

Maine Division
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

**Maine
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Dear Maine Division Members:

We've come through an old-fashioned winter and now spring is beginning to exert a green footprint over our brown mud-season landscape. While this winter may have been old-fashioned, the challenges facing our forestry profession are certainly new-fangled: real evidence of global warming, sky-high fuel prices, re-emergence of wood energy markets, deeply troubled credit markets and local economies struggling to compete in today's undisputedly global marketplace. Like the harbingers of spring, these are just a few of the signs that our forestry profession and Maine's forests are entering a new season.

What does all this mean for Maine, our forests and our profession? In the midst of such changes we have got to be adaptable, reduce costs, and seek alternative income streams — such as carbon credits, renewable energy, recreation, leases, and conservation sales. And we need to adapt in a way that maintains our core values: a connection to natural cycles and the communities where we live and raise our families. Your Maine SAF Executive Committee is working hard to address current issues, and to provide interesting field tours and professional development opportunities that will help us to understand our evolving role in such a dynamic landscape.

In 2008, we will be hosting three spring/ early summer field meetings instead of our usual one. This enables us to address three separate topics on three separate dates and provide for better interaction in smaller groups. Registration numbers will be limited to ~35 attendees, to further enhance the learning experience. As a courtesy to members, we will be mailing the meeting announcements to you two weeks earlier than to non-members. So, if you're interested in attending, mail in your paid registration right away. Be sure to thank **Sue Aygarn, Dave Field, Jack Lutz, Dave Maass, Jake Metzler** and **Spencer Meyer** for all their hard work on these meetings!

Last year we formed a Forester Licensing Task Force to address the lack of appointees to the Licensing Board and its inability to function adequately. **Gary Bahlkow** chairs this TF and reports that the Board now has a quorum and is conducting business as it should. We thank Gary and his TF members who provided lists of possible appointees and kept the pressure on.

The Forestry Awareness Program is very busy helping to prepare high school students for the annual Envirothon competition. **Sue Aygarn** has enlisted the support of many volunteer foresters for this training. We thank all who are donating their time to this and other worthy educational endeavors. Also within the FAP, **Bill Livingston** has been working with teachers and foresters to secure a grant from the Dept. of Education to develop a forestry curriculum for Maine schools. We didn't succeed last year, but we are now more familiar with the process. We'll keep you posted via our website.

Our Nominating Committee, **Gary Bahlkow, Todd Caldwell** and **Jake Metzler**, have been busy brainstorming ways to encourage members to take leadership roles within our Division. In conjunction with NESAF, we are heading for electronic balloting for this fall's election. Election materials will need to be submitted earlier, so be thinking of how you would like to serve.

The 2009 NESAF Winter Meeting will be held in Portland, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, on March 18-20, 2009. **Ken Laustsen** has agreed to be the General Chair. **Ron Lemin** is Arrangements Chair and **Jake Metzler** and **Spencer Meyer** are Program Chairs. There are still many vital slots that are vacant. Please check our website to see where you would fit best and contact one of the chairs immediately. We need you to help us put on a stellar and successful meeting!

In closing, I want to thank you all for this opportunity to serve our profession and the members of MESAF. On behalf of the MESAF Executive Committee, we look forward to working with all of you and will do everything we can to effectively address issues that are important to our profession in this great State of Maine!

Henry Whittemore