



# THE INDIANA FORESTER

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## The View from the Chair



As is for most of us in forestry, the past six months has been exceedingly busy. Conclave, summer camp, field work, camps for the kids, yard work..... Let's just say, I am happy fall is here again – happy to be teaching the undergraduates silviculture yet again, and happy that the exceedingly HOT summer is over!

This past April, a few weeks after our winter meeting, I helped the Purdue Student Chapter host the 58th Midwestern Conclave (see related article in this issue). After a misty, very early start, I helped judge several crosscut and overhand chop events. The event lasted until late in the night (an 18 hour day for me), but it was a blast. I want to personally thank the various ISAF members who attended and helped run the event. Without you all, the students could not have run such a successful event. The students placed 5th out of nine schools, but many of them were working on very little sleep because of all the work needed for Conclave setup. I am very proud of them. They set the bar very high for next year's host, the University of Wisconsin at Steven's Point, to match.

Unlike prior Conclaves, this year's competition was held in conjunction with the regional qualifier for the Stihl Pro Timbersports series. It was interesting and nice to see the students and pro lumberjacks interact. Congratulations to Al Meyer, last year's Purdue Student Chapter President, for placing 2nd in the collegiate competition! Look on ESPNU and ESPN this fall to see video from the Collegiate and Pro series events.

The summer brought a "bit" of heat and lot of work for many of us. Summer camp in Michigan introduced me to the 2014 class of forestry graduates. They are a great group. To help them, and all the forestry students along, send me any open

summer or temporary positions you may have. I am trying to get freshmen and sophomores to apply for positions within the field. Jobs that have flexibility to start after summer camp (i.e., 2nd week of June) are particularly hard to find for our sophomores.

I have also been co-leading an effort to get research and demonstration trials on biomass harvesting installed at the Southeastern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC). We hope to critically look at the economic and ecological effects of biomass harvesting in the state, possibly informing the retention guidelines within the Indiana BMPs for biomass harvesting. I am crossing my fingers and saying, "Look for future extension events at SEPAC highlighting this effort!"

Some notes of business. First, I want to encourage all of you to become involved in ISAF leadership. We continue to have great difficulty getting volunteers to step forward for open committee chairs and ISAF officers. I know times are a little scary for many of you right now with the economy and budgets and the like, but please consider volunteering. It is not as much time as you may think, and I will be more than happy to continue to help future vice-chairs and chairs organize ISAF meetings.

Second, I encourage all of you to call your state legislators and lobby for more funding for the Division of Forestry and the DNR in general. It is downright scary, in my opinion, to see multiple state forests being managed by only a couple of foresters because no staff can be hired to replace retiring individuals. Funding for natural resource management in this state, and across the country for that matter, is at dangerously low levels - at levels that endanger public safety, let alone the health of our forest ecosystems (i.e., no lifeguards, fewer conservation officers, etc.).

Mike Saunders  
ISAF Chair

### NO JULY ISSUE

In case you think you just misplaced your copy of the July issue of the Indiana Forester, don't be concerned. There was no issue printed due to lack of material. To ensure this doesn't happen again, feel free to submit any articles that you feel are of interest to ISAF members which could include research material, general articles about forestry/natural resources, or specific information about the Society of American Foresters. This includes "My Opinion" type articles. The deadline for the January, 2012 issue is **DECEMBER 15, 2011**.

## Mason Ridge Tower Standing Tall Once Again

The Mason Ridge Tower wasn't just restored, it was improved. "We wanted to make it safer than it was, and tried to make sure it would stand for a long time without having to be worked on again," said Jack Bessire, Laborer at Morgan Monroe State Forest. The new safety fence is galvanized safety fencing with a Teflon coating. All the washers and bolts on the fencing, braces, wood deck, and steps are stainless steel.

Bessire noted, "We had money for materials and the labor force was available through the Young Hoosier Conservation Corps (YHCC) so we wanted to do it right." He said the YHCC worked on the tower for two years; 4 enrollees worked on it this year and 4 plus the trail crew worked on it the first year. Bessire was pleased with the work of the YHCC. "It was a tough job for kids, a long grueling process with the compressor and sandblaster and the height of the sections – but they hung in there and got the job done."

Bessire said the group went through a lot of drill bits. As they went over every part of the tower they found many places where the bolts weren't even through the metal supports. That is no longer the case. Now every metal support and board is bolted and secure. "It wasn't easy drilling through those metal supports, but now the Mason Ridge Tower is sturdier than it ever was in the past. We improved on the design," he said with a grin.

He said the primer that was recommended for use on the tower was really thick – almost a sludge. It ruined everyone's clothes and was a slow tedious job to get the tower coated. The paint went on much easier and standing back now to survey the results, Bessire was obviously pleased with how nice the tower looked.

The cab was renovated with a white oak ceiling and floor. Pike Lumber Company donated the lumber for the cab and Indiana Hardwood Specialist milled it for free. It was treated with four coats of polyurethane and looked beautiful. Treated pine was used for the deck and stairs on the tower. Bessire noted that this style tower had an extra large deck seven levels up, "Which makes it especially nice for people who want to climb to the tree tops but don't want to climb the whole way to the top."

The windows were fabricated and will be installed when the

tower is up. The original windows were lost so the new windows are 16 pane, hinged, pine windows that open out with Lexan panes. Jeremy Kolaks, Assistant Manager for Morgan Monroe State Forest when the tower project began, scoured the country for excess windows from decommissioned towers. It was an education for Kolaks to learn how many styles and configurations of towers had existed. As he got into the thick of the project he recalled wondering "just exactly what did I get myself into?" Luckily, Henry Isenberg and John Timmermann from the Forest Fire Lookout Association were very helpful in providing information to Kolaks on tower restoration and ordering materials. Kolaks did find some stored windows in Missouri of the right style but the State of Missouri wasn't willing to part with them in case they needed to replace windows in their towers. So Kolaks had new windows made.

For a job that could potentially have been quite dangerous, there were only two minor accidents. Kolaks said the decision to take the tower down in three pieces made it feasible for the YHCC to work on it. It was still pretty high, but not unreasonable for the youth to climb and work. The only accidents were a sprained wrist and one youth had a drill get away from him and cut his leg.

Jim Allen, Property Manager at Morgan Monroe said other than labor, the expense for rehabilitating the tower was in materials, and the cost of the crane and crew to take the tower down and put it back up. R.H. Marlin, Inc. took the tower down and put it back up. Greg Young and six men came down with a 70 foot crane and removed the cab and a 50 foot section in June 2009. The sections were taken to the lot behind Fire Headquarters where the work was done. The crew returned on September 30, 2010 to set the tower back on its supports and bolt it back in place.

Allen said the tower had been condemned years ago and he knows people will be glad to have it open again. He noted the Mason Ridge Area is a popular

site for people to come picnic and camp, and now they can also climb the tower. The gate to the tower will be locked at night to help deter vandalism. He said one of the best things about the project is it, "gave us an opportunity to give the YHCC something to grab hold of – a monument to their work."



## History of Mason Ridge Tower

The tower was built in 1931. Though the name of the builder has been lost to time, we know the man came in and stayed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everitt Lowder who lived on State Route 37 South until the job was complete. He had earlier shipped the tower pieces to the Lowders and their name was stamped on several of the large supports and was still visible today.

Dennis Goen was a towerman for the Mason Ridge Tower in the fall fire season of 1964. The 1964 fall season is still known as one of the worst fire seasons on record. Goen, who now lives in Bloomington, was a crewman at Morgan Monroe State Forest at the time. He said the time he spent as a towerman was one of the best of his life.

Since the tower was so close to the State Fire Headquarters, he also acted as the relay for all the portable radio units out in the field. Mason Ridge Tower was known as T10. A single lookout tower can only locate a fire's exact location if it is nearby. Otherwise they work on a triangulation system taking readings on smoke with other towers and where the compass readings intersect, identifies the fire location. Goen said he generally worked with the Little Cincinnati Tower (Greene County) which is still standing, or with Weed Patch Tower – T19 (Brown County), Wilbur Tower (Morgan County), or McCormicks Creek Tower – T11 (Owen County). He could triangulate smoke with any of those towers.

Goen remembers in the fall of 1964 it was weeks before they got rain. In fact the day they did he recalls the towerman in T11 calling him and asking if he saw anything on his windows. And he replied, "Raindrops from Heaven." He said that year the fire danger was so high he was required to be up in the tower by 8:00 most mornings and often when they had fires and he was relaying on the radio and still spotting fires – he didn't come down until 1:00 the next morning.

Mason Ridge Tower is open to the public during daylight hours at Morgan Monroe State Forest, just off State Route 37 between Bloomington and Martinsville.

For more information on lookout towers go to the Forest Fire Lookout Association website at [www.firelookout.org](http://www.firelookout.org).

### Dennis Goen– Towerman

Goen said his interest in lookout towers and firefighting was encouraged by an old fire warden named Stanley Myers. Myers got him and his twin brother interested in lookout towers and they built a model lookout out of match sticks. Myers was so impressed with their work he submitted it to the DNR, and it went to the State Fair and was put on display.

When they got older, Myers pulled them out of school to fight fire often, and it was always an adventure. When Goen heard about the towerman and crew man job at Morgan Monroe he signed up. Later he joined the Volunteer Fire Department at Ellettsville and then was able to get on the Bloomington Fire Department in 1969 where he worked for 38.5 years. Goen still helps out with local Volunteer Fire Departments. He's pleased to see the Mason Ridge Tower back up and plans to go climb it as soon as he can.

## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Anna Byers



I was born in Logansport, IN, and am currently working towards a degree in Forestry with a minor in Wildlife Science through Purdue University. During the fall semester of 2010, I was elected treasurer of the student chapter of SAF and during the spring of 2011 was elected vice-president. My involvement with the student chapter led me to become a member of INSAF. I am currently working as a forestry intern in Escanaba, Michigan, with Plum Creek.

When I'm not working I enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, and traveling. I hope to gain work experience in different locations to expand my knowledge of how forestry works in different areas. I hope to end up with a position in or near Indiana in the future to be close to my family and friends.

I spent a month during the summer of 2010 in the Maritime Provinces on Canada doing a study abroad.

## UP-COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

On October 5th the West Central Indiana CWMA and Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources is sponsoring an invasive species management workshop at Martell Forest. I have applied for 5 CCHS's for category 2, 3A, and 6 credit for pesticide applicators for this program from the Indiana State Chemist's office, and these have been approved. Additional program details and registration materials are available at <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/events.aspx>

A Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center field day is scheduled for Nov. 11 at Southeast Purdue Ag Center. The agenda is still being developed, but I will be applying for CFE credits for the program. Those interested can contact me for details and more info will be forthcoming.

I am planning for the Forest Pesticide Training Program to be held Friday, December 2, at a location to be determined. More info to follow.

Lenny Farlee, Extension Forester  
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# INSAF Membership Update September 2011

## 1. INSAF by the numbers:

- July 2008 INSAF 163 (142 Members + 21 Students at Purdue)
- July 2009 INSAF 153 (137 Members + 16 Students)
- July 2010 INSAF 157 (138 Member + 19 Students)
- November 2010 INSAF 148 (128 Members + 20 Students at Purdue)
- February 2011 INSAF 150 Members (132 + 18 Students) (February is the latest update available.)
- The student chapter continues to maintain a steady membership.

## 2. Other items:

- The simplest way to direct others to join is to go online to [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org). (Make sure they list you as their sponsor.)
- Remind your peers to join—one-on-one recruitment is very effective.
- Membership tries to send a welcome letter to new members and new transfers.
- SAF has a Facebook Group available.
- Payment plan: Should any member desire to pay their dues by using a payment plan, SAF offers this.
- If a member recruits a new member, than you receive \$10 off your membership dues.

## 3. INSAF News

- If you know any of the members on the following list, please encourage them to renew their membership. If they fail to renew, they will be dropped at the end of this year:
- Jacob Hougham, Rob Haubry, Dwayne Sieg, Mike Cogshall, Kate Zellers, Jerrod Armstrong, Bruce Hronck, Don Carlson, Tim Martin, Sam Bond, Roger Applegate, Jeremy Kolakes, Jeff Page, and Joe Tutterrow.
- February 2011 membership reporting is the most current available due to a programming problem at National.
- Members that have joined, transferred in, or reinstated into INSAF during 2010 or 2011: We would like for you to provide a short bio of yourself to be published in an edition of the *Indiana Forester* newsletter.

## 4. National SAF News

- There is quite a debate emerging within SAF regarding membership requirements and inclusiveness. Read the July, August and September issues of *The Forestry Source* to see letters submitted by both prominent foresters within the Society and those within the general membership. INSAF members need to understand what proposals are being discussed relating to who can become a full member of SAF. The foundation, or core membership of the organization, where professional foresters are currently the most numerous and prominently recognized members, could be subject to change. There seems to be a loud contingent of individuals that work in the broad field of natural resources who currently do not qualify for full membership that are now clamoring to be admitted to our prestigious organization. INSAF members need to look into this matter and see where they stand because our elected state leaders in the not too distant future will likely be asked to weigh in on this. Tell our chair and vice-chair your views. If you believe we as a state soci-

ety need to adopt a written position, then please state so in the meeting.

## • Tiered dues level:

SAF council approved a change in dues structure this past June. The remainder of this summer is a study period. The House of Society Delegates (HSD), backed by the general membership, pushed for a tiered dues plan. Right now the rates will range from \$95-\$240 for members and \$40 for students. The tier levels will offer various products and services, depending on the member's desires eliminating the one-size-fits-all approach now in use. The council aims to have a structure in place before the first round of dues notices are mailed out this year.

**NOTE:** When this goes into effect, please make certain you mention it to your non-member peers that may be wavering on joining and might reconsider if the dues can be lessened.

## 5. Woodland Steward Institute (WSI)

- WSI is continually looking at ways to have more land-owners receive the newsletter electronically in order to reduce paper copies. Currently, 98% of the budget is dedicated to producing the paper version and its distribution.
- WSI is financially sound for the remainder of this year and going into 2012.
- There is still room for 2-3 business card ads in the coming issue.
- The Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters now has Joe Schuerman as its representative on the board of directors.
- For specific meetings, WSI Board members are now implementing tele-conference calls to "meet" thus reducing the time demand.
- Purdue University will be surveying a component of the readership to get their views on the importance and usefulness of the magazine. Purdue may be forced to scale back its financial contribution to the WSI.
- The Nature Conservancy, which was at the highest tier of contributors, was forced to reduce its annual contribution due to across the board budget reductions within the organization.
- In the foreseeable future, WSI will continue with 3 issues per year. Currently, about 33,000 copies are produced per issue.
- INSAF is always encouraged to submit an article or announcements. Shorter articles have a better chance of being published.

John P. Stambaugh

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## PURDUE STUDENT CHAPTER

The Purdue Student Chapter is an important part of the Indiana Society of American Foresters, and they would welcome speakers at any time of the year. If you're interested in helping out the student chapter, please contact the 2011 Chair:

Purdue Student Chapter Chair: Craig Reckelhoff

Home Address: 3990 Harvest Lane, Jasper, IN 47546

School Address: 330 West Oak Street, West Lafayette, IN

Home Phone: 812-634-1618 Cell Phone: 812-631-1771

# A Weekend of Fun!

by Craig Reckelhoff and T.J. Bauters

This past spring, on the weekend of April 23rd, Purdue University's Forestry Club held the 59th Annual Mid-western Foresters Conclave. STIHL Timbersports held events in conjunction after the collegiate Conclave. These events were filmed for a future ESPN program during the summer and fall of 2011. The Timbersports brought in many professionals that drew in a huge crowd of the public. Staff from the Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue College of Agriculture and STIHL worked with us to get everything organized and in order. Major sponsors included STIHL, Pike Lumber Company, Brinkman Landscaping and ISAF.

On Saturday, these nine schools attended Conclave: University of Wisconsin Steven's Point, Southern Illinois University, Iowa State University, Michigan State, Michigan Tech, Purdue University, Three Rivers Community College, University of Minnesota, and University of Missouri. Each school entered their own team of contenders to participate in the Conclave competitions. The morning brought a cold overcast sky, with mist and light rain. We began the day with a hearty breakfast of eggs, hash browns, casserole, and plenty of coffee at the break of dawn. After breakfast, each school prepared their competitors for each event. Classes for the various events included men's, women's, and jack and jill events. Events including buck saw, bolt toss, log roll, under hand chop, chain toss, dendrology, wood ID, orienteering, tobacco spit, match split, pulp toss, and others kept the student chapter and many volunteer officials busy.

There was a lot of interaction among the schools, and many members from each club conversed together during the whole day. At every competition people were screaming and cheering the competitors on, even if they weren't from the same school. It was an excellent way to network with many of the students and other professors. Several faculty from the other schools came to this event, and they wouldn't hesitate to talk to the young college students. One Missouri professor came up to the Purdue University team and discussed how their program runs. We were able to compare how our chapter works with many other schools there.

Many donors, such as Pike Lumber Company, Brinkman Landscaping, and the ISAF provided volunteers and staff that helped out greatly. We highly appreciated it. Pike Lumber also held a raffle at the end of the day, giving out many gifts to the participants. As we finished the day, all of the schools camped out at Martell Forest. There we had the award ceremony, along with a giveaway of more prizes for the competitors. The winning school was University of Wisconsin Steven's Point. The Forester's Conclave was a great success; it was not possible without the help of Purdue's faculty and staff, of the great donors and of the tireless efforts of last year's Student Chapter president, Al Meyer.



## SAF RINGS FOR STUDENTS

The SAF rings were received late for our departmental awards banquet (which coincided with Conclave, of course). Unfortunately, I had to just hand them out at the last club meeting, of which there was only 4 people there. Let's just say, Conclave totally burned out the students.

Only two individuals received them: Alois Meyer and Andrew Ritter. All other seniors graduating were not current on their dues to National (and I told them in January to get current so they could get the rings).

Mike Saunders, ISAF Chair



## CONSULTING FORESTER'S LIABILITY AND PRESCRIBED BURN LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

Exclusively to SAF members by the Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency

The National SAF has answered the challenge of finding comprehensive, reliable and affordable insurance coverage specifically designed to protect consulting foresters for its members. Through this exclusive partnership with the Davis-Garvin Insurance Agency, SAF members can receive a package commercial general liability product that includes:

- \$1,000,000 per Occurrence Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability
- \$2,000,000 Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Personal and Advertising Injury Liability
- \$50,000 Damage to Rented Premises
- \$5,000 Medical payments Coverage

Foresters Special Liability, which includes Herbicide and Pesticide Liability and Errors and Omissions Coverage and Prescribed Burn Liability which includes Burning Liability coverage for the property being burned and Smoke Liability would be provided at the limit selected up to \$1,000,000 Limit. Go to the "Forestry Professionals/Consulting Forester Insurance Program" section of the SAF website to download your application. To receive a quote, have your SAF membership number available, then contact Davis-Garvin at 1-800-845-3163, CF@davisgarvin.com, Fax 803-407-5444.



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