



New England

Society of American Foresters

Growing better all the time

Leadership Tools

Peter L. Greeno, NE Membership Chair
March 2010

Web-Enhanced Meetings – With over 70,000 square miles in New England alone, we've seen a large number of continuing education seminars begin using online meeting tools to provide remote seminars (webinars). In addition to these CFE events, online meeting tools offer the ability to share working documents during traditional conference calls over the phone, expanding our range and making better use of our volunteer time.

Web-enhanced remote meetings are often best held as a traditional conference call over the phone. We have the ability however to share a webpage with all attendees through which they can follow along as the host types or shares documents. As brainstorming sessions occur, all attendees can see the list develop as it is created. There are no microphones, speakers, or other complications.

To host an online training event, the speaker alone will need to add a microphone to their computer. Attendees usually listen over their computer speakers, and converse by typing questions to the host. This limits the complications of multiple microphones and helps manage the conversation. The end result is in use by Cornell Forestry

Extension, PSU, and others as a primary education tool. NESAF recommends two free options for our units. Both options allow the host to share their desktop, show PowerPoint slides, work on shared documents, and record.

Option 1 – The Society of American Foresters maintains an online meeting account free for use by all units. The system is licensed for 20 seats at a time. Schedule these calls with Christopher Whited, SAF National, at (866) 897-8720 ext. 110, or whitedc@safnet.org.

Option 2 – For more control over the service, set up a free account at dimdim.com. While the host must complete a one-time registration online with a name and email address, attendees do not need to register. The free edition accommodates 20 seats. View the website at www.dimdim.com.

Leadership Tools is a short-term, recurring column in the *New England SAF News Quarterly* that highlights tips and tools to common challenges faced by SAF members in leadership roles. Any units or members with interest in sharing are encouraged to contact the NESAF Membership Chair, Peter L. Greeno at (207) 951-0955 or petergreeno@live.com.