

Maine Division
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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Fellow Members of the Maine Division:

As the strangest winter in the 28 years I've experienced since moving to Maine in 1977 passes mercifully into history, signs of an early spring abound, not the least of which is the fact that my garden is rototilled weeks earlier than usual. My first duty as MESAF Chair back in January was to replace elected member-at-large **Mark Leathers**, who was transferred unexpectedly to Wisconsin, with the next-highest vote getter, **Jake Metzler**, forester with the Forest Society of Maine. Your executive committee has been busy, meeting twice so far this year, with several initiatives on our plate.

The Spring Field Meeting will be held June 8 in the Jackman area. Members-at-large **Mandy Farrar**, **Jake Metzler**, and **Jim Runyan** have organized a tour on the theme "Partial Harvesting: What Should We Really Call it?" As promised, this will be an in-the-woods follow-up to our very successful Fall 2005 meeting on "15 years of ABC Silviculture" that was attended by nearly 200 foresters. In addition to touring a variety of recent harvests on different landowners, participants will field test our brand-new harvest classification system developed by the Forest Practices Task Force. The Executive Committee adopted a Charter for this Task Force on March 21. Thanks to the energetic leadership of MESAF past-chair **Bob Wagner**, we already have a product in draft form. Check out these documents on the division's Web Site and come to the Spring Meeting to be among the first foresters to use this system. I guarantee you'll be surprised...this system is completely different than anything we've used before!

At the recent NESAF meeting in Nashua, N.H., the UMaine Chapter team (**Bob Lindemuth**, **Brian Milakovsky**, **Molly Simonson**, and **Will Mercier**, Student Chapter Chair) won the forestry quiz bowl, soundly defeating both the UNH and Thompson School's teams on their home turf! Additional congratulations are due to MESAF members **Dave Field**, winner of the NESAF Distinguished Service Award, and **Laura Kenefic**, winner of the Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award. At the recent Nutting Hall student awards ceremony, I was honored to present the MESAF Student Chapter award to **Gretchen Heldmann**, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Chapter activities this year.

We should all be proud of our efforts to help forestry students at Mississippi State University whose families suffered devastating losses from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Prompted by our perennial new-project proponents Carol and Laura, MESAF contributed over \$1,700 to help students pay for books and supplies. Individual members donated \$240, \$500 came from the student chapter's successful calendar project, and the remaining \$1,000 was gleaned from the profits of our Fall meeting.

A small group of dedicated foresters led by **Sue Aygarn** is making steady progress in reinventing the former poster contest into the Forestry Awareness Program. MESAF sponsored a very successful meeting of the forestry education community on Nov. 8, 2005, and the demand for foresters to help in the public schools continues to grow. Sue cannot run this program alone! If you have not already done so, please take a minute to return the postcard you recently received, regardless of your intent, so we have a better sense of our members' interest in this program. At this writing, only 25% of our membership has responded. And please, check out the MESAF Web Page for specific opportunities to get involved in your area.

A reminder to bookmark MESAF's Web Site and visit it often to stay abreast of our activities. We've nearly completed a long-overdue revision of the Division by-laws, and we hope that posting these changes on the Web will obviate costly mailings prior to a vote this fall.

It's both a pleasure and honor to serve as your Chair during 2006, and I look forward to seeing many of you on June 8!

Bob Seymour, MESAF Chair 2006