



# National Capital Society of American Foresters

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## *DC Forester* December 2007

### Chair's Corner



It seems just yesterday that I was greeting you as your 2007 chair and discussing plans for the upcoming year. Now it is time for me to pass the gavel onto Eric Norland. His term as chair begins January 1, 2008. Eric has worked side by side with me on all NCSAF matters of business this year and he will do a great job as your chair, 2008. For me, it has been a great honor to serve as your chair this year. As members, you have welcomed and supported initiatives and issues that I have lead. More importantly, you have shared your candid ideas and opinions with me. Your 2007 NCSAF officers and committee members are some of the finest professionals with whom I have ever worked. I have great gratitude, admiration, and professional and personal respect for each of them.

A part of our work this year has included, but no way limited too, the design and adoption of the NCSAF Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for 2007-2008; the design, process and completion of a NCSAF member survey as adopted under SAP, 2007-2008; the construction and the favorable membership approval for NCSAF bylaws amendments to allow for electronic voting in our 2008 society elections and an updated and expanded NCSAF website. On the partnership front, we co-hosted a successful fall tour with the DC Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) at the Wetland Solutions and Studies Inc. near Gainesville, Virginia. We continue to maintain an active relationship with the Washington Academy of Sciences as part of our efforts to promote an understanding of forestry and the natural resources to broader professional audiences.

Looking toward 2008 and beyond, there are lots of opportunities for NCSAF and the broader forestry communities to initiate, partner, collaborate and lead national and international issues and debates like global climate and/or global warming renewable and/or alternative energy, bio mass, sustainability and others. I think there are also opportunities for us to engage and connect disciplines of forestry and natural resources with issues and professionals within the fields of public health, the economics, housing, education, and poverty. In doing so, we can foster the benefits of forestry to much larger and more professionally diverse communities. Further, we hasten the days when matters of forestry and the natural resources are “dinner time” conversations for more local, national and international families. There is much work for us to do, but our rewards can be great!

Again, thanks to each and every one of you for the opportunity to be your 2007 chair. The NCSAF is a group of mighty fine folks and, it has been a true privilege to serve you. Seasons Greetings to you and your families!

**Wilhelmina B. Bratton**  
**NCSAF Chair**

## **District VII Council Report—December 2007**

SAF Council met December 1-2, 2007 and said good-bye to retiring members and welcome to the new members (terms of service are three years, staggered among districts).

### **Potential Sale of the Grosvenor Property, home of SAF National Office:**

The major item that the council worked on was the potential sale of the Grosvenor property, which has been the site of the SAF national headquarters since 1973.

The announcement of the potential sale of the property to the Nation's Academy was made on December 7, 2007. President John McMahan, in response to a number of questions and concerns, has provided the following information:

“The council's decision to accept the Nation's Academy offer was not based on a hasty response to an unsolicited offer, but rather on the result of an extended discussion with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) a partial owner of the property. The discussions have occurred over many months on the strategic options that would best serve the long-term needs of both SAF and RNRF. These discussions were conducted under the guidance of SAF's Officers and SAF's RNRF Coordinating Committee. SAF Council members over the past several years have been kept informed of and have been very supportive of SAF's continuing efforts to work with RNRF to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of our joint interests in the Bethesda property. We were bound by the terms of the offer to purchase to not disclose our intent to enter into this transaction until the prospective buyers were ready to publicly identify themselves.

Throughout these discussions the council has been very mindful of the fact that accomplishing the sale of our interest in the Bethesda property will enable us to substantially improve the long-term financial condition of SAF, and enable us to allocate increased resources to accomplishing our mission. In addition, the council also clearly understood that our need to address many years worth of deferred maintenance on the Grosvenor Mansion would require a substantial investment of SAF's limited resources if we continued with the status quo.

It will be several more months before we know whether the sale of the Bethesda property will be accomplished. In the interim, we will be naming a task force to advise the council on the recommended location and attributes needed in a new SAF headquarter site, and members of the NCSAF will have the opportunity to offer their advice to this task force.”

The task force has not yet been named. To guide the process of determining both the preferred site and desired attributes of a new headquarters location, council agreed that the following site selection objectives be used:

1. Accomplish long-term financial security for SAF by limiting investment and relocation expenses in a new site, thereby enabling increased investment and growth in SAF permanent funds, and utilization of the majority of SAF's annual income to accomplish its Mission.

2. Maintain and strengthen SAF's effectiveness in influencing public policy and in building successful working relationships with our principal allies and partners and other professional societies in the field of renewable natural resources management.
3. Establish a new headquarters office that provides an appropriate quality presence for SAF as our national professional society.
4. Maintain or improve accessibility to a new office site for SAF members, committees, task forces, and visitors.
5. Minimize turnover and disruption of staff services to SAF members in the course of relocating to a new office site.

As your district council member, I have been informed of the discussions between SAF and RNRf since I started on council two years ago. I have understood the need for confidentiality and the long-term financial interests in resolving the property issues. I have fully supported the decision to pursue the negotiations with Nation's Academy and RNRf. I believe strongly that if this sale goes through, it is in the best interests of our SAF.

A number of members have expressed strong concerns about the abrupt notice of this sale and the concerns about where the new national office will be located. As noted above, council felt that a task force to guide the search was the best approach and would bring member's ideas and suggestions to the table. If you have any ideas, please feel free to share them with me and I'm sure that the task force will provide opportunities for SAF members to provide input.

**Given the length of this article, I will report now on only two other items from the December council meeting. I will report on others in future newsletters:**

**Continuing Forestry Education:** Council supported the recommended changes in the CFE credits process and the roles of the CFE Coordinators. Changes are needed to meet requirements for ANSI certification of the program, which requires a more robust quality control process. The categories of CFE credits will be modified and the other process changes will occur. The changes will be announced in January, and Societies will need to consider them in the designation of CFE coordinators and in use of the system within their organizations.

**Fellows Nomination Process** (see article below for more information): Council agreed to change the timelines for Fellows nominations and selection so that Fellows are announced and recognized in the year of their selection. Council also would like to see a special event at the annual convention to recognize the Fellows. This will be discussed with the program committees for conventions. Nominations can be made from any members to their District Fellows Committee. Our District VII Fellows Committee is developing a new timeline to receive and review nominations and make their recommendations to me March 31. The District VII Fellows Committee will announce the timelines to the Allegheny State Society and NCSAF very soon.

**Mary Coulombe, CF  
District VII Council Representative**

## SAF District VII Fellows Nominations for 2008

Under the procedures established by SAF Council, the District VII Fellows Committee is accepting nominations of SAF members to be honored with the designation as Fellow in the Society. SAF honors those members who have provided outstanding contributions to the Society and to the forestry profession. Details on the criteria and nomination packets can be found at the SAF website <http://www.safnet.org/members/> under the member's only link and then the nominations link. Council has adjusted the process for 2008 in two ways. First, they have moved the timeline up so that the Fellows elected in 2008 can be honored and recognized at the 2008 national convention. Second, they have revised the nomination guidelines to emphasize the need for **both** strong SAF volunteer activities and exemplary action, sustained leadership, and advancement of the forestry profession in at least one of the following areas: application of forestry, education, public policy, research, or technology transfer.

District VII fellow pre-nominations should be submitted to Kurt Gottschalk, Fellows committee chair by email to either [kgottschalk@fs.fed.us](mailto:kgottschalk@fs.fed.us) or [kgottschalk@windstream.net](mailto:kgottschalk@windstream.net) no later than January 31, 2008. Pre-nominations should consist of a one paragraph biosketch for each of the two evaluation areas: 1) SAF volunteer activities and 2) exemplary action, sustained leadership, and advancement of the forestry profession (see national nomination instructions). The District Fellows Committee will review the pre-nominations and select those for development of formal nomination packages by February 15, 2008. Formal District VII nominations are due by March 15, 2008. Final review by the District VII Fellows Committee will be completed and nominations forwarded to the District VII Council Representative by March 31, 2008.

We know that both the officers and leadership of the Allegheny and National Capital Societies and the District Fellows Committee look forward to continuing the fine tradition of SAF fellows that have come from our respective areas. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague. Not sure if someone is already a fellow? - go the SAF website under members only, directories, fellows and brose the complete list of SAF fellows located there.

Nomination packets must contain all of the following documents:

1. a consent form, signed by the nominee and the District Fellows Committee, to verify the nominee has been informed of and consents to the nomination, and to confirm members of the District Fellows Committee presenting the nomination,
2. three letters of recommendation in support of the Fellow nomination,
3. a completed biographical and professional information form, and
4. a recent 5" x 7" or 3" x 5" photograph of the nominee (electronic photos are acceptable, but must be a minimum of 300 dpi)

### Treasurer's Report

Our only transactions this month were \$4,008.49 in expenses for our annual holiday party (\$3,896.14 for catering and \$112.35 for invitations). As you will notice, this large expense pushed our finances for the first time this year into the red (i.e., deficit). Fortunately, we had an adequate cushion in our checking account to cover this easily. A final year-end report should be available in next month's newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Treasurer Doug Powell at [dougpowell@fs.fed.us](mailto:dougpowell@fs.fed.us).

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Balance:        |                   |
| Certificates of Deposit | \$16,060.04       |
| Cash                    | \$100.00          |
| Checking                | <u>\$5,461.39</u> |
| Total                   | \$21,621.43       |

|                          | <i>11/14 to 12/10</i> | <i>Year-to-Date</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Amount received:         |                       |                     |
| Auction Income           | --                    | \$2,184.95          |
| Dues Disbursement        | --                    | \$1,779.00          |
| Interest & Dividends     | --                    | \$621.83            |
| Luncheon Receipts        | --                    | \$4,518.00          |
| Raffles                  | --                    | <u>\$268.00</u>     |
| Total                    | --                    | \$9,371.78          |
| Amount expended:         |                       |                     |
| Awards-Recognition       | --                    | \$222.00            |
| Congressional Outreach   | --                    | \$2,600.00          |
| Foresters' Fund          | --                    | \$500.00            |
| Holiday Party            | \$4,008.49            | \$4,008.49          |
| HSD Assessment           | --                    | \$145.04            |
| Luncheon meals           | --                    | \$4,402.86          |
| Mailing                  | --                    | \$352.46            |
| Miscellaneous expenses   | --                    | \$372.36            |
| Web site                 | --                    | <u>\$138.80</u>     |
| Total                    | \$4,008.49            | \$12,742.01         |
| Net increase (decrease): | (\$4,008.49)          | (\$3,370.23)        |

**Doug Powell**  
Treasurer

## **NCSAF Membership Update**

### **NCSAF Membership Update – December 2007**

As of the end of November 2007, NCSAF now has a total of 286 members, which is 9 less than our membership goal of 295 for 2007.

The following NCSAF membership changes occurred in November:

#### **New Members**

Susan M. Mockenhaupt, USDA Forest Service  
Laura Dunleavy Nelms, American Forest Foundation

## **2007 NCSAF Membership – Year in Review**

NCSAF started out the year 2007 with 294 members. Thus, the national SAF office set our 2007 membership goal at 295, which is one more than our membership at the end of 2006. As of the end of November 2007, NCSAF had 286 members.

From January to November, NCSAF experienced the following membership changes:

9 new  
11 reinstated  
23 transfer in  
30 transfer out  
17 purged for non-payment  
3 resigned  
1 died  
-8 net change in 2007 (Jan.-Nov.)

Nineteen NCSAF members participated in the national membership phonathon in April. Of the national SAF members contacted during those three evenings, initial results indicated that 284 would renew their SAF memberships. Our sincere thanks to those who came out to Wild Acres to make calls, and special thanks goes to Tim Resch for organizing our participation. This is a very valuable activity that supports the national SAF, that we are committed to supporting in the future. We could always use more help from NCSAF members in this activity.

In addition to participation in the phonathon, your executive committee made personal contacts with delinquent members over the month leading up to the phonathon, and we were successful in significantly reducing the number of NCSAF members in non-payment status.

NCSAF continued the presentation of membership recognition pins or recognition certificates to those who qualified in 2007, based upon attaining one or more decades of SAF membership.

At the end of the year, we developed a membership survey that is linked to our NCSAF website home page, and continues through Dec. 15. The results will help the NCSAF Executive Committee better serve you in the years to come.

In addition to the above NCSAF membership related activities, the SAF Council approved several changes to membership this year. As those changes are implemented, they should help retain members and improve consistency.

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

## **FS and BLM Recruitment at SAF Convention**

Over 500 students attended the SAF convention held October 23-27 in Portland, Oregon. The Forest Service and the BLM collaborated to bring on-the-spot hiring to the convention leading to the hiring of 13 new federal employees, 10 with the FS and three with the BLM. On-the-spot hiring is a streamlined approach using existing employment authorities that helps the agency select some of the top SAF students who attend the convention. It's also a tool that gives us an opportunity to begin addressing the critical skill needs as more of our workforce retires.

The FS and BLM met with students interested in jobs after their orientation and reception on October 23 and at the job fair on October 25. Interviews with students were conducted primarily on October 25 and tentative job offers were made on October 26. On the evening of October 26, Sally Collins, associate chief for the Forest Service, and Mike Haske, acting deputy state director for the BLM, introduced the students who accepted our job offers at the National Student Assembly.



BLM Acting Deputy State Director Mike Haske, left, and Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins, right, welcome four new employees at the 2007 SAF Convention National Student Assembly

This is the third year the FS has used on-the-spot hiring at the SAF convention and the feedback from managers has been very positive. The FS and the BLM expect to hire next year in Reno, Nevada. The SAF national office staff helped us every step of the way and we want to thank particularly Claire Kovacs, Bill Brumby, and Michael Goergen for making our on-the-spot hiring and job fair such a success.

**Darci Birmingham**

## **Welcome New NCSAF Members!**

### **Frank Boteler**

Franklin E. Boteler currently serves as the Deputy Administrator of the Economic and Community Systems Unit with the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). CSREES functions to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities. Previously, Dr. Boteler held progressively responsible positions with the North Carolina, Idaho, and Washington State Parks Systems.

In Washington, Frank functioned as the chief executive responsible for 1000 employees (including 250 commissioned park rangers), 125 parks, a \$100 million operating budget, and an \$80 million capital development budget. In Idaho, he was chief internal operating officer over 200 employees and a \$25 million budget. In North Carolina, he was chief administrative officer over the state's natural heritage, scenic rivers, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and planning programs.



Frank, enjoying the great outdoors

He began his career as an associate professor with West Virginia University performing research and teaching in forest resources management, wildland recreation management, and computer science. Much of his research work was supported by the National Park Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources which he worked with in setting the original carrying capacity and safety regulations for whitewater use of the Cheat, New, and Gauley Rivers.

Frank has seventy publications and book reviews on conservation topics. He holds a doctorate and masters from the Pennsylvania State University School of Forest Resources and has a B.S. in

psychology from the University of Maryland. Frank is an avid outdoors person who enjoys skiing, road biking, backpacking, and river running. His wife is a reference librarian and their son is a junior in college. You can reach Frank at [fboteler@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:fboteler@csrees.usda.gov) or call (202) 720-5305.

**Laura Dunleavy**



Laura and Tuly sharing smiles

Laura spent her childhood roaming the fields and forests of Clinton, New Jersey (It was a rural area back when she lived there!). Her father, an avid birder and all-around outdoorsman, inspired in Laura a life-long love of nature. However, it wasn't until after earning a degree in neuroscience at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, that she realized she would like to pursue a career in natural resources management.

After a stint at the Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area in San Francisco, Laura returned to school and received a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in 2000. She held a variety of

jobs in the government, consulting, and non-profit worlds until finally settling down at the American Forest Foundation two-plus years ago. Laura currently serves as Program Manager for the Forests for Watersheds & Wildlife program where, among other things, she organizes forest management field days and develops handbooks and other publications for family forest owners interested in managing for imperiled wildlife.



Laura and Jonathan paddling smiles.

In her free time, Laura enjoys spending time with her husband, Jonathan, and their adorable dog, Tuly. They can often be found biking (Tuly is an excellent cyclist), hiking or botanizing (really just Laura doing this). If she's indoors, reading and knitting keep her busy. Laura can be reached at (202) 463-2456 or [ldunleavy@forestfoundation.org](mailto:ldunleavy@forestfoundation.org).

**2008 NCSAF Calendar of Events**

| <b>Date</b>                       | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Contact</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| January 12<br>9 AM - 12 Noon      | NCSAF Executive Committee 2008 Planning Session - SAF National Office | Eric Norland    |
| January 15                        | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline   | Jennifer Plyler |
| February 15                       | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline   | Jennifer Plyler |
| February 21<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                            | Eric Norland    |
| March 15                          | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline   | Jennifer Plyler |



## 2008 NCSAF Calendar of Events (*continued*)

| <b>Date</b>                        | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Contact</b>                                     |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| March 20<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM     | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| April 15                           | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| April 21<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM     | NCSAF Executive Committee (location TBD)                       | Eric Norland                                       |
| May 15<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM       | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| May 16                             | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| June 19<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM      | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| June 20                            | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| July 17<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM      | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| August 15                          | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| August 17<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM    | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| September 15                       | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| September 18<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| October 16<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM   | NCSAF Executive Committee (location TBD)                       | Eric Norland                                       |
| October 17                         | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| November 5-9                       | SAF National Convention<br>Reno/Tahoe, NV                      | <a href="http://www.safnet.org">www.safnet.org</a> |
| November 14                        | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| November 20<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  | NCSAF Executive Committee (teleconference)                     | Eric Norland                                       |
| December 15                        | <i>DC Forester</i> deadline                                    | Jennifer Plyler                                    |
| December 18<br>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  | Joint 2008 & 2009 NCSAF Executive<br>Committees (location TBD) | Eric Norland                                       |

## 2007 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

| Position                                      | Individual's Name  | Phone  | E-mail   |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| Chair   | Wilhelmina Bratton | W: (202) 205-1144<br>H: (703) 631-9434         | <a href="mailto:wbratton@fs.fed.us">wbratton@fs.fed.us</a>                 |
| Chair Elect                                   | Eric Norland       | W: (202) 401-5971<br>H/Mb: (202) 641-4396      | <a href="mailto:enorland@csrees.usda.gov">enorland@csrees.usda.gov</a>     |
| Immediate Past Chair                          | Laura Schweitzer   | W: (202) 737-1944 x219<br>H/Mb: (510) 847-3817 | <a href="mailto:LSchweitzer@amfor.org">LSchweitzer@amfor.org</a>           |
| Treasurer                                     | Doug Powell        | W: (202) 205-1724<br>H: (703) 698-1434         | <a href="mailto:dougpowell@fs.fed.us">dougpowell@fs.fed.us</a>             |
| Secretary                                     | Donna Gehlhaart    | W: (202) 628-1223<br>H: (703) 739-7771         | <a href="mailto:Donna.gehlhaart@ipaper.com">Donna.gehlhaart@ipaper.com</a> |
| Tellers and Auditors Chair                    | John Witherspoon   | W: (202) 205-1609<br>H: (703) 830-1377         | <a href="mailto:jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us">jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us</a>         |
| Communication Chair                           | Terri Bates        | W: (703) 538-1134                              | <a href="mailto:batesmt@verizon.net">batesmt@verizon.net</a>               |
| Webmaster (Interim)                           | Tim Resch          | W: (202) 712-4453<br>H: (703) 660-9292         | <a href="mailto:tresch@usaid.gov">tresch@usaid.gov</a>                     |
| Membership Chair                              | Jim Culbert        | W: (202) 205-0854<br>H: (703) 938-8736         | <a href="mailto:jculbert@fs.fed.us">jculbert@fs.fed.us</a>                 |
| Program Chair                                 | Loren Ford         | W: (703) 605-4478<br>H: (703) 369-4792         | <a href="mailto:lbford@fs.fed.us">lbford@fs.fed.us</a>                     |
| Nominating and Professional Recognition Chair | Corbin Newman      | W: (202) 205-0893                              | <a href="mailto:cnewman02@fs.fed.us">cnewman02@fs.fed.us</a>               |
| Newsletter Editor                             | Jennifer Plyler    | W: (202) 205-1751<br>H: (301) 445-4815         | <a href="mailto:jplyler@fs.fed.us">jplyler@fs.fed.us</a>                   |
| Fundraising Chair                             | Laura Schweitzer   | W: (202) 737-1944 x219<br>H/Mb: (510) 847-3817 | <a href="mailto:LSchweitzer@amfor.org">LSchweitzer@amfor.org</a>           |
| Historian                                     | Doug MacCleery     | W: (202) 205-1745                              | <a href="mailto:dmaccleery@fs.fed.us">dmaccleery@fs.fed.us</a>             |
| Phonathon Chair                               | Tim Resch          | W: (202) 712-4453<br>H: (703) 660-9292         | <a href="mailto:tresch@usaid.gov">tresch@usaid.gov</a>                     |
| Policy Chair                                  | Rick Cooksey       | W: (202) 205-1469                              | <a href="mailto:rcooksey@fs.fed.us">rcooksey@fs.fed.us</a>                 |
| Science and Technology Coordinator (WAS)      | Denise Ingram      | W: (202) 205-3611                              | <a href="mailto:cdingram@fs.fed.us">cdingram@fs.fed.us</a>                 |
| Wild Acres Liaison                            | Dick Fitzgerald    | W: (202) 205-1753<br>H: (703) 378-8114         | <a href="mailto:rfitzgerald@fs.fed.us">rfitzgerald@fs.fed.us</a>           |