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Message from the Chair

Eric Jokela

Well, it is hard to believe that August is already here and that summer will soon transition into fall. We’ve been very fortunate in most areas of the Southeast to have had steady rainfall this growing season to facilitate the survival and growth of our forests, minimize wildfire risks and aid reservoir and water table recovery.

This time of year also brings about new opportunities for all SAF members to play a role in facilitating positive change within our organization through acceptance of nominations for leadership roles (e.g., SESAF, State Divisions, Chapters) and volunteering to facilitate and plan local meetings and special events. Highly effective organizations exhibit strengths in multiple areas, including: leadership, decision making and structure, people, communications and culture. As we have been hearing, our National Office has been working very diligently to establish a new brand for SAF with the Good to Great program. This includes development of the core principles and the promise of our organization (summarized below):

Thriving forests. Essential resources. A strong community.

We challenge land owners, decision-makers and society at large to make choices about our forests based on professional knowledge, leading-edge thinking and a century of practical experience. We seek viable pathways forward, balancing diverse demands on our natural resources. We set the standard in forest management, bringing science, best practice and the best people together to actively shape the future of the profession.

‘For the greatest good. For the greatest number. For the long run.’

From my perspective, to be successful, the work of many including our State Divisions and Chapters will need to be involved. As we know, successful positive change in our professional organization is possible if we are motivated and committed to the process. I encourage our entire membership to stay involved and make a difference through volunteerism. I fully recognize that we all lead busy personal and professional lives, but please say yes when you can.

Some guidelines for all of us to consider in this process include:

• Recognize that membership needs vary in SAF (new members = networking; students = understanding the profession, getting a job; experienced = CFE opportunities);
• Take small bites, as change occurs one step at a time. Often, when we set goals and plans our biggest mistake is that we bite off too much. At the Chapter and State Division level, we need to pick one or two small but potent new actions (e.g., SAF’s role in public outreach, ensuring high quality Chapter meetings) and set a goal to measure success (e.g., you may have succeeded if at least XX people participated in the activity). For example, we have some nice examples of successful outreach programs within SAF like the “Habitat for Humanity” and “A Walk in the Woods” programs that we can use as models;
• Get supportive help and feedback from other members and identify how you can build on your personal strengths and interests to accomplish the goal. No need to reinvent the wheel, as the Forestry Source has lots of great examples of activities and accomplishments by SAF colleagues in other parts of the country; and
• Keep going and keep taking small bites. Before you know it you will have expanded your personal leadership and involvement in SAF in ways that you couldn’t imagine today.

Finally, in assuming Chair of SESAF in 2013, I wanted to remind you of my willingness to seek and value your input as a commitment to represent all members in our professional organization. The National SAF meeting will be held in Charleston, SC in October and I plan to attend it, as well as the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting. Please let me know of any issues, problems, conflicts or opportunities that you would like to have raised at the meeting. This enables me to create awareness and discussion of an issue that could result in a HSD action item.

Thank you for your support and continued involvement in SAF. I hope to see many of you in Charleston!

Sincerely,

Eric
Report from Council

Dave Lewis, District 10 Representative

The big news at SAF is the recent resignation of our long time Executive Vice President, Michael Goergen, to take a position with a forestry non-profit organization. A search committee is in the process of being formed, and President Joann Cox has set a goal of having a new EVP in place by January 1st. Michael’s resignation will take effect September 15th, but he will be continuing to work on a few projects after his departure, including the sale of Wild Acres, the land surrounding the national office building. Michael will be sorely missed, and we all wish him the best, but we will be continuing to move forward with the implementation of our new Brand Framework and other initiatives.

Good to Great

In the interest of implementing the new Brand Framework (Thriving Forests. Essential Resources. A Strong Community), each Council member has agreed to be part of an experiment. The idea is to look at various things we can do to make SAF a “Good to Great” organization and live up to the Brand Framework. The experiment I signed on to is to form a task force to figure out how to make the CF/CFE program to self-sufficient. We are just starting work on this and hope to have a report by next June.

Fellows

All three of our Fellow candidates were elected by Council: Ed Lowenstein, Dean McCraw and Dick Rightmyer. Congratulations Ed, Dean and Dick!

Presidential Field Forester Award

The forester receiving this award in District 10 this year is John Stivers from Talladega, Alabama. He will receive the award and be recognized at this year’s National Convention. Congratulations John!

Sale of Wild Acres

SAF received the second deposit on the sale of the property surrounding the national office in May. The closing is scheduled to take place in mid-2014 when we will receive the balance of the proceeds. The Finance Committee is already working on plans to invest this money to make it work for SAF.

SAF Website

We have engaged a technology firm from Indiana, WDD, to begin revisions to the SAF website. They have already begun work on Phase 1, the background technology that is designed to accommodate one button membership renewal and a single login. Funding for the second and third phases to complete the upgrade has been approved by Council. WDD and staff will be rapidly moving forward with the upgrades that should result in a much more user-friendly and effective website by next year.

Articles of Incorporation

SAF is re-working its Constitution and Bylaws to comply with new District of Columbia law. This is primarily a formality but it has to go to a vote of the membership. So, that will be on this year’s national ballot to accept the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act of 2010 to govern our corporation.

Technician Rings

Council voted to award the same rings to graduates of SAF accredited forest technician programs as those that are currently awarded to those graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from an SAF accredited program. Graduates must be an SAF member in good standing. The rings are beautiful, so consider buying one.

Membership

Trends have generally been looking up in this category. Last year we were on the plus side, and so far this year, it is a little too early to tell, but the year-to-date numbers look good at this point. We think a lot of members may be moving into the Silver category. Help us out by recruiting a new member.

Finances

SAF is operating with a $200,000+ budget deficit this year. Of course, the immediate picture was vastly improved by the receipt of the second deposit on the property, but the Finance Committee is concerned about the ongoing trend of deficit budgeting. Our goal is to present a balanced budget to Council for 2014. Part of that effort is an evaluation of existing programs this summer to see how they stack up financially using an evaluation tool that the Finance Committee developed last year. We have already been testing and are now using it on all new initiatives and programs such as the website re-build. The idea is to subject all new programs and eventually all existing programs to a cost/benefit analysis to see where we might be able to create additional revenues or savings to help balance the budget.

1900 Founders Circle

Just since October when we had a “soft launch” at the National Convention in Spokane, we have already received over $70,000 from members who have elected to join the 1900 Founders Circle honoring Gifford Pinchot, our founder in 1900. Those who join commit to donating $1,900 over a maximum of four years. Members of the Circle will receive a special pin, recognition in The Forestry Source and will be honored at the National Convention. If you are interested in joining the 1900 Founders Circle, contact me or the national office.
Why I am a member of the Society of American Foresters

By Dick Rightmyer

Membership in an organization, club or society is often an indicator of one’s hobbies, interests or even causes supported. My first membership was in the Boy Scouts, where I learned skills and knowledge while earning badges of rank and merit badges. At the same time I was challenged to develop my leadership and life skills, becoming a part of something beyond myself as an individual. I view membership in the Society of American Foresters in a similar way, joining the ranks as a junior forestry student in the University of Kentucky forestry program. On graduation I converted to a full member and have been active in the organization since that time, in three different states.

My perspective of membership includes active participation in the SAF at the various local levels and occasionally even a National Convention. The interaction at meetings and the opportunity to receive knowledge from presentations is a primary benefit. Serving in leadership positions has also been rewarding, insuring there is a SAF available to foresters, both seasoned and those just beginning. Through my 37 plus years, my network of forestry contacts and relationships has continued to expand through SAF. In recent years I have strived to encourage forestry students and recent graduates to make this reasonable investment of time and resources to be a member of SAF. The benefits of providing a great network to share common interests, knowledge and often needed solutions to the challenges faced in managing forestry resources are an excellent return.
Three SESAF Members Receive Fellow Honor

The Society of American Foresters honors members who have provided outstanding contributions and service to the Society and the forestry profession. This exceptional recognition is bestowed upon a member by their peers. Congratulations to Ed Loewenstein, Dean McCraw and Dick Rightmyer on receiving the highest honor for members of the Society. Highlights of their many accomplishments and service to SAF are listed below.

Ed Loewenstein
A faculty member of Auburn University’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences since 2002, Loewenstein is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor with teaching responsibilities including Silviculture and Ecology and silviculture of eastern hardwood forests. He has been twice elected the AU Forestry Club Teacher of the Year.

His contributions to forest research include the publishing of 21 refereed journal articles, 32 papers in conference proceedings, 27 abstracts and one technical publication; serving as co-editor of one book and co-author of one book chapter. He serves as an associate editor for the Open Journal of Forestry (2011-present) and as a reviewer for 16 journals. He has been awarded over $2.5 million in competitive research grants.

His experience includes working six years as a Research Forester for the USDA Forest Service at the North Central Research Station in Columbia, MO.

His military service includes Staff Sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard and Captain in the Army Reserves, Corps of Engineers from 1983 to 2002.

Loewenstein’s SAF leadership accomplishments during his 30 years of membership include involvement at the national, regional, state and chapter levels. He is currently the SESAF Past-chair and is Chair of the Membership and Nominating Committees. He served as 2012 SESAF Chair and 2011 SESAF Chair-elect and Awards Committee Chair. Since 2008, he has served as Alabama Division Treasurer and was Steering Committee member and Local Arrangements Chair of the 2009 Alabama SAF Annual Meeting. He was 2010 Chair of the War Eagle Chapter and was Southern Illinois University Student Chapter Treasurer from 1983-1985.

At the national level, he has been an active participant in the SAF Silviculture Instructors Sub-Group D2 since 2002 and in the Silviculture (D2) and Forest Products and Utilization (D3) Working Groups since 1985.

Since 2010, he has served on the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Parks Advisory Panel and the City of Auburn, AL Tree Commission. He has been a member of the Alabama Project Learning Tree Committee since 2009 and is a member of Xi Sigma Pi.

Dean McCraw
In 2010, Dean McCraw founded McCraw Energy LLC in Savannah, GA, a company that specializes in feedstock management issues for the Southeast biomass industry, and is the company’s president. Prior positions included Director of Forestry, Biofuels Center of North Carolina, Oxford, NC from 2009 to 2010; Regeneration Manager, Rayonier, Inc., Glennville, GA from 1993 to 2008; and Georgia Region Timber Sales Forester, Rayonier, Inc., Jesup, GA from 1993 to 1994 and several positions with Union Camp Corporation from 1979 to 1989 including Fuel Harvesting Operations Supervisor.

His outstanding contributions to the forestry profession include innovations in harvesting practices, biofuels and forest energy. The Union Camp Fuel Harvesting operation that McCraw managed was recognized nationally by the Paper Industry Management Association for productivity and cost reduction accomplishments. He has authored articles published in several publications including Forest Landowner and Biomass on the coming pine pulpwood shortage in the U.S. South.

His strong commitment to educating people on forestry is evidenced by his educational presentations to over 3,200 students from kindergarten to college level between 2001 and 2005 which included several presentations at SAF Walk in the Forest events.


His work for SAF includes service at all levels. He was Chair of the Georgia Division in 2005 and 2006 and devoted exceptional
energy to reactivating Georgia chapters during his two years of leadership. He was Secretary/Treasurer of the Georgia Division 2001-2002; served as a Billy Lancaster SAF Forestry Camp counselor, instructor and member of the Planning Committee for eight years; and was Chair of the Savannah Chapter in 2000.

In 2012 he was a candidate for the SESAF Chair-elect position; assisted the Program Committee with the 2012 SESAF meeting; served as Treasurer for SESAF in 2008 and served on the Program Committee for the 2003 SESAF meeting. He worked as a volunteer at the 2009 National SAF Convention and, in 2010, worked for two days with the SAF group doing presentations at the Scout Jamboree at Fort AP Hill, VA. Over 40,000 boys attended the Jamboree marking the 100th anniversary of Scouting.

Dick Rightmyer

As a Forest Soil Scientist with the USDA Forest Service, Rightmyer has made significant contributions to forest sustainability and water quality through his work and expertise in Forest Land Management Planning, Best Management Practices and soil inventoring.


Accomplishments include his work in the development of a Forest Land Management Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia and serving as leader of a Forest Service Riparian Management Team. The team developed a multi-resource management direction for the riparian areas of the Forests that addressed conservation, water quality, aquatic species habitat and sustainability of forest health. The final product was integrated into five National Forest management plans and shared with other Forest Service units as a model for riparian areas.

He led a subcommittee in developing the stream crossings and roads section of the Best Management Practices handbook revision published in 1999 and is certified as public information officer (PIO) by Forest Service fire management standards.

A “sideline” passion throughout Rightmyer’s career has been to seek opportunities to share knowledge of the importance of forest management. Audiences through the years have included schools, Project Wild workshops, Trout Unlimited Chapters, Boy Scout groups, local county fair exhibits and University classes at Clemson, Georgia and North Georgia College.

Rightmyer joined SAF as a student in 1975. His national level involvement includes participating as a continuous and active member of soils, water and ecology working groups since 1976 and serving as a volunteer at the 1990 National SAF Convention.

He was Southeastern SAF Secretary and Program Committee member in 1990. He was a member of the Georgia Division SAF Forestry Youth Camp Development Committee and served as Camp Registration Chairman from 1988 to 1995 and as a volunteer instructor for two years.

He was Secretary-Treasurer of Oconee Chapter in 1986 and 2005 to present; Oconee Chapter Chair in 1988 and Secretary-Treasurer of the Caddo Chapter-Ouachita SAF in 1984 and 1985.

Claude E. Yearwood inducted into Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame

Claude Yearwood, Manager of Operations, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of The Price Companies, has been inducted into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame. Yearwood was born in Byron, Georgia in 1947 and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Forestry from the University of Georgia in 1969.

Positions during his career have included Procurement Forester and Area Forester for Georgia Kraft from 1973 to 1986; Procurement Manager of Macon Kraft from 1986 to 1992; and Procurement Manager of Riverwood International from 1992 to 1996.

He is an esteemed leader in the forestry community having served as President of the Georgia Forestry Association, President of the UGA Warnell Alumni Association, Chairman of the Warnell Steering Committee, Jayhole Club Big Jay Hook and Treasurer of the Georgia Forestry Foundation. He has served in many leadership capacities in the Society of American Foresters including Georgia Division Chair, Southeastern SAF Chair and member of the National House of Society Delegates. He was elected Fellow in 1992. Yearwood was instrumental in founding the Billy Lancaster Forestry Youth Camp for educating youth about natural resource management and is currently the Chair of the Camp’s Endowment Fund Committee.
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Awards of Excellence Nominations due October 29

Please consider nominating deserving SAF members for one or more of the Awards of Excellence that will be presented at the SESAF Annual Meeting in Panama City on January 27, 2014.

The three awards are:

The **Research and Development Award** shall be made in recognition of outstanding research and/or development activities that have made significant contributions to forestry within the area served by the SESAF or the Southeastern United States.

The **General Practice of Forestry Award** shall be made in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the practice of forestry in the area served by the SESAF or the Southeastern United States.

The **Public Education and Technology Transfer Award** shall be made in recognition of educational activities and programs that have significantly advanced public understanding of forests and forestry and/or contributed to the continuing education of forestry professionals in the area served by SESAF or the Southeastern United States.

Send nominations to SESAF Awards Committee Chair Tim Lowrimore at tlowrimore@davisgarvin.com. Nomination forms are available at [http://www.sesaf.org/pdf/sesaf_awards12.pdf](http://www.sesaf.org/pdf/sesaf_awards12.pdf)

Alabama News

*By Brent Shaver, Division Chair*

2014 AL Division Meeting, Division Nominations and Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters

The AL Division Executive Committee has begun planning the 2014 annual meeting. The meeting will be held at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia, Alabama. I’m sure many of you have fond memories of Summer Camp at the Dixon Center, and I am certainly looking forward to revisiting the site where my career began. The meeting is planned for April 11-12, 2014, beginning the morning of Friday, April 11, and wrapping up around noon on Saturday, April 12. Additional trainings may be offered Saturday afternoon. If you were not already aware, the Dixon Center has seen many upgrades in the past few years including 24 hotel-style rooms capable of sleeping 48 people, and the addition of the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation Learning Center – a new building featuring a 100-seat auditorium, 40-seat classroom and a conference room. Of course, bunkhouse-style accommodations are still available with beds for up to 50 people and meals are available on site. Overflow lodging is available at Blue Lake and in Andalusia. Though the final agenda is not complete, topics being considered include: forest pests, forest certification, products/markets, state of forest technology and a longleaf pine field tour. More information will follow as plans for the meeting are finalized.

With 2013 steadily progressing it is time to begin thinking about officer nominations for the coming year. If you are interested in great opportunities for networking, advancing the forestry profession and becoming more involved in SAF, then becoming part of the AL Division Executive Committee will be a great start! Or, if you know a member who may be ready to take the next step in SAF, then discuss with them the possibility of serving…this is your organization – be a part of it! To be included with the SESAF ballot, officer nominations and bios are due to the SESAF office by October 16.

On July 24, members of the AL Division Executive Committee met with the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters to discuss: Continuing Forestry Education, ASBRF Board Membership Diversity and Nominations for a new ASBRF board member. There are many opportunities for continuing education across the state. Check out the SAF calendar at [http://www.safnet.org/calendar/index.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/calendar/index.cfm) for upcoming courses. If you are planning to provide CFE training please contact Tom Gallagher with Auburn University at tgallagher@auburn.edu for assignment of credits and continuing education certificates. Similarly, for PLM training events please contact Chris Erwin with Alabama Forestry Association at cerwin@alaforestry.org. Also, in the upcoming weeks the AL Division SAF Forestry Registration and Licensing Committee will submit nominations to the Governor for appointment of one new member to the ASBRF for a five-year term. For more news on the ASBRF check out their website at [http://www.asbrf.alabama.gov/](http://www.asbrf.alabama.gov/).
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Georgia News
By Christopher Rosier, Division Chair

2013 Georgia Division Annual Meeting - A Huge Success Thanks To Our Membership

The Georgia Division held its 63rd Annual Meeting at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta, GA on August 5th and 6th. The theme for this year’s meeting was “Good to Great: Forest Technology in the 21st Century.” The aim of this year’s meeting was to address the role new technologies have on our management practices. I, like many of you, believe that understanding the role of science and new technologies greatly increases our ability to not only be better forest managers, but also produce more high value forest products. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our planning committee and with technology as our theme, we were able to bring in some of the top professionals in their respective fields to speak to our membership which resulted in more than 115 attendees. When you add in the strong support from our 12 sponsors and 10 exhibitors, the meeting was a financial and educational success for the Division. In addition, we were able to raise more than $1,200 from the silent auction to help support student scholarships at both the University of Georgia (UGA) and our newest member, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC). On that note, I would like to send a special thank you to Barbara Boler and Gail Westcot for their efforts in making the silent auction a success.

Not only did our membership get to hear from some excellent speakers at this year’s meeting, but we also had the privilege to recognize several people for their outstanding achievements and longtime support of the Georgia Division SAF. At this year’s awards banquet, Mr. Claude Yearwood was presented with a plaque recognizing his induction into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame. In addition to Claude’s induction, I had the honor of announcing our two newest Georgia Fellows: Mr. Dean McCraw and Mr. Dick Rightmyer. Both will be presented with their awards at the SESAF Annual Meeting coming up in January 2014. As well as recognizing a few of our longtime supporters, I also had the opportunity to welcome our newest group to the Georgia Division membership – ABAC’s Student Chapter, who showed up in force to receive their official SAF Student Chapter Charter and welcome letter from the National Office.

I would like to thank everyone again for their support in making this year’s annual meeting such a success and I look forward to seeing everyone again next year. Hopefully we can build on the successes of this year and continue to move from Good to Great.
**Flint River Chapter**  
*By Wayne Bell*

The Flint River SAF Chapter met in Moultrie, GA for the July meeting. International Forest Company (IFCO) hosted the meeting with approximately 36 members and visitors attending. The meeting began by visiting the IFCO nursery production nursery of 60 million container seedlings. Clark Duncan, Production Manager, gave a presentation on how the nursery production process begins with preparation of seeds for sowing, the actual sowing of the seeds and the process of taking the filled growing trays to the field. The group then traveled to the field to view the trays under the pivots where Mike Coyle, Operations Manager, talked with the group about seed germination, growing and packing for shipment.

The group next traveled to a test site area that IFCO has established of various genetic levels of improved loblolly trees. Dr. Phil Dougherty, Progressive Forestry, an IFCO partner, gave the group information on how genetics plays a critical role in today’s forest management with a first-hand view of the site. Dr. Dougherty discussed OP (Open Pollinated), CMP (Control Mass Pollinated) and Varietal (Clonal) seedlings and what each has to offer and what should be considered when planting.

The meeting ended at Moultrie Technical College where Chris Johnston, IFCO Sales Manager, spoke on the IFCO Seedling Decision Pyramid and the phrase “Be Smart Before You Start.” Chris explained the reasons of choosing the right stock type of seedlings and the advantages of using container seedlings. Chris also explained how seedlings can now be protected from tip moth beginning at the nursery by using PTM insecticide.

Dr. Dougherty spoke about the various components of the Seedling Decision Pyramid starting with markets, climate, soils, silviculture and genetics and how all of these interact. He also showed a financial model of choosing various options with genetics and silviculture. Values were addressed and showed remarkable differences depending on a landowner’s choices. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a seafood buffet hosted by IFCO.

**Oconee Chapter**  
*By Dick Rightmyer, Secretary-Treasurer*

Damage to forest habitat and the quality management of deer in forests were key points of a presentation by Mr. Brian Murphy, director of QDMA, to the Oconee Chapter at the May 16th meeting in Bogart, GA. The Chapter gathered at the National Headquarters of QDMA, or Quality Deer Management Association, for a catered meal followed by Brian’s presentation. He shared information on the growing impacts of wild hogs and coyotes on deer populations, and the site damage caused by growing numbers of hogs. QDMA is a nationwide organization with 52,000 members, beginning in 1988. It promotes sustainable, high quality deer populations and wildlife habitats – a desirable goal for forest landowners. Those attending the meeting had the opportunity to see QDMA’s collection of antlers in the office lobby, one from each state where deer are hunted.

Chapter meeting location, food and program shifted from “big bucks” at the May meeting to the tiniest of creatures causing damage and loss of forests and trees. Dr. Paul Arnold, professor of biology at Young Harris College, and Dr. Jim Wentworth, wildlife biologist on the Blue Ridge Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest, spoke at the July meeting on the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid. The meeting was hosted by chapter member Frank Riley at his Hiwassee River property, with a Chapter favorite meal of low country boil prepared by Larry Luckett. Dr. Arnold has directed a rearing lab at Young Harris College since 2005, specifically for the raising of predator beetles to be released in areas where hemlocks are being attacked by the spreading populations of the tiny Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA). Thousands of mature Eastern hemlock trees have been under attack in the north Georgia mountains since about 2003, resulting in the loss of these forest giants common along perennial streams. The U.S. Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and numerous volunteers have been actively involved in an on-going battle to slow the spread of HWA that will likely disappear from the eastern U.S. forests without successful controls.

Jim Wentworth spoke on the Forest Service efforts to treat selected hemlock trees with appropriate insecticide using soil injection. Positive results have been noted in the survival of treated hemlocks. The HWA has spread from the northeastern corner of the state across to the Conasauga River drainage, attacking both on public and private ownerships. Jim also spoke on the efforts to conserve genetic material of hemlocks for future research and restocking efforts.

Future meetings include September 19th at Flinchum’s Phoenix in Athens with the UGA Student Chapter. Dr. Daniel Markewitz will be the speaker for a presentation on forest soil management. The final meeting of the year will be November 21st, at a location to be determined.
**CHAPTER NEWS**

**War Eagle Chapter**  
*By Joe Roberson, Chair*

The fourth quarter meeting of the War Eagle SAF Chapter will be on November 12, 2013 at the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences in room 1101 (the Conference Hall).

The program on “Inventory Solutions” will be presented by Landmark Spatial Solutions LLC and is approved for two hours CFE credit and three hours PLM credit. The agenda will be available later, but please mark your calendars now!

All members are encouraged to attend and guests are welcome. Attendance will be limited to the first 100 attendees. For further information, contact Joe Roberson at (334) 855-5868.

**Apps Helping Farmers Identify Unwanted Pests**  
*Clint Thompson*

*Tuesday, August 6th, 2013*

Is there an unwanted insect or plant on your farm or in your garden that you don’t recognize? The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has an app for that.

Invasive species trackers at the UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health have developed a suite of apps to help farmers, forestry personnel and home gardeners identify strange unwanted pests. They can now identify their problem pests in the field, rather breaking away to sit down at a computer and look it up.

Apps developed by the center’s technology director Chuck Bargeron and his co-workers provide direct links to different databases specializing in informing and educating the public about invasive species, those not native to an area that has been introduced and causing damage to agriculture and forestry. Such species include the kudzu bug that munches on soybeans and the spotted wing drosophila which affects blueberry crops.

“For the IOS platform, we’ve had more than 25,000 downloads of apps. The most successful one was the first one we did which was for Florida, which was focused primarily on pythons in south Florida. It’s probably been the most successful because it had the most press coverage when it first came out,” Bargeron said.

The app is one of 17 the center has developed. It provides different apps for different parts of the country because, for example, farmers in the Western United States aren’t concerned with the same species that growers in the Southeast are concerned with. Working a regional perspective allows users to focus on species in their geographic area.

The latest app developed was a collaborative project between Bargeron and Michael Toews, a UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences entomologist on the Tifton campus. It’s an app that Toews’ research technicians use in the field as they study stinkbugs. The technicians can count the number of stinkbugs they see, record it in the app, save it and then export the information as an Excel spreadsheet. According to Bargeron, the days of Toews transcribing all handwritten sheets are a thing of the past.

Bargeron and members of the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health have had great success with database web-based resources of information, especially after the pictures image archive were added to the website in 2001. When Keith Douce and David Moorhead, co-directors of the center formally known as Bugwood Network, launched the website in 2001 they added pictures from 35mm slides. Approximately 3,500 pictures were available. As more and more people began using the website and recognizing its value, they started sharing their own pictures. The database of pictures increased greatly in the 12 years since the website was started. Now, more than 200,000 pictures from more than 2,000 photographers are in the systems database.

These resources have also changed the way forestry and agriculture classes are taught. An entomology professor at Texas A&M told Douce the resources caused him to completely restructure how he teaches his classes.

According to Douce, the center website generated 9.3 million users last year and 260 million hits.

For more information, visit the website at [http://www.bugwood.org/](http://www.bugwood.org/)

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Three Reasons You Cannot Miss the 2012 SAF National Convention

Countless Learning Opportunities

The scientific and technical program combines tangible skills with the latest science and research. Sessions will focus on ecological resilience, the role of forest management in sustaining forests, and the role of communities and collaborations in resilient forests. Tracks include:

- Agroforestry
- Soil & Water Resources
- Wildland Fire
- Geospatial Applications
- Forest Health
- Leadership & Communications
- Urban Ecosystems
- Silviculture & Forest Ecology
- Forest Management & Operations
- Geospatial Applications

Awesome Location

Near the magnificent forests of the Inland Empire, our host city Spokane, Washington, offers a natural backdrop for discussing issues important to the entire forestry profession. This includes the many links between the social, economic, and ecological considerations that contribute to resilience.

One Incredible Event

Nowhere else can you gain so many solutions for invasive species, watershed and ecosystem management, GIS, and more. Maximize your professional investment by selecting sessions on the scientific and practical information that meet your unique interests. Attend specialized workshops and unique technical field tours to see direct application.

Registration Opens in May. For details, visit www.safconvention.org