

The Ohio Hetuch

What's happening to our White Oak?



Summer 2005

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio Society of American Foresters

www.ohiosaf.org

Front Cover: Recent white oak mortality in southern Ohio

Below: Mostly white oak logs salvaged this past winter by Division of Forestry from Scioto Trails SF.



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Chair Comments

Within the last couple of months I have had the opportunity and pleasure to present a couple of awards to our membership. It is always rewarding to honor those that have reached milestones or are being recognized for some deed or accomplishment.

The first award was the President's Field Forester Award for our voting district. Congratulations go to Dave Schatz who received this award for his ongoing activities as a professional forester. Dave continues to be active in field forestry issues since his "retirement" from the ODNR-Division of Forestry. He works as a forester with Rural Action in and around the Athens area to bring a forestry message to folks. He continues to be active in many educational pursuits for a broad spectrum of landowners and others that are interested in forestry. I can't think of a better recipient for this award ... one who truly represents the impacts that a forester can have when they get their boots dirty and explain the benefits of forests and their management.

Dave was supposed to receive this award at the SAF National Convention in Edmonton. True to form, he had too many obligations here at home to be able to make it to this meeting. The backup plan was to make the award to him at the winter meeting in Columbus ... once again commitments kept him from attending. But that gave me the opportunity to visit Dave at his home set in the beautiful hills of Meigs County and chat about careers and what's new in forestry. He sent me on my way with more than I arrived with; some container grown red buckeye trees and some hosta plants. He would have sent a puppy or two home with me if he could.

The second award went to one of our own that reached the milestone of 50 years of membership. This certificate went to Charles Creager. Now, many of you probably don't know Mr. Creager ... I didn't. But I had a very interesting chat with Mr. Creager. Mr. Creager graduated from the University of Michigan in 1955. His first job was as the Engineering Foreman for Mill Creek Park in Youngstown, a position that he held for 10 years. He then went into the insurance business for the balance of his work career. While he had opportunities to work for the U.S. Forest Service, he had family obligations that he felt were best taken care of by staying in the Youngstown area.

He developed his interest in forestry as a youth. His father was the librarian at the Ohio Conservation Laboratory that was then housed at Camp Muskingum and he waited tables there. He had the opportunity to meet such Ohio conservation luminaries as Charles Dambach and Louis Bromfield. He also grew up knowing Emmett Conway.

An obvious question seemed to be, why he maintained his membership in SAF when he never practiced forestry. His answer was he was proud of his degree and he wanted to maintain the association and connection to the profession. He even attended the Seventh Forest Congress in Washington DC because of this dedication.

There are lessons in these two individuals for all of us. Pride, professionalism, outreach and staying in touch with your vocation or avocation; qualities all of us can aspire to.

2005 Membership Survey Results

Kathy Smith, *OSU Extension Associate – Forestry*

The first order of business is to thank all of you who took the time to fill out our survey – a 52% return rate! Your efforts are greatly appreciated. There were many great comments and suggestions that I hope the Executive Committee will be able to act upon in the future.

So, what does the survey tell us about the membership? Here are a few of the highlights.

The top two reasons for belonging to SAF:

For the professional affiliation

For the opportunity to interact with other professional foresters in the state

25% of those responding track continuing education credits while 27% of those responding do not track continuing education credits

What is important to you when deciding to attend an SAF meeting (in order of importance)?

1. Interesting topic
2. cutting edge subject matter
3. appropriate/reasonable cost

What are the top 3 topics for professional development programming?

1. silviculture
2. mapping technology/GIS/GPS
3. insects & diseases

How many meetings per year would you like OSAF to offer?

- 21% suggest one annual meeting
- 69% want a winter and a summer meeting
- 10% want three or more meetings

Here are some other tidbits:

- 80% have visited the OSAF website
- 47% read the Hetuch less often than when it was in paper format
- 42% say there has been no difference in how often they read the Hetuch
- 38% prefer the electronic format of the Hetuch
- 38% are comfortable with the electronic format but would prefer a paper copy
- 14% are uncomfortable with the electronic format, but willing to read it.
- 10% are uncomfortable with the electronic format and would prefer a paper format mailed to them.

If you add up all the years that the respondents have been SAF members you get 1,637 years! Thanks for the participation!

OSAF Membership Report

as of May 2005

Since the last report from January, we have had 23 new members, 2 members reinstated, 6 members resign, and 16 members transfer in and out. We currently have 184 regular members, 12 Ohio State University student members, and 27 Hocking College student members, for a total of 224 members. These numbers are still pre-purge of members who have not paid their dues. 22 members have not renewed and the officers have tried to make contact with each of these members, as has the national office.

The national office has set our membership goal at 204 members, which is one member more than we had last year. If we don't reduce the purge number, then we will be left 2 members short of our goal. Our purge numbers are down, as last year we lost 44 members, in 2003 we lost 38 members, and in 2002, we lost 27 members.

I met with the Ohio State University Student Chapter in April to discuss membership in OSAF. I want to say a very big congratulations to them, as in July, the OSU Board of Trustees is expected to approve an over \$15,000 endowment fund to provide scholarships for forestry students. This is the first student group to achieve this mark ever at OSU, from what I have been told. What an achievement! I know they would like to say a big thank you to all the OSAF members who contributed to the fund.

If anyone has any suggestions on how we can retain membership, or improve what we do, please contact me or any other officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy R. Scherf
OSAF Membership Chair



OHIO SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

SUMMER MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2005

SCIOTO TRAILS STATE FOREST

White Oak Mortality

This will be a single day event at Scioto Trails State Forest looking at the white oak mortality problem in southern Ohio. Speakers will include John Dorka, Chief, Ohio Division of Forestry, Dr. Bob Long, Plant Pathologist, U.S. Forest Service, Dan Balser, Forest Health Coordinator, ODNR DOF., and Bob Boyles, District Forester, ODNR DOF. The meeting will include a field tour of Scioto Trails State Forest looking at the white oak mortality.

Meeting Cost (Includes Lunch)

SAF Member \$10.00 per person
Non-SAF Member \$15.00 per person

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Registration Form

Name _____

Agency/Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ **E-mail address*** _____

*Receipt of registration will be acknowledged via email

Registration Fees

SAF Member _____

Non SAF Member _____

Contribution to Foresters Fund _____

Contribution to OSAF Scholarship Fund _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Mail completed form with check made payable to Ohio Society of American Foresters to:
Valerie Fox
19814 Goat Run Honey Fork Road
Logan, OH 43138

OSAF SUMMER MEETING – August 31, 2005

Please mark your calendars and plan to spend a day with your fellow foresters at the 2005 OSAF summer meeting. This year's meeting will be held on August 31 at Scioto Trails State Forest. Thousands of white oaks have died in southern Ohio during the past several years. The problem was first noticed at Scioto Trail State Forest but it has since been seen in Scioto, Vinton, Jackson, Pike, Meigs, Lawrence, Adams and Gallia Counties. The white oak mortality has been linked to a complex of natural events starting with a drought in 1999.

Scioto Trail State Forest headquarters is located 6 miles south of Chillicothe and 2.7 miles East of US 23 on OH 372/Stoney Creek Road

*For additional information contact Lee Crocker
740-947-2708 or lee.crocker@dnr.state.oh.us*

For additional information on the White Oak Mortality problem in southern Ohio, check out this address at, <http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/Health/health.htm>.

OSAF 2005 Summer Meeting Tentative Meeting Agenda (Subject to Adjustment)

Meeting Topic: White Oak Mortality
Wednesday August 31, 2005

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 AM | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 10:00 | John Dorka, Chief, Ohio Division of Forestry |
| 10:30 | Dr. Robert Long White Oak Mortality |
| 11:00 | Dan Balser - White Oak Mortality |
| 11:30 | Bob Boyles - |
| 12:00 Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Field Tour at Scioto Trails State Forest |
| 3:00 PM | Meeting Adjourned |

FORESTRY BUZZ

What's New in Ohio Forest Industry – Roger Weaver

Quiz: What is the official name of the Chillicothe mill?

Mead ➡ MeadWestvaco ➡ NewPage ➡ ?

The Pulp and Paper Mill in Chillicothe, Ohio was established in 1890 and operated under the flag of Mead Corporation for over 110 years. Since 2001 however, the ownership has changed names twice with a possible third coming soon.

The Chillicothe mill became MeadWestvaco after the merger of the Mead Corporation and Westvaco Corporation in 2001, which doubled the size of each half. As of May 2, 2005, the Papers Group of MeadWestvaco was sold to Cerberus Capital Management and set up as NewPage Corporation that would operate as an independent company focused solely on the coated and carbonless paper business. With this sale, the Chillicothe Mill joined 4 other mills moving over to NewPage: Escanaba, Michigan; Rumford, Maine; Luke, Maryland; and Wickliffe, Kentucky.

After a month with NewPage, the management team at the Chillicothe Mill felt it was time for another change. So, they approached NewPage with three options to help the carbonless operations remain viable long term. NewPage accepted the option proposal and made the announcement on June 2, 2005.

The three options under consideration, but are not limited to:

- Selling the carbonless operations to an owner with better alignment to its core businesses,
- Selling the business to the Chillicothe management team and/or employees, or
- Restructuring the business to optimize cost and new product development opportunities.

The general impression from the employees with this last announcement is a positive one; it's the best step forward that will help secure a long term future for the facility. At the timing of this release, the Chillicothe mill is still named NewPage, but don't get too comfortable with that name.



EAB Update

Emerald Ash Borer continues to make the news. It is also becoming more evident in the lives of Ohio's foresters as we are all faced with decisions in light of this pest. A lot is happening. APHIS recently posted billboards across the Ohio/Michigan/Indiana region highways. They also printed vehicle magnets discouraging the movement of firewood. The Ohio EAB Task Force just released pocket EAB Identification cards for our use in the field – very handy.

On the eradication and detection end, the Ohio Department of Agriculture is concentrating much of its eradication efforts along the eastern border of Lucas County – Lake Erie. Because of the timing of adult emergence, removal of large, “brood” trees has been the highest priority in recent months. ODA has also laid out a series of “detection trees,” formerly called “trap trees,” in a 50-mile radius of the Toledo/Lucas County area. Their hopes are to find outlier populations before they are large infestations.

Here are some things we professional foresters can do:

1) Stay current on the latest EAB information:

Tri-State EAB Page: www.emeraldashborer.info/

ODA: www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/

OSU Ash Alert (great Factsheets): <http://ashalert.osu.edu/>

2) Add a mandatory EAB inspection clause to all of your harvesting & tree related activities (see sample.)

3) Refrain from planting ash trees in or near high-risk areas.

4) Have EAB-related information on-hand for use with customers and the public.

If you find a questionable sample take it to or call ODA, OSU Extension, or an ODNR office near you. Adult insects must be gathered in a hard container, such as a film canister or baby food jar. Larvae should be drowned in isopropyl alcohol.

**Emerald Ash Borer Hotline:
1-888-OhioEAB (1-888-644-6322)**

Sample EAB Clause for Harvesting, Pruning, and Removal Contracts:

All ash trees must be inspected by crew foreman for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) prior to chipping, grinding, slabbing, or moving any wood from said tree off-site. Crown of tree must be inspected for D-shaped exit holes and bark splitting. Bark must also be removed with hammer and chisel, sharp knife, or drawknife to inspect for EAB galleries. If, in the event that exit holes, larvae, pupae, adults, or galleries are found, crew foreman must contact forester or property owner immediately. If tree appears to be positive for EAB, forester or property owner will then proceed by contacting the Ohio Department of Agriculture's EAB Division immediately. All work on ash trees must cease until forester or said property owner authorizes that work may continue.

A White Paper

Presented by



Ohio Society of American Foresters

On

The Emerald Ash Borer

In the

State of Ohio

*Our OSAF Policy Committee continues to work on a whitepaper regarding the Emerald Ash Borer in Ohio. Two drafts have been completed and there is still time to comment before the final draft is presented to the membership. To review a copy of the 2nd draft go to our website at www.ohiosaf.org.

To comment contact Dr. Roger Williams at williams.1577@osu.edu

The General Problem

Invasive species continue to be a growing problem in forested ecosystems in the United States. An invasive species (sometimes referred to as non-indigenous or non-native) is defined as species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions.

Through history, it has been estimated that approximately 50,000 non-indigenous (non-native) species have been introduced into the United States. Introduced species, such as corn, wheat, rice, and other food crops, and cattle, poultry, and other livestock, now provide more than 98% of the U.S. food system at a value of approximately \$800 billion per year (USBC 1998). Other non-indigenous species have been introduced for landscape use, biological pest control, sport, pets, and food processing. Some non-indigenous species, however, have caused major economic losses in agriculture, forestry, and several other segments of the U.S. economy. One recent study reported approximately \$97 billion in damages from 79 non-indigenous species from 1906 to 1991 (OTA 1993). Current studies suggest that invasive species in the United States cause losses adding up to more than \$138 billion per year.

Invasive species can be very harmful to the environment and indigenous ecosystems as well. Invasive species typically have high reproductive rates, disperse easily, and can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. Often, they lack predators in their new environments. As a result, invasive species may out-compete native species for prey or other resource needs (e.g., breeding sites). They may also prey upon native species, spread pathogens and parasites, or alter the genetic make up of closely related species. The extent that invasive species have impacted ecosystems in the United States is difficult to know. Little is known or understood about the estimated 750,000 potentially threatened plants within these ecosystems (Raven and Johnson 1992.) What is known is that nearly 42% of the species on federal and state threatened or endangered species lists are at risk due to non-indigenous species. Approximately 400 of the 958 species that are listed as threatened or endangered are at risk as the result of competition with or predation by invasive species (Nature Conservancy 1996; Wilcove et al. 1998). There is no doubt that invasive species can have tremendous impacts upon our ecosystems.

The Ohio Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (OSAF) recognizes that nearly all of our crop and livestock species are non-indigenous and have proven essential to the viability the United States' agriculture, economy, and quality of life. However, the fact that certain non-indigenous species (e.g., corn, wheat, cattle, carrots, Great Lakes salmon) are vital to agriculture and the U.S. food system does not diminish the enormous negative impacts that non-indigenous invasive species may have upon our economy, ecosystems, and communities. Therefore OSAF recognizes the importance of eradicating when possible and aggressively managing non-native invasive species in Ohio's ecosystems in order to maintain ecological integrity, processes, and sustainability, as well as to prevent substantial social and economic harm to Ohio citizens.

THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM—EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an introduced beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit during the summer of 2002. Speculation is that this invasive species arrived in the US on solid wood packaging material carried on ships or aircraft from its native Asia. While the adult stage of this species causes little damage (chewing on ash foliage), the larvae, or immature stage, cause significant damage by feeding on the inner bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). This causes significant disruption of the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients resulting in the tree's quick death.

EAB reproduces in large numbers, often resulting in total infestation of large ash trees within three (3) years. The adults are hardy flyers. Currently no predators that yield any population control of this insect have been identified in the United States. Unlike native ash borers that only infest stressed, dying, or dead ash trees, EAB will infest healthy trees as well as unhealthy trees of any size. Accordingly, this species has the ability and potential to spread rather quickly from its point of introduction to epidemic levels. This species has been responsible for killing 8 to 10 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, with the majority of this mortality occurring in southeastern Michigan. In addition to the large numbers of killed ash trees, these devastations have cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

Detection Strategies

One of the most challenging efforts is finding existing EAB populations. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has utilized a combination of visual surveys and physical surveys to detect EAB infestations in Ohio. Because EAB begins to infest trees from the top of the tree, it is extremely difficult to see adult damage without samples from the crown of the tree. As a result, ODA identified thousands of "trap trees" in 2004 as a means to attract and capture flying adults and to extract the bark to find the presence of larval galleries. ODA plans to continue the trap tree program in 2005 targeting high-risk areas within a 50-mile radius of the Lucas County quarantine.

Other state and local agencies, private foresters, green industry, woodland owners, and government officials are taking action to reduce ash populations and to inspect all ash wood prior to movement off site.

Current Control Strategies

Two strategies are currently employed simultaneously by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to eliminate EAB from Ohio. These two strategies involve eradication and quarantine processes.

Eradication Strategy

The current approach to eliminating this invasive species is by the eradication of host trees (*Fraxinus* sp.). Currently, there is no insecticide treatment for trees ~~already infested~~ that have

proven to be 100% effective and practical for either prevention or annihilation of the insect. Accordingly, the best approach at this time to effectively destroy the insect is to cut infested and potential host trees from properties in the near vicinity and chip the trees into small pieces (1-inch diameter or less) before being removed and burned.

This eradication process is timed to eliminate the pest before the adult beetle emerges in mid-May and spreads to surrounding properties. Research indicates that the emerging adult beetle has the ability to fly less than one-half mile per year. Therefore, if any larvae or pupae remain after the host trees are cut, they would not be able to find a host tree within expected flying distance, thus leaving no ash trees on which the adult female can lay her eggs. The ODA has developed protocols for this eradication process in order to provide greater assurance that this insect would be eliminated within and around the infested area.

Quarantine Strategy

Since adult beetles will continue to emerge from ash material for a year after the tree is cut, the movement of infested wood must be prohibited in order to stop the artificial movement of EAB. Therefore, the ODA has placed the state of Ohio under a quarantine program in regard to EAB. The quarantine regulates the movement of ash materials and non-coniferous firewood from, within, and through quarantined, areas. Quarantine restrictions are limited to specific areas of Ohio where EAB infestations have been confirmed. Currently, ash materials may enter any of these regulated areas, from Ohio's non-regulated areas, but once taken in, they may not leave without compliance agreements with APHIS and ODA.

Quarantine restriction in Ohio also prohibits the movement of ash materials and non-coniferous firewood from Michigan into Ohio.

EAB AND FOREST IMPACT

Forest ecosystems have long been shaped by a variety of natural disturbance processes and events. Some of these processes and events include fire, hurricanes, droughts, ice storms and insect and disease outbreaks. Outside of these natural disturbance regimes, anthropogenic sources of disturbance have also had impacts on our forests throughout history, including Native Americans through the current population of our country. Some of these anthropogenic influences include fire suppression, land clearing for agriculture and development, and forest harvesting. These forest disturbances have both positive and negative outcomes, depending on the source, type, and method. Nevertheless, the Ohio Society of American Foresters recognizes that forests are shaped by a multitude of forces, and that management is often necessary to assure that outcomes benefit both society and ecosystems.

However, invasive species such as EAB present a unique disturbance to an ecosystem that can prove to be detrimental in many ways. Because EAB infests healthy as well as unhealthy trees and ash trees of all sizes, EAB has the potential of eliminating the presence of mature ash trees from Ohio. This, in turn, is sure to have an impact on ecosystem function, forest production, and local economies. Accordingly, management strategies must be developed to eliminate, reduce, or slow the movement of EAB in Ohio. To this end, OSFA recognizes that coordinated multi-agency planning and cooperation is necessary to develop these strategies and programs.

OSAF has divided management strategies into three distinct categories: Rural Forests (small wooded areas, found primarily in agricultural areas in northern, western, and central Ohio;) Contiguous Forests (large tracts of forest land, found primarily in southern and eastern Ohio;) and Urban Forests (trees within municipalities and developed areas of the state.) Although they have overlapping qualities, each has its own special considerations as they relate to management.

Forest Management (General)

Ash comprises approximately 5.6% of both the total and growing stock volume in the state of Ohio (Northeastern Forest Inventory and Analysis, 2002). On privately owned forests, ash constitutes 6% of the total volume, but only 2.8% of the total volume on public forests. These figures represent the statewide composition and say nothing of its statewide distribution, which is higher in some regions than in others. While these figures may be relatively low when compared to other important forest species, the presence of ash still represents risks and potential contribution to the continued spread of EAB.

Forest management can be implemented that reduces the EAB risk within the forest and its spread to other forest systems. Various activities that reduce or eliminate the ash component from a forest are options available to the forestland owner. These activities include stronger consideration of removals during improvement activities, thinning, or harvests, and in planting plans. Reducing the inadvertent movement of EAB to other areas can be avoided with diligent inspection of ash wood prior to movement off-site. What the landowner ultimately decides to do will be determined by the risks involved, and the short-term and long-term economic considerations. Foresters can play an important role in helping landowners to reach informed conclusions and to make responsible decisions regarding the management of their forests.

While a decision by the landowner to eliminate ash from his/her forest may in effect produce the same alteration in the forest community as that produced by an EAB infestation, the economic outcome may have better results than if a landowner waited until an infestation occurs. Landowners will have the opportunity to market their ash product and the timber industry will have an opportunity to buy and sell an ash product. Proper management will also give landowners time to plan with professional foresters for the long-term management of their forest resource in light of EAB rather than incurring the expense of trying to restore EAB damaged woodlands.

Property owners will also have the means to utilize “Best Management Practices” (BMP) in their tree removal efforts in order to protect remaining trees and the land itself. Identifying entry and exit points and work areas plus dictating the timing of operations and debris clean up procedures will help to protect forest properties and forest owners (e.g. burning debris, ruts, and state/local laws.)

Finally, these forest community alterations may be relatively short-lived if proper management and programs are developed that eliminate EAB from North America and ash is reintroduced to our forests.

Rural Forest Management Considerations

Nearly half of Ohio is comprised of small tracts (less than 50 contiguous acres) of forested or wooded areas. Most of these woodlands are remnants of once large forests that were cleared for agricultural use in the 1800’s. Many, although small in size, are important components of the

landscape; providing harvestable timber for woodland owners, filtering agricultural runoff for waterways that drain into Lake Erie or the Ohio River, reducing soil erosion as windbreaks, and growing some of the finest hardwoods in the United States. The space between these rural forests may work to slow the natural spread of EAB.

Because of the character of these small forests, ash is often a dominant species. The sudden loss of any dominant species can be extremely detrimental to such small woodlands and the woodland owners. Therefore, management strategies for rural forests should be implemented keeping the health and, in many cases, the mere existence of these small forests in the forefront of management decisions.

Contiguous Forest Management Considerations

Ohio's forest resources in the south and southeastern part of the state have components quite different from the small woodland tracts of the north. Ash is a more common species in the southwest part of the state than in the east and southeast region. The potential for natural movement, however, is estimated to be greater simply because woodlands containing at least some ash are very close together – making it very difficult to contain EAB populations. The hilly terrain, alone, creates challenges in managing for EAB because of accessibility. Although thousands of acres may be forested, the properties themselves may have many different owners, have various levels of forest management history, and be dotted with homes, small farms, businesses, and communities which create socio-economical challenges in trying to control EAB.

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How Can SAF Enhance Its Effectiveness?

John A. Helms, SAF President

Reprinted from *The Forestry Source* - May, 2005

In 2003 SAF Council commissioned a Task Force to examine SAF's structure and the way we function. The last time such an analysis was done was in 1994. The Task Force, under the Chairmanship of Past President David Wm. Smith, delivered its Report to Council in December, 2004. This Report -- the Volunteer Organizational Structure (VOS) Task Force Report -- has been widely distributed throughout the Society, can be viewed on SAF's website www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf or is available by request from the National Office.

The timing of the Report couldn't be better. The profession of forestry is undergoing substantial change. Societal and landowner expectations and values associated with forest lands are increasingly diverse. Increasing pressures are placed on the nation's forest land base through fragmentation and conversion. Globalization is changing the forest industry. It is therefore important that SAF takes time to review who we are and how to best address our Mission. The VOS Report is an excellent catalyst that encourages a Society-wide conversation on what we do, how best to do it, and whether a structural change in our organization would enable us to function better. In other words, as stated in the Report, "if we were to create the SAF today, what would it look like?"

SAF Council is encouraging all state societies, working groups, and individual members to participate in this conversation. The Report has numerous recommendations. Council, which has responsibility for acting on the Report, wants to hear from all segments of the Society prior to taking action at its December, 2005 meeting. Each recommendation will be considered separately and different changes or alternative approaches may be identified based on member suggestions.

Our collective goal is to ensure that SAF is a dynamic, effective organization that stimulates and involves all members and enhances our profession. We must strengthen the voice of our members, reinforce our foundation on science, and create a Society that is viewed as a "must join" organization by all forestry professionals, especially students.

To facilitate compilation of diverse input, members are encouraged to use a form that is available on the SAF website at: www.safnet.org/members/member-pw/comments.cfm. This form is designed to stimulate free thinking as well as to solicit comments on each VOS Report recommendation. **To take advantage of member comments prior to meetings of the House of Society Delegates and the Forest Science and Technology Board at Convention in October, we request that responses be submitted prior to September 1, 2005. The final deadline for submitting responses so that all input can be considered at the December Council meeting will be November 9, 2005.** This timeline may be extended if necessary. If you are unable to access the SAF website, you may request a response form from the National Office.

We look forward to vigorous conversation on “who are we” and “what we want to be”. Whether this conversation leads to structural change, or what kind of changes will emerge, will depend on input from SAF units and members and on the leadership provided by Council. This is an exciting time to be a forester. Our goal is to ensure that SAF takes advantage of this opportunity to position itself to be the leader of the forestry profession.

Calendar of Events/Continuing Education

Ohio SAF Summer Meeting

August 31, 2005

White Oak Mortality

Scioto Trails State Forest

Contact: Lee.Crocker@dnr.state.oh.us

COVERTS – Introduction to Woodland Wildlife Management

September 22 – 24, 2005

Canter's Cave 4-H Camp, Jackson, OH

Fee: \$40

Contact Dave Apsley – Apsley.1@osu.edu or register online at <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/coverts.php> and click on application

2005 SAF National Convention

Fort Worth, Texas

October 19-23

www.safnet.org/natcon-05/

GIS/GPS for Foresters

November 8-9 – details to come

Contact: Kathy Smith: Smith.81@osu.edu

Fire in Eastern Oak Forests: Delivering Science to Land Managers

November 15-17, 2005 – 15 category one CEU's

Fawcett Center, Columbus, OH

Details: www.fs.fed.us/ne/delaware/4153/fireconf.html

Ohio Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Training Course

October 24-27

Forest Service NE Research Station

Delaware, OH

Details: www.ohiosaf.org/firemanager.html

New Jobs feature on website

The OSAF web site will have a new section to help foresters and forestry employers connect with each other. The "jobs" section of the website will post links to forestry-related job opening announcements. The criteria for having an opening posted are as follows:

- The job must be in Ohio.
- The opening must be for a forester position (i.e.: qualified candidates will also qualify for SAF membership).
- A link must be provided to the OSAF website coordinator leading to more information about the job. All that will be posted on the OSAF web site is a job title, link to the posting, and expiration date.

If you have any questions, or wish to have a link to an opening within Ohio posted, contact Joe Puperi, OSAF website coordinator.