

Maine Division  
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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Dear Maine Division Members:

I have greatly enjoyed my first few months as Maine Division Chair. Thanks to the past leadership of **Kenny Fergusson**, I was able to hit the ground running. We have had a busy year so far. The big event was our hosting of the **2005 NESAF Winter Meeting** during March 16-18, 2005 in Portland. The meeting was entitled "*Changing Forests-Challenging Times – Managing Our Northeastern Forest under Changing Global Pressures*" and was attended by 450 attendees. I thank **Ron Lemin** (Host), **Mandy Farrar** (Program), **Laura Audibert** (Registration), and a host of other MESAF members who did a fantastic job of pulling together a first class meeting. Every session was well attended and we received nothing but positive feedback about the event. I also want to thank the University of Maine Student SAF Chapter who handled audio-visual and other duties at the meeting. They did an outstanding job!

The Division has several new initiatives underway. The first is a newly designed **Forestry Awareness Program** led by **Sue Aygarn**. We are proposing to replace our very successful poster contest with an enhanced effort to reach K-12 students and teachers. The new program will develop ways to incorporate forestry into the Maine Learning Results of state schools, as well as promote better integration between SAF members and Project Learning Tree. Toward that end, a **Project Learning Tree Workshop** is scheduled for June 2. Contact Sue Aygarn if you want to attend. A second initiative led by **Bob Chandler**, with support from a NESAF grant, is surveying licensed foresters in the state to determine their needs in a professional forestry organization. It is hoped that this information will help us to better understand what MESAF can do to meet the needs of more foresters in the state. Another effort is focused on making MESAF more proactive on forest policy issues affecting the state. A first step of this initiative is creating digital copies of all past MESAF policy documents. The University of Maine Student SAF Chapter, with support from another NESAF grant, is helping MESAF with this effort. Our objective is to provide greater online access to forest policy documents and facilitate greater SAF member involvement in forest policy issues affecting the state.

I was honored to present **Rory Eckardt** the Maine Division SAF student award at the University of Maine awards ceremony on April 20. Rory has done a great job leading the student chapter, providing a high level of collaboration between the Maine Division and Student Chapter. In an effort to encourage and develop our young leaders, the Maine Division selected **Rory Eckardt** and **Molly Simonson** to attend the 2005 SAF National Leadership Academy from June 11-14 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. We look forward to hearing about their experience.

Organization of the **Spring 2005 Meeting** is just about complete. **Mandy Farrar**, **Richard Scott**, and **Steve Coleman** have pulled together an excellent program. The one-day meeting is being held **June 9, 2005** and is entitled "*Forest Management Strategies for Enhancing Upland Game Habitat*." There will be an indoor session at the Augusta Civic Center and field tour of the Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Register early!

The Executive Committee is in the process of developing ideas for the **Fall 2005 meeting**. We have identified some provocative topics and plan to hold the meeting on the University of Maine campus in October. Watch for upcoming details.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting! Check the MESAF web page for all details of upcoming meetings ([www.mesaf.org](http://www.mesaf.org)).

Bob Wagner, MESAF Chair