

SAF Meeting – March 22, 2004

Guest Speaker – Paul Ray from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Paul's main purpose in speaking with us is to help our chapter with the Memorial Grove.
- He first suggested contacting Alumni to receive more funding from them. He says that Alumni are always interested in helping out activities from their college.
- We can acquire additional funding by expanding the Memorial Grove to 10-15 acres (it is currently 3) to qualify for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). They will do some cost sharing with us if we incorporate wildlife habitat for birds that need open, mowed areas. We need to talk to Dick Schwab to see if this is possible.
- Our main concerns for the survivability of the saplings is rodent and deer browse. We need to have plastic tubing that will prevent any type of browse. This can be costly, but it needs to be bought in order to get the saplings established.
- Mowing needs to occur at least 3 times during the summer so that the saplings are not shaded out by competing vegetation. This requires staking, with at least 3 alternating colors.
- A management plan needs to be created no matter what we plan on doing, so that people know what is going on with the grove.
- We need to research the soil type to make sure the sugar maple saplings can survive in the area we have designated the grove.

Memorial Grove

- 200 seedlings have been ordered and will arrive in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. This makes possible planting dates either the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup>.
- It will cost us \$240.
- We need to pick them up at the Lafayette Research Station.
- Becky also mentioned that we should set up a booth to promote the Memorial Grove and sell seedlings at the NYS Fair in August. If people are around, and willing to volunteer, this will be a great idea!

Officers for Next Year

- Many of the current officers for SAF are graduating and new members need to take over! Here are the reasons to become one:
  - 1) LOOKS GREAT ON A RESUME!
  - 2) ITS FUN!
  - 3) It does not require much additional time outside of meetings. You will still have a life!
  - 4) You'll make new friends!
  - 5) SAF events are always the coolest – from the annual Thanksgiving Potluck, planting seedlings for the Memorial Grove, to hosting the Fall TGIO!
- If you are interested in a position, email Dr. Germain (our advisor) at [rhgermai@mailbox.syr.edu](mailto:rhgermai@mailbox.syr.edu). (President position is already filled)