Come to the Fair!

Interested in Joining a Professional Society?

Interested in Networking with other Natural Resources and Agriculture Professionals?

November 19th, 2013—11am-1pm

Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1st Floor Patio

12th Street SW and Jefferson Dr, Washington DC

Food and Beverage Provided (FREE!)

Come learn more about the benefits of joining a professional society, and hear from distinguished Government and Association executives including:

- USDA Deputy Undersecretary Dr. Ann Bartuska
- USDA Deputy Undersecretary Butch Blazer
- Donna Harmon, CEO American Forest and Paper Association (and more!

Organized by the Society of American Foresters, Ecological Society of America, Society for Range Management, the TriSocieties (Soil Science Society, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America), the American Geophysical Union, American Fisheries Society, and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

“Gifford Pinchot and His Legacy – How Much Does it Matter Today?”

– A Word from the Chair

On this warm Saturday in early October I am reflecting back on a very memorable weekend where my wife Debbie, our friend Shirley Ann “Sam” Mattoon, and I traveled to Grey Towers in Milford, PA, the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, for the 50th anniversary of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies and the gift of Grey Towers from the Pinchot family to America, now managed as a National Historic Site by the U.S. Forest Service.

On September 24, 1963 President Kennedy was at Grey Towers for the original dedication, the beginning of a five state tour where JFK brought attention to the conservation and natural resource issues of the day. (A quick note about our friend Sam Mattoon. Sam attended the 1963 dedication with her husband and 2nd generation forester John Mattoon, who had a major role coordinating the event as a Forest Service employee. John’s father, Merwin Mattoon, was the first forest supervisor on the Pisgah National Forest and knew Pinchot. So it was great fun to introduce Sam to forestry colleagues at the 50th anniversary and hear some of her stories.) Whatever national conservation agenda JFK may have planned to pursue was of course cut short by his assassination just two months later in Dallas. President Kennedy’s remarks that day at Grey Towers still ring largely true for me today, for example:

“But Pinchot’s contribution will be lost if we honor him only in memory. It is far more fitting and proper that we dedicate this Institute as a living memorial. By its very nature, it looks to the future instead of the past. It is committed to meeting the changing...

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Council met on June 1 and 2 at Wild Acres in Bethesda, Maryland. Although we had hoped to spend most of this meeting on strategic planning and governance discussions, business matters intruded and occupied upon most of our meeting time, as usual. The following are the highlights:

At the half-year mark, membership is up about 400 over this time last year. You may recall that last year’s membership showed a small increase over the previous year, which was the first growth in 16 years. These are hopeful signs. Michael Goergen reported that 77% of members who can choose between silver, platinum, and gold memberships are choosing gold.

Council approved in principal a pathway for associate degree graduates to attain Certified Foresters status. The exact criteria for the pathway will be finalized at the October meeting. There was some question about whether Council or the Certification Review Board has final authority to extend certification to graduates of technician programs, but the two bodies agree on the desired direction and are avoiding the constitutional question by working hand-in-hand.

Council directed the national office staff to consider recommendations from the advisors of SAF student chapters to improve communications and enhance student member opportunities and quiz bowl procedures at the national conventions. Staff will provide a remedial action plan at our October meeting.

As you may have noticed, the back page of the last two issues of the Forestry Source carries an advertisement for SAF Forestry Rings. SAF has provided one of these rings at no cost to each graduate of an accredited four-year forestry program. Council voted in this meeting to extend that benefit to graduates of two-year forestry programs, as well.

Please take note of President Cox’s “From the Leadership” article on page 8 of the June Forestry Source. In it she summarizes the groundbreaking and introspective work of Council during the past two years on questions of strategic planning, branding, and our core language. How we self-identify as a professional society is essential to understanding how to maintain and...

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Pinchot’s Legacy (Chair’s Note), continued from page 1

...needs of a changing era. For our industrial economy and urbanization are pressing against the limits of our most fundamental needs: pure water to drink, fresh air to breathe, open space to enjoy and abundant sources of energy to release man from menial toil.”

At the 50th anniversary event several speakers, including Char Miller, Pinchot historian and author, noted that Kennedy’s remarks about the environment were inspired by Rachael Carson’s 1962 book, Silent Spring. Other context around the 1963 event: about 3 billion people on earth (compared to 7 billion today); this was before many federal laws had been enacted including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, etc. In 1963 there was also a growing awareness and increasing opposition by some to intensive forest management, clearcutting on national forests in particular, which eventually led to the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

So it’s time for a confession. If you didn’t know it already, I’m a real fan of history. My favorite books are about famous leaders, events, and historical fiction. But do I and others in SAF obsess too much about history? Does Gifford Pinchot really matter that much today? Why don’t we focus more on today and get on with addressing the 21st century issues facing conservation, forestry and our profession? Are some of SAF’s problems with declining membership a result of living too much in Pinchot’s shadow? And why should NCSAF be pursuing a memorial to Pinchot on Roosevelt Island in connection with his 150th birthday in 2015?

Well here’s my take. Gifford Pinchot and the history of forestry and conservation in America is very relevant to the issues we face today, including climate change, the loss and fragmentation of forest lands, forest restoration, and an increasingly urbanized population. But Pinchot is only relevant today if we make the effort to take his words, philosophies and legacy and put them to work as part of today’s forestry outreach and education activities. A memorial to Gifford Pinchot to Roosevelt Island, if it becomes reality, needs to be much more than a monument to America’s most famous forester that visitors come upon while hiking the island’s many trails.

I envision this monument, and the 88-acre restored forest on Roosevelt Island where it is proposed to be established, as a place that every forester should visit when they come to Washington DC. I visualize it as a place where SAF members take their children, young people that may be considering forestry as a profession, and prospective SAF members.

Because Roosevelt Island is a forest, it is an ideal place to celebrate not only the Roosevelt and Pinchot legacies, but also a place to talk about the importance of forests, forestry and the conservation of natural resources, today and in the future.

Grey Towers is perhaps and always will be the “mecca” for SAF members and all American foresters. However, I believe that the proposed Pinchot memorial on Roosevelt Island can also be a place that we actively use to advance our profession. Perhaps even a place where SAF’s new Core Language is discussed among foresters and all citizens who are interested in learning about what we do and why it is so important? Have you ever noticed, as I have that discussions about the issues around forests, natural resources and people are quite different when you are in the forest?

We continue to make progress on the proposed Pinchot memorial on Roosevelt Island. In early August I co-signed a letter, with Pinchot Institute President Al Sample and SAF President Michael Goergen, to Tweed Roosevelt, President of the Board of Trustees for the Theodore Roosevelt Association (TRA). In the letter we made a good case for the memorial and asked for TRA’s support. We have heard some encouraging support from individual board members but await a decision from the full board. Assuming we get support from TRA, we still have a long process ahead, working with the National Park Service and many others, to meet the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986.

As a SAF member does Gifford Pinchot matter to you? If the proposed Pinchot memorial on Roosevelt Island has a major setback, should we consider other options in the DC area? Aside from the memorial idea, should NCSAF consider SAF outreach and education activities in connection with Pinchot’s 150th birthday, August 11, 2015?

Please contact me with your thoughts at any time about NCSAF via email (acmason1954@gmail.com) or on my home phone (571-214-5536).

Enjoy the fall colors!
—Andy Mason is the 2013 Chair of NCSAF—
50 Year SAF Member Robert A. Peoples, Jr., has considered himself always first and foremost a forester. He commented that when he graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, he was empowered with knowledge in economics and people management in addition to the broad-based foundation in forestry. He recently celebrated his 50 year reunion with seven of the thirteen living classmates in the Forestry program. There were twenty-two in the graduating class.

He began his career with the USDA Forest Service on the White Mountain National Forest, followed by four years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Land Acquisition Program. Bob made the move with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to D.C. in 1967 to work in Program Analysis and policy issues, such as facility maintenance, coordination of land acquisition and legislation for protection of resources such as the coastal migratory striped bass restoration in the Chesapeake and also the Great Klamath Ring Basin. He attended MIT to complete his M.S. in 1970/71, the topic of his thesis dealing with an approach for estimating the value of coastal wetlands in the Northeast.

He devoted time in the Great Lakes areas of Windsor, Ontario and Detroit area circa 1986 to discourage the non-indigenous infestations of zebra mussel, which is native to the Caspian Sea and is brought to U.S. waters by ballast water from ships.

The highlight of his career is his outstanding experience for over 30 years researching the coastal barriers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, which included identifying 900 miles of these coastal barriers, 625 miles of beach and 750 miles undeveloped land. He master-minded the valuation in dollars for these vital resources and brought to the table his insight on how it all fits together. The values of these resources are additive, one does not diminish another. When you protect wetlands, you take land out of use. Wetlands perform a lot of function benefiting society and also provide wildlife values, fisheries values and even, for example, in Louisiana, protect upland areas from storm surges.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of speaking with Mr. Peoples and hope that you enjoyed learning about the great contribution he has made to our profession.

— Jeanne Kavinski —
The NCSAF Annual Business Meeting was conducted on September 26, in the Secretary’s Dining Room at the USDA Whitten Building. Chair Andy Mason discussed NCSAF accomplishments during 2013 and each committee chair provided a brief summary of the committees’ work. Our special guest speaker was Kim Steiner, SAF District VII Council Representative, who represents the interests of SAF members in Region 7 which includes Allegheny SAF (5 states – PA, WV, MD, DE, NJ) and National Capital SAF. Kim made a presentation about the SAF Brand Clarity project so that it our SAF communication efforts clearly answer three important questions: 1) Who are we? 2) What do we do? and 3) Why does it matter? Kim presented the current branding messages that are being considered. Following that, NCSAF members offered several suggestions about what was being proposed and suggested that some messages need to be re-crafted. Kim indicated that he was glad to have NCSAF input and ideas as the SAF Council continues to grapple with the SAF brand and how to present it.

NCSAF WINE TASTING & AUCTION EVENT

November 7, 2013, 6 pm – 9 pm

Location: Rooftop Club Room, Archstone Virginia Square Apartment bldg., 901 N. Nelson Street, Arlington, VA 22203 (turn right as you exit the Virginia Square Metro Station and enter the bldg., or enter on the Nelson Street side. Take elevator to the 19th floor.)

- Taste a variety of fine wines
- Network with NCSAF colleagues
- Raise money for the Society of American Foresters

Donations? More Information?
David Gwaze, dgwaze@fs.fed.us or 202.430.0122

NCSAF Annual Business Meeting

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Mark Reimers was presented his Golden 50-year member award at the Annual Business Meeting.
Reflections of a Golden Member, by Dan Cramsey

My decision to work for the Forest Service came in 1957 during a summer job on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in Idaho, Mountain Region (R-1). Returned to Rutgers University, where they had a Forestry Program; graduated in 1959, and, instead of continuing a career in the Army R.O.T.C., started a full time forestry career with the Forest Service on the Stonyford Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest, California (R-5). Learned a lot about fire fighting and implementing Multiple Use Management. From there, I went to the Lee Ranger District and then to the Supervisor's Office (SO), George Washington National Forest, Virginia (R-7). Evenage Management was in its infant stage. To get me out of the Region, the Forest Service disbanded the Eastern Region.

The Southern Region (R-8) decided to risk taking me and sent me to the Oakmulgee Ranger District, AL as District Ranger. Having too much fun managing the various resources there (the Loblolly/Longleaf pine stands are very forgiving), the Region combined the two districts and moved me to the Regional Office (RO) in Atlanta, GA. in timber management. Being too much trouble there, they moved me to the SO on the Ozark National Forest in AR. We implemented a new work schedule with variable work days and hours. Eventually, the Region tired of me and convinced the Chief's Office to give me a try.

Working in Washington, DC proved a challenging experience, not only for me, but the family. Eventually finding it likable, we stayed nine years, my working in the Silverculture, Budget, and Timber Sale programs. When the third chief took office, he decided I had too much of a good thing and gave me a choice of places to go. Soon, I was on my way to my final Forest Service destination in the RO, Southwestern Region (R-3). Three of the children stayed in VA to complete college or start married life. The experience of living and working in an environment of three different cultures was educational and rewarding. Again, having too much fun, the Federal Government in 1994 paid me to retire and leave the service.

One of my satisfying accomplishments was having worked in eight of the twenty major Forest Types in the US and visiting ten others on trips, either work related or on vacation. I have had the privilege of living in or visiting in every state in the US. Another accomplishment was continuing my forestry education and professional development throughout my career, some of which was recognized by the SAF (CFE certificates). Both were goals set during college.

The Society of American Foresters has given me the opportunity to associate with and exchange ideas with Foresters and other professionals all over the country and to keep current on forestry research and practice. A highlight was being recognized by the SAF and being elected a Fellow in 2000.

Two memorable experiences during my life was being saved at a Billy Graham Crusade in Madison Square Garden, NYC, in 1957 while attending school. Another was shaking hands with President John F. Kennedy during his dedication of the Gifford Pinchot Institute for conservation studies in Milford, PA, Oct, 1963, one month before he was shot in Dallas, TX.

Since retiring, I have experienced working with the homeless and being chaplain for the city/county jail in Albuquerque, NM; managing a Texaco service station/food mart in TX, (a childhood dream); and now teaching, here in VA, English and American customs to speakers of other languages and learning some of their language and customs. My only regret is having to become inactive in SAF to be full time caretaker for my ailing wife, who died March 25, and my Down Syndrome daughter (now 37).

Editor's Note: Dan Cramsey recently celebrated his 50 year membership with NCSAF. Congratulations Dan, and thank you for sharing your story. -Chris Farley
Interns wow NCSAF

NCSAF held its annual “Meet and Welcome Our Summer Interns” on July 29, 2013. The meeting was organized and conducted by Ms. Sam Delfing, SAF Summer Policy Intern. NCSAF provided Sam with names and contact information for 34 summer interns in the Washington, DC area who were working as forestry or other natural resource interns. Nearly 25 interns responded to the invitation to join NCSAF for the lunch meeting, with food provided complements of NCSAF members.

Sam organized a panel of interns who talked about what they were doing during their internships and their impressions of living and working in the Nation’s Capital. Thanks to Sam’s efforts, the luncheon and intern participation was a huge success!

— Eric Norland —

House Ag Committee Speaks at NCSAF August Luncheon

On Tuesday, August 20th, NCSAF hosted a luncheon at the Hall of the States building with Brent Blevins (Majority Staff) and Lisa Shelton (Minority Staff) of the House Agriculture Committee. Mr. Blevins and Ms. Shelton provided their perspectives on the Farm Bill and shared their views regarding the biggest challenges and opportunities facing public and private lands forestry. The luncheon seminar was a success with many NCSAF members in attendance.