



National Capital Society of American Foresters



DC Forester November 2006

Chair's Corner

With 2007 fast approaching, I find myself not only looking ahead to the upcoming year, but also reflecting on all that has passed in 2006. The thought that immediately floats to the top is how grateful I am to the NCSAF executive committee and membership for allowing me to serve as chair over the past year.

When I first moved to Washington, DC three years ago, NCSAF welcomed me and helped me feel at home. When I was subsequently asked to serve in a leadership role, I was excited for the opportunity to pay forward some of the energy and kindness I'd been given. Not once have I regretted that decision. More than anything, I've come to appreciate that the diverse array of people who make up NCSAF.

Our membership so clearly demonstrates forestry's broad and inclusive nature. Professionals in NCSAF range from field foresters to urban foresters, policy analysts to staff on Capitol Hill, wildlife biologists to hydrologists, as well as many others. The wisdom and experience of those I have been exposed to through NCSAF has been invaluable and I look forward to continuing to work with others in SAF in coming years. I've said it before and I'll say it again. I couldn't recommend more highly to any member of NCSAF, whether at the beginning, high point, or end of your career the value of engaging with your fellow SAF members.

As with anything else, you get out of your membership what you put into it, and should you make the decision to put some energy towards leadership, you will, no doubt, see a tremendous rise in the value of your SAF membership to you. We have a wonderful core group of folks who have been elected to serve as chair, chair-elect, secretary, and treasurer for 2007. These individuals will be recognized at the NCSAF Holiday Party on December 6. There are still many leadership roles and committees which would benefit from your service, so get involved!

Laura Schweitzer
NCSAF Chair

Impressions From the National SAF Convention in Pittsburgh

Several NCSAF members attended the SAF 2006 National Convention in Pittsburgh October 25-29, which had for its theme "Our Woods: Wild and Working." Here are the impressions and highlights from a few of us.

Pittsburgh was a wonderful venue for the convention: the facilities, restaurants, and city in general were terrific. It was also great to meet in the Commonwealth of Penn's Woods, and to listen to the fascinating stories of Jim Nelson (former State Forester) and Jim Grace (current State Forester) and the history and current forestry activities of this great state. Plus it was a real treat to meet and greet many of my longtime friends and colleagues from the Allegheny SAF.

Two field trips were highlights for me. The first was on Pittsburgh's Urban and Community Forestry work. We visited several large (250+ acre) city parks, which are precious jewels for the local residents. Some of the watershed restoration work was truly inspiring. The second was to a Department of Defense Army facility near Ravenna, Ohio where it was neat to see a forester actually marking trees and conducting timber sales that greatly improved the quality of their fine hardwood resource. Doing this while dealing with the Army's mission of training troops with long-range grenade launchers added to the forester's challenge and excitement.

Doug Powell

I was involved in organizing and delivering the Forest Service's participation in the SAF Job Fair on Friday, Oct. 27, along with Darci Birmingham. This required a lot of advance preparation, and we ended up with three tables at the Job Fair representing different parts of the agency.

In advance, we announced several jobs where managers were interested in interviewing students. This drew quite a bit of interest. We made presentations at the Student Icebreaker on Wednesday and at the Diversity Reception on Thursday. We also had quite a bit of interest during the Job Fair itself, during which managers were continually interviewing students.

In the end, one verbal offer was made by the Black Hills NF to a student as part of its Student Career Experience Program on that Forest. We expect that other students will be offered jobs with the Forest Service as a result of the contacts made at the SAF Convention. Darci and I plan to organize a bigger and better Forest Service presence at the Job Fair in Portland.

I also participated in the technical field tour to Fallingwater and the Bear Run Preserve in southern Pennsylvania on Sunday. Fallingwater is a house designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s above Bear Run. The son of the original owners donated the house and surrounding property to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which manages it today. We took a tour of the house and the grounds surrounding it, and then went to another part of the preserve for a presentation of the management challenges on the Preserve. The weather was great and it was a very interesting tour to a place I have always wanted to visit.

Jim Culbert

I've had the privilege of attending many SAF conventions in the past and, as usual, I found the Pittsburgh convention to be a very uplifting experience. Just reconnecting with friends and colleagues from the Allegheny SAF and around the country is worth the price of admission.

The keynote address was truly inspiring and the technical sessions I attended were excellent. Our very own Mary Coulombe delivered some sound advice to the crowd during a very heart-warming address at the "Lunch with Leaders." It was exciting to see so many enthusiastic students (around 400) participating in the convention, including a very successful job fair. I left Pittsburgh re-energized and optimistic about the future of the profession.

Dwight Fielder

Wangari Maathai's keynote was inspiring—when have we seen such an impressive combination of personal conviction, dedication to conservation, and faith in the human spirit to triumph over corruption and intimidation? I felt pride in SAF that we attracted a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize to provide our keynote, and I was touched by her message about “Foresters Without Diplomas.”

I was also pleased that SAF was involved in working through the difficulties of promoting a national policy on sustaining the Nation’s forests, and appreciated the opportunity to interact with the sustainability task force’s leadership.

Finally, I was refreshed by the more than 400 students who attended the convention, their enthusiasm for the profession, and their interest in participating in the job fair.

Kent Connaughton

As always, the Convention was an opportunity to see old friends and make new friends. And, as always, there were 3-4 things going on at any one time that I wanted to attend, so I had to choose among them.

I arrived a couple of days prior to the Ice Breaker to attend meetings of the SAF World Forestry Committee, which I chair, and the SAF Committee on Forest Policy, on which I occupy an ex officio position as WFC Chair. This allowed me to also join Laura and Wilhelmina at the House of Society Delegates meeting as a spectator, to hear from representatives from SAF’s grass roots.

The keynote address by 2005 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai of Kenya’s Greenbelt Movement was truly inspiring, challenging all present to make a significant contribution to our Earth and its people. My wife, Damaris and I, were honored to meet Dr. Maathai in person; now Damaris has been kissed by two Nobel Peace laureates, the first being her President, Dr. Oscar Arias of Costa Rica. I was proud when Dr. Maathai was inducted as an honorary member of SAF, especially since the World Forestry Committee had nominated her.

Plenary talks by Laura Meyerson, Daniel Botkin, David Kittredge, and an excellent overview of forest history in Pennsylvania by retired State Forester Jim Nelson were also very thought-provoking.

The broad scope of technical sessions offered presentations to meet any professional specialization, but a challenge to choose which to attend.

I was grateful to be joined by Ed Gee of the Forest Service Forest Management staff, John Stewart of the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Office, and Gregg Nelson of BLM in presenting a mini-poster session on federal Woody Biomass Utilization efforts to contribute to forest health.

Finally, Pittsburgh’s majestic setting where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers join to form the Ohio provided a backdrop for a city that has truly been reborn from its industrial past to be an attractive, people-friendly city.

Loren B. Ford

I have participated in several National Society of American Foresters (SAF) Conventions and I have benefited from all of them, both in terms of professional and personal growth. A special contagion of enthusiasm was in the air from opening ceremonies to closing events at the 2006 National Convention in Pittsburgh.

I, like others, had to make hard choices of activities and events for the best use of my time there. Choosing from among the technical sessions posed great challenges for me. Finally, sessions of interest for me included, but were not limited too, (1) Forest and Forestry in Afghanistan and (2) Community –Based Forestry in Haiti: Overcoming Extreme Erosion and Poverty.

I attended the forum on Sustainable Forest in the U.S. lead by Marvin Brown, SAF President, 2006 and Lyle Laverty, SAF Council District IV representative for a new imitative by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and SAF. I was invited and attended the reception hosted by the National Association of University Forest Resources Program (NAUFRP).

Attending the Carnegie Museum Reception and Tour was a rich experience indeed. In addition to viewing one of the world's best dinosaur collections, we were given an opportunity to go behind-the-scenes in the "bug rooms" to meet and talk with Carnegie entomologist about their fabulous insect collections.

Connecting with very old friends and colleagues like Lloyd and Linda Casey, PA; Zhu Ning and Kamran Abdollahi; Urban Forestry Professors, Southern University; and making new acquaintances like Lisa Allen, state forester, Missouri was professionally rewarding as well as a fun time for me!

Wilhelmina B. Bratton

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, from Kenya, opened the convention with a truly inspiring keynote speech. She described the work that led to her own understanding of the connection between forests, water, and human health and well-being, and the greater challenges she faced in developing a shared understanding of the impacts of deforestation among the women of her community, the government, and the people of her continent. She then described how, as a result of her initial successes, the women led in the planting of vast numbers of native trees across their land to save the soil, restore watersheds, and provide food, fuel and shelter for their communities - a monumental accomplishment given the many political obstacles they faced. The effort began with a few local individuals and spread to become the Green Belt Movement, first in Kenya and then across Africa.

Near the close of the meeting, our own Mary Coulombe was one of three excellent speakers at the "Lunch With the Leaders" session, which focused on the challenges of change in our professional lives. Mary first cited the example of one leader, Jag Maini, an official of the Canadian government, who developed the conceptual ideas behind what is now widely known and broadly accepted as the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forestry. She then provided compelling observations on leadership, drawn from lessons of her own experience that focused on the importance of dealing with change in both our personal and professional lives.

Anne Heissenbuttel

Report From Council and the National Convention

National Election Update

Many of you may have heard about the national vice-president election and the errors in counting the votes, leading to an incorrect announcement that Sharon Haines had won the election. Actually Tom Thompson won the election by a thin margin. Obviously the problems with the vote counting

process are of great concern to all SAF members. Council will discuss this at their December meeting.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Tom and my regrets to Sharon. This situation was truly hard on both of them. I look forward to working with Tom on Council. I also look forward to working with Sharon to advance issues important to the Society.

Council Meeting Report: October 23, 2006 Pittsburgh, PA

The national convention in Pittsburgh was one of the best I have attended. The Allegheny Society did an outstanding job in hosting the convention. More than 1,400 members and guests attended. The plenary speakers were excellent and our keynote speaker, Wangari Mathai was incredible. Her remarks reminded us of the connection between healthy forests and people's survival, and the indomitable spirit of those who seek to make far-reaching change. The efforts by the working groups to provide technical training opportunities were significant and the technical sessions had such variety that everyone's needs for new learning should have been met. I was particularly proud of the members of District VII that were honored with national awards and recognized as Fellows.

Council met for a short, but substantive meeting at the convention. The 2007 Fellows were elected by Council, the first under the new Fellows nomination process. Based on several concerns about the process, Council will further discuss the need for additional guidance to Fellow Committees at the December meeting. I have talked to most on the District VII committee and have received some feedback to share with Council. For the most part, I was satisfied with the District VII process, even though the Committee had a very compressed time to implement the new process.

Council continued the discussion of the proposals to change aspects of the membership dues and policies. One action taken by Council was to no longer require a sponsor on the application for new membership. Other changes will be considered at the December meeting.

We will continue to discuss the processes related to charges of ethics violations. The process remains a significant concern of several Societies.

Also, Council will discuss proposals to make changes to the World Forestry Committee and the International Working Group. Loren Ford, NCSAF has been working on this with others. Other information items included SAF policy positions on FIA and Tongass NF road building.

Please plan to attend the NCSAF Holiday Party on December 6. It is always a wonderful event and a time to wish each other a joyous holiday and a happy New Year.

Please contact me if you have any comments or concerns. My new work number is 202-761-1228. I now work for the Army Corps of Engineers as the Chief of Natural Resources. Please continue to use my home email: coulombe@cox.net.

Mary Coloumbe
District VII Council Representative

NCSAF 2006 Holiday Party

Please join your fellow NCSAF members for food, fun, and celebration at our 2006 Holiday Party on December 6, 2006 from 6 – 8 pm (immediately following the Congressional Tree Lighting

Ceremony). Location TBA. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Schweitzer at lschweitzer@amfor.org.

NCSAF Election Update

The election of officers for 2007 has been completed. Thanks to everyone that took the time to vote as it is appreciated. Official results will be presented by Chair Laura Schweitzer at the Holiday party on December 6th. Congratulations to those candidates that stepped up and ran for elective office for 2007!!

**John Witherspoon
Tellers Committee**

NCSAF Membership Update

The following NCSAF membership changes occurred in October.

As of the end of October 2006, NCSAF had a total of 291 members, which is 12 members below our membership goal of 303 members for the end of 2006.

New

Carol Kennedy Hearle, Bethesda, MD
Rene L. Cochise, USDA Forest Service
Trey Schillie, USDA Forest Service
Allen M. Solomon, USDA Forest Service

Reinstated

Lynda L. Boody, USDI Bureau of Land Management
David M. Moore

Transferred In

Megan E. Manner - from Northern Hardwood Chapter
Tony L. Tooke - from Big Bend Chapter
Eric R. Norland, CF – from Maryland/Delaware Division
Douglas E. Williams, CF – from West Virginia Division

Transferred Out

Melanie S. Chapman – to New Jersey Division
Dennis P. Roy – to Utah Chapter

Deceased

Edward A. Johnson – 18 Oct. 2006, age 88, retired from the USDA Forest Service and SAF Fellow

**Jim Culbert
Membership Committee Chair**

Markets for Ecosystem Services: A New Vision for the Future of Forestry

Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins

The speaker for the September 2006 luncheon of the National Capitol Chapter of the Society of American Foresters was Associate Chief Sally Collins of the U.S. Forest Service. Associate Chief Collins presented a number of thoughts and encouraged discussion on the potential for forest ecosystem services to help meet the future goals of sustainable forest management and conservation in the United States. She provided a historical context of the critical issues facing the agency and an overview of how the Forest Service became interested in ecosystem services.

Collins also highlighted the potential benefits of markets for ecosystem services for both agricultural producers and forest landowners in connection with the next Farm Bill, noting that ecosystem markets might work in the areas of air and water quality, wetlands, endangered species, greenhouse gases, and development rights. However, she pointed out challenges in connection with making these markets work. They “are not a silver bullet,” and they require a high degree of validity and public confidence.

She underscored that they are only one way of addressing the problems facing American forestry; other ways include restoring the cost-competitiveness of the American forest products industry, improving tax policy, expanding conservation easements, and providing technical and financial assistance for forest landowners. Noting that a number of questions remain unanswered about how markets for ecosystem services would work, Associate Chief Collins, nevertheless projected a vision of ecosystem markets as a cornerstone for conservation in America, providing incentives for private individual forest landowners “to help protect America’s forests for generations to come.”

Denise Ingram
NCSAF Member

Local Foresters Can Get Involved in the Master Naturalist Program

Some of you may have seen the article on the Master Naturalist program in October’s *The Forestry Source*. It is an initiative designed to build bridges between state land management agencies and the people they serve by educating the public about the natural resources in their localities and inspiring them to participate in their conservation. Since 1998 the Master Naturalist program has grown to approximately 25 state-level programs across the country.

One of the newest is in nearby Virginia, which began developing its program in 2004 and is currently in the process of educating the first group of program participants. The Virginia program is sponsored by 5 state agencies—the Cooperative Extension Service, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Museum of Natural History—and is based in and supported by the Department of Forestry within Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources.

According to Michelle D. Prysby, Virginia Master Naturalist program coordinator (434-872-4580, mprysby@vt.edu), there are two existing chapters within reasonable driving distance of DC. They are the Banshee Reeks Chapter (based at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve in Loudoun County) and the Central Rappahannock Chapter (based in Fredericksburg). The contact information for those chapters, as well as our other as well as other background information, is posted on the Web at <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>. And, in 2007, they’ll be starting new chapters, and one of those will be in Fairfax County. They are still in the planning stage, but the person to contact there

is Marilyn Schroeder (703-323-7045, schroe@verizon.net (make sure to include “Fairfax Chapter Master Naturalist” in subject line)).

People interested in becoming a master naturalist in Virginia are required to undergo a 6–12 month process that includes a 40-hour training course offered by a local chapter of the program. Participants learn about the goals of the program; American naturalists; basic ecology; biogeography; geology; nature interpretation; scientific research skills; regional ecological systems and their management practices; and the biology, ecology, identification, conservation, and management of native plant and animal species.

Then, after completing the program’s educational component, participants are required to take part in a 40-hour service project involving public education (such as a classroom presentation or interpretive nature walk), citizen science (participating in or developing a study pertaining to a specific natural resource), or stewardship (e.g., building and maintaining trails, habitat restoration, removing invasive plants).

The final component of the certification is advanced training or continuing education in which volunteers would do 8 hours of that per year to keep their certification. This involves focused training in any area that is of interest to them or applied to one of the service projects that they’re doing.

NCSAF members could get involved in many ways. One might be to simply sign up as a participant and complete the training and community service to receive certification as a Master Naturalist. SAF could recognize this training with Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) credits. One might also become an instructor for one or more of the training courses. For that, the best thing to do is probably to contact local chapters near you and offer your expertise. And finally, if you are interested in developing an advanced training for the Master Naturalist volunteers, there are opportunities to do that as well, either for individual chapters or on a regional basis. Advanced trainings are an opportunity for the volunteers to get more in-depth knowledge and skills that they can apply to their service projects. Each volunteer has to do 8 hours of advanced training each year. There's no formal process for becoming an instructor for one of these; it would just involve proposing a good topic to the local chapter advisor and then finding a date and venue for offering it.

2006 NCSAF Calendar of Events

| Date | Description | Contact |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| December 5 | Executive Committee Conference Call | Laura Schweitzer |
| December 6 | Holiday Party | Laura Schweitzer |
| December 15 | Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i> | Jennifer Plyler |
| January 25, 2007 | Wine Tasting, Ballston, VA | Dwight Fielder and Laura Schweitzer |

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_metnick@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 |