



# National Capital Society of American Foresters

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## *DC Forester* January 2006

### **From the NCSAF Chair**

NCSAF provides an array of venues for those of us in Washington, DC to get involved in forestry activities and to keep up with our colleagues. It is with great pleasure that I embark as chair of NCSAF this year. I sincerely hope this is a year of increased opportunity for membership and greater involvement. I also hope we can attract many of our esteemed peers who work in the field of forestry that have not yet involved themselves with SAF or NCSAF.

As 2006 rolls out, everyone's schedules are already filling up with commitments to family, friends, and job alike. Think about adding NCSAF in there too! There are many ways to get involved in NCSAF including serving on a committee or even chairing a committee, volunteering for one of our events or Wild Acres clean-ups, and attending one of the fun gatherings held throughout the year. These activities are wonderful ways to mingle with others who care about and work with many of the same issues as yourself.

As a final note, I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Loren Ford for his tremendous work in 2005. His efforts on the VOS report were especially appreciated as was his guidance to me as vice-chair. I look forward to continuing to work with Loren in 2006 as he steps into his new role as the NCSAF Program Chair.

I look forward to getting to work in 2006! I am available anytime for questions or ideas for the NCSAF. Just drop me an e-mail at [LSchweitzer@amfor.org](mailto:LSchweitzer@amfor.org) or call me at work at (202)737-1944 ext. 219 and on my cellular at (510)847-3817.

**Laura Schweitzer**  
**NCSAF Chair**

### **SAF Council--Serving You**

On January 1, 2006 I started my 3-year term as the District VII Council Representative for the National Capitol SAF and the Allegheny SAF. It is an honor to serve members of the two Societies.

I attended the December, 2005 council meeting as an observer to meet council members and attend an orientation for my new position. I have to say that I was a bit taken aback by the breadth and extent of the work of council and the diversity of issues and actions it deals with. It became clear to me that serving on council has two distinct aspects; first is to represent the members of our district and second to serve as a member of the governing board for SAF.

Regarding the first role, I hope to meet as many District 7 members as possible, particularly the elected leadership in order to learn the issues, concerns, and recommendations relevant to the

members. This will be particularly important where the member's interests intersect with the second role regarding governance. I have asked all the chapter, division and society chairs to help me as I try to fulfill these two roles.

I'm excited to work with President Marvin Brown, the council, the SAF staff, district leadership, and members to help SAF be a strong and visible organization, and to increase the influence of SAF in the many issues related to management of all the nation's forests.

Please contact me if you'd like at [coulombe@cox.net](mailto:coulombe@cox.net) or [mary\\_coulombe@afandpa.org](mailto:mary_coulombe@afandpa.org). Thanks again for allowing me this opportunity to serve you.

**Mary Coulombe**  
**District VII Council Representative**

### **NCSAF February Program Announced**

A NCSAF luncheon will be held on February 15 at the Library of Congress. The speaker will be Cheryl Kollin of American Forests Urban Ecosystem Program and will cover Urban Forestry issues. For more information, please contact Loren Ford at [lbford@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbford@fs.fed.us).

### **NCSAF Membership Update**

As of the end of December 2005 NCSAF had 302 members, which was short of our 313 membership goal for 2005.

The following NCSAF membership changes occurred in December. We are saddened by the passing of two of our long standing members. Best wishes to our members who have transferred to other locations. And, a big welcome to our new and transfer-in members!

#### **Deceased**

Robert M. Randall – retired member  
Robert E. Wolf – retired Fellow

#### **New**

Jessica Call – employed by the USDA Forest Service  
Elizabeth Forsburg – employed by The Nature Conservancy

#### **Transferred In**

Rebecca E. Ralston – from Maryland/Delaware Division; employed by Booz, Allen & Hamilton on a natural resources contract for the Air National Guard.  
Sue E. Richardson – from the Coos Chapter, Oregon; employed by the USDI BLM.

#### **Transferred Out**

Mary R. Anderson – to West Virginia Division  
David A. Cleaves – to Long's Peak Chapter, Colorado  
Ronald E. Stewart – to Western Gateway Chapter, Pennsylvania  
Steven J. Tanner – to Snake River Chapter, Idaho  
Jeanne M. Wade – to Southern California State Society  
Thomas Wescot – to no state society affiliation

**Jim Culbert**  
**Membership Committee Chair**

**Come One, Come All**  
**National Capitol SAF Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser**  
**January 27, 2006 (Friday) from 6:00-9:30 pm**  
**1050 Stuart Street (Ballston Park Condominiums ), Arlington, VA**

One Block from Ballston Metro Stop

This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow foresters, taste some wines, and buy some interesting and fun auction items. The event is one block from the Ballston Metro stop (orange line to Vienna). Dwight Fielder & E Lynn Burkett have offered the party room at their condo.

Admission price is one bottle of wine. (You can bring two--a red and a white if you like)

In order to get a variety of wines for your tasting pleasure, use a price limit of \$15 or less per bottle, with a goal of identifying good inexpensive wines. For tasting, we will group by light and heavy reds, and sweet and dry whites. It's not so much about scoring, or blind tasting, but about identifying some wines to add to your shopping list because you personally like how they taste and they're easy on the pocket book.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED--many of you have been so generous and we need your help again!

So far we have a quail hunt (valued at \$200.00), the various culinary opportunities by several members, piano lessons, decorative items, books, art prints, amber jewelry, and more. But we need more contributions. You may bring your auction item to the event.

Please RSVP to [mary\\_coulombe@afandpa.org](mailto:mary_coulombe@afandpa.org). Please join in this fun event, bring spouses or friends and meet new people.

To view your map, click on this link or cut and paste this link into your browser's location bar.

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?email=1&mapdat>

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NCSAF Executive Committee front row from left Brian Keightley, Jim Culbert, Wilhelmina Bratton, Donna Gehlhaart, Laura Schweitzer, and Mary Coulombe. Back row from left Tim Resch, Darci Birmingham, John Witherspoon, Rod Young, Bob Van Aken, and Doug Powell



NCSAF members, what do you think about Jim Coufal's suggestions? The *DC Forester* would like to know. Please send your 50 to 300 word comments to Jennifer Plyler, *DC Forester* editor at [jplyler@fs.fed.us](mailto:jplyler@fs.fed.us) I'll publish comments in the next few *DC Forester* issues

## Opinion: Some Questions For SAF by Jim Coufal

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Fellow SAF'ers:

Below is a modified copy of a letter that I very recently sent to John Helms, president, Leo Leferriere, District VI council member, and Michael Goergen, executive vice-president. Leo forwarded it to Bob Malmsheimer and Craig Vollmer and they asked me to send it to the *NY Forester* for publication.

Dear John, Leo, Mike, & SAF Council Members:

As usual after an SAF National Convention, I arrived home from Ft. Worth (with kudos to our Texas colleagues) all juiced up for forestry and the SAF. Before the fire turns to embers, I want to share some of my thoughts stimulated by the 2005 convention. This will largely take the form of questions:

1. Is it time to take a very serious look at changing the name of the SAF? I believe it was John Moser who suggested several years ago that the name "Society of American Forest Resource Professionals" be considered. This name brings up the question of technician membership, but any name change will suggest and even create unique problems.
2. Is it time to set aside or make a lower priority the concern with membership we have spent so much time and so many resources on over the past decade? Clearly, it is impossible to say what membership would be like now without the many outstanding efforts of the past 10+ years, but it is possible to say membership has declined significantly even with these efforts. I suspect that the issue has become old-hat to many SAF members, and further that the time and resources spent on membership might actually attract more members if they made SAF an organization of such note that foresters could not resist membership.
3. Have we acted to try to please as many as possible and to displease as few as possible rather than as a proactive organization, thus leading to decreased interest in SAF? For example, three state societies (NY, PA, and WV) recently commissioned studies of the quality of residual stands following harvest operations, studies that didn't get off the ground without a great deal of groaning and consternation.

Using a similar survey protocol, the results were basically alike in the three states, indicating that the majority of residual stands were the results of high-grading. I am not sure of the others, but NY went a step further and looked at the stands comparing those where a forester had been involved with those where no forester had been involved. The sad results were that having a forester involved largely made no difference.

Anecdotally, I have had foresters from many regions say they have similar high-grading situations in their area (and since writing this I have heard Maine SAF did a similar study to the three noted above, with similar results). When society accepts any discipline as a profession, it allows and

expects that the profession will police its own practitioners. Don't we owe it to society to see how widespread the problem of high-grading is? I suggest that where it exists SAF should be working to eliminate or ameliorate the problem, especially if foresters are contributing to the problem or at least not ameliorating it. And if a task force was promulgated to look into these questions, I further suggest that it would be wise to include non-foresters.

4. As we move toward more refined certification of foresters, should we look at the need, or lack thereof, to continue program accreditation in its present form? Accreditation could be awarded based on the percentage of graduates from any given college who pass the CF program, reducing costs to the educational programs and to SAF, while placing certification testing at the most appropriate level, the individual. Schools don't practice forestry, individuals do.

5. Isn't it about time to try some of the various ideas that were promulgated during the 1999 meeting of the SAF, Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, and others? For example, the sharing of select articles from the various journals, which also could be done electronically. Or joint memberships? And how has the Open Community Forum of the 2000 convention been followed-up?

6. Should SAF take the lead in establishing a "Foresters Without Borders" organization patterned after "Doctors Without Borders?" Perhaps better yet, SAF could engage our sister resource professions to form an even broader-based helping organization?

Not being in the loop at SAF means I may be writing about things that have already been addressed (since writing I have found out that Pres. Helms asked for and had another meeting with some of our sister resource profession societies). If so, I apologize. My sincere concern for forestry and the SAF nevertheless leads me to share these ideas with you in the hope that they will stimulate discussion and action.

Sincerely yours,  
James E. Coufal, SAF Fellow & Past President  
wanakena@alltel.net (315) 655-2788

## Appalachian Society of American Foresters 85th Annual Meeting

People, Products & Practices – The 3Ps of Forest Certification

January 25 - 27, 2005

Doubletree Hotel

Charlottesville, Virginia

*Sponsored by*

The Skyline Chapter

Virginia Division

of the Society of American Foresters

Technical Program (Thursday and Friday, January 26 & 27)

Pre-Conference Workshops: Wednesday, January 25, 2006

For more information see: [www.apsaf.org/meeting.htm](http://www.apsaf.org/meeting.htm)

Online registration is available for conference and hotel at [www.apsaf.org](http://www.apsaf.org)

All registrations must be received by January 23rd.



## 2006 NCSAF Calendar of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact</b>
January 27	Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser	Mary Coulombe
February 15	NCSAF Luncheon on Urban Forestry	Loren Ford
February 15	DC Forester deadline	Jennifer Plyler
March 15	DC Forester deadline	Jennifer Plyler
April	Wild Acres Cleanup	TBD
April 15	DC Forester deadline	Jennifer Plyler
May 15	DC Forester deadline	Jennifer Plyler
June 15	DC Forester deadline	Jennifer Plyler
October	Octoberfest	Meredith Webster
October 25-29	National SAF Convention in Pittsburgh, PA	Terry Clark <a href="mailto:clarkt@safnet.org">clarkt@safnet.org</a>
December	Holiday Party	TBD

## 2006 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Laura Schweitzer	Chair	W: 202-737-1944 ext.219 H:	<a href="mailto:lschweitzer@amfor.org">lschweitzer@amfor.org</a>
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Loren Ford	Immediate Past Chair	W: 703-605-4478 H: 703-369-4792	<a href="mailto:lbford@fs.fed.us">lbford@fs.fed.us</a>
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Vacant	Auditing Chair	H: W:	
Vacant	Tellers Chair	H: W:	
Vacant	Fundraiser Chair	W: H:	
Vacant	Communication Chair	W: H:	
Vacant	Nominating and Prof. Recognition Chair	W: H:	
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