

Education Committee report: March 2021

National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)

Andrew J. Storer, Education Committee Chair

K-12 outreach

A report from K-12 outreach workshop at NAUFRP general assembly (Louisville: October 2019) is now available. It includes the results from a workshop held at the NAUFRPO general assembly, Fall 2019, Louisville, KY.

SAF Accreditation

Reminder from previous meeting:

- Ongoing accreditation (AY2019-2020) reviews will be completed.
- AY2020-2021 reviews will be postponed 1 year.
- AY2021-2022 reviews will be under the current standards

At the Spring NAUFRP Executive Committee meeting, it was requested that SAF include the NAUFRP education chair as a part of the discussion of accreditation standards review. Education Chair has now been appointed (January 2021) to the SAF Educational Policy Review Committee. The current work of this committee is focused on revising the accreditation standards for forestry, urban forestry, natural resources and ecosystem management, and forestry technology programs. Results of two surveys are being reviewed as revisions to the standards are considered. These surveys were completed by a pilot group and by a broader group of SAF members in Fall/Winter 2020/2021.

Timeline: The process started in January 2019, and has included workshops at the SAF national convention. The current effort is to incorporate feedback from surveys of membership, and develop a revised set of standards for presentation to the SAF Board of Directors.

Some preliminary general observations:

- Recognition that standards that are covered by the regional accreditation agencies do not need to be evaluated in SAF accreditation.
- Standards need to allow for creativity and innovation in programs.
- Standards need to be articulated such that they can be evaluated efficiently and effectively by visiting teams.

Request for information about Teacher Tours relating to forestry

The request for feedback about the status of teacher tours relating to forestry from the Florida Forestry Association was distributed. Responses have been collated by state and are available. These have also been shared with the Florida Forestry Association. A number of states have tours or workshops that aim to increase visibility of forestry to teachers and help integrate forestry topics into K-12 classrooms.

Global Forest Education Project

The education chair participated in a regional consultation on forest education which reviewed a draft North America report by the Forest Education Project formed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the International Union of Forest

Research Organizations (IUFRO), in cooperation with regional representatives, and funded by the Government of Germany. The US is represented on the project by Terry Sharik. NAUFRP was asked for a representative to this group by the US Forest Service, International Programs, and the education chair is serving in that role. The draft report is part of a global study of forest-related education that spans primary, secondary, and tertiary education, and involves teachers and administrators, students, and external organizations. It includes the outcomes of a survey that was administered in 2020 as well as discussion of some of the history of forest education in North America. The draft totals over 200 pages. Survey response numbers were lower than planned, in large part due to the survey being administered during the pandemic. The final draft was to be submitted at the end of February 2021. Once the final version is available, the summary will be shared with NAUFRP membership along with a link to the final report.

Participation request: Global Forest Education Project Video Initiative - Tell us why forest education is so important
From their website:

The deadline has been extended until the end of March for students, teachers, professors and school administrators to help us promote the [Global Forest Education Project](#) on social media by doing the following:

1. Using a phone or other video recording equipment, take a short video (less than 30 seconds) of yourself. Start with a short introduction (name, affiliation, country) and then in very simple language explain why forest education is so important in a sentence or two. Examples:
 - Forest education is vital to train a future generation of foresters who will sustainably manage the world's forests and the many benefits they provide for people, animals and the environment.
 - Forest education is important to help address misconceptions around forestry and help maximize the contributions of forests and trees to sustainable development.
2. Upload the video to your own social media channels and don't forget to include the project hashtag in your post: #GlobalForestEducation
3. Please tag us on Twitter and Facebook and also on any regional, national or local associations who you think might be interested in the project. Helpful tags:
 - Twitter: @FAOForestry @itto_sfm @IUFRO
 - Facebook: @ITTOSFM @IUFRO
4. Send us an email at NFOI@fao.org with the links to your post so we can help disseminate and share with partners!
5. Whether or not you are posting it on social media, we also encourage participants to share the videos with us directly by email at NFOI@fao.org via [WeTransfer](#) for potential promotion on the social media accounts listed above. A compilation of the videos will also be assembled and used for promotion, including at [International Conference on Forest Education](#).

Publication

Sharik, Terry L.; Storer, Andrew J.; Bal, Tara L.; Abbas, Dalia. 2020. Education as a driver of change in U.S. forests and the forest sector. In: Dockry, Michael J.; Bengston, David N.; Westphal, Lynne M., comps. Drivers of change in U.S. forests and forestry over the next 20 years. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-197. Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 84–99. <https://doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-P-197-paper9>.

Membership

- Gwendolyn D. L. Boyd, Associate Professor and Forestry Director, Alcorn State University
- Keith Gillless, Dean Emeritus and Professor, Rausser College of Natural Resources, UC Berkeley

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact storer@mtu.edu.