

# Texas Forester



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## Fifteen Team Texans!

By Jan Davis

Texas was well represented in Buffalo, New York as ten TSAF members and five SFA students attended the October 25-29 SAF National Convention. The team was made up of Dr. Scott Beasley, Gary Burns, Angie Cure, Jan Davis, Lee Flannery, Marty Harris, Ron Hufford, Hughes Simpson, Dr. Tat Smith, and George Weick. Student team members in attendance were Tiffany Byers, Eric Hall, Terry Miller, Brad Weaver, and Jennifer Williamson. Be sure and congratulate the student team for taking 2nd place honors out of 24 teams at the College Quiz Bowl. All of the Texas team members extend a special thank you to the employers, schools, and to the TSAF membership for making it possible for each of these participants to attend this year's convention.

Because the team's mission was two-fold, one or more team members were in attendance at every convention component that SAF had to offer. First, as with any SAF event, team members were able to choose and attend sessions that would contribute to their forestry knowledge base, that would add to their career experience, and that would allow networking with other forestry professionals from around the world. Second, the team was to observe the convention process and take notes that will facilitate the planning of Texas's own 2005 SAF Convention and of course, promote Texas at every opportune moment.

## From the Chair . . .

The final meeting of the TSAF Executive Committee was held at the TFA Office on December 10, 2003. This meeting provided an opportunity to thank the Chapter Chairs for their leadership during the year and for each of them to report on their accomplishments and plans for 2004. The Executive Committee approved the by-laws of the newly established Hill Country Chapter, which will be chaired next year by Mike Dunivan with TFS in Austin. With this action the Hill Country officially becomes a recognized chapter of the TSAF. The Executive Committee also took action to develop a map showing the boundaries of the TSAF chapters. This should be completed early next year and then placed on the TSAF web site.

TSAF membership stands at 419 which is down approximately 31 members from last years count. Jennifer Smith has worked hard this year in recognition programs and recruitment efforts. She needs your help in recruiting members and getting previous members to rejoin.

The Executive Committee also developed a 2004 budget showing income and projected expenses. As with most budgets these days, the expenses continue to exceed anticipated revenues and the Executive Committee will need to address this issue next year. TSAF however is fortunate to have excess funds in the checking account and continues to remain in the black.

I want to thank each of you for your support this past year, and it was my honor to serve the TSAF as Chairman, and I encourage you to continue to support the programs that Chair Marty Harris and the Executive Committee will tackle next year.

Thank You!  
Ron

Marty and Ron kicked things off by representing TSAF at the House of Society Delegates meeting where decisions are made regarding the focus of SAF as a professional organization. At the same time, Jan gave a presentation about technical field workshop opportunities in

*See, "Team," page 5*

## Inside . . .

- 2 Forestry Community News
- 3 Events and Opportunities
- 4 From National



## 2003 HSD Recommendations to Council

- 1) That Council evaluates the need to create a new category of membership – perhaps called “transitional,” to accommodate members experiencing such things as job loss, career change, and/or financial difficulties.
- 2) That Council explore the opportunity for SAF to encourage the Sustainable Forestry Board (SFB) to incorporate into the appropriate SFI performance measures support for the role the Society of American Foresters and other equivalent professional societies play in promoting the practice of sustainable forestry through training (i.e. Certified Forester program) and outreach to professional, public, and landowner audiences. Council should also look for this opportunity in the other certification programs as well.
- 3) HSD recommends that Council, in support of the national strategic plan, investigate redirecting national level resources that would provide support to state societies and/or chapters in their efforts to meet the goals of their strategic plan. HSD further recommends this level of support be not less than \$1000 per state society, or in-kind services, for SAF units submitting a plan for applying funds or services to achieve the identified goals of their strategic plan.
- 4) That Council continue efforts to resolve the issues related to Federal employees being prohibited from serving, in an official capacity, as an officer or member of any board of any non-federal organization absent a specific authorizing statute or waiver. HSD expresses appreciation to Council and staff for the process made thus far.
- 5) HSD recommends that Council approve HSD charter amendments that address issues related to elections of HSD officers, convener system, and preparation of HSD’s annual budget.
- 6) HSD recommends that any surplus funds from the 2003 HSD budget be donated to the 2004 Leadership Academy program.

HSD endorses the national communications plan developed by the Communications Committee that addressed the 2002 HSD recommendation for “back to basics” forestry messages and strategies/tactics for implementation.

## 2004 TSAF Officers Elected

TSAF Officers for 2004 are as follows: Marty Harris - Chairman; Dr. Tat Smith - Chair Elect; Hughes Simpson - Secretary/Treasurer. In addition, Ken Addy and Mike Messina have both been notified that they were elected to Fellow. Congratulations to all, and good luck next year. Look for a complete list of chapter officers and committee chairs in the next newsletter

## New SAF Award

The SAF Council recently approved a new award that may be of interest to you communicators. The Outstanding Communicator Award recognizes an SAF member who displays the ability, talent, and skill to lead innovative and exemplary communications initiatives and programs that increase the general public's understanding of forestry and natural resources at the local, regional, or national level. The award, presented annually, consists of an engraved award and a \$500 honorarium. The establishment of this award sends a clear signal to the membership that SAF encourages and supports the public outreach activities of its members in their communities. Although the national office conducts public outreach at the national level, it is the rank-and-file members who are vital to public outreach at the local level. SAF members are the ones swaying public opinion by writing articles in their local newspapers, conducting forestry tours for schoolchildren, media, and policy-makers, and developing presentations and displays for public events and venues such as fairs and museums. Individual members who are leaders in outreach initiatives can now be recognized with this new award.

For full award descriptions and nomination forms visit

<http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm>.

*See related article on page 3*



## Events and Opportunities

### SAF National Award Nominations

*Submitted by Joel Hambright*

SAF's national awards honor individuals and student chapters for contributions to the Society and the forestry profession. These outstanding foresters need your help, however, to achieve the recognition they deserve. You too can be a winner - by submitting nominations for these awards:

**John A. Beale Memorial Award**

(for voluntary service to the society)

**Barrington Moore Memorial Award**

(for biological research in forestry)

**Carl Alwin Schenck Award**

(for devotion and performance in forestry education)

**Sir William Schlich Memorial Award**

(for contribution to forestry, with emphasis on - but not limited to - policy and national or international activities)

**Award in Forest Science**

(for research in quantitative, managerial, or social sciences)

**Young Forester Leadership Award**

**Technology Transfer Award**

**Outstanding Forestry Journalism Award**

**Outstanding SAF Student Chapter Award**

**Student Chapter Website Award**

The nomination deadline for 2004 SAF national awards is February 28, 2004. The deadline for student chapter awards is June 16, 2004. For more information, including award criteria and nomination form, visit SAF's website: [www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/who/nationalawards.cfm)

### SAF to Tour Finland And Estonia

The 2004 SAF International Study Tour will be to Finland and Estonia June 15 - 18, 2004. Those on the tour will see all aspects of forestry in the countries including research, industrial forestry, family owned forests, national parks, manufacturing and education. In addition, there will be a visit to the Timberjack plant in Joensuu, Finland, and a modern sawmill in Estonia. Finland and Estonia have much in common. They both are heavily forested, and forests are an integral part of their economies and cultures. While Finland has a highly developed forestry sector, Estonia is now emerging from a long period of Soviet Russian domination. The forest industry is Finland's largest, and Estonia has Europe's fastest growing economy with forest products making up a large portion of their international trade.

For more information, contact Dick Reid, Reid Consulting (317) 894-0138, [reidconsulting@aol.com](mailto:reidconsulting@aol.com).

### Theme Still Needed for SAF Convention 2005

The TSAF board is still accepting nominations for the theme and tag line for the SAF 2005 Convention in Fort Worth, Texas until Dec 31st. For more information, contact Jan Davis at [jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu).



## From National SAF

*The articles on the following pages were released from the National SAF offices. For more information, contact Jeff Ghannam, Director, Public Affairs:*

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### SAF Election Results Announced

John A. Helms of Orinda, California, has been elected vice-president of the Society of American Foresters. After serving SAF as vice-president in 2004, Helms will assume the SAF presidency, the organization's top volunteer leadership position, on January 1, 2005.

Helms, one of the nation's leading experts in silviculture, is professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. He served as professor of silviculture at the university from 1964-94 and chaired the Department of Forestry from 1989-93. Helms holds a PhD in silviculture (1963) and a masters in forest management (1960) from the University of Washington. He also holds a diploma of forestry (1953) from the Australian Forestry School and a B.S. in forestry (1953) from the University of Sydney, Australia.

"I am privileged to be elected vice-president because forestry in the United States, and indeed worldwide, is at a threshold of opportunity, and believe I can make a difference," says Helms. "Rapid change in public attitudes toward forest resources makes the potential role of SAF increasingly important. I want to strengthen SAF so it is fully recognized and respected for its mission to serve employers and the public and to enhance professional forestry."

The 2003 SAF elections also resulted in the election of three new representatives on the SAF Council, the organizations governing body. The newly elected representatives include Gary M. Nakamura of Redding, California, an area forestry specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension. Nakamura will represent Voting District 3 (Hawaii, Northern

California, and Southern California SAFs.) Leo C. Laferriere, CF, of Waitsfield, Vermont, a consulting forester, will represent Voting District 6 (New England and New York SAFs.) Robert J. Cunningham, CF, of West Plains, Missouri, regional supervisor of the private land services division of the Missouri Department of Conservation, will represent Voting District 9 (Great Plains, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky-Tennessee Missouri, Ouachita, and Ohio SAFs.)

Fifty-three SAF members were also elected SAF Fellow. Fellows are SAF professional members who have been identified by their peers as having rendered outstanding service to forestry and the Society. The 2003 Fellows will be announced later this month after they have been notified.

### Presenting Forestry Research Under Two Flags

A rare meeting of foresters from the United States and Canada, to be held in 2004 in Edmonton, Alberta, will offer presenters and attendees an opportunity to share insights and learn about forest policy, planning, and management within both nations.

The joint gathering of the Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) and the Society of American Foresters (SAF), which occurs once every 10 years, promises a stimulating and rewarding blend of technical presentations, convention activities, social events, and field workshops in Alberta's stunning landscape.

*See, "Two Flags," page 5*



*"Two Flags," continued from page 4*

This meeting, which will be held October 26 and have the theme of One Forest Under Two Flags, will bring three days of concurrent programming. The forestry organizations have put out a Call for Presentations inviting a variety of proposals--papers, panels, seminars, critical issues forums, or other presentations. They have developed several streams within the theme to guide development of the program. These streams include Partnerships in Forest Management, Forest Health, Protection, and Climate Change, Developing Forest Policy to Encourage Sustainable Forest Management, and Technology Development in Forest Planning and Operations.

Submissions related to the 2004 theme, One Forest Under Two Flags, are strongly encouraged. However, all topics of relevance to the science, education, technology, or practice of forestry will be considered. Participation by professionals in related fields is encouraged to give a full perspective and balanced discussion of relevant issues and topics. All concurrent presentation submissions will be peer-reviewed.

Abstracts are due no later than Wednesday, December 17, 2003. For more information, visit the SAF website at [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org).

*The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) is the national voice of forest practitioners in Canada. Formed in 1908, the Institutes mission is to advance the stewardship of Canadas forest resources, provide national leadership in forestry, promote competence among forestry professionals, and foster public awareness of Canadian and international forestry issues. CIF/IFC members are foresters, forest technicians, technologists, educators, scientists, and others with a professional interest in forestry.*

*The Society of American Foresters is a nonprofit organization that represents more than 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals. It is the scientific and educational association representing the profession of forestry in the United States. The Society's primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of society.*

*"Team," continued from page 1*

Texas at the Forest Science and Technology Working Group's board meeting. Hughes and Lee not only began at the start by attending "First-time Attendees" breakfast but also wrapped things up by attending a technical workshop on the last day of the convention. Lee and Hughes met with all of the vendors in the exhibit hall leaving them with magazines showcasing Fort Worth. Gary and George were instrumental in making introductions between the Texas participants and fellow colleagues from working group and committee appointments. Jan and Angie enjoyed meeting with the national office staff and the newly elected SAF vice-president, John Helms, at "Lunch with the Leaders". They also met with the Canadian 2004 convention planning team to gain more insight into the convention hosting process.

As the 2003 TSAF chapter chair, Ron Hufford commented on the importance of SAF involvement and said that "Attending the National SAF Convention allowed (him) to see the diversity within the membership and learn the strengths of the Chapters in other parts of the country and the importance each Chapter places on the issues the forestry profession faces. Having the SAF Convention in 2005 will allow everyone in Texas the opportunity to attend a national convention. I encourage you to do so to learn more about SAF and to support the efforts of TSAF in hosting the convention."

During three days of the week-long event, sixteen different forestry tracks were offered in concurrent sessions. Plenary sessions consisted of panel discussions highlighting forest science and technology (the 2003 convention theme) around the world. Scott and Tat made it possible for Stephen F. Austin and Texas A&M University to hold their "Alumni Socials" jointly. All would agree that the annual banquet, which this year included a trip to see Niagra Falls from the Canadian side at night, was the highlight of the convention. All team members returned back to Texas safely along with just a couple of disposable yellow raincoats that say "Niagra" tucked away in their luggage bags!

