



The Ohio Hetuch



**Good Bye
2005**



Hello 2006!

Winter 2006

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio Society of American Foresters
www.ohiosaf.org

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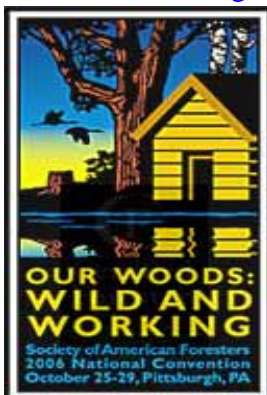
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OSAF Website: www.ohiosaf.org

SAF Website: www.safnet.org/

**Society of American Foresters
2006 National Convention**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 25-29**

Chair Comments

Lee Crocker, CF



I am thrilled to be serving you as the Chair of the Ohio Society of American Foresters. I look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. It is exhilarating meeting young Foresters. Most Foresters start their careers with a passion about what they do and belief that it is important. Foresters believe they can make a difference. As an organization of professional Foresters it is important that we encourage and mentors the young foresters among us. I hope we all keep this passion and a belief that Foresters make a difference.

My first recollection of the forest is following my father through our southeastern Indiana woods at age five. He was the first person in our community to purchase a chainsaw. The two-man McCulloch with a four-foot bar rests in silence in one of our farm buildings. Saws much safer and easier to use have long since replaced it. I spent much of my early life roaming our 100 acres of woods. I graduated from Purdue University in 1978 with a degree in forest management. I then spent two learning years wading through the swamps and pine forests of South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. I then returned north and have spent the last 25 years working in southern Ohio. We all have a vast quantity of experiences, knowledge and a wisdom that has great value. I look forward to talking with you and learning from you.

Many challenges lie ahead for the Ohio Society of American Foresters. We must strive to increase our membership in a society that places great demands on finances and time commitments. The Ohio Society of American Foresters must deal with the real forestry concerns and be the leaders in these matters. Challenges like Emerald Ash Borer, invasive species, fragmentation, and many more are facing Ohio. We must work together to address these issues.

The winter meeting will be March 7th and 8th at the Ohio State University campus. The meeting will focus on factors impacting silviculture in Ohio. We have a great lineup of speakers. Some of the factors impacting Silviculture in Ohio that will be discussed are wildlife, timber markets, fire, and invasive species. We are trying to listen to the membership by developing this meeting based on the member survey that you completed last year. I hope this meeting is valuable and rewarding. Please check the website and watch your mailboxes soon for the agenda and registration.

See you in Columbus on March 7th and 8th!

~Lee

2006 OSAF Winter Meeting

Factors Impacting Silviculture in Ohio

March 7-8, 2006

The Ohio State University Campus, Columbus

Watch your mailboxes for registrations soon!

Past Chair's Comments

Change

Mark Ervin

This is my last message to you as Chair of the Ohio Society of American Foresters. I will be handing over the reins to the able leadership of Lee Crocker. I do so with regrets – regrets that I didn't do more. My tenure coincided with a lot of change in my personal life that, for a number of reasons, didn't permit me to be as proactive as I would have liked. So, I feel that I let all of you down. I hope to make up for it in the future.

There also are winds of change blowing through the forestry community here in Ohio, the nation and the world. National and global forces are having an impact here in Ohio. A significant chunk of forest land changed hands thrice as the Mead Corporation lands went through consolidation to MeadWestvaco which in turn were sold to Escanaba Timber and then again to. The Chillicothe mill was sold to NewPage. These transactions are a result of the global forces and tax policy at work. Let us hope that the land finds its place as productive forest land for the future. Similarly, let's hope that the mill finds its niche so that it can be productive and provide for the economy of Chillicothe, Ohio and the many foresters there that we count as friends.

These changes at the company formally known as Mead Corporation are similar to changes that are occurring throughout the United States, and for that fact, throughout the world. The economic model has changed such that it doesn't make sense for forest industry to hold and manage land. They are selling off these lands to concentrate on production of paper and other products leaving the cost of holding land to others. This role is being picked up by Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). These organizations in turn look for the best return on their investment. Sometimes this means selling real estate for non-forestry purposes. This phenomenon is not unique to the U.S. It is happening in other areas of the world also.

As change is constant the question becomes, "how does public policy towards forests adapt?" I believe that for forests to be healthy (sustainable) that forest owners need to be wealthy and wise. These healthy forests will provide all of the other environmental benefits that society demands. "Healthy, wealthy and wise,"... sounds familiar doesn't it? I don't mean that forest landowners need to be millionaires, but it does mean that forests need to at least be able to pay the cost of holding them – if they don't then owning forest will be a luxury only true millionaires will be able to afford. Forest landowners do need to be wise so they make sound decisions regarding their forest properties. If these two things are in place, forest health through sustainability is within reach.

What public policies can be put in place to ensure healthy forests through landowners that are wealthy and wise? While I don't pretend to have the answers to those questions, I do have some candidates for discussion. Local, state and national taxation policies, and the new Farm Bill present immediate opportunities for SAF. Commodity markets for clean water and carbon present another opportunity – which would be greatly aided by sound public policy. I do hope to contribute to the discussion that may lead to the Society of American Foresters playing a lead role in addressing these issues and others that may present themselves.

So, while I say farewell to my immediate role as Chair, I say hello to my role of contributor to the future.

~ Mark



Factors Affecting Silviculture in Ohio
OSAF 2006 Winter Meeting
March 7-8, 2006



The Ohio State University
 Agriculture Administration Building Auditorium

The 2006 Ohio Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting will focus on factors that affect silviculture in Ohio. Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis. We will also hear presentations on how other factors are affected by common silvicultural practices.

The first day will have presentations on how silvicultural activities affect mammals and birds in our forest. We will also be updated on Emerald ash borer activities in Ohio and on the new BMP requirements being discussed. The second day will have presentations on diameter limit harvesting, how timber markets affect silvicultural activities, the invasives role in silviculture, and how fire is being used in Ohio.

This will be a very exciting session. I hope that you will join your fellow members and other resource managers to learn how other factors are affecting silviculture in Ohio.

There will be approximately 8 CFE contact hours in category 1 toward a Society of American Foresters Continuing Forestry Education Certificate.

Registration Form

Ohio Society of American Foresters – March 7-8, 2006

Name(s): _____
 Street Address _____

 City, State, Zip _____
 Email _____

Registration	SAF Member	_____ X \$35/person =	\$ _____
	Non SAF Member	_____ X \$40/person =	\$ _____
		Contribution to Foresters Fund	\$ _____
		Contribution to Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
		Total Registration	\$ _____

(make checks payable to The Ohio Society of American Foresters)

* Registration includes two lunches and breaks on March 7th and March 8th*
 Please return the registration form **by February 24th** to:

Lee Crocker
141 Valley View Drive
Waverly, OH 45690

Phone 740-774-1596 Ext. 8 Office
 Phone 740-947-9196 Home



Factors Affecting Silviculture in Ohio

OSAF 2006 Winter Meeting

March 7-8, 2006



Agenda (Subject to Change)

Tuesday March 7, 2006

9:00 AM	Executive Committee Meeting
10:30 AM	How silvicultural activities affect mammals, Dave Swanson, Division of Wildlife
11:15 AM	How silvicultural activities affect birds, Amanda Rodewald, OSU
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	OSAF Business Meeting
2:45 PM	Break
3:00 PM	Emerald Ash Borer update, Lucia Hunt, ODA
4:00 PM	New BMP guidelines, Martin Joyce, Ohio Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
4:45 PM	See you tomorrow

Wednesday March 8, 2006

8:15 AM	Call to order
9:00 AM	Diameter Limit Harvesting, Mary Ann Fajvan, USFS
10:00 AM	How Timber Markets affect silvicultural practices, Matt Bumgardner, USFS
11:00 AM	Break
11:15 AM	Prescribed Fire in Ohio, Roger Williams, OSU
12:00 PM	Lunch and Awards
1:00 PM	Silvicultural practices affect on Invasives (speaker to be announced)
2:00 PM	What going on in the real world? (Panel of Foresters)
3:00 PM	Have a Safe Trip Home

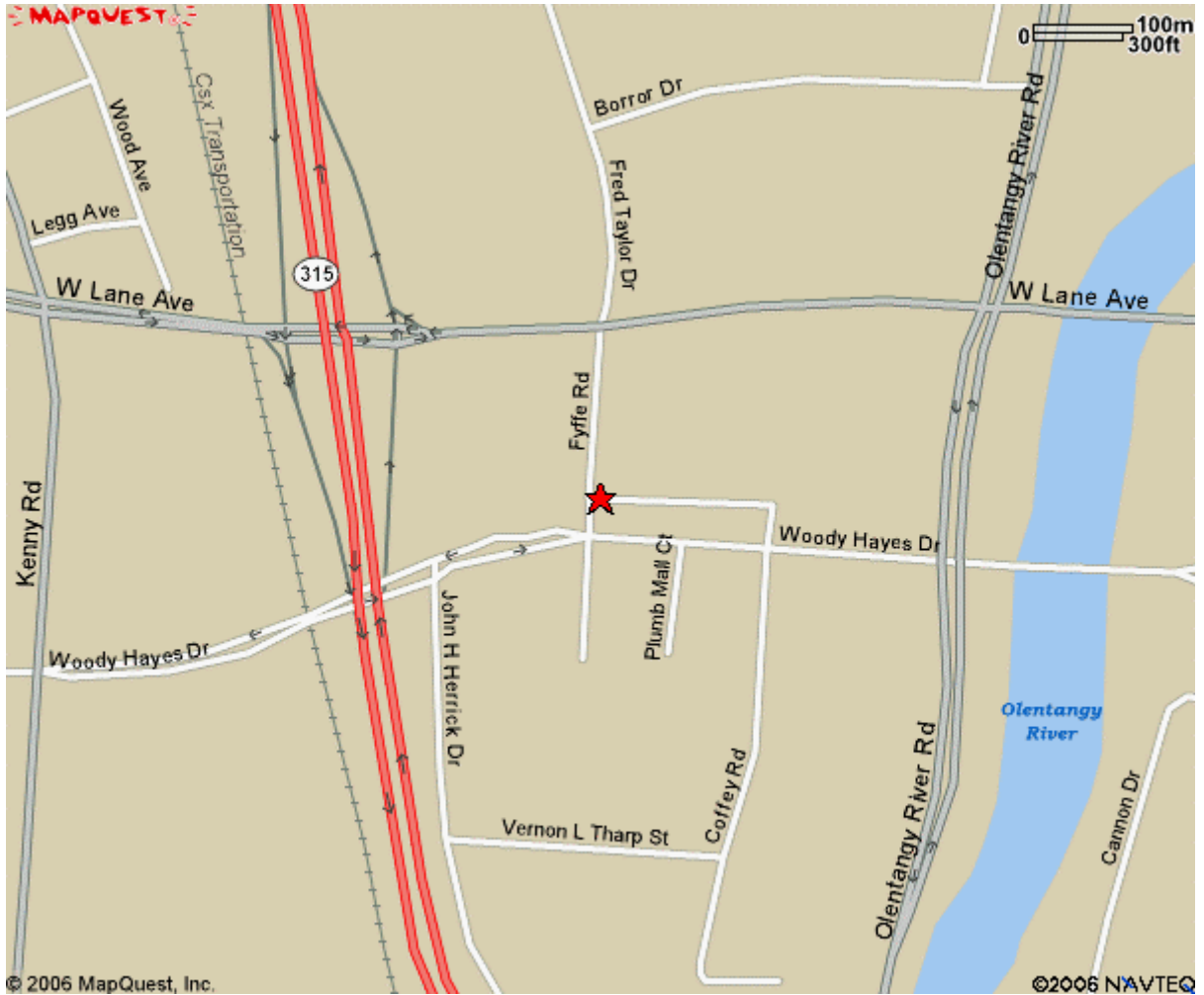
Please register by February 24th



OSAF 2006 Winter Meeting

March 7-8, 2006

The Ohio State University
Agriculture Administration Building Auditorium
2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, Ohio



OSAF News

Election Results

The results of our fall election were certified by our tellers committee. Dave Apsley elected unopposed to serve as our chapter chair-elect in 2006. Dave has served as OSAF secretary-treasurer in the past and is a District Specialist in Natural Resources with the OSU Extension South Center in Piketon. Dave will serve as Chair in 2007.

Special thanks to everyone who voted and to Dave for your willingness to serve!

In Memoriam

Ernie Gebhart, 57 –year SAF member, passed away. Ernie received the Fellow Award in 1986.

Emerald Ash Borer White Paper

The Policy Committee will be reviewing and updating the EAB White Paper when it expires this March. Please watch for opportunities to participate in the updating process and take a few minutes to read the current version at www.ohiosaf.org/eabart.html.

Cowen-Embree Student Scholarship Fund

Help make a difference in the lives of young foresters by donating to the Cowen-Embree Student Scholarship Fund. Each year, two \$500 Scholarships are awarded to two deserving forestry students: one at the Ohio State University and one at Hocking College. Your donation is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.

Mail a check or money order made out to *Ohio SAF* to Valerie Fox, OSAF Treasurer, Hocking College, 19814 Goat Run Honey Fork Rd, Logan, OH 43138

Please write "Cowen-Embree Fund" in the memo.

Certification News

The National office has produced a study guide for the Certified Forester Exam and offers exams through local testing sites. Read *Becoming a Certified Forester* for details.

What's Up in Your Neck of the Woods?

Ohio SAF Members are doing great things! Help us share your activities, media opportunities, projects, research, upcoming forestry events, and personal/professional milestones in the Hetuch and maybe even with the national office. Drop a note or an e-mail to the Communications Chair, Steph Miller, and we'll share your story.

Name: _____, Title _____

Company/Employer: _____, City _____

Phone: _____ E-dress: _____

Your News: _____

Return to

Steph Miller

952-B Lima Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840

Or e-mail to

Stephanie.miller@dnr.state.oh.us

Ohio's Newest Fellow: Tom Berger

Ohio SAF would like to say Congratulations to our newest member elected Fellow, Tom Berger. Tom retired last year as Program Administrator for the Private Lands Program with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry after 32 years of Service. He received his BS in Forestry from West Virginia University in 1971, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1971-1977, and became an SAF Certified Forester in 1997. Tom has served Ohio SAF as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and Chairman in the past, as well as Membership Chair, Continuing Education Chair, and Chair of the Annual Tree Planting Project. Tom received the Ohio Forestry Associations Outstanding Individual in Government Services Award in 1994.



Additionally, Tom has been a member of the Ohio Forestry Association and the Ohio State Tree Farm Committee for 20 years, and he is a member of the United Methodist Church and a previous President of the Stonecreek Valley Ruritan Club. He has also made monthly visits to Columbus Children's Hospital with Smokey Bear for 12 years.

We all know Tom, and are very proud to congratulate him as our newest Fellow! Next time you see him, make sure you ask him about his latest hunting or fishing trip, because that's where you will find him now that he has retired!

Welcome New Ohio SAF Members!

Ohio SAF significantly increased our membership this year! We would like to say thank you and welcome to all of our new, reinstated, transferred in, and student members who became regular members in 2005.

Phil Bergsrud

Brandi Hovorka-Kelly

Thomas Slavin

Christopher Gough

Joshua Donathan

James Downs

Kenton Garwood

Jeremiah Miller

Clayton Rico

Matthew Stacklin

Corey Tieche

Jed Coldwell

Alexander Kindler

Stephen Rist

Bruce Allen

Michael Friedhof

Mike Ellinger

Leslie Homer

Michael Kroll

Sarah Lemin

Casey Munchel

Brent Oblinger

Charles Ogle

Brian Riley

Jennifer Sinkovic

Michael Wisniewski

Mark Yoders

Jeffrey Borchers

Philip Boye

Gregory Couch

Anthony DiBiasio

Nathan Fleming

Joshua Gundrum

Daniel Knotek

Daniel Lamb

Kris Mooney

Jerry Rose

Bobbie von Bargen

Nathan West

Rob Youdath

Jannon Zubchevich

Andrew GaschoLandis

Dustin Dircksen

Shane McCollum

John Kehn

Ed Saksa

Eddie Wagoner

Damon Hartley

Amy Mackey

Lisa Montgomery-Chorey

Abigail Aud

Natalie Pinheiro

Adam Wholever

John Berg

Derek Stromski

Michael Chedester

Todd Roffe

Ricky Lambes

Scott Lerman

Joseph Moran

Jonathan Schaeffer

Kyle Seigley

Cassandra Weisend

Kathryn Yoders

Charles Ford

Other Upcoming Forestry Events

Make sure the check at www.ohiosaf.org/calendar.html for links, details, and registration forms

Woodland, Water & Wildlife Conference

March 15, 2006

Mohican Resort and Conference Center, Perrysville, OH
OSU Extension/School of Environment & Natural Resources

Natural resources in-service conference for natural resource professionals and land managers.
Offers concurrent sessions on a wide variety of natural resource topics:

Woodland: tree planting, emerald ash borer ID and minimize EAB's impact on the forest, improving forest health and vigor, and enhancing songbird habitat.

Pond Management: aquatic plant management and pond stocking.

Wildlife: coyotes, grassland establishment and management, deer, Canada geese, wildlife diseases.

6 hours SAF CE credits in a combination of Categories 1&2

Early Bird Registration by February 22 - \$50

After February 22 - \$75

Registration information at <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu> or call 1-614-688-3421.

Tri-state Woodland Owners Workshop

March 25, 2006

Diamond Oaks Career Center, Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Extension in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana

Ohio Forest Health Meeting

April 11-12, 2006

Canters Cave 4H Camp, Jackson, OH
Dan Balsler, Ohio Division of Forestry, 614-265-7053

Our Woods, Wild and Working

Society of American Foresters National Convention

October 25-29, 2006

Pittsburgh, PA

www.safnet.org/



Acid Deposition and Base Cation Depletion Re-Visited

Robert Long, OSAF Forest Science and Technology Coordinator

Some of us are old enough to remember the controversies surrounding acid deposition and forest health in the 1980s and 1990s. During that period the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP) was created to oversee a broad range of research evaluating the impacts of deposition on forest health and ecosystem processes. While definitive answers to many issues, particularly soil base cation depletion, were incomplete, policy makers acted on the best information available and in 1990 Congress passed the Clean Air Act. This act mandated major reductions of sulfur emissions from electric utilities and other pollution sources. Since the mid 1990s, the impetus for research examining deposition effects has declined dramatically, and research priorities have shifted to global climate change, invasive pests and pathogens, fuel reduction, and forest sustainability. However, in many New England states issues related to acidic deposition effects have remained a priority and particular attention has focused on nitrogen deposition and its potential long-term adverse effects on waters and soils.

Base cations commonly found in soils are Na, K, Ca and Mg. Base cation depletion of forest soils was originally demonstrated based on theoretical and laboratory studies. Additionally, watershed mass balance research, and whole-watershed acidification studies have indicated measurable long-term base cation depletion due to acidic inputs. Long-term measurements of actual changes in forest soils have been rare and many re-sampling studies have been compromised by changing analytical methodologies and the inability to exactly duplicate sampling methods and locations. Appropriately archived soils would be a key component to determine long-term changes in soils. In 1997 I was part of a team given a unique opportunity to examine changes in forest soils at four forested sites on the Allegheny National Forest in Warren County, Pennsylvania. These four sites were originally part of a larger study conducted in 1967 that compared soils in relation to the major land uses in Warren County. The four forested sites that had been largely undisturbed since 1967 included two mixed oak and two northern hardwood sites. Key to our 1997 effort was the detailed site descriptions so that original sampling points could be determined **and** the availability of appropriately archived soil samples from the original 1967 pits. To guarantee sampling consistency, we were able to engage one of the original 1967 investigators, Robert Cunningham, to assist with re-sampling in 1997.

In designing the study, we hoped to test the question of base cation depletion as rigorously as possible. We wanted to assess the amount of spatial variability present at a site by sampling four new pits in cardinal directions and 10 meters from the original pit. Additionally, we wanted to estimate the amount of short-term temporal variability by sampling each year from the forest floor in 10 randomly selected locations between these four pits in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Lacking a dedicated funding source to analyze these samples, it took several years to get all these samples processed and analyzed.

One hypothesis we considered was that the amount of spatial variation coupled with short-term temporal variability would be so large compared to the amount of base cation depletion that we would be unable to detect a statistically significant change in base cations. However, we found that both sources of variation were small when compared with the long-term magnitude of base cation depletion over 30 years.

In the 1997 samples, we found significant decreases in exchangeable Ca, Mg, and pH at all depths and at all four sites down to depths of about 60 inches in the soil profile compared with amounts found in the 1967 samples. Also, exchangeable aluminum, a potentially toxic ion that becomes more soluble as soils acidify, increased at all depths, but this increase was only statistically

significant in the upper soil horizons. Samples collected between the pits in 1997, 1998, and 1999 to estimate short-term variability showed minor interannual variation in exchangeable Ca and Mg in forest floor and upper mineral horizons. It is important to note that these sites are unglaciated and are located on plateau top landforms that are more vulnerable to long-term leaching.

We did not have sufficient data to calculate an entire nutrient budget for these sites. The next best approach was to compare the major pools for storing nutrients in soils and the biomass at a site. We needed to calculate quantities of nutrients lost from the soils and the amounts sequestered by vegetation to see if there was a net loss at a site. Exchangeable Ca and Mg soil pools were calculated for each horizon and summed for the entire depth of the pit (55 inches in most cases). Total changes in Ca and Mg between 1967 and 1997 could then be calculated on a kilogram per hectare basis. But how much of this apparent loss in Ca and Mg could be accounted for by uptake and storage in biomass? Total above ground biomass was estimated using allometric regression equations, and nutrient concentrations (derived from published studies) for foliage, stem wood, stem bark, branches and coarse roots were used to calculate nutrient storage in biomass from 1967 to 1997. While there was considerable variation among the four sites, comparisons of the soil pool changes with net biomass accumulation suggests that much of decrease in exchangeable Ca and Mg in these soils cannot be accounted for by forest growth and therefore implies off-site leaching of nutrients from the soil profile. Losses of Ca from the soil profile greatly exceeded biomass uptake at three of the four sites, and Mg losses from the soil profile exceeded biomass uptake at two of the four sites. The two sites showing the largest losses of Ca and Mg include one mixed oak stand and one northern hardwood stand. There are some uncertainties in our calculations. For instance, estimating the volumetric rock content for a site on a per hectare or acre basis to calculate the nutrients stored in the soil profile may have a wide error bar due to natural variation, however, we believe these comparisons are sufficiently robust to suggest off-site leaching as the mechanism of nutrient loss.

So what does this mean for forestry and forest management? Forestry professionals managing forests with similar soils, landscape positions, and deposition loading should be aware that these sites may be vulnerable to base cation depletion. In southeastern Ohio, there are extensive areas with residual soils that receive moderate to high deposition loadings. Forests on ridge top or plateau sites are the most vulnerable to leaching losses. Management strategies to conserve base cations include longer rotations, stem only harvests that retain branches, fine twigs and foliage on-site, and managing for species which do not require high levels of base cations. Based on other research we have conducted, red maple, black cherry, and American beech do not appear to require large quantities of base cations. Information regarding the nutrient requirements for oaks is not as readily available. While acid deposition inputs of sulfates have declined significantly, there are continued inputs of nitrates which contribute to soil acidification and potential leaching of base cations. I was a skeptic about this problem for a number of years, but I am now convinced that base cation depletion is real on some sites. Foresters should consider the long-term impact of management practices and manage to conserve base cations on these potentially vulnerable sites. Hopefully, new efforts to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions will reduce deposition loading and permit soils to recover.

The published manuscript describing this research is available from the Soil Science Society of America Journal, or send me an email (rlong@fs.fed.us) and I'll send you a hardcopy reprint.

Literature Cited

Bailey, S.W., Horsley, S.B. and Long, R.P. 2005. Thirty years of change in forest soils of the Allegheny Plateau, Pennsylvania. *Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J.* 69:681-690.

Real Estate Tax Changes Proposed for Ohio's Woodlands

John Dorka, Chief, Ohio Division of Forestry

Rich Cappell, Service Forestry and Nursery Program Administrator

Ohio woodland owners have long had to choose between two different real estate tax programs for forest. One option, the Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL) originated in the late 1920s. It currently offers a 50% reduction in appraised value of the property against which local real estate taxes are applied. In addition, the forest must be dedicated to "forestry" production and must maintain minimal standards of protection.

The Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV), enacted in 1974, assigns an agricultural value to farmland (including forest) based on the productivity of the soil. The current value assigned to most forestland under CAUV is \$100/acre with local tax rates applied to this appraised value. As implemented, the CAUV offers a greater tax reduction than the OFTL. At the same time, CAUV has little or no requirements for management of the forestland.

This "gap" has existed for a number of years and has resulted in weak forest policy for Ohio, particularly as the laws relate to encouraging sustainable forestry on private lands. Many interests have agreed that the laws should somehow be merged, combining the "best" of both laws into a more modern, incentive-driven program.

To this end, a consortium of representatives from the County Auditors, State Department of Taxation, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Forestry Association, private woodland owners, Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) and the ODNR Divisions of Forestry (DOF) and Soil and Water Conservation (DS&WC) worked together to craft a proposed consolidation of CAUV and the OFTL.



A series of meetings were held to work out the foundation for a merger. A number of issues were discussed, but the critical topics included (1) who can prepare a management plan, (2) what will happen to those landowners currently enrolled in CAUV and OFTL ("grandfathering") and how will transition take place, and (3) what will constitute "incidental" or non-commercial forest land.

Currently under the Ohio Forest Tax Law, if a forest management plan is not prepared by the Division of Forestry it must be prepared by a professional consulting forester. A total of approximately 5,800 landowners are currently enrolled in the OFTL encompassing approximately 219,000 forested acres. The exact number of landowners with forestland taxed under CAUV is not known at this time. Representatives raised concern about developing plans for both new applicants and landowners currently in the CAUV program. The group decided that a plan should be prepared by a professional forester, which would include foresters from the Division of Forestry, Society of American Foresters (SAF) certified foresters, and members of the Association of Consulting Foresters. There would, however, be opportunity for other technical assistance in preparing plans, such as through Soil and Water Districts. The group agreed that a landowner should be allowed to prepare a plan for his or her own property. Regardless of who prepares the plan, all must be prepared according to agreed upon standards similar to those required in the current OFTL. In addition, all plans are not accepted until approved by the Division of Forestry.

Landowners with forestland currently enrolled in either program would be given the opportunity to "grandfather" if desired. Those in the OFTL would be given an option to stay in the OFTL and retain their current 50% real estate tax reduction until they sell the property or otherwise change the deed.

No new applications would be taken for the OFTL as it currently is written. The landowners now enrolled in CAUV would be required to develop a plan only if the woodland is greater than 10 contiguous acres (defined as 10 acres or more of contiguous woodland of commercial species more than 120 feet in width) and comprises more than 25% of the landowner's total acres on the CAUV certificate. If the woodlands is less than 25% of the total CAUV certificate acreage, it would be considered "non-commercial" (incidental) forestland and would not require a forest management plan. Landowners with land currently enrolled in CAUV will be given the chance of opting out of CAUV in the first 2 years of a combined law without a recoupment of 3 years tax saving being applied to this land. Those opting to remain in CAUV would have to meet forest management plan requirements within 10 years of law enactment.

The stakeholder groups that worked on this proposed merger have agreed to these points "in concept". The next and most critical step is to craft these changes into legislation, which ODNR hopes to do in 2006.

If in fact these changes are adopted, the Division of Forestry believes that this will be a huge step forward in promoting sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Ohio. It will create a uniform system for "certifying" well-managed forestland as well as a uniform approach tax reduction. Landowners, those interested in sustainable forests, and the public in general would all be winners for the benefits from these efforts.

Becoming a Certified Forester ® Jeremy Scherf, Ohio SAF Membership Chair

Ok, so you are considering becoming a Certified Forester. Well, at least I have been. But the whole process seemed pretty confusing, so I kept putting it off. Then it would come up again, and I would put it off. To put an end to this vicious cycle, it was decided that I would research the subject and then write this article for the Hetuch so that everyone could have a clearer picture about the Certified Forester program, and the steps you need to take to become one.

The Certified Forester (CF) program was developed to "promote excellence in the stewardship of our nation's forest resources though enhanced professionalism in forestry. The CF program advances this through the development, maintenance, promotion, and administration of an examination-based professional forester certification that mandates professional development and commitment to the standards of professional practice".

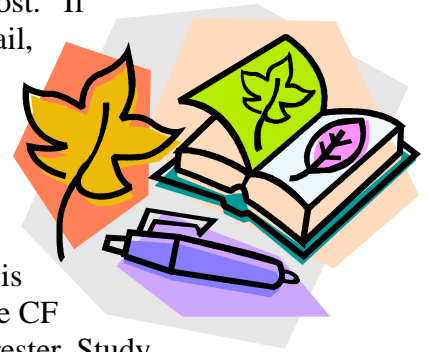
What does this mean? It means that as a CF, you are showing a commitment to improving yourself and your knowledge of forestry through a minimum academic degree, professional experience, continuing education, and professional standards. The CF designation shows that you are continually bettering yourself and your profession.

What do you have to do to be eligible? First and foremost, you must have a bachelors or masters degree from an SAF accredited institution (very few masters programs are accredited), or show a *substantially* equivalent earned professional degree. If you are applying with an equivalent degree, significant documentation will need to be provided with your application.

Second, you must have 5 years of forestry experience in the last 10 years. The five-year time does not include time earned while working toward your bachelors degree, but some time may be accounted for while earning a masters degree. Experience must be shown in four areas including Resource Assessment, Stakeholder Analysis and Relations, Management Planning, and Execution of Management Plan. New for 2006, if you have less than the 5 years experience you may apply for a

Candidate Certified Forester (CCF) status, and work toward your full CF status after reaching your 5 years of experience. Watch for more information on the CCF status in a future article.

Ok, so I have both of these. Now what? Every CF must uphold the ten Certified Forester Standards of Professional Practice. These are mainly ethical standards, and stating that you have not convicted a felony related to forestry practices. My next step is to get ready for the exam. SAF has recently published a Study Guide. It costs \$15, and is certainly worth the cost. If you order it, phone in your order and request it be sent US mail, otherwise shipping will cost you \$7. It gives a variety of questions and their answers, and also gives citations to reference material for further studying.



The next step is to apply for the exam. The application is eight pages long. You must include an original copy of your college transcript, and a lot of other information. Cost of the exam for SAF members is \$260. For non-SAF members it is \$335. This cost includes a one-time CF exam, one-time practice exam, and one copy of the Certified Forester Study Guide. If you have already purchased the Study Guide, as I have, you can subtract \$10 from this fee. If your application is approved, you will be cleared to take the test.

The practice exam may be taken prior to applying if desired. Cost is \$35, and along with the exam, is offered through Schroeder Measurement Technologies (SMT), which does testing for many professional organizations nationwide. Testing is done at computer sites across the state. SMT sent me a list of local test sites for my location in Eastern Ohio, and they are in Columbus, Fairlawn, and Beachwood, and Pittsburgh, PA. I am sure there are other testing sites in Ohio, and you can send an e-mail to find those sites through their website: www.smttesting.com.

You have 12 months from the time your application is approved to take the test. The test is done on a computer, is 150 multiple choice questions, and you have 2 1/2 hours to complete the exam. You may only bring a non-programmable calculator. Passage of the test is required, and is determined by a criterion-reference approach called the Modified Angoff Technique. This technique is currently considered by testing professionals to be one of the most defensible methods available for establishing a passing score because it relies on the pooled judgments of content experts.

Once you pass the exam, you are officially a SAF Certified Forester. You have to renew your status every year (\$35), and must be recertified every three years (\$50). In that three-year period, you must complete 60 hours of continuing education. Thirty of those hours must be category 1, and the remainder may be broken out through categories 2, 3, 4, and 6. International Society of Arboriculture credits may be used as well, upon approval from SAF.

While the whole process seems pretty strenuous, it is done to assure that those carrying the CF designation are professional, represent the Society well, and will continue to promote and improve the forestry profession. In Ohio, we currently have 56 Certified Foresters. There are over 3000 worldwide.

I have only touched on the details in this article, but all the information here was gathered from SAF's Certified Forester website: www.certifiedforester.org. I highly suggest you visit and download the 20 page Certified Forester Program Handbook which goes into much more detail than I have here. More information on the Candidate Certified Forester and Certified Forest Auditor programs are available here as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jeremy.scherf@dnr.state.oh.us or at my office at (740) 425-1100 x 114. Good luck!

OSAF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2005

ODNR Fountain Square Office, Columbus

Present: Lee Crocker, Mark Ervin, Bob Long, Steph Miller, Roger Williams, Kathy Smith, Jeremy Scherf, Dave Apsley

Committee Reports

Financial Report (Valerie Fox)

Checking Account Balance \$10,243.60

Scholarship Balance \$21,239.99

\$365 still needs to be transferred to the scholarship fund.

Membership (Jeremy Scherf) – Since the last report, we have had one member reinstate, six new members, and one member transfer in. Our current numbers include 174 regular members, 14 Ohio State students, and 26 Hocking College students for a total of 214 members. National's goal for us is 207, so congratulations we are 7 members over our goal!

We unfortunately had one member pass away. Ernie Gebhart was a 57-year member of SAF, and received the Fellow award in 1986.

I have spent quite a bit of time this summer trying to update our members email addresses, and since July, have added or updated 21 email addresses and 3 members contact information. These really help both us and National keep in better contact with our members. I sent letters to each member that had a non-working or non-existent email address and asked for an updated one if they had one. For those members who do not use email, I have been mailing hardcopies of newsletters and announcements, anything we sent out over email. We now only have 16 members without an email address.

The National office was so impressed with all the updates, they are writing a "Growing Ideas" article about how I updated the email addresses. National really does appreciate it.

I have also started sending letters to each new member to Ohio SAF welcoming them, listing the officers, and encouraging them to get involved. These have been well received as well. Hopefully it will encourage them to become involved.

The National office has produced a study guide for the Certified Forester Exam. It costs \$15, and is pretty decent, but UPS shipping costs \$7 for something that could be stuck in the US mail for 60 cents. If you order one, you can request it be sent US mail instead, but you lose the delivery guarantee. The fee for the exam also includes the study guide. I found both of these out after I received the book and paid \$7 to have it shipped.

Don't forget that it is now coming time to pay your dues. Dues notices have been mailed out.

As always, I encourage comments from members, and appreciate everyone keeping their email addresses current with me!

Continuing Education (Kathy Smith) – Continuing Forestry Education credit awards will get more stringent under a proposal from national. This will align with international standards for such programs. It may well affect the number of opportunities available. Any comments on the proposal should be forwarded to Kathy Smith by 12/16/06. The big issues are: 1) the need for a pre and post survey; 2) a need for a three week lead time to get the session accredited by national (probably this will need to be done by the sponsor of the educational opportunity, and ; 3) attendance needed to be recorded by the sponsor for each session.

Science (Bob Long) – Roger Williams was recognized for his work in the Fire Conference held at OSU. There were about 380 attendees from across the east and south.

There may be a workshop held on invasive species in the near future.

The sale of Vinton Furnace (REMA) is imminent (NOTE: that sale has taken place since the executive committee meeting. A list of the active research at this site was noted.

Emerald Ash Borer issues were discussed. There is currently a survey taking place along I-80 in northern Ohio. Two EAB foresters are working with landowners in the northwest part of the state and Delaware County. APHIS is looking to intensify the survey for EAB. Thanks were given to Roger Williams for his work on the EAB White Paper. USFS State and Private Forestry is working on recommendations for landowners that have ash crop trees.

Policy (Roger Williams) – Roger gave thanks to all those that gave input and editing work into the EAB White Paper. There was a 6-month expiration put on this white paper which has it expiring in March. We will need to review the paper in light of the current EAB situation and revise the paper accordingly. We can review and extend the paper at the winter meeting. The white paper and OSU's fact sheet may be used by The Nature Conservancy in their efforts to lobby Congress for more funding to combat EAB.

Communications (Steph Miller) – Most communications activity has centered around resolving issues identified in the member survey – keeping our chapter members in the communications loop. One major decision was to continue to have the Hetuch as an on-line newsletter and distribute via e-mail to Ohio membership. OSAF has 16 members who do not have e-mail, so we will print it and mail it to them. The Communications committee feels like this is a fiscally responsible decision and also allows OSAF an opportunity to keep membership updated as on other pertinent topics as the website is updated.

Scott Costello has an addition to his family, a baby girl, so Steph will be editing the Hetuch for the winter edition. Joe continues to keep the website updated and we continue to see increased visits correlate to the release of the Hetuch, chapter meetings, and other activities/projects such as the EAB White Paper development.

Foresters Fund – NO REPORT

Forest Soils (R.E. Hershberger) – Ohio will host the conference again in 2008.

New Business

Fellow – We will need to circulate a nomination petition at the Winter meeting.

Winter Meeting -- Lee Crocker wants to do something on silviculture which would be in line with what the membership indicated on the survey. GIS/GPS has high interest but the winter meeting is not conducive to hands-on sessions.

Potential topics could be: 1) An EAB update – where it is and compliance agreements; discussion of Ash replacements could be made part of this discussion and; the real-world requirements of getting a EAB compliance agreement; 2) there is a publication on diameter limit cutting that could be used as a topic of discussion, and 3) the new BMP notice of intent and harvest plan process.

Next Executive Meeting Date: March 7, OSU, 8:00 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Ervin.