
Phone: 812.275.5987
Fax: 812.279.3423



811 Constitution Ave.
Bedford, IN 47421

News Contact:
Franklin Lograsso 812.276.4758
Fax: 812.279.3423
flograsso@fs.fed.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dale Weigel and Ron Abraham Receive Forestry Honors

Bedford, IN June 19, 2009 A local man and a former local resident were recently honored with one of the highest awards given by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). Dale Weigel, who is employed by the Hoosier National Forest and lives north of Bedford, Indiana, and Ron Abraham, a former Bloomington resident, were both recognized. SAF is the professional organization that represents foresters. Each year SAF honors those members who have provided outstanding contributions to the Society and to the forestry profession with the title of Fellow. Approximately five percent of the members of SAF hold this distinguished honor.

Each year SAF approves new Fellows – and this year two of them are or were Hoosier National Forest employees. Though Ron Abraham moved to Ohio in the early 1990s, that state chose him as their nominee this year. Abraham previously served as a staff officer on the Wayne-Hoosier National Forest. He also served as the State Forester for Ohio before he retired.

To be selected as a Fellow, Weigel and Abraham both had to have shown outstanding service to forestry and the Society. Each must have demonstrated both (1) a strong continuing commitment through direct SAF volunteer activities, and (2) exemplary action, sustained leadership, and advancement of the forestry profession in at least one of the following areas: (a) application of forestry, (b) education, (c) public policy, (d) research, or (e) technology transfer.

An SAF member since 1976, Weigel is employed with the Hoosier National Forest office in Bedford. Dale received a master's degree in Forest Ecology from Purdue University and has authored or co-authored approximately thirty papers dealing with the central hardwood ecosystem. He is an SAF Certified Forester.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Dale helped organize the Indiana SAF Legislative Breakfasts for the State legislature. He has held several positions on the Indiana SAF board, including Chairman during 1999. Today he is Chair of the Investment Committee. Dale has also volunteered to staff the SAF booth at the National FFA Career show the past eight years.

When notified of being named SAF fellow, Dale has said that at the start of his career, he never would have imagined one day receiving this award. "I have just been fortunate to be around other outstanding foresters."



Dale Weigel shown with some of his prior awards from the Society of American Foresters.

---END---