



National Capital Society of American Foresters



DC Forester September 2006

NCSAF Chair's Message

The summer's heat is waning and the crisp chill of fall lies just around the corner. The leaves will begin to turn and wood will crackle on the hearths of many a DC resident. The world will turn its eyes to the trees around them to stare in awe at the glorious colors they display. Foresters play an important role in the health of those very trees the public admires each autumn.

Another much anticipated autumn occurrence is the SAF National Convention. Foresters play a hugely important role in the health of this event as well. SAF is only as strong as its membership and we need members' attendance and engagement at Convention, the casting of a vote in elections, and participation in local SAF chapters.

Finally, this fall, an occurrence which happens every few years will take place. We get to overturn the government. We have the opportunity to communicate to our leaders whether we like the job they have done or if we feel someone new should take the job. Foresters play an important role here too as informed and active citizens. I urge you to participate in the upcoming local and state elections and make the voices of people working with our country's natural resources heard.

Laura Schweitzer
NCSAF Chair

Report from SAF Council

Convention:

I hope that many of you can make it to the annual SAF Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 25-29, 2006. Because of its proximity to both the National Capital SAF and the Allegheny SAF, it may make it easier for you to attend. I know that I will be there to take advantage of the wonderful Wangarii Mathai who will talk about Africa and her work in planting trees, but also the incomprehensible other needs of Africa as they develop their economies and their social structures. I had the benefit of hearing her at the United Nations and I was overcome with her strength and resolve to work to improve governmental and social institutions. I can't encourage you enough to go and hear her speak. It is an opportunity of a lifetime.

Over the summer, I have also confronted the issues of the costs of attending convention. I was laid off from my job and have needed to organize our family's finances to cover the costs of an uncertain period of unemployment. In the past, I've also had the support of my employers to attend, so cost was not an overriding consideration. As a Council member, I feel obliged to attend, so as to talk to SAF members, get advice and counsel from SAF leaders at all levels, and to benefit from the continuing education opportunities. But looking at the cost of registration, the costs of

transportation, and the costs of room and meals, I became much more sensitive to our members' concerns about members' financial abilities to attend. I now realize how different convention attendance looks, depending on one's financial resources and other pressing priorities.

I would like to hear from our members in District VII about your views on the convention and how Council might address the rising costs. I realize that Council has looked at this very closely, but I believe Council should periodically discuss and consider the input from members.

SAF national elections:

By now you should have received your ballots for voting for Vice President, and in some Districts, a new Council member (not ours, though). I can't emphasize enough the importance of your vote. It only takes a short time to read the biographies of the candidates, and it takes minutes to vote, stamp and mail your ballots. Let's set an all-time record for votes in this election!

I hope to see many of you in Pittsburgh, and if I haven't met you, please come up and say HI!

It is September in Washington, DC and it is beginning to feel like fall. I hope many of you have made time this summer to get outside and enjoy the weather by heading out on camping trips, hitting the beach, or just spending some quality time outside.

**Mary Coulombe
District VII Council Representative**

NCSAF Election of Officers for 2007

In early October you will receive your election ballot for our officers that will serve in 2007. I hope you will look over the information submitted by the candidates and vote with care. Your vote helps NCSAF serve your needs and your vote actually helps NCSAF set the course for how District VII and the SAF national office work on our behalf.

I have a quote written down that sort of summarizes the work of our officers in NCSAF which is as follows: "When a person enters upon an undertaking, he/she prays fervently that he/she will achieve success in it. Further, he/she knows that he/she needs the help of others; success is not to be attained alone." I can't remember who wrote this but it sure applies to the work of NCSAF officers and committee chairs. So please vote and please consider helping out in 2007. Thanks.

**John Witherspoon
Tellers Committee Chair**

**Announcement for NCSAF Luncheon
Topic: Ecosystem Services**

Wednesday, September 27, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lincoln Room, Secretary's Dining Room, 3rd floor
Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Entrance: from Jefferson Court, ½ block west of Smithsonian Metro Station mall exit

Cost: \$17/person, includes lunch, beverage & dessert

Presenter: Sally Collins, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service

Healthy forest ecosystems are the life-support systems for the world as we know it. Forests provide a full suite of goods and services that are vital to human health and livelihood – natural assets we call **ecosystem services**.

Many of these goods and services are traditionally viewed as free benefits to society, or “public goods” - wildlife habitat and diversity, watershed services, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes, for example. Lacking a formal market, these natural assets are traditionally absent from society’s balance sheet; their critical contributions are often overlooked in public, corporate, and individual decision-making.

When our forests are undervalued, as they currently are, they are increasingly susceptible to degradation, development pressures, and conversion. Recognizing forest ecosystems as natural assets with economic and social value can help promote conservation and more responsible decision-making.

Associate Chief Sally Collins is leading the Forest Service’s exploration of national opportunities to advance markets and payments for ecosystem services on private lands. With help from our partners and others, we will encourage broader thinking and collaboration that stimulates market-based conservation and stewardship.

Please RSVP to Terri Bates, batesmt@verizon.net, 703-538-1134 by COB Friday, September 22.

For other questions, contact NCSAF Program Chair Loren Ford, lbford@fs.fed.us, 703-605-4478

Announcement for NCSAF Luncheon
Topic: Engineering Technology Against Invasive Species

Thursday, November 16, 2006, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location To Be Announced

The USDA Forest Service San Dimas (California) Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) is a national program of the engineering staff in Washington, DC and serves the emerging technological requirements of the Forest Service, State Foresters and other cooperators.

The SDTDC has a cadre of engineers, foresters, technicians, writers, publishers and public affairs specialists who work in project teams to support the problem solving goals of the center. Program areas include engineering, fire and aviation, recreation, watersheds and hydrology, forest management and timber harvesting as well as developing innovative solutions to emerging issues of rural America.

During 2005 and early 2006, the SDTDC, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) developed an informational video about the dangers of spreading noxious weeds and invasive plant species along roadways. The video introduces the general public as well as road and highway maintenance personnel to strategies and techniques for minimizing and combating the spread of invasive plant species. Project leader Michael Mitchell of the SDTDC staff, together with Michael Ielmini, invasive species program leader of the Forest Service National Forest System, will show this excellent video and discuss how the SDTDC is seeking partnerships to develop the next in the informational video series dealing with forest management systems for timber harvesting and mitigating the spread of invasive species across the Nation.

I know you will find this NCSAF luncheon a very informative session that should not be missed. Phone Mike Ielmini at 202-205-1049 or Loren Ford, NCSAF program chair at 703-605-4478 for more information. As November approaches, Loren will let you know the date, time and location for this session.

Donations Needed for Foresters' Fund Auction at Convention

NCSAF has been asked to donate an item for the Forester's Fund Auction that will be held during the SAF Convention this fall. It has been suggested that several items, such as an FBI sweatshirt, a Mount Vernon bowl, and other DC specific items would make a nice donation. The money raised for the Forester's Fund goes towards supporting grants for projects initiated by SAF members all over the country. Please think about supporting this valuable effort by donating something you think would reflect DC's character. If you decide to do so, please contact Laura Schweitzer at Lschweitzer@amfor.org or by phone at (202)737-1944 ext. 219 and she will let you know where you can send the item or will arrange to pick it up from you.

NCSAF Membership Update

The national office is beginning a different focus on membership by scheduling three telephone conference calls among all Chapter, Division, and State Society Chairs and Membership Committee Chairs during the latter part of September. The calls will allow participants to share past successes and collectively strategize on this important topic.

As of the end of August 2006, NCSAF had a total of 283 members, which is 20 members below our membership goal of 303 members for the end of 2006.

The following other NCSAF membership changes occurred in August.

New

John Trone, Potomac, MD

Transferred Out

Christopher S. Galik – to Triangle Chapter, NC

Jim Culbert
Membership Committee Chair

2006 NCSAF Calendar of Events

Date	Description	Contact
September 27	Luncheon: Sally Collins on Ecosystem Services	Loren Ford
October TBD	Octoberfest	Meredith Webster
October 5	Executive Committee Conference Call	Laura Schweitzer
October 13	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
October 25-29	National SAF Convention in Pittsburgh, PA	Terry Clark clarkt@safnet.org
November 1	Wine Tasting Event in Ballston, VA	Dwight Fielder, Laura Schweitzer
November 9	Executive Committee Mtg. – Location TBA, 11:30 – 1 PM	Laura Schweitzer
November 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
November 16	NCSAF Luncheon Engineering Technology Against Invasive Species	Loren Ford
December 5	Executive Committee Conference Call	Laura Schweitzer
December 6 (tentative)	Holiday Party	TBD
December 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler

2006 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Position	Individual's Name	Phone	E-mail
Chair	Laura Schweitzer	W: (202) 737-1944 x219 H/Mb: (510) 847-3817	LSchweitzer@amfor.org
Vice-Chair (Chair Elect)	Wilhelmina Bratton	W: (202) 205-1144 H: (703) 631-9434	wbratton@fs.fed.us
Immediate Past-Chair	Loren Ford	W: (703) 605-4478 H: (703) 369-4792	lbford@fs.fed.us
Treasurer	Doug Powell	W: (202) 205-1724 H: (703) 698-1434	dougpowell@fs.fed.us
Secretary	Donna Gehlhaart	W: (202) 628-1223 H: (703) 739-7771	Donna.gehlhaart@ipaper.com
Auditing Chair	John Witherspoon	W: (202) 205-1609 H: (703) 830-1377	jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Tellers Chair	John Witherspoon	W: (202) 205-1609 H: (703) 830-1377	jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Communications Chair	Vacant		
Membership Chair	Jim Culbert	W: (202) 205-0854 H: (703) 938-8736	jculbert@fs.fed.us
Program and Issues Forum Chair	Loren Ford	W: (703) 605-4478 H: (703) 369-4792	lbford@fs.fed.us
Nominating and Professional Recognition Chair	Jason Metnick	W: (202) 463-5181	Jason_metnick@afandpa.org
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Plyler	W: (202) 205-1777 H: (301) 445-4815	jplyler@fs.fed.us
Fundraising Chair	Vacant		
Historian	Art Smyth	H: (703) 780-4071	
Science Day Representative	Wilhelmina Bratton John Witherspoon	WB-W: (202) 205-1144 WB-H: (703) 631-9434 JW-W: (202) 205-1609 JW-H: (703) 830-1377	wbratton@fs.fed.us jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Octoberfest Chair	Meredith Webster	W: (202)205-0804 H: (301)445-9695	mmwebster@fs.fed.us
Phonathon Chair	Tim Resch	W: (202) 712-4453 H: (703) 660-9292	tresch@usaid.gov
Congressional Liaison	Darci Birmingham Ian MacFarlane	W: (202) 205-1759 W: (202) 624-5977	dbirmingham@fs.fed.us imacfarlane@stateforesters.org
Washington Academy of Sciences Liaison	Vacant		
Wild Acres Liaison	Dick Fitzgerald	W: (202) 205-1753 H: (703) 378-8114	rfitzgerald@fs.fed.us