



September 1, 2020

Fellow Foresters,

As hints of color being revealed in leaves, a noticeable change in day's length, and tall, waving fronds of goldenrod herald autumn's arrival, I hope this finds you and your family well.

Welcome! to our new members since May: Ashish Alex, Molly London, and Aaron Meneghini.

2020 seems to be a year of many firsts, and this now includes the first-ever Maine SAF fall meeting offered in hybrid format. The executive committee recognizes the importance of our traditional in-person gathering on the UMaine campus, but, like all other organizations and businesses in Maine, we must follow policies and protocols consequent to the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes a limit on group size.

We are pleased to offer an interesting and informative program with a slate of speakers who bring a diversity of expertise and experience to the topic, some of whom may be present at the meeting and others who will be presenting virtually from around the country. You, too, have the option of joining us in person or by tuning in virtually. Registrations for the in-person meeting at Wells Conference Center are limited to 32 – and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. MESAF members are receiving notification ahead of non-members, but if you wish to attend the meeting on campus<sup>1</sup> don't delay registering. There are no limitations on the number of people who can register to attend virtually.

In the event Wells must shut down, or reduce the group size allowed, prior to October 13, we will convert to an all-virtual format and those who had registered for in-person will receive a refund for the difference in registration fees.

We recognize many groups are recording their meetings and making them available asynchronously. As this is our first venture into the world of hybrid meetings, everything will be synchronous – offered only on 10/13.

Meanwhile, we were disappointed to have to pull the *Deer Wintering Area Management* field tour initially scheduled for this month. In light of continuing uncertainty into the future regarding in-person gatherings, the executive committee is discussing potential opportunities for a winter series of webinars with a hope that field tours can resume next summer. About 31 people were able to gather outdoors and distance enough for a successful *Invasive Plant Species and Small Woodlot Management* field tour in July – many thanks to organizers/hosts Kirby Ellis and Ron Lemin.

We'd like to thank those members who have agreed to run for election for open positions on the executive committee this fall, but further opportunities to engage remain! Please consider contributing your expertise and creativity to help keep MESAF current and relevant for the forestry community in Maine. Visit [mesaf.org](http://mesaf.org) for a list of positions and descriptions or contact an ExCom member. We appreciate your continued membership in SAF, which helps keeps us strong and thank you for all you do for our profession.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time if you have concerns, suggestions, or just want to say hello.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol L. Reddick'.

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<sup>1</sup> UMaine has a mandatory mask policy, which MESAF supports. We respect your right to choose, but if you choose to attend the in-person meeting, you will have chosen to wear a mask for the duration of the meeting (except when eating). Masks will be provided.