

# **Society of American Foresters**

## **Big Bend Chapter**

### **Spring Meeting**

4-11-01

The Big Bend Chapter held its first meeting of 2001 on April 11, 2001. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with a tour at the Florida Nature Conservancy's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve near Bristol, FL. The area is quite unique, containing rare plants, ravines, river bluffs, steepheads and spring-fed creeks. There were 17 people present including members and guests. Our host for the tour, Greg Seamon, began the tour describing the natural history of the area and the Nature Conservancy's goals and management strategies. Greg led the group on a trailer tour of a portion of the 6,000 acre preserve. The tour including visits to steepheads, ravines and a spectacular high bluff overlooking the Apalachicola River floodplain. Several stops included discussions of longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem restoration efforts. Topics included fire management strategies and various methods of restoring wiregrass.

The field trip and tour ended at 12:00 p.m. and the group adjourned to the Apalachee Restaurant in nearby Bristol for lunch and a business meeting. Minutes of the business meeting follow.

The business meeting started at 1:00 p.m., with 15 members present.

#### **Old Business**

- Leadership Meeting (Jan 01): Chair-Elect Richard Shelfer attended.
  - Handout – “SAF Florida Division 2001 Committee Charters” Discussion held about the contents with emphasis on the Membership Drive and Spring Symposium.

#### **New Business**

- SESAF Meeting
  - October 14-16, 2001 in Tallahassee (Ramada Inn)
  - This meeting will be landowner focused. How can we help landowners manage their land.
- Florida SAF website
  - Actual web address not available at meeting. Search for Florida and SAF.
  - Site is linked to the National SAF website.
  - Site managers are looking for news that they can place on the site. If you have any, please let them know.
- Merits of Florida Foresters Hall of Fame – discussion
  - One possibility is to be part of the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. There is not good forestry representation there. Now would be a good time to approach them about the addition of Foresters to that hall of fame.
  - Another possibility is an SAF sponsored Hall of Fame. The biggest need is a location. Any suggestions will be helpful.
- Big Bend Chapter Strategic Plan – handout
  - Meetings

- April – The Nature Conservancy: Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass restoration
- June – Indoor meeting: Conservation Easements, Legacy Program
- September – T&E Species, Urban Interface, Drought
- November – Cypress Regeneration
- Membership Drive – Discussion held on incentives and encouraging members to participate in finding new members.
- Fundraising – Discussion held on different options including raffles, silent auction, and sale of wooden pen/pencil sets.
- Community Service – Members need to get involved with our communities.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.