**SAF Hires a New Chief Executive Officer—**

**Matthew Menashes to lead SAF**

*Bethesda, Maryland, May 7—*The Society of American Foresters (SAF) has hired Matthew E. Menashes as its new Chief Executive Officer. Menashes, who begins his new role on June 2, will succeed SAF’s previous executive, Michael Goergen, who left SAF in September 2013.

As Chief Executive Officer, Menashes will work in partnership with the SAF Council and SAF staff to strengthen the organization and develop new strategies that add value and promote customer service and communication for SAF’s membership. He will also be responsible for overseeing the daily operations at the SAF National Office, and, in conjunction with the SAF President, serve as spokesperson for the Society and professional forestry.

"The Society has a proud history of advancing scientific knowledge, public policy, and academic achievement throughout its 100-plus years," said Menashes. "As forestry continues to evolve, SAF will too, helping its members advance forestry practice, connect with each other, and expand relationships with partners in other natural resource professions. I look forward to working with our 12,000 members to continue their personal growth and evolution and building on Michael Goergen's work."

Menashes comes to SAF from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in Washington, DC, where he served as Director of Operations from 2010 to 2014.

"Matt Menashes has been an important part of the leadership team for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies," said Ron Regan, AFWA Executive Director. "We have benefited greatly from his business and managerial acumen at the Association. We will miss him, but wish him well for this exciting new phase of his career."

Before AFWA, Menashes served as Executive Director of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Paddlesports Industry Association.

This announcement of SAF’s new Chief Executive Officer concludes an extensive executive search performed by a search committee composed of SAF volunteer leaders working with executive search firm Signature Search. SAF President Dave Walters, CF, said Menashes is a voracious learner and strategic thinker who will implement the goals and set the direction for SAF as it works to ensure thriving forests across the nation, provide essential resources to natural resources professionals, and build strong communities among the forestry profession, its allies, related disciplines, and the public.

“SAF’s Board is convinced that Matt is the best person to lead SAF beyond our one hundred and fourteenth year,” said Walters. “His experience and skills will insure that SAF’s tradition of excellent leaders, which began with Gifford Pinchot, will continue, and his commitment to advancing forest management and serving our natural resource partners is exciting.”

For more information, contact: Louise Murgia, SAF Interim Executive Vice-President and Senior Director of Field Services at 866-897-8720, ext. 118, or murgial@safnet.org.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry. A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, SAF members include natural resource professionals in public and private settings, researchers, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students.

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**District VII Council Representative Kim Steiner shares his thoughts**

There is no point in my repeating information that is in the announcement, but I did want to pass along the personal comment that Council is pleased with this happy end to a lengthy and somewhat arduous search. The search team turned over every stone in sight to build a strong list of candidates for the position, and Matt received the unanimous endorsement of Council.

I think every Council member is looking forward in eager anticipation to our first business meeting with Matt, in June. I’m sure he would appreciate receiving your personal expressions of welcome at matthew.menashes@gmail.com.

Kim Steiner, District VII Council Representative
A Word From the Chair

Spring seems to be coming late this year, but the world all around DC is getting greener by the day. The start of this year has been great thanks to the hard work and leadership of the Executive Committee on so many of the functions of our organization…and the elected officers deserve special recognition for their work: Joe Reddan (Chair-Elect), Jake Donnay (Secretary), Christine Cadigan (Treasurer), and Andy Mason (Past Chair). This is a great group committed to a sustainable chapter.

As the world around us begins its annual renewal, we have the opportunity to reflect on the role of NCSAF in the DC Metro area. During my time as a member of NCAF my experiences have been focused around the events that have been put on by the Program Committee – both the social experiences such as the annual reception & the wine auction, and the educational luncheon speakers that we’ve had. These events have helped me grow and better understand the forestry community that is this group. So what is NCSAF to you? If you have ideas for projects or events, please let us know…or better yet get involved in the Program Committee or in another role with NCSAF. -Jeff Bradley, Chair-

2014 Tentative Program Schedule

◊ **February 18**—“Empowering Communities with Urban Green Spaces” Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Director Urban Resources Initiative.
◊ **July**—NCSAF Summer Intern Summit
◊ **August**—Forests & Congress: Legislative Update
◊ **December**—Annual Holiday Party (no luncheon)
◊ More TBA!

HELP WANTED!

Do you come to the almost-monthly NCSAF luncheon programs? Do you ever wonder how they happen? ANSWER: NCSAF Program Committee. The Program Committee is seeking 2-3 NCSAF members to assist in identifying and arranging for presenters and hosting them. You will be part of the NCSAF team that serves the membership by providing interesting, provocative, and mind-expanding speakers.

If you are interested, contact Eric Norland, enorland@nifa.usda.gov, 202-401-5971.

FOR ALL NCSAF MEMBERS – The 2014 Program Calendar is open. If you know of a speaker we should invite but you can’t join the Program Committee, please send the name and topic to Eric Norland. The Committee will contact you to get some additional information. The schedule is pretty flexible – there is no specific day of the month for the programs – it depends on when our speakers are available. We do generally avoid Mondays and Fridays, though. Any help would be appreciated by all your fellow NCSAF members. Thanks!

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District VII Council Report

The main task at Council’s March meeting was to interview and evaluate three candidates for the Executive Vice-President position. Council identified two “finalists,” both of whom would be fine EVPs in our judgment, but as of this writing we have not yet completed a hire. Very soon, I hope.

Council approved a new mission statement recommended by the Membership and Credentialing Task Force:

The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use our knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic to ensure the health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity.

This statement will be folded into our new Articles of Incorporation (needed to register the organization under the new DC law) and submitted to the general membership for a referendum vote in the fall. The task force is considering other recommendations, including possibly changing our name (“SAF” has been suggested). Its final report is expected in June.

The other major item of business was a discussion of draft revisions to our Bylaws (currently known as the Constitution) – revisions...

Join the NCSAF Executive Team!

The NCSAF Executive team is almost complete. See all the officers, their responsibilities and contact information at the NCSAF web site at http://www.ncsaf.org/

The two positions still vacant are the Tellers and Auditors Chair and the Policy Chair, and opportunities exist for 2014-2015 on the Program Committee as well.

The Tellers and Auditors combined Chair is responsible for counting the ballots for annual elections of NCSAF officers, and for other special elections as may be required. The position also certifies the results of these elections, as well are responsible for periodically auditing the financial records the NCSAF. This is a low-burden, but critical role within the organization, and a great way to initially join the Executive team.

The Policy Chair makes recommendations to the executive committee concerning policy on issues of concern to the chapter. Because of overlaps with SAF HQ and the Program Committee, this position can be as easy or in-depth as the Chair decides, making it a great position for someone to grow into. Illustrative activities might include:

- Provide periodic outreach and educational opportunities to government and congressional representatives on natural resource issues in coordination with the SAF National Office.
- Create newsletter or other updates for membership on emerging policy and legislative issues.
- Prepare position statements on state and local forestry and other natural resources issues.

Program Committee Members work with the Programs Chair to implement the NCSAF monthly luncheons.

We are also looking for new NCSAF executive volunteers for 2014 as well.

For more info or to express interest in these opportunities, contact Jeff Bradley at: Jeffrey_Bradley@afandpa.org

—Chris Farley—
Marilyn Buford—Washington Academy of Science’s newest fellow!

Congratulations to Dr. Buford!

NCSAF member Marilyn Buford received an award from the Washington Academy of Sciences for Lifetime Achievement in Natural Resources Sciences “In recognition of her outstanding national leadership in quantitative ecology and global change research, and dedication to discovering bioenergy and biobased products that promote sustainable forest productivity.” She become a Fellow of the Academy, and was honored at an awards banquet on May 8, 2014.

The National Capital Society of American Foresters, a member of the Academy, nominated Marilyn for the award.

-Daina Apple-

Visit NCSAF online at: www.NCSAF.org

Professional Societies Fair attracts large crowd

On Nov. 19th, 2013, NCSAF and 11 other natural resource societies held the first-ever Professional Societies Fair on USDA’s Whitten Building patio in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the event was to bring natural resource professionals together, make them aware of the benefits that professional societies offer, and recruit them as new members.


Those in attendance included students, university faculty, employees from agencies and NGOs, and representatives from the participating societies. In addition to the fair aspect of the event, private sector and government natural resource leaders spoke to the crowd regarding the importance of involvement in professional societies, including the invaluable networks available through association membership and how society conference and trainings help keep professionals up to date on the latest research and techniques that is critical to an effective workforce and management of the nation’s resources.

The event was well attended (at least 100) and received by all the sponsoring societies. It made us aware of the opportunity for the professional society community... (continued on Page 5)
On February 18 the National Capital SAF’s lunch presentation was by Colleen Murphy-Dunning, Director of Yale University’s Urban Resources Initiative (URI). Introducing Colleen was Jeremy West, SAF member and former URI intern. URI began in 1989 as a training program for students at Yale’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, providing them hands-on experience organizing community development projects. While URI’s projects are diverse, ranging in scale from curb strip plantings to developing green spaces on abandoned home lots, they share a common element: they are initiated, designed and implemented by community members. The interns are facilitators, helping to bring people together. But, it is the community members who are bringing something green to their neighborhoods. This sweat equity has meant project sustainability and has played a key role in URI’s many successes over the years.

Recently, URI expanded to include an employment program for local teens and for ex-offenders returning to society, not only providing them marketable job skills but also instilling in them an appreciation for the natural world. With more and more Americans living in cities, URI provides a proven template for how we can better bring people and nature together in our expanding urban context.

For more information about the work being done by URI, please visit their website at: [http://environment.yale.edu/uri/](http://environment.yale.edu/uri/).

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**NCSAF Hears about the Urban Resources Initiative**

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For more information about the work being done by URI, please visit their website at: [http://environment.yale.edu/uri/](http://environment.yale.edu/uri/).
On December 7, NCSAF and Falls Church Boy Scout Troop 140 joined forces on a beautiful cool fall day to help clean up trash along the Potomac River at Theodore Roosevelt Island National Historic site. In a short time we collected a small mountain of trash, including many plastic bottles, two tires, and a suitcase (and a few other unmentionables). There is certainly plenty more trash for future service days!

National Park Service Ranger Miguel Roberson gave us a history lesson, safety briefing, and all the necessary tools, including gloves, high-visibility vests, trash pickers, and bags. NCSAF member Cindy Musick connected us with Troop 140, which also raised awareness of the opportunity for NCSAF to help local Scouts earn their Forestry Merit Badge.

After a quick lunch in the parking lot several NCSAF members joined Jamie Lewis, Forest History Society historian, as we explored the trails of Roosevelt Island and discussed options for the “Roosevelt Legacy Trail” (RLT) and associated educational/interpretive signs. Jamie shared his ideas for the conceptual trail, which would include signs describing significant conservation events that either occurred during President Theodore Roosevelt’s life (1859-1919) and/or were the result of actions he took in partnership with other conservation leaders. For example, the first sign might discuss George Perkins Marsh’s Man and Nature (1964) and another sign could feature Pinchot and an event such as the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905. The RLT could include other conservation events, leaders, organizations, and agencies such as John Muir, the Sierra Club, and the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. A broad range of conservation agencies, organizations, and businesses could potentially be sponsors of the trail.

The proposed “Roosevelt Legacy Trail” is an alternative to the Gifford Pinchot monument proposal that NCSAF, the Pinchot Institute, and the National Office of SAF have been investigating over the past year in connection with Pinchot’s 150th birthday in August 2015. Although the scope of the RLT is certainly much broader and complex than a single Pinchot monument, such a trail is also more likely to attract the support needed to satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 and the necessary funding.

—Andy Mason—
District VII Council Report, Continued from Page 3

...that are needed to comply with the new District of Columbia law and, in general, bring this document up-to-date with a little “spring cleaning.” The document is now back in committee for more work and will be brought to Council for a vote in June. I’ll inform you after the June meeting of any significant changes to current practice, and the complete document will be on the ballot in the fall for a membership vote.

For More Info Contact:
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Visit NCSAF online at: www.NCSAF.org