SAF National Convention

Ames Forestry Club

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SAF National Convention

“In my mind I’m goin’ to Carolina....”

This year’s Society of American Foresters National Convention was held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Six ISU forestry students attended from October 5-9, including Scott Dowling, Matt Latiolais, Mike McCauley, Megan Sweeney, Nicky Webb, and Spencer Wicks. After landing in Greensboro, NC, a new friend of ISU forestry was discovered. Waiting for his own flight was none other than RICHARD SIMMONS! The crazy, frizzy-haired, spandex-clad little man was filled with just as much energy as when he’s “sweatin’ to the oldies”, or on the Late Show with David Letterman. He organized the picture above and proceeded to give the gals in the group hugs and kisses, shook everyone’s hand, and gave Scott the new nickname of “mountain man”. For the next four days, weeks to come, and heck, the whole year, this brush with greatness was re-lived over and over again. Any forester at the convention who spoke with one of the Iowa Staters was likely to hear the tale of Richard.

The convention was a truly rewarding experience. Foresters from all around the nation gave presentations on just about every forestry topic possible. ISU covered some good intellectual ground by breaking from our tight-knit group and attending different presentations. The annual Alumni Social was an excellent gathering of current students and alumni. Stories were shared, and we learned about the great adventures awaiting our young minds after graduation. President of SAF and ISU alum, David Wm. Smith set a great example by demonstrating the importance of leadership and service to society, our profession, and forest ecosystems. After the business-like daytime sessions wrapped up, we all managed to kick back and enjoy the Winston-Salem nightlife with the rest of the student attendees. All in all, we went, we saw, we mingled, we learned, we had fun, and yes, we met RICHARD SIMMONS!!
ISU Forestry alumni and current students reunite during the alumni social at the Adam’s Mark hotel in Winston-Salem.

Nicky Webb, Matt Brewer (MS ‘02), and Bruce Wight (BS ’73) mingling.

Scott listens as Mike McCauley sends a heartfelt message to the imaginary crowd.

Mike McCauley speaks with Kenneth Obye.

Scott D. lookin’ sharp.

Mike McCauley, Spencer Wicks, Matt Latiolais, and Bruce Wright (BS ’73) at the Alumni Social.

Right: Kristen Held (BS ’80), Kenneth Obye, Megan Sweeney, and Scott Dowling socialize at the Alumni Social.

Above: Spencer Wicks pauses from listening to the keynote speaker, while Nicky is a) reading b) sleeping, or c) trying to fit her fist in her mouth. (you decide)