

NAUFRP NEWS

National Association of University Forest Resources Programs

Creating Knowledge – Developing Leaders

President's Message-Katy Kavanagh

Dear NAUFRP members and friends:

Now that the summer breezes and sunny skies are upon us, it is a good time to enjoy visiting with family, friends, and colleagues. Networking and building relationships are something that NAUFRP does very well. We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming



community. This includes learning a lesson from the Covid era and maintaining a hybrid meeting structure so that we can meet in person and allow others who cannot travel to attend all or parts of the NAUFRP meetings as their schedules allow. We also encourage you to participate in the NAUFRP Regional meetings which may be closer to home.

NAUFRP will be holding its next Executive Committee Meeting (October 24) and General Assembly (October 25) in-person and virtually in Sacramento, California near the SAF convention site. I look forward to seeing many of you there and online. We are working on the

specific agenda topics and meeting venues as I write this, so I cannot give a lot of details yet. This does provide you an opportunity to suggest topics that might be of interest to you and the broader community, however.

Here are few additional things, I would like to bring to your attention:

- NAUFRP will be joining with the SAF Leadership Reception on Monday evening October 24. Please let Ms. Terri Bates naufrp@verizon.net know if you and your guest want to join us.

- NAUFRP is organizing future town hall meetings for next Fall and Winter. We would love to hear your thoughts on possible topics to cover.

- I am excited to be your President for next two years. I am impressed with the willingness of several colleagues to step up and take on the challenge of being NAUFRP committee chairs, regional representatives, and officers. Most of all, I want to thank those of you that reached out to me several years ago and offered me a seat at the table. I will be reaching out to others and encourage them to get to know NAUFRP and how they can make it even better.

With regards, Kathleen (Katy) Kavanagh) Associate Dean of Research, College of Forestry, Oregon State University

June 2023 Issue 5

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Meetings

SNAUFRP: June 19, 2023, Nashville, TN

NAUFRP Executive Committee Oct. 24, 2023 Sacramento, CA

Joint NAUFRP-SAF Leadership Reception Oct. 24, 2023 Sacramento, CA

NAUFRP General Assembly Oct. 25, 2023 Sacramento, CA

SAF Convention October 25-29, 2023 Sacramento, CA

IUFRO World Congress June 23-29, 2024 Stockholm, Sweden

Washington Update—Randy Nuckolls, Washington Counsel

With the likely passage by Congress of the Biden-McCarthy deal to suspend the debt limit until January 1, 2025, Congress will return later in June to a somewhat a "regular order" in consideration of FY 24 Appropriations bills. The debt limit agreement, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, will freeze overall nondefense discretionary spending for FY 24 and will allow only a one percent increase for FY 25. How this overarching new requirement impacts individual programs at each Cabinet agency such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture remains to be seen.

The new law is not like a Continuing Resolution where all appropriated accounts are frozen at the level of the previous

Communications—Todd Petty

In April 2023, Todd Petty (Clemson University) was appointed as chair of the communications committee. If anyone is interested in serving as a committee member, please contact Todd at jtpetty@clemson.edu.

The communications committee will work this summer to identify priorities for academic year 2023-2024, and these will be discussed at the SAF meeting in October 2023. Immediate priorities include:

- Update McIntire-Stennis project descriptions on the web
- Plan for a NAUFRP booth at the SAF conference exhibit hall in October 2023 where we will highlight the work of NAUFRP and its alignment with the mission of McIntire-Stennis

Diversity— Zhu Hua Ning

In February 2023, the NAUFRP Executive Committee selected Dr. Zhu Hua Ning as the chair of the NAUFRP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Dr. Ning is an urban forestry professor and chair of the Urban Forestry Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. According to the NAUFRP president, the NAUFRP leadership team believes that Ning has multiple strengths in the area of DEI, she has served on the NAUFRP DEI Committee and could continue to carry on the vision after the tragic loss of Dr. Yeon-Su Kim. In addition, Ning has chaired the **Diversity Working Group of the SAF** and she is known to be very committed to DEI. Her urban forestry prospective is an additional benefit to the NAUFRP Executive Committee. The NAUFRP DEI Committee members are Dr. Tara L. Bal, Michigan Technological University; Justin Kunkle, Michigan State University; Adrian Leighton, Salish Kootenai College; and Linda Nagel, Utah State University.

In March 2023, the DEI committee submitted to the SAF two 2023 National Convention session proposals: 1. Advance the Health, Productivity, and sustainability of America's Forests - an Interactive Discussion with the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs; and 2. Urban Forestry in a Changing Climate. Both proposals are pending SAF Convention Program Committee's review and selection.

In May 2023, the DEI Committee developed a proposal to establish the "NAUFRP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Champion Award". This Award is to honor an individual, a program, or an organization that has demonstrated sustained dedication to and achievement in enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion and access at NAU-FRP member organizations and beyond. The award embodies the spirit of Dr. Yeon-Su Kim and others who champion DEI and make lasting, significant impacts. The award will be presented to the awardee (or a representative of a program or organization) at the NAU-FRP General Assembly. The proposal was submitted to the NAUFRP President and the Senior Executive Committee for comments due by June 15th. After incorporating potential input, the proposal will be finalized for vote at the next executive meeting.

Education—Andrew Storer

The education committee chair continues to serve on the Education Policy Review Committee (EPRC) of SAF. There are a number of ongoing developments in the EPRC:

-Accreditation or an accreditation type program for certificates in forestry is continuing to be discussed. While the number of institutions expressing interest in this is small, once a policy is put in place it is anticipated that interest has the potential to grow rapidly. Previous discussions and input from the NAUFRP Executive Committee suggests that there is support for a program, but it should be quite distinct from the current accreditation program so that confusion among students and employees is minimized.

-Discussion of granting accreditation to an institution for a program that is partially completed at a second institution has been discussed. This relates to one specific institution that has agreements with a range of other programs to deliver part of its curriculum. These partner programs may or may not have SAF accredited programs of their own, and discussions have centered around what the limits would be to such programs. This topic has not been revisited at the most recent EPRC meeting.

NAUFRP Executive Committee

Kathleen (Katy) Kavanagh, President Oregon State University

Janaki R. Alavalapati, Past-President Auburn University

Dennis Becker, President-Elect University of Idaho

Robert Burns, Secretary-Treasurer West Virginia State University

National Committee Chairs Todd Petty, Communications Clemson University

Zhu Hua Ning, Diversity Southern University

Andrew Storer, Education Michigan Technological University

<u>Jeff Stringer</u>, Extension University of Kentucky

<u>Don Hodges</u>, International University of Tennessee

Myron Floyd, Policy North Carolina State University

Bob Wagner, Research Purdue University

Regional Committee Chairs Hans Williams, Southern Stephen F. Austin State University

<u>Bill Hubbard,</u> Northeastern University of Maryland

<u>Charles Goebel</u>, Western University of Idaho

<u>Rich Kobe</u>, North Central Michigan State University

At-Large Dale Greene University of Georgia

David Newman, SUNY-College of Environmental Sciences & Forestry

BNR/BAC Representative Linda Nagel Utah State University

1890 Land Grant Representative Kozma Naka Alabama A&M University

NAUFRP Washington Counsel C. Randall Nuckolls

NAUFRP Executive Liaison Terri Bates

(Continued on page 4)

North Central — Rich Kobe The North Central group meets quarterly to discuss developments and share best practices. Most institutions reported stable or declining enrollments in forestry. At Michigan Tech, Andrew Storer is now Provost, moving out of interim status. David Flaspohler is serving as Interim Dean of MTU's College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. MTU will be starting a new major in environmental studies and sustainability. At University of Minnesota, Kristen Nelson is now serving as Department Head (no longer Interim), guiding the Department during College restructuring. At **Purdue**, Jessica Gurevitch is now Department Head, transitioning from Bob Wagner. A USGS Cooperative Research Unit is establishing at Purdue. Ohio State is planning to conduct a search for a new Director of the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Iowa State is undergoing SAF reaccreditation as is University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. UWSP also is working on education and technical training for entry level forestry positions. Michigan State is co-leading a workshop with Natural Resources Institute - Finland (Luke) focused on **Climate Solutions through Biobased Products in Helsinki** in May. MSU reports slight increases in Forestry B.S. enrollment through focused recruitment and work on diversity and inclusion.

West – Charles Goebel Efforts to schedule a virtual summer meeting for the Western Region in July are underway. As for news from Western Region members, there are several things to highlight.

First, several institutions were awarded NSF Engine Development awards with a forestry or forest products focus. These include: **University of Montana** (Lead) – *Advancing precision forestry and rangeland technologies*; and **Oregon State University** and **Washington State University** (SubAwardees) – *Advancing mass timber technologies.* More information can be found here.

Second, on the reforestation front, **Colorado State University** (in conjunction with the Colorado State Forest Service) is expanding <u>greenhouse facilities</u> at the CSU Foothills facility with a \$10.3 million allocation from the state. Similarly, the **University of Idaho's** <u>Pitkin Forest Nursery</u> is also expanding with the addition of several new state-of-the-art greenhouses that will greatly increase seedling production.

Finally, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the **University of Hawaii** is searching for a <u>new dean</u>.

South — Hans Williams Southern Region of NAUFRP completed the 2021-2022 Comparative Data Survey. Participating programs received the updated survey results.

The Southern Region of NAUFRP will hold their summer 2023 meeting on June 19th in Nashville, TN in association with the Forest Landowners Association's National Conference of Private Forest Landowners. Joining us for the morning session will be David Arnold, TN State Forester, Burl Carraway, USFS FIA, and Jason Meyer, Executive Director, White Oak Institute. In the afternoon, we will tour the Middle TN Lumber Company mill.

The **University of Tennessee** has changed its name from the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries to School of Natural Resources.

ingxin Wang Named Head of Forest Biomaterials Wang joins NC State January 1, 2024 from West Virginia University (WVU) where he is the Benedum Distinguished Scholar, Davis Michael Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources, director of the WVU Center for Sustainable Biomaterials and Bioenergy, and associate director for research in the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources. Wang brings more than 15 years of demonstrated leadership experience and extensive expertise in forestry and natural resources, sustainable biomaterials and bioenergy. He earned three degrees (B.S., M.S. and Ph.D.) in forest/mechanical engineering from Jilin Forestry College and Northeast Forestry University in China. He also received a M.S. in computer science from West Virginia University and a Ph.D. in forest resource management from the University of Georgia. NC State CNR Highlights Forestry and Extension Services with Congressional Delegation: On April 21st, Associate Dean for Extension Dr. Bob Bardon and Forestry and Environmental Resources Department Head Dr. Erin Sills represented the College of Natural Resources at the Farm Bill Stakeholder Roundtable hosted by Congressman David Rouzer in rural North Carolina. The congressional leaders that participated included House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, members of the House Agriculture Committee, and members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation.

West Virginia University's School of Natural Resources hosted the 2023 Forest Products Society (FPS) International Conference from June 6–8, in Morgantown, WV The annual Forest Products Society International Conference promotes discussions on the state of forest products research and provides continued education about innovations by leading industry experts.



he FPS 2023 IC is dedicated to encouraging and facilitating the development and application of technical knowledge that will enable its attendees to derive maximum benefit from renewable wood-based materials and forest products.

The conference included Organized Technical Sessions from Industry Professionals, Student Poster

Dr. Jinxin Wang's team of junior

Presentations, a Quiz Bowl, and many other opportunities.

(Education Ccontinued from page 2)

-A request has been made to consider the accreditation landscape for a two-year college with an accredited twoyear program to partner with a second institution for a four-year program. These would then be companion programs. Most of the discussion of this has centered around the logistics of such a program and the logistics for accrediting the program (site visits, self-studies etc). The biggest challenge for the institutions proposing this is the number of faculty who are identified as having specialized expertise in forestry, especially in the second institution that does not currently have an SAF accredited program. The four-year program may be at a traditionally two-year college, and this scenario is a larger issue for NAUFRP institutions. As part of this work, SAF is considering piloting one or two accreditation candidacies for two year programs that include a path to an accredited four-year program. One of these being considered is Gogebic Community College as a two-year candidacy program with a path to Michigan Tech.

-SAF is pursuing CHEA certification. The only change to the accreditation standards would be that the timeframe for communicating back to the programs following determination of outcomes of submissions would be reduced from 60 days to 30 days. SAF believes that this is achievable.

See the full report at <u>NAUFRP Education Committee report March 2023.pdf</u>

International—Don Hodges

The current committee is comprised of Robert Burns (West Virginia University) and Tom DeLuca (Oregon State University), and Don Hodges (University of Tennessee). We are looking for additional members, particularly from west of the Mississippi River!

Robert Burns and Don Hodges met with representatives from the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) on April 10 to discuss opportunities for more U.S. student involvement with the organization. IFSA is the largest international association for students in forestry and related fields, with more than 130 member associations (Local Committees). Currently, there are Local Committees at six U.S. and five Canadian universities. The organization would like to increase those numbers substantially and will be presenting this information at the General Assembly in October.

The committee encourages NAUFRP members to participate in the <u>XXVI IUFRO World Congress</u> in Stockholm (June 23-29, 2024). More information is provided in a separate announcement. NAUFRP will be represented at the board meeting prior to the World Congress by Robert Burns (U.S. Representative to the International Council) and Don Hodges (IUFRO Board).

Extension—Jeff Stringer

Notices for the upcoming **2023 Family Forest Education Awards** to be awarded during the NAUFRP General Assembly meeting in Sacramento were distributed in March and April. The two awards, co-sponsored by NAUFRP and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA) recognize excellence in educational programming benefiting family forest owners.

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The 2022 Comprehensive Program Award went to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) to 'Improve Management on Family Owned Forests". L-R Jeff Stringer(NAUFRP), Rachelle Hedges (UCANR, Mark Megalos (NOWA)

The two awards include a Comprehensive Program awarded for excellence in developing a broad educational effort to address a diverse array of family forest issues and program using a wide range of educational approaches and programs.

The second is for an Individual Project that addresses a specific family forest issue or problem and can include specialized courses, workshops, webpages and resources, materials,

etc. Any educational institution is eligible. The awards will be presented to the administrative unit originating and hosting the programming. Information on last year's award winners can be found on the NAUFRP Extension page. See the <u>website</u> for nomination information and submission requirements.

Nominations are due by August 25th.

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The 2022 Individual Project winner went to Virginia Cooperative Extension's Generation NEXT Team "Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners"

APLU Liaison — Linda Nagel

Good news! Capacity funding for the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program received a 5.6% increase in the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, bringing the account to \$38M. This past year's work of the Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (for Fiscal Year 2024) included each 'section' giving a presentation of their request with justification in person during the Annual APLU meeting in Denver, CO November 6-8, 2022. Linda Nagel attended and presented the McIntire-Stennis request that was developed by NAUFRP leadership. The final APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly Unified Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Request can be found here. Lewis-Burke Associates (APLU's Advocacy Firm) is doing a great job with advocacy materials, helping refine our message and justifications. Many great advocacy resources including information on the 2023 Farm Bill Reauthorization and the Research Facilities Act can be found here: https://www.land-grant.org/.

The CARET/AHS (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching/Administrative Heads Section) meeting was held in Washington, DC March 12-14, 2023, the week before the NAUFRP Executive Committee met in DC. In preparation for CARET, APLU hosted an 'Appropriations 101: All About the Request' webinar for CARET delegates. Nagel was asked to serve on a panel that presented the unified request priorities, which was a good opportunity to elevate McIntire-Stennis among CARET delegates. Slides available here.

Work has already begun on refining our request for FY 2025, and will be discussed at the APLU <u>2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting</u> in Kansas City July 18-20, 2023.

Policy–Dennis Becker

It's been a busy spring for the Policy Committee. We are currently working with our colleagues in APLU to secure an increase in McIntire-Stennis funding from the current FY24 appropriation of \$38M The two-page impact summaries provided by members are helping to frame our contributions to Congress in terms of training tomorrow's workforce, landowner outreach, and critical research accomplishments and needs. We are tempering expectations for increased appropriations given Congressional budget realities, but we remain confident in our service to tax payers to enhance public and private forests and the related natural resources therein.

This year was also busier than usual for the historic increase in funding for forestry related topics in the <u>Infrastructure Investment</u> and Jobs Act, <u>Inflation Reduction Act</u>, and <u>CHIPs Act</u>. The Policy Committee actively participates in several coalitions to advance our interests in these areas. You can read the attached policy platforms to which we signed on for the Forest in the Farm Bill (FIFB), Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA), and the Forest Carbon Working Group (FCWG).

Forests In the Farm Bill 2023 Farm Bill Summarized Recommendations

FCWG (Forest Carbon Working Group) FY24 Appropriations Request Letter

FACA (Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance) FY24 Appropriations Request Letter

In Memory



Yeon-Su Kim November 27, 2022

Executive Director of Northern Arizona University School of Forestry. Chair, NAUFRP Diversity Committee.

With her smile and cordial behavior, Yeon-Su touched the hearts of countless number of students, faculty, and forestry/natural resources professionals — Janaki Alavalapati, NAUFRP President, November, 2022

Flagstaff remembers Yeon-Su Kim

and Corey Allen, (azcentral.com)

Dr. Yeon-Su Kim Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Washington Update (continued from page 1)

fiscal year. The Congressional Appropriations Committees will have the ability to make changes in individual lines in agency accounts as long as the total amount does not exceed the total cap approved in the Biden-McCarthy legislation. As an incentive to see that all appropriations bills are passed before the beginning of the new FY 24 fiscal year on October 1, the new law says that all accounts, including defense funding, would be reduced one percent for FY 24 if all bills are not passed by that date.

The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee had marked up the FY 24 USDA Appropriations bill but no specific numbers for McIntire-Stennis and other programs of interest to NAUFRP have been released. That information is normally available on the day that the full House Appropriations Committee meets to approve the Ag Appropriations bill, but Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) postponed the scheduled May full Committee markups until after the debt limit increase or suspension was resolved.

We expect the House Appropriations Committee to restart actions by mid-June but with a greater challenge to fit the various appropriation bills that fund nondefense under an overall cap. Stay tuned for updates in June and July. Thanks to NAUFRP Executive Committee member Linda Nagel for her good work assisting in conversations with APLU staff and the Board on Agriculture on our NAUFRP requests for FY 24.

The reauthorization of the Farm Bill was also put on the back burner until after the debt limit increase was resolved. Expect the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to resume hearings and conversations regarding a new five-year Farm Bill. Increasingly, it appears likely Congress will adopt a short term, probably one-year, extension of current Farm Bill programs to allow Congress to continue work on reauthorization until next year.

NAUFRP will continue monitoring these issues in the months ahead on these issues.

Randy Nuckolls NAUFRP Washington Counsel

Committee Work, (continued from page 5)

Research – Bob Wagner

Progress continued on developing new approaches for addressing the two-decade decline in forestry R&D funding, capacity, and relevance. This two-pronged effort involves close partnership with the SAF (Terry Baker) and the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Michael Goergen).

Below is a summary of the progress made since last Fall:

1. Conduct national survey of foresters to identify highest-priority forest management problems at state, regional, and national levels.

A team led by Emily Huff (Michigan State University) has developed a new survey instrument for implementation in Spring 2023. The survey will include foresters managing lands for state agencies, federal organizations, large private owners/managers, family forest owners, and forest managers from environmental NGOs.

In conjunction with the survey, an in-person summit is being **held on June 6-8, 2023, in Washington, DC.** The summit will include an evening reception on June 6, followed by a day- and-a-half of collaborative discussions on June 7 and 8. Led by Emily Huff, the summit will convene forestry thought leaders to discuss and review findings from the 2020 virtual summit, the new 2023 national survey, and feedback from each attendees' constituents, clients, and organization members. A second goal is to discuss strategies for communicating the R&D priorities derived from the survey, and finally to discuss how such national prioritization efforts should be coordinated in the future. This event is co-hosted by the Society of American Foresters and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities.

2. Build consortium of national forest-based organizations willing to support and lead a long-term communications effort about the need to address high-priority forest management problems.

Long-term success in reversing the decline in forestry R&D funding, capacity, and relevance will require a consortium of national forest-based organizations willing to lead and support a sustained communications effort. Results from the survey identifying high-priority forest management problems must be regularly and effectively communicated to the forest research community, research funding agencies (e.g., NIFA, USDA, NSF, etc.), policy makers, and other leaders about the need to solve on-the-ground forestry problems. It is also important to periodically update the survey to ensure that the priorities are always up to date.

See full report <u>NAUFRP Research Chair Report - Mar</u> 2023.pdf



McIntire-Stennis Projects to Know About

North Carolina State University

"Evaluating the Effectiveness of Public Incentive Programs for Forest Management and Restoration in North Carolina and the South: Implementation of Tree Planting and Forest Carbon Policies for Climate Change Mitigation." The team is examining the potential for forest carbon offset projects that involve tree planting, forest restoration, avoided deforestation, or timber harvest deferral across five southern states-North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, with plans to expand to Louisiana, Georgia, Maryland, and Puerto Rico. Carbon offset projects may also provide ancillary benefits of increasing biodiversity or other environmental services, as well as timber production. Investigators: Rajan Parajuli, Fred Cubbage, Robert Bardon, Erin Sills, Professors, NC State University; Burke Lipscomb, Courtney Deviney, Emily Romiti, Graduate/Students, NC State University; Kathleen McGinley, Stephanie Chizmar, USDA Forest Service; Richard Guldin, Consultant.

See McIntire-Stennis Research

Projects at NAUFRP institutions

summarized at

<u>McIntire-Stennis Projects – National As</u> <u>sociation of University Forest Resource</u> Programs (naufrp.org)

Stephen F. Austin State University

East Texas Pine Plantation Research: The East Texas Pine Plantation Research Project is a long-term research project conducted by the Arthur Temple College



of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin University. State For more than 40 years, ETPPRP has worked in coniunction with private landowners including Timber Investment Management Organizations and Real Estate Investment Trusts to investigate the factors affecting the management of loblolly and slash pine planta-

tions in EastTexas.

McIntire-Stennis funding has been used to support undergraduate and graduate students, under the guidance of Dr. Yuhui Weng, as they have collected and analyzed data from over 100 ETPPRP research plots. Over the years, ETPPRP has served as an educational re source for students completing internships and gathering information for theses and dissertations.

Additionally, their research has led to the development of models for predicting tree and stand characteristics such as volume, biomass, site index and incidence of fusiform rust. The ETPPRP has also utilized machinelearning techniques, remotely-sensed data and silvicultural activities such as thinning to improve growth and yield within pine plantations.

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President-Elect Katy Kavanagh recognizes President Janaki Alavalapati for his service on behalf of NAUFRP: NAUFRP General Assembly, September 2022, Balltimore, MD

XXVI IUFRO World Congress

The IUFRO World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden June 24-29, 2024 (<u>https://iufro2024.com</u>). The theme for the conference, *Forests and Society Towards 2050*, focuses on addressing forestry research needed to contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals. In addition to the plenary and technical sessions, a range of In-Congress and Pre- and Post -Congress excursions will be offered, including scientific and leisure options.