

**Sustainable Forests  
Education Cooperative  
Member Organizations:**

29 October 2008

SFEC Newsletter #29

Association of County Land Commissioners

Blandin Foundation

Boise Cascade

County Land Departments

Aitkin  
Beltrami  
Carlton  
Cass  
Clearwater  
Crow Wing  
Hubbard  
Koochiching  
Lake  
Pine  
St. Louis

MN Center for Environmental Advocacy

MN Chippewa Tribes

Fond du Lac  
Grand Portage  
Leech Lake  
White Earth

MN DNR

Division of Forestry  
Wildlife Mgmt Section

MN Forest Resources Council

MN Forest Stewardship Program

The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Chapter

Potlatch

Red Lake Tribal DNR

Sappi Fine Paper

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Aitkin County  
Carlton County  
Crow Wing County  
Itasca County  
Koochiching County  
Wadena County  
South St Louis County  
(CCLNS Joint Powers Board #3)

St. John's University Arboretum

University of Minnesota  
Natural Resources Research Institute

UPM – Blandin Paper Mill

USFS National Forests

Superior  
Chippewa

Dear SFEC members and supporters,

The SFEC all-member meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Cloquet Forestry Center. At this time 20 members have indicated their availability to attend; some members, such as the SWCDs, are sending a group representative to more efficiently manage staff time. That is a great transition to creating a formal, advisory board, one of the suggestions from the Continuing Education Task Force.

One week prior to the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting I will distribute a white paper summarizing the Continuing Education Task Force Final Report, suggestions for next steps, and a meeting agenda. The complete Task Force report (~100 pages) will be available on the SFEC website.

Among the important items for this meeting will be forming a search committee to hire a new SFEC coordinator. I plan to retire at the end of June 2009, and it will help the new coordinator to have as much overlap as possible. There is a lot of history to pass on! It takes a while for things to move through the University, so the sooner the search committee starts working, the sooner a new coordinator can be hired.

(Now, since there were some SFEC members this past winter who did not know I was pregnant last fall, I will not be surprised come July 1 if some are unaware I have retired. They will notice eventually!)

It has been challenging in recent years, with my part-time status and the loss of one position, to maintain a base level of regular program activity not to mention exploring new opportunities. With full-time leadership and additional staff I expect SFEC to perform with a high level of programming and partnering to bring new and exciting continuing professional education opportunities to Minnesota's forest resource managers.

You may be aware that since July 1<sup>st</sup> and the University's adoption of a new accounting system, it has been impossible for University staff to access budget information. In fact, Minnesota Public Radio aired a story on our new financial system on Monday this week. We are completely

unable to access online any budget information for this fiscal year, though we are promised this will change soon. Fortunately we can still see records for prior fiscal years.

### ***Winter Spring 2009 Calendar of Events***

I have been looking at web conferencing as a new method for information sharing. There are some good models out there (ForestConnect and PorkCast, see below for website addresses). The technology is changing rapidly, however, which makes deciding on “the best way” a bit more difficult. I hope to pilot a trial web conference late this fall or early winter, with the hope of launching a monthly web conference seminar series shortly thereafter. If you have had experience with this or have an opinion or idea to share, please send me a note or give me a call.

### ***SAF National Conference***

I hired a UMD graduate student with social science statistics expertise to help analyze the evaluation data from the Certificate Course in Ecosystem Silviculture. Our poster is ready to go to the SAF Conference in Nevada. If you would like a mini-version, let me know and I will send you one.

Enjoy the fall!

Sincerely,



Louise Levy, Coordinator

### ***Website addresses for two web conference models***

<b>ForestConnect</b>	<a href="http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/web.htm">http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/web.htm</a>
<b>PorkCast</b>	<a href="http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast/">http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast/</a>