Closing Thoughts From Outgoing Chair Ted Beauvais

December is here and I begin the last month as State Society Chair for NCSAF. I first want to thank all of our members, particularly those who have been active participants in any of our meetings and events this year. The Executive Committee has been very active and engaged and provides the leadership that keeps our organization going – a special thanks to them for their volunteerism. And the elected officers of NCSAF deserve special recognition for their service: Andy Mason (the incoming Chair), Jeff Bradley (Chair-Elect), Jake Donnay (Secretary), Christine Cadigan (the incoming Treasurer), and Darrel Pendris (the outgoing Treasurer).

The Capitol Christmas Tree lighting and our Holiday Reception last week were both successful and fun events. The former serves as my kick-off for the Holiday Season in an inimitable Washington, DC way with a tree from a national forest, transported with care and decorated with good wishes and cheer.

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Chris Reij presents at NCSAF Luncheon on January 17th

On Thursday, January 17th, NCSAF hosted a very educational luncheon with Chris Reij, Sustainable Land Management specialist of the Centre for International Cooperation, VU University Amsterdam, at the World Resources Institute in Washington DC. Chris’ presentation was about the important role of trees on farms and their critical support to sustainable agriculture and improved food security. Most of his talk focused on the highly successful re-greening initiatives in the Western Sahel region, which are working because farmers have been able to realize immediate benefits from the trees (e.g., organic matter that enhances soil fertility, shade for livestock, firewood for cooking). It is also important for farmers to have the right to use the trees, rather than the government. The majority of the trees are regenerated naturally and managed by the farmers, rather than being planted, which often has low survival rates. The result is large areas that have significantly more tree cover now than they did in the 1970s. Are there lessons from the Western Sahel that can be applied to other parts of the world?

Chris Reij is also a Senior Fellow of the World Resources Institute. He has worked in Africa since 1978. Although he has maintained a focus on the West African Sahel, Chris has been involved in numerous studies and consultancies in Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. His main fields of research and writing are related to soil and water conservation in drylands, farmer innovation in agriculture, long-term trends in agriculture and environment and analysis of successes in agriculture and land management in Africa. He is currently the facilitator of “African Re-greening Initiatives”, which supports farmers in adapting to climate change and in developing more productive and sustainable farming systems. This initiative was launched to help scale up proven successes in re-greening by individual farmers and communities. It is operational in Burkina Faso and Mali, and is expanding to other African countries. It collaborates with the World Wide Web Foundation and VU University’s Network Institute in a Web Alliance for Re-greening Africa.
NCSAF Wine Auction is a Huge Success

In October we had one of the most successful NCSAF Annual Wine Tasting and Auction events ever. The event this year was held on October 18, 2012, and the venue was the Ballston Park Condominium, Arlington, Virginia.

More than 30 NCSAF members, and invited guests attended the event. The event offered an opportunity to taste a variety of fine wines, to network with NCSAF colleagues, and most importantly to raise money for our local SAF professional society. A total of $3252 was raised from the auction, far exceeding the 2011 total. Great work and THANK YOU!

The nights festivities were again presided over by auctioneer extraordinaire Doug Crandall, who deftly kept the crowd entertained while pushing the bids subtly higher.

We owe the success of the event to:

- People who kindly donated auction items, as well as Dwight/E.Lynn for offering up the great venue;
- People who attended the event and participated in the auction; and
- NCSAF fundraising committee (Doug Crandall, David Gwaze and Christine Cadigan) for organizing the event.

Thank you!

Visit NCSAF online at: www.NCSAF.org

Join the NCSAF Executive Team!

The 2013 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 three positions still vacant are the Tellers and Auditors Chair, the Service Chair, and the Policy Chair, and opportunities exist for 2013 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 Service Chair has taken on the role of the Phonathon Chair and helps implement other service projects for the Society including Wild Acres work days, etc. With relatively discrete projects and tasks, this is another great entry position.

The Policy Chair makes recommendations to the executive committee concerning matters of 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.
- Regularly update 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.

For more info or to express interest in these opportunities, contact Andy Mason at amason@fs.fed.us
...from school children (this year the tree is an Engelmann Spruce from the White River National Forest near Meeker, Colorado), while the latter is the end of the year event for NCSAF and a time to recognize the milestones and achievements of our members and to socialize with friends and associates.

Eric Norland was elected Fellow in 2012 and I presented him with his framed certificate at the Holiday Reception. We also announced our three golden anniversary members who will be presented framed certificates and pins. They are: Robert A. Peoples, Mark A. Reimers, and Dan E. Cramsey. If you see any of these members please congratulate them for their accomplishments and their service to SAF. Other member milestones and pins were announced and presented.

The national convention in Spokane was an opportunity to learn about resilient forests (this year’s theme) and Andy Mason and I participated as NCSAF representatives at the House of Society Delegates. There was a lot of discussion about the new SAF branding efforts that you will be hearing about, starting with the Core Language printed below. The focus of this effort is to focus on the passion for forests, natural resources and the outdoors that brought all of us into forestry. Thinking about how we were “called” to this career and what excites us to this day about our profession. Rekindling this passion, and not being too introverted and embarrassed to share it, is one of the best things we can do for ourselves, SAF, and others who might be interested in joining us. This approach honors our history, respects science-based approaches to management, and highlights the important benefits that all Americans receive from forests. The Core Language one-pager is copied below for your review, reflection and use. There were 19 iterations of this document, and it will never resonate 100% with everyone, but I find it captures who we are and what we do in a way that both members and the public can readily understand and appreciate.

**Thriving forests. Essential resources. A strong community.**

We challenge land-owners, decision-makers and society at large to make choices about our forests based on professional knowledge, leading-edge thinking and a century of practical experience.

We seek viable pathways forward, balancing diverse demands on our natural resources.

We set the standard in forest management, bringing science, best practice and the best people together to actively shape the future of the profession.

“For the greatest good. For the greatest number. For the long run.”

*Society of American Foresters*

**Evolving Forest Management since 1900**

The NCSAF Executive Committee will meet the morning of January 12, 2013 to plan for the year. Be sure to let me, Andy Mason, Jeff Bradley or any other members of the Executive Committee know what your ideas and wishes for our State Society are in the coming year (click on http://www.ncsaf.org/Admin2012.htm for the Executive Committee members and contact info). Your participation matters and we would love to hear from you. I have enjoyed working with you and serving as your Chair. Best wishes for the New Year.

—*Ted Beauvais, 2012 Chair, NCSAF*—
As I accepted the gavel from outgoing Chair Ted Beauvais at our annual holiday party, my thoughts quickly turned to what can NCSAF do in the coming year to make a difference in advancing the SAF mission?

First, allow me to express my appreciation for those that so ably served NCSAF in 2012. THANKS to Ted and everyone on the Exec Committee for their service, including outgoing Treasurer Darrel Pendris (thanks Christine Cadigan for taking on this important job), Secretary Jake Donnay (Jake, thanks for continuing on in 2013), Paula Randler, Service Chair/Phonathon/Wild Acres Work Day (Paula moved to Arizona recently), Jeanne Kavinski (Continuing in 2013 as Membership Chair), Daina Apple (Continuing as Science Chair), David Gwaze (continuing as Fundraising Chair) and Chris Farley, Immediate Past Chair (continuing on as our Newsletter Editor). Also, welcome to Jeff Bradley, Chair-Elect in 2013.

At the December 5 holiday party I shared a few ideas that were discussed further at the January 12 Executive Committee meeting. Here are the NCSAF priorities I am thinking about for 2013:

- **Continue to provide high quality educational programs, networking, and social events** (e.g., luncheon speakers, happy hours, October wine tasting/fundraiser auction, holiday party).
- **Create a NCSAF banner/display for use at appropriate events, which includes the new SAF Core Language** (e.g., “Evolving Forest Management since 1900”). This new language is a big deal! It helps define who we are as members and provides a new way engage with members, prospective members and the public about forestry and SAF (see Michael Goergen’s commentary in the January 2013 Forestry Source).
- **Provide scholarships to help NCSAF members participate in the 2013 National SAF Convention**, October 23-27 in Charleston, SC.

- **Increase NCSAF Membership** by hosting a major member recruitment event in the DC area, in partnership with other natural resource societies (e.g., Soil and Water Conservation Society). We also discussed the idea of a June/July “Careers in Forestry” event focused on summer interns. I challenged each Exec Committee member to personally recruit two new members during 2013.

- **Continue to pursue the idea of a memorial to Gifford Pinchot in the DC area** (e.g., Roosevelt Island or another location in the DC area). Also begin planning and coordinating with other organizations (e.g., Pinchot Institute, U.S. Forest Service) regarding other potential NCSAF educational activities in connection with Pinchot’s birthday, and with cooperators plan other NCSAF activities in connection with the celebration of Pinchot’s 150th birthday, August 11, 2015.

The Executive Committee had a very good discussion about these ideas and other NCSAF business on January 12; I look forward very much to working with the new team in the coming year. I would also very much like to hear your thoughts about NCSAF and the priorities we should be pursuing in 2013. There are several vacancies on the Executive Committee and certainly other ways you can get engaged with your National Capital Society of American Foresters. Please contact me with your thoughts at any time: acmason1954@gmail.com

—Andy Mason is the 2013 Chair of NCSAF—
### Membership Committee Report

At the NCSAF Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, the following members were recognized for achieving their 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 year Milestone Awards.

Special congratulations go to Dan E. Cramsey, Robert A. Peoples, Jr., and Mark A. Reimers who have reached their Fifty Year Milestone! Pins and framed certificates will be presented to them at a future meeting.

Milestone pins were distributed to those present including David Gwaze, Christopher Farley, Rita Hite and Christienne Vigfusson who received their ten year pins as well as Dwight Fielder, who received his 30 year Milestone pin. We plan to present pins to those not present at future meetings as well. Or you may contact Membership Chair, Jeanne Kavinski (treemstr76@aol.com), to make alternate arrangements to receive your pin.

Congratulations to one and all!

—Jeanne Kavinski, Membership Chair—

Below: Dwight Fielder receives his 30yr pin

### 2012 Treasury Report

NCSAF had a good year financially in 2012 and remains on solid financial ground for 2013 programs. Over the year, the Society spent $4,834.10 on program expenses, including the annual Holiday Party, Wine Tasting & Auction, and minor luncheon fees. NCSAF raised $6,531.77 in income in 2012, which includes $3,252.00 from the very successful Wine Tasting & Auction. The balance of income came from dues disbursements from SAF, modest investment (CD) returns, and luncheon donations.

NCSAF currently holds $12,337.00 in its checking account and $3,605.00 in a certificate of deposit.

Outgoing Treasurer, Darrel Pendris, has transferred all materials and duties to the newly elected Treasurer for 2013, Christine Cadigan.

—Darrel Pendris, 2012 Treasurer—

### Awards

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<td>Christopher J. Farley</td>
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Since my last report, Council met on Oct. 24 at the National Convention in Spokane and again on Nov. 20 - Dec. 2 at SAF Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. This completes my first year in this role, and I’m now prepared to make a few summary comments about my job on Council.

I don’t believe I have ever seen stronger allegiance to the profession of forestry than that embodied by each of my colleagues on Council. They are earnest, opinionated, and hardworking people, and they were elected because of those and similar qualities. We spend a lot of time together because our meetings are long and sometimes intense. Fortunately, they are all great folks, and it has been stimulating to associate with them in this capacity.

The single most important thing to know about SAF right now is that we have lost nearly 450 members per year over the past 15 years, leaving us less than two-thirds as large as we were in 1997. Because dues are a large part of revenues, the decline in membership has significantly affected the operating budget. You may have noticed that the national office staff has been trimmed rather severely over the past ten years. Ultimately, these cuts can affect member services, but we have seen little of that thanks to the dedication of the national office staff. In my opinion, membership in SAF still represents a tremendous value for those who take their profession seriously. However, there is a danger that continued belt-tightening could trigger more non-renewals in an accelerating feedback loop, and that would precipitate a serious crisis.

Fortunately, there have been bright spots on the horizon and occasional reasons for celebration. The National Convention in Spokane last month was a great success with higher-than-expected attendance. The recent sale of the surplus Wild Acres property has put us on sound financial footing, even as we recognize that deficit budgets are not a sustainable option. Perhaps most significantly, the net loss of members this past year was just 22 – the smallest change since membership peaked in 1995 – and dues revenue was actually up by 5.6%. The new a la carte dues structure seems to be popular with the membership.

However, neither Council nor the national office staff is waiting for a miracle. From what I have heard, Council has been edging for several years toward the idea of repositioning SAF as a professional society. This year may have been the year in which those intentions crystallized into a commitment. I believe that all members of Council are behind this commitment, which is best expressed by the first goal in the 2013-2017 strategic plan – to recruit allied professionals as members committed to the same, unchanged mission.

As reported in my last column, we took a concrete step in that direction in June when we approved the Terrestrial Ecosystem Management (TEM) Task Force Report. That report describes the essential elements of a professional education in ecosystem management and calls for SAF to offer accreditation to qualifying programs. At the Spokane meeting, I described the logic and purpose of TEM accreditation to the Educational Policy Review Committee (EPRC) and to the heads of ten forestry schools. One or two persons were appropriately wary, but there was broad acceptance and a very encouraging level of enthusiasm for the project.

TEM accreditation (actually, TEM is still a working title) will be implemented after EPRC returns to Council with a proposed set of accreditation standards. Meanwhile, Council is moving forward on other fronts. At the December meeting, we approved the formation of a Membership/Credentialing Task Force, whose charge is:

“... to develop and recommend an action plan that maintains our core values and the Brand Promise to formally recognize as peers natural resource professionals for membership. The plan should address...”
The final report of the Task Force is due December 1 of next year, just before Council’s final meeting for 2013. The prospect of these changes will disturb some people, but I believe the changes will be positive for SAF and largely transparent to our current members. At their heart, these changes are based on the proposition that there are more similarities than differences in the management of a National Forest vs. a National Grassland, or a tract of industrial forest land vs. a forested nature preserve, or for that matter a state forest vs. a state park. To the extent we are talking about active, professional management, I firmly believe this proposition is true. The management objectives may differ by ownership or charter, but the skills and knowledge brought to bear on the tasks are the same or analogous, and the overall goal of good stewardship is unquestionably identical. Welcoming these “other” folks into SAF will not merely help the budget, but I believe it will strengthen SAF in ways that we can’t yet predict.

Kim Steiner  
District VII Council Representative  
State College, Pennsylvania

NCSAF 2013 Executive Committee Members (Standing L to R) Ted Beauvais, David Gwaze, Jeanne Kavinski, Tim Resch, Darrel Pendris, Jake Donnay, Diana Apple, Chris Farley, Andy Mason (Front) Bryan Petit and Christine Cadigan.