

Approved 3-10-2010



New England State Society of American Foresters

Annual Business Meeting, Wednesday March 18, 2009

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

1. Call to Order by Chair, Ron Lemin Jr. at 12:15pm.
(*Ron Lemin Jr. noted the business meeting reached a quorum at 12:15pm.*)
 - Antitrust Statement
 - Introductions – NESAF Executive Committee members for 2009
 - Resolution on the passing and remembrance of NESAF members during the past year: Whereas death has claimed the lives of:

Earle D. Bessey, Jr.
David S. Canavera
Allison G. Catheron, II
G.W. I. "Wilf" Creighton
Perry H. Hagenstein
Norm Hudson
Howard Mason
David M. Smith
Larry Smith
Roger Taylor
James Wilkinson, Jr.

Be it resolved that the New England Society of American Foresters at its Annual Meeting in Portland, Maine on March 18, 2009, recognizes with deep appreciation the participation, support, and dedication of the lives of these members. We honor their contribution to this Society, our profession, and society at large.

Resolution on the passing and remembrance, during the past year, of significant contributors to the New England region's forestry profession: Whereas death has claimed the lives of:

Brooks Mills

Be it resolved that the New England Society of American Foresters at its Annual Meeting in Portland, Maine on March 18, 2009, recognizes with deep appreciation the participation, support, and dedication of the lives of these individuals. We honor their contribution to our profession and society at large.

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The members were invited to join in a moment of silence and reflection to honor those named in the 2 resolutions.

- Add/Adjust agenda: No additions or adjustments to the agenda were suggested.
- Corrections/Additions and motion for the minutes of the February 2008 Annual Business Meeting, Saratoga Springs, NY (Fast): No corrections were suggested to the minutes. **A motion to accept the minutes was heard by George Frame with a second from Edward Fuller. The motion to approve the minutes from the February 2008 NESAF Business Meeting was passed with 43 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.** Ron Lemin Jr. noted that a number of members did not participate in the vote.

2. NESAF Chair Report – Ron Lemin Jr.

- Recognize G. Frame and L. Rousseau for their service to NESAF

Ron Lemin Jr. recognized the service of three individuals, Larry Rousseau, Ken Laustsen, and George Frame, for their commitment to NESAF and service on the NESAF executive committee.

- SAF Electronic Voting-Update

Ron Lemin Jr. provided an update on SAF electronic Voting. Voting packages were sent out to divisions/chapters. There were setbacks which resulted in some states not participating in the online voting process during the past year. For those who did participate, the process worked well with the exception that multiple votes could be cast by single individuals. Bugs are expected to be resolved this year at which point online balloting will be an efficient way to vote. It will also result in a large cost savings to NESAF. Anyone who does not have a valid email address on file at national SAF receives a paper ballot. Nominations need to be in by mid-August. Ron Lemin Jr. solicited questions from membership.

Jake Messler asked what confirmation NESAF has that the bugs will be worked out for next year. Ron Lemin Jr. responded that NESAF followed up with national SAF and the expectation is that any problems will be fixed by next year.

- Leadership Academy-NESAF and National

Wednesday, March 17, 2009, NESAF put on a regional leadership academy. This was funded in part through a SAF Forester Fund Grant. 13 individuals who were selected by their local chapters/divisions attended. Informal feedback was positive and formal evaluations will be reviewed. The National Leadership Academy will likely take place at the beginning or end of the national convention to minimize travel expense to participants.

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➤ SAF Insurance for Meetings

Two years ago, the House of Society Delegates (HSD) asked NESAF to fill out a form detailing information for SAF's insurance provider. Because there are many field trips and non SAF members participating in NESAF programs, there are some additional steps that will be necessary to ensure NESAF programs are covered by insurance. Most importantly, if information about fieldtrips can be submitted to the insurance provider with 90 days prior notice, coverage should be attainable. It will require NESAF to be proactive. A question was fielded from Russ Reay who asked why NESAF needs insurance. Ron Lemin Jr. responded that if something happens on a fieldtrip without it, NESAF will be liable.

3. SAF Council Report – Roger Dziengeleski

Roger Dziengeleski had follow up comments about insurance. The general policy provides a lot of leeway, but it is still necessary to work with the insurance company to ensure NESAF is covered for events like field tours. If travel is provided to field locations, NESAF will need to ask a bus company to put NESAF on as a carrier. Similarly, if there are fieldtrips to mills, they will need to put NESAF on as a carrier as well. It will be important to notify SAF's insurance company early (60-90 days) to meet requirements.

National SAF explored opportunities to expand existing coverage. All bids were substantially more money in the order of \$120,000-\$150,000 and did not provide benefits that warranted spending membership's money. Rider insurance is even more cost prohibitive.

The online voting bug experienced last year has been worked out. Another roadblock encountered during the online voting were spam filters on member's computers. In some cases, emails were sent to members but never arrived. The spam filter problem has been addressed for the most part, but members should keep this issue and mind.

National Leadership Academy has diminished since regional leadership academies have cropped up. The 3 ½ day national model does not appear to be as efficient or cost effective as it has been in the past, and national SAF is looking to the regional leadership academy model. National SAF is open to additional ideas from the membership. They want to continue to provide the leadership academy as a service, but want to balance that with fiscal discipline.

At the last council meeting, there was discussion about a national SAF position statement on highgrading. Specifically, whether there is enough science to justify a national SAF position statement. It is a northeast issue in particular. When input was sought from membership, only 50% thought a position statement was a worthwhile way to respond to the issue.

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The Wild Acres sale fell through. There is continuing dialogue; some residents are working to designate the property as a historic property while national SAF staff is trying to stop that process to retain its asset value.

National SAF is investing in a new computer system. The old system is not web compatible, and the new system will provide a broad range of services including financial and webinar. Staff should be able to travel anywhere and access their office computers remotely. The new system should be in place within the next 6-9 months.

The national convention is coming up in Orlando, Florida at the end of September. It is a wonderful vacation area and should be relatively cheap from a cost perspective. There is cheap airfare and lodging opportunities.

National SAF hopes to improve the state society registration program by increasing the array of services available. Roger Dziengeleski sought questions from membership.

A question was fielded about online voting. Roger D. responded that he understands the bug has been addressed. Russ Reay asked what the economic situation has done to SAFs investments. SAF's investments have dropped 30-35% but SAF probably did well relative to some other organizations due to the structure and diversification of its investments.

4. Treasurer's Report – Larry Rousseau

Larry R. Distributed the budget report and a net worth report of account to date.

➤ Year End 2008

Larry R. highlighted changes.

➤ 2009 Proposed Revision

Larry R. highlighted changes.

Russ Reay asked if the \$5,100 dollars from the last winter meeting is split with Yankee Division? Larry Rousseau clarified that NESAF's profit was \$3,100. The gross was split between NESAF, Yankee Division and NYSAF. Additional funds came forward as a result of a raffle at the event. The raffle money was split between NESAF and NYSAF. NESAF's portion was further split between NESAF and Yankee Division. Though the money was a result of the 2008 winter meeting, the money was not received until 2009 and is therefore reflected as 2009 income.

Chris Prior asked why the winter meeting expense was cut to \$0 for 2009 and 2010. NESAF will not need to purchase easels or publish poster abstracts as they have in the past.

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➤ 2010 Proposed Budget

Larry R. highlighted changes.

A motion to approve the Year End 2008, 2009 Proposed Revision, and 2010 Proposed Budgets was heard by Fred Borman with a second from Bob Ricard. The question was called and the motion passed with none opposed and one abstention.

George Frame provided an update on the tax Form 990 NESAF was required to file. NESAF has a responsibility to report income to the IRS through a Form 990 if its gross income is greater than \$25,000 for three consecutive years; this includes the aggregate of NESAF and local chapters/divisions. NESAF was at approximately \$60,000 so the form 990 was filed with the help of an accountant. It was an arduous process and more costly than expected. In the future, NESAF will have to fill out a Form 990 Easy and with the help of division/chapter Treasurer's using the same type of income statement as NESAF, future reporting should be easier, more efficient and cost effective.

Bob Ricard asked for clarification on how the Form 990 is reported. George Frame informed membership that all sub units are aggregated to a single NESAF tax number.

5. Forest Science Technology – Jim Harding

Jim Harding explained the two principal responsibilities of the Forest Science Technology Coordinator is to edit and organize themes for the *News Quarterly* and work with NESAF's working groups.

News Quarterly themes over the last year have included forest carbon, urban forestry, forest products markets, and education and outreach. Forest soils are the theme for the next issue.

Participation in NESAF working groups has dwindled over recent years and they are not serving the purpose they were intended. One group met last year while the other five did not have enough attendees to hold a meeting. Jim Harding posed a couple questions: 1) If membership does not feel working groups are productive, is there something else NESAF should be doing. 2) How can NESAF better disseminate information to membership? Working groups are still an option but do not seem to be functioning effectively presently.

Laura Kenefic commented that some working groups have small numbers of participants and it is difficult to get those groups active. In contrast, the forestry utilization group is quite successful. They are meeting and electing members. They tried to hold a fieldtrip, but it had to be called off. Laura Kenefic voiced concern that saying the groups are dwindling and not serving their purpose will function as a self-fulfilling prophecy and she asked Jim Harding to help facilitate working group success. Furthermore, they experienced problems getting up-to-date membership lists. Jim Harding said he will do

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whatever he can to support the working groups including helping to get accurate membership lists, and working groups should look to the example set by the forestry utilization group.

Ron Lemin Jr. added that establishing successful, active working groups is a concern at the national level as well. A couple of the groups are very active but on the whole working groups are experiencing the same challenges NESAF has identified.

Jeff Ward asked if one of the concurrent sessions during the annual meeting could be reserved for working groups. Jim Harding informed membership that some groups, presently, do not have leadership and it would be a good idea if leadership can be established for those groups. Spencer Meyer added that working groups are listed on our website. Many working groups have had informal communication but there are not enough people to drive a workshop.

Peter Condaxis thought there would be more involvement with an active chair in each group. Mark Twery supported Peter Condaxis' comment and added that there was no time reserved for working groups this winter meeting.

Laura Kenefic restated that if there is no impetus coming from the NESAF Executive Committee then working groups will not meet.

Kenny Fergusson asked if there is there an opportunity to get working groups together. Ron Lemin Jr. replied that if there is sufficient interest, Jim Harding and Ron Lemin Jr. will find a place for the groups to meet.

Russel Reay observed that there has been working group participation in the past. Ron Lemin Jr. affirmed Russel Reay's comment and added that NESAF should harness the interest of willing participants.

Jeff Ward suggested that working groups focus on specific projects with identifiable goals or deliverables. In addition, the economic situation may be affecting the commitment (time and travel) that some private consultants and state employees are able to contribute. Mark Twery affirmed and supported Jeff Ward's comments.

6. NESAF News Quarterly – Maggie and Scott Machinist

Scott and Maggie Machinist have have been working on the *News Quarterly* and are focused on continuing the high standard Brad Wyman set for the newsletter. They are looking for input and suggestions from membership in addition to cover articles for the *News Quarterly*.

Ron Lemin Jr. reminded membership to update their email address with national if it has changed recently. Otherwise, some members may not receive electronic ballots.

7. Web Site Update – Deb Boyer

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Since last year's annual meeting, the website has been fully revised by contractors resulting in a new look and feel. Deb Boyer is exploring sending "mass emails" to membership to get important information out, but wants to avoid inundating individuals with too many emails. If chapters/divisions want to get information out to their members, contact Deb Boyer and she can work with the sub unit directly. Deb Boyer should also be contacted if there is any information that members want to see on the website.

8. Credentialing – Louise Murgia

Louise Murgia introduced herself. Her main responsibility with SAF is running the Certified Forester Program. There will be a concurrent session on the Certified Forester Program and any questions should be directed to her.

9. Fellows Committee Report – Doug Allen

The deadline for fellows nominations is past. Some changes need to be made to the process to provide more time. The Fellows Committee did not receive nominations this year and will be working with Max McCormack to improve the process. Under new guidelines, the Fellows Committee is looking for nominees who have made contributions at the regional and national level.

10. 2010 NESAF Winter Meeting NH – Dick Weyrick

Janice Mulherin is chair for the NESAF winter meeting in New Hampshire. It will take place March 9-11 2010 at the Courtyard Marriot in Nashua. A good committee has been put together and they are moving forward with planning. Topic flyer is in the registration packet. More information will be forthcoming. Some advance work needs to be completed to ensure that field trips are available. Working groups will be part of the NESAF meeting next year.

11. State Reports (by Past/Current Division/Chapter Chair):

Connecticut (Joe Orefice)

The Connecticut chapter co-sponsored a 1 day Biomass meeting with the CT Timber Producers Association in January of 2009. The meeting focused on current and future biomass markets in CT. In spring 2008, it hosted a meeting at Naugatuck State Forest with Audubon highlighting the value and characteristics of bird habitat. Members participated and the chapter contributed to the 2008 CT Envirothon in October. About 130 high school students from numerous schools attended. \$100 was donated to CT's Log-a-Load campaign. A student chapter at UConn is being developed. A statement on the Riverfront Protection Act was put forth curbing legislation that would strictly limit any timber harvesting on many parcels of land.

In addition, the Yale student chapter was active planting an orchard of 40 resistant American chestnuts for the ACF and working to plant 400+ more resistant chestnuts on Yale-Myers forest in Union CT. They hosted a 1 day symposium on the Future of Connecticut's Forests, sent 12 students to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada, as well as hosted a Game Dinner and Mustache Competition.

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Maine (Jake Metzler)

The Maine chapter had one spring field meeting followed by a combination of three smaller field meetings to cover more topics throughout the state. The Maine chapter may need to reevaluate how to provide meaningful meetings in light of the insurance issue that has come up. A field tour is still planned in conjunction with pest conference in June. There is an indoor GIS program planned to address issues brought up in at a previous fall meeting. An effort is underway to reinvigorate the Maine Forestry Licensing Board and get SAF members in attendance at the meetings. Ken Laustsen is assisting that effort.

The Maine chapter's fall meeting focused on biomass and was well attended. The Maine chapter is creating a pricing structure where SAF members can attend the meeting cheaply and it has resulted in decent revenue. Some of the money generated is allocated towards schools for forestry education in an effort to get foresters connected with kids. Last year, the nominating committee sent out a postcards to every member asking them to get involved; this was met Moderate to little success. There is a strong volunteer base but more people are needed and leadership is looking for creative ways to engage them. In last year, most of the Maine chapter's EC has put in a lot of work into NESAF's winter meeting in Maine.

Massachusetts (Chris Prior)

Asian Long-Horned Beetle Update: Currently 63 square miles are quarantined including the entire city of Worcester along with parts of four surrounding towns. No wood is allowed to be moved outside of the "regulated area." Surveys are complete on less than 5% of restricted area, mainly in the core infested area, about 2.2 square miles. Some areas not surveyed yet but known infested trees. 18,700 trees removed so far 11,000 were infested, estimated 25,000 trees cut by June 1st. There is pushback from community despite outreach efforts. The eradication program is estimated to take 10 years

DCR Moratorium on Timber Harvesting on State Lands: Dept. of Conservation & Recreation instituted a "pause" in timber harvesting on DCR lands due to lack of approved mgmt. plans. Plans were approved in November 2008 for 4 western districts, but the "pause" is still in effect for 4 eastern districts (Mid-State, Eastern Conn. Valley, Northeast, & Southeast) while plans are reviewed and approved.

Mass. Chapter Call for Volunteers: The Massachusetts Chapter Society of American Foresters is looking for volunteers to help fill officer vacancies and coordinate chapter activities. If anyone is interested, please contact Chris Pryor at c.pryor@earthlink.net.

New Hampshire (Kevin Evans)

Granite State SAF held its annual meeting in February. Approximately 150 foresters came together; news and updates were heard from many agencies and organizations. The afternoon was spent discussing "Good Forestry in the Granite State," New Hampshire's Best Management Practices guide that is being re-written and updated this year. Ron Klemarczyk was awarded the

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Forester of the Year award for his continued good management of timberlands in the central part of the state. Student awards were granted to Ms. Jessica Lynn Wilke from the four-year program at the University of New Hampshire and Mr. Christopher Richard of the Thompson School.

The Executive Committee continues to prepare for the 2010 NESAF meeting to be held in Nashua. Suggestions from membership are welcome.

Foresters have had numerous opportunities for continuing education including workshops on natural communities and forest health sponsored by Granite State SAF. Work continues on the forestry guide project, generously funded by NESAF, which aims to educate public officials about forest management and applicable laws. Two newsletters were sent to membership in 2008, which was a new endeavor.

Rhode Island (Paul Dolan)

This year's annual meeting addressed major topics the chapter. The new changes in the bylaws were discussed and passed to come into compliance with NESAF and national. Electronic balloting was also approved at this meeting.

The Rhode Island chapter sponsored or cosponsored many programs during the year including: the Coverts Project; Barberry (Invasive species control) workshop; Arbor Day; Arbor Fair, where we planted a 100 trees in an urban setting to bring an open area back to a forest; Envirothon; and a tour of a new biomass plant at a local middle school.

One of our signature programs, the Champion Tree Program, has been published and is subject to review and update on an ongoing basis. The seed money that made this program a success was funded by grants from different sectors of the Society of American Foresters.

Vermont (Scott Machinist)

The Green Mountain Division supported a forestry letter series that was sent out to landowners of 10 acres or more; cover topics were forestry, ecology, and wildlife habitat. At the end of letter series there was a field visit. GMD support a forestry contest at the farm show for the 2nd year in a row. The summer meeting topic was the Indian bat. Approximately 65 students, foresters, and natural resource professionals turned out. Norm Hudson and Jim Wilkenson, Jr. passed away. Jim W. was a very important person involved in getting GMD established and had a prolific career. In honor of Jim, a student award has been dedicated in his memory. GMD also had a successful student membership drive where donations were able to subsidize the cost of 20 new student members.

The winter meeting focused on biofuels. 11 SAF members, 3 students, 16 state representatives and a senator attended a legislative breakfast. It was an open forum where legislators could better understand "who we are," "what we do," and ask questions.

Scott Machinist went to leadership academy through the assistance of NESAF. It was a worthwhile experience and he is grateful for the opportunity that was provided.

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12. A motion to adjourn was heard at 1:50pm from Ken Laustsen. A second to the motion was heard from Edward Fuller. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Fast, NESAF Secretary