



December 10, 2020

Fellow Foresters,

As the north pole continues its tilt away from the sun, heralding winter’s ‘official’ arrival, I hope this finds you and your family well.

Welcome! to our new members since September: William Fiske, Sean McCluskey, Rajeev Bhattarai, and Otis Wood.

Our first-ever virtual fall meeting was a great success and came off nearly seamlessly. Thanks to all who were able to attend, and to our slate of excellent speakers. We also appreciate everyone who joined in early for the business meeting, where we remembered members who had passed away since the last meeting, passed the 2021 budget, and approved a Division dues increase from \$10 to \$15. This increase will go into effect in 2021, so since most of you have a 12/31 renewal, the bulk of the additional revenue will not be realized until 2022. The primary reason for the increase is to insure we continue to have sufficient revenue to support the Division Manager position.

Although not quite the same as at a face-to-face meeting, it was still fun to be able to recognize members who have reached significant milestones, as well as MESAF members who were honored with New England SAF awards in 2020:

10-year members:

Mallory L. Bussell

20-year members:

Robert L. Chandler, Jr.
Joel T. Philbrook
Bart D. Plourde
Aaron R. Weiskittel

40-year members:

Robert C. Bond
Gordon Gamble
Bret P. Vicary

60-year (!) members:

William D. Barron
Gene S. Bergoffen
David B. Clement
Walter Gooley, Jr.
Donald K. Whittemore

2020 New England SAF Awards

Barrie Brusila - *Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award*

Amanda Mahaffey - *Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award*

Kris Hoffmann - *James W. Toumey Award*

Steve Pelletier - *Integrity in Conservation Award*

Laura Kenefic - *David M. Smith Award*

At year’s end, the Executive Committee will bid fond farewell to Laura Audibert, who has served MESAF inordinately well for the past two decades as Division Manager. Farewells to long-serving Committee members Tony Filauro, Communications Manager and News Quarterly correspondent, and Bill Livingston, Treasurer, will be equally as fond. Our thanks to these three, as well as to outgoing EC members Tom Coleman, Bob Cousins, Kirby Ellis, and Ron Lemin are immense. They all will be missed tremendously, although I expect all will remain engaged with MESAF. While partings can be bittersweet, we are quite pleased to welcome Sean Bugby, Kris Hoffmann, Maggie Mansfield, Jason McClellan, Jake Metzler, and Cullen Utermark as EC members in January, as well as Logan Johnson as our new Division Manager. Nicole Rogers will be your 2021 Chair and Kyle Burdick will become Chair-elect.

Meanwhile, I would be remiss if I didn’t include a gentle reminder to remember to renew your membership, if you haven’t already. It’s easy to do on-line or you can call 301-897-8720 and Elaine or Darnell, our amazing member services personnel will be happy to help.

As winter is arriving in earnest and the north pole tilts away from the sun for just a few more days, I’m reminded the upcoming solstice will mark the beginning of the return of incrementally increasing daylight – a minute ray of hope each day, so to speak. As trite as it is beginning to sound, 2020 *has* been a year of challenges for all, in one way or another. I wish you all the best for merry, if quiet, holidays and expanding hope in the new year.