



Letter from the Chair

11/2/20

Hello,

My name is Anthony Rynish and I am the chairman for the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters (SAF). I will be working to get out announcements or updates about Wisconsin SAF to the membership, either monthly or every other month, in what I am calling "A letter from the Chair." Here are the announcements;

Annual Business Meeting for the State Society

On Friday December 4th, 2020 at 9 a.m. a virtual annual business meeting for the State Society will be held. Typically, at our Statewide Meeting, the business meeting for the State Society would be held on the morning of the second day. It is an opportunity for the membership to hear directly from the chairman and the board of directors about what is happening in Wisconsin SAF.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend! If you would like to attend, please email me at anthonyr@rynishforestry.com and I will email you the link for the meeting.

Successful Virtual Statewide Meeting

This year's Statewide Meeting was held virtually due to the issues created by COVID-19. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Statewide Meeting planning committee for their commitment and to holding a meeting regardless of the situation! Changing from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting took many volunteered hours of planning. Please join me in thanking the entire planning committee for the time they gave to make the Wisconsin SAF's 2020 Statewide Meeting a success! Thank you Chad Kirschbaum, Logan Wells, Haley Frater, Brad Hutnik, Liz Wood, Tom Hittle, Sadie Brown, Joe Kies, Josh Coady, Abby Walther and Paul DeLong for all your hard work and dedication to plan Wisconsin SAF's Statewide Meeting!

Awards

Even though we were not able to meet in person this year, our awards committee still found a way to celebrate with recipients for several of our awards during the statewide meeting! The following are the award recipients for 2020;

Mike King Wisconsin SAF Field Forester Award - **Joe Rademacher**

The recipient this award is nominated to the National SAF District V representative to be considered for the Presidential Field Forester Award. **Joe was awarded District V's 2020 Presidential Field Forester Award!

Innovations In Forestry Award - **Bayfield County Forestry & Parks Department**

Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame - **Ralph Swanson**

** In early August, Ralph was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame with a ceremony at the assisted living facility where he resides. Thanks to Tom Albrecht, John Grosman and everyone else involved with working to set up an outdoor ceremony for Ralph during these challenging times!



You may recognize Ralph. We joined him in celebrating his 100th birthday in May!
It has been a big year for Ralph!

Congratulations to all of our recipients! If you would like to learn more about these and other awards offered by Wisconsin SAF, please visit our website at <https://www.wisaf.org/committees/awards/>. If you would like to nominate someone or a group for an award please contact our awards committee chair, Melinda Vokoun (melinda.vokoun@uwsp.edu).

Wisconsin's New Chief State Forester

I would like to congratulate Heather Berklund on becoming Wisconsin's new Chief State Forester! Wisconsin SAF appreciates Heather's past collaborative efforts, and looks forward to collaborating with her on future projects!

Future Projects

Even though times have been challenging due to COVID-19, Wisconsin SAF is still working to put on quality trainings and meetings for 2021. Please watch for future announcements at our website <https://www.wisaf.org/> or you may see them in another letter from me!

SAF Membership Renewal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Wisconsin SAF membership. Thank you for all that you do for managing the forests of Wisconsin! Forestry in Wisconsin does not work without you! Wisconsin SAF greatly appreciates all that you do and your continued support. We need your continued support through membership and hope you will consider renewing your membership today!

Respectfully,

Anthony Rynish
Chairman, Wisconsin SAF