Winter Meeting 2007

The 2007 Winter Meeting of the GSD is history but it was memorable and I think it will lead to a great deal more discussion. The usual suspects presented the morning program of what was up with forestry in the Granite State. Phil Bryce, Jason Stock, Will Abbott, Sarah Smith, Steve Wingate, and Esther Cowles each participated in this informative and useful session. The business meeting was quick and to the point with lunch time looming over everyone’s head. Bob Berti and Mariko Yamashiki were announced as NESAF award winners for 2007. Bob received the Distinguished Service Award and Mariko was awarded the Ernest Gould Technology Transfer Award. Pete Howland made notice of his Global Climate Change policy statement (Pete is Policy Chair on the NESAF EC as well as NH rep) and he announced the 2008 joint NE/NY Winter Meeting to be held next February at Saratoga Springs, NY.

The 2006 NESAF Winter Meeting earned the GSD a sizeable addition to their bank account so member Tom Hahn upped GSD support of scholarships and the PLT program by offering a successful motion to amend the budget increasing our payments to those two program areas.

The business meeting ended with the seating of the new GSD officers for 2007. The gravel was passed from Dave Pilla to Pat Hackley. JB Cullen received an Inge Seaboyer print for his service as Treasurer and then gave up his accounting ledgers to Matt Tansey. Dick Weyrick accepted the chair elect position while Janice Mulherin and Wendy Scribner retained their positions as Secretary and Education program chair respectively.

During lunch John O’Brien and Brian Johnsen, TF Executive Committee Chair, gave the Tree Farm awards to inspectors and made announcements concerning the TF Inspection process. Award winners included: Jack Wadsworth, John Ferguson, Wayne Young, Don Black, Nory Parr, Dan Cyr, and John O’Brien. Tim Fleury was named NH Outstanding Inspector for 2006 with 18 re-inspections.

Winners of the special drawing for inspectors that included a cedar lined chest and a butternut wine rack were: Peter Pohl and Don Johnson. (more on page2)

Tree Farm Award to O’Brien

John O’Brien finally got some of the recognition he deserves for all his hard work for the New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee. In mid-January the National Tree Farm Program announced that John had been selected the Northeast Regional winner of the Field Leadership award. Although loosing out to a Texan for the National award, John still gets a gift card at Cabelas, an article of Tree Farm logo clothing along with a plaque and some mention in the local newspapers.

Any of you who have been Tree Farm inspectors know how much work John has done for nearly 10 years with the program. Heck, even his driveway is called Tree Farm Road.

Inside this issue:

| Membership Issues to Council | 2 |
| Farm and Forest Expo | 2 |
| Executive Committee News | 3 |
| Future of Foresters in the Northeast | 3 |
| Your GSD EC Members 2007 | 4 |

Special items of interest:

- GSD-SAF Winter Meeting Highlights
- John O’Brien Regional TF Award winner
- Fairlee Vermont hosts the NESAF Annual Meeting March 21 to 23, 2007
- Council to consider member input on the proposed changes to SAF membership

Written and edited by George ‘the mistakes are all mine’ Frame
2007 GSD Annual Meeting (Cont.)

George Frame received a butternut wine rack for his service to the TF program as Inspector Trainer and as Chair and member of the TF Executive Committee. During the Tree Farm Presentations it was announced that Bob Simpson of the National TF Program office will be in NH on April 10th, 2007 to answer questions on the Tree Farm program for co-sponsors and inspectors.

Pat Hackley introduced Jane Difley of the Forest Society who presented The 2007 Outstanding Forester of the Year award to George Frame.

The afternoon session was opened by a thought-provoking and entertaining keynote address by Dave Anderson of the Forest Society’s Education and Outreach staff. Dave’s remarks provided a noteworthy introduction to the panel discussion moderated by Dave Pilla.

Sitting on the panel were Charlie Moreno, Don Quigley, JB Cullen and Pete Howland. Speaking on the topic ‘Who will manage our Forests in the Future?’ each panelist gave some insights into their beginnings in forestry and their perspective on the future of foresters and the profession.

2007 Farm and Forest Expo

The GSD-SAF hosted a booth at this year’s Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester on February 2nd and 3rd. There was a very good crowd for both days of the Expo. Participants noticed an increased energy level at the event this year. I’m not sure what the cause was but everyone seemed involved and active.

More than 40 members of the Granite State Division responded to a Membership Issues Survey available at the Winter Meeting. While these issues have been under discussion at National and State Society level since The National Convention in October, there has been very little feedback from the field. Results of the survey will be forwarded to the NESAF Membership Committee and then on to our Region VI Council Rep Roger Dzieggeleski for use at the March Council meeting. GSD members responding were generally approving of all the changes including reducing the categories of membership to 3; allowing all members to vote at all levels of the organization; and removing the sliding dues schedule.
Executive Committee News

The new Executive Committee will be meeting on March 13th at the Conservation Center in Concord. Usually scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, EC meetings are open to all members who wish to attend.

At JB Cullen’s request a full audit of the GSD books was completed by Janice Mulherin and George Frame prior to them being turned over to the new Treasurer Matt Tansey. With everything in order the new crew is ready to move on with your interests foremost in their minds.

If you see any of the Executive Committee members in your travels please mention that you appreciate the time and effort they expend on your behalf. They only get paid in ‘attaboys’ so every good wish is a pay day.

Have you visited WWW.NESAF.ORG yet? You really should. Pretty to look at, easy to move around, and plenty of good info to make your membership more valuable and meaningful.

The Future for Foresters in the Northeast

Ken Laustsen, past chair of the NE-SAF EC will be presenting the final draft of the Future of Foresters in the Northeast White Paper and Action Plan at the 2007 NESAF Winter Meeting in Fairlee. Ken has some time staked out in the program when you can go and help him finalize the paper and select some alternative actions NESAF can take to insure the survival and growth of the profession in the northeast.

The membership changes being discussed at National, NESAF’s white paper and GSD’s forum on Who will manage the forests of the future are all pieces of the same bigger issue. Ever since the VOS task force report in 2004 we have been questioning who we are as foresters and what our role should be in the increasingly problematic arena of natural resource management.

Greater demands for wood products from a population that would rather not see trees harvested coupled with declining enrolment in forestry schools, modified curricula to make the science more general, a greater need for resource extraction to be provably sustainable, changing weather patterns and global climate changes are all creating a new environment for foresters. But rest assured, foresters will be needed in that new environment and we will be depended upon by others to find some solutions.

It’s never to early to volunteer for a committee position or as a candidate in any upcoming election.
GRANITE STATE DIVISION SAF

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GSD SAF is on the web. Visit www.NESAF.ORG

Talk to a friend about becoming a member. Applications are on line or can be provided by one of the individuals listed below.

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