“From the Cabin Porch” - A Word from the Chair

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I assume the duties of NCSAF chair for 2012. I had a great opportunity to become acquainted with the office while serving as Chair-elect under Chris Farley last year. Chris continues to be active in our State Society by taking on the editing of this newsletter.

I am joined as elected leadership by Andy Mason as Chair-elect, and with the ongoing support of Jake Donnay as Secretary and Darell Pendris as Treasurer who were both re-elected.

There are many more active volunteers in NCSAF who support our State Society and make it a successful organization. We have over 200 members who benefit from what we do, and can make us even better with their active participation and support. I want to thank all of you for being members and an extra thanks to those who have chosen to be active members by holding office and volunteering to make our events successful.

I titled this column to represent the perspective and connection I feel for the family forest my wife and I bought in West Virginia in the summer of 2006. It had been a longtime dream of mine to own some woods, a place that would serve as a weekend getaway and an opportunity to directly manage a little piece of our nation’s private woodlands. There are millions of such pieces and they present tremendous challenges and opportunities for their owners and well as all the Americans who receive a little bit of benefit from their existence and management. Benefits, just to name a few, in the form of air that is cleaner, water that is filtered by the canopy, duff and soil, and forest products that are renewable, useful and domestically produced.

Our woodland, Twin Maples Tree Farm, is 54 acres operated under a Forest Stewardship management plan and as part of the American Tree Farm System and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certified. It is an investment – both financially and emotionally….

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Robert Bonnie Speaks to NCSAF about Longleaf Pine

On Tuesday, January 31st, NCSAF hosted a luncheon with Robert Bonnie, Secretary Vilsack’s Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate. Robert discussed USDA’s role in the nation’s longleaf pine restoration effort, particularly the new partnerships forged among the different Departments of the Executive branch.

Robert Bonnie’s grandfather fell in love with quail hunting and the land grew on him. But it was a lucky piece of land, one where old longleaf, loblolly, and bottomland hardwoods were sold in 1910, but never cut, allowing a legacy of old growth to remain. By burning the uplands on the advice of early burning proponent Herbert Stoddard, Bonnie’s family encouraged quail, and the longleaf thrived. Today, the land also supports red-cockaded woodpeckers. Bonnie discussed the fears southern pine plantation owners faced when the spotted owl controversy...

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Robert Bonnie is the Secretary of Agriculture’s Senior Advisor for Environment and Climate
On September 27, 2011, a large group of foresters and a few lucky tourists gathered outside the metro; some balanced sandwiches and notebooks, others chatted together expectantly. In the middle of our group was Robert DeFeo, ready to share his wealth of information with us. Rob DeFeo is the Chief Horticulturist of the National Capitol Area of the National Park Service. As part of his job, Rob is responsible for the health and well being of more than 18,000 trees within the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Our tree tour took us first to a Jefferson Elm near the Smithsonian castle, which was planted around 1930 and is remarkable for its unusually high tolerance to Dutch Elm Disease. An extra chromosome in its DNA makes the Jefferson Elm tolerant—so tolerant that geneticists are searching wild plants for the extra chromosome in order to continue breeding tolerance to Dutch Elm Disease.

For us in the forestry community, it comes as no surprise that much of the work Rob does on the National Mall is geared toward preventing and treating Dutch Elm Disease. Rob has a dedicated staff that, with well-trained eyes, can catch Dutch Elm Disease before it affects a critical 10% of the tree’s canopy and often before it reaches a threshold of 5%. The affected part of the canopy is removed by pruning and the tree is treated with Alamo.

One SAF member, Eric Norland, was very appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about the trees, "What a great program. The elms on the Mall are a national treasure and the National Park Service arborists are doing a tremendous job in keeping these trees healthy." Genetic diversity is one of the first lines of defense against the disease. Of the 3,000 elms around the National Mall, half are Dutch Elm Disease-tolerant cultivars, and no more than 10% are the same cultivar, ensuring a certain amount of genetic diversity in the population. But the young nursery stock often leave a bit to be desired in terms of branching form, and many never grow into the gnarled, reaching specimens that Frederick Law Olmstead had in mind. Proper pruning early in their lives can give the young trees nicer structure over time and helps prevent damage from storms or age.

As our group of 35 made its way along the Mall, participants swapped tree stories and introduced themselves to one another. Old friends and new chatted about their experiences with tree disease, pruning, and success stories. Many of our group were first timers to the SAF Luncheon scene. Karl Dalla Rosa said, "Who wouldn’t take advantage of an opportunity to spend lunchtime walking with a bunch of foresters on the National Mall, learning more about our urban forestry heritage?"

It is clear from our tree walk that Rob has forgotten more about Elm trees than most of us could hope to know, and so it was reluctantly that we left the National Mall and proceeded to the tidal basin, where the famous Cherry trees beckoned.

Fred Blott said, "The walk provided a real appreciation for the dedication and efforts of Rob’s staff of eight arborists who personally tend to the cherry trees throughout the year and ensure their continued survival in a very challenging environment."

Beginning at 15th street, we followed the edge of the tidal basin, ducking under aged limbs and admiring twisted branches. Not everyone delights in the splendor of the low twisting cherry limbs, however, as Americans with Disabilities Act lawyers have a perennial request that the branches be cut to provide clearance to 7 feet.

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Rob DeFeo Tree Walk continued...

(Continued from Page 2) On the other side of the bridge, we left the busy street side and again ducked under twisting branches where we found the stone lantern that was gifted with the cherry trees one hundred years ago. Here were some of the oldest of the cherry trees, an entire grove of centurions. These are the trees Rob is most concerned about. They have survived up to now by the good luck of being tucked away from the most popular spots, away from monuments.

Keith Cline, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager at the Forest Service said, “Rob and his staff of certified arborists do an impressive job of fine pruning and caring for the health of these historic cherry trees.”

With the opening of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, however, the protected site of the grove has changed. Already, we could hear voices and movement just steps from the grove. Rob says he expects foot traffic around the trees to increase significantly, tamping down the soil and impacting the trees’ roots. Along the National Mall, the soil around the elms has the density of cinder block and the sturdy trees were selected, in part, for just such an inevitability. But what will happen to these cherry trees if the soil here became similarly compacted?

While we may not be able to predict the future of the cherry trees, we can be sure of one thing: Rob and his team will continue to give their all for the protection of the magnificent trees that make our National capital parks what they are.

—Paula Randler—

A New Monument for Gifford Pinchot?

Have you read the recent book The Big Burn by Timothy Egan? In the buildup to the fires of 1910, Egan provides many examples of the close personal and working relationship between SAF’s founder Gifford Pinchot and President Theodore Roosevelt and tells interesting stories about their many accomplishments and challenges as pioneering conservationists. For more reading on this subject, I highly recommend Char Miller’s Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism (2001) and, of course, Pinchot’s autobiography Breaking New Ground (1947).

Have you visited Roosevelt Island (Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial) and the memorial to our 26th President, created by architect-sculptor Eric Gugler in 1963-65? Roosevelt Island is a real gem in our area for foresters who need to periodically experience the “primeval forest” (for the rest of the story, ask NCSAF member Doug McCleary for a copy of his “An Abbreviated Natural and Human History of Theodore Roosevelt Island” that he wrote for walkers who toured the island during the 2000 National SAF Convention).

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Roosevelt Island

After reading Egan’s book and making numerous treks on Roosevelt Island it got me thinking: Is there a memorial to Gifford Pinchot in the Washington DC area or, for that matter, to any of the other conservation pioneers such as Hugh Hammond Bennett, Aldo Leopold, or the famous naturalist and preservationist John Muir? The answer, as far as I know, is no. Pinchot lived and worked for many years in Washington DC, and his home on 1615 Rhode Island Avenue (near Dupont Circle) was the birthplace of our Society when foresters first met there in November 1900. The home was torn down in the 1960s, and the site is now occupied by the Beacon Hotel. There is a memorial to Pinchot at his birthplace in Simsbury, Connecticut, and he is memorialized at his ancestral home, now the Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, Pennsylvania....

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It has been a learning experience to see things through the eyes of a family forest owner, concerned about property and income taxes, invasive species, marking boundary lines, and the threat of storms, insects and diseases that can turn a healthy forest into a mess of blown over or dead trees in a few hours or months. It was frustrating when a large electric transmission line was proposed to go right through the middle of our property and we were faced with the prospect of having a right-of-way condemned across our forested hillside. It is both an opportunity and a concern to think about the natural gas that underlies the property. But mostly it is a great pleasure to own these woods and our own little patch of ramps to dig every spring.

I could also have titled this column, “From the Nation’s Capital” because that is where most of us live and work. That broad perspective, from the family woodlands or national forest to the urban forest that is Washington DC, is what makes this particular State Society unique. We think about local forestry issues as well as national and international problems and opportunities that affect the life-sustaining resource that is of vital importance to our planet and its inhabitants. We challenge each other to use our knowledge and energy for both society at large as well as the professional society of which we are part.

We have a lot of great activities coming up this year. At our annual work planning session on a snowy Saturday morning in January, we agreed to invest more in programs and membership. We continue to provide excellent monthly meetings with featured speakers you will want to listen to and engage with. We started in January with an interesting talk by Robert Bonnie, a senior advisor to Secretary Vilsack. Robert talked about the experiences at his family forest in South Carolina and tied those personal experiences to the policy work he does for USDA. Bryan Petit does a great job organizing programs and he welcomes your ideas and participation on the Program Committee.

We will be having Phonathon in April to contact lapsed members to hear what they have to say. We have a trip to Roosevelt Island planned for June, and this event is taking on additional significance as we look to the 150th birthday of Gifford Pinchot in 2015 and the possibility of establishing a memorial in recognition of his conservation leadership in the Washington area (see Andy Mason’s article elsewhere in this newsletter). We will be having a clean-up day at Wild Acres in May as a way to help out our parent organization by keeping the patch of woods abutting the parking lot in a healthier condition by removing invasive species and dead and dying trees. Our major fundraiser for the year is our wine auction planned for October which is a fun way to taste wines, make donations for the auction, and to purchase some great dinners, wines, theater tickets and outdoor excursions. Our final event of the year is a Holiday Reception following the Capitol Christmas Tree lighting, a great time to appreciate a beautiful tree given as a gift to the American people from a national forest and the companionship of fellow members and guests. All of this is interspersed with happy hours and other events that only require a bit of initiative and energy to organize and support.

I think it is important for every professional to be active in a professional society. It is the place where students, mid-career folks, senior members of the profession and retirees can all come together from whatever sector and perspective they represent, to support their chosen profession. For us the choice was forestry, natural resources and conservation and the professional society we have chosen is the Society of American Foresters. Won’t you join us?

—Ted Beauvais is the 2012 Chair of NCSAF——
Rich Gulden and Brad Smith of the US Forest Service Research and Development office spoke to 40 NCSAF members over lunch on February 21. The speakers shared highlights of their recent research on how the forest products sector has fared during the recent economic downturn, based on data from the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, Forest Products Lab, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and Federal Reserve Bank.

The data revealed 1.1 million jobs were lost in forestry and related sectors from 2005 to 2010. Furthermore, over 1,000 mills have closed since 2005 and more are threatened. Given the soft markets, harvesting on private forest land is down nearly 40%, with significant financial impact on private owners, which in turn could have harmful ramifications for forest health. Gulden and Smith reported a few bright spots, with multi-family housing starts trending upward and job losses slowing. They told the audience that more detailed regional analysis for the North, South, and West is in preparation for publication and should be available by the end of March.

Copies of their presentation will be available on the NCSAF website at http://www.ncsaf.org, and the results were also published in the January edition of the Forestry Source.

—Nadine Block—

Over 1000 wood processing mills have closed in the U.S. since 2005, and the U.S. has lost more than 15% of its mill capacity. Many remaining mills are operating at less than 50% capacity.

Meet Christine Cadigan!

Please welcome Christine Cadigan, who is the Public Affairs Manager at the American Forest Foundation. She joined AFF in February 2011 as the Public Affairs and Conservation Coordinator and moved into the policy management role shortly thereafter. She focuses on building and training a family forest owner grassroots network and concentrates on such national forest policy issues as the Farm Bill, climate change, invasive species, and renewable energy. Prior to AFF, Christine completed Masters’ degrees in both Forestry and Environmental Management at Duke University, concentrating her studies on woody biomass supply and demand in the Southeast. Christine has brief experiences working with the US Forest Service Southern Research Station, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Virginia Department of Forestry. She is originally from Richmond, Virginia and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia.

Christine’s an avid reader and generally enjoys getting outside to hike in State and National Parks. Christine would like to find some local horseback riding venues since she is an experienced rider, mostly English and hunter, with some western. Christine likes to dabble in cooking and is working on building up her skill set. Maybe Dwight Fielder and E.Lynn Burkett will auction some cooking lessons for the NCSAF annual auction?

Christine is excited to be active with NCSAF as she was in her student chapter which was associated with the Appalachian Society of American Foresters. Perhaps we will plan some picnics with Christine aboard!

As two of our newest members, Christine and David Gwaze have already jumped in with both feet and have agreed to co-lead NCSAF fundraising, the principal event being the annual wine auction which is in the planning stages for this fall.

—Jeanne Kavinski—
Gifford Pinchot Memorial Continued...

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At our first 2012 NCSAF Executive Committee meeting, we decided to form a committee to explore the idea of establishing a memorial to Gifford Pinchot on Roosevelt Island. Why should NCSAF be engaged in this activity? I believe the memorial would help bring broader public attention to: 1) Pinchot’s accomplishments and legacy as conservation and forestry leader; 2) his strong personal and productive working relationship with the 26th President; and 3) the profession of forestry, SAF, and the importance of forestry in the 21st century. The Pinchot Memorial exploratory committee so far includes NCSAF Secretary Jake Donnay, NCSAF Historian Doug McCleary, Al Sample (President of the Pinchot Institute), and myself.

Although we are in the very early stages, the idea is already gaining support. We are also discussing the idea of partnering with the Pinchot Institute to submit an application for a commemorative stamp to be issued by the US Post Office. Perhaps another reason these ideas are resonating is the opportunity to unveil the memorial and issue the stamp as part of a larger celebration of Pinchot’s 150th birthday, August 11, 2015. Another historical note: 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the Pinchot Institute, which was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy on September 24, 1963.

We certainly have a long way to go from the idea stage to the actual unveiling of a Gifford Pinchot memorial on Theodore Roosevelt Island and the Post Office issuing a commemorative stamp. There are perhaps challenges ahead with establishing a Pinchot memorial next to a memorial for a President? However, I believe that President Theodore Roosevelt would say “Bully!” to the idea. After all, in his 1913 autobiography the 26th President said:

"Gifford Pinchot is the man to whom the nation owes most for what has been accomplished as regards the preservation of the natural resources of our country. He led, and indeed during its most vital period embodied, the fight for the preservation through use of our forests... He was the foremost leader in the great struggle to coordinate all our social and governmental forces in the effort to secure the adoption of a rational and far-seeing policy for securing the conservation of all our national resources... I believe it is but just to say that among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States, he, on the whole, stood first."

If you have comments on the proposal or are interested in helping as the project moves forward please contact Andy Mason, amason@fs.fed.us, or 202-205-1694.

—Andy Mason—

NCSAF 2011 Holiday Party Rocks the House

On December 6th, approximately 100 DC-area foresters and friends gathered following the lighting of the Capitol Tree for the annual NCSAF Holiday Party. This year’s event was held in the House Ag Committee Room to celebrate another year of forestry, food, fellowship and friendship. Distinguished guests included USDA Undersecretary Harris Sherman, US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, and numerous Hill staff.

After digging into the fine spread of food and the hosted bar, NCSAF took a break to recognize our 2 new SAF fellows, Jan Davis and E. Lynn Burckett. Decadal membership awards and pins were also presented to various NCSAF members who reached these milestone anniversaries.

After a brief recap of the year’s highlights from various Executive Team members, the new 2012 Executive Team was introduced and the NCSAF gavel was handed over to incoming Chair Ted Beauvais to close out NCSAF’s 2011 activities.... though many members stayed until the food and bar closed down!

The celebration was a fitting closure to a fine 2011.

—Chris Farley—
The NCSAF 2012 Leadership team is almost complete. See all the officers, their responsibilities and contact information at the NCSAF web site at http://www.ncsaf.org/Admin2012.htm. The two positions still vacant are the Policy Chair and the Tellers and Auditors Chair.

The Policy Chair makes recommendations to the executive committee concerning matters of policy and positions on issues of concern to the chapter. Illustrative activities might include:

- Provide periodic outreach and educational opportunities to government and congressional representatives on natural resource issues in coordination with the SAF National Office policy staff.
- Regularly update membership on emerging policy and legislative issues.
- Prepare position statements on state and local forestry and other natural resources issues.
- Ensure that the State Society position statements are on file at the SAF National Office. If posted on the chapter website, ensure that State Society position statements are up-to-date.

The Tellers and Auditors combined Chair is responsible for counting the ballots for annual elections of NCSAF officers, and for other special elections as may be required. The position also certifies the results of these elections, as well are responsible for periodically auditing the financial records the NCSAF.

—Tim Resch—

Robert Bonnie longleaf pine luncheon continued...

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... was in full swing. While at Environmental Defense Fund, Bonnie negotiated the first Safe Harbor Agreements allowing landowners with Red Cockaded Woodpeckers to manage their land to benefit themselves and red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Of the 3 million acres of longleaf that remain, 90% are owned by private forest landowners. For this reason, Bonnie says it is critical to the success of longleaf conservation to refrain from calling it endangered. The markets must be allowed to support longleaf cultivation with pine straw, pole, and lumber sales, and it is the responsibility of governments to facilitate those markets. Partners in longleaf restoration have set a goal to support 8 million acres of longleaf in the next 15 years. This effort is confronted by wood’s exclusion from green building certification, the slump in markets for new housing and, paradoxically, by increased urbanization and housing density which makes it difficult to burn longleaf parcels across the south.

In further discussion of markets for conservation, Bonnie discussed options for endangered species banking, citing a gopher tortoise arrangement near Mobile, Alabama, that involves just 200 acres of habitat. He said carbon trading is coming along, and he expects water markets to be mostly about agriculture, not forestry.

—Paula Randler —

A southern Longleaf pine stand (photo by USDA Forest Service)
2011 Budget Report

NCSAF is financially healthy with solid cash flow. Last December’s Holiday Party on Capitol Hill cost approximately $3,600.00, recently paid to (vendor) Capitol Host. Expenses for luncheons have varied widely from several hundred dollars to tens of dollars, depending on luncheon venue, speaker, and attendance. NCSAF partially subsidizes luncheon expenses as appropriate to the situation and at the Program Chair’s discretion.

Notably in November 2011, NCSAF raised $1,845.00 at its annual Wine Tasting & Auction. This impressive sum was a result of generous auction item donations, enthusiastic bidders, a wholly competent auctioneer, and it could be surmised, an ample supply of good wine.

NCSAF currently holds investment certificates of deposit totaling $8,557.60, split among a certificate due to mature in July of 2012, and another due to mature in September of 2013. The Executive Committee will decide, based upon income and expense projections, whether to reinvest available funds or utilize them for upcoming program expenses.

As of March 1st, 2012, NCSAF holds approximately $5,620.00 in its checking account.

— Darrel Pendris is the 2012 Treasurer for NCSAF —

Science Committee Report — Washington Academy of Sciences

The Washington Academy of Sciences and its affiliates will hold the fifth in a series of biennial conferences called Capital Science 2012, March 31 - April 1. Twenty member societies are participating in this conference, that serves as an umbrella for scientific presentations, seminars, tutorials, and talks. A consortium of three universities are hosting the event - Virginia Tech, George Washington University, and Marymount - which will take place at their facilities near the Ballston Metro in Arlington VA.

More information can be found on the Washington Academy of Sciences web site at: http://www.washacadsci.org

— Daina Apple is the 2012 Science Chair —

Membership Committee Report

The current membership report as of January 31, 2012 shows that the National Capital SAF has 208 members. Please welcome our newest member, John Rapp. Look for more details on this new member in the future.

Lamar Beasley and Ronald Lewis will reach their 50-year anniversary in 2012, and were recognized at the December holiday party. Many other members were recognized for their 10-, 20-, 30- and 40- year anniversaries. NCSAF is proud to have such committed and dedicated members!

With the new membership options, national office has informed us that there has been an increase in members who did not select and pay for State Society membership renewals. Please check to make sure that you have renewed your local NCSAF dues as well as your national membership. Thank you!

Have a colleague you think might be interested in joining SAF? Headquarters is currently implementing a great new rewards program for recruiting new members, including significant discounts on membership to both the recruiter and the new member.

The Membership Committee is always looking for new members and fresh ideas for Happy Hours or other socials. Please feel free to send an email to Jeanne Kavinski <treemstr76@aol.com> or David Gwaze <dgwaze@fs.fed.us> with your thoughts and ideas on fun membership activities. Fall apple picking could be a fun social/family event.

— Jeanne Kavinski is the 2012 membership chair —
District VII Council Report by Ken Jolley

Happy New Year Greetings to all! This will be my final Council Report to the National Capital membership, as my three-year term as your District VII Council Representative has come to an end, effective December 31, 2011. Kim Steiner was elected to serve as your District Council Representative for the next three years, 2012-2014. Please be sure to communicate any concerns that you would like Council to address in the year ahead to Kim, and he will be sure to follow-up with you!

Council held its final meeting of 2011 at the National Convention in Honolulu, on October 31 and November 2 (due to Convention logistics, the Council meeting was scheduled around the Nov. 1 date of the House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting, which allowed Council members to attend the HSD Meeting). Council has also been actively conducting business via conference call and email following the Convention meeting, primarily focused on approval of the 2012 Budget. The following is a synopsis of the items covered by Council during this time period:

- **SAF Budget and Finances:** Council is again grappling with the challenging financial situation facing SAF, and is considering the possibility of approving another deficit budget for 2012 (which would be the third consecutive deficit budget in a row). As of the time I’m writing this Report, the final SAF budget for 2012 has not been approved, although Council did approve a motion authorizing the EVP to pay ordinary expenses to maintain SAF operations until the budget is finalized. It is anticipated the 2012 budget will be approved in mid-January, after Council makes a final decision on the inclusion and/or exclusion of various budget items that are still under deliberation.

- **“Wild Acres” National Office Property Update:** This item is another major issue that has occupied a significant amount of Council and staff time during the year, as SAF is actively engaged in marketing the asset value of the property for the membership. The property is jointly owned in a complex legal relationship with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNSF), which has made marketing the property more challenging. However, progress is occurring, and if everything proceeds as anticipated, an announcement to the membership concerning the property will be forthcoming in 2012. (Confidentiality is required until all of the details have been finalized).

- **Policy:** Council approved two Position Statements – Federal Tax Treatment of Private Forest Land and The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program. Council also reviewed progress on various policy efforts, including the 9th Circuit Court Decision re: logging roads as point sources, and next steps in regards to the recently completed report from SAF’s Task Force on Climate Change Offsets and Use of Forest Biomass for Energy.

- **“Good to Great” Strategic Planning/Strategic “Clarity”:** As I mentioned previously in my March 2011 Council Report, Council officially approved a concerted effort to integrate “Good to Great” (“G2G”) concepts into SAF’s Strategic Planning effort (“Good to Great” is a best-selling organizational management book authored by Jim Collins). After spending significant time on this effort at the June Council meeting, the Council Strategic Planning sub-committee and key National SAF Office staff members met in September in Detroit to work with a consulting firm (Quicksilver Foundry) to develop the “Brand Framework” for SAF. The brand framework aims to authentically distill what SAF is as an organization, and what the organization aspires to be – e.g., to create “Strategic Clarity.” It then becomes the decision principle or the lens that is used to examine organizational opportunities and helps SAF to stay on course. The preliminary results of the September meeting was presented both to the full Council and the HSD delegates at the Convention, and was very well received. In fact, HSD approved a recommendation for Council to continue to pursue the G2G strategic planning/strategic clarity effort, which Council will be doing in 2012. Both HSD and Council worked on answering 12 Questions to create a “Wild Success Statement” as part of the “next steps” to advance this effort at their respective meetings.

- **International Forestry:** Council approved a new Charter for the SAF World Forestry Committee (WFC), which designated the WFC as the appropriate SAF Committee to administer the Bob and Ann Gregory Award selection process (the Gregory Fund provides financial support to international foresters to attend the SAF National Convention). The new Charter also added the responsibility of interacting with the International Network of Professional Forestry Bodies as part of the WFC’s official duties.

- **National Convention:** Council received an up-date on the Honolulu Convention, which was very well attended, especially in consideration of the difficult economic situation and various state and federal agency travel restrictions. The focus of the technical presentations and plenary sessions on the International Year of the Forest were particularly well received. Council also reviewed the plans for the 2012 Convention in Spokane, and approved the location of the 2014 Convention in Salt Lake City (note: the 2013 Convention location was approved at a previous Council meeting for Charleston, SC).

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members who may have previously objected that “SAF dues cost too much” — that’s definitely no longer an issue!! National membership at the silver tier is only $95 — of course, there is an additional fee for membership in the National Capital Section — but this is absolutely the “best deal in town” and is definitely a very affordable price for membership in the only national organization that is solely focused on promoting the interests of professional foresters!!

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your representative to Council for the last three years. I’ve had an opportunity to interact with many dedicated SAF members over my term of office, and my Council experience has truly been a rewarding professional experience. I’m now looking forward to continuing my involvement with SAF as a “regular member,” and looking forward to interacting with the members of the National Capital SAF for many years ahead!

—Ken Jolley—