



Advocacy, Education & Stewardship
Strengthening the Cabin Program

Dear NFH Member Tract Leaders,

It'll soon be summer and our minds are turning towards spending time at our cabins. We all look forward to these idyllic times with our family and friends at our cabins in the woods. Those of us in NFH leadership would like to thank you for your support of your cabin tract, NFH, and the entire cabin program nationwide. There's plenty of change being talked about in Washington, DC this year and, no doubt, some of it will affect our cabins and the US Forest Service.

What's new with NFH?

- Our Annual 2017 Conference was a *wonderful* success – held in Seattle, WA at the well-appointed Cedarbrook Lodge, we had good attendance and wonderful participation by the US Forest Service and cabin owners from all over the country. Again, we held roundtable discussions on a variety of topics and these round table discussions between cabin owners are becoming an integral part of the NFH experience. You, and your fellow cabin owners, won't want to miss out on this kind of interaction at future NFH events. At the 2017 Conference we raffled off cabin stays to 2 cabins in our program, a stay at the Quinault River Inn, and log cabin stains from our sponsor, Sashco.
- We have posted most of the presentations from the Seattle Conference on the NFH website. Feel free to look those presentations over and remind your fellow tract members of this valuable resource on our website.
- Speaking of our next NFH event – We'll be visiting **Salt Lake City, UT** for our 2017 Fall Forum. There are many cabins in Utah and we want to meet as many cabin owners as possible. Pass the word; the date is **Oct. 14th**. Location information is available on the NFH website. Registration for this event will be available later this summer.
- **NFH has hired** Desiree La Maggiore as NFH Field Director. This is a part-time position and Desiree is tasked with developing a more effective outreach network for NFH. NFH leaders are concerned that we're not hearing from many of the locations where cabins exist and we'd like to strengthen our efforts in this area. The main goal is to facilitate information transfer between cabin owners and NFH. Many of our cabin tracts face, or have faced, similar challenging situations and it just makes sense to share solutions amongst our cabin community.
- There's **new** faces on the NFH Board. Last year's board members Brad Aspell, Meredith Randall, Barb Bailey, Chuck Myers, and Mac Hudson have left the board. Doug Gann was elected NFH Vice-President and Paula Hoiland was elected NFH Secretary. Eric Johnson graciously assumed the role of NFH Treasurer after the unfortunate passing of Glen Hildreth. Board members just elected to the 2017/2018 NFH Board include Alan Pirie, Linda Ballentine, David Gearing, David Hansen, and Deborah Cowlshaw. The remainder of the board continues into the 2nd year of their terms.
- **NFH Election Changes:** Starting in 2018, NFH members will be able to vote online for the candidates of their choice. The NFH Board recommended and membership voted to change our Bylaws to allow

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this method of voting. The cost of holding Vote-By-Mail and the declining participation in this type of voting really convinced us that it was time to give online voting a try. During a transition period, NFH will still allow, for a limited time, the option for members to choose to vote by mail.

- **Forums and Conferences:** The NFH Board decided to change the frequency of our multi-day Conferences. In 2018 there will be a half-day or one-day Conference in April which will resemble a Forum with the addition of the required NFH Annual Business Meeting. We plan to hold a Fall Forum like past years and then hold a multi-day Annual Conference in the San Diego area in 2019. We'll keep you posted on the location for the April 2018 meeting once a decision has been made.
- **Continuing in 2017:** Cabins owners who sell their cabins to new owners will now be able to pass their current NFH membership on to the new cabin owner.
- **Brand new for 2017:** An NFH Task Force is exploring options towards offering an insurance program designed especially for cabin owners. We look forward to having the pilot program ready in late Summer
- **Changes to the NFH Website:** Doug Gann and the Technology Committee have recently revised the navigation buttons for the NFH Website. Please look it over and let us know what you think. NFH has also been working hard to bring our email address book of cabin owners up to date. This is our main method of communication and we'd appreciate the help of all Member Tracts towards our goal of having at least one email address for each cabin in our program

Our entire purpose in NFH is to assist and represent cabin owners and the cabin program. NFH is here to make sure that cabin owners get a fair shake and, at the same time, bridge the gap between cabin owners and the USFS. NFH needs all cabin owners to be members of our organization. If your tract doesn't have 100% membership in NFH, we ask that you speak with cabin owners about NFH and help them understand that their minimal investment in annual NFH membership really makes a big difference to each cabin owner across the country. There truly is strength in numbers!

NFH is looking for leaders at all levels. Our strength does lie in our tracts and the commitment that all of you have helps ensure that the cabin program remains a viable part of American life. Make sure you reach out to new faces with new voices to carry the torch when you're done serving in your local tract. But, don't go away. We ask that you consider stepping up to the national level on an NFH Committee or the NFH Board. All of us who serve give so much but also reap the rewards in the smiling faces of cabin families everywhere.

Please share this message with cabin owners in your tract. NFH leaders are happy to visit your tract and look forward to discussing the cabin program with cabin owners. Ask us to attend your annual tract meeting this year. We'll make every effort to be there in support of your tract and the cabin program in your National Forest.

Enjoy the summer!

Jay Tripathi, NFH President

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