer

1. Completed the final draft of the 2010 WI SAF Historical Summary and submitted to the executive committee for review.
2. Completed an oral history interview with Dr. John Kotar.
3. Obtained a preliminary cost estimate to print: "A HISTORY OF EVENTS of the WISCONSIN SOCIETY of AMERICAN FORESTERS 2001--2010."

Policy and Legislation

By Bob Mather, Chair

The Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Forestry held a hearing on June 21 to discuss Clearinghouse Rule 11-010, relating to investment tax credits for harvesting or processing woody biomass, and affecting small businesses. Also, both houses discussed deer in hearings on AB99 and SB75.

A study of the Managed Forest Law was authorized in late June 2010. The seven proposed legislative bills relating to the Managed Forest Law draft by the study committee can be found at: http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2010/MFL/files/may4_results_mfl.pdf

Following the completion of Wisconsin Statewide Forestry Assessment & Strategy (June 2010), the DNR developed a Division Strategic Plan. The DNR Division of Forestry is now developing methods to put the Strategic Direction in to operation. The final Strategic Direction can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/strategicDir.htm>

DNR announced plans to stop growing tree seedlings at the Hayward Nursery facility beginning in 2013. The remaining two facilities will continue seedling production. State nurseries are required to cover the entire costs of their operations with seedling sales revenues. This action is in response to decreased seedling sales over the last number of years. The nursery program continues to implement cost saving measures but are sized to grow 10 to 12 million bare root seedlings per year. Recent sales figures have been around 7 million per year.

Membership Committee Report

By Bill O'Brion, Membership Chair,
M): 715-966-0940; O) 715-453-6992

Here is a summary of the Wisconsin SAF membership as of June 2011:

Chapter	Total	Past Due
Chippewa Chapter	47	10
Fox River Valley Chapter	30	9
Mid Wisconsin Chapter	75	18
Northeast Chapter	98	18
Southeast Chapter	34	5
Southwest Chapter	53	15
UW-Madison Student Chapter	14	6
UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter	51	19
Other	4	2
	406	102

Wisconsin SAF Student Mentor Program

The Student Mentor Program is designed to encourage forestry students to become SAF members and to become better acquainted with Wisconsin SAF members. The Wisconsin program officially began January 1, 1992. This is a valuable program to benefit both the student and the mentor in learning from each other.

Mentor obligations:

- Pay half the cost of the student's first national SAF dues. In most cases, the local or state chapters have elected to cover this cost.
- Be available to students throughout the year - by phone, email, letter or in person.
- Attend at least one student function such as a chapter meeting.
- Engage the student in conversation, include the student in meetings and generally make them feel "at home."
- Host at least one informal event per year for the student.
- Let membership chair know of interest in serving as a mentor and provide the personal background information as requested on the Mentor Profile Sheet.

Student obligations:

- Submit a completed Student Profile Sheet to the membership chair.
- Must be pursuing a degree in forestry at UWSP or UW-Madison
- Must be a paid member of the national SAF (participants will be eligible for reimbursement of half their first year dues).
- Must be available to the mentor throughout the year by phone, email, letter or in person.

Recruitment of new students is on hold until they return to school in the fall. I will work with the new Student Chapter Chairs at each University to present at their meetings as soon as possible after the fall semester starts to promote the mentor program and SAF in general.

Leadership

Work is underway on a database of current and past active leaders and their roles within Wisconsin SAF. This information will be used for current leaders in each role to reference those with past experience and to help identify future SAF leaders.

2011 National Convention

Early-bird registration for the 2011 SAF national convention in Honolulu, Hawaii ends soon. To get the best rate, register for the November 2-6, 2011 convention by August 26. The registration form is at http://www.safnet.org/natcon11/2011convention_regform.pdf

The 92nd National Convention will offer a cutting-edge program on the science and changing elements of forests in your backyard and around the world, providing learning and sharing for all foresters and natural resource professionals. You can select sessions on the latest scientific and practical information that meet your unique interests. Don't miss the dynamic networking and collaborative learning opportunities in an inspiring environment!

The 2011 SAF Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii offers an opportunity to include foresters from around the Pacific Rim to provide a thought-provoking and engaging meeting with the convention theme of "International Year of Forests: Linking Local, Regional, and Global Solutions."

The United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness and strengthen sustainable forest management, and conservation on all forests. Help celebrate the Year of Forests during the 2011 Society of American Foresters National Convention. This finale to the year-long celebration will examine the world-wide challenges and provide local solutions for the forests of the world.

To learn more about the International Year of Forests, visit <http://www.celebrateforests.org>