



# NAUFRP NEWS

*National Association of University Forest Resources Programs*

***Creating Knowledge – Developing Leaders***

*June 2024 Issue 5*

## **President’s Message-Katy Kavanagh**

*Dear NAUFRP members and friends:*

Our collective efforts over the past year have paved the way for significant advancements in our mission to promote forestry and natural resources education. I would like to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share our exciting plans for the year ahead.



One of the most significant milestones this year is the creation of the NAUFRP Dr. Yeon-Su Kim Champion Award. This award is a tribute to the remarkable contributions made by Yeon-Su Kim in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion within natural resources. We are honored to recognize individuals, programs, or organizations that embody the spirit of Dr. Kim by demonstrating sustained dedication to inclusive excellence and fostering a sense of belonging. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Zhu Ning and the Diversity Committee for their hard work in establishing this award. The call for nominations will be released in the coming year.

Looking forward, our presence at this year's Society of American Foresters (SAF) meeting will be a pivotal moment for NAUFRP. We will have a dedicated booth showcasing our key initiatives and efforts, both past and future. This platform will allow us to engage with a broader audience, share our accomplishments, and highlight our ongoing commitment to advancing forestry and natural resources education. Additionally, we will be holding elections at the General Assembly meeting at SAF on September 17th. Your participation in these elections is crucial as we choose leaders who will guide our organization into the future.

I hope to see some of you at the upcoming International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. This event presents a fantastic opportunity for networking, collaboration, and sharing the latest advancements in our field. I hope to see many of you there as we continue to strengthen our global connections and work together towards our common goals.

As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to yield positive outcomes. I encourage all members to stay engaged, share your ideas, and participate actively in NAUFRP. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of forestry and natural resources education.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

*With regards, Kathleen (Katy) Kavanagh,  
Associate Dean of Research, College of Forestry, Oregon State University*

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### **Meetings**

**WNAUFRP: July 15-16, 2024 Corvallis, OR**

**NAUFRP Executive Committee Sept 16, 2024 Loveland, CO**

**Joint NAUFRP-SAF Leadership Reception Sept. 16 Loveland, CO**

**NAUFRP General Assembly Sept. 17 Loveland, CO**

**SAF Convention October 17-20 2024 Loveland, CO**

**IUFRO World Congress June 23-29, 2024 Stockholm, Sweden**

## **Washington Update—Randy Nuckolls, Washington Counsel**

### **FY 25 Appropriations**

Now that Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) has settled in as the new Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, individual Subcommittees have begun consideration of FY 25 Appropriations bills. This is true even though no FY 25 Budget Resolution has been adopted and there is no agreement between the House and Senate on top line appropriations numbers, or the allocation for each of the twelve appropriations Subcommittees. The Republican majority in the House, with only a two vote margin on the floor, will likely struggle to pass many of the House bills. The Republican leadership of the House has vowed to make significant cuts in funding for many federal agencies, other than DOD and

*(Washington Report continued on page 7)*

# Committee Work

## Communications—Todd Petty

### 2-page NAUFRP Handout

This [document](#) was completed and presented to the NAUFRP executive committee in March 2024. The content is targeted to leaders at member institutions and potential future members. The document describes overall mission, structure, and member benefits. The document should be a valuable resource to regional directors for approaching institutions in their regions that are not active NAUFRP members.

### NAUFRP Booth at SAF – September 2024 – Loveland, CO

The executive committee approved a proposal to sponsor a booth at the 2024 National SAF meeting. A \$5000 budget was approved, and a booth has been reserved. Preparations for a banner and give aways are currently underway.

### Website Update

We've continued to discuss the need for the website to undergo a significant overhaul, and this will be an important objective for the remainder to the year. Our goal is to have a fully revised website before the March 2025 NAUFRP executive meeting. Todd Petty, the committee chair, will continue to work with NAUFRP leadership to decide on which revisions are most needed. Several important ideas include: updates to MS project descriptions, a map of Forestry Programs and schools that receive McIntire-Stennis support, and a map of university experimental forests.

## Education—Andrew Storer

### SAF Accreditation - Education Policy Review Committee

The education committee chair continues to serve on the Education Policy Review Committee (EPRC) of SAF and was reappointed in December 2023. Key leadership personnel at SAF are Erin Turner, Director of Credentialing and Su Ann Shupp, Accreditation Manager.

A major focus for SAF at this time is conforming to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) standards as SAF prepares to be recognized by CHEA. To achieve this recognition, SAF must comply with the CHEA Standards and Processes for Recognition. This results in some action items that will be shared with institutions with accredited programs as outlined in recent communications from SAF. Programs are asked to identify the location on websites where evidence of student outcomes and/or achievement data can be found, and within one 'click' of program homepage. Evidence may include retention rate, graduation rate, and student achievement data (qualitative or quantitative). Programs have been asked to communicate the contact information for a contact person with completion of any need changes to websites in place by Oct 15, 2024.

### Updates on enrollments in Natural Resource disciplines.

Dr Tara Bal (Michigan Tech) presented a talk on student enrollment trends at the SAF National Convention in the session moderated by Terry Sharik, "Successes and Challenges of Natural Resource Professions Regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion". A pdf was shared at the previous NAUFRP meeting. Citation for this SAF presentation:

Bal, T.L., Sharik, T.L., Ziegler, P., Jalil, D. Meeks, A. Enrollment trends in natural resources degree programs through Fall 2022: Emphasis on demographic diversity. Society of American Foresters National Conference, Sacramento, CA, October 25-28, 2023.

*(Education Continued on page 7)*

## NAUFRP Executive Committee

[Kathleen \(Katy\) Kavanagh](#), President  
Oregon State University

[Janaki R. Alavalapati](#), Past-President  
Auburn University

[Dennis Becker](#), President-Elect  
University of Idaho

[Robert Burns](#), Secretary-Treasurer  
West Virginia University

### National Committee Chairs

[Todd Petty](#), Communications  
Clemson University

[Zhu Hua Ning](#), Diversity  
Southern University

[Andrew Storer](#), Education  
Michigan Technological University

[Jeff Stringer](#), Extension  
University of Kentucky

[Don Hodges](#), International  
University of Tennessee

[Myron Floyd](#), Policy  
North Carolina State University

[Rich Kobe](#), Research  
Michigan State University

### Regional Committee Chairs

[Michael Blazier](#), Southern  
University of Arkansas

[Bill Hubbard](#), Northeastern  
University of Maryland

[Charles Goebel](#), Western  
University of Idaho

[Rich Kobe](#), North Central  
Michigan State University

### At-Large

[Erin Kelly](#)  
Cal Poly Humboldt University

[David Newman](#),  
SUNY-College of Environmental  
Sciences & Forestry

### BNR/BAC Representative

[Linda Nagel](#)  
Utah State University

### 1890 Land Grant Representative

[Kozma Naka](#)  
Alabama A&M University

### NAUFRP Washington Counsel

[C. Randall Nuckolls](#)

### NAUFRP Executive Liaison

[Terri Bates](#)

# Regional Corner

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## North Central — Rich Kobe

Congratulations to David Flaspohler, who has been named Dean of the College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science at *Michigan Tech University*. David had been serving as interim Dean. MTU also is starting a new major in environmental data science.

Dr. Zhao Ma is now the interim head of *Purdue's* Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, replacing Dr. Jessica Gurevitch. Purdue will undergo SAF accreditation in the 2024-25 academic year.

At *University of Nebraska*, Lord Ameyaw is taking over leadership of the forestry program, with John Carroll stepping down.

At the *University of Wisconsin – Steven's Point*, Forestry Center Director Les Werner will be retiring.

At the *University of Minnesota*, the plan to reorganize the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences has been halted by faculty vote. Kristen Nelson is serving as Interim Head, with a search planned for Department Head. There have been recent hires in forest biomass / carbon and urban and community forestry with ongoing faculty searches in socioecological spatial analysis and tribal fire and culture.

*Iowa State University's* forestry program (and three options within it: natural resource conservation and restoration, forest ecosystem management and urban and community forestry) have been newly accredited by the SAF COA through December 31, 2023.

At *Ohio State University*, Tim Haab is now Director of the School of the Environment and Natural Resources. The site visit for SAF Accreditation of the forestry major occurred in April.

*Michigan State University* hired a new silviculture professor to replace retiring Michael Walters. MSU will be conducting a tenure-stream faculty search in sustainable bioproducts during the 2024-25 academic year.

Finally, Rich Kobe of MSU will serve as NAUFRP Research Chair, building on the excellent work of Bob Wagner and others. This should be Rich's last report on North Central, a group that he has chaired since early 2020. Please contact Rich if you are interested in assuming leadership of the North Central group.

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## West — Charles Goebel

The College of Forestry at Oregon State University (OSU) will be hosting the Western NAUFRP Summer Meeting on July 15-16, 2024, in Corvallis, Oregon. The Summer Meeting will include a field trip highlighting research by OSU faculty, staff and students, as well as a half-day business meeting.

Other news from member institutions around the region:

*Cal Poly -Humboldt* – In March 2024, hosted the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave in Eureka, CA in conjunction with Redwood Regional Log-

ging Conference

*Oregon State University* – Dr. Mark Swanson joined OSU as the Starker Chair in Private and Family Forestry. Read more here: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/collegeofforestry/2023/12/20/welcome-mark-swanson/>.

*Northern Arizona University* – Dr. David Auty has been appointed as the Executive Director of the School of Forestry.

*University of California- Berkeley* – The Rausser College of Natural Resources, which was formed by the merger of UC Berkeley's School of Forestry and Conservation and College of Agricultural Sciences in 1974, is celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. More information on various anniversary events can be found at: <https://nature.berkeley.edu/50-years>.

*University of Hawaii at Manoa* – Dr. Parwinder Grewal hired as Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. More information can be found at: <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2024/02/12/parwinder-grewal-recommendation/>.

*University of Idaho* – Dr. Jessica Miesel has joined the Department of Forest, Rangeland & Fire Sciences in the College of Natural Resources as an Associate Professor of Fire Ecology and Management. Also, CNR will be conducting a national search for a new State Extension Specialist position focused on forest operations and products manufacturing.

*University of Montana* – Dr. Carl Seielstad has been appointed the new Chair of Department of Forest Management in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

*University of Washington* - Two new faculty members joined the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences (SEFS): [Claire Willing](#) and [Francisca Santana](#). They join [Sameer Shah](#) as the full complement of a cluster hire in the area of climate adaptation. Two additional positions in the areas of ecological restoration and management and sustainable bioresource engineering are also to be hired as part of this investment in climate adaptation. Additionally, thanks to a capital allocation from the Washington legislature, SEFS' 100-year-old building on the Seattle campus ([Anderson Hall](#)) will be undergoing a \$40 million renovation. The project is currently in the design phase, with an 18-month construction phase scheduled to start in summer 2024.

*Utah State University* – The Department of Wildland Resources is currently searching for a new Department Head, as well as a new Assistant Professor to serve as the Extension Specialist in Urban Forestry for Utah.



# Partners

## Society of American Foresters - Terry Baker

2024 has been an exciting year for the Society of American Foresters. We have launched multiple efforts in support of forestry professionals and the forestry sector as a whole. In support of the growing needs in Urban and Community Forestry, we have launched the Certified Urban and Community Forestry Credential and the Candidate Certified Urban and Community Forestry Credential to speak to the unique mix of skills and knowledge professionals need to be successful in that space. Additionally, we have started the process of developing a professional credential for forestry technicians to highlight the level of professionalism they bring to sustainable forestry. In partnership with the Association of Consulting Foresters, we released the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Introduction to Consulting Foresters. This book has been an instant hit among the consulting forestry community. We are proud to be able to provide this critical resource to current and aspiring consultants, but also to build the skills of extension professionals, service foresters, and any forestry professional who regularly interacts with landowners.

In addition to certifications, SAF has made investments to better engage and support early career professionals and students. In February 2024, we hosted our first Rising Professional conference in Baton Rouge, LA. We welcomed just over 100 participants (70% professionals under 40 years old and 30% current students) to build networks as well as leadership skills. A strong positive response from participants and sponsors has reinforced our interest for this to be an annual event. In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, SAF is piloting a conservation education program at multiple Job Corps Centers. With a focus on Job Corps students in non-conservation curriculum programs, this pilot will raise awareness of a conservation ethic as well as the need for non-conservation employees in organizations and institutions. We continue to look for volunteers to support this effort. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, you can fill out [this survey](#). For more information and to help spread the word, check out [this flyer](#). Contact Chris Langenfeld, SAF Conservation Education Manager, at [clangenfeld@safnet.org](mailto:clangenfeld@safnet.org).

These are just as few exciting items and efforts from SAF as we continue to support your important work as educators and building the awareness of forestry, urban forestry, and natural resources as fulfilling education and career paths!

Terry

## APLU Liaison — Linda Nagel

- The final Fiscal Year 2025 Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Annual Appropriations Request (including McIntire-Stennis) can be found [here](#). This request is developed by the [Budget and Advocacy Committee](#) (BAC) of the [Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities](#) (APLU) each year, with NAUFRP representation on the BAC.
- The CARET/AHS (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching/Administrative Heads Section) meeting was held in Washington, DC, February 25-28, 2024.
- An “All About the Request” webinar was held January 31, 2024 in preparation for CARET. NAUFRP participated and presented on McIntire-Stennis, a great opportunity to elevate M-S among CARET delegates.
- APLU has undertaken two major strategic roadmap efforts: 1) [agInnovation](#) (formerly the Experiment Station Section) is developing a Research Roadmap through a strategic working group that includes NAUFRP representatives Robert Burns and Linda Nagel. This facilitated and comprehensive process has involved in-person and on-going virtual meetings, resulting in three strategic pillars: water resilience, climate solutions, and sustainable food systems. The group continues refining a vision statement, outcomes, and an implementation plan. The first full draft will be presented at the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly Summer Meeting in Providence, RI in July. 2) The BAC is working on an APLU Decadal Vision in collaboration with Lewis-Burke Associates. Two in-person and several virtual meetings have been devoted to this process, resulting in a draft vision document with three pillars focused on food supply, rural communities, and human health. The process is currently engaging NAUFRP’s input.
- New resource pertinent to forests and climate change, a product of funding from USDA-NIFA: [National Climate Change Roadmap: A Research Framework for US Agriculture, Forestry, and Working Lands](#)

## 2024 NAUFRP ANNUAL MEETING—LOVELAND, COLORADO

*(specific location and times to be announced)*

**September 16: NAUFRP Executive Committee (all NAUFRP Representatives welcome)**

**September 16: Joint NAUFRP-SAF Leadership Reception (all NAUFRP Representatives invited)**

**September 17: NAUFRP General Assembly**

**[September 17-20 SAF Convention](#)**

# Committee Work, *continued*

## Extension—Jeff Stringer

The Extension Committee has initiated the call for 2024 Family Forest Education Awards. These awards include excellence in comprehensive programming over a 5-year period and excellence in developing and implementing an individual project. The award is offered in collaboration with the National Woodland Owner Associate and the awards will be presented to the winners at the NAUFRP General Assembly Meeting in September. The Extension Committee developed a pdf flyer for the 2024 award nominations that was sent in April to institutions and individuals via the NAUFRP and RREA list serves and through regional Extension groups. The information has also been posted at [naufrp.org](http://naufrp.org) on the Extension page and links provided to this page in the email award notifications and in the pdf. [August 16, 2024](#) is the due date for nominations.

## *Call for Nominations* 2024 Family Forest Education Awards

**Deadline: August 16, 2024**

[Extension | NAUFRP](#)

## 2023 Family Forest Education Program Award Winners: University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Outreach Pro- gram and the Connecticut Master Woodland Man- ager Program named

Excellence in Family Forests Education Programs are jointly recognized each year by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP) and the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). Awards for excellence are presented for both an Individual Project and a Comprehensive Program that exhibits excellence in education programming benefitting family forest owners across the U.S. Projects and Programs nominated address critical family forest ownership issues using a wide range of educational approaches and programs.



*Participants get hands-on training in tree felling techniques as a part of the programs chain saw safety class.*

The 2023 Individual Project Award went to the **Connecticut Master Woodland Manager Program**. The highly interactive program requires family forest owners to complete 7 required integrated online and field education “modules” and 6 elective events. These provide the education and training necessary for the participants to complete a self-assessment and planning process for their individual woodlands that are submitted for completion of the program.

This robust education experience is a collaboration among University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Forestry Division—Connecticut DEEP, Audubon Connecticut, Yale Uni-

versity, and the Connecticut Land Conservation Coalition, with funding providing by the US Forest Service.

The 2023 Comprehensive Program Award was presented to the Outreach Program at the **University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources**. The 15 faculty and 4 professional staff members working from 4 locations throughout Georgia continue to provide effective educational programs and



*Dr. Nick Fuhrman addressing family forest issues through his national television series, “Ranger Nick.”*

resources to address critical issues faced by the states family forest owners ranging from invasive species control to navigating timber tax issues. Over the last 5 years, their work is truly comprehensive, involving applied research, family forest owner needs assessments, development of over 660 publications, conducting 51 programs for over 2,700 participants, and providing a host of on-line resources. Last year alone the images in Bugwood Images and EDDMaps were viewed over 2 million times and

their National Timber Tax website garnered over 281,000 unique views. Their list of stakeholders, partners and supporters are lengthy and they annually engage with over 45 agencies and organizations to educate and provide valuable resources for family forest owners in Georgia and beyond.

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# NAUFRP Elections

*Robert Burns, Treasurer/Secretary*

Dear Colleagues,

The NAUFRP By-Laws were amended in 2019 to take nominations for the offices of President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer from the NAUFRP membership in addition to the nomination committee.

All nominations should be received by Monday, August 26, 2024, via email to Terri Bates at <[NAUFRP@verizon.net](mailto:NAUFRP@verizon.net)>.

The slate of candidates will be sent to the members with a brief statement from each candidate on September 6th.

Elections will be conducted at the General Assembly on September 17th.

As a reminder:

The NAUFRP Executive Committee will meet in-person Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. All NAUFRP representatives are invited to participate.

The NAUFRP General Assembly will meet Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in-person.

The duties for each office and elections procedures are as follows:

## **Section 2. Nomination of Officers.**

A nomination committee comprising the President, Past-President, President-Elect and the four regional chairs, shall provide at least one nominee for the office of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer two weeks before the annual meeting of the General Assembly. Additional nominations from member schools may be received via email at least two weeks before the General Assembly. The list of nominees for each national elective office shall be distributed to members at least one week before the annual meeting of the General Assembly. Following the selection of nominees, the Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct a ballot of the members at the General Assembly to elect the officers. A vacancy in the offices of President-elect or Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the President with concurrence by the Executive Committee.

## **Section 3. President.** The President as chief executive officer shall:

Preside at all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee and be responsible for the agenda.

Provide general supervision of the affairs of the Association.

Provide for enforcement of the Articles and Bylaws.

Provide for implementation of the orders and resolutions of the Assembly and Executive Committee.

Appoint the members of all Association Committees and Association representatives to other organizations unless otherwise provided in these Articles or by resolution of the Assembly or Executive Committee.

Perform such other duties as are set forth in the Articles or as may be assigned by the Assembly or the Executive Committee.

## **Section 4. President-Elect.** The President-elect shall:

Preside at meetings in the absence of or when requested by the President.

Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Assembly.

## **Section 5. Secretary-Treasurer.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

Maintain a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee.

Maintain an accurate record of all members of the Association and collect all dues.

Retain all correspondence and other documents for a reasonable period of time.

Maintain proper accounting procedures for the handling of the Association's funds.

Maintain the funds of the Association in such financial institutions or investments as are approved by the Executive Committee.

Disburse Association funds as required in the conduct of its affairs. Be bonded in an amount specified by the Executive Committee and at the expense of the Association.

The Executive Committee looks forward to seeing everyone in September.

*Robert C. Burns*

*Secretary Treasurer NAUFRP*

VA, and without Democratic votes it will be difficult to get a majority for most of the controversial bills, especially those loaded with so-called “policy riders” that conservative Republicans wish to add as political messaging amendments.

The Agriculture Appropriations bill, often supported by wide bipartisan margins in the past, will also be difficult to pass on the House floor, due to disagreements over funding of food and nutrition programs in the bill. NAUFRP and APLU have been put on notice by both House and Senate Appropriations staff that this will be a difficult year for funding of Capacity Programs at NIFA in the USDA appropriations bill. In the end, it is highly likely that Congress will once again be unable to finalize FY Appropriations before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup> and that a Continuing Resolution will be passed that carries federal agency funding past the November elections. Even that type of CR funding is less certain this year due to the close margins in the House and the stated goal of a handful of very conservative Republican Senators upset about the NY trial of former President Trump.

## **Farm Bill**

On the Farm Bill front, in late May, the House Agriculture Committee approved its version of the Farm Bill on a 33-21, mostly party line vote. The bill was controversial with Democrats in the House due to changes made in the SNAP (food stamp) program, and the transfer of conservation funding from Inflation Reduction Act funds to pay for certain farm program accounts. Speaker Johnson has made no promise about bringing the House Committee bill to the full House because of the uncertainty that the House Republican

leadership could muster the votes to pass the bill. On the Senate side, Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow has released her version of the Farm Bill, but hasn’t scheduled a markup in the Senate Agriculture Committee. She has been very vocal in criticizing the House bill and has stated that she would never let the House bill pass in the Senate as currently written. In the Research Title of both House and Senate bills, the university research and extension programs such as Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, RREA, and NRI are supported and reauthorized as needed. One bright spot in the House legislation is the authorization for a \$2.5 billion Research Facilities program (\$500 million for five years) to help support universities with aging agricultural research facilities. This funding if approved would be in the category of “mandatory funding” taken from USDA revolving funds and not subject to the annual appropriations process. Most experts believe the chances of final passage of an updated Farm Bill in the current Congress are slim and that the existing Farm Bill authority will be simply be extended again for another year, kicking the can until a lame duck session after the November elections or until the new Congress in 2025.

NAUFRP will continue working during the summer and fall with Congressional Members, staff and key Committees, and with APLU and other forestry and agriculture groups in support of programs important to our NAUFRP member schools.

*Randy Nuckolls*

*NAUFRP Washington Counsel*

*(Education Report Conti. from page 2)*

## **Artificial Intelligence**

The use of AI tools in higher education is rapidly emerging and evolving. The education committee chair has submitted an abstract relating to AI to the upcoming Biennial Conference in Undergraduate Education in Natural Resources (BCUENR). Topics will include:

- ◆ policies relating to the use of AI tools,
- ◆ training students to utilize AI tools,
- ◆ using AI tools in the development of course materials, coaching faculty in the use of AI tools, and
- ◆ issues of academic honesty.

The education committee and NAUFRP has the potential to provide a forum for discussion about the impacts of AI on forestry education. As a community it is important to embrace the opportunities as we prepare students for a workforce in which AI will be omnipresent, and it is also exciting to contemplate and prepare for what the next generation of AI tools will enable us to do to help ensure the success of faculty and our students.

