



Spring 2003

Mark Your Calendars

The 2003 annual meeting of the Ouachita Society of American Foresters(OSAF) is scheduled for **November 5 and 6** at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR.

The educational sessions will analyze the Farm Bill's impact on forestry and wildlife management. The program allows time for experts to discuss demographic changes that are forcing new and more comprehensive forest management strategies.

Foresters, wildlife biologists, consultants and timber buyers will be challenged to think about how their recommendations meet the needs of landowners who are increasingly concerned with making forest diversity and wildlife management an important part of their ownership objectives.

Foresters to Descend on Washington

The Society of American Foresters is holding its first ever "Legislative Days" so its members can take advantage of SAF's contacts on Capitol Hill and connect with the policymakers who influence and create the nation's forest laws and regulations. The event will be held June 2-3 in Washington, DC.

Legislative Days will allow SAF members to visit Washington, DC, to share their experiences and ideas with key forest policymakers and interest groups. Attendees will gain first-hand knowledge of how the federal legislative and budget processes work, develop the necessary skills to become a stakeholder in policy decisions, and network with those involved in forest policy development.

Legislative Days can help SAF members become better leaders within the organization as well as in their capacity as forestry professionals.

First Spirit Award Presented



Because of their outstanding contribution to the community of Warren, Arkansas, David and Michelle Chambers were recognized with our first OSAF Spirit award at the 2002 banquet in Ft. Smith. Dr. Chambers and his wife have bought the local hardwood mill from Potlatch Corporation and renamed it the Bradley Lumber Co., its original name in 1903. Fortunately, Potlatch provided the Chambers with its customer list, giving them instant business.

Until recently, Dr. Chambers was more accustomed to helping his community through his medical practice. He and Michelle took on the challenge of keeping the mill open because it provides employment for 50-75 members of the Warren community.

"Seventy-five jobs to us is very important," said Mary Seymore, executive director of the Bradley County Industrial Development Corporation.

"We're a small community and we can't afford to lose any more industry than we already have," Chambers said.

He hopes to focus on hardwoods because he believes it has a good, long-term future. He said recently that after selling off existing inventory, the mill has again begun to make boards.

"I don't know if we are making any money," Chambers commented, "But I do know we are making some good looking boards!"

OSAF 2002 Awards

Among the awards presented at the 2002 conference, the Ouachita recognized the UAM Student Chapter for their outstanding performance at the Quiz Bowl Competition at SAF's National Convention. **Jeremy Wells of UAM** was recognized as the OSAF Outstanding Student. **Jim Sorenson** was honored as a new SAF fellow, and he gave a very touching speech thanking his father, who also attended, for all of his sacrifices. **Ted Chancey** and **Richard Taylor**, both of Arkansas, were recognized as Golden Members at the banquet.

The Oklahoma Division recognized anniversary memberships with SAF pins. Those included **Phillip M. Hayden** and **Dennis Eugene Wilson** (10-year members) and **James L. Harned** (30-year member).

(See the back page for more awards.)

Reflections from the Chair

Greeting from the tall pines of Southeast Arkansas. As your current Chair I would like to take a few moments to bring you up-to-date on the Ouachita SAF.

One of the problems for the Program Committee is trying to determine how many will attend the Annual Meeting. Plans were made in 2002 for over a hundred and less than half of that showed up. The budget took a hit and it cost us money instead of breaking even.

With this in mind, the Executive Committee met on January 28, 2003 in Fort Smith to discuss developing a more attractive meeting. As a result, this year's meeting, co-sponsored with the Wildlife Society, will be one and one-half days. I would encourage everyone who plans to attend to register so we can more accurately plan the program. If for some reason you are unable to attend, a refund may be possible prior to the meeting.

The Ouachita SAF is our professional society and we should support it. In the past, the Chair-Elect alternated between an Arkansas member and an Oklahoma member. To get back on that rotation both candidates for Chair-Elect will come from the Oklahoma Division for 2004, then two candidates from the Arkansas Division in 2005.

The problem comes when the Nominating Committee can't find candidates from that division. With this point in mind, I encourage all members to become more involved with your local chapter/division.

On a larger scale, the state societies are divided up into smaller 'covener groups'. This allows an information flow up to National and back down to our Society. National SAF is always looking for input. If you go to their website at www.safnet.org and something gets your attention, pass it along to me or a member of the Executive Committee. (See a list of officers on the next page.)

If everyone would help out a little it would make the Ouachita Society stronger and a few people would not have to do so much. If you are interested in being a part of the Executive Committee, come to one of our meetings. Our Committee meeting dates are May 6, July 29, and October 7 at the Dallas Branch Library in Fort Smith.

A few last notes—the Ouachita Society met and exceeded its membership goal for 2002, one of the few societies that did. At the National Convention, the students from the University of Arkansas at Monticello won the 'Quiz Bowl'. Petitions for Fellow nominees are due in the National Office by May 21, 2003. Congratulations to our two newest members to reach 50 years as an SAF Member: Dave Sharer of Monticello and Jim Wenner of Hot Springs.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who had a part in our Annual Meeting last December. A lot of hard work went on behind the scenes that was very much appreciated. Thanks for a job well done.

Doug Grimmett, OSAF Chairman

From Oklahoma



From left to right: Carri Abner, Melissa Pearson, Veronica Keithley, Tim Cannon, Steve Mattax, Dave Lewis and Andrew Pearson display their bonsai creations from a recent workshop.

Oklahoma SAFers go Bonsai!

The Oklahoma Division of SAF offered a bonsai workshop in Tecumseh, OK on Saturday, April 5, 2003. Steve Mattax led the activities, which included creating individual bonsai trees as a fund raising project for the group. The event was a great opportunity to get together with fellow foresters, as well as accomplish financial goals for the organization.

On March 29th, the Oklahoma Division of SAF traveled to Atoka, OK for a tour of forestry projects currently underway with Cross Timbers Forestry, which provides management consultation on the 15,000 acre Lake Atoka Reservation for the City of Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust. This lake supplies water to the city via a 128-mile pipeline, the Atoka Waterway. Consulting foresters Tim Cannon and Veronica Keithley hosted the event, discussing proposed timber harvesting and a newly constructed road.

From Arkansas

The Arkansas division of the Ouachita SAF met on May 1, 2003 in conjunction with the Arkansas registered foresters meeting held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The emphasis of the meeting was cost-share assistance available to private non-industrial forest landowners for reforestation and stand improvement.

The Arkansas division is currently reviewing its by-laws. In addition, it is studying possible locations for a forestry museum and nature trail. Division members are considering the state park at Smackover and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Material is currently being cataloged for the museum.

Do we have your current e-mail address? Would you like to receive the Reporter electronically? Send updates to Jim Guldin to jguldin@fs.fed.us

Service, Danger, Sacrifice, Honor

A ceremony was held on April 25, 2003 in the courtyard of the Forest Heritage Center, located in Beavers Bend Resort Park, to dedicate a monument to the wildland firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice to willingly accept danger and hardship to protect our natural resources.

This service also memorialized Oklahoma Forestry Services' firefighter Jim Burnett who died in the line of duty on August 11, 2000 at the Kate's Basin Fire in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

The permanent memorial cost \$25,000 to which the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes contributed substantially. At the close of the ceremony, the participants laid pine sprigs tied with purple ribbon at the feet of this bronze firefighter statue.

OSAF Executive Committee

Doug Grimmett	Chair
Ray Boutz	Vice-Chair
Caroll Guffey	Secretary/Treasurer
Ray Boutz	Program Committee
Robert McFarland	Nominating Committee
Randy Holeman	Tellers Committee
Larry Nance	Auditing Committee
Mary Marek	Awards Committee
Tim Cannon	Membership Coordinator
Jim Giltmier	Policy/Legis. Coordinator
Melissa Pearson	Communications Coordinator
Bill Ross	Education Coordinator
Joe Friend	Foresters Fund Coordinator
Bob Levins	Historian
Don Hinton	Arkansas Division Chair
Dave Lewis	Oklahoma Division Chair

OUACHITA SAF Budget Proposal for 2003

Income

Dues	\$3,500.00
Interest	130.00
Meeting Registration	6,000.00
Meeting Sponsorships	2,000.00
Student Sponsorships	300.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$11,930.00

Expenses

Chapter Dues Disbursements	\$1,500.00
HSD Dues	300.00
Ouachita Reporter	600.00
OSAF Web Page	120.00
National Meeting Travel	1,000.00
Printing & Mailing	250.00
Student Scholarship	600.00
Student SAF Meeting Expenses	200.00
Office Supplies	100.00
Awards	200.00
SAF Centennial Time Capsule Plaque	200.00
Leadership Training	500.00
Bank Charges	25.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	6,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$11,695.00
Surplus or Deficit:	+\$235.00

Membership News

by Tim Cannon, OSAF membership chair

As is their wont, the national office of the SAF has sent down the latest membership report for the Society. You get the data by region, by division, by chapter, by heck. And you get our membership goals for the year. At this time we are eight over our goal. Great! Hooray! Right? No, nonpaying members have not been "purged" from their lists yet.

With Bob Levins' help we have called everyone that is not current and encouraged them to send in the money. Most agreed, some couldn't be found, and one argued for 45 minutes with me over the worth of SAF membership.

The reason for joining SAF is to associate and learn with your fellow foresters. We are a small but very important brotherhood (and sisterhood, maybe siblinghood is a new way to say it).

We need to associate with each other, recreate with each other, and generally share the responsibilities and glories of managing the world's wildlands. Think about it, then work with other foresters to enjoy and grow in the profession, take pride in your life's work and show it to your family.

We will be down in membership after the purge, I imagine, but our Ouachita Society will beat the national goal, and go on to have more members join this year than any other society in the country. So if any one asks you why they need to join SAF, tell them it's because the local division or chapter is so rewarding that you can't afford not to join!

Cannon Chosen Field Forester of the Year



Central Oklahoma will probably never be known for its forests, but it is known for its foresters. One such noteworthy forester is Tim Cannon, the Ouachita Society's Field Forester of the Year for 2002.

Tim joined the forestry profession in 1972 and has spent his career in many places with numerous responsibilities, the whole time maintaining his connection to the land and to on-the-ground forestry. In preparing his nomination, three main characteristics were frequently mentioned by colleagues and clients: Tim's generous nature, his cutting edge scientific knowledge and expertise in forestry technology, and his commitment to train the next generation of foresters.

As a field forester, an instructor, and a consultant, Tim has found a gift for communicating with people. Not only does he hear what his clients are asking of him, but he sees the larger implications of their requests. He continues to expand and specialize projects to provide cooperators with information they can use.

Tim is described by one of his partnering organizations as going above and beyond, continuing to honor additional requests long after the projects are completed, even attending meetings and consultations on his personal time. His generous spirit and attention to details makes Tim the perfect award recipient for OSAF Field Forester of the Year.

Congratulations to...

Pat Stephens Williams whose Foresters Fund Grant application for the "Natural Resource Education Program" was approved for \$1,500. This is our second grant approved for OSAF this year...we received \$500 for the website earlier.

Conference Devoted to Making Sustainable Forestry Work

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is co-sponsoring a national conference to help ensure that practical sustainable forestry can continue to be practiced in the global marketplace. The conference, "Practical Sustainable Forestry and the Marketplace: Making It Work," will be held June 30 to July 2 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

According to Michael T. Goergen Jr., SAF's interim executive vice-president and CEO, a vital element of this conference is for SAF and other organizations to work together to promote the appropriate incentives that will help foresters, landowners, and loggers to continue to implement sustainable forestry practices.

The three-day event will begin with presentations by foresters, wildlife biologists, timber harvesters, landowner associations, and timberland investment managers who will give their general perspectives on sustainable forest management and forest certification and the role they play in the marketplace. Conference participants will then break out into facilitated discussion groups to share their practical ideas on incentives and other tools to support sustainable forestry.

The conference will conclude with the groups coming back together to develop a plan to make sustainability work for the people who are most affected by it.



Outbreak of Borers Unprecedented

Preliminary results from biomonitoring studies by USDA Forest Service researchers confirm an unprecedented outbreak of red oak borers in the upland hardwood forests of the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

Jim Guldin, research ecologist with the FS Southern Research Station and project leader of the SRS Upland Forest Ecosystems unit in Monticello, AR, recently announced the results of a pilot study started in 2002 to quantify the extent of the outbreak.