



Louisiana Society of American Foresters

Representing the Forestry Profession in Louisiana

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CHAIR'S COMMENTS

by George Tilley — 2017 Chair

As the summer moves into the fall months, our logging business structure has started to change with the turning of the leaves. Let's just hope it's for the better!! Wet weather during the Spring and Summer months have kept log inventories lower than normal for a lot of mills. Just by removing quotas and the ability of loggers to work without being hampered by weather will be a great benefit to the logging community. No doubt, the rain events of the last couple of months, should spike up the demand for our wood products. Optimism for our forest business should be "high" for the rest of 2017 and early 2018 especially for markets in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. However, it will still take additional mills and markets to stimulate competition in bringing stumpage and harvesting cost to a higher level. We have seen some mill expansion in several of the southern states; however, Louisiana still needs additional markets to benefit our timber business. Hopefully, we will see growth in the markets soon before we start to lose our logging force.

We have had a couple of our members that need to be congratulated for their outstanding achievements. They are as follows: Eugene Austin – 2017 Presiden-

tial Field Forester Award for District 11, and Louis (Buddy) E. Van Hoof, III – Elected a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters

Also, Dave Haywood should be commended for his outstanding service and time he has given to keep us abreast of events on the website and with the "Bayou Forester".



Now, at this time, our statewide membership stands at 186. Like a lot of organizations, our membership has fallen as a lot of us have gotten older. Our state organization continues to look for ways to increase the membership along with the passion of becoming a member of our society. Southern University has petitioned the executive committee to form a student chapter, which has been approved. Hopefully we can build on

this enthusiasm and for some more of our younger foresters to become involved in our organization. I guess time will tell! In the meantime, everyone's suggestions are welcome in helping to build our society's membership.

Please stay safe and take care. God Bless everyone during the remainder of the year and holiday seasons. If you have questions or comments, please let me know. Thanks, George

LASAF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

by Fred Hagaman, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on September 27, 2017 by State Chair George Tiley, CF. Present were: Fred Hagaman, George Ramsey, CF, Buck Vandersteen, Niels de Hoop, CF, Tim Holland, CF, Bill Wieger, CF, via phone conference Shaun Tanger, Michael Murphrey, CF; guests Yadong Qi, Kamran Abdollahi, Oscar Paul, Donnicha London, and E.J. Solomon. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Chair Comments from George Tiley: Welcome, introductions, and congratulations to Eugene Austin for receiving the 2017 Presidential Field Forester Award for District 11 and Louis "Buddy" Van Hoof, III for being accepted as a Fellow in SAF. The Forestry Club of the Urban Forestry Program at Southern University, Baton Rouge, is seeking approval to form a SAF Student Chapter.

The SAF National Convention will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 15-16, 2017.

In June the LASAF made a \$750.00 contribution to the Forester's Fund of SAF. This is mostly made possible from the funds generated at the annual meeting.

Vice-Chair Comments from Shaun Tanger: Brian Chandler has retired from the LSU AgCenter Extension Service; there is an ongoing search to fill his position. Ashley Long will be filling the Wildlife Specialist position vacated by Don Reed on his retirement. Also, the LSU AgCenter is reorganizing on a more crop based and regional approach for responsibilities of each County Agent.

Treasurer's Report from Buck Vandersteen: To date, total financial resources are \$44,244.22, checking account balance is \$20,048 with \$24,195.55 in two CD accounts. Year-to-date receipts total \$11,011.33 and disbursements \$9,192.47. Anticipated disbursements include support to attend the National Convention in New Mexico. Recently, \$750.00 was paid to the Forester's Fund of SAF. Current and anticipated receipts and disbursements through fall 2017 are as proposed in the current year's budget.

Board of Directors, District 11 from Mike Murphrey: Praise to Eugene Austin and Buddy Van Hoof on their awards and fellowship in SAF, respectively. The Board is close to a decision on what to do with

the SAF Headquarters building in Bethesda, MD. The building minimum repair costs are estimated to be \$1.7 million, and a total repair and renovation including upgrades would be \$3.7 to \$4 million. From recent survey results of the membership and staff, there is a consensus that the SAF HQ should remain at its current location. The SAF budget will undergo an audit of all programs including the National Convention. The next National SAF Board meeting will be December 8-10, 2017.

New Student Chapter: The Urban Forestry Club at Southern University in Baton Rouge has seen an increase in involvement and has completed the necessary process to be considered as a SAF student chapter. Acting Chair Ms. Donnicha London, along with fellow members and assistance from Faculty advisors and SAF staff, has developed bylaws to govern the student chapter at Southern University. In addition, a petition to form the new student chapter was submitted to the LASAF Executive Committee signed by 15 current student members of LASAF. Upon acceptance of the student chapter's bylaws and petition to form a chapter, the LASAF Executive Committee approved that a new student chapter be recognized at Southern University Urban Forestry School.

Annual Meeting from Shaun Tanger: The LASAF annual meeting will be in Baton Rouge, January 29-31, 2018 at the LSU Lod Cook Center. Some presentations and speakers have been selected while others are also being searched.

Chapter Chair Reports:

North Louisiana Chapter had a recent meeting with 23 attendees. A roundtable discussion on how the chapter can come together periodically to discuss issues encountered in the field was held. Michael Murphrey, Dist. 11 Representative attended and provided an update on National SAF happenings. The group has developed a website www.sites.google.com/prod/email.latech.edu/northlasaf. The next meeting is planned for November 9, 2017 in Ruston with a presentation on feral hog damage by Dr. Jason Holderieith.

Committee Meeting Continues on Page 4

Laurel Wilt Continues to Spread

Disease Moves Westward on Sassafras

by Zoë Hoyle, SRS Science Delivery, February 9, 2016

The redbay laurels that once graced the coastal forests and residential landscapes of the Southeast have all but disappeared, taken down by laurel wilt, a deadly disease caused by a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) carried in the jaws of the nonnative redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*).

Both beetle and fungus apparently arrived from Asia through the Port of Savannah, Georgia, sometime before 2002, when the first redbay ambrosia beetle was found in a monitoring trap near Port Wentworth, Georgia. Since that time, the disease has spread rapidly, killing almost all of the large redbays along the coasts of Georgia, South Carolina,

and Florida. Recently the disease spread into the coastal plain of North Carolina, and has been found on redbay or sassafras trees in Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas.

Two recent articles by U.S. Forest Service researchers and partners document the continuing spread of laurel wilt from coastal areas into the interior Southeast, where the disease is now killing sassafras trees. Sassafras, like redbay, is a member of the Lauraceae or laurel family, which includes 3,000 species worldwide, most growing in temperate or tropical climates.

In December 2015, Forest Service scientists Jim Hanula and Stephen Fraedrich, with Scott Cameron and Chip Bates from the Georgia Forestry Commission, published findings from long-term plots on the impact of laurel wilt disease on redbay and sassafras populations in southeast Georgia. This is the first published

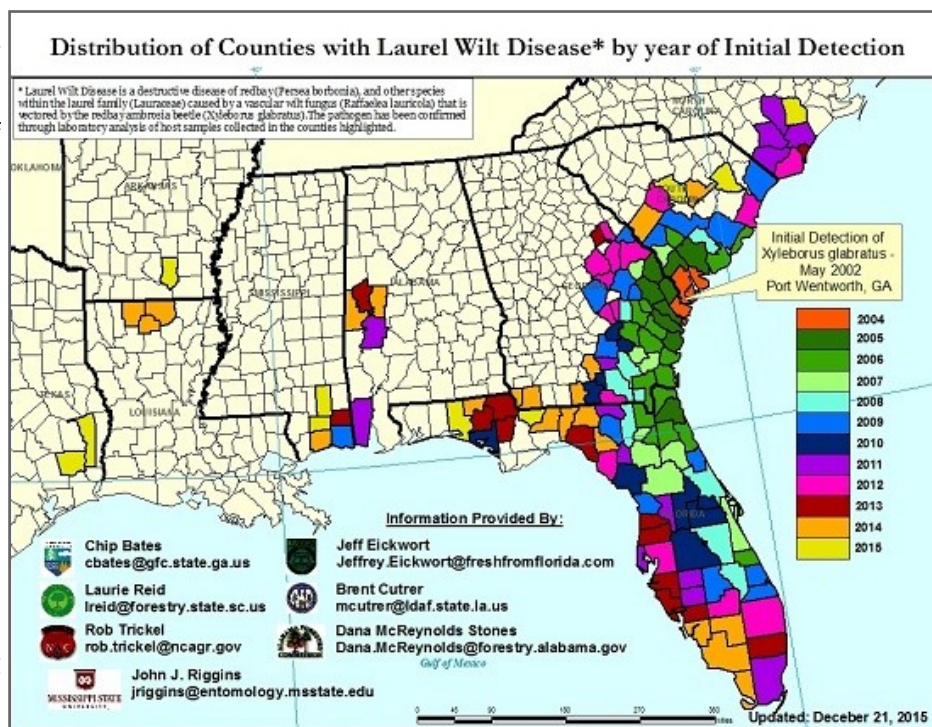
research that charts the entire progression of laurel wilt disease in individual stands over a variety of sites and conditions.

The researchers found that larger trees in both species died at roughly the same rate, with individual trees most often dying within 6 to 8 weeks after infection, and all the large trees in a given area or

plot killed within 2 years after disease was first detected.

The partners also found that redbay stumps in the plots continued to produce below-ground sprouts that could provide replacement stems, offering a hope, albeit slim, of redbay recovery.

Sassafras showed a different pattern of infection, with the disease process slowing and stopping in some sassafras stands for no apparent reason. Sassafras appears to have some degree of tolerance to laurel wilt disease, since some individual trees escape infection



Committee Meeting Continued from Page 2

Cenla Chapter last meeting included a presentation on CLT (cross-laminated timber) by Dr. Richard Vlosky, LSU Forest Products Center. Next meeting is planned for fall 2017.

Southeast Chapter will have a joint meeting with the LSU Student Chapter and the newly formed SU Student Chapter. The meeting will include a presentation on wetland mitigation.

LSU Chapter will have a joint meeting with the Southeast Chapter November 1st. The chapter will be attending Forestry Conclave in Georgia. The LSU Chapter will be hosting Conclave in 2019.

Membership from Tim Holland: Contact Tim for new membership applications and remember to promote SAF to other foresters. Current membership is 186 members for the State Society; including 60 North LA, 13 Pineywoods, 38 Cenla, 16 Southwest, and 59 Southeast. Twenty (20) members have allowed their membership to lapse.

New Business: Representatives from Southern University extended their thanks for accepting the new student chapter. Rachel Reyna, LSU graduate, is running for SAF Vice President; voting continues on the SAF website and please consider Rachel when voting.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2017, at the LFA building in Alexandria. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Laurel Wilt continued from page 3

and many continue to produce sapwood long after infection. Though data from the study and the field suggest that sassafras will be severely impacted by the disease, researchers believe it will probably persist, at least as small trees, as the disease spreads.

In a separate article also published in December, SRS research plant pathologist Fraedrich and partners from Forest Service Forest Health Protection and Iowa State University published the first report of laurel wilt and ambrosia beetles affecting sassafras in Louisiana. After sassafras trees in northern Louisiana were identified with laurel wilt in late 2014, scientists conducted surveys and found widespread evidence that the disease is spreading in sassafras in Louisiana.

“The discovery of sassafras with laurel wilt in northern Louisiana, the first record west of the Mississippi, represented a major extension of the known distribution of the disease,” said Fraedrich, Forest Service Southern Research Station plant pathologist. “This area is outside of the range of redbay, which means that the redbay ambrosia beetle can find and reproduce in sassafras – and thus, that the development of beetle popu-

lations within an area is not solely dependent on the presence of redbay.”

Original models of laurel wilt spread predicted that the disease would not reach central Louisiana until 2030, but the models did not take into account the human movement of infested wood and the apparent efficiency of the redbay ambrosia beetle to find and reproduce in sassafras. Now there’s a general concern that the beetle and laurel wilt could move into the northern range of sassafras, which is more common in states such as Missouri, Kentucky, and West Virginia than in southern states. On February 1, Forest Health Protection confirmed laurel wilt in sassafras trees in Bradley County, Arkansas.

Now there’s a critical need to develop an understanding of how minor-use hardwoods such as redbay and sassafras are being used and transported within the U.S., in order to prevent the spread of the disease into the western U.S. and into Central and South America, where members of the Lauraceae are more diverse, abundant, and economically important.

GROWING BETTER ALL THE TIME—*Invitation to Action and Cutting Edge Professionalism*

Part Three, from Bill Wieger, CFE Coordinator

In the March and June—2017 Editions of the Bayou Forester, parts one and two of “Growing Better all the Time” dealt with the importance of SAF at the national, state and local levels. This section deals with the value of SAF to your professional organization.

SAF is the educational “cradle-to-grave” for forestry. The SAF website (www.safnet.org) is a portal to a wealth of information on national forest policy, meetings, educational programs, career development, the forestry community, and forestry news and information. SAF is the organization that 1) monitors and grants accreditation of professional university curricula and institutions, 2) conducts the Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) program, and 3) administers the Certified Forester credential.

Through SAF, you can give your organization a competitive edge via the CFE program. You can take advantage of the nation’s largest calendar of forestry and natural resource meetings and seminars that provide CFE credits that fulfill the requirements for State professional licensing, Certified Forester, and Association of Consulting Foresters.

Certification is not only important for yourself, but you will also distinguish your enterprise if you have certified foresters on your staff, which demonstrates your organization’s commitment to high standards of professionalism. Why, because the Certified Forester program ensures that your foresters meet the profession’s educational requirements of SAF, have at least 5 years of professional forestry experience, adhere to standards of professional practice, pass a rigorous competency exam that measures knowledge and skills, and participate in continuing education.

Scientific and policy information are published in *Forest Science* and the *Journal of Forestry*. Forest news is distributed via monthly newspaper and web editions of

the *Forestry Source*, as well as through monthly email and web editions of the *E-Forester* and *Issues and Advocacy Now*.

The SAF Career Center, the ultimate forestry career resource, contains the largest source of Forestry jobs in the nation. It’s where foresters go to find the right forestry jobs and where employers go to find the highest quality forestry talent in the country. “Your job search, made personal.” Find jobs in the exact specialty and setting you want. Get your resume reviewed by an expert. Set up customized job alerts so you know when your dream job is posted, and make your next career move count. Employers and job seekers can find a job or make hires on the SAF website.

Need to find a fellow SAF member, state society, or want to join a working group? This information is available, and the SAF membership list can be broken down into subsets to find members you wish to contact.

SAF’s national position statements are important components of our advocacy and outreach efforts. They serve as a foundation to guide our actions on particular issues and act as a catalyst to further dialogue and engagement with policymakers, the media, partner organizations, and SAF units. In broad categories, the society has published position statements on promoting policies informed by science and practice, keeping forests as forests, highlighting the diverse benefits of managed forests, and advancing the profession.

As discussed in the March-2017 issue of the Bayou Forester, SAF is the one professional forestry organization called upon by presidents and congress to advocate for and testify concerning the nation’s forest policy by weighing in on matters when and where it counts (i.e. SAF showed up). Such input on behalf of forestry would not be possible without an effective national Society. For these and many other reasons the forestry community and foresters in particular should support the SAF.

Planning Underway for the 2018 LASAF Annual Meeting in

Baton Rouge, January 29-31, 2018 at the LSU Lod Cook Center. Theme suggestions include forest economics and market trends, and new forest products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT).

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS – Keeping Forests as Forests

A Position of the Society of American Foresters

Originally adopted by the SAF Council on December 9, 2001 and revised and renewed on June 10, 2006 and June 2, 2013. This position statement will expire in 2018, unless, after subsequent review, it is further extended by the SAF Board of Directors.

Position

Conservation easements are often an effective tool for maintaining working forests, protecting environmental values, and protecting communities from excessive development pressure. The Society of American Foresters supports conservation easements as one tool for ensuring sustainable forest management and for conserving forestlands.

Public financing of conservation easements should allow for maximum flexibility in negotiating terms and conditions of easements between a willing seller and a willing buyer. Conservation easements should be tailored to the individual property in order to protect the property's conservation values. Subsequent forest management on the property should be done in accordance with a forest management plan prepared by a professional forester. Public agencies involved in purchasing conservation easements should have strict internal policies to ensure that prices offered for easements are fair. Monitoring and enforcement of easements are also essential so that the agency meets its fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers. Programs, such as the Forest Legacy Program, should continue to focus on supporting sustainably-managed working forests.

Issue

Conditions incorporated into conservation easements normally transfer when land is sold or bequeathed. Some landowners may not be interested in easements because they are reluctant to restrict the management options of their descendants or potential land buyers. In addition, some interest groups seek to divert Forest Legacy funds from the program's original intent to conserve working forestland, as specified in the 1990 Farm Bill. Monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements are essential for them to meet their intended purposes.

Background

Conservation easements are an increasingly popular tool used for a variety of purposes, but primarily to purchase development rights. In forest areas that are rapidly being converted to residential and other developed uses,

conservation easements are often useful for ensuring that lands remain undeveloped. Purchasing conservation easements is usually a more cost-effective means of conserving public trust resources than government fee-title acquisitions or excessive regulation of forest practices. Selling or donating conservation easements may provide landowners committed to sustainable management with the wherewithal to resist pressure to sell their property to developers. Similarly, where pressure to withdraw working forests from active management is intense, conservation easements may offer a means of providing adequate environmental and open-space benefits, while allowing continued timber harvesting. Conservation easements are a legal tool to maintain land in an undeveloped state. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a property owner and a qualified organization, such as a land trust or government agency, that limits the activities and uses that can take place on the property. Landowners (grantors) can enter into a conservation easement with an easement holder (grantee) by selectively giving up some rights to their property, either through sale or donation. The easement may apply to an entire ownership or any specified portion thereof.

Terms of an easement may vary depending on the goals of the landowner and the recipient, and on the characteristics of the specific property. The easement is recorded with the deed for the property and, although the duration of an easement can vary, is usually perpetual. The owner retains title to the land, and can sell it when and to whom the owner wishes, though the easement remains in effect. Landowners may choose to place conservation easements on only a portion of their property, excluding from the easement areas which are already developed or where the landowner might wish to retain certain development options. The easement holder or a third party is responsible for monitoring the property regularly to ensure the terms are followed.

The complete position statement can be found at http://www.eforester.org/Main/Issues_and_Advocacy/Statements/Conservation_Easements.aspx

Around-the-State Postings We Can all Learn from

FROM Niels de Hoop:

The Southeast LA, LSU Student Chapter, and the newly formed Southern University Student Chapter will hold a joint meeting. The meeting will include a presentation on Wetland Mitigation, Mechanisms, and Updates. The combined meeting will be held Wednesday, November 1, at the RNR Building on the LSU Campus. We will eat at 6:30 and meet at 7:00 pm. Bring \$10 to cover food. Students will cook hamburgers.

FROM Bill Wieger:

FOREST AWARENESS WEEK for Rapides Parish will be October 23 through 27. Retirees, how about being available as instructors for what we understand to be a very important opportunity to establish good early embryonic appreciation for all things in forestry. According to education experts, the years for 5th and 6th grades are when the kids are most receptive for absorption of information.

There are 7 different stations (topics), from 9 am to 1:30 pm. Thus we have 35 sessions for which instructors are needed. School coordinator advises all days are full schedules.

This posting relates to Rapides Parish, but the message applies to all of the locations where Forest Awareness occurs. All foresters currently employed are very busy, and we need retirees to help fill out schedules.

From Tim Holland:

The North Louisiana Group met on Thursday, September 14, at Wilson's Steak and Seafood on Lake Bistineau and 23 people attended. Tim Holland, Membership Coordinator for LASAF, led a roundtable discussion on forestry in north Louisiana and how our chapter can come together periodically to discuss issues being encountered in the field. Michael Murphrey, District 11 Representative, attended and provided the group an update on the happenings at National SAF. A website was developed and shown to members, which has since gone live (www.sites.google.com/prod/email.latech.edu/northlasaf). Our group will meet again on Thursday, November 9, in the Ruston area. Dr. Jason Holderieith, Ag Business professor at LA Tech, will discuss the economics of feral hog damage

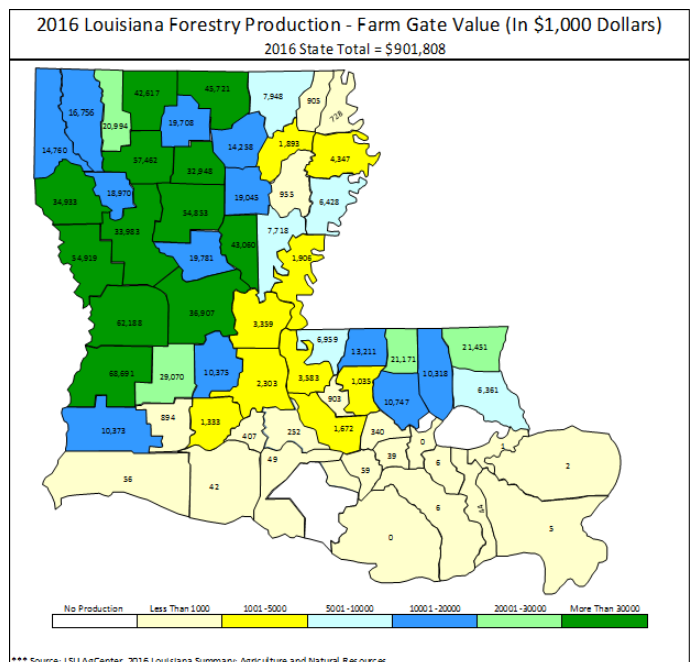
Economic Impact of Forestry in LA

From the LSU AgCenter

The forest products industry impacts the Louisiana economy in a number of ways ranging from jobs, wages and purchases in local economies to local, state and federal taxes. Additionally, the purchase of goods and services by the forest products industry and its employees spurs economic activity in other sectors of the economy resulting in a substantial cumulative economic impact.

The forestry and forest products industry in Louisiana has a total economic impact amounting to 45,611 jobs and \$2.67 billion in income during 2012. Forestry and the forest products industry generated an output of \$10.86 billion. Total industry output is defined as the value of all goods and services produced. Value-added amounted to approximately \$4.20 billion. Value-added represents the creation of new wealth, and is inserted into the economy through payments made to workers, interest, profits, and indirect business taxes.

In addition, the tax impact was estimated to be approximately \$711 million with \$457 million in federal and \$254 million in state and local taxes.



Foresters, Our Job is Growing!

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Got a question?

Need some information?

Just want to post an opinion?

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