

Maine Division
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

**Maine
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April 12, 2004

Dear Maine Division Members:

I hope that the spring weather is lifting everyone's spirits. I feel a sense of hope with the lengthening days. This is good because while I was at the NESAF winter meeting in Quebec I attended a talk by **Lloyd Irland** which was almost enough to make grown men cry. His predictions/observations concerning the forest products industry in our region were grim. Luckily he did remember a quote that suggested forest economists were put on the planet to make weathermen look good. I hope he's right about not being right!

The executive committee has been active so far this year. We are working to come up with ways that we can better serve the members of the Division. It is a real pleasure for me to be able to work with this great group, THANK YOU! The rest of this letter is an update of some of our work.

Spring MESAF Meeting: Thursday, May 27 and Friday, May 28, 2004. The program kicks off with an evening session at the Attitash Bear Peak Lodge. Over the course of the evening we will hear the concerns and thoughts of State Foresters from around New England on Liquidation Harvesting. There will also be a short business meeting. The following day will be spent learning about the work on **Northern Hardwood Silviculture** that has been carried out over the last 50 years in New Hampshire. We will be led through the Bartlett Experimental Forest by the team of **Bill Leak, Mariko Yamasaki, and Chris Costello**, all of the USDA Forest Service. This meeting was set up due to repeated calls by many Division members for a hardwood silviculture workshop.

I urge everyone to **register early**, as we are limited in numbers. Recent spring meetings have drawn large crowds. We might have to turn people away. We will take registrations on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact **Laura Audibert** with any registration questions.

Fall MESAF Meeting: Thursday, November 18th at the Wells Conference Center on the University of Maine Orono campus. If you have topics that you would really like to be covered please contact me and I will forward suggestions to the members-at-large: **Ben Down, Dick Scott, and Mandy Farrar**. The members-at-large do all the work involved in making the Spring and Fall MESAF meetings happen, please thank them when you see them.

2005 NESAF Winter Meeting. Ron Lemin, with co-chair **Bob Wagner**, is actively getting this meeting planned. The meeting is titled "Changing Forests-Challenging Times - Managing Our Northeastern Forest under Changing Global Pressures" and will take place in Portland during **March 16-18, 2005**. Please contact Ron (827-1002) if you are interested in volunteering.

A communications committee headed by **Tony Filauro** has come up with steps to improve our website. It will take a while for their hard work to pay off as software is purchased and key personnel undergo training. **Laura Audibert** has agreed to take a lead role in the maintenance of the website. I am hopeful that the improvements in this site as well as thoughtful use of our membership email list will allow the Division to become timelier with information flow. If you wish to be added to the emailing list please contact **Bill Livingston**.

Work and thought is going into reviving our efforts in the forest policy arena. Reviews are ongoing at the NESAF level; **Ken Laustsen** and **Ron Lemin** have helped spark interest at the Maine level. We are putting together an application for a grant from the Foresters Fund to help revitalize our policy efforts. **Dave Field** (Policy Committee Chair) will be a key player in this work.

Poster Contest: Sue Aygarn has this year's Poster Contest planning well underway. However, the poster contest is facing a precipice. Fewer Division members are participating. The schools are looking to tie events to the Maine Learning Results. In response Sue has taken the lead in exploring options for a new outreach program. Currently she is seeking an event that can be completed in one day and will help the schools meet their needs. If you have a good idea for just such an event, please contact Sue (947-2800).

Looking forward to seeing you at the spring meeting! Kenny Fergusson.