



National Capital Society of American Foresters



DC Forester **November 2005**

From the NCSAF Chair

The winter solstice holiday season is upon us! I look forward to celebrating with NCSAF members at the annual NCSAF Holiday Party on the Hill, which will take place on December 8 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building. NCSAF's party will take place following the lighting of the Capitol Holiday Tree on the west lawn of the Capitol. This year's tree comes from New Mexico, and our party will feature Southwestern fare in recognition.

Later this month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I have much to be thankful for, not least of which is the opportunity that I have had this year to serve our professional society, SAF, and to work with the dedicated members of the NCSAF Executive Committee. Our past chairs have helped immensely, along with committee chairs and members, carrying the load through what for me has been a great year for NCSAF. I'm particularly thankful for the assistance that members of the executive committee have rendered over the past month as I underwent aortic valve replacement surgery.

Our program schedule has continued unabated, with two luncheons this month. The NCSAF election of officers for 2006 was miraculously pulled off through the Herculean efforts of Immediate Past Chair John Witherspoon and Teller Committee Chair Bob Van Aken.

Knowing that such dedicated NCSAF friends and colleagues willingly step forward when needed helped me to concentrate on my family and personal matters as I faced that medical challenge.

My gratitude on Thanksgiving will embrace the support I have received from NCSAF, as well as the opportunity to continue to serve SAF and the forestry profession with renewed heart.

The annual SAF National Convention in Fort Worth was very rewarding. NCSAF Vice-Chair and candidate for 2006 Chair Laura Schweitzer and I provide a report for members in this newsletter on the House of Society Delegates meeting at which we represented NCSAF at the convention.

The convention provided a broad range of technical sessions and stimulating plenary sessions on the theme of "Driving Changes in Forestry." Two NCSAF members delivered plenary presentations: USDA Under Secretary Mark Rey opened the National Assembly with an address on "Responding to Catastrophes" in which he recounted how USDA has responded to catastrophes.

ranging from the Columbia shuttle disaster to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Resources for the Future Senior Fellow and Director of Forest Economics Roger Sedjo gave a presentation on globalization in forest industry on a panel on “Driving Changes in Forestry by Sector.”

The members of the Texas Society of American Foresters were gracious hosts, and the City of Fort Worth provided an excellent venue. Thirty-six NCSAF members registered for the convention. Next year’s national convention will be in Pittsburgh, within easy driving distance of the metropolitan D.C. I encourage all NCSAF members to seek the opportunity to attend the 2006 convention, especially if you’ve never attended a national convention before.

There’s great news for NCSAF in that one of our members, Mary Coulombe, has been elected to the SAF Council for District 7. The 11-member Council is the national governing body of SAF and meets several times every year for decisions on budgets, national office affairs, and other SAF business matters. Congratulations, Mary! Because National Capital SAF is outnumbered in District 7 by Allegheny SAF, NCSAF candidates are infrequently elected to Council. Thanks to both Mary and Wilhelmina Bratton for their willingness to serve SAF by running for Council.

As my tenure as 2005 chair of NCSAF comes to a close, I extend thanks to you for your loyalty and contributions to SAF. Remember, there are plenty of opportunities to serve on the executive committee. As a volunteer organization, SAF can only be what we members make it. I hope to see you at the holiday party.

Loren B. Ford
NCSAF chair

Reflections from the 2005 SAF National Convention

The 2005 SAF National Convention was held in Fort Worth, Texas, from October 19 – 23. There were 36 NCSAF members registered for the convention, not counting SAF headquarters staff, and a few additional members who staffed exhibits and the student job fair. Members of Texas SAF were great hosts. Here are a few reflections from NCSAF members:

My excitement for the 2005 SAF National Convention started with the opening session and carried through to today for me. Texas State Forester Jim Hull shared quite a moving presentation with us regarding the Texas Forest Service and their use of appropriate technology and incident command system techniques which led to successful recovery of space shuttle Columbia debris.

Following his presentation, NASA Astronaut Captain Dominic Gorie delivered an informative and fun-packed update on NASA programs and described connecting links between forestry and space exploration and connections between forestry and the mission to recover the Columbia space shuttle debris-- wow! This session opened the 2005 National Convention on a whole new level, giving us a new set of questions to explore in terms of forestry’s connection to others.

Wilhelmina Bratton

I enjoyed the SAF convention because it dealt with new upcoming issues. There was a strong focus on education, and for the first time the two certification systems were in the same room in a joint presentation, the profession seems to be moving from timber to what forestry is all about.

Safiya Samman

I always enjoy national conventions, because it gives me an opportunity to see friends and colleagues I have worked with throughout my career, and because of the great plenary and technical sessions. This year was my first time to experience the House of Society Delegates meeting at the convention, providing me a new perspective on internal SAF governance. As usual, there were more interesting technical sessions than I could attend. I organized a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer social, and enjoyed meeting and sharing malted beverages with other RPCV's. I'm looking forward to next year's convention in Pittsburgh.

Loren Ford

This year's SAF Convention was filled with reminders of why I work in forestry - connecting with others involved with SAF leadership at the House of Society Delegates meeting; joining together with other female SAF members at the meeting of the BOB's; reconnecting with former classmates and professors at the forestry school alumni gathering, and last but absolutely not least, attending sessions on current and interesting subjects ranging from urban and community forestry to biomass to stewardship contracting. I am thrilled to have gotten to attend this year's convention and am already looking forward to Pittsburgh.

Laura Schweitzer

Report from the House of Society Delegates

NCSAF 2005 Chair Loren Ford and Vice-Chair for 2005 Laura Schweitzer attended the 2005 House of Society Delegates meeting at that SAF National Convention in Fort Worth, TX, on October 18 and 19. HSD consists of the chairs from SAF's state societies and an alternate, the chair and vice-chair of the National Student Assembly, and the chair and vice-chair of HSD elected at the previous year's HSD meeting. HSD meets once per year, at the national convention. Because HSD consists of representatives of each state society, it represents the closest contact between grassroots members and the national organization.

HSD was officially established in on September 14, 1966. The HSD was established to serve as a:

- Means for members (as represented by their delegates) to work in partnership with Council and national office staff on SAF and professional affairs, and to identify and forward forest policy issues for national office consideration;
- Channel of communication between state societies, National Student Assembly, Council, and national office staff;
- Forum for exchange and discussion of ideas and information to improve SAF and the forestry profession at the national, state, chapter, and student chapter levels.

The principal subject of discussion at the 2005 HSD meeting was the Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force Report (<http://www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf>). NCSAF provided

comments to Council on the report, and an action item for HSD was prepared. The comments are on the NCSAF web site (<http://www.ncsaf.net>). NCSAF observed that the forward of the report raised the very important question of the corporate identity of SAF, but the recommendations of the report didn't address that basic issue.

NCSAF submitted a motion: It is moved that

“HSD recommend to Council to engage with the membership from the grassroots up through SAF’s existing structure to redefine the scope of SAF and not consider recommendation 1 of the VOS Task Force Report and other recommendations related to a proposed restructuring of Council and establishment of regional Houses of Society Delegates.”

This motion was amended during the meeting, given that non-controversial recommendations of the VOS Task Force had already been adopted by HSD. The amended motion was approved.

The most controversial recommendation of the VOS Task Force for most HSD members was the recommendation to reduce the number of SAF districts from 11 to 7 and eliminate the national HSD, establishing a regional structure consisting of a regional House of Society Delegates. The recommendation, including reduction in the number of Districts and establishment of any regional structure, was soundly rejected by HSD.

Other recommendations included:

- Establishing a student representative on Council—approved;
- Renaming of the Forest Science & Technology Board as the Science Committee consisting of regional science representatives, a component of the rejected regional structure—rejected;
- Changing the term “working groups” to “interest groups,” abandoning the existing working group and subject area representative structure of the Forest Science & Technology Board—rejected.

Non-controversial VOS Task Force recommendations were approved by HSD:

- (8) Creating a web page with national committee information;
- (9) Sharing of responsibilities for national committee oversight between the vice-president, and immediate past president;
- (10) Changing the date for appointment of national and district nominating committees;
- (11) Changing the date for receipt at the national office of nominations by petition;
- (12) Changing the date for publication in *The Forestry Source* of the provisions of the nomination process;
- (13) Clarifying that calls for nominations includes asking members to consider running for committees and to submit their nominations and that members are being asked to nominate potential committee candidates; and
- (14) Amending the charter of the Investment Committee to include the objectives and activities of the Gift Acceptance Committee.

HSD rejected VOS Task Force recommendation 15 that SAF explore development of a virtual “Ask the Expert” program.

Other HSD action items included:

- SAF pursue a joint committee with the Association of Consulting Foresters to seek resolution of perceived conflicts in the respective organizations’ ethics standards—approved;
- Council direct the executive vice-president to include in the Annual Report a summary of the Foresters’ Fund to include: Beginning of the Year Fund Balance, Principal Growth through Contributions, Fund Earnings through Investment, Funds Available for Distributions, Fund Distribution, End of Year Fund Balance, and that Council make clear its Foresters’ Fund investment policy--approved;
- Recommendation to allow each member to annually select one Journal publication (JOF or RAJ) as part of their integral membership fee and annual renewal, with the opportunity to acquire other additional journals as an additional membership expense—approved;
- SAF Bylaws be amended to remove the percentage limitation on Fellows and further, that Council repeal the limitation on the number of individuals that may be nominated for recognition as Fellow—approved; and
- Council establish an additional option of a regional seminar series directed toward achieving certification be created, seminars being regional in scope, with approval of curriculum by the SAF National Office, with the current requirements for continuing education being retained for either route to certification—approved.

A number of information items were presented in which different state societies had improved participation by members and held joint meetings with other professional natural resource societies.

The motions approved by HSD are submitted to Council, which has full authority as SAF’s governing body for their approval or rejection.

NCSAF Auction Fundraiser Postponed Until 2006

For everyone waiting to bid on those great items for the NCSAF silent auction, you will have to hold on until 2006. The silent auction will reappear in early 2006 so save your winning bids until then. If you have questions or donations, please contact Mary Coulombe at (202) 463-2752 or email at mary_coulombe@afandpa.org.

**Mary Coulombe
Fundraiser Chair**

NCSAF Membership Update

As of the end of October 2005 NCSAF has 305 members, which is short of our 313 membership goal for 2005.

The following NCSAF membership changes have occurred in August, September, and October. A big welcome to our new, reinstated, and transfer-in members!

New

Jan L. McAlpine – U.S. State Department

Joe H. Sullivan – Urban Forestry Coordinator, University of Maryland

Reinstated

Gary C. Barrett – USDA Forest Service
Joseph R. Ferrari
Katherine M. Goslee – USDA Forest Service
Peter H. Jipp – World Bank
R. Max Peterson - Retired
Heather J. Schinkel – Fairfax County

Transferred In

Susan L. King – from Valley Forge Chapter, Pennsylvania

Transferred Out

Don G. Benner – to Lufkin/Nacogdoches Chapter, Texas
Megan M. Conry – to Palouse-Snake River Chapter, Idaho
Kenny W. McDaniel – to Ute Chapter, Colorado
Geoffrey B. Middaugh – to North Puget Sound Chapter, Washington
Melissa Zaksek – to New Mexico Chapter

Jim Culbert
Membership Committee Chair

Forest Service Chief Extends Supports to Employees Participating in Professional Societies

*The following is a memo issued by Chief Dale Bosworth to employees.
Special thanks to Loren Ford for championing this effort.*

As stewards of the Nation's forests and rangelands, it is imperative that we constructively respond to the many challenges of understanding, protecting, and managing a wide variety of resources and values. To meet these various challenges, we must have a diverse and highly qualified cadre of natural resource, social science, and other professionals to assure that our management approaches are based on the best science. Over the last few years, the focus on threats to forest and range conservation that cross property boundaries has prompted tremendous changes in the basic framework of resource management principles. More than ever, it is important for professionals to continue to learn, enhance our resource knowledge, and develop innovative approaches to cooperatively conserve this Nation's natural resources.

I believe that membership, involvement, and participation in professional societies are more important now than ever before in keeping abreast of the ever-changing demands that we all face. Professional societies provide an excellent opportunity for us to come together with professionals from other agencies, organizations, and interests. They provide a forum to discuss evolving resource issues, learn from others, and cooperatively develop solutions to common problems. All of us are looking for ways to work more in a collaborative spirit and it is obvious that the wide array of professional societies offer a ready-made answer.

There are as many choices of societies as there are disciplines and interests in the Forest Service. I support your involvement in professional societies and encourage you not only to belong, but also to be proactive in your involvement. Forest Service employees are viewed as leaders within our professions. Through participation and involvement with professionals from other federal and state agencies, tribes, and the private sector, we will be more adept in continuing the essential resource leadership role in managing the Nation's forests and rangelands.

With supervisor approval, I support the reasonable use of official time and resources for participation by Forest Service employees in local, state, and national activities of professional societies. It is important to remind you that membership and participation in non-federal organizations must comply with ethics laws and regulations, i.e., the Forest Service cannot pay membership dues and employees interested in serving as an officer of a non-Federal organization cannot do so in an official capacity. Contact your Primary Ethics Advisor for assistance. If you are active in a professional society, I applaud your commitment and dedication. If you are not, I hope you will consider the importance of society membership in your continued professional growth.

2005 NCSAF Calendar of Events

Date	Description	Contact
December 8	Holiday Party	Loren Ford
December 8	Executive Committee meeting	Loren Ford
December 15	Deadline for DC Forester	Jennifer Plyler



2005 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

NAME	TITLE	PHONE	E-MAIL
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Wilhelmina Bratton	Program and Issues Forum Chair	W: 202-205-1144 H: 703-631-9434	wbratton@fs.fed.us
Vacant	Nominating and Prof. Recognition Chair	W: H:	
Jennifer Plyler	Newsletter Editor	W: 202-205-1777 H: 301-445-4815	jplyler@fs.fed.us
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