



SAF NEWS

News and Notes for the PSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters
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Jim McQuaide discusses Penn Forms

Mr. Jim McQuaide of the Forestland Management Office at Penn State spoke to student chapter members about his new computer program, Penn FoRMS (Forest Resource Management System), which combines GPS/GIS and an efficient data recorder all into one.

The data recording unit is a Hammer Head Computer (a rugged computer with a touch screen) that runs on a Windows CE system and is basically the same as any computer, except for the pop-up keyboard on the screen that allows data entry without an actual keyboard. For the GPS portion, the program utilizes an external unit that connects via a USB port.

The Penn FoRMS program is somewhat similar to ArcView and ArcGIS. Data is entered in for each plot according to plot size, tree species, logs, diameter, ground cover, etc. Between plots, the GPS can be used as a rough form of navigation. Current location is displayed with cross hairs and vital statistics. After the data has been entered in for a tract, the program processes necessary information and produces GIS maps in the field as well as calculations and overall cruise summaries that are suitable to give to a land owner.

While this program seems efficient, it does have some draw backs. The batteries have a limited lifetime. An entire days work in the field could involve toting around two pounds of batteries. Also, problems such as program bugs (the program is still in the testing phase), and other factors affecting GPS can lead to some extra patience in the field. The last major item of concern affecting this setup is the price. The computer is about \$5000, plus the cost of the Penn FoRMS software which

will most likely sell for \$1000-\$2000. Then add the price of a GPS unit, which can vary in price from \$100-\$500.

This program, although pricy, is an extremely effective and efficient way of timber cruising in the forest. It allows the forester to conduct work and operate away from the office for the entire day. The setup is most likely to benefit the average forester who can see beyond the price and realize the time savings at hand.

Congrats to the Spring '04 Graduates!

Patrick Anderson
Wade Brown
Chris Dahl
Lucas Dalenberg
Aaron Garver
Levi Gelnett
Jared Hermany
Toby Herzing
Steven Keiper
Michael Kunkel
Douglas Langford
Tom Lugar
Doug Mohney
Jamie Murphy
Richard Pipech
David Planinsek
Thomas Rich
Kevin Riegner
Darren Riggins
Zachary Roeder
Greg Sanford
Mark Scott
Lee Smith
Zachary Wismer

The 36th Annual Loggers & Saw Millers Safety Meeting

PSU SAF members attended the Annual Loggers' Safety Meeting again this spring as they have done in past years. Chris Dahl, Doug Mohny, Toby Herzing, and Jamie Murphy went to the meeting on April 6th in Johnsonburg. The meeting was titled "Safety is by Choice-Not By Chance." The meeting was an opportunity for the students to see the aspect of forestry that they miss-out on in the academic world.

The fire hall was full of loggers and their families and the meeting was very informative on current issues such as certification, insurance, and safety equipment. Representatives from SFI and AHUG attended the meeting to discuss how their cause pertained to the loggers. Dr. Tim Pierson, Extension Educator and Forester of Penn State Cooperative Extension gave a talk on the dangers of logging titled, "Logging Safety is No Accident." His discussion demonstrated how easily loggers can make mistakes that will cost them or a fellow logger a life. His take home message of course was "safety first!"



New Student Chapter Officers Elected!!

President: Bill Mentecky
Vice President: Amanda Subjin
Recording Secretary:
Corresponding Secretary:
Treasurer: Scott Rogers
Ag Student Council Representatives:
Chad Atwood &

You may email questions or concerns about SAF to any of the officers or advisors, Dr. Harry V. Wiant (hvw3) or Mike Powell (mjp175) or visit our award winning website at: <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/SAF/>

Email suggestions and corrections to Amanda Subjin (aes254)