



Letter from the Chair

2/24/21

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;

Thank You to Wisconsin SAF Members

I would like to start this letter by thanking all of you who renewed your SAF membership for 2021! We greatly appreciate your continued support!

If you needed to hold off on renewing your membership due to unforeseeable circumstances from the past year, please remember that Wisconsin SAF is here for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or one of the other board members, and we will do what we can to assist you.

Get to Know Your Leaders

The Wisconsin SAF Executive Board consists of several members. Do you know who is on the Executive Board? I would like to dedicate part of this letter to help you get know the leaders of Wisconsin SAF!

Our first leader I will be shining the spotlight on is Joe Kies! Joe has been a member of SAF since 1985. He is currently the Chairman for Wisconsin SAF's Southern Chapter. Prior to this chairmanship, Joe was Chairman for the Mid-Wisconsin Chapter (now part of the Southern Chapter) from 2016 to 2018.

Joe is a 1984 graduate of UWSP and currently holds the position of Sr. Buyer-Wood Procurement at the Domtar mill in Nekoosa, where he has been employed since 2000. Prior to working at Domtar, he was employed by Becker Forest Products (a logging/pulping operation in Necedah, WI), Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Steigerwaldt Forestry Consulting (now Steigerwaldt Land Services), Wisconsin DNR, and the US Forest Service.

Joe is currently registered as a Wisconsin Cooperating Forester and serves on the WDNR Oak Wilt and HRD advisory boards, as well as, the Wisconsin SFI-SIC committee, and Wisconsin Paper Council Forestry committee. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, wilderness camping and silent sports (X-C skiing, biking, canoeing....). He has been married to his wife Ruth for 34 years and has 2 adult children.



As you can see, Joe is a busy man and Wisconsin SAF is very fortunate to have him as one of its leaders. On behalf of Wisconsin SAF, I would thank Joe for all his hard work and dedication to Wisconsin SAF and Wisconsin's Forest Industry!

To top it all off, Joe is currently leading the planning of the 2021 Wisconsin SAF Statewide Meeting. The theme for this year's meeting is innovations in technology for forestry. We have several members who have volunteered to help with the planning of the statewide meeting. If this topic is of interest to you and would like to help please feel free to contact Joe at joseph.kies@domtar.com.

If you would like to find out who else is serving on the Executive Board please check out the leadership page on Wisconsin SAF's website (<https://www.wisaf.org/leadership/executive-committee-members/>). I will be shining the spotlight on other members on the Executive Board in future letters.

District Leadership Academy

Speaking of leaders, Wisconsin SAF is planning a leadership academy for this coming fall! It will be held with the other state societies in our district (Michigan, Minnesota and Iowa). This will be a great opportunity to learn and develop leadership skills, as well as, network with members from the other states.

The planning is still in the early stages, but be on the lookout for more information about the leadership academy in the coming months!

Tree Trivia

With the warmer weather we are quickly approaching one of my favorite times of year, collecting maple sap and making maple syrup! I know this may make foresters who work for saw or veneer mills cringe, but I enjoy every part of collecting maple sap. Collecting maple sap allows me an opportunity to watch mother nature awaken from her winter slumber.

As many of you know we can collect maple sap from Sugar, Red, Silver and Black maples. There is one more tree we can collect maple sap from, however, it does not have "maple" in its name. What is it?

For foresters, this is a fairly easy question. However, it is a good one to ask landowners and one I present to my students at this time of year!

Respectfully,

Anthony Rynish
Chairman, Wisconsin SAF