



# THE INDIANA FORESTER

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## Comments from the Chair



“I have been a governor now and then, but I am a forester all the time – have been, and shall be, all of my working life.” — Gifford Pinchot

Here I sit a few days before Christmas and New Year's, having survived another year and another cohort of students in my silviculture classes. This period is always a time of self-reflection for me: What did I

accomplish this year? How well did the students understand that subject? Do I feel confident that the students can do the job that I trained them to do? Likewise, this period is a time for planning for me: How am I going to teach that next year? What research projects do I want to start? When am I going to get those research publications written?

Likewise, a profession must take time for self-reflection. Forestry has changed greatly over the past 100 years, and it continues to evolve at an even more rapid pace today. Today's foresters need to know just as much about genetics and conservation biology as past generations of foresters needed to know about soils and silvics. Even though we have always been considered the “jack-of-all-trades,” foresters today need to comprehend a much broader breadth of topics than in the past – business finances, computer modeling, GIS, public speaking, technical writing, etc. This change in emphasis is apparent to me every time that I work on curriculum issues or participate in faculty search committees at Purdue, as I try to balance the traditional field-based skills that field foresters use daily with the new demands on the profession. The old subfield lines in forestry – biometrics, economics, policy, silviculture – are changing and evolving, for better or

for worse, to disciples allied with ecology, land use planning and other fields.

You may ask, “Why the aura of farewell in a welcome letter?” To be honest, this is largely a reflection from a book I recently read, *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan. For those of you that have not read the book, Egan describes the infancy of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System, outlining the numerous political opponents that Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt faced. It cumulates describing the Big Burn that scorched over 4 million acres of forestlands in Idaho and Montana in 1910, an event that shaped U.S. forest policy throughout much of the 20th century. I highly recommend the book.

As the U.S. Forest Service faced challenges at the beginning of the 20th century, forestry now faces challenges at the beginning of the 21st. What will be our Big Burn event, the event that defines the direction of forestry for the next several decades? What will SAF do, as champions of the forestry profession, to shape that future? What will you do?

Most foresters that I know are genuinely interested in the history of the profession. I have a challenge for you. Figure out how many “trees of separation” you are from our founding SAF member, Gifford Pinchot. For me, it was 5. I was mentored by Robert S. Seymour, who was a Ph.D. student of David M. Smith, who was a Ph.D. student of Ralph C. Hawley, who was a student of Henry S. Graves, who founded the Yale School of Forestry with Gifford Pinchot.

Mike Saunders, Chair

## Comments from the Past Chair

Where to begin? I guess I should start by expressing my appreciation to serve as the Chair for our society. It has been a privilege to represent such a great group of professionals. It also has been a real learning experience. Since I began serving, my recognition of the things that affect our everyday lives as foresters has been quite eye opening. I wish I could just go about my day working in the woods without a care in the world, but the world won't let that happen. As we are off putting in our day, people are making decisions about what we do in the woods and the products that they produce. Things like: Is wood a renewable resource? Should wood, particularly certified wood, be considered as a green building product? Should wood be considered as a product to produce bio-fuel? Should we generate electricity burning bio-mass? What about considering wood's value

as a thermal heating system in our homes to save energy produced by fossil fuels, and include it as an energy efficient heating source. Is that a good idea? Oh no, we can't let these things happen, we might have to cut a tree. These issues which will affect the future of forestry are being influenced by groups who have this kind of opinion. They live in fear of an industry that exploits the resource and leaves the landscape barren. Something that, I believe, none of us as foresters would like to see either. It removes us from the responsibility we assume, as foresters, to care for the woodlands we are entrusted. In short, it insinuates we can't be trusted. That the science we support and practice is wrong. There is a battle going on out there over what we do everyday. If we don't get involved, we might walk out of the woods one day wondering what happened. How did we get here? It may not be what

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we thought we would be doing when we graduated, but if we want to protect and promote the industry, we must get involved. We need to forge relationships with our legislators and members of other organizations to promote the science of forestry. Sounds a bit like our Society's Mission Statement. If decisions are going to be made by politics instead of science, then we have to become political about our science. You can be sure our counterparts are voicing their opinion, and influencing the future of forestry.

Now that I have that off my chest, let's talk about the national convention. New Mexico. Wow! I love the west. I haven't been out there since I was a Boy Scout hiking at Philmont in 1975. As it turned out, I was able to revisit Philmont on a preconference tour I attended. We also visited Vermejo Ranch which is a Ted Turner property of 600 thousand acres. Both properties are dominated by Ponderosa Pine and are undergoing restoration management. It's clear the management is driven by fuel load reduction. Kind of makes me wish we had a public outcry for action in the forest. Strange how cutting trees becomes OK under the right circumstances. That's right, I got that off my chest in the first paragraph. Back to the convention. The general session speakers were top of their field. Sandra Postel's discussion on the water crisis was very concerning. The crisis some areas are facing is easy to overlook here in the Midwest, that is, at least when we are discussing quantity. However, water quality is a different subject. Julio Betancourt discussed climate change and the weather changes that are to come. The other General Sessions speakers focused on culture and community relationships, how we engage people, groups, and cultures with differing opinions. I think National did a great job organizing this meeting and the topics were very relevant in addressing the issues foresters are facing today. When it came to the concurrent sessions, bio-mass and bio energy were at standing room only. Clearly it was the hot topic for most foresters. The speakers, however, made it evident we won't see the end of coal or oil in our lifetimes anyway. The overall demand is far too great for energy. The best way we can accomplish this is to augment the energy industry to decrease the use of fossil fuels. The answer is that an integrated source of alternatives will be needed to meet the growing need we have for energy.

I ended my trip with a 362 mile ride in a rental through the Jemez mountains and north toward Toas exploring the Carson National Forest along the way. Snow-capped mountains, rocky bluffs, and the coniferous forest with scattered aspen stands broken up by grassy basins populated by pronghorn antelope made for a trip I will not soon forget. A great time alone reflecting on where I was, where I have been, and where I am headed. If things go like they have in the past, I will probably find myself in a place I never imagined I was heading. But that's OK, sometimes we encounter things on our path that divert us in a different direction.

Something else I would like to discuss is our envelopment with INCA and Conservation Day at the Statehouse. Once again this year I will be representing ISAF at the function. Last year INCA did away with the booth. This year we will have a table with our organization's name on it. INCA does not want displays used; they just want to allow us to have representatives at our table. We can place brochures on the table promoting our Society. Conservation Day is set for February 1st 2011. We are encouraged to arrange meetings with our State Representatives and Senators. It would be nice if we had 2 or 3 people present to man the table and speak with the Legislators. If you can't make it, and would like to draft a letter for your State Representative and or Senators, we can try to meet them to deliver your letter. Just a thought.

And finally, an update on the December 13th TSI day. It seems that if we want bad weather all we have to do is schedule a TSI day. Several of you contacted me to let me know you intended on coming, but the weather had different plans. However, Jayson and I made it, and forged through the snow to get what we could done. We will schedule a new date, which may happen by the time you are reading this article.

Brian Gandy, ISAF Past Chair

## INDIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011

### Income:

Forest Pesticide Workshop Registrations	\$ 4,900.00
Promotional Items	2,000.00
Meeting Registrations	5,500.00
Membership Dues	1,100.00
Community Foundation – Heck Endowment	550.00
Forester Fund Collection	150.00
Checking Account Interest	<u>6.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,206.00</b>

### Expenses:

Meetings	\$ 4,000.00
National Convention Travel	3,000.00
Woodland Steward Institute, Inc.	1,200.00
Forest Pesticide Workshop	500.00
Promotional Items	2,000.00
F.F.A. National Convention in Indianapolis (booth fee and candy)	650.00
Newsletter (email version with reduced mailings)	625.00
TSI Fundraiser Expenses (including insurance)	800.00
Career Development (Booth, etc.)	350.00
Awards	150.00
Unplanned expenditures (flowers, etc.)	150.00
Conservation Day, Indiana Conservation Alliance	150.00
Misc. Supplies	100.00
SAF House of Society Delegates (HSD) Assessment	90.00
Web Site Host (Canvas Dreams)	70.00
Foresters Fund Donation	150.00
Web Site Assistance Gratuity	50.00
Election Expenses	<u>60.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,095.00</b>

## Investment Committee Update

Usually I just report the Investment Funds results at our meetings, but then those who don't attend miss out. The Investment Fund has done well though mid-November of 2010, an improvement from 2009. From mid-November 2009 to mid-November 2010 the Fund increased about \$22,500, bringing the Investment Fund to about \$154,000. During the year 2010, \$4,000 of the fund was moved into the Treasurer's excess operating funds to be used to pay for projects. The Investment Fund provided the money for bandanas promoting Indiana SAF and forestry. If you have ideas for promoting forestry, contact an Executive Committee member.

Dale Weigel

# INDIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

## Checkbook Balance Sheet Period January 1 to December 20, 2010

<b>BEGINNING CHECKBOOK BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$7,021.95</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Forest Pesticide Workshop Registrations	\$4,858.74
Promotional Items	3,100.00
Meeting Registrations	3,070.24
TSI Fundraisers	6,043.50
Membership Dues	1,110.00
Community Foundation – Heck Endowment	550.00
Forester Fund Collection	269.00
Checking Account Interest	7.96
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,009.44</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Meetings	\$2,266.88
National Convention Travel	1,575.54
Woodland Steward Institute, Inc.	1,200.00
Forest Pesticide Workshop	452.34
Promotional Items	4,208.76
F.F.A. National Convention in Indianapolis (booth fee and candy)	604.18
Newsletter (email version with reduced mailings)	627.00
TSI Fundraiser Expenses	863.75
Awards	86.33
FFA Forestry Career Development Event	200.00
Conservation Day, Indiana Conservation Alliance	150.00
SAF House of Society Delegates (HSD) Assessment	86.90
Web Site Host (Canvas Dreams)	64.80
Web Site Domain Registry	95.00
Foresters Fund Donation	269.00
Web Site Assistance Gratuity	52.13
Election Expenses	67.51
Transfer to Fidelity Account	3,400.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,270.12</b>
<b>CURRENT CHECKBOOK BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$9,761.27</b>

### Starting with this issue....

INSAF Membership plans to begin announcing in the *Indiana Forester* newsletter all recent arrivals to our society. Former members who have recently rejoined will also be included. If possible and space permits, we will have these new individuals provide a brief personal background.

Effective November 2010, welcome our newest member **Ryan Woods**. Ryan was born in Dubois Co., IN. He attended Purdue where he received his BSF and MSF in the FNR Dept. Currently he is working for the state of Indiana out of Camp Atterbury (JMTC) as the installation forester. Some things he enjoys most while working on the base include restoring/managing/creating upland bird and waterfowl habitat in the Central Hardwoods. Ryan enjoys hunting, fishing, and general outdoor recreation in his spare time.

# INSAF Membership Update

December 13th, 2010

- IN SAF by the numbers:  
July 2008 INSAF was at 163 (142 Members + 21 Students at Purdue)  
July 2009 INSAF was at 153 (137 Members + 16 Students)  
July 2010 INSAF is at 157 (138 Member + 19 Students)  
November 2010 INSAF is at 148 (128 Members + 20 Students at Purdue)  
The student chapter continues to maintain a steady membership.
- National has a payment plan for those who need this option. They spread out payments for 6 months.
- Other items:
  - Simplest way to direct others to join is to go online to [www.safnet.org](http://www.safnet.org)
  - Remind your peers to join, one on one recruitment is very effective
  - Membership sends a welcome letter to new members and new transfers.
  - SAF has a Facebook Group available

## Woodland Steward Institute (WSI)

- On our Dec. 8th meeting we officially voted to admit the IASWCD (Indiana Association of SWCDs) as a full voting member with editorial privileges.
- WSI will be looking at ways to encourage landowners to begin receiving the newsletter in the electronic format to cut back on the number of issues we must produce and mail which consumes 98% of our budget.
- IFIC is no longer a member of the WSI. IHLA will continue to be a member.
- We have sufficient funds for 2011 to produce 3 issues, however WSI will be examining new avenues and ways to improve current methods used to generate contributions and donations.
- In the foreseeable future WSI will continue with 3 issues per year. Currently about 33,000 copies per issue.
- INSAF is always encouraged to submit an article or announcements. Shorter articles have a better chance of being published.

John Stambaugh, Membership Chair

## ISAF TSI Fund Raiser

**Wednesday January 12, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.**

Bring your chainsaws, chaps and hard hats, if you have them. If not, just show up, we need all the help we can get. Don't forget your lunch.

Where: Franklin County, E ½, Section 1 T8N, R2W Brookville Township & NW ¼, Section 6 T8N, R 1 W Whitewater Township  
Directions: From SR 1, just north of the small town of Cedar Groove, Go east - northeast on Big Cedar Road approximately 2 miles to the Michael Schwab property on the left. 6192 Big Cedar Road is the address. This is about 5 miles southeast of Brookville, IN.

Once you're at the property, follow the drive past the house through the woods, to the top of the hill, and turn south down the fields to the woods.

Description: We have 45 acres of TSI consisting of vine control, crop tree release, and cull tree control.

Contact: Brian Gandy 765-571-0501. Call me with any questions or if you have trouble finding us.



**Indiana SAF**  
**14043 Williams Road**  
**Bedford, IN 47421**

## Winter Meeting Announcement

The 2011 ISAF winter meeting will be tentatively held March 9th and 10th at the Jasper Inn Convention Center in Jasper, IN. On Wednesday afternoon, presentations will be first given on crop tree release and invasive species monitoring, before wrapping up with a panel discussion on "How to get youth interested in a Forestry career." Thursday's presentations will focus on tax basis, including inventory needs, modeling approaches, and general approaches. A block of rooms at the Jasper Inn will be reserved for this meeting. A final announcement will be distributed in mid-January. For more information, contact Mike Saunders at [msaunder@purdue.edu](mailto:msaunder@purdue.edu).

## 2011 INDIANA SAF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Chair

Michael Saunders Term of Office: Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2011  
 300 N. Sharon Chapel Road Home Phone: 765-430-1440  
 West Lafayette, IN 47906-4836  
 E-mail: [msaunder@purdue.edu](mailto:msaunder@purdue.edu)

### Past Chair

Brian Gandy Term of Office: Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2011  
 2016 N. Co. Rd. 1050E 317-462-6820  
 Charlottesville, IN 47265 E-mail: [gandybrian@hotmail.com](mailto:gandybrian@hotmail.com)

### Vice-Chair

Donna Rogler 317-549-0354  
 5932 W Woodcrest Dr.  
 New Palestine, IN 46163 E-mail: [drogler@dnr.in.gov](mailto:drogler@dnr.in.gov)

### Secretary

Barb Wilhoit 317-422-5111  
 5973 S 125th W  
 Trafalger, IN 46181 E-mail: [loghog2@earthlink.net](mailto:loghog2@earthlink.net)

### Treasurer

Scott Reckelhoff Term of Office: Jan. 1 thru Dec. 21, 2012  
 OFS Brands, PO Box 100 Home Phone: 812-639-0664  
 Huntingburg, IN 47542  
 E-Mail: [sreckelhoff@ofsbrands.com](mailto:sreckelhoff@ofsbrands.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Janet Eger Term of Office: On-going  
 14043 Williams Road Office Phone: 812-247-2479  
 Shoals, IN 47581 Home Phone: 812-644-7663  
 Fax #: 812-279-3391 E-mail: [jejer@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jejer@dnr.in.gov)

### Historian/Archivist

Brad Rody Term of Office: On-going  
 PO Box 217 Office Phone: 260-782-0430  
 Lagro, IN 46941 E-mail: [brody@dnr.in.gov](mailto:brody@dnr.in.gov)

### Communications

Teena Ligman Term of Office: On-going  
 811 Constitution Ave. Home Phone: 812-279-5547  
 Bedford, IN 47421 Office Phone: 812-276-4757  
 Fax #: 812-279-3423 E-mail: [tligman@fs.fed.us](mailto:tligman@fs.fed.us)

### Science/Technology Chair

Jack Seifert Term of Office: On-going  
 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W296 Home Phone: 812-873-6713  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Office Phone: 317-232-4116  
 Fax #: 317-233-3863 E-mail: [seifert@dnr.in.gov](mailto:seifert@dnr.in.gov)

### Membership Chair

John Stambaugh Term of Office: On-going  
 12817 E SR 54 Home Phone: 812-863-7271  
 Springville, IN 47462 Office Phone: 812-863-7272  
 E-mail: [forester@custom.net](mailto:forester@custom.net)

### Forester's Fund Chair

Darrell Breedlove Term of Office: On-Going  
 905 E. Co. Rd. 350 N. Office Phone: 812-346-2286  
 North Vernon, IN 47265 E-mail: [dbreedlove@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dbreedlove@dnr.in.gov)

### Education Co-Chair

Ron Rathfon Term of Office: On-going  
 12000 Purdue Farm Road Home Phone: 765-448-4262  
 Dubois, IN 47526 Office Phone: 812-678-3401  
 Fax #: 812-678-3412 E-mail: [ronr@purdue.edu](mailto:ronr@purdue.edu)

### Education Co-Chair

Lenny Farlee Term of Office: On-going  
 G021D Pfendler Hall, Purdue University  
 West Lafayette, IN 47907 Office Phone: 765-494-2153  
 E-mail: [lfarlee@purdue.edu](mailto:lfarlee@purdue.edu)

### Continuing Forestry Ed. Contact

Carl Hauser Term of Office: On-going  
 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W296  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Office Phone: 317-232-4114  
 Fax #: 317-233-3863 E-mail: [chauser@dnr.in.gov](mailto:chauser@dnr.in.gov)

### Policy Chair

William F. Minter Term of Office: On-going  
 2011 Regina Rd. Home Phone: 574-831-6795  
 New Paris, IN 46553 Office Phone: 260-799-5869  
 Fax #: 574-831-6795 E-mail: [billfm@goshen.edu](mailto:billfm@goshen.edu)

### Awards

Lee Huss Term of Office: On-Going  
 PO Box 848 Home Phone: 812-929-2511  
 Bloomington, IN 47402 Office Phone: 812-349-3716  
 Fax #: 812-349-3705 E-mail: [hussl@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:hussl@bloomington.in.gov)

### Purdue Student Chapter Chair

Alex Finger E-mail: [mfinger@purdue.edu](mailto:mfinger@purdue.edu)

### Fund Raising Projects

Brian Gandy Term of Office: On-Going  
 2016 N Co Rd 1050 E Home Phone: 317-462-6820  
 Charlottesville, IN 47265 Office Phone: 812-276-4774  
 E-mail: [gandybrian@hotmail.com](mailto:gandybrian@hotmail.com)

### Investment Committee

Dale Weigel Term of Office: On-Going  
 811 Constitution Ave. Home Phone: 812-279-8953  
 Bedford, IN 47421 Office Phone: 812-276-4774  
 E-mail: [dweigel@fs.fed.us](mailto:dweigel@fs.fed.us)

### Audit Committee

Jayson Waterman Term of Office: On-going  
 498 N.W. 18th St. Office Phone: 765-935-9415  
 Richmond, IN 47374 Fax #: 765-935-9415  
 E-mail: [jvwaterman@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jvwaterman@dnr.in.gov)

### Nominating Committee

Ron Rathfon Term of Office: On-Going  
 12000 Purdue Farm Road Home Phone: 765-448-4262  
 Dubois, IN 47526 Office Phone: 812-678-3401  
 Fax #: 812-678-3412 E-mail: [ronr@purdue.edu](mailto:ronr@purdue.edu)

### Tellers Committee

Eric Summerfield Term of Office: On-Going  
 4112 E. St Rd 225 Home Phone: 765-567-3095  
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906 E-mail: [esummerfield@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:esummerfield@dnr.IN.gov)