



# National Capital Society of American Foresters

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## *DC Forester* October 2007

### **Chair's Corner**

Since the adoption of the National Capital Society of American Foresters' (NCSAF) Strategic Action Plan for 2007-2008, ( based on 2008-2012 version of the SAF Strategic Plan) the executive committee has been working diligently to design and implement several activities and events in support of one or more of the plan's seven (7) national strategic outcomes. This week, NCSAF and National Capital- Soil and Water Conservation Society partnered to co-sponsor a Fall Tour for society members. They invited guests to introduce and increase awareness of area wetlands as well as to provide opportunities for professional networking.

Over the past few months, our treasurer has lead discussions and chaired a committee to review and make recommendations to the executive committee on the state of NCSAF's financial portfolio, and the societies' needs to develop and implement a sound plan for the future. In accordance with any existing national guidelines from national SAF and national SAF Strategic Outcome #6, our adopted plan will ensure sound stewardship of NCSAF's resources.

The executive committee recognized as we worked through the discussions, the writings, the edits and the rewrites of the NCSAF Strategic Plan, that without ideas and comments from the membership at large, we would never reach our purpose of incorporating member desires in all upcoming program and activities.

So, under National Strategic Outcome #1: "Be the Leading Professional Forestry Organization in the World." What does that mean to NCSAF? NCSAF seeks "[s]table membership, strong leadership, and positive relationships [to] provide both NCSAF and SAF with ongoing opportunities for positive future development.

The NCSAF membership consists of professional foresters who serve in technical, research, education, policy, and consulting roles in public and private (profit and not-for-profit) sectors." Your ideas and comments are needed to make the strategic plan a living, functioning reality and you can do that by participating in an upcoming member survey that is called for in the strategic plan.

You will hear more about this upcoming member survey in the weeks ahead. I urge you to participate. Your comments will determine our program and activity direction and will make the strategic plan a living document. Thanks in advance for your participation.

**Wilhelmina B. Bratton**  
NCSAF Chair

## **NCSAF Membership Update**

As of the end of September 2007, NCSAF now has a total of 285 members, which is 10 less than our membership goal of 295 for 2007.

The following NCSAF membership changes occurred in September.

### **Transferred In**

Christopher L. Clatterbuck, employer undesignated, from Triangle Chapter  
Sarah E. LaPlant, USDA Forest Service, from Triangle Chapter  
Michael J. Mortimer, SAF (new Policy Director), from Blue Ridge Chapter  
Paul J. Schmidke, USDA Forest Service, from New Mexico Chapter

### **Transferred Out**

Charlene A. Nelson, to Portland Chapter

**Jim Culbert**  
**Membership Committee Chair**

## **Treasurer's Report**

This month we received \$627.34 from interest and dividends (\$202.34), luncheon receipts (\$357.00), and luncheon raffle (\$38.00). Our expenses totaled \$470.64 from luncheon meals (\$355.00) and miscellaneous expenses (\$115.64). The latter expense was interest we forfeited when we cashed in four certificates of deposit so that we could use the funds to buy new certificates with staggered maturity dates. We are now set up to have a certificate mature every year, which gives us flexibility to use those liquid funds for worthy projects. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Treasurer Doug Powell at [dougpowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:dougpowell@fs.fed.us).

Current Balance:	
Certificates of Deposit	\$16,060.04
Cash	\$100.00
Checking	<u>\$9,431.11</u>
Total	\$25,591.15

	<i>9/19 to 10/17</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Amount received:		
Auction Income	--	\$2,184.95
Dues Disbursement	\$30.00	\$1,486.50
Interest & Dividends	\$202.34	\$621.83
Luncheon Receipts	\$357.00	\$4,273.00
Raffles	<u>\$38.00</u>	<u>\$268.00</u>
Total	\$627.34	\$8,834.28
Amount expended:		
Awards-Recognition	--	\$222.00
Congressional Outreach	--	\$2,600.00
Foresters' Fund	--	\$500.00
HSD Assessment	--	\$145.04
Luncheon meals	\$355.00	\$4,161.36
Mailing	--	\$59.23
Miscellaneous expenses	\$115.64	\$372.36
Web site	=	<u>\$138.80</u>
Total	\$470.64	\$8,198.79
Net increase (decrease):	\$156.70	\$635.49

**Doug Powell**  
Treasurer

### **Judges Needed for the WAS Science and Technology Aptitude Recognition for Schools Program**

Every year, schools across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area hold science fairs for their students. In order for these events to be successful, they depend on the participation of professionals and researchers to help judge the projects that children prepare. Please read the follow excerpts from a Washington Academy of Sciences letter and think about lending a hand.

**C. Denise Ingram**  
**NCSAF Science & Technology Coordinator and WAS Liaison.**

*Dear Friends of Science:*

I am writing to offer you the opportunity to participate as a judge in a school science project. You will not need any special preparation, and the Washington Academy of Sciences will provide everything needed on site at the school. Typically this will involve about a 4-hour commitment at a participating school (in the DC, MD or Northern VA area), sometime in the December 2006-March 2007 time frame. The number of schools and students benefiting from the "Science and Technology

Aptitude Recognition for Schools" (STARS) Program depends on the commitment of many volunteers (professionals in science).

If you are interested, please send me an e-mail one-liner to [pmhazan@comcast.net](mailto:pmhazan@comcast.net) by November 15th 2006, saying: "I would like to be included in the 2008 W.A.S. Judges' Roster". Please include your name, e-mail, affiliation (i.e. SWCS or SAF), address, and telephone number. You will be notified as soon as the schools give us their event dates.

I look forward to our collaboration in this exciting 2008 initiative of the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS). Paul Hazen, VP Junior Academy, Washington Academy of Sciences, e-mail: [pmhazan@comcast.net](mailto:pmhazan@comcast.net) or call (301) 603-0536.

*Background and additional information:*

Global competition is creating an urgent need to motivate and attract some of the best and brightest students into science and technology careers. In the U.S. Congress, K-12 education is receiving renewed bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

The Washington Academy of Sciences is expanding its "STARS" (Science and Technology Aptitude Recognition for Schools) youth-in-science outreach program. In recent years, the program has included not only active participation in several Senior High School Science Fairs, but also science events at Elementary and Middle Schools, a robotics competition involving 20 Middle Schools, and judging of over 80 outstanding mentored student projects for the Montgomery Blair Magnet Research Convention. Both the AAAS and the IEEE have supported our efforts by grants to the "STARS" program.

We are planning 8 major events in the 2008 school year. We will offer Challenge Cups, cash prizes, plaques, and certificates. We are interacting with many area schools and allocating a large number of awards to secondary school students, as well as recognizing outstanding teachers. Award winning student projects will also be recognized in the W.A.S. Journal and Web site.

Our biggest asset that we can share with these young budding-professionals is your expertise and dedication.

### **NCSAF Luncheon: Agroforestry Contributions Toward Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification**

On October 10, 20 NCSAF members met at USDA headquarters for a luncheon presentation by Dr. Dennis Garrity, director-general of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Garrity highlighted the work that the center is carrying out with host countries and partners to develop and transfer agroforestry technologies to improve rural livelihoods. By diversifying and incorporating trees into agricultural cropping systems, they protect soil and water and provide other ecosystem services. The programs of the center, also known by its original name, the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), contribute toward the global environmental and economic objectives addressed by the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biodiversity, and Convention to Combat Desertification.

Dr. Garrity explained that agroforestry is the name given during the 1970's to an ancient agricultural practice that incorporates trees into agricultural fields. He briefly mentioned that ICRAF was established in 1978 in Nairobi as an independent international research institution, focusing during the 1980's on providing information on agroforestry techniques to improve rural livelihoods in

Africa. In 1992, ICRAF joined the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system following a decision to include forestry and agroforestry research in CGIAR's mandate. In the same year, the Center for International Forestry Research was established under the CGIAR in Bogor, Indonesia.

The NCSAF members were captivated when Dr. Garrity talked about some of the complex relationships and conflict resolution approaches that have been developed through the years by ICRAF and their partners in different parts of the world. He gave the example of advances achieved in the Sahel region of Africa in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, an area of savanna with dry grazing and intermittent cropping land among widely scattered trees. This area had been perceived as degrading into desert, as if the Sahara were growing to the south, when the situation was reversed over a few years by a change in policy regarding rural peoples' rights to harvest products from trees.

A legacy from European colonialism was the policy that all trees belonged to the national governments, even those found in the middle of farmers' fields or tribal grazing lands. Incapable of enforcing their national policies because of scarce budgets, eventually these governments agreed to reform their tree tenure policies to allow landowners full rights to manage their trees. Dr. Garrity showed time series aerial photos of the region taken before and after policy change, in which a clear increase in tree cover was visible that was attributed to rural peoples' increased management of trees in their cropping and grazing lands. An article that describes this success story in Niger can be found at <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/02/11/news/niger.php>.

Dr. Garrity gave other examples where ICRAF has worked to bring together rural communities, national forestry agencies, and local government functionaries to resolve resource conflicts. In ICRAF's Southeast and South Asia regions, a program has been developed that is helping rural populations improve livelihoods while conserving soil and water, the Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services program:

<http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sea/Networks/RUPES/index.asp>. Another ICRAF program has been developed for use by development program and community stakeholders to carry out rapid hydrological appraisals to prioritize conservation interventions:

[http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sea/Networks/RUPES/download/RHA/NewPDFNapiun/RHA\\_FINAL\(1\).pdf](http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sea/Networks/RUPES/download/RHA/NewPDFNapiun/RHA_FINAL(1).pdf).

This luncheon presentation by Dr. Garrity was a rare treat for those present. All attendees gained greater understanding of forest management challenges from other lands.

**Loren B. Ford**  
**Program Chair**

### **National Capital SAF and SWCS Sponsor Fall Tour**

Several years of informal collaboration in conducting Science Day in Washington, DC has matured into a partnership to provide joint professional development opportunities for both SAF and Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) members.

The most recent partnership activity was the Fall Tour conducted in and around Gainesville, Virginia. Twenty-five members rendezvoused at the Wetland Solutions and Studies, Inc. (WSSI) headquarters to tour the LEED-certified headquarters of this 100-person natural resources consulting firm and to view the low impact development (LID) techniques that were employed during construction. During the 3-hour tour, members saw rain gardens, three different types of pervious concrete paving, 800-gallon cistern (OK – we couldn't see it, but know it was there!) that collects

roof run-off and pumps it through drip irrigation systems, water quality swale, green roof, and the use of native vegetation throughout the site.

The building itself was designed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The features are too numerous to list in their entirety, but they include: motion and daylight sensors to maintain fluorescent lighting at appropriate levels; 62 individually-controlled thermal comfort zones; emission-free fabrics and surfaces; Energy Star electronics and appliances; and ventilation controls that include CO2 detectors to determine if rooms are occupied thus necessitating ventilation.

After lunch, the tour continued to the North Fork Wetlands Bank. Created

from a former cattle pasture, the bank consists of seven acres of open water (except during the current drought), 76 acres of wetlands, and 42 acres of upland buffers. Several thousand trees have been planted to restore the former pasture to a native forest condition.

A wetland mitigation bank is an area of constructed, restored or created wetlands consisting of quantifiable credits that can be purchased by developers in advance of anticipated wetland losses due to construction activities. In July 2000 the bank was donated due to National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America to be incorporated in the Scouts' 380-acres Camp Snyder. The permanent bank is used by the scouts for educational and recreational purposes.

The last stop was Sunrise Nature Park, a compensatory mitigation project in Reston, VA. It consisted of upland forest, forested wetland, scrub-shrub wetland, emergent marsh, open water an embankment dam and a butterfly garden.

The tour was a great opportunity to network with other natural resource professionals and to escape to the "field" where conservationists and foresters create, manage and restore terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Special thanks go to WSSI staff members, Jennifer Brophy-Price, civil engineer; Laura Giese, environmental scientist and NCSAF member; and Roy Van Houten, staff wildlife biologist for hosting the tour.

Laura Giese (center, in green polo shirt and brown cap), Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc and NCSAF member describing to the group the Sunrise Valley Nature Park compensatory mitigation project in Reston, VA.



## 2007 NCSAF Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact</b>
November 8	Conservation Education Dr. Safiya Samman *	Loren Ford
November 15	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
November 16	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
December 6	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
December 13	Holiday Party	Wilhelmina Bratton
December 15	Holiday Tree Cutting Expedition	Laura Schweitzer
December 17	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler

\**Tentative*

## 2007 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Position	Individual's Name	Phone	E-mail
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