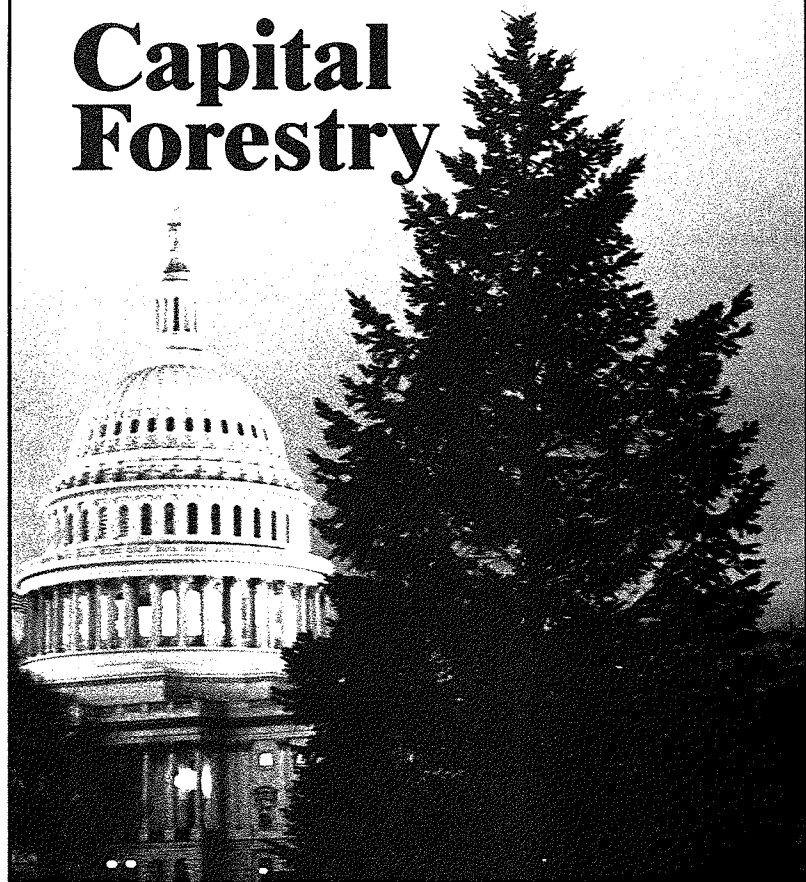


# Capital Forestry



# Capital Forestry

*Coverline: For details about the cover tree,  
a Washington state Douglas-fir, see page 46.  
Photo credit: J. Matthews.*

# **Capital Forestry**

**A History of the  
National Capital  
Society of American Foresters**

**By Arthur V. Smyth**

**National Capital Society of American Foresters  
Washington, D.C.**

## Introduction

When one thinks of forestry in Washington, D.C., thoughts of measuring trees, trudging through underbrush, or surveying do not come to mind. But forestry in Washington is forestry just the same. It is political forestry. And the images that political forestry invoke are just as vivid as those more traditional origins. Receptions. Handshakes. Negotiations. Smoke-filled rooms. Congress. Briefing senators, representatives, and heads of agencies and departments. Learning that the annual budget of the Forest Service could pay for four Stealth Bombers. Translating the language of forestry into the language of politics.

*Capital Forestry* is both the story of political forestry in Washington, D.C., and the history of the National Capital Society of American Foresters. What makes the history of the National Capital SAF so special to write about, to read about? Because political forestry is no longer limited to Washington, D.C. The winds of change blowing through our society and our profession bring political forestry to every forested region of our country.

And the history of the National Capital SAF is the history of the profession as well. Our local issues are national issues. The membership of the National Capital SAF includes policymakers of many agencies and diverse conservation, professional, environmental, and industrial organizations. We are a closely knit community; our geography allows us to meet almost every month and to know each other well. Our location provides us the opportunity to actively listen and work with all types of political, professional, and advocacy groups and individuals. Washington, D.C., is where the Society of American Foresters got its start. From the time when baked apples were served regularly at the first SAF meetings held at the home of Gifford Pinchot, to current times when we meet in the Capitol, lunch at the Library of Congress, and picnic on the lawn of Wild Acres, the SAF national headquarters, our history is tied to the profession's history.

In this book, Art Smyth delivers the forester's Washington. He has, as he describes, deciphered the tree rings of the National Capital Society of American Foresters and, at the same time, an important part of the history of forestry in our country. It is not just a history lesson; it is a wonderfully fun book to read. Not only for those of us who

live in our nation's capital, but for all who take interest in the roots of forestry and foresters in this country. In *Capital Forestry* you will find delightful anecdotes, rarely seen photographs, and a sense of what Washington and the Society of American Foresters must have been like through the decades.

Foresters rarely make good historians. Art has proved to be the exception. The National Capital SAF greatly appreciates Art's energy and devotion to this project. In his customary fashion, he has enthusiastically pursued and pieced together our history through writings and pictures, facts and gossip. And, of course, he has related a few stories of his own. Thanks, Art, for preserving some of our forgotten origins. If I can be so bold as to hazard a prediction, I believe this book has started a new tradition and will be the foundation for many editions to come.

Adela Backiel  
Chair, 1989-1990  
National Capital Society  
of American Foresters

## Foreword

A forester can write the history of a forest by reading the annual rings of the trees. As a forester, I have attempted to write a history of foresters by reading their words. Now, foresters are traditionally better with trees than words, but to their everlasting credit, a few foresters over the last three-quarters of a century left a paper trail. It was this trail, sometimes faint, that I followed to explore the history of the National Capital Society of American Foresters.

The story concerns one group of professional foresters, what they talked about, where they met, who they elected as leaders, and what was going on around them. It is the story of one group, but other foresters may find interest in the account. The problems of organization are similar whether in Coos Bay, Oregon, or the nation's capital, whether in forestry or other professions.

Then again, the National Capital Society is unique. "In short, the Washington Section is different from most," said Luke Popovich in the *Journal of Forestry* in a May 1979 article, entitled "A Day in the Life of a Section." He observed, "Their shoes are never muddy, their ties are always straight, and their three-piece suits sometimes suggest that, for the most part, forestry was something they practiced long ago in order to come here." Well, Luke, the shoes are still not muddy but as to the tie and three-piece suit—our Chair is a woman.

Through the years, several attempts were made to get the history of the National Capital Society down on paper. When Thomas Glazebrook was Chairman in 1976, he appointed a History Committee chaired by Robert Winters. Francis Eyre, George Kephart, Henry Clepper, and John Shanklin began to assemble the vital statistics.

In 1983, during Charles Newlon's administration, a History Committee was chaired by Leonard Lundberg. It was Lundberg who delivered the boxes of files that filled my garage for many months. This preliminary work gave me a starting point.

The only published material on our group's history was an article, "The Society of American Foresters—Its Washington Section," by Arthur B. Meyer in the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* in February 1965. I found it most helpful.

In this current effort, many members helped, among them, Milt Bryan, Albert Clepper, Bob Wolf, Jay McConnell, Barry Walsh, John Shanklin, Murlyn Dickerman, Les Whitmore, and Brian Payne. The continual encouragement of Past Chair Forrest Fenstermaker urged me on, and Adela Backiel, our current Chair, was enthusiastic about the project from the beginning.

The Forest History Society, located now in Durham, North Carolina, contains the archives of the Society of American Foresters, the archives of the Washington Section, plus innumerable other forest references. It is a treasure house for authors chronicling any aspect of forestry in the United States. Unless otherwise noted, my sources are these archives. My thanks to Harold Steen, Executive Secretary, and to Margaret Brill, Librarian. Since all the Chiefs of the Forest Service from Gifford Pinchot on have been members of the Washington Section, Harold Steen's book, *The U.S. Forest Service: A History*, has provided invaluable background.

Elwood Maunder, then Executive Secretary of the Forest History Society, concluded a speech at the 75th annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Washington, D.C., with these timeless lines from Carl Sandburg:

*When a society or civilization perishes  
One condition may always be found.  
They forgot where they came from.  
They lost sight of what brought them along.*

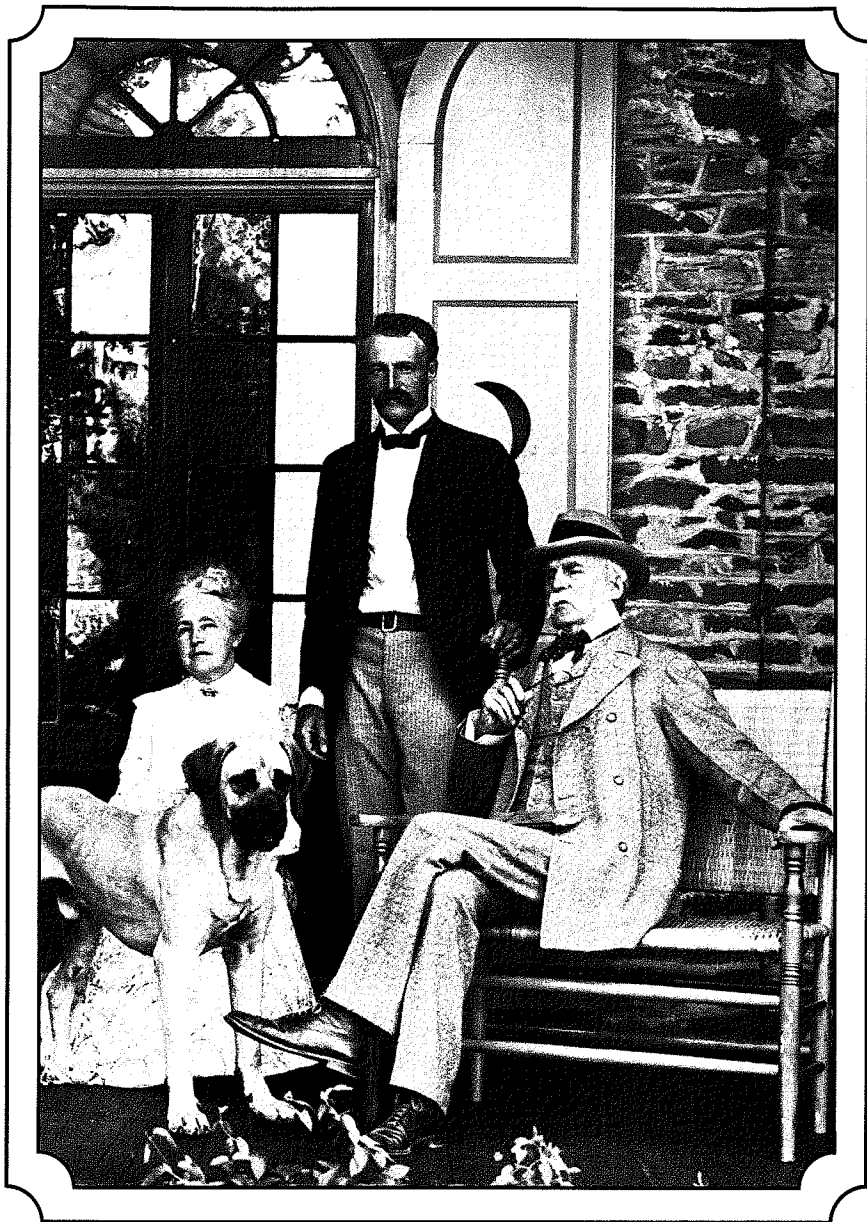
Arthur V. Smyth  
President  
Society of American Foresters

## Contents

Introduction by Adela Backiel, v

Foreword, vii

- I. The Early Years, 1  
Officers 1916–1926, 5
- II. The Great Depression and the Great Debate, 7  
Officers 1927–1939, 13
- III. The War Years, 15  
Officers 1940–1949, 21
- IV. Growing Times, 23  
Officers 1950–1959, 29
- V. Turbulent Sixties, 31  
Officers 1960–1969, 33
- VI. Decade of Challenge, 35  
Officers 1969–1979, 39
- VII. Decade of Change, 41  
Officers 1980–1990, 45
- VIII. Looking Back, Looking Ahead, 47  
SAF Presidents from the National Capital SAF, 49  
SAF Award Recipients from the National Capital SAF, 50  
Current Golden Members in the National Capital SAF, 51  
Current Fellows in the National Capital SAF, 52



*Gifford Pinchot is shown with his parents in 1900, the year that he and six colleagues founded the Society of American Foresters in Washington, D.C.  
Photo credit: Grey Towers, USDA Forest Service.*

## The Early Years

In November 1900, the scion of a wealthy, patrician family met with six of his colleagues in Washington, D.C., to form the Society of American Foresters. Early meetings of the professional society were held in the elegant Rhode Island Avenue home of the group's leader and founder, Gifford Pinchot.

The small band of foresters that met regularly at his home became known as the "Baked Apple Club" for the dessert that became a tradition. As the years went by, these founding members saw the Society of American Foresters (SAF) spread across the country. In 1912, a section was formed at Missoula, Montana. Sections soon followed at Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; San Francisco; Albuquerque; Denver; and Ogden, Utah.

At the Society's 1916 annual meeting in San Francisco, a new section was approved for Washington, D.C. The national office of the Society thought that members living in the Washington area should be put on the same footing as those foresters living in other parts of the country. Originally the Washington Section, the name was later changed to the Washington, D.C., Section and in 1982 to the National Capital Society of American Foresters.

Other sections of the Society may be closer to the forests but none has been as close to the decisionmakers responsible for policies that determine how the nation's forests are managed. In addition to Pinchot, members have included Samuel Dana, William Greeley, Raphael Zon, Bob Marshall, Tom Gill, every Chief of the Forest Service, every top forester in the Department of the Interior, and every Executive Vice President of the Society of American Foresters. Meetings have been attended by key members of Congress, a justice of the Supreme Court, a former First Lady, and various advisors to the President.

Over the years, the National Capital Society of American Foresters, through its meetings and its committees, has reflected the national issues of the times—wars, depressions, government regulations, taxation, conservation, and the environmental movement. Members helped formulate the laws that influenced management of the nation's forestlands—the Clarke-McNary Act, McIntire-Stennis Act, Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, Wilderness Act, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, and the clean air and water acts. Program speakers chronicled the advances made in forest science and technology.

The first decade of the Washington Section's existence saw the "war to end war," a post-war boom, and a great social experiment called Prohibition. For foresters, it was a period of growth as a profession, marked by the expansion of forestry research and forest experiment stations established by the Forest Service.

The first Chairman of the Washington Section, Allen Peck, convened the first meeting at the New National Museum on November 6, 1916. The museum had been built in 1906, but in 1916 it was still called "new." Today we know it as the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Irving Bailey of the Bussey Institution for Research and Applied Biology of Harvard University spoke on "The Role of the Microscope in the Identification and Classification of the Timbers of Commerce." W.W. Ashe spoke on "Some Aspects of the Appraisal of Tanning Stock." Francis Kiefer recorded these events as the Section's first secretary.

From a rather technical beginning, programs that first season widened to include talks on "Alaska Is Opening Up" by Arthur Ringland, "Forests and Human Progress" by Raphael Zon, and "Forests and Community Development" by Samuel Dana. A program on "The Timber Industry Situation and Its Remedies" by Wilson Compton of the Federal Trade Commission would have an attentive audience today, as would the program "Effect of Controlled Burning on Natural Reproduction."

These early meetings were held in the evening frequently at members' homes. Refreshments were served and members paid a dollar. In 1918, the assessment for old members went up to two dollars, while the fee for new members remained at one. Refreshments were limited to two items. Meetings also took place at the University Club, the Cosmos Club, and the Wilson Normal School. Gifford Pinchot frequently invited the Section to meet at his home, where the refreshments were baked apples, whipped cream, ginger bread, milk, and coffee.

Many meetings were held at the Cosmos Club, then in the Dolly Madison House on Madison Place. The Cosmos Club remains a prestigious private club in Washington. Membership has been described as the "creme de la creme" of professional scientific recognition. A popular saying went, "If you had money you were a member of the Metropolitan Club; if you had brains you were a member of the Cosmos Club, and if you had neither you were a member of the Army-Navy Club." Fernow, Pinchot, Greeley, Gill, and Ringland were all members of the Cosmos Club. A number of members of the National Capital Society currently belong to the club.

President Woodrow Wilson was re-elected in 1916 on the platform, "He kept us out of war," but it soon became apparent that war was imminent. Early in 1917, the Washington Section, in a spirit of patriotism, passed a motion by one vote, recommending to the Council that the Society of American Foresters support universal, compulsory, military service. The Society, after an informal polling of other sections, did not act on the motion.

Meeting at Pinchot's home, the Washington Section passed a resolution and subsequently succeeded in getting the SAF to form a committee to determine how foresters could best assist in the national defense. A committee, chaired by Pinchot, consisted of Section members Major George Ahearn, Herbert Smith, Earle Clapp, and Arthur Ringland. The committee developed a roster and classified SAF members by their qualifications to assist the national defense. After the declaration of war in April 1917,



*SAF Washington Section Member Arthur Ringland (left), Captain in the U.S. Army Forestry Regiment, surveys a World War I training camp on the grounds of American University. Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*



the committee became the SAF War Committee. Washington Section member Raphael Zon served as secretary. In cooperation with the Forest Service and state foresters, the War Committee conducted an inventory of New York and New England for timber, especially spruce, suitable for war needs.

Many members of the Washington Section went off to war, most notably William B. Greeley who, as Colonel Greeley commanded a forestry regiment in France. As Captain Ringland, Arthur Ringland laid out the training area on the grounds of American University for, what Washingtonians called, the "lumberjack company." Many meetings during the war featured the activities of the forestry regiment.

In 1919, the debate over government regulation of cutting practices on private timberlands began to heat up. SAF President Frederick Olmsted appointed a Committee for the Application of Forestry, chaired by Gifford Pinchot. In 1920, at the SAF annual meeting in New York City, the Pinchot Committee gave its report, which called for legislation to provide mandatory regulations to secure the national timber supply. The laws were to be enforced by the U.S. Forest Service.

Many members, including some in the Washington Section, disagreed on the recommendations of the Committee. The opposing forces were led by Colonel Greeley; those in favor by Gifford Pinchot. No consensus developed within the Society despite two letter ballots. In 1920, the U.S. Senate appointed a Committee on Reforestation which would achieve passage of the Clarke-McNary Act in 1924. This act set up a system of cooperation among state, federal, and private groups to function as a catalyst for forestry on private lands.

Colonel Greeley was "roasted" by his colleagues in 1926 when the Section joined with the Forest Service Social Committee to sponsor a smoker at the University Club. For members who had paid their \$2 assessment, the event was free; others were charged \$1. Prohibition was on, and the announcement promised .075 beer for those with "tenacious memories;" sandwiches, cobbler, and ice cream. During the evening, a mock trial was conducted. Greeley was charged with being "a stockman, real estate promoter, running a tourist bureau, and refusing to accept any new ideas." Charges were dismissed on the grounds that there were no new ideas to accept.

The most outstanding action taken by the Washington Section during this decade occurred in 1926, when a committee, chaired by Earle Clapp, looked at the needs for forest research. In November 1926, the Section's report was published by the American Tree Association. The report's draft of suggested federal legislation has been credited with giving the impetus for enactment of the 1928 McNary-McSweeney Forest Research Act which expanded and strengthened the Forest Service experiment stations.

## Officers 1916-1926

1916-1917	Allen S. Peck, Chairman; Francis Kiefer, Secretary
1918	Samuel T. Dana, Chairman; J.A. Mitchell, Secretary
1919	W.R. Matoon, Chairman; J.A. Mitchell, Secretary
1920	E.E. Carter, Chairman; Joseph Kittredge, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
1921	Joseph Kittredge, Jr., Chairman; E.H. Frothingham, Secretary
1922	R.C. Hall, Chairman; Rudolph Diefenbach, Secretary
1923	O.M. Butler, Chairman; Ward Shepard, Secretary-Treasurer
1924	J.F. Preston, Chairman; W.W. Ashe, Secretary
1925	B.A. Chandler/G. Harris Collingwood, Chairman; John Cuno, Secretary



*Forest Service Chief William Greeley (left) and Ovid Butler, Forest Products Laboratory, are shown in 1921; both served as officers of the SAF Washington Section.  
Photo credit: Forest Products Laboratory, USDA Forest Service.*

## **The Great Depression and the Great Debate**

In 1976, Francis Eyre wrote a short piece entitled, "Some Recollections of the Washington Section of the SAF; 1927-1930." He stated, "In retrospect it seems like there was an interminable debate on forest regulation." Arguments for and against government regulation of private timberlands raged on at the meetings of the Washington Section during the late 1920s, 1930s, and into the 1940s.

In March 1928, Gifford Pinchot, writing from his home in Pennsylvania, regretted that he could not attend the scheduled meeting of the Section to discuss regulation. He added, "In the meantime I have three points to make: First, that official sources demonstrate beyond dispute that the United States is using up its timber many times faster than it is being replaced, and is heading directly towards a great timber famine. Second, that no steps are being taken which promise effective relief. Third, that the profession of forestry will be held reponsible for this failure in leadership."

In December 1928, at a Section meeting in the Cosmos Club, the program was a review of Major George Ahearn's book, *Deforested America*. Ahearn was a charter member of the Washington Section, a West Point graduate, and a long-time forestry colleague of Pinchot's. He was an indefatigable supporter of federal regulation of forestry practices on private timberlands. Predicting imminent timber famine if the wholesale destruction of the nation's forests was not halted, he called the limited efforts of industry "show-window forestry." Ahearn was supported by E.N. Munns, who stated that the Clarke-McNary Act results had not come up to expectations.

That same year, the Section passed a motion that the SAF appoint a committee to "study the present national forestry program and to recommend, at as early a date as possible, additional measures and objectives that in its opinion may be practicable for the more rapid development of forestry and the curbing of forest destruction; such a study to include, if feasible, a thorough analysis, with competent legal advice, of public regulation of timber cutting, either through state or federal action or both, as one possible solution."

Those opposed to federal regulation were also heard. At a meeting of the Washington Section, Theodore Knappen of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association pointed out, "It is absolutely useless to attempt to regulate reforestation by arbitrary laws and decrees. We will have industrial reforestation if it pays and not if it doesn't pay."

William Greeley, speaking at a Washington Section meeting, said, "In my judgement industrial forestry is part of the all around stabilization of forest industries. The kind of industrial forestry we want is timber growing as an integral part of the business, provided for in the financing and manufacturing program and general structure of a commercial enterprise. Only this sort of industrial forestry represents an adequate and permanent solution of the problem from the public standpoint. I do not see how real industrial forestry of this character can be accomplished through public regulation of timberlands. It must come rather as an economic development with public encouragement in such forms as forest protection and adjustments in forest taxation." He added, "We want the timber-using industries to absorb forestry and to absorb foresters."

In 1929, the Section approved, by a vote of 21 to 4, a report on "Forest Policy for the United States." In a list of 13 recommendations, only one called for "a study of public regulation." A minority opinion by Ahearn and Pinchot disagreed with many of the recommendations. They viewed the failure to call for public control of forest devastation as a fundamental mistake. Franklin Reed, then SAF Executive Secretary, voted against the majority report but not for the same reasons as Ahearn and Pinchot. Reed said "I am heartily sick of the old line calamity-howling and forest pessimism. It serves to discourage effort rather than stimulate it. . . those of us who must keep patiently at the task needed an atmosphere of optimism and hope in which to work." In spite of the controversy, Eyre in his "Recollections" pointed out that Chairman Barrington Moore handled the meetings smoothly and objectively.

The 1920s weren't all meetings at the Cosmos Club. There were field trips. At a joint field meeting with the SAF Allegheny Section, Eyre recalled meeting "a rather tall, skinny young man with black hair and a grin on his face. . . Henry Clepper." Clepper was then a forester with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters.

In October 1929, the stock market plunged, registering the largest losses recorded to that time. The next few years saw banks closing, unemployment soaring to over 30 percent, soup kitchens, and once proud men selling apples on the streets. The great depression gripped the land.

In March 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt moved into the White House. After assuring the nation that, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," FDR began attacking the problem of unemployment. One of his first actions was to ask Congress for \$500 million for public works to put people back to work. An important part of the proposed public works was for "reforestation." SAF was quick to react, and a letter signed by Franklin Reed, SAF Executive Secretary, went out to all sections asking for lists of foresters seeking employment. Reed added, "The forester positions to be filled if the President's Relief Bill goes through will carry with them no outstandingly munificent salaries but they will at least pay enough to enable a man to carry on for the time being and at the same time perform useful public service."

There is no record of foresters selling apples but, like everyone else, foresters were hit. In reply to a request for payment of back dues, Washington Section member and famous Forest Service cruiser James Girard said, "I'll pay you the \$6 for three years dues when my closed bank pays me another dividend." Hard-pressed, Washington Section Secretary-Treasurer William Dayton reported, "The payment of \$2 a year on the

part of those willing and able to pay just about enables us to get by. If prosperity returns and more men pay it may be possible to reduce the dues."

Establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided jobs for many foresters and in fact stimulated enrollments at the nation's forestry schools. Some of these new foresters became members of the Washington Section and reports on the progress of the Emergency Conservation Program were often featured at meetings.

Another action taken during the depression that had a long-term impact on forestry in the United States was establishment of the short-lived National Recovery Administration (NRA). NRA and its "Blue Eagle" logo was one of the alphabet-soup programs created by FDR's "brain trust." NRA set wages and production levels for America's industry and business. It seemed particularly relevant for the forest products industry which, for a number of years, had suffered ruinous over-production with the resulting waste of the resource and uneconomic prices. The Washington Section discussed the situation at a meeting addressed by William Greeley, who was then Executive Vice President of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association.

In 1933, the NRA Lumber Code set wage rates for sawmill workers in the South at 24 cents an hour, a 5-cent increase over the prevailing wage. The rate for the West Coast was set at 32.5 cents. But what proved to be the most important provision of the Code for forestry was Article X, the Conservation Code. Although the Supreme Court ruled NRA unconstitutional, much of the industry voluntarily adopted the provisions of the Conservation Code, namely to provide for regeneration of cut-over lands. In 1936, the Washington Section devoted a meeting to the subject, "What Did We Learn and Accomplish Under Article X of the Lumber Code? What New Legislation Is Needed to Establish Nation-Wide Forest Management?" Article X and the continuing threat of government regulation may have motivated industry to encourage forestry on private lands. The Tree Farm Program, a leader in this effort, began with the Clemons Tree Farm, established by the Weyerhaeuser Company in June 1941, in Grays Harbor County, Washington.

The author, as a young forester with Weyerhaeuser in the West, remembers hearing about the reaction of one tough, hard-bitten logging boss, who referred contemptuously to the timber he was asked to leave behind as "those damn Roosevelt seed trees." An old Swede logger was heard to say, "What are all these kids doing running around the woods with a bag of lunch and a pencil?" The interminable discussions at the Cosmos Club were paying off. Foresters and forestry were beginning to appear in the nation's industrial forests.

In recognition of FDR's interest in forestry, the President was elected an honorary member of the SAF. During the annual meeting of the Society in 1935 in Washington, D.C., the Schlich Medal was presented to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a ceremony at the White House.

During the 1930s, the Society under the leadership of President H.H. Chapman, a Yale professor of forest management, actively worked to protect state foresters and state forestry departments from political influence. Many units, including the Washington Section took part. Chapman, an outspoken individual, did not hesitate in his defense of the profession. In 1936, he wrote to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia protest-

ing the appointment of a non-professional forester as state forester of Georgia. Governor Talmadge replied as follows:

*Your letter of the 4th has been received.  
I am sure you do not know Mr. Dyal. He  
is a born forester. A woods ranger right.  
He was born down in the Okefinokee Swamp.  
With all good wishes, I am,*

*Very truly yours,  
Eugene Talmadge*

Washington Section member Milt Bryan, recalls that in spite of Chapman's fears, Walter Dyal became one of the best cooperators in the State and Private Forestry programs operated by the Forest Service.

Another controversy for Chapman, the Society, and the Washington Section, was the attempt by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Interior. Ickes, who called himself an "old curmudgeon," proposed legislation to place all government conservation activities in Interior. Chapman, who could also qualify as a curmudgeon, rallied the SAF to fight what he described as a "raid on the Forest Service." The correspondence between Chapman and Ickes became quite heated. In a letter to Chapman, Ickes said, "Some men prefer to fight with stink bombs because they enjoy the smell." Gifford Pinchot opposed the transfer as well and the Forest Service remained in Agriculture. The issue arose again in the Carter administration when Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus attempted a run at getting the Forest Service into Interior.

One member of the Washington Section recalls almost becoming a victim of the enmity existing between Pinchot and Ickes. John Shanklin, then with the National Park Service as inspector of the eastern Civilian Conservation Corps camps, had sent out a notice announcing a Washington Section meeting at the Pinchot home. Shanklin, Secretary of the Section, had attached a postcard to be returned to his office at Interior, indicating whether the member would attend. Shanklin remembers his boss, Arthur Demaray, calling him in and telling him, "John, you are in serious trouble. The Secretary has seen this postcard." Subsequently, Shanklin received a letter stating that it was against regulations for an official government office to be used for private mail. Shanklin survived and retired years later after a very distinguished career at Interior.

In 1937, the Washington Section welcomed a new member to their meetings, 36-year-old Henry Clepper, who had just been named SAF Executive Secretary. The Council, in announcing his appointment, said, "Mr. Clepper's ability and character are such as to convince the Council that the right choice has been made." He served in that capacity for 29 years and was a member of both the Allegheny and National Capital Sections until his death.

Another Washington Section member who was attracting attention during the 1930s was the dynamic Bob Marshall. He has been described by biographer James Glover in his book *A Wilderness Original: The Life of Bob Marshall* as "one of the most liberal, eloquent and controversial persons ever to practice forestry." As a member of the Washington Section, he actively pushed for regulation and worked closely with Pinchot, Ahearn, Munns, Zon, and other Section members toward that goal. He attacked the



*Henry Clepper—forestry writer, historian, and SAF Fellow—was SAF Executive Director for 29 years and an active member of the Washington Section.  
Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*

*Journal of Forestry* and its editor, Emmanuel Fritz, and said, "the official publication of the American forestry profession stands brazenly for forest depletion!" H.H. Chapman fired back in the *Journal* by pointing out that Marshall was, after all, "in favor of a totalitarian program of socialized forestry."

Marshall was a founder of the Wilderness Society and spoke to the Section at several meetings on his favorite subject. In 1932, his topic was "The Wilderness of the Arctic and Wilderness at Home." He made a strong plea for setting aside some wilderness while there was still some left. In 1936, he spoke on "To What Degree Should Areas Suitable for Growing of Timber Crops Be Dedicated to Scenic Highways, Wilderness Areas and other Recreational Uses." The debate goes on, a half century after Marshall's death in 1939.

During the 1930s, regular monthly meetings were held at the Cosmos Club, in the evening without dinner. One member wrote to the chairman in 1936 suggesting dinner meetings. He said, "Specifically, in order to keep down costs and give it a touch of the woods, I suggest that we have a baked beans supper—good baked beans, perhaps one vegetable, a salad and some simple dessert and coffee. Such a dinner could be served for not over 75 cents at most. The Cosmos Club should be able to serve such a dinner for that price and make money on it." There is no record of the Cosmos Club serving baked beans, but sometime later, meeting announcements noted that Section members could eat at the club before the meetings for \$1.50.

The Washington Section continued annual field trips and social meetings which included "the wives." In 1930, the chairman reported on a visit to the Shenandoah National Forest, the first time the Section as a group had visited a national forest. The trip was not well attended, and the chairman wrote, "In spite of the roads and numerous fords that would have done credit to a pack train, the caravan got through with only one major accident which made it necessary for Supervisor McNair to tow Dr. Hartley's car more than 20 miles to Winchester."

Another meeting that featured an accident was held at the Pinchot home on March 19, 1936. Washington Section Secretary-Treasurer William Dayton had written to Pinchot suggesting a meeting at his home. Pinchot replied in his usual bright and cheery manner, "Right you are! March nineteenth and I will be ready. And so will the baked apples and gingerbread. I am delighted." Following the meeting, Secretary Dayton wrote an abject letter of apology for, "demolishing one of your chairs." There is no record of just how the chair got demolished; however, one member recalls Bill Dayton as a "heavy-set" man.

In 1937, a social evening at Fort Hunt in suburban Virginia featured stories, skits, music, and square dancing. The charge for dinner, provided by the Fort Hunt CCC company, was 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for the children.

As the 1930s drew to a close, Henry Clepper had this to say at a Section meeting: "Another project which the Section might well undertake would be the preparation of a history of the Section for presentation at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society. Much historical information is lost in the course of time. There are now members of the Section who have been charter members of the Society and identified with it from the beginning." It would take another 50 years to complete the project.

## Officers 1927-1939

1927 (thru May)	R.C. Staebner, Chairman; Ward Shepard, Vice Chairman; Tom Gill, Secretary-Treasurer
1927	Arthur Ringland, Chairman; Morgan Pryse, Secretary-Treasurer
1928	George P. Ahearn, Chairman; Morgan Pryse, Secretary-Treasurer
1929	Barrington Moore, Chairman; Morgan Pryse, Secretary-Treasurer
1930	Ward Shepard, Chairman; F.W. Reed, Vice Chairman; Alfred Fivaz, Secretary-Treasurer
1931	H.A. Smith, Chairman; C. Stowell Smith, Vice Chairman; Alfred Fivaz, Secretary-Treasurer
1932	J.P. Kinney, Chairman; Alfred Fivaz, Vice Chairman; Perkins Colville, Secretary-Treasurer
1933	J.P. Kinney, Chairman; Alfred Fivaz, Vice Chairman; William A. Dayton, Secretary-Treasurer
1934	Leon F. Kneip, Chairman; Robert Marshall, Vice Chairman; William A. Dayton, Secretary-Treasurer
1935-1936	J.A. Fitzwater, Chairman; J.B. Woods, Vice Chairman; William A. Dayton, Secretary-Treasurer
1937	John F. Preston, Chairman; Lewis E. Staley/George A. Duthie, Vice Chairman; Rosser A. Rudolph, Secretary-Treasurer
1938-1939	George A. Duthie, Chairman; L.N. Erickson, Vice Chairman; John F. Shanklin, Secretary-Treasurer



*Movie star Paulette Goddard, who helped the war effort by publicizing a fire prevention program, is shown in 1942 with Acting Chief of the Forest Service Earle Clapp. Photo credit: Washington Times-Herald courtesy of USDA Forest Service.*

## The War Years

The greatest war the world has ever seen came to Washington, D.C., on a Sunday afternoon in December. It changed the world; it changed Washington; and it changed the lives of a generation of foresters.

The Society's 40th Anniversary annual meeting had taken place in Washington, D.C., in 1940. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Schlich Medal to Gifford Pinchot, only the second time that the medal had been awarded to an American. The foresters attending the meeting could hardly imagine the cataclysmic events on the horizon.

In 1941, ten days after Pearl Harbor, the Society decided to proceed with the annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. It would be the last annual meeting until 1946. The Washington Section continued to meet during the war, but many of the younger members were away for the duration, and a great number of the senior members were working for agencies such as the Office of Price Administration and the War Production Board.

In July 1942, Henry Clepper was granted a leave of absence as Executive Secretary of SAF to accept an appointment with the War Production Board. He was assistant to Arthur Upson, Chief of the Lumber and Lumber Products Branch of the Bureau of Industrial Operations. Clepper wrote to the Council, "This memorandum is not intended as a farewell to the Council or the Society. I have arranged to have desk space in the Society office and shall plan on maintaining my contacts with the work of the Society and the membership."

Despite the war, Congress and President Roosevelt found time for rancorous debates on forestry issues. The proponents of federal regulation of forestry practices on private lands attempted to use wartime controls on the economy as a means to their ends. A bitter controversy among Washington Section members erupted in 1942 when acting Chief of the Forest Service Earle Clapp attempted to get the President to impose federal

regulation of private forest management by Executive Order under the War Powers Act. Clapp was known to prefer legislation. Arthur Upson of the War Production Board recommended against emergency federal regulation and the issue was deferred.

In 1941, a joint committee of Congress recommended what eventually became the Omnibus Forestry bill. The committee proposed increased federal cooperation with the states in fire control if the states would pass legislation providing for proper state, county, and district fire protection. The states would also be required to pass regulations governing minimum forestry practices to be supervised and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Federal funds would be withdrawn if state forestry practices, standards, and enforcement proved unsatisfactory.

Hearings on the proposal were held throughout the country but the measure was never enacted into law. It did help pass the Sustained Yield Management Act of 1944 and amendments to the Clarke-McNary Act and Cooperative Forest Management Act. It also stimulated action by the states. In the 1940s, Oregon, Washington, and a number of other states passed laws establishing minimum standards.

President Roosevelt, an honorary member of the Society of American Foresters, lost one of his few veto battles over a forestry issue. The revenue bill of 1943, H.R. 3687, contained a provision to provide capital gains treatment for landowners who cut their timber. Previously, only a timber owner who sold timber outright was entitled to capital gains treatment. The report of the House Ways and Means Committee stated that "various timber owners are seriously handicapped under the federal income and excess profits tax laws. The law discriminates against taxpayers who dispose of timber by cutting it as compared with those who sell timber outright."

In February 1944, FDR sent the House a veto message on H.R. 3687, stating, "I regret that I find it necessary in the midst of this great war to be compelled to do this in what I regard as the public interest." In his message, he singled out the tax treatment for timber: "The lumber industry is permitted to treat income from the cutting of timber, including selective logging, as a capital gain rather than annual income. As a grower and seller of timber, I think that timber should be treated as a crop and therefore as income when it is sold. This would encourage reforestation."

Majority Leader Alben Barkley of Kentucky was the President's "man" in the Senate. On this revenue bill and especially the provisions on timber capital gains, Senator Barkley parted ways with his President. In an emotional speech on the floor of the Senate recorded in the *Congressional Record* of February 22, 1944, Barkley said, "I voted for this timber amendment as a member of the Finance Committee. I voted for it on the floor of the United States Senate. As one of the conferees on the part of the Senate, I signed the conference report containing it. For that vote I make no apology to any human being. I did not vote for it in order to create a fantastic or imaginary loophole to allow someone to escape taxes. I voted for it as an act of justice to those who grow timber over a period of a generation, or half a century, and who are entitled to just treatment, no matter in what manner they dispose of the timber."

The Senator was just warming up: "The President, in order to justify his treatment of this amendment, he cites his own experience as a timberman, and from his experience

he regards such income as constituting annual income. I do not know to what extent the President is engaged in the timber business. I do know that he sells Christmas trees at Christmas time. They are no doubt of easy growth and short life, and I have no doubt that the income from their sale constitutes annual income not only to him but that such income would constitute annual income to any other person engaged in a like enterprise. But, Mr. President, to compare those little pine bushes with a sturdy oak, gum, poplar, or spruce, which requires a generation of care and nurturing to produce in the forest, and from which no annual income is derived until finally it is sold, is like comparing a cricket to a stallion."

The Majority Leader of the Senate then shocked his colleagues by announcing that he was calling a conference of the Democratic majority for the next morning at which time he would tender his resignation as their leader. Barkley added "Mr. President, let me say in conclusion, that if the Congress of the United States has any self-respect yet left it will override the veto of the President and enact this tax bill into law, his objections to the contrary notwithstanding." *The Congressional Record* noted, "Prolonged applause on the Senate floor, Senators rising."

The overwhelmingly Democratic Congress handed their President one of his few veto overrides, but Barkley's victory may have cost him the presidency of the United States. It was widely thought that Roosevelt would have chosen Barkley as his running mate for what proved to be his last term. FDR was so upset with Barkley's role in the veto override that he accepted Harry Truman instead. Truman became President with the death of Roosevelt in 1945. Barkley, subsequently became Truman's Vice President.

In 1943, Henry Clepper came back full-time to the Society. The Washington Section continued meeting, and the *District of Columbia Forester*, the Section's newsletter edited by Albert Hall, contained news of the comings and goings of foresters in wartime Washington. The September 1944 issue noted that Richard McArdle checked in as the new Chief of the Division of State and Private Forestry in the Forest Service.

One issue had a banner reading, "BUY BONDS—GIVE BLOOD—CUT DOWN THE AXIS." Another issue noted that Lt. David Nace, formerly of the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry, was in Walter Reed Hospital recovering from wounds suffered at Anzio and was eager to talk forestry with foresters.

In June 1944, the Section held a dinner meeting at the YWCA at 17th and K Streets. The Y holds the record for being the Washington Section's favorite meeting spot and gatherings were held there through the early 1960s. For years, the dinner charge was \$1.25, which price alone would account for its popularity.

About that time, foresters in the armed services, from the jungles of New Guinea to the tundras of the Aleutians, received a letter which began, "Your name has been given to me by Mr. Henry Clepper, Executive Secretary of the Society of American Foresters, as one who may be willing to collect plants for the United States National Herbarium. I am writing to ask if you will do this so that we may have a better representation of the flora of the region where you are now stationed." The letter was signed by E.H. Walker, Assistant Curator, Division of Plants, Natural History Museum. Walker

added, "As a forester, you are doubtless especially interested in identifying the local woods." He asked for full data on locality and habitat. Pointing out that such data might not be able to be transmitted because of military restrictions, he suggested that notes be numbered to correspond to the specimens. "It would be a wise precaution," he added, "to deposit a duplicate copy with your intelligence officer for safe keeping."

Many foresters sent in plant and wood specimens. Many, including the author's collections from New Guinea, are still filed in the herbarium located on the fifth floor of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington.

In 1945, the Washington Section had 200 members with 74 percent employed by the government, including the War Department, Navy, and Army. A senior member who transferred to the Section that year was Sherman Adams, a lumberman and Congressman from the 2nd District of New Hampshire.

In March, the Section discussed the new draft policy: "Revised selective service regulations limiting deferment of men under 30 will hit forestry services particularly hard." Of the probably 168 deferments granted to the entire Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service could only count on four or five.

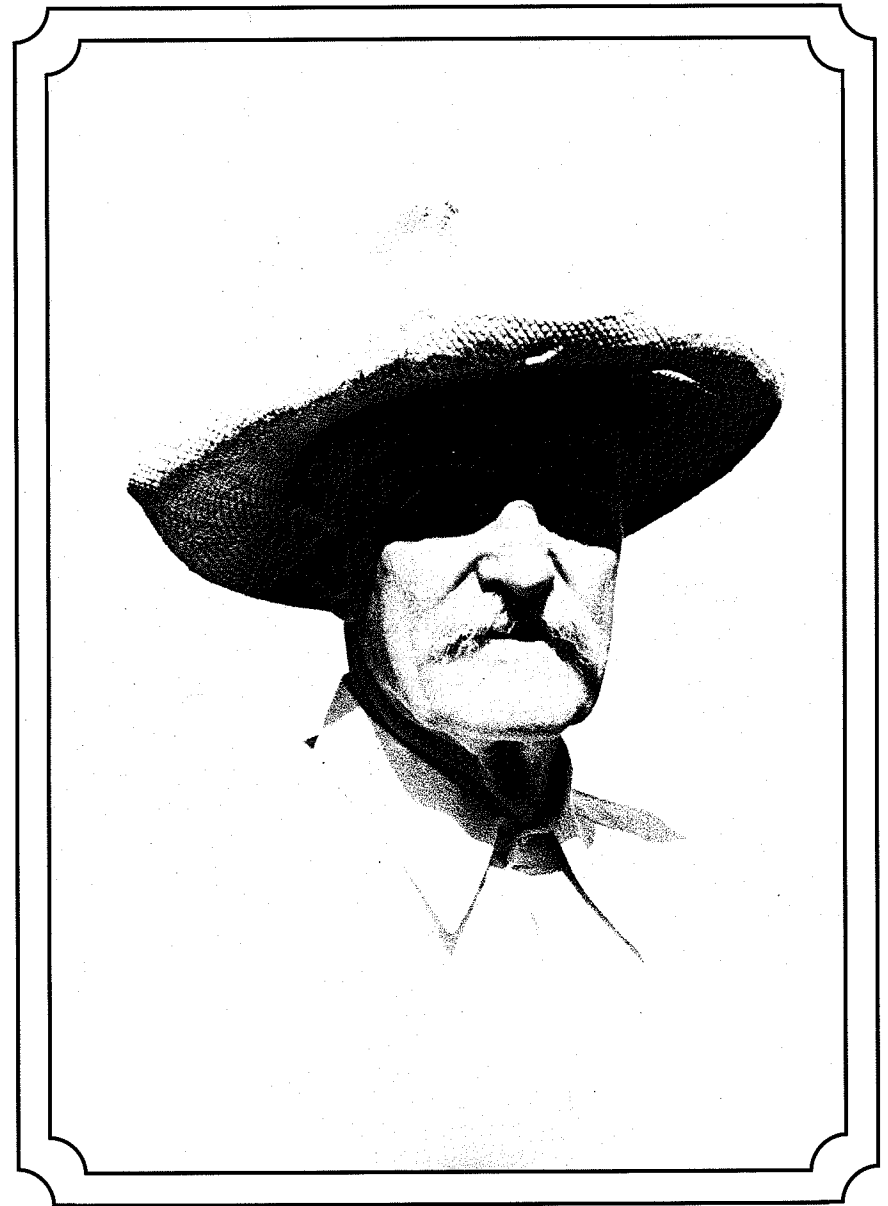
It was also in 1945 that the Society released a committee report recommending that forestry and forest products be included within the new Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The report outlined FAO responsibilities in forestry. Washington Section members Tom Gill and Robert Winters were instrumental in founding the FAO forestry section.

At the August meeting that year, the Section heard reports from A.C. Cline, Chief of the Lumber Products Division of the War Production Board, and Arthur Bevan, Chief of the Paper Division, on their return from a European inspection trip. They reported that the situation in Europe that winter would be desperate because of inadequate shelter, heat, food, and clothing.

At last the long ordeal was over. Millions of young people were returning to civilian life. Interest in forestry among veterans was keen and forestry agencies, schools, and the Society of American Foresters were deluged with requests for information about forestry as a career. In the spring of 1946, the Forest Service announced that it would recruit a large number of foresters, 350 for research alone.

With the war over, the Society resumed its annual meetings. The meeting in Salt Lake City in February 1946 was the first national gathering since 1941. In April of that year, Gifford Pinchot invited the Section to his home for the traditional Baked Apple Club meeting. Some 130 members and guests attended.

In September, an all-day field trip was held to see state forests in Maryland. The meeting announcement noted that the day would conclude with an oyster shucking demonstration and the meeting would end at 5:00 p.m. or "when the oysters are all gone."



*Gifford Pinchot, first native-born American forester, died in October 1946, culminating a half century of public service in conservation and politics.  
Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*



A major forestry event took place in the nation's capital in October of 1946 when an American Forestry Congress was sponsored by the American Forestry Association. Lyle Watts, Chief of the Forest Service, and Corydon Wagner, National Lumber Manufacturers Association, were debating the old issue of regulation when news came that Gifford Pinchot had died at age 81.

The following spring and for many years after, Mrs. Pinchot continued the practice of opening her home to the members of the Washington Section. Long-time Section Member Murlyn Dickerman remembers a meeting at the Pinchot home with several Congressmen on the program. The subject was cooperative sustained-yield units. In response to the remarks of one Congressman, Mrs. Pinchot, a tall, striking redhead, walked up to the front of the room, shook her finger, and said, "Congressman, you don't know what you are talking about!" Milt Bryan recalls another meeting during which Mrs. Pinchot appeared to be dozing in her chair at the rear of the library. When a speaker made a disparaging remark about forest regulation, Mrs. Pinchot was on her feet immediately and told the speaker in no uncertain terms that his philosophy was not welcome in the Pinchot home.

Another prominent Washington widow, Eleanor Roosevelt, attended a Section meeting on December 19, 1949. Mrs. Roosevelt's syndicated column, "My Day," which appeared in *The Washington Daily News*, carried a story on December 22 about her meeting with the foresters. This was a meeting to which the wives had been invited, and Mrs. Roosevelt noted that the YWCA dining room was filled to capacity. She reported that the gavel for this meeting was "appropriately a rolling pin." She told how extension forester A.M. Sowder, Section Chairman, had been up to Hyde Park recently to inspect the Christmas trees being grown by her son, Elliott. One of the trees was given as a door prize, and Mrs. Roosevelt was presented a basket of holly.

She wrote, "I was glad to find, sitting next to me, the Frenchman from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He was in charge of their world forestry program. It gave me quite a thrill to realize that things which we used to think of entirely on a national scale are now almost impossible to talk about except on an international scale."

## Officers 1940-1949

- 1940-1941 William A. Dayton, Chairman; Samuel R. Broadbent, Vice Chairman; Tom Gill, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1941-1942 Irving Haig, Chairman; E.V. Jotter, Vice Chairman; Leroy Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1943-1944 Kenneth E. Davis, Chairman; I.H. Sims, Vice Chairman; Carleton Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1944-1945 Henry Hopp, Chairman; Carl Rishell, Vice Chairman; Lee Settel, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1945-1946 George R. Phillips, Chairman; John Shanklin, Vice Chairman; Arthur Greeley, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1946-1947 A.G. Hall, Chairman; Arthur Greeley/Arthur Spillers, Vice Chairman; Milton Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1947-1948 Arthur Spillers, Chairman; Milton Bryan, Vice Chairman; O.K. Krogfoss, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1948-1949 Milton Bryan, Chairman; J.D. Diller, Vice Chairman; J.P. McWilliams, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1949-1950 Arthur W. Sowder, Chairman; Fred J. Overly, Vice Chairman; George S. Kephart, Secretary-Treasurer



*Bernie Orell (left) presents Forest Service Chief Richard McArdle with a painting of Gifford Pinchot, commissioned by the Weyerhaeuser Company for an advertising campaign. Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*

## Growing Times

The 1950s were years of homebuilding and new families. Foresters were pouring out of forestry schools. Many were going to work in the industrial forests of the South and West. Forest Service timber sales were setting new highs in volume almost every year and the great debate on wilderness began in Washington, D.C., and spread across the nation. The debate on forest regulation dropped from the agenda. Forest practices on at least some industry lands rivaled that on federal lands. For the first time, an industry forester was elected president of the Society of American Foresters, Clyde Martin of Weyerhaeuser.

The decade had opened with one more referendum on the question, "Shall the SAF through its Council favor or oppose the principle of federal regulation of private forests and federal legislation looking toward the establishment of this principle?" Of 3,652 mail ballots cast, 2,545 voted to oppose and 1,107 voted to favor. In 1944, a similar referendum had approved federal regulation by a substantial margin. It had called for supporting, in principle, public regulation to the extent necessary in each local situation to prevent destruction of forests and to keep forestlands reasonably productive.

The Golden Anniversary annual meeting of the Society was held in Washington, D.C., on December 13-16, 1950. The Washington Section was the host and many members worked on arrangements. Over 1,200 registered and the Annual Banquet attracted 900 delegates. The first award of the Gifford Pinchot Medal was made in absentia to Henry Solon Graves, charter member, SAF president in 1912, and Council Member in 1917. He was the second Chief of the Forest Service, succeeding Pinchot. Graves died the following spring.

In 1950, the Section elected its first woman officer, Frances Flick, as Secretary-Treasurer. She was a forester employed in the USDA library. However, it would be another 27 years before the next woman was elected to a Section office.

In 1952, the Section planned a program at which all the Fellows in the Section would be honored. Henry Clepper, knowing that he would be out of town, sent the following letter to Section Chairman John Shanklin:

*The one Washington Section meeting which I regret having to miss is that of February 21. To be present with the other Fellows would have been an enjoyable and memorable occasion. Even though I shall be three thousand miles away, I'll be thinking of you.*

*The story used to be told about Babe Ruth that he so loved baseball he would gladly have played the game for nothing. I have similar feelings towards the Society. A salary is necessary if most foresters are to eat regularly, but pay in money isn't everything. The intangible compensations are important—the satisfactions one receives from rendering service to his fellow workers, the joy of associating with the finest group of men in the world, the sense of participating in a movement which contributes to human welfare, and the conviction that one's efforts, however small, help make the nation a better and stronger land in which to live. Often I feel a debt of gratitude to the Society for permitting me to enjoy these rewards.*

*If all this seems a little on the sentimental side it is simply my way of saying that I can conceive of no honor greater than being an employee and a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.*

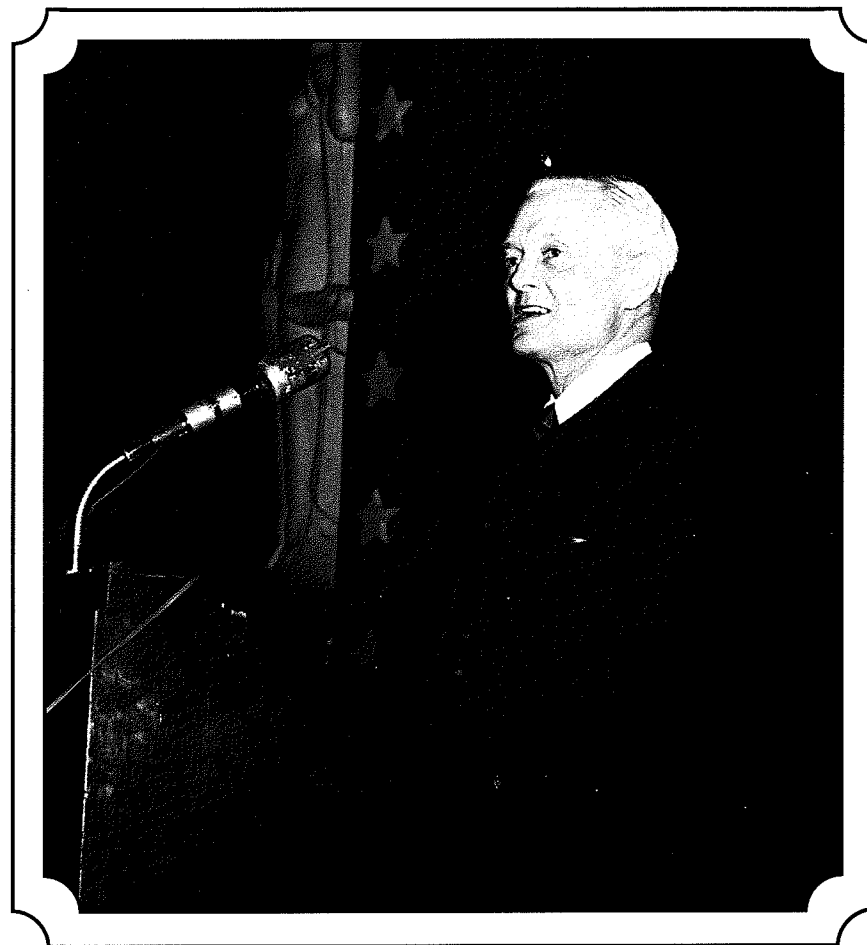
*Cordially as always,  
Henry Clepper  
Executive Secretary*

In 1953, SAF member Sherman Adams, former Governor of New Hampshire and U.S. Congressman, joined the Eisenhower administration as White House Chief of Staff. Adams was dubbed by the press as "assistant president." That same year, he responded to an invitation to attend a Section meeting:

*A note to thank you for the invitation to meet with the Washington Section of the Society of American Foresters. This of course appeals to me very much. Lately, however, I have not been able to do much but attend to my knitting here and it looks as though there is plenty of yarn ahead. I shall hope to meet with your section sometime in the future.*

Unfortunately, Adams was forced to leave Washington over a scandal involving his acceptance of a gift of a vicuna coat, before he could make good on the Section's invitation. He did, however, speak at an American Forestry Association meeting during his time in the White House.

The Section began meeting again at the Cosmos Club. These meetings did not include dinner. The first program back at the Cosmos was a report on the Timber Resources Review by the director, Leonard Barrett. The Timber Resources Review (TRR) was a massive project to look at the status of the nation's timber resources, and the Forest Service had a large staff employed on the project for several years. The TRR was the first appraisal of the timber resource by the Forest Service which did not suggest public regulation of private cutting practices as a remedy for the situation.



*Sherman Adams, Chief of the White House Staff under President Eisenhower and an SAF member, addresses an American Forestry Association meeting in the 1950s. Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*

Many Section members were in the audience that year when President Eisenhower addressed the Fourth American Forest Congress meeting in Washington, D.C. He hailed foresters as, "men of vision who are dealing in decades." Speakers at the Forest Congress noted the significant change over the last decade in the relationship between public and private forestry stating, "Much of this distrust is being dispelled."

The December 1953 meeting of the Washington Section featured a panel discussion on "Community Stability" with Ed Cliff, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service; Harry Mosebrook, United States Chamber of Commerce; Walter Horning, Bureau of Land Management; and Alf Nelson, National Lumber Manufacturers Association. The meet-

ing notice announced, "Unfortunately, the Men's Dining Room at the Cosmos Club is forbidden territory for the ladies. Our usual meeting place in the auditorium has been reserved for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), their meeting is open to the public and free, any of the wives who want to escort their men down for the evening may enjoy the NAS program, while their foresters retreat to the sanctity of the Men's Dining Room for the Section meeting." There is no record of how many women took advantage of this "generous" offer. It wasn't until a well-publicized vote on June 19, 1988, that the Cosmos Club agreed to accept women as members.

Mrs. Pinchot continued to have the Section meet at her house, usually in May. Speakers included Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court, Senator James Duff of Pennsylvania, and conservation author William Vogt.

In the fall of 1952, the Section had organized a weekend trip to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory on Solomons Island, in Maryland. The notice for the trip advertised, "Oyster stew dinner, fried oyster lunch—Beds, mattresses and pillows furnished—each member must bring own sheets, pillow cases, blankets and towels. A dorm to accommodate 12 women will be available. No liquor on premises." The oysters must have been good, because the Section repeated the trip the following year.

The decade of the 1950s had its war—the Korean War—and "dollar-a-year-men" were coming to Washington again. One was Bernie Orell of the Weyerhaeuser Company who served as Director of the Forest Products Division of the Business and Defense Services Administration, Department of Commerce, in 1954. Orell later served as president of SAF.

The Eisenhower years saw controversies over land ownership, range policies, and mining claims. In the West, a movement was afoot to reduce the size of the Olympic National Park and in Oregon a scandal erupted over the Al Sarena mining claim on the Siskiyou National Forest. Douglas McKay, former Governor of Oregon and Ike's Secretary of Interior, chose a noncontroversial subject, "The Tillamook Burn," when he addressed the Section in 1953.

Another public figure who addressed the Section was anything but "noncontroversial"—Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (HHH) of Minnesota. He had introduced the first Multiple Use-Sustained Yield (MUSY) bill and the first wilderness bill when he spoke at the February 1957 meeting of the Section. The MUSY bill became law in 1960 and the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964. At the time of the meeting Humphrey was a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and deeply involved in the Quemoy-Matsu crisis—two tiny islands off China.

Bob Wolf, then Section Program Chairman, describes the meeting: "We sat down to eat, no HHH. We got ready for dessert, and I called again to learn he was on his way. The chair killed some time. We were giving some awards to some Eagle Scouts, and John Shanklin made it a production. HHH got there and bolted some food. He spent some time talking about the Scouts. He had been a Scoutmaster and was proud of the number who had gone on to become Eagle Scouts. Then he talked some about Foreign Relations and China, which was much on his mind . . . At any rate he was to talk on Wilderness and Conservation. The audience was cold, -32 F and HHH could sense it.



*Giffort Pinchot's widow, Cornelia Bryce Pinchot, continued to host meetings of the Washington Section at her Rhode Island Avenue home with traditional gingerbread and baked apples. Photo credit: SAF Pinchot Collection, Library of Congress.*

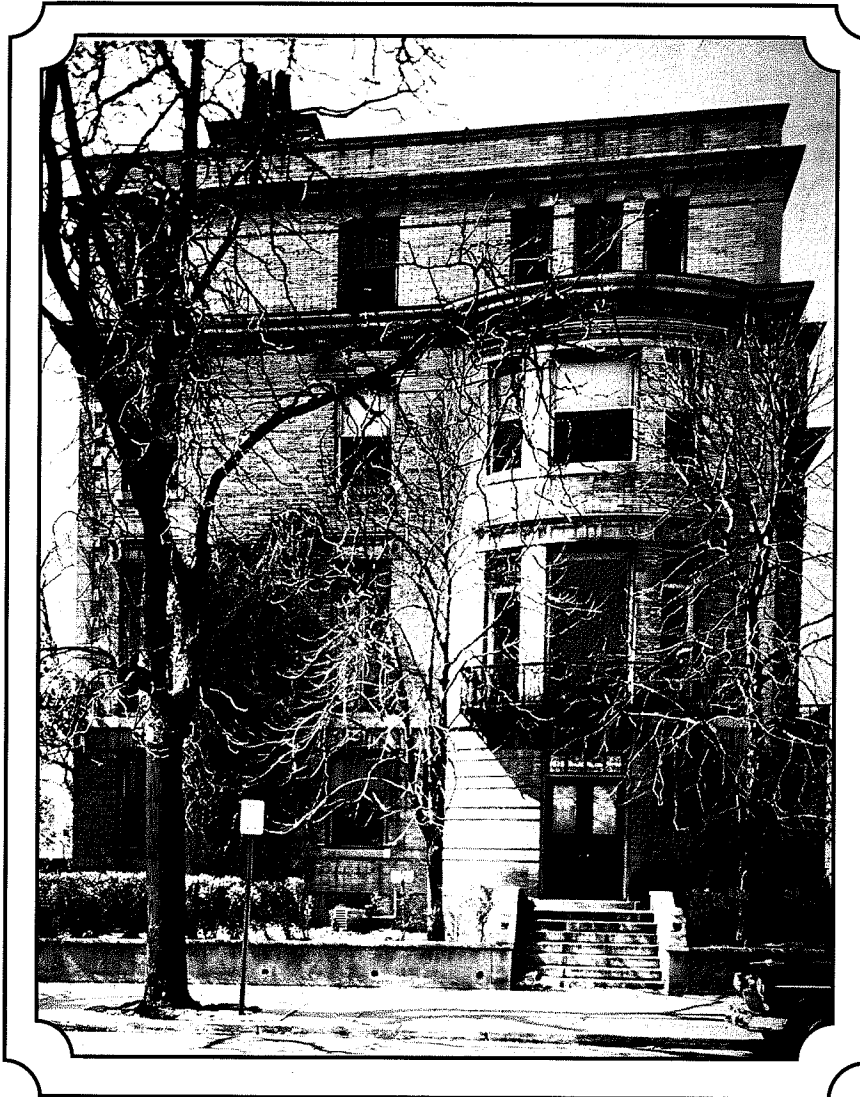
He stopped almost in mid-thought, put his hands on his hips, looked out at the over 100 foresters who crowded the YWCA dining room and said, as I recall, 'I know there's not a vote in this room. I didn't come here to get your vote. I came down here to tell you what I think are the important values our society needs to protect. We have two great assets, people and resources. We need to strengthen both of them if we will survive as a nation.' He said this a lot more eloquently and strongly than I can convey, because when he got done you could sense that the audience warmed to him. Then he talked about his concepts of resources stewardship—using some, preserving some—the family farm—the role of public ownership. When he was done, he got a standing ovation—although I doubt that he changed many minds.'

The following month, the Section heard from Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society, who had written the bill for Senator Humphrey. Wolf was also responsible for getting Congressman John Saylor and Senator Richard Neuberger to speak to the Section.

Meetings at the Pinchot home and programs featuring speakers such as Hubert Humphrey would draw well over 100 members, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to induce members, almost all of whom lived in the Virginia or Maryland suburbs, to stay in town or fight the traffic returning for evening meetings. Chairman George Kephart complained in 1956 that, although the Section had over 300 members, it was rare to have over 40 members at an evening meeting. Kenneth Pomeroy, Chairman in 1960, changed the monthly meetings to luncheons. Kephart, in recalling the change, said, "By then it was apparently considered acceptable for us bureaucrats to attend such meetings on government time." Special events included spouses, but luncheon meetings of members became the standard.

## Officers 1950-1959

- 1950-1951 C.W. Mattison, Chairman; Seth Jackson, Vice Chairman; Frances J. Flick, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1951-1952 John Shanklin, Chairman; S.L. Frost, Vice Chairman; Walter Schipull, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1952-1953 Roland Rotty, Chairman; R.C. Heller, Vice Chairman; Arnold Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1953-1954 C.M. Genaux, Chairman; E.A. Hanson, Vice Chairman; V.A. Tribbett, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1954-1955 E.A. Hanson, Chairman; George S. Kephart, Vice Chairman; R.B. Moore, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1955-1956 George S. Kephart, Chairman; Albert W. Sump, Vice Chairman; Gordon R. Heath, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1956-1957 Albert W. Sump, Chairman; Gordon R. Heath, Vice Chairman; Glenn A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1957-1958 C.B. Webster, Chairman; Glenn A. Thompson/Everett Clocker, Vice Chairman; Charles A. Stoddard, Secretary-Treasurer
- 1958-1959 Kenneth Pomeroy, Chairman; Charles A. Stoddard, Vice Chairman; Paul Lemmon, Secretary; Thomas Glazebrook, Treasurer



*Pinchot House—1615 Rhode Island Avenue overlooking Scott Circle—in whose library 60 years of SAF history unfolded—is shown in the 1960s shortly before it was razed by developers. Photo credit: The Washington Star Collection, D.C. Public Library.*

## Turbulent Sixties

The 1960s, a decade of ferment, brought student riots, racial violence, and a divisive war. A new forest crop began showing up in the national forests, marijuana. Parts of the nation's capital went up in flames, and the dreams of Camelot were crushed with an assassin's bullet in Texas.

In 1962, a scientist and former editor with the Fish and Wildlife Service wrote a book entitled, "Silent Spring." First published in *The New Yorker* magazine, the piece was dismissed by some foresters as the work of a "little old lady in tennis shoes," but the eloquence of Rachel Carson changed the public's attitude towards the environment in a dramatic way. Forestry and foresters were never the same.

The Washington Section was influenced by the social changes of the period. Section members, Jay Cravens and Barry Flamm were sent to Vietnam by the State Department as forestry advisors to the Vietnam government. A note written across the announcement for the November 23, 1963, meeting said, "Cancelled due to the assassination of President Kennedy."

One legacy of the Kennedy era was the Peace Corps, and many young foresters served in remote posts around the world. A letter to Chairman Wershing in 1963 from James Gibson, Chief of the Division of Agricultural Affairs of the Peace Corps, ended, "Foresters are wonderful people."

And the number of foresters kept growing. In 1963, the nation's forestry schools graduated 1,900 foresters. That year the Washington Section established the Collingwood Memorial Scholarship to honor G. Harris Collingwood, a former Section chairman, and to help deserving forestry students. The fund was later transferred to Michigan State University.

In the early 1960s, Section meetings were held once again at the downtown YWCA, in the evening in the upstairs dining room. After 1962, Program Chairman Milt Bryan arranged for meetings at the Occidental Restaurant, a Washington landmark noted for the thousands of photographs of public figures that lined the walls. An all-day meeting was held each year at the Presidential Arms Hotel at 13th and G streets. The YWCA, Presidential Arms, and Occidental are long gone. A new Occidental has, however, been reborn next to the renovated Willard Hotel. The luncheon charge at the old Occidental averaged \$3.25. That amount would hardly buy a forester a glass of water at the fancy new Occidental.



*National Capital SAF Member Barry Flamm (left) receives the 1968 Arthur Fleming Award from Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, as one of the top-ten young people in government for his service in Vietnam. Photo credit: Davron Photographers.*

Milt Bryan remembers an all-day meeting at the Presidential Arms where Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., was to be the kick-off speaker at 9:00 a.m. Shortly before the start of the meeting, Congressman Leon Gavin of Pennsylvania bet Bryan ten dollars that Roosevelt would not show. Gavin, a strong supporter of forestry and a friend of the Washington Section, was the luncheon speaker. At 9:05, Bryan called Roosevelt's nearby office and was able to get his assistant to come over and start the meeting, which he did with an appropriate speech and little delay. After the meeting, Congressman Gavin returned Bryan's ten dollar bill, saying that he was at a gathering with Roosevelt and some other congressmen the previous night and had information which gave him an unfair advantage in the wager. It was intimated that there had been some drinking.

During this period, the Section held several "ladies nights" at the Presidential Arms. In 1963, the treasurer reported that the 132 participants were charged \$3.25 for the

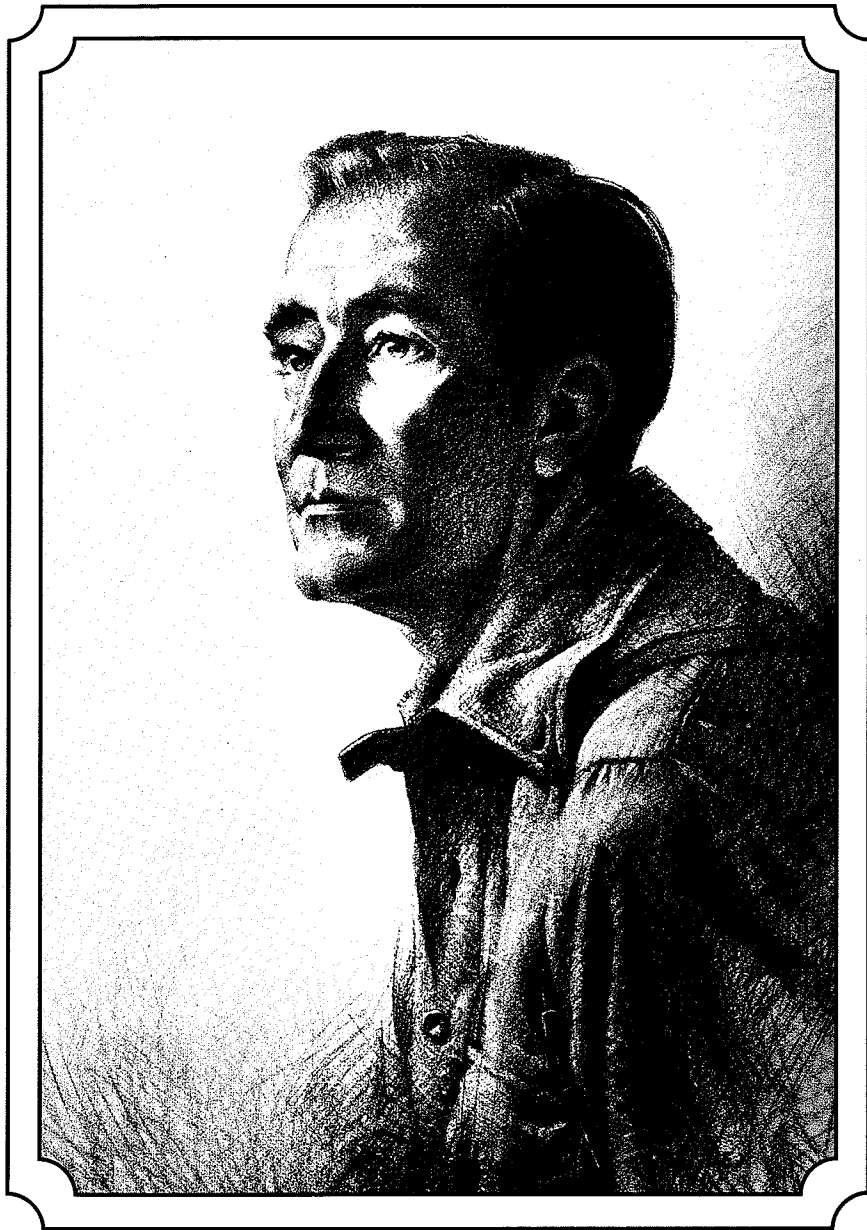
dinner and 50 cents each for the drinks. In 1966, "ladies nights" were discontinued because the Section was losing money on them.

Luncheon meetings were frequently attended by congressmen, including Biz Johnson and Don Clausen of California, Wendell Wyatt of Oregon, Julia Butler Hansen of Washington, W.R. Pogue of Texas, Cliff McIntire of Maine, Jamie Whitten of Mississippi, and others. Attendance at the all-day meetings was encouraged by a letter from Forest Service Chief Ed Cliff approving attendance by Forest Service personnel without charge against annual leave. For many years Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the United States Senate, gave the invocation at the all-day meeting luncheons. In appreciation, he was presented a large Smokey Bear for his dedication to forestry and the Washington Section. Another award, a painting by Forest Service artist Rudy Wendelin, was presented to Milt Bryan for his "years of devoted service to the Washington Section."

Symbolic of change was the razing of the Gifford Pinchot mansion on Rhode Island Avenue in the early 1960s. A Holiday Inn hotel now occupies the site. There had been some talk of saving the building as the Society's headquarters, but Henry Clepper dismissed the mansion as just another old house. The magnificent library where the idea for the Society was first discussed, the meeting place of the original Baked Apple Club and of many meetings of the Washington Section, contained thousands of volumes. The books were offered to the Society and the Forest Service but no one had room. Some were given to libraries but many went to the trash heap. The Forest Service did manage to save several of the great fireplaces. The story, according to Jay McConnell, has it that two Forest Service foresters observing the demolition, spotted the fireplaces still intact. The wreckers said if they wanted them, they could take them. The Forest Service marked and crated the stones and they presently are stored in a Forest Service warehouse in North Carolina.

### Officers 1960-1969

- 1960-1961 George Vitas, Chairman; Henry F. Wershing, Vice Chairman; Ralph Hodges, Treasurer; Gordon G. Mark, Secretary
- 1961-1963 Henry F. Wershing, Chairman; Gordon G. Mark, Vice Chairman; Eliot Zimmerman, Treasurer; Gordon Watts, Secretary
- 1963-1964 Eliot Zimmerman, Chairman; Edwin Zaidlicz, Vice Chairman; Marlin Galbraith, Treasurer; Mark Johanessen, Secretary
- 1965-1967 Don Morriss, Chairman; Mark Johanessen, John Farrell, Vice Chairman; Dennis Rapp, Treasurer
- 1968-1969 John H. Farrell, Chairman; Philip T. Thornton, Vice Chairman; Richard K. Ely, Treasurer; Malcolm Hardy, Secretary



*This portrait of Tom Gill—international forester, author, and SAF benefactor—hangs in the Conference Room of the Gifford Pinchot Building at SAF National Headquarters. Photo credit: Society of American Foresters.*

## Decade of Challenge

**F**or American foresters and forestry, the decade of the 1970s was the most challenging period since the founding of the profession. Author Charles Reich described it as the “Greening of America”—a mix of environmentalism, counter-culture, alternative life styles, and a questioning of the establishment by much of the country’s youth. This mindset ran head-on into what had been accepted forest management practices.

Forestry was under attack in federal courtrooms and in the national press. In November 1971, a *New York Times* editorial accused the Forest Service of “despoiling wilderness.” In 1971, Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming drafted legislation calling for a two-year moratorium on clearcutting in the national forests. The Senator quipped that he “had caught the Forest Service with its trees down.” The Izaak Walton League, concerned about clearcutting on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, brought suit against Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, charging the Forest Service with violating the 1897 Organic Act. The suit contended that the 1897 Act allowed only “dead, matured or large growth of trees” to be cut and that all trees to be cut must be marked in advance. In 1973, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the Izaak Walton League and said that 70 years of misapplication of the law did not create new law. If the law was bad, it was up to Congress to change it, not the courts. Foresters, once honored as conservationists, were now damned as despoilers of the forest, destroyers of streams and wildlife, polluters of the environment, and worse.

Congress began the 1970s with an outpouring of legislation, regulations, new programs, new agencies, and congressional hearings by the score in response to public priorities that demanded a clean environment at any cost. Earth Day, April 22, 1970, became the symbol of an environmental crusade.

Spewing out of Washington came a torrent of alphabet-soup names, the likes of which had not been seen since the New Deal days—National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RFA), National Forest Management Act (NFMA), environmental impact statements (EIS), and roadless area reviews for wilderness (RARE I and RARE II). Foresters wrestled with non-declining yields, non-point source pollution, assessments, programs, plans, and planning ad infinitum. Public hearings and public participation became a way of life for many government foresters.



The Washington, D.C., Section was in the thick of it. Many members helped mold the landmark National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA). Bob Wolf, natural resources analyst with the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress and a confidant of Senators Humphrey and Talmadge dating back to his days on a Senate committee staff, was especially influential. John Hall, National Forest Products Association, strove to get industry views into the legislation.

Section Member John Crowell, who would later become Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources, headed up an industry committee that worked out of the National Forest Products Association. Hill staffers Nick Ashmore, Jim Giltmeir, and Dennis LeMaster worked on the legislation. Giltmeir is an honorary member of the Society and LeMaster was a member of the Washington Section and a former staff member of the national Society. Ashmore had participated in Section meetings.

Although many members of the Washington Section were deeply involved in the NFMA issue, it was difficult to get the Society to take positions. In October of 1970, Chairman Richard Ely said, "Most, if not all of our section members have been involved with environmental issues in one way or another, yet the section has not taken any stand on any of the issues in any way. Members of the Washington Section have more input in determining forest policies in the United States than members of any other section of the Society, yet we remain silent."

Interest in the environment increased enrollments in the nation's forestry schools, but many of the new students were not sawlog-type foresters, and the number of women forestry students showed a significant rise during the '70s. In some schools, women soon composed a third of the enrollment. Women began to appear at Washington Section meetings, and in 1978, Ann Carey, Environmental Protection Agency, was elected secretary, the first woman officer since Frances Flick in 1950.

At a Section meeting in September 1970, Hardin Glascock, Executive Vice President of the Society and a Washington, D.C., Section member, announced that an anonymous donor had made a grant of \$500,000 for a SAF national headquarters. Later we learned that the donor was Tom Gill, prominent member of the Washington Section for decades. He worked with Robert Winters in founding the FAO Forestry Division, and with Verne Harper in developing the International Union of Societies of Foresters.

As a young forester, Gill worked a good deal of time in South America and founded the International Society of Tropical Foresters. In addition to his distinguished career as a forester, he wrote adventure stories for popular magazines, such as *The Saturday Evening Post*. A number of his novels were made into Hollywood movies. His writings made him a wealthy man, but it was to the forestry profession that he left his money. Tom Gill was a handsome man, and in his field clothes, he was the very epitome of the public image of a "forest ranger."

Section programs during this period reflected the forestry and environmental issues of the day. In 1970, Congressman John Dingell spoke on "Environmental Quality." The following year, Senator Bob Packwood appeared as the keynote speaker at the all-day

meeting on "Earth Resources and Research," and Congressman Wendell Wyatt was a luncheon speaker on the "National Forest Timber and Conservation Management Act." In 1972, the keynoter at the all-day meeting on Timber Production and the Environment was Congressman John Dellenback. The February meeting that year took up "What Happened to the Forester's Image." Again in 1974, the annual meeting was devoted to "The Foresters: As Others See Us."

When the Occidental Restaurant closed its doors in 1972, arrangements chairmen began the quest for a reasonably priced meeting place in Washington. Many luncheons in the '70s were held at the Sphinx Club in the Masonic Almas Temple on K Street. All-day meetings moved from the Cosmos Club to the La Gemma Restaurant at 13th and G streets and finally to the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Building of the Department of Agriculture. In 1976, a joint evening dinner meeting with the Washington Academy of Sciences was held at the Fort Myers Officers' Club.

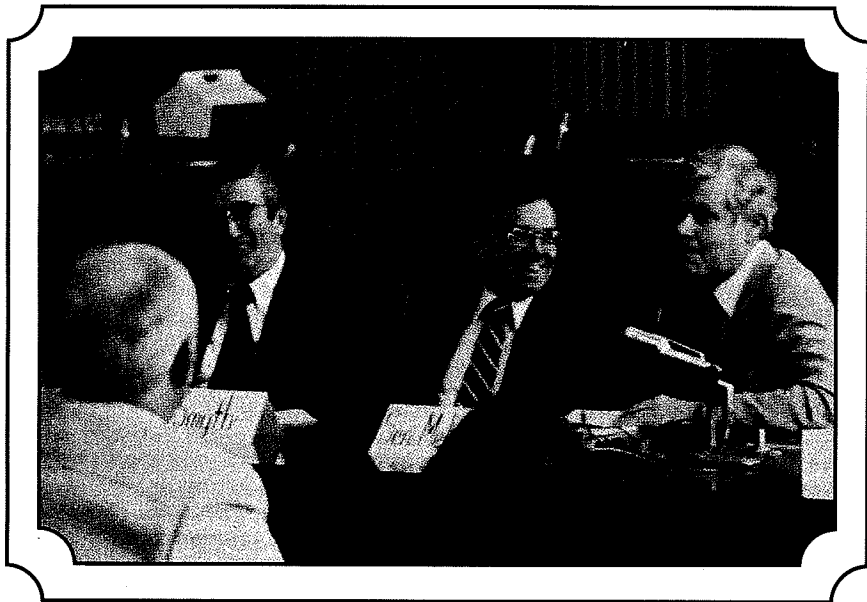
In 1975, the Washington Section had hosted the 75th anniversary of the Society at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The highlight of the meeting was the dedication of the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building at Wild Acres, the new national headquarters for SAF in suburban Maryland. Section member Gordon Fox was on the original planning committee for Wild Acres, and the Washington, D.C., Section has had a special relationship with national headquarters ever since. Members participate in work days and provide other support services.

Field trips designed to get congressional staffers out on the land became popular programs for the Section during the 1970s. The most ambitious was the Monongahela field trip in May of 1976. The operation involved a plane trip to Roanoke, a bus drive through the night on the mountainous roads of West Virginia, bunking at a State Forest Camp, and a visit to the infamous "Randolph clearcut" (named after Senator Jennings Randolph). This site triggered the Izaak Walton League suit. The group also visited intensive forestry operations on Westvaco land. Of 94 participants on the field trip, many were senior congressional staffers.

During the 1970s, a number of outstanding members were honored. In June 1972, Milt Bryan received a plaque at a ceremony honoring his retirement from the congressional relations staff of the Forest Service. Speaker of the House Carl Albert attended as did 40 other members of Congress. In October 1978, a Golden Awards dinner honored 12 50-year members of the Society. Nine were present including Dick McArdle, former Chief of the Forest Service; Henry Clepper, retired Executive Vice President of the Society; and Robert Winters and Ira "Jinks" Mason, both retired from the Forest Service.

The most senior member was 90-year-old Arthur Ringland, who had been a program speaker in 1916, the Washington Section's first year. Ringland began his forestry career under Gifford Pinchot and laid out the boundaries of many of the first national forests. He served as a captain in the forest engineers in World War I, and after the Armistice in Europe with the American Relief Administration. In World War II, he again worked in war relief.

In 1975, Al Arnst, a veteran member of the Section, retired from the Forest Service and returned to his home in Oregon. In his career, the colorful Arnst had been an editor



In 1979, (left to right) former Chief of the Forest Service John McGuire; Art Smyth, Weyerhaeuser Company; and former Senator John Melcher attend the first SAF Washington Section meeting held in a Congressional hearing room. Photo credit: Journal of Forestry.

of *The Timberman*, a leading trade journal. To many members of the Washington Section he will be remembered as editor of the *District of Columbia Forester*. Beginning in 1962, until his retirement, Arnst put out the lively newsletter for the Section. A typical issue was a tabloid booklet, 8½ × 7 inches crammed with photos and replete with copies of stories from the national press and magazines as well as Section news. The publication ran from 15 to 35 pages and frequently included advertising.

At one period, the newsletter was being mailed out to some 300 names in addition to the membership. The mailing list included congressmen and industry principals throughout the country. Successive Section chairmen and treasurers complained about the cost and finally the mailing list was whittled down to just Section members. Some grumbled that much of the material was "stuff they read elsewhere," but most of the members agreed with Arnst that it was, "the world's greatest forestry news bulletin."

With Al Arnst's departure, the newsletter got an abbreviated name, *The D.C. Forester*, and format, a four page 8½ × 11 inch fold without photos. It was printed for the Section by the National Forest Products Association. Later the newsletter became a 4½ × 11 inch folder with eight pages and occasional photos. Over the years a number of dedicated members served as editor, including Barry Walsh, then with the *Journal of Forestry*, and the present editor, William E. Shands of the Conservation Foundation.

At the SAF annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in 1975, Senator Hubert Humphrey spoke at the main luncheon meeting. The ebullient "Happy Warrior" said, "Resource managers need flexibility to do things which are economically and ecologically sound at a given time and place." A thousand foresters, frustrated by "prescription forestry" dictated by non-foresters, erupted into cheers and applause. From the back of the room came shouts, "Humphrey for President!"

In 1976, Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer and tree farmer, was elected President of the United States. It was in his administration that, for the first time, a professional forester was appointed to the post of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources. Rupert Cutler, a University of Michigan graduate and member of the Washington D.C., Section served under Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland during the four years of the Carter administration. He addressed the Section at a dinner meeting while he held office and has continued his membership in the Society.

In February 1979, the Washington, D.C., Section sponsored the first Society of American Foresters meeting to be held on Capitol Hill. The meeting took place in a Senate committee hearing room on the subject of RARE II.

### Officers 1969-1979

- 1969-1971 Richard K. Ely, Chairman; Malcolm E. Hardy, Vice Chairman; James C. Gritman/John Witherspoon, Treasurer; Gene S. Bergoffen, Secretary
- 1971-1973 Malcolm Hardy, Chairman; C.T. Prout, Vice Chairman; John Witherspoon/Joseph Gorrell, Treasurer; Elmer Shaw, Secretary
- 1973-1975 C.T. Prout, Chairman; Tom Glazebrook, Chairman Elect; Arthur V. Smyth, Treasurer; Murl Storm, Secretary
- 1975-1977 Tom Glazebrook, Chairman; Arthur V. Smyth, Chairman Elect; Donald Pomerening, Treasurer; George Cheek, Secretary
- 1977-1979 Arthur V. Smyth, Chairman; Richard T. Marks, Chairman Elect; William H. McCredie, Treasurer; Ann Carey, Secretary



*Shown at a 1989 Congressional Reception for the SAF Council hosted by the National Capital SAF in the House Agriculture Hearing Room are (back row) Tom Tuchmann, then SAF Resource Policy Director, and Adela Backiel, National Capital SAF Chair; (front row, left to right) Art Smyth, then SAF Vice President, and Carl Stoltenberg, SAF Past President. Photo credit: J. Matthews.*

## Decade of Change

During the 1980s, the forest products industry went from a deep depression to near record highs in sales and profits. Our nation moved from being the world's supplier of goods and capital to one of its biggest debtors, and the stock market took its deepest one-day plunge ever, raising the ghosts of 1929.

A new word was firmly entrenched in the forester's lexicon, "multidisciplinary." Acid rain and its effects on forests became an international issue as did global warming. The northern spotted owl, red-cockaded woodpecker, and bald eagle began to have more effect on the annual cut than mean annual increment.

The boom in forestry enrollments and forestry employment seemed over as industries cut staffs, and public agencies faced reduced budgets. Old-line companies such as Crown Zellerbach and St. Regis simply disappeared in takeovers. The Washington, D.C., Section also experienced change. On January 1, 1981, the Section became the National Capital Society of American Foresters.

In the 1980s, a dispute over Wild Acres erupted between the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRf) and the Society of American Foresters. RNRf was incorporated in January 1972 as a "federation of scientific and professional societies working in research, education, scientific practice and policy formulation for the conservation and replenishment of the world's renewable natural resources." The idea for the organization is credited to Hardin Glascock, Jr., then SAF Executive Vice President and a member of the Washington Section. "Hardy" Glascock had succeeded Henry Clepper in 1966. Glascock, a westerner, had come to SAF from a forest industry association.

SAF was one of the 11 organizations that made up the original membership in RNRf. In 1982, disagreements between the two groups over the rights to the Wild Acres real estate resulted in RNRf voting to oust SAF from the Foundation. Law suits and counter-suits were filed in the Maryland courts, and in 1983, recommendations from arbitrators led the two sides to a settlement which gave SAF title to 26.4 acres of the original 35.4 acres, the former Grosvenor mansion, carriage house, and the caretaker's house. RNRf

received title to 9.0 acres of land, including the recently constructed RNRF building which was named the Hardin Glascock Building in 1988. RNRF also received 185,000 square feet of building rights, 85,000 of which would be without charge. SAF agreed to enter into good-faith negotiations on terms for release to RNRF of any building rights in excess of 85,000 square feet. Provisions were also included that provided for SAF to resume membership in RNRF.

Since the signing of the agreement, an uneasy truce has existed. The relationship has improved, although SAF has still not rejoined RNRF. In November 1987, SAF President J. Walter Meyers, Jr., appointed National Capital member and former SAF President Warren Doolittle to head a RNRF Coordinating Committee to handle discussions between the two groups. Despite conflicts over real estate, SAF still supports the basic concepts of a renewable natural resource center.

The National Capital Society increased cooperation with related natural resource organizations during the '80s. On May 28, 1980, the National Capital Society held its first "Science Day" which has proved to be a popular annual event. The all-day meeting features concurrent sessions and a prominent luncheon speaker. John B. Crowell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, spoke at the 1981 meeting. In 1985, the program was expanded to include other natural resource societies. Co-sponsors now consist of the Wildlife Society, the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, the Society for Range Management, the American Fisheries Society, as well as the National Capital Society of American Foresters. In recent years, the meetings have been held across the Potomac River at hotels such as the Twin Bridges Marriott and the Pentagon Quality Inn. Jay McConnell, of the Forest Service, is recognized as the "father" of Science Day. In 1984, he was awarded the National Capital Society of American Forester's first Service Award for his contributions to the National Capital Society and the profession.

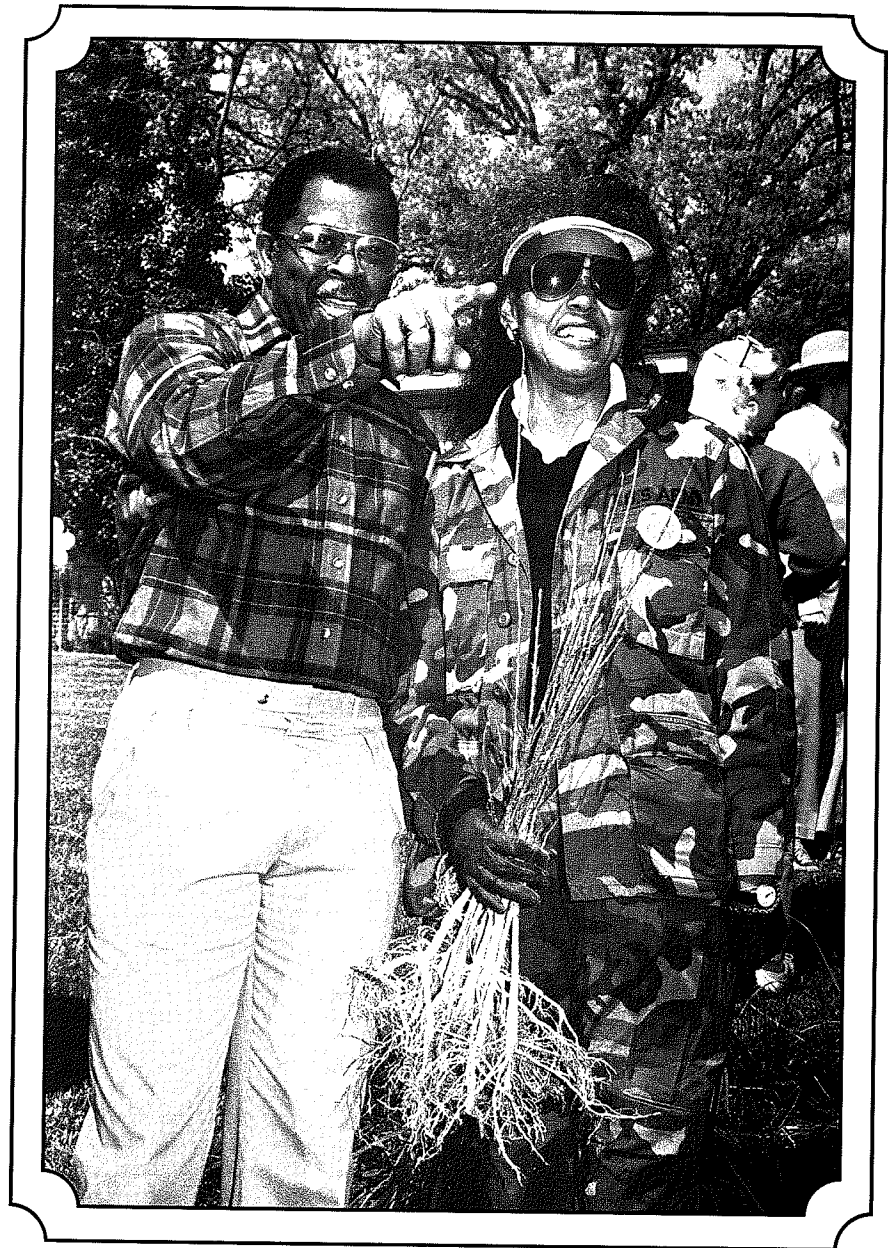
Monthly luncheon meetings continued to be held at various restaurants throughout the area. These included seafood restaurants on Maine Avenue, Blackie's House of Beef, the former Gramercy Hotel, George Mason University, and the Library of Congress cafeteria. Depending on the location, luncheons were now costing members \$10 to \$15.

One meeting was held at the Holiday Inn on Rhode Island Avenue which occupies the site of Gifford Pinchot's home. In 1982, National Capital Society Chairman Jay McConnell, along with Len Lundberg, Chairman of the History Committee, and Jean Pablo, Forest Service Historian, assisted the hotel's restaurateur collect Pinchot memorabilia for his restaurant and bar which he named G. Pinchot's. He printed a handsome menu with Pinchot's picture on the cover and a short history on the back. New management in 1985 changed the name and the menu.

Field trips, tailored for congressional staff, were also organized during this period. In the fall of 1984, a "Below Cost Timber Sale Legislative Tour" was made to the George Washington National Forest.

In the summer of 1987, the National Capital Society held a picnic for members and their families at Wild Acres. Thunderstorms notwithstanding, it was hailed as "the first annual picnic."

The National Capital Society left its mark at Wild Acres. A flag now flies in front of the Gifford Pinchot Building chiefly because of the efforts of a National Capital



*Don Green, National Capital SAF Urban Forestry Chair, instructs volunteers during an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at the historic Woodlawn Plantation in Virginia. Photo credit: USDA Forest Service.*

Society of American Foresters Flag Pole Committee, which spent several years raising money from various units of the Society. Work days at Wild Acres continue to be staffed by National Capital members. Tree felling, brush removal, and similar tasks prove that desk-bound members have not lost all woods skills.

Another service to the national headquarters by National Capital volunteers is the annual Phonathon. Delinquent and lapsed members of the Society from across the country are contacted by telephone and urged to renew their membership. In addition to getting many former members back into the fold, the Phonathon develops valuable information on the strengths and weaknesses of the Society and the changing needs of its members.

The Society and the profession are changing. In 1989, a woman forester became Chair of the National Capital Society. Adela Backiel, Natural Resource Analyst with the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, had previously served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair Elect.

In the 1980s, membership in the National Capital SAF began to include foresters employed by private consulting and engineering firms located in the suburbs. Their principal clients are frequently the federal government and their principal jobs are writing environmental impact statements. At an executive committee meeting in 1988, one member commented that it was easier for a forester working in Grass Valley, California, to attend a meeting in Sacramento than it was for a forester working beyond the "beltway" to attend a luncheon meeting in downtown Washington.

In 1916, almost all Section members were employed by the federal government. Today, 58 percent of National Capital SAF members are federal employees. In 1916, there were no women members. Today there are 45 women or 10 percent of the membership. The National Capital SAF may still hold title to being the most affluent unit in the Society with 46 percent of its members earning over \$50,000 per year. It may also have more older members than most other SAF units, since 15 percent of the membership are retirees. The National Capital SAF has 40 retired and active Fellows and three honorary members.

As the 1980s drew to a close, the National Capital Society, along with the national SAF, debated how to deal with the significant changes facing the profession of forestry. At the 1988 House of Society Delegates meeting in Rochester, New York, Forrest Fenstermaker, Chair of the National Capital SAF, presented the following agenda item: Establishment of a committee or task force to initiate discussion on changes within the forestry profession and natural resources management; and ways available to the Society to deal with these changes. Adela Backiel, Chair Elect of the National Capital SAF challenged the delegates to the national convention in Rochester to embrace the changes facing our profession. In a paper presented to the general session on October 18, 1988, she concluded;

*I view our profession as being at a crossroads. The crossroads where our traditions meet the future. The policy challenges facing our profession are headline issues of today. Global warming. Air pollution. Tropical deforestation. Diminishing forestlands due to urban expansion and encroachment. Meeting the timber and aesthetic demands of our nation. Trade equality. These challenges are different than those we are used to confronting. And they mean change. I believe we can change. And we can meet these challenges. Together with the cadre of other resource professionals we can help to build future healthy forests to be not only what professionals want them to be. But also what our public envisions them to be.*

## Officers 1980-1990

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1980-1981 | Richard Marks, Chairman; Jay McConnell, Chairman Elect; Douglas Smith, Treasurer; Charles Newlon, Secretary                                     |
| 1981-1982 | Jay McConnell, Chairman; Charles Newlon, Chairman Elect; John Rich, Treasurer; Len Cary, Secretary  |
| 1983-1984 | Charles Newlon, Chairman; Richard Pardo, Chairman Elect (did not serve); Forrest Fenstermaker, Treasurer; Lyle Laverty/Adela Backiel, Secretary |
| 1985-1986 | Mark Rey, Chairman; Forrest Fenstermaker, Chairman Elect; Adela Backiel, Treasurer; Brian Payne, Secretary                                      |
| 1987-1988 | Forrest Fenstermaker, Chair; Adela Backiel, Chair Elect; Stephen Kirby, Treasurer; Henry Noland, Secretary                                      |
| 1989-1990 | Adela Backiel, Chair; Russell M. Burns, Chair Elect; David A. Ford, Treasurer; Barbara Weber, Secretary   |



*The cover tree, a Washington state Douglas-fir, looked like this in 1975 when the late Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson planted it on the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol. Photo credit: K. Hudley.*

## Looking Back, Looking Ahead

**H**ave foresters made a difference? Nearing the end of a century, we look around and see many forest management decisions on industrial forestlands made by MBAs, lawyers, or financial analysts. On public lands, decisions are made by legislators, lawyers, and lobbyists, and in the research laboratories, we see microbiologists, pathologists, botanists and "gene jockeys" with no training in forestry, working with trees. Has forestry as a profession lost its relevancy?

In October 1985, the Society of American Foresters formed a Task Force on Long-Range, Strategic Planning. National Capital Society members serving on the task force or on its "unofficial" advisory committee included Daniel Erkkila, Peter Kirby, Donald Ostby, Carlton Owen, Gene Bergoffen, and Richard Lewis, as well as national office staff.

The task force examined the strategic environment of the Society. This process was intended to "look at things as they are, not as one might wish them to be." Task force members came up with ten assumptions about the major external forces which will shape the forestry profession in the near future.

The assumptions included changes expected in industry, increasing demands for non-timber values and nonconsumptive uses on public lands, changing employment environment for foresters, international trade and international environmental issues, timber supply and land use, cross-disciplinary training, and other factors that foresters and forestry will be facing. How the forestry profession addresses these "externalities" in the years ahead will determine the future relevancy of foresters. In 1989, a new task force was formed to continue the strategic planning process.

Have foresters made a difference? Compare the condition of forests in America in 1916 and today. Then, it was still "cut out and get out" in the private forests of the South and West. Forest fires ran unchecked, and the public forests were still an untapped and unknown national resource. Waste of the nation's timber resources was enormous and little thought was given to reforestation and the future of the land.

Now, many of the forests of 1916 are gone along with the sawmills that cut them up and the camps and company towns that housed the workers who, "put daylight in the swamp." In their place, we have new forests and new mills, from which we are producing more products than at any time in our history.

Now, millions of acres of forestland, public and private, are under management, fire has been rendered an acceptable risk, recreation and wildlife habitat are recognized as important uses of forests, and we have set aside millions of acres of wilderness.

Have foresters had anything to do with all this? Most certainly! Gifford Pinchot and the other founders of the Society of American Foresters were catalysts for change. Forestry began as an idealistic profession. In these times of "lean, mean, and efficient" organizations, it may not be fashionable to talk of idealism, but foresters still have that spark. Foresters and forestry education must change to meet new challenges. The American public is now more concerned about its forests, its air, its water—its environment—than at any time in our history.

It seems fitting that the theme of the 1990 Society of American Foresters annual convention is "Are Forests the Answer?" This meeting, hosted by the National Capital Society, marks nine decades of American forestry and we end as we began:

*When a society or civilization perishes  
One condition may always be found.  
They forgot where they came from.  
They lost sight of what brought them along.*

### **Society of American Foresters Presidents from the National Capital SAF**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Office</b>
Frederick Olmsted	1919
E.A. Sherman	1922
R.Y. Stuart	1927
Ovid M. Butler	1928
Paul G. Redington	1929-1931
C.M. Granger	1932-1933
Warren T. Doolittle	1986-1987
Arthur V. Smyth	1990

### SAF Award Recipients from the National Capital SAF

Award	Date	Name
Sir William Schlich Memorial	1940	Gifford Pinchot
Sir William Schlich Memorial	1954	Tom Gill
Gifford Pinchot Medal	1957	Henry Clepper
Gifford Pinchot Medal	1973	Edward Cliff
John A. Beale Memorial	1983	Warren T. Doolittle
Sir William Schlich Memorial	1984	John R. McGuire
Barrington Moore Memorial	1986	Elbert L. Little, Jr.
Sir William Schlich Memorial	1986	Murlyn Dickerman
Young Forester Leadership Award	1986	Gary Moll
John A. Beale Memorial	1987	John Barber

### Current Golden Members in the National Capital SAF

Name	Date of Membership
George R. Phillips	1925
Warren V. Benedict	1926
Ira J. Mason	1926
Robert K. Winters	1926
Lloyd W. Swift	1930
Henry Hopp	1932
Gordon Fox	1933
Clare W. Hendee	1933
Milton M. Bryan	1934
Lawrence Neff	1934
William P. Everard	1935
A.W. Greeley	1935
B.J. Huckenpahler	1935
Gordon R. Salmond	1935
John F. Shanklin	1935
Harry W. Dengler	1936
Murlyn B. Dickerman	1936
Robert E. Reinhardt	1936
Richard F. Droege	1937
Elbert L. Little, Jr.	1939
John R. McGuire	1939
Clifford S. Schopmeyer	1939
George Vitas	1940



### **Current Fellows in the National Capital SAF**

Name	Date
Adela Backiel	1989
George R. Barker	1985
Karl Bergsvik	1989
Milton R. Bryan	1977
Russell W. Burns	1986
F. Bryan Clark	1983
Lester A. Decoster	1985
Murlyn B. Dickerman	1965
Warren T. Doolittle	1977
John H. Farrell	1977
Forrest L. Fenstermaker	1986
Gordon D. Fox	1983
Arthur W. Greeley	1977
Edward G. Grest	1977
Gene W. Grey	1986
Dwight Hair	1983
Charles H. Harden	1985
Clare W. Hendee	1969
Larry D. Henson	1986
Raymond M. Housley, Jr.	1984
Stephen P. Kirby	1986

### **Current Fellows in the National Capital SAF**

Name	Date
Stanley L. Krugman	1985
Elbert L. Little, Jr.	1977
Herluf G. Lund, III	1988
Ira J. Mason	1965
Jay McConnell	1984
John R. McGuire	1973
Lawrence P. Neff	1983
John H. Ohman	1985
Brian R. Payne	1986
R. Max Peterson	1984
George R. Phillips	1977
Donald Pomerening	1985
Boyd W. Post	1988
Mark E. Rey	1988
Clark Row	1986
Clifford S. Schopmeyer	1985
John F. Shanklin	1961
Arthur V. Smyth	1983
George Vitas	1977
Allan J. West	1989
Jacob L. Whitmore, III	1988
Robert K. Winters	1977
Robert E. Wolf	1977

