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# The Role of SAF

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*Society of American Foresters*

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# NEW STUDENT CHAPTERS of 1982

## The Role of SAF

by John C. Barber,

SAF Executive Vice-President

Membership in the Society of American Foresters is especially useful to students and recent graduates. A common cliché among jobhunters goes, "It's not what you know but who you know." I like to think that our profession, with its well-respected SAF accreditation of forestry programs, stresses education over contacts. But even in forestry, the people you know can make a big difference in your career.

Membership in SAF is one of the best places to meet high-level contacts you may not see when starting out. Participation in committees, working groups, and task forces offers a rare chance to show off your managerial abilities and to work as an equal with some of the leaders of the profession. Some of these leaders may end up as employer contacts for you.

Of course, SAF offers many direct benefits, such as a yearly free employment ad in the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY and a job placement service.

The monthly JOURNAL itself is especially valuable to someone starting out in the profession. Many recent grads, who find themselves caught up in the technical end of forestry at first, often give the JOURNAL little attention because the articles don't always apply directly to them. I think this is a big mistake for anyone who wants to rise quickly. First of all, it pays to know what's going on in other regions of the country. Chances are good that you won't remain in the region in which you were trained. Secondly, the JOURNAL offers a broad perspective of forestry, with a nationwide outlook on technical innovations, policies, and controversies. Any ambitious forester should use this material as special training for supervisory duties later. Provincial foresters do not make good supervisors. Lastly, there are few better places than the JOURNAL for getting a point across to the entire profession. The editors are anxious to see ideas for the popular back page "My Chance" column from students and recent grads.

The JOURNAL isn't the only place to keep up with the profession. SAF's Continuing Education Program recognizes members who attend technical programs--and tells the members' employers about their continuing achievements. And the SAF Regional Technical Conferences are among the best ways to catch up on new innovations. Also, benefits may be derived through attendance of an SAF National Convention, where thousands of foresters get together to learn ways to solve some of the most interesting problems.

So far, I've mostly mentioned personal benefits. But forestry counts on a large, active membership to foster foresters' conservation concerns. In the

spring of 1983 the Society launched a nationwide information effort to strengthen the public's image of foresters. Ralph Waite, star of television's "The Waltons," appears on television, radio, and printed messages that have been distributed across the country. And SAF continues to be active, locally and nationally, in educating legislators and testifying on environmental policies and legislation.

Personal benefits, public efforts--All this is why SAF membership is important to every forester in the nation.

## SAF Student Chapter

by Jerry Olson



L to R: Kristi Struchen, Amy Lippitt, Eric Johnson-Undergraduate representative, Reinee Hildebrandt-Graduate representative, Annette Breuer, Gail Hall. 2nd row: Paul Reid, Clint Kyle, Mark Hammer, Jerry Olson-Chairman, Mike Norris, Mark McCulloch, Tim Morrow, Greg VanForestry.

In May, 1982, our student chapter of the Society of American Foresters was formed. Our first activity of the year was in September, when eighteen students attended the SAF National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. We were pleased to have one of the largest student turnouts of the schools that attended.

In November, an employment forum was held which included sessions on "Employment Opportunities in Forestry" and "Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills."

The highlight of our 1983 activities was when Bob Hass, Iowa SAF Chairman, presented the Iowa SAF student chapter with their official charter. The presentation was preceded by a delicious chili supper coordinated by Dr. Joe Colletti. Chairman Hass presented the charter immediately following a speech in which he stressed the importance of having a positive attitude.