

Maine Division  
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

**Maine  
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Dear Maine Division Members,

It is hard for me to believe but by the time you get this letter, early-fall will be upon us. In this season of change it highlights just how fast these transitions between the seasons can occur and how fast they stack up. The little changes are no different than what occurs on the bigger picture until you get a chance to reflect on a longer view of things. This is what is going on at the Executive Committee level currently as we review our one main guidance document, *Forestry Practices Goals & Standards For the Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection of the Forest Resources of Maine*.

In the 20 years since Maine SAF published this great reference many aspects of the profession and state of the forest have changed. However in visiting our website you might not know it because our only guiding document is this publication. We as foresters know there are new landowner dynamics, different markets and new and different rules. We also have had 20 years to reflect on the items listed in the document and now have a chance to reflect on the positive and negative changes that have happened in that time.

The MESAF Executive Committee has begun to review and initiate an updating of this document because it is needed so that we again have a solid reference document that can provide beneficial information to our members and the public. However, in an age where there are less volunteer hours to give and more information sources than ever before, we anticipate that the updated format will consist of more living documents (web pages) and references than a one-shot publication that captures a snapshot in time.

The goal is to summarize topics that fit broad categories (similar to those of the original document) that can serve as educational and informative to both you as members and the general public. This information is not intended to directly relate to policy topics; however it might serve as reference that accurately represents facts surrounding the issues.

The format of how this information will be gathered and shared is still being determined (and your input is very much welcomed, keep your eye out for further requests for information and sessions to craft this). The first step however, will be doing a better job of capturing information from our Spring and Fall Meetings so that the presentations can be reviewed and the findings more easily referenced going forward. The work we put in to these meetings will be much more worthwhile if the material presented will have a longer shelf life than in previous situations, where it was not available to members unable to attend or forgotten quickly.

To that end our first attempt at this will be following the Annual Meeting this fall on **October 13, 2009**. This year we will be in NUTTING HALL, this is a move from our typical venue, as we were pre-empted by another University event at our preferred location. Attached to this letter is a more detailed agenda outlining our program, this year titled - *The Regulated Forest: The impacts of State and Federal rulemaking on forest management in Maine*. The goal of this years meeting is to take a look back at some regulations and look forward as we have new regulatory challenges facing forest management decision-making.

In closing, I hope to see you at our Fall Meeting and welcome you to volunteer to provide input on our updated "Goals & Standards" effort.

-Jake