

The Society of American Foresters Carl Alwin Schenck Award

PURPOSE: To recognize outstanding performance in the field of forestry education. This award recognizes individuals whose educational efforts exemplify those of Carl A. Schenck, founder of the Biltmore Forestry School.

INFORMATION ON CARL ALWIN SCHENCK: Carl Schenck was invited to the United States by George W. Vanderbilt to manage the Vanderbilt Forest Estate in North Carolina. Together with Bernhard E. Fernow and Gifford Pinchot, the German-born and -educated Schenck was one of the few academically trained foresters in the United States in the 1880's. A pioneer in American Forestry education, Schenck was also among the original fifteen active members of the Society of American Foresters.

The first forestry education program in the United States, the Biltmore Forestry School, was founded by Carl Schenck in 1898. Schenck was a tireless worker--his days characterized by lectures lasting several hours in the morning, followed by full afternoon field trips to the forest, and then evenings spent, often far into the night, preparing additional lectures, reviewing and grading student diaries, appraising forest working plans, writing textbooks, corresponding with past and prospective students, and fulfilling many and various other responsibilities connected with the operation of an active forestry school.

A confirmed generalist, Schenck taught all of the forestry subjects offered at Biltmore, and was a daring and dynamic lecturer, with an abundance of self-confidence, deep and enduring devotions, strong convictions, and aspiring personal objectives. Dean Emeritus Joseph S. Illick of the College of Forestry, State University of New York, and one of Schenck's forestry students, said of him: "Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck possessed that rare quality which characterizes the superior teacher who can make education remain after all that was learned has been forgotten."

AWARD CRITERIA: Nominees for the Carl Alwin Schenck Award must demonstrate their abilities as an outstanding forestry educator, including attributes in the following areas:

1. devotion to the instruction of forestry,
2. demonstration of an active career that sets high professional and educational standards for students and demonstration of outstanding service to professional education,
3. development of personal teaching methods that are characterized by imparting competent knowledge through dynamic communication skills and by imaginative techniques, or by development of educational programs that utilize novel concepts in search of imparting sound forestry education to students,
4. the recipient must be an active faculty member at the time of the application date in any SAF-accredited forestry education program in the United States.
5. ten years minimum of professional experience

NOMINATION: The nominator must submit by February 28, for the award that year, the following information on behalf of the nominee to National Awards, Society of American Foresters, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2198.

- A biographical sketch (not to exceed three pages) that references the award criteria plus the present faculty position and location, and educational background experience.
- Four letters of endorsement addressing the Schenck award criteria, one letter must be from a peer or associate and, one letter must be from a dean or department head. Endorsement letters should address items 1, 2, and 3 under “award criteria”.
- Nomination form – available from the SAF National Office or the SAF website (www.safnet.org).

Unsuccessful candidates may be renominated by letter providing any updated material. All award criteria must still be met at the time of renomination. Posthumous nominations and nominations of retired faculty will not be considered. *The SAF National Office will contact the nominee only if chosen to be the award recipient. All other corresponds will be directed to the nominator.*

AWARD DESCRIPTION/PRESENTATION: The award is presented at the annual awards ceremony at the SAF national convention. The recipient will receive an engraved award and a cash honorarium of \$500. Complimentary convention registration is provided and up to \$500 is available to cover travel expenses and accommodations for the award recipient.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS:

1988 Joseph Buongiorno
1989 George W. Thomson
1990 David William Smith
1991 David Robinson
1992 Joe R. McBride
1993 Edward R. Buckner
1994 Dennis L. Lynch
1995 John E. Houghton
1996 Glenn R. Glover
1997 Edward C. Jensen
1998 John R. Seiler
1999 Raymond P. Guries
2000 Burton V. Barnes
2001 No Recipient
2002 Brian P. Oswald
2003 Martin Jurgensen
2004 Tom Kuzmic
2005 Richard A. Hopkins