



May 2019

RE: Spring in Maine

Hello Everyone,

Hopefully by the time you're reading this the snowshoes are put away for another year and we're busy swatting black flies.

The SAF Executive Committee has been busy planning conferences and tours for the 2019 season. We will start the summer tours in June with Down-East woodlands and tissue mill, then head north in August to the 5,000 acre Big Reed Forest Reserve and finish in the south with a tour of a woodlot and discussion of the threat to the ash posed by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The Fall Conference will focus on Forest Certification-the benefits, pitfalls and thoughts from woodland owners, mill owners, wood product consumers and those doing the certification.

In other news, the committee has filled the empty position of Forestry Awareness and Outreach Committee Chair thanks to **Kyle Burdick** of Baskahegan Company in Pembroke. We welcome Kyle and thank him for filling this important outreach role. We also plan to reactivate our Policy Committee. **Adam Daigneault**, Assistant Professor of Forest, Conservation, and Recreation Policy in the School of Forest Resources at UMaine is our current Chair.

In an effort to be more efficient and cost effective, we will be moving our webpages over to the New England SAF website. We are retaining our domain name, so when users go to **mesaf.org**, they will be taken to our Maine pages on the NESAF site. We expect our "look" to be a bit different, but our content will be largely the same.

SAF holds an annual **Regional Leadership Academy** and the following information from Ken Laustsen explains the purpose and the details of the next Academy:

The mission of the Society of American Foresters includes the responsibility "...to enhance the competency of its members; ... and to use our knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic to ensure the continued health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity." As such, our organizations have become very concerned about the lack of leadership training available to foresters and forest conservationists. We believe that the lack of adequately trained leaders is holding back our organizations, employers in our 12-state region, and the Forestry movement in general.

To this end, our Societies have come together to again provide a regional SAF Leadership Academy to be held on November 20-22, 2019 at Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA. We feel very strongly that this will be a worthwhile, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the attendees. The training will benefit the attendee, their employer, and each SAF chapter through training not only by teaching concepts in leadership, but also through practical exercise of those skills.

New England SAF has been allocated a total of 7 seats for the upcoming academy. So MESAF has been asked to find candidates to attend. If this is an opportunity that interests you, please contact me. In the meantime, we will be calling people directly to be sure our slots are filled.

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