



The Ohio Hetuch



Winter 2017

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Thank you to the membership for electing me to this position. I look forward to serving you over the course of this year. Thank you to the Executive Committee for your continued guidance and support. Congratulations to Jim Chattin for being elected as the Chair Elect. Thank you to Stephanie Downs for the great job as 2016 Chair .



At the time of writing this article, I am wrapping up the planning process of the Winter Meeting. Please plan on attending! The upcoming Winter Meeting will at the OSU Agricultural Administration Building auditorium on March 7th and 8th. We have a variety of speakers and a scheduled trip to see the new Hardwoods in Higher Education Exhibit at the Ohio State Thompson Library. Thank you Mark Ervin, John Dorka, Kathy Smith and many others for your hard work to bring this exhibit to life. It is exciting to see forestry as the centerpiece of an exhibit on “main campus.”

The Executive Committee and I need your guidance and will continue to ask for it. We are considering a membership survey later this year. OSAF’s last membership survey was nearly 15 years ago, so we are due. I believe that many of us have different feelings and comfort levels when it comes to technology and forms of communication than we did a decade ago. We’d like to know for sure, so stay tuned.

We can only work to address issues and help you get the most out of your SAF membership if you are active and engaged in the organization. One of the best ways to do that is to attend the Winter and Summer Meetings. Your participation at Executive Committee meetings is also crucial and I hope you’ll consider attending some in 2017. The next meeting is April 27th at 10 AM in the Columbus area. As soon as we determine the location, I will e-mail a meeting notice to everyone.

We are extremely fortunate to have Ohio’s own Lee Crocker as the District 9 SAF Representative and Katie Reiderman as the District 9 SAF Student Representative. Having these two representatives offers Ohio’s a strong voice at the national level. The *E-Forester* and *Forestry Source* are excellent resources to keep us updated on local and national forestry issues. If you have questions or concerns about an issue or topic, please let Lee, Katie, or me know. We will be happy to dig into issues you deem important.

Again, I look forward to seeing you all at the OSAF Winter Meeting in March.

Sincerely, Casey Burdick

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The Seasoned Forester

Fancy Meeting You Here

- Dan Kincaid

If you work as a Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, as I did for 31 years, you never know what you might get into. I enjoyed a widely diverse career and thoroughly enjoyed it. Maybe I had a short attention span; I don't know. But for me, variety was the spice of forestry life. True, I had traditional forestry assignments: forest inventory, timber sales, TSI, planting, I&D, and plenty of silvicultural prescriptions. But I also got involved with trail layout and maintenance, public affairs, firefighting, urban forestry, wilderness management, and oil & gas well administration. I managed a Visitor Center in Georgia, canoe routes in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota, part of the Appalachian Trail, soil and water restoration projects, and a number of fish and wildlife projects. And that's just what I can recall without thinking too much.

An interesting thing happened in 1988, the year after I had coordinated the 1987 cutting and shipping of the Capitol Christmas Tree from the Wayne NF – Marietta Unit to the U.S. Capitol (which is a story in itself). There were many forest fires in the West in 1988, including in Yellowstone National Park. Ohio and Indiana had sent a couple of crews on fire details. I was just about ready to accept a fire crew assignment, when another opportunity arose.

The Forest Service Eastern Region was asked by the Pacific Northwest Region (WA and OR) to send a couple of teams to help out at Mount St. Helens on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in WA. I was chosen for one of the slots along with a Landscape Architect from the Allegheny NF in Pennsylvania, a Recreation Technician from the Green Mountain NF in Vermont, a Visitor Center Manager from the Monongahela NF in West Virginia, and a Customer Service Specialist from the Ottawa NF in Michigan. We made up a team that spent about 2 ½ weeks at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in southwestern Washington. Why there? And why us?

The west was burning up and personnel from the Gifford Pinchot NF had been on fire details all summer long in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and California. They were very shorthanded for normal duties on the GPNF and the heavy recreation-use Labor Day weekend was coming up. They had a nice, new Visitor Center to run at Mount St. Helens and they were worried about staffing it over Labor Day. So, they asked the eastern NF's to help out.

They wanted some experienced personnel preferably. I had managed a Visitor Center in Georgia and helped with one in Minnesota. The other four team members had plenty of experience in recreation and visitor information activities, too. (In the interest of space, let me skip to what our assignment eventually became, as well as a very interesting Ohio connection that occurred).

The first week out there we were asked to evaluate certain recreation activities, including campgrounds, interpretive presentations at overlooks, signage, and the trail on the south side of the volcano, which allowed hikers to go all the way to the rim of the volcano. (Yes, we hiked to the rim!). We talked with hikers and visitors, made observations, and provided recommendations in a report to the Forest.

The second week included several days before, during, and after the Labor Day weekend...working at the Visitor Center. After an intensive one-day training session, we were ready to work. We staffed the information desk, ran the slide shows and movies in the theater, answered visitor questions in the exhibit hall, and led short hikes outside. I even gave 2 or 3 presentations in the theater about Harry Truman: the stubborn, cantankerous lodge owner at Spirit Lake who refused to evacuate prior to the volcanic eruption. He now lies buried, along with his 16 cats and several pet raccoons, 150 feet below the volcanic mudslides that occurred. I had taken an interest in the Harry Truman story after learning that he, like me, was a native West Virginian (except that I would have evacuated).

Now for the Ohio connection. One day at the Visitor Center, I heard someone yell, "Hey Kincaid! Is that you?" I turned to see Randy Clum and his wife, Koral, who at that time both *Continued on pg. 7*

The College Curriculum

Hocking College SAF Chapter

-Katie Reiderman (Sec/Treasurer), Elliot Smith (Vice President), & Jacob Nicholson (President)

The Society of American Foresters student chapter at Hocking College participated in many activities throughout the fall semester and beginning of the spring semester, giving the students ample opportunities to network with professionals and gain quality, volunteer experience. Several students volunteered at the Paul Bunyan Show in Cambridge the weekend of October 6th. Our students also interacted with high schoolers at the 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Camp at Canter's Cave and the Future Farmers of American Forestry Competition at Hocking College.

This spring we are focusing our efforts on fundraising for our trip to visit the redwood and giant sequoia forests in California this May. The vast majority of our efforts focus on timber stand improvement work. In addition to the fundraising this semester, the Hocking Forestry students are planning several events to fill out the year including winter dendrology hikes, a visit to Ohio's old growth forests, experiencing the process of harvesting maple syrup, and a club camping trip. Many of us students are looking forward to attending the Ohio SAF Winter Meeting in March.

During classes this semester, students have many opportunities to learn in the field and in the classroom. Most of the first year students focus on forest measurements, forest mapping and navigation, and forest ecology. They also earn their Ohio Commercial Pesticides License. Second year students focus on forest mensuration, forest issues and policy, and their capstone class: forest management. The majority of classes are taught by Jim and Stephanie Downs. Other classes are taught by a variety of professors specializing in GIS and GPS, wildlife management, timber harvesting and tree care, wildland fire, and biological sciences. While the coursework is becoming more challenging for all of the students in the Forest Management program at Hocking College, they have expressed a great enthusiasm for the field of forestry.

Like us on Facebook and follow our adventures at www.facebook.com/hockingcollegeforestryclub



Guest speaker, Randy Clum, talking about consulting forestry to forestry club. April 2016. Photo courtesy Hocking College Forestry Club Facebook page



Forest Science

Take That, Red Maple!

-Leila Pinchot, Research Ecologist
USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station

While collecting vegetation data with a research crew in Pennsylvania, where deer pressure is intense to put it mildly, the presence of decent-sized oak seedlings prompted hoorays and sometimes even dancing. Though deer aren't the main culprit in declining understory oak and hickory abundance in Ohio, managing for these species is just as much of a challenge.



A group of US Forest Service scientists have been studying strategies for increasing oak-hickory regeneration in Ohio for nearly 15 years. Many of you are aware of their Fire and Fire Surrogate study located in the Vinton State Experimental Forest and Zaleski State Forest. In January, Louis Iverson, Todd Hutchinson, Matt Peters, and Dan Yaussy, of the USFS Northern Research Station lab in Delaware, Ohio, published a paper in the journal *Ecosphere* that describes 13-year results from this study. In a nutshell, a partial harvest and repeated spring burns (years 1, 4, and 9) were implemented on sites spanning a gradient of light and soil moisture levels.



While red maple and yellow poplar were stimulated by the harvest and first fire, these species were suppressed by subsequent fires, to the benefit of oak and hickory seedlings. Across all sites, oak-hickory seedlings increased by 18 times. Increases were greatest on drier sites in which hotter fires killed more overstory trees and where competing vegetation was less intense.

From these results, the authors recommend that managers wishing to regenerate oak-hickory on dry to intermediate sites pair a partial harvest with two to three dormant-season fires that leave about 90 ft²/ac basal area. This system is not recommended for mesic sites, on which oak and hickory are less competitive. This study shows that fire can be a useful and effective tool in meeting management objectives and highlights the importance of long-term research.

You may access the paper for free here: www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/53436

Reference: Iverson, L.R., Hutchinson, T.F., Peters, M.P. and Yaussy, D.A., 2017. Long-term Response of Oak-Hickory Regeneration to Partial Harvest and Repeated Fires: Influence of Light and Moisture. *Ecosphere*, 8(1).

Urban Corner

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) aka Drones Applications for Urban Forestry

-David S. Bienemann, Municipal Arborist
City of Hamilton, Ohio

The City of Hamilton experienced a small tornado in the Lindenwold Subdivision on June 15, 2016. The storm in the southeast city neighborhood brought down large trees and electric utility poles in an eight block area. This major weather event happened prior to the City of Hamilton's GIS Tree Inventory of street trees. It took lots of time to review the damage in the field by multiple City personnel. The restoration of electric service and clean up was delayed until the field review was complete. A drone could have been a very handy tool to expedite our response efforts. Drones have the potential to offer Urban Forest Managers a number of important uses. Here are a few ideas.



Storm Damage: The most obvious application would be to use drones immediately after a weather event to determine street tree and infrastructure damage. An immediate aerial review of damage allows emergency services and decision makers to quickly and safely determine blocked street access, downed power lines, damage to homes or vehicles, and potential personal injuries. During secondary storm damage risk assessments, damaged tree canopies can be inspected from the ground for additional risk mitigation efforts. Drones would increase crew performance with emergency services, storm restoration, and clean up.

Tree Risk Inspections: Broken branches and other major defects can be more easily seen using the drone. It would also allow an additional level of inspection and prioritization for trees recommended for removal from a community's tree inventory. Therefore, drones offer an opportunity to verify the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist's risk assessment priorities which the Urban Forester may use to determine which trees should be removed first under contract.

Tree Health Monitoring: Insect and disease diagnosis and monitoring is another application of drones in Urban Forestry. Early detection is critical to planning and managing insect and disease outbreaks. Inspections may be done in tree canopies that stand out in infra-red, aerial inspections within city limits. The Urban Forester will be better able to manage and minimize the risk of the pest impacting the Urban Forest. Urban

Foresters will also be able to monitor and identify weather-related stresses such as drought, flooding, and climate change.

Street Tree Inventory: Street tree inventories may be updated using a drone to assess the condition of the tree, insects or disease, and damage, visibility concerns, and utility lines. It is estimated that a drone may decrease inspection times up to 70-80% versus walking to each tree.

Drone use in Urban Forestry operations offer communities an opportunity to increase local efficiency and effectiveness. Of course, there are many issues still to resolve; but someday drones may be an Urban Forestry tool as common as the saw.



Drone photo taken of Harrison Smith Park in Upper Sandusky, Ohio

District 9 Representative Update

- Lee Crocker

SAF just wrapped up an exciting national convention in Madison, WI. The total attendance was over 1700. There were over 700 students and recent graduates in attendance. The US Forest Service was in full force and was attempting to hire up to 140 during the convention. Everywhere you looked you saw foresters and other natural resource professionals preparing for an interview. There was a lot of energy and excitement throughout the convention. Wisconsin SAF put on quite a show and welcomed everyone with open arms. Katie Reiderman did a wonderful job representing the district's students.

Ohio currently has 232 SAF members and national SAF ended the year with 11,874 members. SAF is only as strong as its members. If you have not renewed for 2017 please do so before the grace period ends on March 1, 2017.

The SAF board of directors met in December and discussed several relevant issues. Forestry is evolving and the profession is changing. How must SAF change to stay relevant, support the profession and society as a whole? In a society where fewer and fewer people spend quality time in the outdoors, how can we engage young people so they see forestry as a viable and important profession.

Stephanie Downs has agreed to serve on a national committee to review the national SAF property in Bethesda, MD. This committee has a major charge and we are blessed to have Stephanie represent the district on this committee that will help set the direction of SAF in the future.

Lee A. Crocker, Certified Forester

District 9 Boards of Directors

Welcome New Ohio SAF Members!

Curtis Bowles

Colin Broderick

Keith Daisher

Robert Denney

Aaron Gerow

Dan Giannamore

Samuel Kaiser

Paul Gaschalk

Jeffrey Johnson

Jacob Kline

Carolyn Lefevers

Bradley Lubell

Lauren Newman

Jacob Nicholson

April Nickles

Patrick O'Reilly

Austin Riffle

Elliot Smith

Shannon Talty

Page Weckbacher

Dale Wolfe

Benjamin Woods

“Fancy...” Continued from page 2

worked for the Ohio Division of Forestry and were on vacation. They had no idea I was in Washington or vice versa. I knew them both from Ohio SAF and from having taught with them at Ohio Forestry Association Forestry Camp in the early to mid 1980s, which in those days was held at Hidden Hollow Camp near Mansfield. What a coincidence! We talked for a while, and they mentioned that there was another guy from Ohio on the bus tour who was from near Marietta and that maybe I knew him too. Sure enough, I did. It was C.J. Cunningham, a Washington County Agricultural Extension Agent. C.J. and I had worked together on a couple of advisory committees and projects for the county commissioners. We also talked for several minutes. All four of us couldn't get over the chance meeting that we had some 2,500 miles from home in Ohio.

John Mueller asked me to write about a unique experience or chance occurrence that happened to me during my career. This one popped into my head immediately. It was not traditional forestry, for sure, but it was definitely unique and typifies the types of varied experiences a Forester with the U.S. Forest Service could have.

Hello to everyone back in Ohio – from sunny Florida! Dan Kincaid.

The Author's Bio

Dan retired from the US Forest Service in 2006 after 31 years. His last job was District Ranger at Athens, Ohio on the Wayne National Forest. He had previously worked at both Ironton in the 1970s and Marietta in the 1980s. Between those times he worked for the US Forest Service in West Virginia, Minnesota, Georgia, and North Carolina. Dan was the 1986 Ohio SAF Chair, 1988 Outstanding Member, and 1990 Communicator of the Year. Dan was named a SAF Fellow in 1991.

SAF Anniversaries

Congratulations to the sixteen members listed below who will be recognized for milestone anniversaries at the OSAF Winter Meeting. Recipients must be in attendance to receive your commemorative pin.

10 Years

John Adams
Ben Dolan
Brian McCarthy
Cornelia Pinchot
Evan Ryan
William Wais
Brent Reppenning

20 Years

Christine Hodgson
Jeremy Keller
Dean Berry
Elizabeth Reeb
Jesse Wright

30 Years

Dave Apsley
Steven Cothrel
Walt Saaranen

40 Years

Jim Elze



“He that plants trees, loves others besides himself.”

Thomas Fuller



Adam Beichler
9877 Alabama Ave. SW
Wilmot, OH 44689

Upcoming Events

Ohio Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting

March 7 & 8, 2017

Ag Administration Building, Ohio State University

2120 Fyffe Road

Columbus, OH 43210

Announcements

Don't Forget About the Winter Meeting Silent Auction. Donate an Item or Come Prepared to Bid (or both)!

Building Ohio State: From Forest to the Renovation of the Thompson Library (February 1 through May 14, 2017)

<https://library.osu.edu/projects-initiatives/exhibits/details/building-ohio-state/>