

First Annual NESAF-NY Student Conclave a Success

By Emma Schultz

On the weekend of October 15–17, 2010, forestry students from Paul Smith's College, the University of Maine, and the University of Connecticut gathered in Petersham, Massachusetts, at the 2010 New England SAF (NE SAF)–New York Student Conclave to meet and discuss the state of their SAF student chapters.

This landmark New England SAF-sponsored venture developed out of a student brainstorming session at the 2010 New England SAF winter meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire, and was organized by students from the University of Massachusetts–Amherst (UMass), with the assistance of the NESAF Membership Chair Peter Greeno.

As UMass SAF Student Chapter Chair Bruce Danek explained, participants benefited both personally and professionally.

“The NESAF–New York Student Conclave brought together students from all over the region to learn and experience forestry in a way particular to Massachusetts. Students received valuable insight and made many connections both personally and professionally throughout the event,” he said. “This event builds a sense of community among students and brings together the forestry community around the region. The conclave now doubles the amount of time students are able to interact each year [other opportunity: NESAF Annual Winter Meeting]. Best of all, students are able to learn and have fun meeting their future coworkers.”

Many of this year's attendees agreed.

Jacob Hicks, University of Maine SAF Student Chapter chair, confided that “interaction with other chapters was invaluable, and knowing how we all fit into the bigger picture makes the extra involvement worth the effort.” In addition, Hicks found the conclave to be the perfect setting for effective discussion on leadership and organizational issues at the chapter and regional levels.

Greg Clarke, from the University of Connecticut, enjoyed “learning about the local history and the current management activities and research being conducted at the Quabbin Watershed, the Montague Sand Plain, and the Harvard Forest.” He also appreciated “the opportunity to learn from, share ideas with, and meet people from different areas of the Northeast who share a common interest in the responsible management of forest, water, and wildlife resources.”

Taylor Lucey, a UMass student who attended the conclave out of curiosity, “had

a wonderful experience.” Although not a forestry major, Lucey said she “really enjoyed meeting with other environmentally concerned students and hearing their thoughts on the future of forest management.” She “hopes for the success of future NESAF events like this one and that the conclave becomes a tradition.”

Kelsey Troy, immediate past chair of the UMaine SAF Student Chapter, enjoyed seeing Massachusetts's unique forest aspects, such as fire management on the Montague Sand Plain. She found the conclave's relaxed setting beneficial for students to “talk to a peer group about why they are in forestry, what they have done in their programs, and what they plan to do with their degrees.”

“It's refreshing to hear about being unsure about where to go [after graduation] but still being sure that you want to be a part of something [like SAF],” said Troy. She added that “these conclaves should grow in the number of schools represented because this is something particularly beneficial—something it would be worth joining SAF for.”

Among the events that took place during the conclave were:

Group discussions with NESAF Chair Ron Lemin and University of Massachusetts Professor and Extension Forester Dave Kittredge; an address on origins of forestry in America and of SAF by Peter Greeno; a discussion about current student chapter activities and ways to make chapter membership invaluable to students; tours of the Quabbin Watershed State Forest with Forester Randy Stone and the fire-managed pitch pine-scrub oak forest type on the Montague Sand Plain with the Harvard Forest's Glen Motzkin; a tour of the Harvard Forest Museum and a presentation of the “Woodlands and Wildlands” forest concept with museum Coordinator, John O'Keefe and Harvard Forest Outreach and Development Manager for Education and Research Programs Clarisse Hart; as well as a barbecue.

As for next year, the 2nd Annual NESAF–NY Student Conclave will be held at Paul Smith's College in Paul Smiths, New York. Jeremiah Burch (UMaine) is “looking



Student Conclave attendees tour the Quabbin Reservoir with Forester Randy Stone.

forward to being more involved with SAF next year, having the conclave at Paul Smith's, and hoping we'll see a few more schools in attendance.”

Marin George, a student at Paul Smith's, enjoyed this year's conclave, and said it gave her a new perspective on the profession.

“As a first-year student in forestry, I gained some insight as to how great the opportunities are within the field. It was quite apparent that a lot of time and effort were put into the planning of the conclave, and for this I am appreciative of the weekend overall,” she said. “SAF benefits greatly from events like this, so I would like to see them occur more often. I learned much more about the organization and was able to bring that back to Paul Smith's.”

The brainstorming process for next year's conclave has already begun, said George.

“Nothing is set in stone, but we were thinking the topic for next year's con-

clave could focus on forest succession in the Adirondacks, from old fields to old growths. We will continue to work on ideas and keep in touch with everyone.”

So, stay tuned for more information on next year's conclave. As a participant in this year's event, I sincerely hope that the students who come next year can maintain the level of enthusiasm generated in Massachusetts this fall, as it was an empowering experience. Finally, I urge those in contact with students to heartily recommend this event in the future; it was, hands down, my favorite weekend of the year.

Attention NE SAF Students: Make sure you join us March 31–April 1, 2011, as we continue to get to know each other and discuss the issues pertinent to our respective chapters at the NESAF Winter Meeting in Fairlee, Vermont.

Schultz is a graduate student and research assistant at the University of Maine–Orono and NESAF membership committee student representative.

SAF Welcomes New and Returning Members

The following individuals either joined or reinstated their membership in SAF during the month of January 2011.

New Members

Dillion Craig Alley, Knoxville, TN
 Matt Amick, Albemarle, NC
 Jon W. Benton, Marion, IL
 Penn Gray Bowers, Seneca, SC
 Matthew J. Bowser, Troy, MT
 Derek Brockmann, Pawtucket, RI
 James L. Brooks, Powder Springs, GA
 Robert Brown, Morrisville, NY
 Casey J. Callahan, Norwich, NY
 Dominic Carmassi, San Luis Obispo, CA
 Jenessa Casey, Sewanee, TN
 Joshua Lee Chandler, Blacksburg, VA
 Alexander Nicholas Chewing, Charleston, SC
 Nicholas J. Culverwell, Cassadaga, NY
 David W. Danker, Flagstaff, AZ
 Rick DeAngelo, Deer Park, WA
 Laurent Deviche, Flagstaff, AZ
 Matthew B. Dillon, Paoli, PA
 Patrick Brian Dolan, Altmar, NY
 David Duncan, Charlotte, NC
 Scott Leonard Flick, Summerville, SC
 Karl Flocke, Wimerley, TX
 Brendan M. Foster, Arcata, CA
 Shannon Marie Fowler, Blacksburg, VA
 Roger L. Frankian, Clovis, CA

Christopher Gage, Herrin, IL
 Samuel D. Glass, Syracuse, NY
 James Golden, Sonora, CA
 Justanna Gray, Cortland, NY
 Adam S. Green, Syracuse, NY
 Ryan A. Grefe, Merrill, WI
 Candra A. Grimm, Aberdeen, WA
 Andrew Gundlach, Templeton, PA
 Steven Ham, Fort Mill, SC
 Devin G. Healy, Helena, MT
 Christopher Helvey, Taos, NM
 David Stuart Hopkins Jr., Easton, ME
 Barton James Howard, Ames, IA
 Travis Howell, Fuquay, NC
 Kristin M. Hrobuchak, Au Sable Forks, NY
 Edward Lawrence Hull Jr., Rocky Mount, NC
 Scott Hunt, Phoenix, AZ
 Rick Jeffers, Angier, NC
 Phillip Johnson, Auburn, CA
 Elizabeth M. Keith, Lake Oswego, OR
 Dantzler A. Kennerly III, Seneca, SC
 Susannah Kenney, Phoenix, AZ
 Stephen Matthew Kinane, Raleigh, NC
 Haley Allison Kitchens, Berkeley, CA
 Larry Kitt Jr., Canastota, NY
 Tiffany Anne Kivlen, Paul Smiths, NY
 Chelsea Marie Kyler, Sheffield, PA
 Aaron Latham, Central, SC
 Kathryn L. Littlefield, Wanakena, NY
 Sarah E. Long, Sewanee, TN
 Gregory Losapio, Wanakena, NY

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