



February 2023

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The Michigan Forester

Official Newsletter of the Michigan Society of American Foresters



New Beginnings

by Krause

WELCOME to The Michigan Forester! It's been a few years, and several leadership changes have occurred since the last issue came out in Fall of 2017. We are happy to bring the newsletter back, and hope to share stories, research, resources, and more with our Michigan Foresters.

I encourage anyone who has a good story to submit them to MSAFCOMMUNICATIONS@gmail.com with as much detail as possible, and of course a photo to go along with! Any questions or support can be sent to this email as well.

Thank you to all of our Michigan SAF members who made it to conferences, participated in webinars, read countless emails, and were dedicated to being a member. We appreciate you!

Finally, I'd like to thank the state officers for their hard work in the year of 2022. Here's to Michigan SAF in 2023.



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New Professional Credentials

by eforester

National SAF is excited to announce two new professional credentials that SAF will be offering, beginning in 2023 and 2024—an urban and community forestry certification and a certification for forest technicians!

Over a decade ago, SAF developed a vision alongside our partners to help elevate professionals in the urban and community forestry space to the next level—providing options and opportunities to fulfill the needs of the diverse workforce operating in this sector. We’ve worked hard to ensure this vision would be realized.

We have conducted research with SAF members, subject area specialists, and key partners and stakeholders. This research included a gap analysis completed by the Certification Review Board, job analysis with focus groups facilitated by a testing partner per certification business and industry best practices and standards, and a market analysis conducted by a third-party firm.

Through this research, SAF recognized the opportunity and need to offer a forest technician certification as well.

The Certification Review Board (CRB)—the governing body of SAF’s certification program—will oversee the development of these credentials from eligibility criteria to maintenance requirements to professional standards.

SAF will start accepting applications for the urban and community forestry credential by the end of 2023. By the end of 2024, we will begin accepting applications for the forest technician credential.

Our Society values, recognizes, and will now elevate urban and community forestry professionals and professional forest technicians.

National SAF Call for Proposals

by eforester

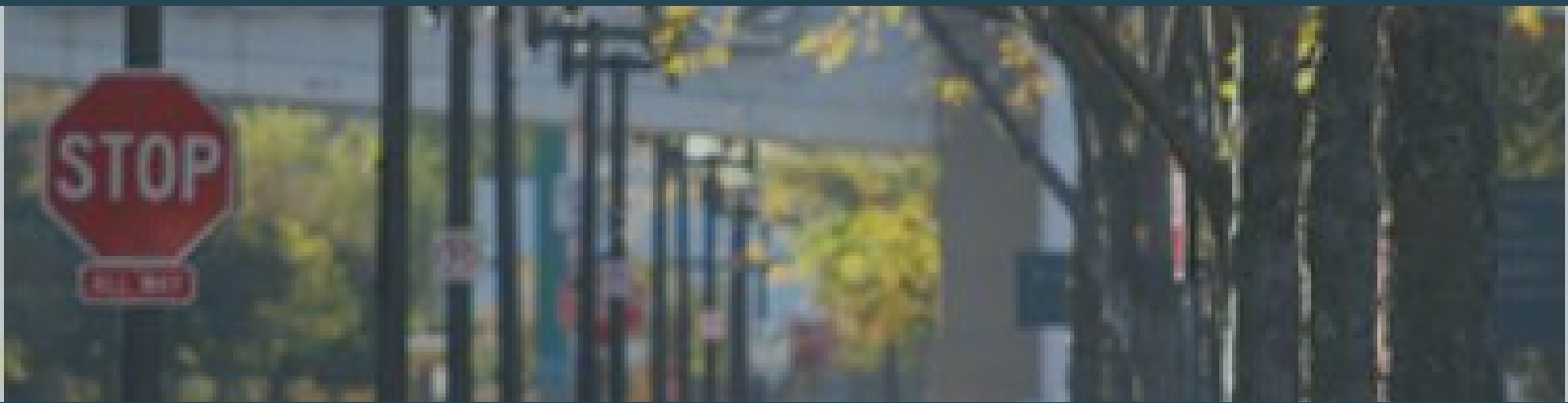
The call for proposals is now open for the National Society of American Foresters Convention in Sacramento!

March 31- deadline for presentations, science flashes, organized sessions, panels, workshops, and seminars

May 5- deadline for poster submissions

June 30- Notification deadline for all proposals.

[Check out eforester.org for more info!](https://eforester.org)



Meet your New Representative!

by Dr. Tara Bal, SAF Outgoing District V Rep

I am happy to congratulate Michigan SAF's own, Amber Marchel, as the next District 5 Representative on the SAF Board of Directors. Amber is area manager for Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands in L'Anse, MI and just completed serving a year as the Young Professional Representative on SAF's Board. She will serve as District Rep from 2023-2025, covering Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, bringing regional issues to the national stage! I have had the honor of serving in this position since 2020, and am more excited than ever to see the trajectory our organization is on, with membership growth, new credentials, #forestproud, and more opportunities for engagement coming our way. The future is bright for our professional communities and forests!



Save The Date: SAF 2023

October 25-28

Sacramento, CA

by Krause

The 2023 SAF National convention will be held **October 25-28, 2023 in Sacramento, CA**. This year's theme "Forestry: It's in Our DNA" is geared toward the proud legacy that forestry holds as well as the ongoing challenges and opportunities that natural resource professionals face. The subthemes for big name speakers and plenary sessions include fire, communication, ways of knowing, emerging markets, and the evolution of forestry.

As a member of the SAF 2023 Planning Committee, I am so excited to have Michigan folks at the convention. Sacramento is known as the City of Trees, with their urban forest ranked in the top 10 in the country.



More Important Dates

MSAF Spring 2023 Meeting

March 30-31

Grayling

18th Annual Sustainable Forestry Conference

April 19th

[Register Here](#)
(opens late Feb)

Great Lakes Conference - Managing Fisheries and Exploring Islands

March 7th

9:30am-3:45pm

Zoom

[Register Here](#)

MSAF Fall 2023 Meeting

September 28-29

Marquette

White Oak Webinar - Managing Oak for Wildlife

March 1st

3-4:30pm EST

[Register Here](#)

Board Member Feature

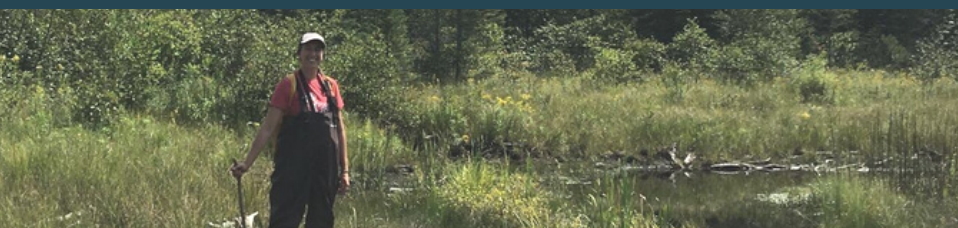
ELLIE JOHNSON

(she/her/hers)

District Forester

Leelanau Conservation District

MI SAF Executive Board Secretary



Ellie Johnson is a recent addition to the Michigan SAF Executive Board, joining as the secretary this past fall following Lisa Parker's long and successful ownership of the role (thank you for all your hard work, Lisa!). She is relatively new to Michigan and Society of American Foresters, moving to NW Michigan summer of 2021 and becoming a member a couple months later. Prior to the move, Ellie was a graduate student at Clemson University in South Carolina where she earned a masters of science in forest resources. Along with her thesis research on longleaf pine savanna restoration and environmental education, she was a teaching assistant to multiple split-level courses, assisted with the masters of fisheries and wildlife online degree track, served as president for the Natural Resources Graduate Student Association, and mentored numerous undergraduates in their own research work and presentations.

Currently Ellie works with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Forestry Assistance Program as a District Forester for Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Benzie Conservation Districts. She serves private landowners across those counties as a free resource to offer technical assistance on their land management decisions, and arms them with knowledge to meet their management goals and be good forest stewards. At this year's Michigan Association of Conservation District's Fall Convention she was awarded Technician of the Year, an honor that is voted upon and presented by members of Conservation District Employees of Michigan.

Throughout most of her adult life, Ellie has identified as being an educator and botanist as well as a forester, and she's incredibly thankful her current role as District Forester and her involvement with Michigan SAF allows her to continue to wear all three hats. A large portion of her day job is organizing and hosting public events, and she invites SAF members in her service area and statewide (there are plenty of fun virtual opportunities ahead!) to join in on the conversations. Along with this, Ellie is a member of Michigan Botanical Society, serves on the board of Traverse City Ultimate (frisbee), is a Big Sister, and plays the occasional open mic night at her local brewery.



MI SAF Board

Chair

Ben Schram

schramb1@michigan.gov

Vice-Chair

Joe Huber

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Secretary

Ellie Johnson

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Treasurer

Lee Mueller

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Awards Committee Chair

Craig Kasmer

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Communications Committee Chair

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CFE Coordinator

Rachel Tarpey

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Education Fund Raffle Chair

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Forest Science & Tech Comm Chair

Hilary Wells

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Program Committee Chair

Mike Smalligan

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Policy Committee Chair

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Members at Large

Don Howlett - dhowlett@chartermi.net

Joyce Angel - jangelling@gmail.com

Andy Henriksen - andy.henriksen@mi.usda.gov

Bernie Hubbard - forestmeister@sbcglobal.net

Brittany VanderWall -

bvanderwall@forestfoundation.org

Student Chapter Advisors

MTU: Tara Bal - tlbal@mtu.edu

Krause - elkrause@mtu.edu

MSU - Justin Kunkle



Michigan Fall Meeting Recap

by Ben Schram

From silviculture and technology to ecology and forest products, the Michigan Society of American Foresters fall conference delivered. The Island Resort and Casino in Harris was hopping in October as foresters from around the state listened to speakers discuss a variety of topics centered around a central theme – (Un)Constrained: Freedoms and Restrictions Working with Nature. Dr. Julia Burton taught us about structural complexity in changing forests. Mark Brooks from Landmark Spatial Solutions did a live demonstration on publicly available LIDAR data. The UP Land Conservancy sent their ace, Andrea Denham, to talk about conservation easements and permanent land protection in the Upper Peninsula. And, Bellerud was able to showcase tremendous investments in reinventing a Michigan pulp mill. We even had an opportunity to celebrate and honor some of our members for their tremendous contributions to Michigan’s forests and Michigan’s forestry community. Bill Cook and Brett Kuipers each received awards for Retired Forester of the Year and Young Forester of the Year, respectively. Matt Brooks was honored as Forester of the Year, or as member Mike Smalligan puts it, “Middle-Aged Forester of the Year”. You’re not going to want to miss the spring event. We’ll be at Kirtland Community College in Grayling on March 30-31. There will be something for everyone. Literally. That’s the working title of the conference. The agenda is not final but expect a mix of technical topics sprinkled with “TED Talk”-style presentations with big ideas about the future of forestry.

Featured Student Chapter

Howdy, my name’s Anthony Ciaramitaro. I’m a student at Michigan Tech and graduating this semester with my Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Since first arriving here in 2020, I have been a member of our forestry club. In 2021, I become president of the club which allowed me to take part in many adventures. Of which, our club attends all state and national SAF and forestry conferences. Which takes us all around Michigan and the United States. We brought several members to Baltimore and Washington DC last fall and we will be sending our members to California later this year. At home, we have been keeping ourselves busy felling and chopping firewood, planting and harvesting Christmas trees, and keeping our club alive. Following Covid, all student organizations took a hit, and following the loss of the famous Otter River Cabin, our SAF chapter has been in need of participation. In all, I believe we have done a good job at integrating our members into the industry and look forward to the future. However, I believe that connecting with new students and sharing the good times that this career path can bring is going to be key to keeping the club, and the industry, growing. Because without the past club members befriending myself, who knows where I would be. With that, let’s keep the forests beautiful.

–Anthony Ciaramitaro



Michigan SAF Opportunities

The Michigan Society of American Foresters offers members many opportunities to develop leadership skills, grow as a professional, and actively contribute to the growth and development of our profession. Members can serve on committees related to membership recruitment and retention, forest policy, communications, and finance.

MSAF is looking to fill two vacant roles on the State Board:

The **Membership Committee Chairperson** serves on the State Board and leads a team that works on recruitment of new members, retention of current members, and reactivation of members whose dues have lapsed. This is an exciting opportunity for problem solvers and critical thinkers. Like SAF nationally, MSAF struggles with a decreasing trend in membership. The State Board hopes the new Membership Committee Chairperson can develop creative solutions to reverse this trend. The Membership Committee has access to financial resources to implement their ideas.

The MSAF **Treasurer** serves as the custodian of the MSAF accounting records and accounts. The position receives and disburses all monies authorized by the State Board. They also serve as chairperson for the MSAF Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Policy and Procedures is a written document that outlines MSAF finances. It is a complete playbook for how to do the job. There will be a lot of support from the State Board, as well as previous Treasurers.

If either of these positions sound exciting to you, please reach out to the MSAF Chairperson, Ben Schram, at SchramB1@michigan.gov or 517-614-7362.

Resources

[Caught in the Krausefire](#) (on Spotify) is a podcast about natural resource topics around Michigan, the US, and even the world. Be sure to check it out/subscribe to learn more about research and other happenings in the natural resource world. Hosted by Krause.

[BeLEAF It or Not](#) released a new episode - *"You'll never guess what's down there... in the forest soil!"*

Soils determine what trees will grow in a particular climate. They can be "rich" or "poor" and are accurate predictors of what forest types and tree species can be expected. Soils are living things, filled with organisms both microscopic and large, as well as various amounts of rocks, sand, silt, and clay.

[Forest Her: the Next Wave of Conservation](#) is a short 25 minute documentary exploring the historical roles women have had throughout scientific forest management.

[The Dark White Forest documentary trailer](#) has been released. Follow the present day journey of the first black woman forester, Melody Mobley, as she shares her story. Details of when the full documentary comes out are unavailable at this time.

<https://www.michigansaf.org/>

<https://eforester.org/>