

Sept. 5, 2006

Fellow Members of the Maine Division:

It seems like just a couple weeks ago that we completed our Spring meeting in the Jackman area, but here I am three months later back in the lecture hall with the smallest class of Silviculture students (only 20) since I took over from Ralph Griffin 20 years ago. Despite the wet weather, our spring field meeting in early June -- organized by members-at-large **Mandy Farrar** and **Jake Metzler** -- was very successful, thanks in large part to LandVest foresters **Steve Coleman** and **Gary Bahlkow** (MESAF chair-elect) who organized a very efficient tour route in the Jackman area with a great diversity of partial harvests. Over 100 foresters -- members and non-members alike -- rated 6 different harvests using the classification system developed by Harvest Classification Task Force, led by past chair **Bob Wagner**. Attendees also completed a questionnaire regarding the utility of this new system. Come to the fall meeting to hear the results of this field test and express your opinion on the future of this important Division initiative. If you missed the spring meeting, you can find a complete description of the harvest classification system on the Division's web site (mesaf.org).

Once again we sent one member and one student member to the National Leadership Academy, held during mid-June in Utah. Both **Jake Metzler**, current member-at-large, and **Wil Mercier**, past chair of the UM Student Chapter and now a graduate student in the new School of Forest Resources, report that the experience was both informative and enjoyable, and recommend it highly.

We've completed a long-overdue revision of the Division by-laws, and have posted these changes on the Web site. In a nutshell, the revised by-laws (1) clarify duties of the members-at-large, (2) add the UM student chapter chair and NESAF representative as a voting members of the MESAF Executive Committee, (3) clarify that MESAF Executive Committee members may testify on pending legislation only if the issues are covered in a written position statement adopted by SAF at any level, and finally, (4) authorize contracting for a Division Manager position (currently held by **Laura Audibert**) to assist the MESAF Chair with administrative tasks. These revised by-laws have been reviewed by SAF National must be approved by two-thirds of those voting to be enacted.

The upcoming Division meeting -- *Tomorrow's Forest: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Maine's Foresters* -- will be held on the UM campus Oct 10. We have an eclectic agenda, starting with Bob Wagner's report on the Harvest Classification Task Force, followed by a potpourri of speakers on a variety of topical subjects. Concluding the meeting will be **Ken Laustsen**, NESAF Chair, with a presentation on the NESAF's draft white paper on *The Future of Foresters in New England*.

Yes, it's time to vote on your new officers for next year. The nominating committee led by Gary Bahlkow has assembled a fine slate of candidates for chair-elect, secretary/treasurer and members-at-large, so be sure to cast your ballot. And please bookmark MESAF's Web Site and visit it often to stay abreast of our activities.

It's a continuing honor to serve as your Chair during 2006. I look forward to seeing you on Oct 10!

Bob Seymour, MESAF Chair 2006