



National Capital Society of American Foresters



DC Forester **August 2006**

From the Chair

It is August in Washington, DC and it has certainly been hot! I hope many of you have made time this summer to get outside and enjoy the weather by heading out on camping trips, hitting the beach, or just spending some quality time outside.

For many of us working here in Washington, DC, it means much time spent in an office as opposed to in the field. Whether this is your preferred work environment or merely a stop in your career path, it points once again to the many opportunities afforded foresters in the professional world.

In Washington, DC alone we have NCSAF members in every sort of organization ranging from federal agencies to conservation NGOs to associations and more. The opportunities for learning from one another are, as a result, immense. Seminars, lectures, and presentations abound about a plethora of issues related to forestry. We stay enthused and dynamic as professionals in the field of forestry by staying open to new information and by constantly trying to learn more and inform ourselves better.

Take advantage of living in this vibrant, active city and next time you hear about a lecture or an opportunity for issue discussion, think about attending. Also, keep an eye on your email boxes as the NCSAF listserv frequently announces forestry lectures happening around town, in addition to the monthly NCSAF luncheon lectures.

Best of luck in your continuing education...

Laura Schweitzer
NCSAF Chair

Why Volunteer for NCSAF?

Volunteering is fun as it will expand your social circle. You can exercise your talents and do things you may not have the opportunity to do at work or at home.

Learn through Service

If you volunteer to chair a committee (usually you are the committee) or assist on a committee, you can support activities that benefit all the members of NCSAF. Perhaps this is a new role for you and it may enhance your job skills.

Enjoy better Health

Volunteering can give you peace of mind, body and soul as you gain a great sense of purpose and self-satisfaction. Volunteering can lower your stress level, heighten your immune system and even help you sleep better at night.

Gain self Confidence

In NCSAF your volunteer efforts give you the advantage of a time to do new tasks on your own, while doing so in a supportive environment. You will collaborate with other members that will support you and help you be successful. That builds confidence and will help you do better at work and at home.

Discover your Strengths and Leadership Talents

Volunteering for NCSAF will give you the opportunity to reveal hidden talents. You can assume responsibilities and take on challenges you didn't know you were capable of – be they in organizational leadership or in professional self development. It can also give you a sense of empowerment and independence.

Expand your Social Circle

Volunteering or serving in elective office for the NCSAF is personally very rewarding as you meet new people from all across the DC metropolitan area from all levels of employment in government, in industry, in the non-profit sector and in private associations. Those you meet and help are there because they want to be and are enjoying what they do for the NCSAF and for the forestry profession. They are also exercising their talents. Give it a try, you'll enjoy it.

**Wilhelmina Bratton,
Chair Elect, NCSAF
John Witherspoon
Tellers Chair, NCSAF**

In the Spirit of Volunteerism

Hello NCSAF members! As we are well into 2006, conversations amongst NCSAF Executive Committee members have already begun to turn towards plans for 2007, specifically, who will step up to fill leadership roles in the coming year. Many of you may wonder about how to become involved in the leadership of NCSAF and how and why to become involved. Several folks currently serving the NCSAF have written brief statements summing up their role and experience in NCSAF. Read on to find out more.

Perhaps you will be inspired to become more involved yourself – even run for a position in this fall's election.

Donna Gehlhaar-Secretary

It has been my pleasure to serve as NCSAF Secretary for the past four years. I chose to run for this position when asked by a fellow member. That's all it took! Just a simple question. It's my philosophy that you should serve an organization that you enjoy and gain benefit from. I certainly do from NCSAF.

I am currently in the area of governmental affairs for International Paper, not directly practicing forestry as in the past. However the opportunities provided by NCSAF have certainly aided my career.

There are excellent networking opportunities and the chance to get to know personally the top leaders from our profession in the area of forest policy is a real benefit. I have made many contacts and know right where to go when I need advice or answers to questions that help me in my job. Our membership is a great resource!

I also feel that having the corporate sector represented in NCSAF is a positive one as well. I am fortunate that International Paper is so supportive of career development and volunteerism. I encourage all NCSAF members to volunteer and participate. There is much to do and a wide variety of slots to fill from committee membership to organizing activities to serving on the Executive Committee.

Doug Powell-Treasurer

I work with Executive Committee as Treasurer. This means setting up and monitoring the annual budget of NCSAF. I also pay all bills for NCSAF and receive and deposit all income for NCSAF. My role means I attend luncheon meetings, collect money from attendees, and pay total bill to the restaurant. The treasurer also signs donation forms for NCSAF fund-raising events and submits an annual tax statement to national SAF headquarters.

This role also means I serve as a voting member of the NCSAF Executive Committee. Each month, I prepare monthly reports on financial status for Executive Committee meetings and annually submit all records for a year-end audit. In other words, the treasurer is responsible for keeping our fiscal house in order.

Mary Coulombe-District VII Council Representative

NCSAF needs leaders to carry out our SAF work to serve our members. I had the great experience of serving as the NCSAF Chair in 1994 and fundraising committee chair from 1997-2005. These positions gave me the opportunity to meet and converse with members that I probably would have never otherwise met. I learned much about local and national issues for the forestry profession and I strongly feel that I influenced the resolution of many.

I also expanded my leadership skills that have been very valuable in my work. NCSAF is a unique SAF unit and there are so many diverse members, and we provide wonderful programs for our members. I urge each of you to strongly consider volunteering to lead NCSAF either through an officer position or as a member of a committee. We really do need you.

Jim Culbert-Membership Chair

The NCSAF Membership Committee is comprised only of a Chair, so doesn't function as a committee, although Tim Resch organizes the Phonathon and Ian MacFarlane organizes some young forester get-togethers. With more members interested in membership, the committee could implement a plan to identify and contact potential members and ask them to join. We could also do more to try and engage members who are not involved in order to retain them as members. Finally, we could enhance young members' benefits through networking and mentoring. These ideas are stated in our Committee Charter.

Laura Schweitzer-NCSAF Chair

I moved to Washington, DC in 2004. In 2005, I became involved in NCSAF as vice-chair and in 2006 as chair. I can personally attest to the value of NCSAF for all members, including those in the earlier stages of their careers. I have met some of the most intelligent, diverse, and nurturing people through my involvement in NCSAF. The opportunities NCSAF has provided me for enhancing my leadership skills has been tremendous. I cannot think of another venue in which I would have received the encouragement and wisdom I have received in NCSAF. For anyone thinking taking on a role in NCSAF leadership, I would simply say, stop thinking and start doing - you won't regret it!

Report from SAF Council

One of my primary objectives for representation of District VII in the SAF Council is to provide our District membership with information about Council's activities. So, with that in mind, I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of the June 2-3 Council meeting:

- Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Mathai, will be the key note speaker. This is so exciting because she won this honor for her work in organizing women to plant trees in Africa. She has much to offer us in terms of community forestry issues in developing countries, as well as the important trees are to the health, peace and well being of the people. Please plan to attend the Convention in Pittsburgh, October 29-29, 2006!
- Roots of Forestry—go on line at www.rootsofforestry.org and register for your free access to over 80 years of Journals of Forestry. It should be a great tool for research and learning for your professional interests and work.
- Constitutional Referendum—Look for a ballot this fall to make some changes in the Constitution of SAF. Please take the time to study and vote.
- Membership—Our Society needs your help in retention of members 20-29 years old. This is the age group who are most likely to resign from membership. Also, look for ways to pass on information, both to members and potential new members like the E-Forester.
- Council decided that there will not be a change in the name of the Forest Science & Technology Board because of recognition that their duties and responsibilities are greater than a national committee.
- The new Fellows Process. We have a new District Fellows Committee. From Allegheny are Tim Kaden, chair, Mark Vodak, Susan Stout, Roger Sherman, Jim Finney and from National Capital, Jim Culbert and Les Whitmore. My sincere thanks to these dedicated members for being willing to serve on this important committee. All other Districts have formed committees. Council will evaluate the process after one year.
- The Certification Review Board has been asked by Council to review the current CFE process and make recommendation to Council in October. There is a need to examine the process because of its importance to the CF process and licensing and registering of foresters in some States.
- The Forest Policy Committee has a full agenda to revise existing position statements and to develop several new ones. These are very important to the Society as they guide our work with federal and state agencies, Capitol Hill, and the media.

If you have any questions, concerns or input to the work of Council, please don't hesitate to call or email me. You can reach me at 703-980-2122 or at coulombe@cox.net

You all are SAF, a community of people interested in forests and forest management. Your volunteer time and involvement is so very important to your fellow members and yourself to share,

learn and advance our profession. Please get more involved and look for opportunities to share the value of SAF with your colleagues and friends.

**Mary Coulombe
District VII Council Representative**

**Announcement for NCSAF Luncheon
Topic: Forestry in the 2007 Farm Bill**

Tuesday, August 29, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Montpelier Room, 6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress
1st & C Streets SE, entrance diagonal from Capitol South Metro Station exit
Cost: \$17/person, includes lunch, beverage & dessert

Presenter: Bill Imbergamo, Agriculture Committee Staff, U.S. House of Representatives

NCSAF Associate Member Bill Imbergamo, majority staff member in charge of forestry issues for the House Agriculture Committee, will talk about what he and the committee have heard and are considering with respect to provisions affecting forests and forestry in the 2007 Farm Bill. The Committee has had listening sessions around the country on what constituents and stakeholders would like to see in the bill, at which SAF members and others have commented on forestry issues. Many forestry stakeholders have provided input to the Committee, including SAF. The 2007 Farm Bill offers an opportunity to provide enhanced assistance to private landowners and improve upon the values and services these lands provide to society.

Many new issues affecting management of forest lands have emerged since the last Farm Bill in 2002. Both the world timber supply and competition in the forest products industry have increased. Globalization of capital markets has occurred. Sustainable forestry and forest certification have become significant issues.

According to Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson, other changes include:

- 1) The adoption of agronomic approaches to wood production, in particular the expanded use of intensively cultivated, short-rotation tree plantations in temperate and subtropical regions of the Southern Hemisphere;
- 2) The selling of large tracts of land in the U.S. by North American wood products corporations;
- 3) The increase of imports as a significant share of U.S. wood consumption;
- 4) The consumption of U.S. wood is projected to significantly exceed production over the next 50 years, yet stumpage prices are projected to be fairly stable;
- 5) The market premium paid for large logs has disappeared, reducing the benefit for holding timber stands for long periods, further shortening rotations, and penalizing trees such as Douglas Fir that start relatively slowly but sustain growth for long periods;
- 6) The relatively high production costs of the U.S. forest products industry will likely make the U.S. a marginal timber producer;
- 7) The retention of private forests in forest cover will be a challenge as major markets for wood products decline; and
- 8) The stewardship maintenance of forests will decrease without revenues from timber harvests.

Come hear Bill, participate in the question and answer session, and enjoy the company of your fellow NCSAF members.

Please RSVP to Terri Bates, batesmt@verizon.net, 703-538-1134 by COB Friday, August 25.

For other questions, contact NCSAF Program Chair Loren Ford, lbford@fs.fed.us, 703-605-4478

Announcement for NCSAF Luncheon Topic: Ecosystem Services

Wednesday, September 27, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Montpelier Room, 6th Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress
1st & C Streets SE, entrance diagonal from Capitol South Metro Station exit
Cost: \$17/person, includes lunch, beverage & dessert

Presenter: Sally Collins, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service

Healthy forest ecosystems are the life-support systems for the world as we know it. Forests provide a full suite of goods and services that are vital to human health and livelihood – natural assets we call **ecosystem services**.

Many of these goods and services are traditionally viewed as free benefits to society, or “public goods” - wildlife habitat and diversity, watershed services, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes, for example. Lacking a formal market, these natural assets are traditionally absent from society’s balance sheet; their critical contributions are often overlooked in public, corporate, and individual decision-making.

When our forests are undervalued, as they currently are, they are increasingly susceptible to degradation, development pressures, and conversion. Recognizing forest ecosystems as natural assets with economic and social value can help promote conservation and more responsible decision-making.

Associate Chief Sally Collins is leading the Forest Service’s exploration of national opportunities to advance markets and payments for ecosystem services on private lands. With help from our partners and others, we will encourage broader thinking and collaboration that stimulates market-based conservation and stewardship.

Please RSVP to Terri Bates, batesmt@verizon.net, 703-538-1134 by COB Friday, September 22.

For other questions, contact NCSAF Program Chair Loren Ford, lbford@fs.fed.us, 703-605-4478

NCSAF Membership Update

As of the end of July 2006, NCSAF had 283 members, which below our 303 membership goal for 2006. In July twelve NCSAF members were purged from the rolls for non-renewal of their membership dues.

The following other NCSAF membership changes have occurred since the end of April.

Transferred In

Melanie S. Chapman – from Triangle Chapter, NC

Transferred Out

Scott L. Bearer – to Northern Hardwood Chapter, PA

Sarah M. Crow – to Green Mountain Division, VT

Bov B. Eav – to Portland Chapter, OR

Eric R. Norland, CF – to Maryland/Delaware Division, MD

Steven W. Sorensen – to Montgomery Chapter, AL

Resigned

Mark E. Decot

Janette S. Kaiser

Suzanne M. L'Erario

Jim Culbert
Membership Committee Chair

July NCSAF Luncheon: Monitoring Our Nation's Forests

On Wednesday, July 26, NCSAF member Dr. Greg Reams, USDA Forest Service National Program Leader for Forest Inventory and Analysis, was the featured speaker at a NCSAF luncheon held at the Library of Congress.

Greg informed us of recent trends in the FIA Program. These include providing information on non-timber forest products, incorporating Forest Health Monitoring plots into a subset of national inventory plots, use of FIA data for determining risk of wildland fire and priority areas for treatment of hazardous fuels under the President's Healthy Forest Initiative, and use of FIA data as a basis for estimation of carbon budgets in the Nation's forests.

FIA continues to maintain a strong partnership with the States, many of which are contributing funds to increase the intensity of survey to allow annual continuous inventory with a plot return frequency of 5 years in the East. There are currently 46 States with implemented annualized surveys, with 24 eastern states on a five-year interval.

Prior to 1998, FIA used periodic surveys, monitoring plots in five states in any given year. The increase from 5 to 46 States monitored each year was accomplished with only an approximate doubling of the FIA budget. Inventory efficiencies are increased by deploying a three-phase process, the first of which uses remote sensing, both aircraft- and satellite-based, to locate plots in forested areas on a hexagonal grid. The subsequent phases increase monitoring intensity, first on about 45,000 standard inventory plots/year, with more intensive sampling of more plot attributes on a one-sixteenth subset of the FIA inventory plots for Forest Health Monitoring.

Future FIA Program developments include growing support to monitoring urban forests, which will expand the inventory to non-forest areas, since urban areas are generally not classified as forested. FIA has been proposed as the corporate database for National Forest System vegetation, integrating compartment and stand exam date with inventory data. FIA data continue to be valuable for State-level economic development and forest inventory investment decisions. Three new mills have recently been opened in South Carolina based on FIA data on timber availability.

June Luncheon - Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium

At the June 27 NCSAF meeting, Dr. Gary Evans discussed opportunities available through the Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium for graduate education, either for a single course, or for Certificates of Graduate Study or the pursuit and completion of a Master of Natural Resources.

Over the past 3 years, through a joint venture agreement between USDA Forest Service and Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources, a group of 6 universities have begun the development of the Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium. These universities share an understanding that many working professionals cannot afford to take time from work, move to a university, and spend up to two years completing their graduate education.

The consortium provides opportunities for these individuals to obtain graduate school academic credit for courses through web-based education. The current members of the Consortium include the Colleges of Natural Resources or College of Forestry at Virginia Tech, University of Idaho, Northern Arizona University, University of Montana, Stephen F Austin, and the World Campus Geographic Information Program at Penn State.

The portal for the Consortium may be found at <http://cnr.iddl.vt.edu>. Further information may be obtained by contacting consortium Director Dr. Gary Evans at gaevans1@vt.edu.

Wild Acres Cleanup

On May 20, 11 members helped clean up Wild Acres, home of the SAF national headquarters in Bethesda, MD. Members present included Amie Brown, E. Lynn Burkett, Jim Culbert, Dwight Fielder, Richard Fitzgerald, Pat Heaton-Holmgren, Denise Ingram, Laura Schweitzer, Bob Van Aiken, John Witherspoon, Rod Young

We pruned bushes and low hanging branches, weeded and mulched the gardens, removed dead trees, limbs, and competing vegetation, as well as sealing the picnic tables. Dwight gets the "Tarzan" recognition award for his vigorous attack on the climbing vines on the magnolia trees. We relaxed afterwards and with a double order of pizza and drinks provided by SAF. Everyone had an enjoyable time and we are pleased that our small efforts can do so much to spruce-up the grounds at Wild Acres.

**Jim Culbert
Membership Chair**

2006 NCSAF Calendar of Events

Date	Description	Contact
Sept 7	Executive Committee Mtg. – Location TBA, 11:30 – 1 PM	Laura Schweitzer
September 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
October TBD	Octoberfest	Meredith Webster
October 5	Executive Committee Conference Call	Laura Schweitzer
October 13	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
October 25-29	National SAF Convention in Pittsburgh, PA	Terry Clark clarkt@safnet.org
November 9	Executive Committee Mtg. – Location TBA, 11:30 – 1 PM	Laura Schweitzer
November 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
December TBD	Holiday Party	TBD
December 5	Executive Committee Conference Call	Laura Schweitzer
December 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler

2006 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Position	Individual's Name	Phone	E-mail
Chair	Laura Schweitzer	W: (202) 737-1944 x219 H/Mb: (510) 847-3817	LSchweitzer@amfor.org
Vice-Chair (Chair Elect)	Wilhelmina Bratton	W: (202) 205-1144 H: (703) 631-9434	wbratton@fs.fed.us
Immediate Past-Chair	Loren Ford	W: (703) 605-4478 H: (703) 369-4792	lbford@fs.fed.us
Treasurer	Doug Powell	W: (202) 205-1724 H: (703) 698-1434	dougpowell@fs.fed.us
Secretary	Donna Gehlhaar	W: (202) 628-1223 H: (703) 739-7771	Donna.gehlhaar@ipaper.com
Auditing Chair	John Witherspoon	W: (202) 205-1609 H: (703) 830-1377	jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Tellers Chair	John Witherspoon	W: (202) 205-1609 H: (703) 830-1377	jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Communications Chair	Vacant		
Membership Chair	Jim Culbert	W: (202) 205-0854 H: (703) 938-8736	jculbert@fs.fed.us
Program and Issues Forum Chair	Loren Ford	W: (703) 605-4478 H: (703) 369-4792	lbford@fs.fed.us
Nominating and Professional Recognition Chair	Jason Metnick	W: (202) 463-5181	Jason_metcick@afandpa.org
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Plyler	W: (202) 205-1777 H: (301) 445-4815	jplyler@fs.fed.us
Fundraising Chair	Vacant		
Historian	Art Smyth	H: (703) 780-4071	
Science Day Representative	Wilhelmina Bratton John Witherspoon	WB-W: (202) 205-1144 WB-H: (703) 631-9434 JW-W: (202) 205-1609 JW-H: (703) 830-1377	wbratton@fs.fed.us jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Octoberfest Chair	Meredith Webster	W: (202) 205-0804 H: (301) 445-9695	mmwebster@fs.fed.us
Phonathon Chair	Tim Resch	W: (202) 712-4453 H: (703) 660-9292	tresch@usaid.gov
Congressional Liaison	Darci Birmingham Ian MacFarlane	W: (202) 205-1759 W: (202) 624-5977	dbirmingham@fs.fed.us imacfarlane@stateforesters.org
Washington Academy of Sciences Liaison	Vacant		
Wild Acres Liaison	Dick Fitzgerald	W: (202) 205-1753 H: (703) 378-8114	rfitzgerald@fs.fed.us