Greetings!

Dear Foresters of Southeastern SAF: Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chair in 2019. I and the Executive Committee plan to continue the work of Clint Mancil, Karen Johansen and the SAF National Office to shore up the SESAF website, which will link to National and Division sites to foster information transfer across the Society. My priorities also include developing a strong annual meeting and to continue our growing student participation in that meeting.

First, we are planning our meeting in February to better accommodate student attendance, as the usual late January date is difficult for students. At this writing we have not finalized arrangements with four properties bidding, but the meeting is planned for February 22-25, 2020 (backup February 16-18). Our meeting theme is “Recovery From the Storm”, which could include sessions on salvage, mitigating threats of fire and insect outbreaks, geomatics, restoration silviculture, policy, and more.

In support of our website development and the larger need to reach out to a younger audience, I am proposing to the Executive Committee the establishment of a “Communications Chair”. Noelle Arena, Harvest Manager Southern Timberlands, Weyerhaeuser, has agreed to serve in this capacity for the 2019 term. She has experience with website editing, social media and videography. Noelle has a lot of ideas about how we can enhance our communication and boost membership, and she brings enthusiasm and commitment to SESAF leadership.
Accreditation

One of the Five Key Pillars that guide your Board of Directors as we support strategic direction by the Board is to Elevate the Professional Status of our members. A hallmark of every professional is to maintain their current knowledge within and about their profession. We do this as professional foresters through Continuing Forestry Education (CFE).

CFE’s can be obtained in several ways. There are times in our busy lives that it is difficult to attend meetings or workshops to earn the required annual CFE credit hours. A new approach to give greater flexibility is found online in the recently launched ForestEd platform. The ForestEd platform will include several online opportunities for a professional forester to maintain their credentials, whether you are state Registered Forester or hold SAF Certified Forester status. It can now be done 24/7 anywhere that you have internet access to the SAF website, eforester.org. ForestEd will have multiple opportunities to maintain and advance your professional knowledge.

Launched in February, Journal of Forestry quizzes became available online. If you go the SAF Homepage and then to Certification and Education, you will find an opportunity within the Continuing Education tab to read the Journal and take an online quiz on what you have read. Answer the questions, submit the exam and you get immediate feedback on your exam score. Successful completion is defined as a score of at least 70%. If you pass, the CFE records of SAF members and those non-members who are certified will automatically be updated. It works! I tried it!

You may receive CFE credit for up to one year after publishing date. CFE’s vary per quiz. A fee is required each time a quiz is taken which is $30 for members and $45 for nonmembers.

ForestEd will have several other education opportunities. A future feature will be SAF Conventions online. These will be available in real-time or recorded and participation to earn CFE’s is planned. Additionally, SAF is partnering with several SAF accredited programs to offer on-line graduate certificate programs. These are administered within the academic programs of the institutional partners and will have several specialty areas. These education programs should start showing up on our SAF website in the coming months. Education is a life-long process. As your professional society, SAF is committed to providing its members with a broad array of opportunities to offer and support your continuing education.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments. I can always be reached at brinkrw@auburn.edu

“A hallmark of every professional is to maintain their current knowledge within and about their profession.”
The Alabama Division of the Society of American Foresters has started 2019 with strong momentum. On the heels of a fantastic annual meeting in Auburn, Alabama, I am happy to report the successful “passing of the baton” for several positions on the division executive committee. In addition to the long-standing contributions from our treasurer (Ed Lowenstein) and historian (Dick Brinker), we’ve several new contributors to our executive team: Daniel Crawford (Chair), David Wilkinson (Chair-elect), Yenie Tran (Secretary). I’d also like to recognize and express thanks to Chris Erwin (Immediate Past Chair) for his service and commitment over the past year as our Chair.

One of the primary goals for 2019 is to increase participation and engagement across the state and through our local chapters. We’ve started a more active outreach initiative to stay more engaged with the membership across the state. AL Division members can anticipate at least one email per month from our executive committee including important state level information, interesting news articles and events, and promoting opportunities to engage. Our email outreach initiatives provide us with metrics for measuring readership and, thus far, approximately 60 percent of our members are consuming the distribution. While this is a strong baseline, I look forward to reporting even stronger outreach as the year progresses.

SAVE THE DATE: The AL Division Annual Meeting is slated for September 20-21 in Birmingham, Alabama. Details on how to register will be distributed to the AL Division membership soon.

I am looking forward to representing this great organization at the state level and hope to have the opportunity to meet everyone at local chapter meetings throughout the year. Cheers to a prosperous 2019.

2019 SESAF Golden Members

James I. Alfriend
Boak Brantley
Frederick Frengel
Raymond K. Geiger
Dean H. Gjerstad

Charles M. Goodowns CF
Sam Gravel
Tolbert C. Hudson
Alan D. McAllister
John E. Morris
James F. Naylor Jr.

Thomas F. Quink
Richard R. Ramey
Charles R. Rozier
Albert F. Schober Jr.
Wayne H. Smith
Greetings to All,

The Alabama SESAF meeting in Mobile is now history. If you missed it, there was a lot of good forestry and timber information presented. I particularly enjoyed Phil Dougherty’s presentation on matching current genetics to the correct site. If you missed this meeting, I look forward to seeing you in Florida next year.

Pat Minogue has been elected SESAF Chair for this year, and I could not have thought of a better person to lead SESAF in 2019. Yep, it’s our turn to host. As Chair, Pat will be responsible for the SESAF meeting that will be held somewhere in the Florida panhandle. I am certain the topics will include timely information. Think hurricane.

Notwithstanding, Pat will need some help. Probably not too much, but if you want to put your name on the help/resource list, now would be a very good time to volunteer. Simply send Pat and cc me with your name and contact information and as quick as you can say “It’s so dry the trees are bribing the dogs” you will be part of the team.

I now turn our attention to the Florida Division and elections. It is time to accept nominations for the upcoming year. On the State level, Brian Condon currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer and is responsible for all State elections and referenda. Each Chapter also needs elections for their Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. For those of you with an interest in the Secretary-Treasurer office, remember each Chapter has an option of maintaining their own checking account or keeping their funds in the State checking account. An email will be out shortly with the details.

I am asking all Chapter Chairs and past Chairs to send me an email, so we can get this tree felled. Election time is here.
I hope this letter finds everyone excited about the end of winter and the beginning of spring. I think that most of us will just be ready for a little bit of dry weather so we can catch back up after the rain has set us back. I would like to thank the past Georgia Division Chair, Danielle Atkins, for her leadership this past year and for her help guiding me so far through this year.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at SESAF a few weeks ago in Mobile, AL and if you missed it hopefully you can make the Georgia Division meeting. We are currently planning the meeting which will be held in Tifton, GA on May 15-16 so make plans to attend. We have several speakers lined up and are waiting to hear from the rest before we will send out the final agenda.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Michael Kelly on his selection into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame. We all know how involved Michael has been in SAF and we ALL appreciate his leadership and years of service. Alfred Ackerman was also inducted posthumously into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame. We are also excited about Drs. Pete Bettinger and Dick Daniels being named SAF Fellows last year. This recognition is for their contributions and outstanding service to SAF.

I look forward to seeing you in Tifton.
46th Annual SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium
“Family Forests: Sustaining a Legacy”

April 30 - May 1, 2019
Roland T. Stern Learning Center at the University of Florida Austin Cary Forest Campus
10625 NE Waldo Rd., Gainesville, FL 32609

Sponsored by the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation and Florida Division Society of American Foresters, this year’s Symposium will explore topics and strategies that landowners and forestry and natural resource professionals in a variety of sectors can explore and use to help family forests remain productive and intact into the future, and provide for the many benefits valued by family forest landowners and society.

Topics will include landowner associations, forest product markets, new landscape planning approaches, forest certification, economics, hurricane recovery, genetically improved southern pines, wildlife habitat provisions, intergenerational land transfer, and more!

SAF Continuing Forestry Education Credits are pending approval.

**Registration:**
$125 full registration for landowners (Forest Stewards, Tree Farmers, or others interested; no Eventbrite fee)

$150 full registration for current SAF members (no Eventbrite fee)

$175 regular full registration (+ Eventbrite fee)

Single-day registrations available

A preliminary agenda and details are here:

Register online now at: [https://46-saf-sfrc-spring-symposium.eventbrite.com](https://46-saf-sfrc-spring-symposium.eventbrite.com)

Questions? Contact Chris Demers at 352.846.2375
University of Florida Quiz Bowl Team prepares for their victory lap, placing first in the competition.

SAF CEO Terry Baker addresses the participants at the start of the meeting.

Keynote speaker Brooks Mendell challenges us to consider “Are You Planting Trees, or Growing Forests?”
Thanks to our sponsors, speakers, and attendees for a great meeting!

Jay Chupp of IFCO presenting industry employment opportunities to the students in their break-out session.

Clint Mancil, 2018 SESAF Chair, introducing Rick Oates, Chief of the Alabama Forestry Commission and State Forester for Alabama.

Sponsor tables were popular with professionals and students alike.
Kari Knutson and Maggie Felden accepting UF Quiz Bowl First Place award from Clint Mancil.

Dan Roach, inducted as SAF Fellow for 2018, was recognized at the SESAF Annual Meeting.

Mobile’s low country cuisine did not disappoint hungry foresters.
Sponsors made important contacts to help fill positions.

Question and Answer opportunities frequently extended beyond the presentations.

Receptions offered time to meet and greet friends.

Part of the photogenic Florida delegation: Eric Hoyer, Kari Hurst, and John Holzaepfel. Eric and Kari did an outstanding job recruiting a great slate of sponsors for this year’s meeting.
Dr. Wayne Smith receiving his SAF Golden Member award from 2019 Chair Pat Minogue. Thank you, Wayne, for your faithful support of SAF and SESAF.