



Walk in the Forest

Society of American Foresters
American Forest Foundation

HANDBOOK

2002



"WALK IN THE FOREST" HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The Walk in the Forest program is a wonderful opportunity for the public to experience forests and forestry hands-on. On the third Friday in October—October 18, 2002—we encourage local units and state chapters to join with local educators and landowners in National Walk in the Forest Day. Or pick a day that works for you!

The guidelines in this kit will help you plan your event. A planned project is a successful project! The length and detail of the walk will depend on your audience. For guidance, contact Jeff Ghannam, SAF Director of Public Affairs, at ghannamm@safnet.org or 301-897-8720 ext. 135; Michelle Harvey, CF, SAF Director of Science and Education, at harveyem@safnet.org or 301-897-8720 x 119; or Dave Chase, PLT Deputy Director at 202-463-2592 or dchase@plt.org.

GOALS OF WALK IN THE FOREST

1. Inform the public of the many benefits of trees and forests—*aesthetic, recreational, ecological, environmental, and economic.*
2. Increase public awareness of the dynamic nature of the forest, the changing landscape, and how wildlife species, plant communities, and humans respond to changes.
3. Increase the public's understanding of foresters—*help the public to understand that foresters are uniquely qualified to help maintain the integrity of forest environments.*
4. Emphasize that foresters are trained professionals who understand trees, forests, and natural resource systems. Teach the public that foresters work with other professionals to manage, enhance, and conserve our forests that provide wood and paper products, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, places to recreate, and aesthetic beauty.

KEY FORESTRY CONCEPTS AND MEASURES OF UNDERSTANDING

1. *Forest environments are among the most complex, resilient, and varied of our ecosystems.*
 - People engage in critically thinking about forest environments.
 - People understand that forestry is by its very nature integrative and multi-disciplinary.
 - People can describe at least three components of a forest environment.
 - People can describe how change (natural and human-induced) in one component may affect other components of a forest environment, and why interactions among components matter.
2. *Forest environments are subject to competing demands.*
 - People engage in critically thinking about forest environments.
 - People understand that forestry is by its very nature integrative and multi-disciplinary.
 - People can describe different uses and demands on forest environments and how forest management can address these demands.
3. *Use of the forest environment does not necessarily compromise its integrity.*
 - People engage in critically thinking about forest environments.
 - People can describe different uses and demands on forest environments and how forest management can address these demands
 - People can give examples of how the use of forest resources has or has not damaged the quality of the forest environment.

PLANNING A WALK IN THE FOREST

BEFORE THE WALK

1. Establish Objectives

- ❑ Set your objectives, taking into consideration the goals of the walk.
- ❑ Determine target audience (elementary, middle, or high school students; educators; youth groups; clergy; Boy and Girl Scouts; civic groups; media; legislators/local government officials; environmental and/or conservation groups; landowners; general public).
- ❑ Consider audiences that may have different viewpoints or values about the forest. Consider whether these groups should attend the same walk or if the walks need to be separate.
- ❑ What do you want participants to learn? Do you want to address a current “hot” issue or provide a general overview?
- ❑ What two or three major points do you want visitors to know or understand? (local/national/international issues) (See list of talking point ideas)
- ❑ Joining with local, state, and federal agencies, forest industry, loggers, consultants, conservation organizations and volunteer groups may help develop valuable partnerships.

2. Select a Location

- ❑ Will the site support your objectives? Is it easily accessible? Do you need permission or a permit to use the site? Is there adequate parking?
- ❑ Consider a seed orchard, nursery, planting or harvesting operation, research station, etc.
- ❑ Other options include a park, tree farm, industrial forest, urban forest, woods on school grounds, national forest, wooded backyard, etc.
- ❑ SAF state societies, divisions, and chapters are covered by the SAF National Office’s liability insurance (for details contact SAF Finance and Administration Department, (301) 897-8720, ext. 103).

3. Plan for the Third Friday in October—October 18, 2002

- ❑ A common date facilitates national event publicity. SAF selected an October date based on school schedules, weather, and fall foliage in many areas of the country. If you can’t participate in the national Walk in the Forest Day, consider another fall date to take advantage of colorful foliage or a spring date to tie in with Arbor Day or Earth Day.
- ❑ Make provisions for a rain date.

4. Develop a Plan

- ❑ Elicit support from SAF unit members, PLT facilitators, Tree Farmers, or others involved.
- ❑ Designate one person as the coordinator to direct planning and to have primary responsibility for the program.
- ❑ Decide what you will show. Don’t try to do too much. Keep it simple and not too technical
- ❑ Decide whether to direct guests to learning stations staffed by experts or keep the entire group together with one or more leaders talking. Have appropriate hands-on materials.
- ❑ Consider combining the walk with a picnic lunch sponsored by a local company, restaurant, or other organization.
- ❑ Contact your state forestry department, a forest products company, or a local nursery and ask for donations of seedlings or seed packets with planting instructions for participants.
- ❑ Develop a plan to attract media to your event (personal contacts, press releases and direct invitations).
- ❑ Seek local sponsors and apply for grant funds to offset costs.

5. Establish Itinerary (attach sample agendas)
 - ❑ Layout location of each station and assess material needs.
 - ❑ Remember to include rest stops, briefing periods, and refreshments.
 - ❑ Stick close to the schedule but be flexible.
 - ❑ Consider a picnic lunch during a break or at the end of the walk (or guests can bring bag lunches and SAF can provide beverages).
6. Arrange Parking and Transportation if Necessary (bus, van, other)

Time Frame Suggested: Four to six weeks in advance

7. Invite Guests
 - ❑ Make contact one to two months in advance for school groups.
 - ❑ Send press releases (sample enclosed) about your event to local media. Have a designated spokesperson.
 - ❑ Distribute invitations (sample enclosed) listing date, time, location, length, why your audience should participate, dress requirements, etc.
 - ❑ For specific guest lists, request an RSVP; make reminder phone calls.
 - ❑ If your walk is open to the public, send press releases to local media, list it in community calendars, hang signs/posters in libraries, stores, etc. Include daytime and evening contact names, phone numbers, e-mail address, and website if available.
8. Prepare Information Packet to Give to Walk Participants
Consider including these items:
 - ❑ Walk schedule and map of walk area
 - ❑ Briefing paper with key forestry terms, issues to be discussed, etc.
 - ❑ Photographs (i.e. harvesting methods)
 - ❑ Names of SAF members involved and SAF member contact information for follow-up
 - ❑ State forest facts (available from state agencies or associations)
 - ❑ SAF brochures

Time Frame Suggested: Two weeks in advance

9. Walk Through Planned Itinerary
 - ❑ Rehearse!
 - ❑ Calculate travel time needed between stops.
 - ❑ On remote forest roads, flagging turns and stops can be helpful.
 - ❑ Be comfortable with your location and material; do trail maintenance if necessary.
 - ❑ Watch for potential obstacles, distractions, safety hazards, etc.
 - ❑ Observe: will the walk be interesting? Does it meet your objectives?
 - ❑ Revise itinerary as needed.

Time Frame Suggested: One week in advance

10. Make Nametags
 - ❑ Use color-coded tags to distinguish leaders from guests.
 - ❑ Coordinate lunch details
 - ❑ Send reminders to presenters on times, what is expected, final schedules, etc.
 - ❑ Collect helpful items: noisemaker (air horn) to rotate stations; bug spray; extra toilet paper; hand wipes; first aid kit; camera; etc.
 - ❑ Collect giveaways from donors.

DAY OF WALK

1. Pre-Walk

- Arrive early.
- Welcome guests and have them sign in with name, address, and emergency contact information.
- Distribute nametags and walk information packet.
- Give brief introduction with information about SAF and an explanation of the site—why it's a tree farm, park, etc., and the plan for the walk.
- Allow time for brief question and answer session.

2. Proceed with Walk in Accordance with Schedule

- Stick to the schedule while respecting individual needs.
- Avoid technical jargon; answer all questions candidly.
- Be sure to listen carefully and avoid doing all the talking.
- Remember safety precautions.
- Involve the audience i.e. ask open-ended questions about the topic rather than a question that could be answered with a yes or no.
- Be animated.
- Have good eye contact with your audience.
- Most importantly, remember to make the walk fun!

3. Conclusion

- Give a summary or a fun quiz covering the tour, highlights, etc.
- Allow time for a final question and answer session.
- Distribute and collect evaluation forms.
- Encourage additional contact with SAF members. Offer to show SAF's video, "Foresters: Growing Forests for Our Future" at a later date as a grand wrap-up to the event.
- Thank guests for attending and make sure all guests have transportation.

AFTER THE WALK

1. Send thank you letters to all participants and volunteers
2. Answer unresolved questions immediately by phone or mail
3. Evaluate guests' attitudes: did the tour have a positive effect?
4. Evaluate what worked and what didn't
5. Send information and photographs to The Forestry Source, local SAF newsletter, employer's publication, local newspaper, etc.

EXAMPLE #1: WALK IN THE FOREST FOR CHILDREN— Supplemental Guidelines

This outline supplements the *Planning a Walk in the Forest* guidelines. These guidelines are well suitable for the elementary grade level, but can also be adapted for other grade levels.

GOALS FOR A CHILDREN’S WALK IN THE FOREST

Through a Walk in the Forest for children, SAF members can teach children about forests, forestry, and foresters. Parents and educators also benefit from exposure to the information presented to the children.

1. Provide children with a positive outdoor, hands-on learning experience about forests, natural resources, forestry, and foresters.
2. Increase children’s awareness, appreciation of, and respect for, nature, forests, and foresters.
3. Expose children to the many benefits of forests—biological, aesthetic, recreational, educational, environmental, and economic.
4. Expose children to the many aspects of forestry, e.g., forest management, fire prevention, forest health, forest products, forest ecology and wildlife management.
5. Provide educators and youth leaders with contact information. Offer to show the SAF video, “Foresters: Growing Forests for Our Future” or to be a “subject expert/resource specialist” for the school or organization.

BEFORE THE WALK

1. Decide on a School or Organization; Contact Educator or Youth Leader to Suggest a Walk
 - Contact an environmental education or science educator or youth leader, district science coordinator, or principal and set up a meeting to discuss the Walk.
2. Meet with Educator or Youth Leader
 - Decide when to hold the walk if Walk in the Forest Day is not an option.
 - Decide where to hold the walk (on or near school grounds is best to avoid excessive travel).
 - Decide which grade levels you wish to target and how many students can attend.
3. Establish Objectives for the Walk
 - Decide how the Walk can best support the goals of SAF and the school or youth organization.
 - Encourage educators or youth leaders and SAF volunteers to develop questions for students to answer at each station.

PRE-WALK INTRODUCTION

NOTE: Provide sample activities that differ from activities the day of the Walk. If you are unable to make classroom visits, offer to train educator or youth leaders in a Project Learning Tree educator workshop.

1. Visit the Class One to Two Weeks Before the Walk
 - ❑ SAF members can meet the students and vice versa.
 - ❑ Help the educator or youth leader set the stage for the walk, help capture student interest, and help instill curiosity and enthusiasm.
2. Suggestions for Pre-Walk Classroom Activities
 - ❑ Conduct a Project Learning Tree (PLT) or similar activity (www.plt.org, click on http://www.plt.org/html/resources/state_coord.html for local contacts, or call 1-888-889-4466).
 - ❑ Read a forestry-related book or show a video or slide show (consider the SAF video, “Foresters: Growing Forests for Our Future”).
 - ❑ Conduct an experiment.
 - ❑ Have children brainstorm on how many items come from trees and then show samples and discuss some of the products.
 - ❑ Briefly explain what a forester does.
 - ❑ Show the class an increment borer, explain how it is used, and tell them they will see how it works during the walk.
 - ❑ Have children start a leaf collection and explain that on the walk they can find the trees that the leaves came from and learn their names.
 - ❑ Ask the children to explain what trees are and why they are important.
 - ❑ Leave worksheets/PLT activities with educator or youth leader to prepare the students before the walk. (Check with your state PLT coordinator for the policy on distributing PLT activities—not the same activities that the SAF volunteers plan to use)
 - ❑ Ask the children what they would like to know about forests. Have each student write answers to the following on an index card along with their name: “What do I want to know about forests or foresters?” Have the educator or youth leader save the questions for the walk or the post-walk follow-up.
 - ❑ Conduct a pre- and post-walk test of knowledge/attitudes about forests.

DAY OF THE WALK

Responsibility of the school or organization

- ❑ Provide at least two adults per group (i.e. one teacher and one parent)
 - ❑ Encourage students to dress properly (long pants and closed-toe shoes)
 - ❑ Have lunches divided into groups.
 - ❑ Bring a school nurse or someone else to distribute medication and first aid.
1. Focus the Children’s Attention Without Delay:
 - ❑ Set the tone of the walk immediately.
 - ❑ Involve everyone. Ask questions, listen, and point out sights and sounds.
 - ❑ Since children are not used to watching nature closely, find things that interest them and lead them into the spirit of observation. Let them know that their findings are interesting. Remind them to respect the land.
 2. Possible Activities during the Walk:
 - ❑ Conduct PLT activities.
 - ❑ Count tree age using growth rings and/or an increment borer.

- ❑ Show how to measure trees, determine board feet, etc.; relate this to how many trees it takes to build a house.
- ❑ Show how dead trees are home to a lot of living creatures.
- ❑ Explain how seeds are carried (by wind, water, squirrels, etc.).
- ❑ Explain the types of food that come from trees (maple syrup, etc.).
- ❑ Show a recently planted area with seedlings sprouting and explain the life cycle of trees.
- ❑ Identify the living creatures in the woods.
- ❑ Do leaf rubbings with crayons and explain the parts of a leaf.
- ❑ Show the parts of a tree and compare them to vital human functions. Explain that trees essentially use their leaves for breathing and then ask what else a tree needs to live. Someone will probably mention eating and you can explain how trees “eat” through their roots.
- ❑ Show the kids an insect gall and explain how the tree has encased encroaching insect eggs.
- ❑ Find a hole or pruned branch and show how the tree covers the wound.

3. Conclusion

- ❑ Ask children what they learned and liked best about the walk.
- ❑ Question and answer session.
- ❑ Children love souvenirs! Give away SAF and AFF items like bumper stickers, etc. You can also solicit trinkets from local forest-related companies. (give to educator or youth leaders to hand out once they return to school)
- ❑ Give educator or youth leaders/kids/parents an evaluation form to complete.
- ❑ Schedule a follow-up classroom session.

POST-WALK FOLLOW-UP

Suggestions for a Follow-Up Visit to the Class:

- ❑ Ask questions and get feedback.
- ❑ Use the index cards to make sure the children can answer the questions they originally asked about forests.
- ❑ Have the kids draw pictures or collaborate on a class mural depicting what they learned on the walk.
- ❑ Conduct a post-walk test to see if knowledge/attitude has changed.
- ❑ Help the children plant trees on school grounds.
- ❑ Show the SAF video, “Foresters: Growing Forests for Our Future.”
- ❑ Leave worksheets or PLT activities for educator or youth leader’s future use.
- ❑ Encourage educator or youth leaders to contact SAF or AFF for assistance in the future.
- ❑ Have the children write thank you notes to SAF and AFF members involved.

NOTE: If you cannot do a follow-up visit, research projects could be assigned by the educator or youth leader based on what the students learned from the walk. Have educator or youth leaders give children a follow-up quiz.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR WORKING WITH KIDS

1. It is better to interpret and aid in their exploration rather than just give information.
2. If a child comes up with a wrong answer, congratulate the child for a good try and help guide to correct results.
3. Be aware of teachable moments. i.e. if attention strays to follow a woodpecker or other animal, incorporate it into the walk—why is the woodpecker hammering that tree? Why that tree?
4. Use superlatives: that tree has the biggest cones, the most purple flowers, the most interesting trunk. Everyone reacts enthusiastically to superlatives.
5. Satisfy the child's need to touch, smell, and taste (with a disclaimer of danger) where these senses present themselves. The smell of sassafras or juniper, the taste of maple syrup, or the fact that it took 12 of us to hug that tree all are ways for children to code their memories with positive associations to trees.
6. One challenge in teaching kids is getting them to look beyond what they see by making what they learn relate to what they know. For example, if you say, "We rely on family, friends, and doctors to help us stay healthy, right?," they will nod. Build on that example to show that these relationships exist in the forest ecosystems: "Trees rely on each other to get the right amount of sun and shelter, and to keep moisture in the soil; on animals to spread their seeds; and on bugs, insects, and fungus to return nutrients of dead trees to the soil, giving other trees life!"
7. Many books are available to help teach about trees and forests. Try *Sharing Nature with Children, Parents/Teachers/Nature Awareness Guidebook* by Joseph B. Cornell.
8. Sample questions asked by 4th and 5th graders:
 - How many acres are in the forest? How many trees? Have you counted the trees?
 - What tree is the biggest in the forest? Can we plant a tree?
 - Are there animal tracks in the forest? How does wildlife use trees?
 - Do Koala bears live in the forests? Are there bears and skunks?
 - Are deer living in the forest? Can we feed the deer our lunch?
 - I want to walk in the mud. Can we get dirty?

(Note: many of these ideas came from Dennis Bell's article in the December/January 1993 issue of *Urban Forests*)

EXAMPLE #2: WALK IN THE FOREST FOR MEDIA, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND OPINION LEADERS—Supplemental Guidelines

This outline supplements the *Planning a Walk in the Forest* guidelines.

BEFORE THE WALK

1. Establish Your Objectives

- ❑ Do you want to explain a local forestry-related issue? Teach reporters about forestry or foresters? Sway opinion? Increase awareness of the forestry profession?

2. Decide Where You Will Hold the Walk and What You Will Cover

- ❑ Since reporters probably will not attend a walk just for educational purposes, include a “hook” to attract their attention:
- ❑ Consider addressing a current “hot” issue. If you can’t find a hot issue, consider hosting a walk for legislators and inviting the media. This usually attracts reporters, and legislators like the media exposure.
- ❑ Consider inviting a well-known resident (writer, executive of a forest products company, professor, researcher) to be a walk speaker.

3. Develop List of Media to Invite

- ❑ Concentrate on local media unless you are focusing on a national issue.
- ❑ Consider:
 - TV, radio, newspaper, and magazine reporters
 - environmental/forestry reporters, outdoor freelance reporters
 - nature/science reporters
 - business/economic reporters
 - feature/local news reporter
 - newsletter editors of local outdoor groups, homeowner associations, other groups

4. Invite Media, Elected Officials, and Opinion Leaders

- ❑ Contact three to six weeks in advance.
- ❑ Send personal invitations with background information on forestry, what will be seen on the walk, and who the speakers are; request RSVP.
- ❑ Follow-up with a phone call, asking if they received the invitation and answer any questions.
- ❑ Make enthusiastic reminder phone calls a few days before the event.

DAY OF THE WALK

1. Introduction

- ❑ Welcome guests as they arrive. Have guests sign in with emergency contact information.
- ❑ Distribute nametags.
- ❑ Explain what type of forest you are in and why.
- ❑ Distribute materials (consider SAF brochures, *SAF Briefings on Forest Issues*, forest fact sheets).
- ❑ Introduce all speakers.
- ❑ Review the walk agenda and answer preliminary questions.

2. Proceed with Walk

- ❑ Allow time for questions, discussion, and photographs.

3. Conclusion

- ❑ Question and answer session.
- ❑ Distribute and collect evaluation forms.

AFTER THE WALK

1. Send Thank You to All Media in Attendance

- ❑ Offer SAF as a source of information.
- ❑ Provide any pertinent follow-up materials from the walk.

2. Monitor Press Coverage

- ❑ Send copies of articles, photos, or a description of radio and TV broadcasts, etc., to the SAF Communications Manager.

EXAMPLES OF WALK IN THE FOREST PROJECTS

SAF members reported that school children were eager for information and that all participants learned a lot thanks to the hands-on nature of the walks. Many chapters are planning to do walks more often. How can the 2002 Walk in the Forest work for you?

ALABAMA

Tom Carignan hosted a Walk for Cub Scouts on his 10-acre wooded lot and in a stand of bottomland hardwoods in Pike Road, Alabama. The event was an opportunity for Scouts to earn the Cub Scout Forester activity badge. Tom reviewed forestry information from Cub Scout books, and demonstrated how to measure a tree's diameter, height, and age. The Scouts answered questions on tree identification, tree rings, wood, plants, and wildlife to qualify for the badge.

SAF's Alabama Cahaba Chapter took a group of home-schooled students on a Walk in Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham. Forestry consultants and forestry professionals from businesses conducted interactive demonstrations on forestry.

CALIFORNIA

The Student Chapter of the College of the Redwoods held a Walk on Saturday, September 25. The group advertised with flyers and sent announcements to the local media. SAF members and student chapter members showcased forestry concepts and practices at the Nature Trail in the College of the Redwoods School Forest.

NorCal SAF's High Sierra Chapter held their third annual Walk in conjunction with Southern California Edison. The event included booths on forestry related topics and attracted about 130 people. Edison employees led walks on one of their new interpretative trails.

COLORADO

The Mile High Chapter held their third annual Walk on September 24 at Lookout Mountain Nature Center. Participants learned about tree measurement, tree identification, forest soils, fire ecology, and forest habitat. Foresters at the fire ecology station dressed in full nomex and brought a fire engine. The walk concluded with discussions of forest management. The Longs Peak Chapter held its Walk on September 25 at Pingree Park, west of Ft. Collins. Students who completed all of the stations received a free tree seedling to take home and plant.

FLORIDA

The Caribbean Chapter sponsored a Walk for teachers, politicians, and local media. Ten SAF members helped with the event at the Lake George Wildlife Management Area north of Pierson, Florida. Attendees visited activity stations and learned about forest economics, the scientific study of trees, and how to keep forests healthy. They also took part in discussions on logging programs. Volusia County Schools awarded CEU credit to teachers who attended the event, which was covered by Daytona Beach's *The News-Journal* and the *Orlando Sentinel*.

The Big Bend Chapter hosted 140 people at Lake Talquin State Forest in Tallahassee. Hiking trails provided the foresters plenty of opportunity to "show and tell" forestry via a tour of an old turpentine camp, restoration of longleaf pine/wiregrass sandhill communities, and the diverse vegetation of the bottomland hardwoods. The chapter's contact at the Division of Forestry was so impressed with the event that she joined SAF!

GEORGIA

Cub Scouts were treated to a Walk at the Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Georgia. Foresters shared their insights on what it means to be a forester and the many ways forests are important to people and wildlife. The group learned about forests, forest management, forests as a resource, trees, and even saw a copperhead snake!

GREAT PLAINS

Harnessing the resources of local forestry organizations, the Great Plains SAF organized a “Prairies, Wildlife and Woods” event for 5th graders at the Oak Valley Wildlife Management Center near Battle Creek, Nebraska. The 306 students and 26 adults who participated offered very positive comments. Publicity for the event included a color flyer sent to schools and a photograph in their local *Norfolk Daily News*. Each class received a fresh cut cedar board, cedar tree cookies, and materials about natural resources for class programming.

MAINE

Kent Nelson led a high school ecology class on a Walk in the Fort James Demonstration Forest in Old Town, Maine. Kent reviewed the ecology class syllabus so he could relate classroom topics to the event. Kent provided a history of the site and PLT Outdoor Classroom, cited benefits of belonging to a professional society such as SAF, and summarized the Walk in the Forest program, explaining how foresters care for and manage forests. Students learned about succession, ecological roles of specific trees, biodiversity, and the importance of coarse woody debris.

MONTANA

SAF member Ed Stoots and two volunteers held a Walk in Lewistown, Montana in conjunction with the Montana State University Extension Service of Fergus County and Pyramid Lumber. Ten landowners learned about BMPs, harvest techniques, streamside management, the forest ecosystem, and modern logging technology. A pre-event announcement appeared in the *Lewistown News-Argus*, and media were invited to the event. School children will be invited to next year’s event.

NEW YORK

Shawn Spencer participated in a “Saturday Science” program put on by the Elementary School Science Association. Saturday Science is an annual event that aims to educate teachers about science and related activities. This year, Shawn conducted three sessions for 97 teachers. The sessions included showing an SAF video, background information about using New York City Parks as a natural addition to the classroom, hands-on activities in natural resource education, and a question and answer session.

OREGON

The World Forestry Center and the Portland Chapter of SAF sponsored a Walk on Saturday, September 25. Ten volunteers provided equipment demonstrations and guided tours for 40 people at the Magness Memorial Tree Farm, owned and operated by the World Forestry Center.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Plateau Chapter hosted a Walk for 176 fourth graders from the Titusville Area School District. The Walk was held at Drake Well Park, site of the world’s first producing oil well. Students learned about Pennsylvania’s forests, shrub and wildflower identification, wetlands, and forest ecology. Seven presenters, including five SAF members, helped with the event. Two local newspapers and a television station attended.

RHODE ISLAND

Paul Dolan and Chris Modisette helped to organize Walk in the Forest events at various locations in Rhode Island. Many of the Walks were hour-long tours for elementary through high school students. Event participants were treated to wildlife games, Project WILD events, tree identification, increment boring demonstrations, management issues, and a tour of the Arcadia Management Area.

TEXAS

Texas SAF held a Walk in the Forest at Atlanta State Park. Another Walk was held at Daingerfield State Park. The attendance for both Walks totaled 900 4th grade students!

WASHINGTON

Washington State SAF members hosted a “Walkabout” with a theme of “Endangered Species in Our Own Backyard.” The event took place at Weyerhaeuser’s Boise Creek Interpretive Trail near Enumclaw, Washington. The leaders taught the group about forest history, forest management, wildlife and endangered species, regulations and BMPs, regeneration, and fish.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

1. Explain the history of forestry in the United States, your state, or the history of SAF.
2. Focus on current issues, such as wetlands, old growth forests, endangered species, etc.
3. For legislators, focus on a current local issue that they are involved with.
4. Explain tree and landscape care around the house and yard. Discussion topics can include climate impacts, tree placement, and its impact on energy use, root damage, use of native tree species in landscaping, etc.
5. Show an overcrowded planting and discuss why it was planted that way, what is done differently today, management techniques needed to improve the health and growth of these trees, and the consequences of these management actions.
6. Show a forest with a high incidence of disease and discuss disease control methods, reforestation needs, erosion potential, utilization of the diseased trees, and impacts on herbaceous vegetation.
7. Discuss the current status/health of forests in your state or local area, and tell guests how they can help keep forests healthy.
8. Explain how wildlife in a particular area benefits from forest management.
9. Show a plantation with trees planted at different spacings and explain reasons for this.
10. Observe a harvest operation in progress, explain what is happening, and point out measures being taken to avoid harming the surrounding environment.
11. If forested wetlands are common in your area, show the compatibility of good silvicultural practices with the wetland environment, or visit a wetland area harvested 3-5 years ago to demonstrate how quickly such areas regrow.
12. Local ecology
13. Habitat restoration
14. Role of fire in forests and forest management
15. Wildland-urban interface issues

INVITATION

● Sample invitation for civic or other organizations, legislators, city officials, etc. Revise and print on letterhead. Add organizational or Walk in the Forest logos ●

You are Invited...

...to “Walk in the Forest” with the Society of American Foresters and Project Learning Tree!

Please join us for a Walk in the Forest to learn about trees, forests, the environment, and how professionals care for the forest and educate our children. We will follow a trail through White Mountain State Park in Simpson, Pennsylvania.

DATE: Friday October 18, 2002

TIME: 9 am-noon

Bring a bag lunch for a post-walk picnic.
Beverages will be provided.

PLACE: White Mountain State Park.

Meet at the visitors' center.

RSVP: by October 6

Joe Smith—(123) 456-7890 or
Susan Green—(123) 567-8901

DRESS: Casual and weather appropriate (sturdy walking shoes or boots recommended)

RAINDATE: Friday, October 18 (same time, same place)

SPONSORED BY: White Mountain Chapter of
the Society of American Foresters and
Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree

PRESS RELEASE

Use this press release or develop your own to publicize your Walk in the Forest. Fill in the underlined information and print on appropriate letterhead. Add SAF/AFF/PLT/TF and/or Walk in the Forest logos. ●

For Immediate Release Contact:
October 6, 2002 (W) --
(H) --

Local Foresters Take Fourth Graders on a “Walk in the Forest”

The White Mountain Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) in partnership with Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree (PLT) will take fourth graders and teachers from Newtown Elementary School on a Walk in the Forest on Friday, October 18, 2002 from 9 am-noon at Will and Edna Hamilton’s Tree Farm. SAF members will lead the children on a Walk in the Forest and teach them about forests and trees and how foresters work to keep the forests healthy and thriving. Teachers will receive an introduction to the award-winning Project Learning Tree curriculum while the children participate in several PLT activities.

The Walk in the Forest program is part of a national campaign coordinated by the Society of American Foresters and the American Forest Foundation, sponsor of PLT and the American Tree Farm System. SAF members, PLT participants, and Tree Farmers across the country will take school children, media, lawmakers, neighbors, and others on a Walk in the Forest on October 18.

Through the Walk in the Forest program, children and teachers will learn about forests and their importance to the environment. The walk will also help the children develop an appreciation of, and respect for, nature.

The Society of American Foresters is the scientific and educational association representing nearly 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals in the United States. The Society’s primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of all society. The White Mountain chapter has about 120 members. The majority of members are employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources- Bureau of Forestry; others work for XXX Corporation, or are professors or researchers at Pennsylvania State University.

PLT helps students learn how to think, not what to think, about the environment. PLT, a program of the American Forest Foundation, partners with international, national, state and local partners. PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. Last year, PLT trained more than XX teachers in Pennsylvania.

Note to editors: You are invited to cover this event. We expect very interesting comments and photo opportunities from the children.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

- Revise or develop your own, print on letterhead, and send it after your walk. Add SAF/AFF/PLT/TF or Walk in the Forest logos ●

October 20, 2002

Sue Jones (get name if possible)
Editor, Daily News
220 Jones Bridge Road
Simpson, PA 17806

Dear Ms. Jones:

As a member of the White Mountain Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, in partnership with Pennsylvania Project Learning Tree, I had the pleasure yesterday of taking fourth grade students and teachers from Newtown Elementary School on a Walk in the Forest in Will and Edna Hamilton's Tree Farm. It was a joy to see the children get excited when they saw a woodpecker pecking a tree, or a deer grazing in the forest.

Some of these students and teachers had never been in the woods and enjoyed nature up close, so it was not only a wonderful learning opportunity, but also a personally enriching experience for the children. On the Walk in the Forest, children learned about forests and their importance to the environment, while their teachers learned some new ways of incorporating nature into the classroom.

The Walk in the Forest program is part of a national campaign coordinated by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the American Forest Foundation. On October 18, SAF members, PLT educators, children, media, lawmakers, and neighbors around the country visited Tree Farms and other sites as participants in the eleventh annual Walk in the Forest.

SAF is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Its mission, in part, is to advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

PLT, a program of the American Forest Foundation, helps students learn how to think, not what to think, about the environment. PLT, one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad, trained more than XX teachers in Pennsylvania.

Teaching children about forests and the environment is just one of many community involvement activities that SAF members are involved in around the country. We will be happy to take others on a Walk in the Forest, and hope to sponsor another walk in the near future.

Sincerely,
Susan Green
Chair, White Mountain SAF Chapter

"WALK IN THE FOREST" EVALUATION

Thank you for joining us on our Walk in the Forest today. We hope you enjoyed the experience. To help us evaluate the success of our walk, please answer the following questions. A walk leader will collect this before you leave.

1. Did you enjoy your Walk in the Forest? Yes No Why or why not?
2. What was your impression of foresters before the walk? Has that impression changed?
3. What did you like best about the walk? What did you like least?
4. Were the presenters easy to understand? Yes No What were the most interesting things that you learned today? The most surprising?
5. Please note any questions that were left unanswered.
6. Would you be interested in attending another walk in the future? Yes No
7. Please share any recommendations for ways to improve the walk.

Name and address (optional):

Thank you!

SHARE YOUR PLANS WITH SAF AND AFF!

Let us know what you plan to do by answering the project questions below. This information will help us keep track of projects around the country, and allow us to publicize your walk..

1. Organizing unit and partners:
2. Contact name(s), email, and telephone number(s):
3. What type of “walk” are you planning:
4. Who is your “walk” audience:
5. Date of your “walk” if not National Walk in the Forest Day, October 18, 2002:
6. Additional materials or assistance required:
7. Other comments:
8. Attach copies of plan outlines, materials and promotion/advertising

Return to:

Jeff Ghannam
Director, Public Affairs
Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
Fax 301-897-3690
ghannam@safnet.org

Dave Chase
Deputy Director
Project Learning Tree
1111 19th Street NW, Suite 780
Washington DC 20036
202-463-2461
dchase@plt.org

Thank you and happy walking!

IDEAS FOR USING WALK IN THE FOREST LOGOS

The Walk in the Forest camera ready logos can be used in many ways. Use the suggestions outlined below or let your imagination run wild and promote the walk program.

1. Use the logo on all written materials—letters, invitations, press releases, brochures, flyers.
2. Use the logo on small, inexpensive items to give away to children who participate in your walk. Examples: stickers, rulers, pencils, posters, erasers, folders, etc.
3. Print t-shirts or hats with the logo for walk volunteers to wear to identify themselves.
4. Make a large walk banner to hang at your walk site.
5. Print stickers to distribute to children during the walk.
6. Send camera-ready logo, press releases, and other materials to local print media.

For an electronic version of the Walk in the Forest logo sheet,
email Michelle Harvey at harveym@safnet.org