

SAF News



News and Notes for the PSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters
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National Convention Educational and Fun

By Bob Lindemuth and Carson Engelskirger

On September 30, six members of the PSU Student Chapter of the SAF along with their advisors ventured to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to participate in the SAF National Convention. The students attending the convention were Chris Dahl, Jamie Murphy, Bob Lindemuth, Scott Rogers, Carson Engelskirger, Amanda Subjin, and Mike Powell and Dr. Harry Wiant as the group advisors.

Before the convention was in full swing, we had the opportunity to spend a day in Jasper National Park, located in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Among the wildlife spotted were coyote, deer, mountain goat, and elk, including many large bulls. The beautiful western landscape was truly a breathtaking sight.

This year's convention was unique in that it was a joint meeting of the Society of American Foresters and the Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada, a once-a-decade event.



A view of the Canadian Rockies in Jasper National Park.

While in Edmonton, we had the opportunity to participate in many cultural, professional, and educational experiences. Events ranged from renowned speakers and presentations to alumni gatherings to interaction with many players in the forest industry from the United States and Canada.

The PSU Student Chapter also fielded a team for the Quiz Bowl, losing a hard-fought battle in the first round to the eventual winners, Humboldt State University of Arcata, California.

On the last night of the trip, the PSU Student Chapter received two awards; 2nd Place for the Most Outstanding Student Chapter and 2nd place in the Student Chapter Website Design contest.

We would like to thank the following companies for donating the much-needed funds to help send us on such a long journey: Lewis Lumber Products, Pine Creek Lumber Company, Weaber, Inc., and the Penn State University School of Forest Resources.



Members of the Penn State SAF Student Chapter and advisors with 2nd place Outstanding Student Chapter Award and 2nd place Student Chapter Website Award.

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/>

Pumpkin CarvinG At Shaver's Creek a Success

By Tim Culbreth

On Thursday, October 28, Tim Culbreth, Bill Mentecky, Sarah MacDougall, Layne Miller, and Amanda Subjin set out for Shaver's Creek Environmental Center to do something that none of them had done for many years: carve jack-o-lanterns. The objectives of the event were to carve pumpkins that would be used to decorate the Children's Halloween Festival trails and have a good time while doing so.

Once the carving began, the group was even asked to stop so that there would be enough pumpkins for others to carve. After the carving was complete, the group ended the night by placing their jack-o-lanterns along the Halloween Festival trails.

Students Interact with the Forest for Heritage Day

By Jamie Murphy

Penn State SAF student chapter members Chris Dahl and Jamie Murphy participated in *Heritage Day* at Park Forest Middle School in mid-October 2004. The day was filled with educational activities for approximately 125 seventh graders. Students learned about pottery, sheep shearing, spinning, chainsaw carving, and forestry.

The forestry activity was organized by PSU Extension agent Dave Jackson and Park Forest Middle School Science Teacher Steven McAninch. When Mr. McAninch requested a hands-on activity that could be conducted in a small woodlot at the school, Dave looked to some Penn State forestry students for help.

Since the middle school students had already done leaf collections and became familiar identifying some trees with the 4-H dichotomous key, Dave chose a tree identification and measurements exercise. The kids were organized in groups of 25 for several 45-minute sessions throughout the day. Each session began with either Dave or

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Jamie giving a brief history of the forests in PA. They discussed the importance of trees as a raw material for other products. The goal was to teach the students that a tree has value, and that the value of each individual tree varies with species, diameter, and merchantable height.

The students were quick to volunteer answers and ask questions about the activity. Most groups were able to properly identify an assigned tree, as well as come up with accurate measurements of diameter, height, and value. The students were also encouraged to read an interesting fact about their tree from the "Common Trees of Pennsylvania" booklet published by DCNR.

Activities like *Heritage Day* provide excellent opportunities to educate youth about forestry. All of the students and instructors involved gained something from the experience. Hopefully Penn State and its SAF student chapter will have further outreach endeavors as successful as *Heritage Day*.



Jamie demonstrating proper use of a d-tape.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, December 6 - SAF Rothrock Chapter meeting at Ramada on Atherton St., State College - \$15 student cost
- December 4, 5, 18, 19 - Christmas tree sale at FRL.
- December 11 & 12 - Christmas tree sale at Festival of Trees in Ag Arena