

Maine Division  
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

**Maine  
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September 11, 2005

Dear Maine Division Members:

I am happy to report that we have had a productive spring and summer at the Maine Division. On June 9, we sponsored a very successful spring meeting that was organized by Members-at-Large **Mandy Farrar**, **Richard Scott**, and **Steve Coleman**. There was an excellent indoor program and field tour that focused on "*Forest Management Strategies for Enhancing Upland Game Habitat*." The indoor session was held at the Augusta Civic Center and included several informative presentations, and a field tour that included an overview of forest and wildlife management on the *Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area*. We especially thank **Robb Cotiaux** of the **National Wild Turkey Federation** for hosting this outstanding meeting.

At the spring business meeting, the Division membership unanimously voted to provide \$5,000 over the next two years in support of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the University of Maine's forestry program, which is the oldest continually-operating professional forestry program in the country. The funds are being used to support a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary courtyard renovation project at Nutting Hall on the University of Maine campus. A plaque recognizing support of the Maine Division will be included in the final project.

As part of the new **Forestry Awareness Program** led by **Sue Aygarn**, a **Project Learning Tree Workshop** was held June 2 on the UMaine campus. About 8 MESAF members went through the PLT training session led by **Pat Maloney**, Maine PLT Coordinator. The new Forestry Awareness Program, which includes greater collaboration between MESAF members and PLT, is focused on increasing contact between professional foresters, and K-12 students and teachers.

In am happy to report that **Rory Eckardt** and **Molly Simonson** attended the 2005 SAF National Leadership Academy from June 11-14 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. They have reported to me that the session was outstanding. They learned a lot of new leadership skills and ideas that they can use on behalf of the SAF in the state.

As part of a project supported from a NESAF grant, **Bob Chandler** just completed a preliminary report describing results from a statewide survey of 483 licensed professional foresters (LPFs) in the state of Maine. The objective of the survey was to examine the attitudes of professional foresters toward membership in forestry-related professional organizations, including SAF. Preliminary results indicate LPFs are well aware of SAF and that SAF is doing well in terms of membership and participation compared to other such organizations. The dues structure of SAF, however, is perceived as high relative to the benefits received, and this appears to be a significant obstacle to increasing SAF membership. SAF appears to be successful at attracting LPFs with graduate degrees (PhD and Masters), but is less successful at attracting those with less education. More effort also appears to be needed attracting LPFs from government and private landowner (large and small) sectors. The report includes recommendations for how SAF could approach increasing its membership based on results from the survey. Bob has submitted a draft report to the MESAF executive committee that it is now being reviewed. Results of the final report will be presented at future meetings and the final report will be made available on the MESAF web page.

Chair-elect **Bob Seymour** has done an excellent job organizing a provocative fall meeting for **October 11** on the UMaine campus. The topic of the meeting is: "**Fifteen Years of ABC (Anything But Clearcutting) Silviculture: How Are We Doing?**" Register early, as this meeting will be well attended. Come prepared to discuss what MESAF might do, if anything, to address the important issues raised. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Wagner, MESAF Chair