



THE INDIANA FORESTER

VOL. 32 NO. 1

January 1, 2012

The View from the Chair



In keeping with some of the first comments from past chairs of Indiana SAF, I too have recently found myself looking back on how I got here. Summers spent in the Tippecanoe River in Fulton County have certainly played a role in my love of the outdoors. Each year as

soon as school was out, I was transported to my grandparents' place for the summer. There weren't other kids my age around so the river became my daily friend. I fished, built boats of scrap lumber, hunted for crawdads, and generally spent each and every day that I could IN the river. In the evenings I read. One of my favorite books to this day is *The Bears of Blue River* by Indiana author Charles Major. But it was my high school biology teacher who instilled a love of science in me. He actually took us outside! I never had any idea in high school that one could go to college to learn how to work outside. This came to me as an "oh, by the way" moment from a family friend who was encouraging me to go to college. "You can go to college for that?" I enrolled in Purdue and the rest is history. But my love of trees and the forest has never waned. I have been called a "tree nerd" and I still get excited with the first leaves and flowers of spring.

The profession of forestry is changing however, whether we choose to accept it or not. When I was a student at Purdue, forestry was "IT." There were over 100 students in my class and over 120 in the class ahead of mine. We all were not in forest management, but we all received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF). Today fewer true forestry students are graduating to fill the positions. Other changes in forestry – the aging workforce, the misconception that "green building" with nonrenewable materials is better for the environment, and, say it isn't so – a congressman from Tennessee is proposing to eliminate the U.S. Forest Service Conservation Education program, which includes Smokey Bear!

The Society of American Foresters is looking at opening the ranks to others in natural resource management – something I

have been struggling with for a while. I listened to some of the rationale at the SAF Convention in Hawaii. Do we open our arms and accept those who do not have the same level of ecosystem management training we have had or do we become a smaller, specialized organization? Emotions run high on this issue as one can tell from the articles and letters in *The Forestry Source*. What are your thoughts?

Speaking of Hawaii, I was grateful to have the opportunity to represent Indiana SAF at the Convention. The two days of HSD were very interesting to me. How much of an impact HSD has in the overall organization is open to discussion. While we drafted some action items, it is unknown whether they will be acted upon. For example, I participated in the policy break-out group. Our action item was for each society or chapter to report back at next year's convention in Spokane on a success story related to a policy issue. (I am going to hold Indiana SAF to that report.)

And it is good to know someone in such a place. On my last day, I got a private tour of O'ahu by Michelle Jones, Information and Education Coordinator (and the PLT Coordinator) for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. The highest point on O'ahu is Mt. Ka'ala. Access is restricted to this 1,100 acre natural area – either you climb up the 4,025 foot mountain (from sea level) or know someone with an authorized vehicle and keys to the three locked gates on the road to the top! On the way up we saw many plants native to Hawaii including koa trees, 'ohi'a trees and the 'ape'ape in which I am standing in the picture. On the flat top of Ka'ala is a native cloud forest and bog. Michelle brought the plant guide to the bog and needless to say I was a plant nerd for three hours!

Now Hawaii is a memory and winter is approaching. I am enjoying my temporary duties as an acting district forester, getting out in the woods, working with landowners again. "I work in forestry. It's such a part of me. Boom de ah da." Take a moment and remember why you wanted to be a forester and perhaps share it with a young person.

Donna Rogler, ISAF Chair

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

There are two things I would have to mention about membership: First, the INSAF membership should have already received their annual dues invoice, now showing the tiered options of products and services; and Second, I encourage the membership to contact our district chair, the national office, and/or the *Forestry Source* and share their personal position on the ongoing debate about a "broad vs. elite" approach to membership eligibility. I have done this myself on two occasions thus far, representing my personal views.

John Stambaugh, ISAF Membership Chair

View from the Past Chair



A panoramic picture of the Hakena'uma'u crater within the Kilauea Caldera at Volcanoes National Park. Current eruptions are largely spewing out hydrogen sulphide gas which is extremely corrosive to your lungs. Therefore, this is as close as you can get to the active eruption without a respirator and a good Hawaiian friend.



A view from Honolulu hotel near Waikiki beach looking at Diamondhead.



Koa is attacked by an invasive pest that causes excessive branching. Tropical HTIRC is working hard to select for trees of good form and less branching.



Koa is actually marketed in log lengths as short as 4 feet. The wood is actually sawn on-site, sometimes into board and block lengths as short as 1 foot, if the piece has heavy curl.

tion for a tour of the local forestry. This year we took that tour on the Big Island. Although there are glimpses of high yield forestry, most notably through Eucalyptus plantations, Hawaiian forestry centers on restoration of native forests that contain highly valuable hardwood species. Chief among these species is Acacia koa, one of the most valuable woods in the world. This wood has traditional uses ranging from canoes to bowls; it is highly figured with dark, butternut-like color. However, like many Hawaiian species, is under threat from exotic pests and being displaced by invasive species. Further, it is extremely hard to grow into timber-quality material; pests make it exceedingly branching and it does not compartmentalize wounds well, making pruning difficult if not impossible. These challenges are being taken on by a new research cooperative, the Tropical Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center, which is an offshoot of the HTIRC here at Purdue.

After a final day looking at gorse invasion (the spiniest, nastiest plant invader I have ever seen), I flew over to Honolulu for the actual conference. I caught the last day of the HSD meeting which is the annual meeting of all state society chairs and chair-elects. I am sure Donna will give her perspectives of this meeting, but it was quite apparent to me that the membership issue is paramount on the minds of most Societies. While no conclusive 'yea' or 'nay' was resounding from HSD, most delegates felt that Council needed to continue to debate the issue and carefully weigh the benefits against the drawbacks.

The convention itself was quite interesting with several good talks, including keynotes from Chief Thomas Tidwell and the Hawaiian Governor Neil Abercrombie. It was fairly well attended, although it was apparent that costs prevented some from attending (i.e., there were a lot of no-shows for talks, particularly if speakers were federal employees).

Finally, as my tenure as your chair ends, I want to thank you, all of you. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve. It was definitely a bit

of a learning experience for me. I came in naive on what was involved as ISAF chair, and I leave as a little less naive. I stand by my promise made at the September ISAF meeting—if the vice-chair or chair needs help putting together a meeting, I am only a phone call away.

Mahalo

Mike Saunders
Past Chair



Older koa wood commonly shows curl, particularly near branch unions. With heavy curl, koa wood can be valued at up to \$100 per board foot.

Camaraderie and Raising Money Equals a Good Day in the Woods



Rob & Darrell



Doug cutting Hickory



Brian Gandy & Jason Waterman



Rob & Darrell



Doug, Brian & Jason watching Rob work

I'm sure most of you have listened to Brian Gandy's appeals for help with fundraisers and made excuses to yourself. The locations were too far away, you were busy with work, and surely there were other people who knew more about TSI who could do it?

But on November 7th I decided to go "do my fair share" as Brian had challenged us each to do. At the September meeting, Brian pointed out that the same people came every time and if the rest of us would come just once every two years they'd have enough people to really knock out the jobs that he lined up for us. He assured me I didn't have to be able to run a chainsaw all day to contribute.

It was an awesome day in the woods. Any day in the woods is better than a day in the office where I mostly spend my time now. Brian Gandy, Jason Waterman, Doug Brown, Rob McGriff, Darrell Breedlove, and I were the TSI crew.

The property had been logged and both Jason and Brian had worked with the landowner. According to Jason, "The landowner considers it a real feather in his cap that he's getting his TSI done by a crew of professional foresters." Jason said he regularly suggests to landowners that hiring ISAF to do their TSI work is an option that they might consider and many are interested. He said they feel like they're getting the work done and contributing to a nonprofit organization at the same time.

Jason suggests, "It would be nice if we could get fundraisers spaced geographically around the state, but in order to do that, we need other district foresters and consultants to make that same suggestion when talking to landowners." If TSI fundraisers were spaced around the state it would be easier for people to attend one in their area.

This is the second year Indiana SAF has done TSI in this area and there is more to be done. We took it slow and enjoyed the camaraderie. There was plenty of debate and discussion when we took breaks, cookies to be eaten, and current issues to discuss.

Brian does a great job of organizing these fundraisers and bringing everything we need. All we have to do is show up (with a chainsaw if you have one and safety equipment) and put in a few hours' work. Next time Brian sends out an appeal to help, consider taking a day off work and pitching in. I was glad I did.

Teena Ligman, Proud ISAF Member



Doug TSI



Rob cutting



Doug sharpening saw

Forester's Fund Stump Hole Tournament

Just before the summer Stump Hole Tournament was to begin, the sky turned dark, and it started to pour down rain. We were supposed to set up on the lawn that evening! Foresters aren't supposed to be afraid of rain, right? But, I'm not sure what happens to corn-filled bags after they get wet. They probably germinate, and that wouldn't be good for next time. Luckily, the Brown County Inn had a tent set up over a deck that we set up on. So in spite of a little dampness, we were able to proceed.

The sign-up for the tournament was vigorous with 10 teams stepping forward. It may be the largest turnout yet. After all, who wouldn't want to be known as Stump Hole Champions and then get to split the pot with the Forester's Fund? The pot was \$100 this time. Teams were randomly assigned to the tournament board by way of a drawing. Then, we had a couple of preliminary games to narrow the field to an 8 team bracket. In the upper half of the bracket, an unfortunate result of the drawing paired two previous champion teams, Josh B. & Scott R. and Dan Square, against each other in the first game. Throwing under the low ceiling of the tent was difficult for Dan M., who has a high arching toss. However, he made an adjustment, and Dan S. must have been on target, since the game was close except for "one bad round". Josh & Scott advanced and then defeated Mike S. & Bruce W. to reach the final game. In the lower half of the bracket in the first game, Brian G. & Doug B., each part of previous champion teams, were paired with Brian M. & Jennifer, both newcomers to our tournament. Everyone was surprised when the newcomers advanced. They then beat Jayson W. & Dave Walters, our



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Forester's Fund Stump Hole Tournament, cont.

SAF Council Rep., to advance to the final game. In the final game, Brian McGowan and Jennifer Wagner were victorious. By the way, they are both Wildlifers and were speakers at the meeting. I know—everyone just wanted to be nice to the visitors, right?

We were able to increase our Forester Fund amount by \$50 to \$270 for the year, almost the same as in 2010. We would have made my goal of \$300 this year, except that we let the visitors get away with half the pot! Oh well, they probably didn't hear my announcement at the business meeting. By the way, the receipt from the 2011 winter meeting says \$220, which included a silent auction, donations, etc. It's a little different than what I reported earlier. I am planning to have another si-

lent auction at the 2012 winter meeting. Please plan to donate items such as crafts, furniture, books, clothing, food, etc.

As usual during this summer's tournament, there was plenty of socializing and exchange of ideas. In one small circle, Brian, Jayson, and I discussed things like, how do you make an Indian turnip taste better? The answer is to add salt to it of course! I'm sure you had some good conversations of your own. Dave Walters took some of our ideas back to TN, I'm sure, and he learned a new way to make money for the Forester's Fund. Thanks to Dan Shaver, Stump Hole was introduced to ISAF, and the tradition continues.

Darrell Breedlove
Forester's Fund Chairman

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