

Maine Division  
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

**Maine  
Division  
Officers 2014**

**Chair  
Wil Mercier**

James W. Sewall Co.  
PO Box 433  
Old Town, ME 04468  
(o) 207-817-5595  
(h)  
(f)  
(c) 207-974-7244  
(e) [Wil.Mercier@Sewall.com](mailto:Wil.Mercier@Sewall.com)

**Chair-Elect  
Jessica Leahy**

University of Maine  
241 Nutting Hall  
Orono, ME 04473  
(o) 207-581-2834  
(h)  
(f) 207-581-2875  
(c) 207-944-1447  
(e) [Jessica.leahy@maine.edu](mailto:Jessica.leahy@maine.edu)

**Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Bill Livingston**

5755 Nutting Hall  
Orono, ME 04469-5755  
(o) 581-2990  
(h) 827-4500  
(f) 581-4257  
(e) [williaml@maine.edu](mailto:williaml@maine.edu)

**Immediate  
Past Chair  
Ken Laustsen**

Maine Forest Service  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022  
(o) 207-287-3135  
(h) 207-873-2642  
(f) 207 287-8422  
(c)  
(e) [ken.laustsen@maine.gov](mailto:ken.laustsen@maine.gov)

**Division Manager  
Laura Audibert**

11 Leopold St.  
Fort Kent, ME 04743  
(h) 834-6773  
(c) 231-0048  
(e) [la4568@roadrunner.com](mailto:la4568@roadrunner.com)

Maine Division Website  
[www.mesaf.org](http://www.mesaf.org)

September 19, 2014

Hello Maine SAF Members,

Another summer has flown by and it was a busy one for Maine SAF. We continued to hold several field tours around the state, expanding to cover a total of four different topics this year.

Early in the season we collaborated with the Forest Guild, Maine, and Vermont Audubon to provide a "Foresters for the Birds" program here in Maine. For those not familiar with the program, it was developed by Vermont Audubon as a way to engage landowners by looking at the forest in terms of bird habitat and presenting how active forest management can be a part of creating this habitat. Primarily due to the extraordinary efforts of our co-sponsors, what started out as a regular field tour evolved into a custom adaptation of the program for the forests of Maine, with two field tours and an additional workshop with students from the University of Maine.

In July, we toured the tornado salvage operations at Baxter State Park looking at both how the park was recovering from the damage, as well as how they were planning to study the outcomes of the disturbance. August brought us to coastal Maine where a tour focusing on hemlock woolly adelgid was held. The stop at an infested stand was said to be quite eye opening in terms of how much damage this pest is capable of inflicting. The season of field tours was just wrapped up last week with a view of "Extreme Single Tree Selection" at the Augusta Watershed District. Overall the tours this year were well attended and received. Special thanks go out to our members-at-large and other tour organizers whose hard work made these tours possible.

A potentially important policy issue also arose this summer regarding the northern long-eared bat. This species along with two other bat species are being considered for addition to Maine's Threatened and Endangered Species lists. The northern long-eared bat is also being considered for similar listing at the national level. The population numbers for these bats have declined considerably over the past several years, and have been predominantly attributed to the disease known as white-nose syndrome, rather than takings or alterations to their habitat. Comment periods were open at both the state and federal level. The Maine Division submitted a letter (available on [MESAF.org](http://MESAF.org)) regarding the state listing of the species and NESAF joined the Allegheny and New York Chapters in a letter which was submitted at the national level. The general theme of both letters was that SAF and its members are a resource that is available to assist by explaining the potential impacts of policy decisions on our forests, as well as how active forest management can be part of the solution rather than the problem.

For those looking to remain involved with the organization it should be noted that the division business meeting will be held the morning of the fall meeting. This is a chance to get further updates on items too numerous to include in this letter, as well as provide input on division decisions. There are also opportunities to become more involved, as there are currently open positions on the NESAF executive committee, and it is never too early to express interest in running for a position on the MESAF or NESAF executive committee next year. Speaking of elections, you should be receiving this year's electronic ballot shortly. I encourage you all to vote in our SAF elections.

As we move into fall I would be remiss not to mention the upcoming events that are being scheduled. The MESAF executive committee has been hard at work putting together the program for this year's fall meeting, the theme for which is "What to do with \_\_\_\_\_?" This is intended to look at some of the tough questions facing foresters in the form of panel discussions. The full program is attached if you are interested in more details. I hope to see you at the meeting. Along with the fall meeting, there is an upcoming workshop on succession planning scheduled for October 31. Those of you involved with family forests personally or professionally may find this workshop of interest.

Also with autumn comes the start of school and many have forestry days or field activities scheduled. There is always interest in having foresters volunteer to work with the students at these events. I encourage you all to keep an eye out for announcements from the Forestry Awareness Committee regarding these opportunities. It is a great way for us to start growing the next crop of foresters, and with any luck, enjoy a day of great fall weather.

Sincerely,



Wilfred J. Mercier  
Chair, Maine Division, Society of American Foresters