



National Capital Society of American Foresters



DC Forester June 2007

Chair's Corner

For more than 25 years, the National Capital Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) was one of several local chapters of natural resource professional societies that NCSAF partnered with to design and provide the annual Science Day program for the Washington-Metropolitan area. While Science Day is no longer a sponsored activity of either NCSAF or the SWCS, we have begun informal meetings this year for the purpose of exploring jointly-sponsored projects in the future. As a result, SWCS invited NCSAF members to attend their annual spring meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. The guided tour will include a visit to the world's largest agricultural research facility, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) as well as a visit to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Center & Refuge. The tour starts and ends at the USDA George Washington Carver Center. Detail information on this tour can be found on the NCSAF website at <http://ncsaf.org/index.htm> (Thanks to Tim Resch, NCSAF webmaster).

The SWCS is described as a non-profit scientific and educational organization with the mission to foster the science and the art of natural resource conservation. Their work targets conservation of soil, water and other related natural resources on lands used to produce food, fiber, and other services designed to improve the quality of life for both rural and urban communities. Their membership, similar to NCSAF's, comes from academia and many different public, private, non-profits organizations.

I do not know whether Science Day will emerge again in its original form or some other forms, but I am certain that NCSAF will always be dedicated to the advancement of science, education, technology and practices of forestry as well as ensuring the continued health and use of forest ecosystems. As we strive to keep our mission alive and relevant to the needs of our members, it seems to me that fostering and maintaining positive relationships with national and international professional societies of mutual interests is a step in the right direction for NCSAF.

Wilhelmina B. Bratton
NCSAF Chair

Council Report

SAF Council met June 9-10 at the National Office in Bethesda. The agenda included a number of topics that may be of interest to our district members. I have summarized them below, but if you have any questions or comments, please e-mail me at coulombe@cox.net or call (202) 761-1228

during the day. We have been a very busy council. One important message from Executive Vice President Michael Goergen is that SAF is in a strong financial situation!

CONVENTION, October 23-27, 2007 in Portland, Oregon. The program and activities are lining up to be of importance to ALL SAF members. Plan to attend to network with colleagues from all over the country, learn new things, and become more engaged in the practice and science of forestry. See you there!!

Electronic Elections: The national elections this year will use electronic balloting. For those members without e-mail addresses, paper ballots will be mailed. Michael Goergen assured council that there is complete security with voting on-line and members will vote on both national candidates and council representatives (as scheduled). If divisions, states, or chapters want to utilize electronic voting notify the national office. There will be a small charge. Please notify Amy Ziadi at ziadia@safnet.org with your current e-mail address if needed.

Insurance: The insurance agent for SAF presented the requirements for insurance for SAF activities that are not covered in the SAF blanket policy. Executive committees at all levels need to get the information from Marianne Hughes at the national office at 1-866-897-8720. In summary, any meetings that include field trips and/or non-members, serve liquor, go off-site for a portion of the meeting, group transportation (buses, vans), or other activities of risk, are likely to require a separate policy. Please get more information from Marianne. SAF will prepare additional information and a Q&A document.

Membership: Council has discussed membership, office holding, and voting rights for more than a year. At the June meeting, council considered recommending constitutional changes including:

- A) To retain five existing membership categories: Professional Member, Conditional Professional, Technician, Associate, and Student and establish a subscriber option outside of membership.
- B) All members would vote in national elections, and others that apply.
- C) International members would be part of the five categories as appropriate.
- D) Fellows and honorary members would be recognition within the categories as appropriate.
- E) No change in requirements to hold offices.

Council has yet to decide when the constitutional changes will be presented to the membership for a vote.

Student Representation: Last year, council voted to change the student representation in SAF governance. Council added a student representative, and established a Student Executive Committee with student representatives from each district—one of which will be the council representative and a chair of the National Student Congress (NSC) of all student chapter chairs. The first meeting of the NSC will be held at the convention in October. Council also retained the National Student Assembly.

Global Climate Change: SAF will consider a position on global climate change and forests. This is an important policy effort and a task force has been established to make recommendations. Past President John Helms and Michael Goergen testified at senate and house committee hearings recently—see the SAF website (<http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatements.cfm>) to read the testimony. SAF is recognized as a leader in this discussion/debate.

Center for Diversity: Council voted to approve SAF participation and leadership of a center to organize workforce diversity efforts, involving SAF, forestry employers, and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP). This center will seek outside funding for its programs: recruitment and education, professional education, and professional retention.

Leadership Academy Steering Committee: Council voted to establish a new Leadership Academy Steering Committee to analyze and make recommendations about the academy. **If you are interested in serving on the committee please let me know.**

Specialized Accreditation of Urban Forestry Programs: Council approved the standards for the accreditation of urban forestry programs, and additional representation categories to the accreditation committee. Terry Clark has more information and can be contacted via e-mail at clarkt@safnet.org or by calling (301) 897-9720, ext. 123.

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

NCSAF Membership Update

As of the end of May 2007, NCSAF had a total of 296 members, which is one more than our membership goal of 295 for 2007. However, as of the end of April, 17 NCSAF members have not yet renewed their memberships for 2007. The membership purge for non-renewal will occur at the end of June, and these 17 members will be taken off the current SAF membership rolls. It will be difficult for the NCSAF to replace the loss of this many members with new and transfers-in from July to December in order to meet our goal.

The following NCSAF membership changes occurred in April.

Deceased

Howard A. Post, Retired Member

New

Alexandra Motlow Richman, American Forest Foundation

Transferred In

P. Daniel Cassidy, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service – from Rappahannock Chapter

Elizabeth S. Crane, CF, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, from Chattahoochee Chapter

Janet L. Miller, DC government – from Virginia Tech.

Transferred Out

Andrew C. Brown, to Robert E. Lee Chapter

Henry Cauley, to no State Society

**Jim Culbert
Membership Committee Chair**

What You Missed at the NCSAF June Luncheon

The June 7 NCSAF luncheon began with remembrances of NCSAF member Arthur V. Smyth who died May 19 at his home in Littleton, NH, where he spent his final days with family. NCSAF Past Chair John Witherspoon gave an account of Art's life and contributions to NCSAF and national SAF, of which he was President in 1990.

Art studied forestry at the University of Michigan, where he graduated from the School of Forestry and Conservation in 1941. He served in World War II in the Philippines, New Guinea, and Japan with the 650th Topographic Battalion, which made maps for all of the major invasions in the Western Pacific.

Art joined Weyerhaeuser as a field forester following the war, working his way up with ever-more responsible assignments in management and procurement to his final position as the corporation's first Vice President for Governmental Affairs based in Washington DC. He joined SAF's Washington D.C. Section, which later became NCSAF. Art served as Washington Section Chair from 1977 - 1979 and was elected Fellow in 1983. Following his retirement, Art remained active in NCSAF, volunteering as historian. He continued his professional work as an associate of Columbia Consulting Group.

SAF President John McMahon delivered the formal program at the June luncheon. John was in town for the SAF council meeting, and was kind enough to travel early in order to address interested NCSAF members. He began with a personal account of his close relationship with Art Smyth, whom he regarded as mentor. They had worked together on forest policy for Weyerhaeuser: John on the West Coast as Vice President of Timberlands, External, and Regulatory Affairs, and Art in DC. John retired from the company in 2001.

John reported that the national SAF is in better financial shape than it has been in years, with net revenue in 2006 of \$488,026. This surplus continues a trend of strong net revenue over the past several years under the leadership of Executive Vice-President Michael Goergen.

SAF has played a visible and strong role representing the forestry profession with national and state policy makers. Comments have been submitted on all major Administration initiatives involving forestry. SAF has supported priority funding for sustainable forestry in the FY 2008 appropriations bills by highlighting:

- Forest health,
- Wildfire suppression funding impacts,
- Research including Forest Inventory & Assessment,
- The need for funding to improve understanding the effects on forests of global climate change and opportunities for forest-based carbon sequestration,
- Importance of support for forest management on Federal, state, and private lands, and
- State & private forestry, and
- Forestry extension.

The previous Congress supported the passage of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, which addressed science-based response to extreme events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. In spite of approval by a strong bipartisan majority in the House, the bill died in the Senate and hasn't yet been introduced in the 110th Congress.

Probably the most important legislation affecting forestry in the 110th Congress will be the 2007 Farm Bill. SAF has provided leadership with the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition of more than 30 conservation organizations (http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/documents/Forests_In_Farm_Bill_final_SAF.pdf). Three of the bill's titles contain provisions especially relevant to forestry: forestry, conservation, and energy.

SAF's ability to influence forest policy has been supported by an active engagement of the Committee on Forest Policy, which John chaired for several years prior to his election in 2005 as SAF Vice President. There are about 20 national position statements a range of nationally significant issues, from Biodiversity to Urban Forestry (<http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/positionstatements.cfm>). Recent policy committee focus has been on herbicides, clearcutting on Federal lands, forest regulation on private lands, urban & community forestry, and forest biotechnology.

John provided an update on the joint SAF/National Association of State Foresters Task Force on Sustainable Forest Policy, which begun last year under the leadership of SAF's 2006 President Marvin Brown. Through the more than 100-year history of professional forestry in the United States, many laws and regulations affecting forestry have come into existence at the Federal and state level. Many of these establish inconsistent policies. The Sustainable Forest Policy Task Force is attempting to engage interested parties on a national basis to seek consensus on more consistent forest policies across the Nation and their enactment and implementation.

Some other recent national SAF developments include:

- An initiative with external funding in which SAF will train Native American tribes to undertake forest restoration projects that take advantage of the tribes' traditional close relationship with ecosystems and support business models that improve tribal livelihoods;
- A report on the State of America's Forests, also undertaken with outside funding (<http://www.safnet.org/aboutforestry/index.cfm>);
- A group Certified Forest Management System™ (CMFS) that is compatible with the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® standards under which properties of individual forest owners would not need to be certified but would receive certification because their management plans had been prepared by a CMFS-accredited forester, forest management organization, industry procurement forester, or forestry consulting firm, with the property owner agreeing to make the property subject to external audit; and
- An initiative funded by the U.S. Forest Service to promote evidence-based natural resources management, following decision-making principles of the medical profession, in which scientific knowledge developed by research is complemented by a practitioner's professional experience.

Prior to taking questions from participants, John related that SAF Council has decided to address the fundamental questions raised in the preamble to the 2005 Volunteer Organization Structure Task Force Report about what sort of organization SAF members want to belong to.

The national office at Wild Acres in Bethesda is developing a nationwide survey to be directed at SAF members to ask members what they're looking for in their professional organization at the national and local level. NCSAF leadership has been discussing this very same issue and has been discussing a survey of our membership. Perhaps we can partner with the national office to engage our members one-on-one to develop some in-depth and personal feedback. Stay tuned.

Loren B. Ford
Program Chair

Treasurer's Report

Here is the June NCSAF Treasurer's Report.

Current Balance:

Certificates of Deposit	\$16,078.68
Cash	\$100.00
Checking	<u>\$11,639.36</u>
Total	\$27,818.04

	<i>5/11 to 6/15</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Amount received:		
Auction Income	--	\$2,184.95
Dues Disbursement	--	\$1,257.50
Interest & Dividends	--	\$202.89
Luncheon Receipts	--	\$3,014.00
Raffles	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>\$221.00</u>
Total	\$30.00	\$6,880.34
Amount expended:		
Awards-Recognition	\$100.00	\$222.00
Foresters' Fund	--	\$500.00
HSD Assessment	--	\$145.04
Luncheon meals	\$8.02	\$2,941.33
Mailing	--	\$42.57
Miscellaneous expenses	--	\$64.22
Web site	<u>--</u>	<u>\$138.80</u>
Total	\$108.02	\$4,053.96
Net increase (decrease):	(\$78.02)	\$2,826.38

We contributed \$100 to the University of Michigan's Forest Ecology Scholarship Fund in memory of past Chair Art Smyth. The luncheon expense was for our featured speaker, SAF President John McMahon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Doug Powell (dougpowell@fs.fed.us).

Doug Powell
Treasurer

NCSAF Remembers Art Smyth

Most of you have heard that a former member and Past Chair of NCSAF, Arthur V. Smyth, died May 19, 2007, at his home in Littleton, N.H. Many of us knew Art personally while he lived in this area, and he was most recently the faithful Chair of the one-person History Committee for NCSAF. The Executive Committee wanted to honor the memory of Art, so we made a \$100 donation, on behalf of NCSAF, to the Forest Ecology Scholarship at the University of Michigan. This was Art's wish, and we are very pleased to do this for one of our very own. He was a very special person and will be missed by his many friends and acquaintances.

Meet the Newest NCSAF Member *Alexandra Richman*

Alex grew up in middle Tennessee. Her family forestland is nestled in the gently rolling hills of Lynchburg, Tennessee where she loved to take nature walks and jump in creeks. She attended the University of the South and graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Natural Resources. After receiving her degree, she packed her suitcase and headed for the big city of Washington, D.C. to do an internship with The Nature Conservancy, who then hired her full-time. She was briefly on the Resources Committee for the Sustainable Forestry Board and discovered another forest certification program, the American Tree Farm System. Alex recently started working with American Tree Farm System as a Program Coordinator and is enjoying it immensely.

When Alex is not at work she is usually playing softball, traveling, or out perusing the city. Alex has been in the DC area for nearly two years and is hoping to one day get out of the city and move somewhere sparsely populated and densely forested.

She is always looking to make new friends. You can visit Alex at arichman@treefarmssystem.org or (202) 463-2733 or just stop by and see her at the office on 1111 19th St. NW, if you are ever near Dupont Circle.



Alex sea kayaking in Prince William's Sound, Alaska



Alex at the top of Mt. Vesuvius, Italy

2007 NCSAF Calendar of Events

Date	Description	Contact
June 21	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
TBD	International Forestry Research Dr. Frances Seymour, Director-General, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) *	Loren Ford
July 15	No DC Forester published in July Next issue is August	Jennifer Plyler
July 19	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
August 9	Summer Intern Forum TBD *	Loren Ford
August 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
August 16	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
September 13	Forestry in 2007 Farm Bill Chairman Collin C. Peterson (D-MN) *	Loren Ford
September 17	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
September 20	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
October 11	Changing Role in Forestry Education & Extension Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen, Dean, College of Natural Resources, U. Idaho *	Loren Ford
October 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
October 18	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
October 22-27	SAF National Convention Portland, OR	http://www.safconvention.org/natcon-07/
November 8	Conservation Education Dr. Safiya Samman *	Loren Ford
November 15	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton
November 15	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler
December 6	Executive Committee Meeting	Wilhelmina Bratton

2007 NCSAF Calendar of Events (*continued*)

Date	Description	Contact
December 13	Holiday Party*	Wilhelmina Bratton
December 17	Deadline for <i>DC Forester</i>	Jennifer Plyler

**Tentative*

2007 NCSAF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Position	Individual's Name	Phone	E-mail
Chair	Wilhelmina Bratton	W: (202) 205-1144 H: (703) 631-9434	wbratton@fs.fed.us
Chair Elect	Eric Norland	W: (202) 401-5971 H/Mb: (202) 641-4396	enorland@csrees.usda.gov
Immediate Past Chair	Laura Schweitzer	W: (202) 737-1944 x219 H/Mb: (510) 847-3817	LSchweitzer@amfor.org
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
Tellers and Auditors Chair	John Witherspoon	W: (202) 205-1609 H: (703) 830-1377	jwitherspoon@fs.fed.us
Communication Chair	Terri Bates	W: (703) 538-1134	batesmt@verizon.net
Webmaster (Interim)	Tim Resch	W: (202) 712-4453 H: (703) 660-9292	tresch@usaid.gov
Membership Chair	Jim Culbert	W: (202) 205-0854 H: (703) 938-8736	jculbert@fs.fed.us
Program Chair	Loren Ford	W: (703) 605-4478 H: (703) 369-4792	lbford@fs.fed.us
Nominating and Professional Recognition Chair	Corbin Newman	W: (202) 205-0893	cnewman02@fs.fed.us
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Plyler	W: (202) 205-1777 H: (301) 445-4815	jplyler@fs.fed.us
Fundraising Chair	Laura Schweitzer	W: (202) 737-1944 x219 H/Mb: (510) 847-3817	LSchweitzer@amfor.org
Historian	Vacant		
Phonathon Chair	Tim Resch	W: (202) 712-4453 H: (703) 660-9292	tresch@usaid.gov
Policy Chair	Rick Cooksey	W: (202) 205-1469	rcooksey@fs.fed.us
Science and Technology Coordinator (WAS)	Denise Ingram	W: (202) 205-3611	cdingram@fs.fed.us
Wild Acres Liaison	Dick Fitzgerald	W: (202) 205-1753 H: (703) 378-8114	rfitzgerald@fs.fed.us