



THE INDIANA FORESTER

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Comments from the Chair

ARE CATASTROPHES PART OF THE PROCESS?



I was out working at Morgan-Monroe State Forest recently. This was in the area that received the heavy rains last June. It made me remember one of the things I was taught in school oh so many years ago. It was about the slow steady force of erosion, and how it changes our landscape. Erosion worked slowly and steadily, taking one particle of soil at a time and transporting it down stream to deposit in the ocean. The Grand Canyon was

held up as the ultimate example of this process. It was slowing created as particle after particle were eroded away over millennia.

But my experiences in forestry, if anything, have shown me that truly major change may more often occur not with slow, steady progression, but by major, abrupt events or “catastrophes.” My first forestry summer job was on the Rogue River National Forest in Oregon on a timber marking and cruising crew. Being a very inexperienced student forester from suburban Chicago, I was very much in awe of the area. The ranger district was on the western boundary of Crater Lake National Park. The year I had this job was 1980. I drove to this job just days after Mount St. Helens blew its top a several dozen miles up the mountain chain. And here I was working in the shadow of ancient Mount Mazama, which also had blown up less than ten thousand years before in an explosion forty time more powerful than Mount St. Helens and created Crater Lake. But you could not tell there was a catastrophe, only lush forests of fir, hemlock, pine, and cedar. I still have pumice rocks that came from that ancient explosion. I also have ash from Mt. St. Helens. One of the coworkers had a sister in Portland. They had several inches of ash on the ground, so he brought back a shopping bag full.

In Indiana, over the past year or so, we have had numerous weather related events that have affected the natural resources we work with. Last March there were very heavy rains just north of the Ohio River. This was followed in June by very heavy rains just south of Indianapolis. Then we had the remnants of Hurricane Ike come through and create significant blowdown and damage to trees across much of the state. Then this winter we had an ice storm in the counties along the Ohio River, and another wind event very similar to Ike. (I actually have seen more roof damage in my area from this storm than Ike.) None of these events were slow, steady, and methodical. They all were sudden, rapid, widespread, and by most definitions, catastrophic. Natural resource managers will be dealing with the aftermath of these events for decades to come. But it should not be forgotten they are all part of the natural process natural resource managers work with, just not the slow, steady part of the process we usually see.

Nature seems to do as much work in “catastrophes” as it does in slow and steady processes.

Likewise I ponder the final results after we emerge from the current economic “catastrophe” we find ourselves in. Of course the current recession is a catastrophe from the human perspective because of the number of good, hard working people who are facing difficult financial times through no real fault of their own. Good forestry students are graduating with no full time job prospects, wondering if they made the right career choice. During normal periods of economic activity, there is a slow, steady pace of change in our forest products industry. Some marginal businesses would drop out here and there. Some new, enterprising businesses would pop up here and there, seeming to fill the void. But overall there is not much major change. But I’m interested to see how major of a shift this “catastrophe” will create in the forest products industry. Will many businesses be unable to weather this storm? Will the many casualties cause possible entrepreneurs to rethink entering this line of business? Will niche markets, maybe with products such as certified wood, help some businesses survive?

I remember when I was getting my forestry degree in the early 1980s. There was a significant recession at that time that strongly affected the forest products industry, though I will admit to being not nearly attuned to it as I am now. But I do know that forestry jobs were few and far between. But we did emerge from that recession and the industry enjoyed many years of growth.

Back at Morgan-Monroe, I am working in an area that was covered by a glacial ice sheet about 20,000 years ago, but now has 2-foot diameter yellow-poplar on it that go 60 feet to the first limb. But it also had a small landslide from last June’s rains that uprooted a small sawtimber maple. But there is also an area 50 feet by 30 feet where over three feet of soil was lost in a landslide a few years ago (long ago enough for some head high yellow-poplar to get started in a canopy gap) that have exposed the roots of 2-foot diameter yellow-poplar right to the stump. Older slide areas are very evident. Slides are part of the process of this area in the past and will be in the future. In between, as resource managers, we can grow fine timber between the catastrophes. That poplar on the edge of the slide will have to go, because otherwise it will go in the next slide. But new poplar will be ready to take its place. And my feeling is that a year from now, we will look back at this recession as a memory. Will our business landscape be altered – surely yes? But it may not be negative or positive, just different. Certified timber, certified pulpwood to papermills up north, biomass energy plants – all these are likely to be changes in the forest industry landscape.

John Friedrich, ISAF Chair

ISAF Business Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Select Lafayette, IN — Wednesday, February 25, 2009

John Friedrich called the meeting to order at 1:20 P.M.

Brian Gandy was elected as vice-chair and Rob McGriff was elected as secretary during the last election in 2008.

Jayson Waterman moved to approve the minutes from the 2008 summer meeting. Second by Mike Saunders. Approved.

A printed treasurer's report and budget were presented by Lynn Andrews. Current assets of December 31, 2008 include:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash – checkbook | \$6140.92 |
| Cash – Fidelity Cash Reserve | \$5558.27 |
| Capital Investments | \$100,053.31 |

INDIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009

Income:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Workshop Registrations: | \$6,000.00 |
| Meeting Registrations | \$4300.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$1600.00 |
| Community Foundation –Heck Endowment | \$550.00 |
| Forester Fund Collection | \$100.00 |
| Checking Account Interest | \$6.00 |

Total Income: \$12,556.00

Expenses:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Meetings | \$3,100.00 |
| Workshops | \$2,500.00 |
| National Convention Travel | \$1530.00 |
| Woodlands Steward Institute, Inc. | \$1,200.00 |
| SAF Convention Reg. Assistance for Purdue Students | \$1,000.00 |
| FFA National Convention (booth fee and electric) | \$650.00 |
| Newsletter (email version with limited mailings) | \$625.00 |
| Natural Resource Leadership Dev. Institute (NRLDI) | \$500.00 |
| HASTI (booth) | \$350.00 |
| Awards | \$260.00 |
| Unplanned Expenditures (flowers, etc.) | \$159.00 |
| Conservation Day at Statehouse (booth) | \$150.00 |
| Misc. Supplies | \$100.00 |
| Web Site | \$100.00 |
| Foresters Fund Donation | \$100.00 |
| SAF House and Society Delegates (HSD assessment) | \$95.00 |
| Ballot Expenses | \$75.00 |
| Postage | \$42.00 |
| Copies | \$20.00 |

Total Expenses: \$12,556.00

Jayson Waterman moved to accept the treasurer's report and proposed budget. Dale Weigel second. Motion approved.

Old Business

- John Friedrich and Bill Minter presented ISAF endowment guidelines (printed in January newsletter).
- Brian Gandy, John Friedrich and Dale Weigel gave updates on Conservation Day at the Indiana State House, HASTI and FFA Conventions. Lee Huss was recognized for his work in setting up and taking down displays.
- John Friedrich announced that Lee Huss is still working on a set of posters.
- Lynn Andrews reports that we got a check for a TSI project on the HEE at Yellowwood State Forest. This money will be put in the Fidelity Cash Reserve.
- Lynn Andrews has now set ISAF up to receive pay-pal payments (must be done on-line). If multiple registrations are sent in on one payment please make sure Lynn knows who is registering. Lynn reports the system is working very well.

New Business

- Insurance issues were discussed at the SAF National Convention. John Friedrich and Doug Brown reported back to the Indiana Society. John will continue to gather information. Events may have to be cleared with the insurance company 60+ days in advance.
- National SAF would like minimum by-laws for each society. National SAF would like each society to have electronic elections. John may try to get information ready for the summer meeting.
- Jayson Waterman made a motion to begin the process to amend ISAF by-laws to allow for electronic balloting. Second by Dale Weigel. Motion approved.
- John Friedrich and Doug Brown gave reports on the National Convention they attended. They appreciated the opportunity to attend and felt it was a very positive experience.
- John Friedrich announced that the Executive Committee has tabled a request form the national PLT office to sponsor a National PLT Coordinator Conference.

Committee Reports

Newsletter – Janet Eger is sending the newsletter by e-mail. ISAF is still printing about 50 paper copies of the newsletter. Please check the back page of the newsletter and make sure names and contact information are correct. The next newsletter deadline is in two weeks (March 15, 2009)

Membership (Written report from John Stambaugh presented by John Friedrich) - There is a need to recruit and retain members. Membership on 12/2008 was 167 total memberships.

Education – An education report was given by Lenny Farlee

Policy – Bill Minter is writing a policy article for the *Woodland Steward Newsletter* (June issue) on forest policy for private landowners under the new administration (Obama Administration).

Bill was thanked for preparing the Endowment Guidelines.

Liz Jackson reported on current legislation. House bill 1550 (logging in back country of State Forests) was sent to summer study committee. Another bill to develop a new invasive species council will likely pass.

Fundraising – A fundraiser in the fall doing 20 acres of mid-story removal for HEE raised \$750.00. This project was done with the Purdue student chapter.

Investment - Dale Weigel distributed the annual report for 2008 Endowment Fund.

Audit – Jayson Waterman and Darrell Breedlove met with Lynn Andrews to audit 2008 books. No discrepancies were found with the audit.

Nominating - Ron Rathfon thanked those people who agreed to run for office.

Jake Florine gave a report from the Purdue Student Chapter of ISAF. He reports the students went to forestry conclave at Michigan Tech and were on ESPN television. The Purdue team finished 2nd in the traverse part of the conclave. Conclave will be held at Purdue University in 2 years.

Jake also reported that the student chapter continues to work a TSI project for HEE.

The student Chapter will also have a booth and educational display at Springfest on April 18, 2009 at Purdue.

A motion was made by Janet Eger to adjourn at 2:30 P.M. Mike Saunders second. Motion passed.

Rob McGriff, ISAF Secretary

LONG TIME MEMBER DIES

Long-time SAF member, Robert (Bob) Koenig passed away in late February at his home in Greencastle. Bob served ISAF in several capacities over the years, and remained active in the Society until nearly the last few months. Bob was a retired employee of the Indiana Division of Forestry who went on to work as a private Consulting Forester. Bob leaves behind his family as well as his ISAF family. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Sycamore Trails RC&D Forestry Committee.

ISAF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Select Lafayette, IN — Wednesday, February 25, 2009

John Friedrich called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Brian Gandy was elected as vice-chair and Rob McGriff was elected as secretary during the last election in 2008.

Jayson Waterman moved to approve the minutes from the 2008 summer meeting. Second by Janet Eger. Approved.

A printed treasurer's report and budget was presented by Lynn Andrews. Current assets of December 31, 2008 include:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash – Checkbook | \$6,140.92 |
| Cash – Fidelity Cash Reserve | \$5,558.27 |
| Capital Investments | \$100,053.31 |

Bill Minter moved to accept treasurer's report. Second by Lenny Farlee. Approved.

INDIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009

Income:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Workshop Registrations: | \$6,000.00 |
| Meeting Registrations | \$4,300.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$1,600.00 |
| Community Foundation –Heck Endowment | \$550.00 |
| Forester Fund Collection | \$100.00 |
| Checking Account Interest | \$6.00 |
| Total Income: | \$12,556.00 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Meetings | \$3,100.00 |
| Workshops | \$2,500.00 |
| National Convention Travel | \$1,530.00 |
| Woodlands Steward Institute, Inc. | \$1,200.00 |
| SAF Convention Reg. Assistance for Purdue Students | \$1,000.00 |
| FFA National Convention (booth fee and electric) | \$650.00 |
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| HASTI (booth) | \$350.00 |
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| SAF House and Society Delegates (HSD assessment) | \$95.00 |
| Ballot Expenses | \$75.00 |
| Postage | \$42.00 |
| Copies | \$20.00 |
| Total Expenses: | \$12,556.00 |

Jayson Waterman moved to accept the proposed budget. Dale Weigel second. Budget approved.

John Friedrich presented a request for sponsorship for a PLT International Coordinators Conference to be held in Indianapolis, IN in May 2009. Discussion followed. Bill Minter moved to table PLT sponsorship. Janet Eger second. Motion approved.

John Friedrich will check with National SAF to see if they are planning to sponsor PLT conference.

Old Business

- Bill Minter presented ISAF endowment guidelines (printed in January newsletter). Dale Weigel prepared and presented a summary of the Investment Fund since its inception. Dale Weigel made a motion to accept the endowment guidelines and was seconded by Lynn Andrews. Motion approved.
- Brian Gandy gave a report on Conservation Day at the Indiana State House. John Friedrich gave updates on HASTI and FFA Conventions.

- Lee Huss is still working on a set of posters.
- Lynn Andrews reports that we got a check for a TSI project on the HEE at Yellowwood State Forest. This money will be put in the Fidelity Cash Reserve.
- Lynn Andrews has now set ISAF up to receive pay-pal payments (must be done on-line). If multiple registrations are sent in on one payment please make sure Lynn knows who is registering. Lynn reports the system is working very well.

New Business

- There was a discussion on insurance coverage at ISAF functions. Most of the concern was on doing TSI and tree-planting projects. John will continue to gather information.
- National SAF would like minimum by-laws for each society.
- National SAF would like each society to have electronic elections.
- John Friedrich and Doug Brown gave reports on the National Convention they attended.
- John Friedrich passed out “Trees are the Answer” bumper stickers.

Committee Reports

Newsletter – 30-35 newsletters were mailed out; the rest were sent by e-mail. The next newsletter deadline is in two weeks (March 15, 2009).

Membership (Written report from John Stambaugh presented by John Friedrich) – There is a need to recruit and retain members. Membership on 12/2008 was 167 total memberships.

Foresters Fund – Collected \$404.00 in 2008.

Education – Harvey Holt and Zack Lowe will be leaving Purdue in the near future. With their departure there was discussion about the ISAF herbicide training that is held each winter.

Policy – Bill Minter is writing a policy article for the *Woodland Steward Newsletter* (June issue) on forest policy under the new administration (Obama Administration).

Fundraising – ISAF members (5 members) assisted Purdue students with a TSI project.

Investment – Dale Weigel presented the annual report for 2008.

Audit – Jayson Waterman and Darrell Breedlove met with Lynn Andrews to audit 2008 books. No discrepancies were found with the audit.

Nominating – Ron Rathfon reported that ISAF would most likely not hold electronic balloting in 2009. He proposed we have electronic balloting on the summer meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Dale Weigel to adjourn at 12:15 PM. Jayson Waterman second. Motion passed.

Those attending included Brian Gandy, Lynn Andrews, Janet Eger, Lenny Farlee, Doug Brown, John Friedrich, Ron Rathfon, Bill Minter, Jayson Waterman, Dale Weigel, and Rob McGriff.

Rob McGriff, ISAF Secretary

SAF PROVIDES BUMPER STICKERS

In an effort to promote the effectiveness and utility of trees in solving many of the issues today such as alternative energy and carbon sequestration, SAF has had a bumper sticker created with the slogan “Trees are the Answer”. A small initial supply was made available at the winter meeting and was quickly taken. The national office has said it will send another small supply for now, with more later after reprinting. If you would like a small supply of these stickers please contact John Friedrich. If you would like a larger supply, let John know so he can order more when they are available. These are ideal for handing out to woodland owner groups, forestry volunteers, or for other occasions to help get the message out there.

PLASTIC NOW ACCEPTED

There is now an option to pay for ISAF meeting registrations with credit or debit cards. Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express can be used. The credit card option is available only via the ISAF website (www.indianasaf.org) where members will find a PayPal Buy Now Button attached to information on upcoming meetings. If there is more than one payment option for a meeting such as student, regular or perhaps late registration, these options will be listed in a drop down menu above the PayPal Buy Now Button. Once you select your payment option and click on the Buy Now Button, you will be transferred from the ISAF website to a secure PayPal site where you can enter your credit card information. Within minutes of submitting your credit card information, you will receive a detailed receipt in the form of an email from PayPal. You will not receive a receipt at the meeting as has been done in the past, so retain the email receipt for your tax or reimbursement purposes. PayPal also sends the ISAF Treasurer an e-mail so we know who has paid. ISAF never sees your credit card information.

If you are unfamiliar with PayPal, it is one of the largest processors of online payments. On the payment page there is a PayPal log in box. You do not need to log in to PayPal to use their services! Near the bottom of the page you will see a place to click if you want to continue without joining PayPal. This credit card arrangement is for online payment only. ISAF at this time has no way to process credit card information sent to the treasurer or presented at the door of the meeting.

ISAF handled the registrations for the 2009 Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) annual meeting and the online registration system worked well. Payment online via credit cards will be available for the ISAF summer meeting. Please contact the ISAF Treasurer if you have questions.

Lynn Andrews, ISAF Treasurer



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Andy Fox afox@purdue.edu

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