New England Society of American Foresters

News Quarterly

Volume 83, Issue 1 January 2022

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Attendees of the inaugural meeting of the Women Foresters Collaborative took a moment for a group photo opportunity. Photo courtesy of Helen Johnson

Understanding Options and Approaches for Managing New England Forests for Carbon Benefits

News Quarterly Science Theme – Dr. Anthony D'Amato, Theme Editor

Interest in managing forests to enhance their carbon benefits has increased dramatically in the last several years. This growing interest reflects both wider recognition of the value of forests as key natural climate solutions, as well as the emergence of carbon market opportunities that are now inclusive of the smaller ownerships that predominate much of the northeastern US. Although foresters have always been in the business of manipulating the distribution of carbon through silviculture, there is little guidance on how best to manage a given stand or ownership for carbon while also supporting the myriad other values and objectives we derive from forests.

This theme highlights research and outreach on forest carbon management in New England being led by the US Forest Service Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, the Nature Conservancy, and several state and university partners. The overarching goal of this work is to distill the complexities of managing forests for carbon into resources and strategies that are accessible to a wide range of landowners and foresters. This work comes at a critical juncture given both the increasing need to sustain and enhance the climate mitigation benefits of our region's forests, as well as the growing number of ownerships considering carbon market enrollment.

New England Society of American Foresters

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Every effort has been made to ensure that all content is complete and accurate. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions and report them to:

Joseph P. Barsky
48 Mariner Circle
Trumbull, CT 06611 or
nesafnq@gmail.com

Our mission as foresters is to be responsible stewards of the earth's forests while meeting society's vital needs. The challenge of our mission lies in keeping forest ecosystems healthy and intact while concurrently drawing on their resources.
We will meet this challenge by carefully monitoring and managing the effects of natural and human forces on the forest.
Our decisions will be guided by our professional knowledge, our compassion for all living things, our desire to improve citizens' lives, and our respect and concern for the entire forest ecosystem. By advancing forestry science, education, technology, and the practice of forestry, NESAF will provide the leadership to achieve its mission.

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NESAF Executive Committee Members

Chair: **Diana Frederick**
diana.frederick66@gmail.com

Chair-Elect: **Adam Moore**
moore@sheriffsmeadow.org

Past Chair: **William Hill**
foresterhill@comcast.net

SAF D6 Director: **Karen Bennett**
Karen.Bennett@unh.edu

Secretary: **Mallory Bussell**
Mallory.bussell@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Donn Downey**
Donn@forestmetrix.com

Canada: **Vacant**

CT: **Frank Cervo**
frank.cervo@ct.gov

MA: **Joelle Vautour**
joelle.vautour@gmail.com

ME: **Karl Honkonen**
karlwhonkonen@fs.fed.us

NH: **Susan Romano**
susanromano2017@gmail.com

RI/Elections Coordinator:
Paul Dolan
pcdolan1@verizon.net

VT: **Jas Smith**
jasssmith123@gmail.com

Science/Tech Chair:
Anthony D'Amato
Awdamato@uvm.edu

Membership Chair:
Susan Francher
Susan.r.francher@dncr.nh.gov

Policy Chair: ***Vacant***

NESAF Archivist & Awards Chair
Ken Laustsen
KALaustsen@twc.com

Grant Chair: **Mel Harder**
mel.harder@snet.net

CFE Coordinator: **Andrew Fast**
Andrew.fast@unh.edu

Website Administrator:
Wendy Weisiger
Wendy.weisiger@gmail.com

News Quarterly Editor:
Joseph P. Barsky
nesafnq@gmail.com

Division and Chapter Officers

Granite State
Chair: **Alexa Denhoff**
adenhoff@landvest.com
Secretary:**Samuel Taylor**
samuel.taylor@dncr.nh.gov
Treasurer: **Susan Romano**
susanromano2017@gmail.com
News Corres: **Steve Eisenhaure**
woodlands@unh.edu

Green Mountain
Chair: **Ali Kosiba**
Alexandra.kosiba@vermont.gov
Vice Chair: **Vacant**
Secretary: **Ginger Anderson**
Quedav56@gmail.com
Treasurer: **Sarah Ford**
sarahf@forestcarbonworks.com
News Corres: **Ginger Anderson**
quedav56@gmail.com

Maine
Chair: **Kyle Burdick**
kyleleroyburdick@gmail.com
Secretary: **Kris Hoffmann**
kristen@fsmaine.org
Treasurer: **Jake Metzler**
jake@fsmaine.org
News Corres: **Jason Desjardin**
Jdesjardin@sevenislands.com

Yankee
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lmrouss@optonline.net
Vice Chair: **Tim Hawley**
tchawley@snet.net
Sec/Treas: **Thomas Worthley**
thomas.worthley@uconn.edu

Canada
News Corres. N. Brunswick: **Vacant**
News Corres. Quebec: **Vacant**

Connecticut
Chair: **Andrea Urbano**
andrea.urbano@ct.gov
Vice Chair: **Michelle Matteo**
quercusconsult@gmail.com
Sec/Treas: **Daniel Lawrence**
Dnlawrence19@att.net
News Corres: **Amanda Bunce**
amanda.bunce@uconn.edu

Massachusetts
Chair: **Ross Hubacz**
Hubacz@Fieldstoneresources.net
Vice-Chair: **Chris Capone**
Chris.Capone@mass.gov
Sec/Treas/News Corres: **Joelle Vautour**
joelle.vautour@gmail.com

Rhode Island
Chair: **Marc Tremblay**
mstremb@cox.net
Vice-Chair: **Vacant**
Sec/Treas: **Robert W. MacMillian**
rmacmillan@provwater.com
News Corres: **Christopher F. Modisette**
chris.modisette@ri.usda.gov

Greetings from Vermont – Diana Frederick

A Happy 2022 to my NESAF friends and colleagues. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season to close out 2021. The year 2021 saw NESAF getting back to some form of normalcy. The June and September Executive Committee Meetings, were held as hybrid meetings. Some of us attended in person and some via zoom. For me it was nice to meet face-to-face with people I had only met through a computer camera.

For those who don't know me, let me introduce myself. I am a Vermont native and attended the University of Vermont. I graduated in 1979 with a BS in Forestry and started my association with SAF as a student in 1977. I started working for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation after graduation as a Protection Technician in Springfield, VT. I moved to State Land's management in 1983 and the Barre District in 1984. I soon found that State lands management was my passion. My husband and I have two daughters and two granddaughters. Since I retired in 2019 I have enjoyed spending more time with them. We own 30 acres of forested and open land in the town of Hardwick. Currently we are working with the local Tech Center Forestry Class to complete a logging job on our property. We like the idea of getting the needed work done and helping to train the next generation of loggers and possible foresters.

As 2022 unfolds, I would like to extend my thanks to outgoing NESAF Executive Committee Officers: **Jake Metzler**, Immediate Past Chair (who sort of talked me into running for Chair Elect), **Joe Orefice**, CT State Rep, **Jonathan Nute**, NH State Rep, **Rob MacMillan** RI State Rep and **Mariann Johnston**, District 6 Board of Directors member. Your service to NESAF is greatly appreciated and I know you will continue serving SAF in other ways. Now to welcome incoming NESAF leaders **Adam Moore**, Chair Elect, **Frank Cervo**, CT State Rep, **Susan Romano**, NH State Rep, **Paul Dolan**, RI State Rep and **Karen Bennett**, District 6 Board of Directors member.

As the 2022 NESAF Chair, I look forward to working with you on a number of issues and events. The Executive Committee is still looking for someone(s) to assist in developing a social media presence to promote our message of sustainable forests. National SAF is working on Incorporation of the Society. We have been meeting with them and will be working with our Divisions and Chapters to determine what this means for us and how we will move forward. The Maine Division has been hard at work preparing the NESAF Winter Meeting to be held this March (details follow in this *News Quarterly*). They have had many challenges as this is the first in-person NESAF winter meeting, since the last meeting in Burlington, VT in 2019 and amid COVID. Let's all keep our fingers crossed.

The Executive Committee is here to serve our members, so don't hesitate to contact me with issues or concerns you might have. I encourage each of you to consider serving SAF at either the State (NESAF) level or the Division and Chapter level. There isn't a more dedicated group of people than SAF members. Hope to see you in Portland!

List Your Job Opening on NESAF.org

- **NESAF accepts job listings from members and non-members, and posts them on our website as a service to NESAF members.**
- **There is no cost to post job listings on the site.**
- **Job listings are posted for 45 days, then automatically removed.**
- **Please resubmit the listing in 45 days if the positions is still open.**
- **When approved your listing will appear on the Job Board**

District Director's Update ~ Karen Bennett and Mariann Johnson

As we write this, Mariann Johnston is still District 6 Director, but when you read this Karen Bennett will be in that role. Because of this transition we are writing this *News Quarterly* article together, with a focus on activity at national SAF.

National SAF is engaging in a major initiative to update its business model recognizing that business operations between national and state societies should be 1) a partnership consistent with organizational goals, 2) structurally and operationally aligned with federal and state laws, and 3) based on sound business practices. This update should result in a stronger NESAF and one that is more supported by the national staff. One immediate benefit—the SAF Board approved funds to pay for Directors and Officers insurance for all executive committee members at the state, division, and chapter levels for 2022. This insurance provides a layer of personal protection for our volunteer leaders who step up to serve. Look for more about this effort from the NESAF executive committee.

The SAF Board of Directors made an intentional decision to invest in rebuilding the SAF national staff to improve program-delivery and innovation in how SAF supports its members and the profession. Hiring is in-process and look to social media and other channels for announcements.

The results of the member survey are in and thanks to all who participated. Our consultant, The Moery Company, presented an insightful analysis of the survey and will be following up with recommendations to provide a clear membership structure and value proposition to help recruit new members and retain existing members.

SAF national is working to develop a deeper understanding of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)—an effort as much about who can be a member of SAF from a disciplinary background as it is about race, ethnicity, and gender. This work will continue into 2022 with additional opportunities to build skills for board, staff, and volunteer leaders. We hope to gain insights to engage a broader group of professionals and SAF members so they will be more likely to join, stay, and step into leadership roles.

It is never too early to start thinking about nominating your peers for national recognition. Nominations are due March 15th, and a complete listing of awards, criteria and applications are at eforester.org, click on "community," click on "awards and fellows."

On a personal note, Mariann thinks that Karen will do a great job. Karen thinks she has big shoes to fill and that NESAF and NYSAF (District 6) have been well-represented by Mariann. Since the election results were announced, Karen's felt like she's been drinking out of a fire hose. In the next three years, Karen hopes to work on 1) providing strong member service, 2) advocating for forestry to non-foresters, and 3) building the forestry profession. by providing support to early career professionals; expanding the diversity of our profession; and encouraging young people to become foresters. Please reach out if you have any suggestions or concerns to karen.bennett@unh.edu.

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forests. resources. communities.

Society of American Foresters
Growing better all the time

Women Foresters Collaborative~ Lynn Levine

The Women Foresters Collaborative held its inaugural gathering in early October. Eighteen women attended the event, and there were several programs with all of them involving interactions with other women. The activities ranged from a sharing of "What was it Like to be a Woman Forester", to a Forest Immersion experience. The University of Vermont Forestry Program provided financial support for the Gathering. Six women shared their experiences below, and their words speak for themselves.

"Several draws brought me to the women's gathering. At the core, I knew we would be with women that shared a common bond - our love of trees and forests. I also knew we had another kind of bond (more painful and often kept uncovered) – our scars of discrimination for being women. I built armor over the years that protected me when I was seen and treated differently. And that was a similar story for many of the women there. I've been wearing armor for so long - I forgot it was there. The gathering revealed how much it shielded me from reality and how heavy it was to carry. I left with a recognition that I was hiding under it, and while that may have helped me, it was not helping others. The women who didn't show up because it was too much to carry are the ones we want back and to open the door for all women and minorities in our field - no armor required. This collaboration is not about building their armor – it's about paving the way and coming together for our common bond – our love of trees and forests."
-Dannielle (Danny)
Director of Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation

"I enjoyed meeting the women at the WFC gathering. It was great to see older women sharing their decades of experience, and younger women sharing their journey in starting out in the field. I was not prepared for the small group discussion to share our own stories of discrimination in the field as women -- so I did not have much to say. The stories other women shared were heartbreaking, and other stories of pathbreaking were encouraging. I appreciated the resolve at least among some members in the group to work to open pathways for women in this field, and never stay silent, even though it is apparent that speaking up, taking action is still risky for women, which is maddening. For me, coming from another realm -- research -- I gained a lot from tuning in to the information shared about women's journeys in the profession as foresters."
Cheers,
Robin

"A very eye-opening experience. It was sad to hear some of the horror stories from women who were discriminated against in such terrible and obvious ways. So great to be able to come together and commit to work harder to advocate for each other and raise awareness of what's happened in the past, and in some cases is continuing to happen today."
-Cheri

"It was a breath of fresh air being surrounded by women who know the daily highs and lows of being a forester. When I moved to Maine my goals were to finish grad school, get a job (hopefully fulltime in Maine) and have a sense of community. It has been almost four years and I have accomplished two of those goals but felt lonely. Not in the sense of physically being alone but I still longed for that sense of community and understanding not only in my personal life but in my career. I believe becoming a part of the Women's Foresters Collaborative has been an excellent start! Building a strong sense of community, especially across such a vast landscape, is no light task and the fact that we now have almost 100 members is beyond words! This community is the foundation I have been looking for. I feel heard, supported, and guided as a young forester just starting out. I feel grateful to apart of something that has been needed in the forest industry. After leaving the meeting, I felt the invisible weighted vest drop, giving me the permission to be more kind to myself."
-Sam Anderson
Operations Forester, Land Vest

"Filled to the brim, and spilling over. Spilling into our lives working with colleagues to make forestry better."
-Susan Romano

"The Women's Foresters Gathering brought into focus some of the everyday hardships of working in a male-dominated field. Taking a moment to recognize the energy that goes into managing what we say and wear, how we present ourselves, how we ensure success in our fields regardless of how good we are at our profession, how we manage mental or physical abuse and uncomfortable situations that were never necessary… I realized that it all adds up to a net drain of momentum and often causes women to leave the field, or worse, causes us to lose faith in ourselves. Thank you, all who attended or wanted to attend, for taking the floor. I really, honestly, look forward to being with you again in any context."
-name withheld

Communicating the Considerations for Forest Carbon Management in New England

Todd Ontl,
Northern Institute of
Applied Climate Science

Laura Marx and Chris Zimmerman,
The Nature Conservancy

How can landowners and managers store more carbon in New England forests? This question, once a topic of interest mostly to researchers, is being asked with what feels like exponentially increasing frequency. From landowners to foresters to planners to policymakers, understanding ways to enhance our forests' ability to sequester and store carbon is a hot topic on the minds of many different people. The motivations for understanding the answer to this question differ across these audiences. However, they all have a shared need for resources that translate the technical literature into a clear set of options for forest management, and explain how each can meet varying climate, biodiversity, economic, and other goals.

With a long history of forestry research and unparalleled forest inventory programs in the U.S, there are many tools at our disposal to investigate options for forest carbon management. Data from silvicultural trials, habitat restoration experiments, and analyses of inventory data have given us critical insights into forest carbon responses to management and form the basis for developing carbon-friendly practices. Forest ecosystem models allow us to compare treatments to project differences in carbon over time, providing necessary comparisons across management options. Developments in understanding climate change impacts allow us to assess the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate stressors, understand how individual tree species may respond in future conditions, and evaluate the risks for future disturbances. These are some of the individual pieces that, when put together, begin to show a picture of the many ways forest landowners and managers can implement carbon-beneficial practices.

Finding the right practice for the right place: "the devil is in the details"

Our knowledge of silvicultural practices, forest restoration treatments, and effects on ecosystem carbon cycling points to broad answers to the question of "*How should I manage my forest for carbon?*" Yet for an individual forest, the answer remains "*It depends.*" The complexities of carbon dynamics and the range of starting conditions and ages of forests in New England mean that there is simply no "*one size fits all*" strategy for enhancing carbon

Figure 1. Recent resources for communicating considerations and options for managing carbon benefits to landowners in New England's forests. See "Resources" for links to download.

in our forests. Communicating this message – that we know a range of answers to the question of what management for carbon looks like, but still need to choose the right strategy for each individual forest – is critical to combat both confusion and misinformation in this space.

Synthesis articles on managing forest carbon often focus on high-level strategies that are applicable across different regions or forest types, such as reforestation, forest protection, and improved forest management (IFM). Yet even these strategies aren't completely straightforward when one begins to think about implementing these actions on the ground, or when carbon goals are tied to a particular timeframe. For example, planting trees on non-forested lands sequesters carbon as those trees grow, but not every site is appropriate for tree plantings. Similarly, while the benefits of avoiding deforestation by protecting forests are clear, continued carbon benefits are by no means guaranteed since designating a forest as protected does not stop the steady march of threats like invasive insect pests from impacting stands where susceptible tree species provide the dominant carbon sink. Nor will it stop the effects of warming, drought, extreme storms, or any of the other climate impacts stands may be at risk from. In many forests, actions to lower the risk from climate impacts or other threats may be required to maintain carbon stocks and add to them, particularly considering how past legacies of management (or lack of it) may have impacted current forest stand conditions.

Communicating about forest carbon management: resources for different audiences

Providing the basics for family forest owners

Landowners value their forests for a multitude of benefits and many are adding carbon to that list. This may stem from a concern about climate change, or an interest in the potential financial benefits from enrolling in one of the growing numbers of practice-based carbon programs. A primary goal for educating woodland owners is often creating a shared vocabulary on forest carbon to help them understand the terminology and empower them to speak confidently with their forester on the topic. The elements of creating this understanding can comprise several aspects of forest carbon, including:

- Definitions of forest carbon pools, the proportion of total forest carbon residing in these pools, and how these proportions differ across forest types for the region.
- Connections between forest carbon and carbon storage in wood products.
- Descriptions of how carbon sequestration differs from storage, and places on the landscape where carbon sequestration or storage dominates the carbon benefit a forest provides, *e.g.* fast growth and rapid sequestration in young forests, or greater storage in mature forests.
- Factors that influence the amount of carbon on their property, such as management history, soil and forest types, and species composition and structural diversity.
- Options for carbon management that landowners could discuss further with their forester.

Recent resources developed for landowners interested in opportunities for forest carbon management include *Forest Carbon: An Essential Natural Solution for Climate Change*, a publication from UMass-Amherst and University of Vermont, and *Caring For Your Woods: Managing for Forest Carbon*, a collaborative project involving five organizations and published through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (Figure 1). Both of these provide the basics of forest carbon and carbon management to a landowner audience.

Helping professionals identify appropriate practices

Family forest owners typically look to their foresters for guidance on how to manage their properties according to their goals, while organizations and agencies rely on their forestry staff to develop and implement management plans according to the goals for their forested lands. As a result, much of the responsibility for determining appropriate carbon management, as well as communicating how those actions support carbon goals, falls to these forestry professionals. It is particularly important for foresters and other natural resource professionals to have resources and training available for them to have confidence in their ability to address carbon in the management plans they develop.

The determination of suitable practices for carbon management is founded on a manager's expertise in areas such as silviculture, habitat management, and maintenance of forest health. This requires an understanding of how a forest management action affects the dynamics and responses of forest carbon, both in space and over time. Carbon should never be looked at as the only element in the forest – so balancing tradeoffs between carbon and other benefits is important as well. Even when a landowner or carbon offset project specifies a short-term carbon stock goal, integrating the vulnerability of forests and the risk of climate impacts for a site is important to both maintain and enhance carbon benefits into the future. Resources such as the *Practitioners Menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches for Forest Carbon Management* and the NIACS Adaptation Workbook planning process help forestry professionals integrate climate adaptation and mitigation to identify site-specific carbon practices for short- or long-term carbon benefits based on an understanding of forest vulnerability, climate risks, and other desired values.

Carbon practices for a diverse audience

Whether you are talking to a landowner, another forestry professional, or someone else interested in carbon management, you likely find yourself needing to communicate what carbon management is, how to put it into practice on the ground, and what carbon and other benefits can be expected. This can be a significant challenge given the diversity in site conditions, species composition, stocking, and other variables important for carbon. "Sideboards" can allow for needed flexibility in practice implementation, while providing the clarity and simplicity that many landowners, policymakers, and other non-technical audiences seek. The Nature Conservancy and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science have created a new resource, *Healthy Forests for Our Future: A Management Guide to Increase Carbon Storage in Northeastern Forests*, to outline for both landowners and foresters the critical details for ten practices (Figure 2). Several of these practices will form the basis for the American Forest Foundation/Nature Conservancy Family Forest Carbon Program, which aims to bring small family forest owners into the carbon offset markets by paying landowners to implement practices that increase carbon stocks in much the same way the Natural Resources Conservation Service pays farmers to implement practices that improve soil health. This guide is unique in that its development utilized a thorough review of the scientific literature, expert input from forestry professionals, and detailed carbon and economic modeling. The guide communicates critical information including:

- The expected carbon benefits in a 20-yr timeframe, as well as co-benefits to wildlife and adaptation
- Considerations for where the practice is likely to be successful (and where to avoid it)
- Connections to potential funding opportunities to cover costs of practice implementation

Practice:
Retain more carbon in a thinning

Carbon benefits are produced by retaining and improving the growth of the largest diameter trees while maintaining snags and downed logs.

Expected Benefits	• **Carbon**: Recovery in ~20 yrs. Retention maintains the largest carbon stocks, removal of poor-quality trees enhances sequestration rates. • **Wildlife**: Increased habitat diversity from greater structural complexity. • **Adaptation**: Improved drought resilience & resistance to insect pests.
Practice Considerations	• Remove <25% of current basal area over a 20-yr timeframe, retain the largest diameter trees and all dead wood, & maintain species diversity. • Stands should not be understocked or overstocked. • Retain 25-50% of the stand as unharvested retention zones.
Potential Funding Opportunities	• Practice is commercially viable in many stands, generating income from the sale of harvested wood. • This practice is included in the Family Forest Carbon Program. • NRCS program funds can support this practice.

Figure 2. Descriptions of a carbon practice highlighting anticipated benefits, conditions where the practice is expected to be successful, and potential financial considerations help explain many of the critical considerations for implementation for both landowners and foresters.

(Source: Healthy Forests For Our Future: A Management Guide to Increase Carbon Storage in Northeast Forests; Photo: Tony D'Amato)

Figure 3. Todd Ontl (NIACS) and James Donahey (USDA Forest Service) lead a field tour on the Green Mountain Nation Forest in October 2021 for community members interested in the implications of forest management on carbon for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project (Photo: Shawn Langston, USDA Forest Service).

Conclusion

The resources highlighted here help communicate how to choose and apply forest management for increasing carbon stocks and/or carbon sequestration. One of their goals is to demystify what may feel like a perplexing topic, within a dynamic system, and under an uncertain future. Landowners and forestry professionals can use the growing collection of resources on carbon management, combined with their existing expertise and knowledge, to move forward with management actions on the lands they own and manage. These resources also help build our capacity to talk with neighbors, clients, and colleagues about the ways that forest management can both increase forests' incredible ability to remove and store carbon pollution from the air, and help them weather the impacts of climate change into the future (Figure 3).

Resources:

- *Caring For Your Woods: Managing for Forest Carbon,* Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation [www.mass.gov/doc/caring-for-your-woods-managing-for-forest-carbon/download]
- *Forest Carbon: An Essential Natural Solution for Climate Change*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst [masswoods.org/caring-your-land/forest-carbon]
- *Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration and Climate Adaptation*, Journal of Forestry 118(1): 86-101 [doi.org/10.1093/jofore/fvz062]
- *Practitioner's Menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches for Forest Carbon Management*, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science [forestadaptation.org/focus/forest-carbon-management]
- Adaptation Workbook, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science [forestadaptation.org/adapt/adaptation-workbook]
- *Healthy Forests For Our Future: A Management Guide to Increase Carbon Storage in Northeastern Forests*, The Nature Conservancy & Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/63533]

"30 X 30" – What's That? What's it Mean for the Northeast?

Lloyd C Irland,
The Irland Group

Every time a new administration takes power in "Crazytown", newly appointed officials fall victim to a collective enchantment with making grand promises. Often they arrive with agendas from interest groups where they worked before. This time was no different. Only a few months after the Inauguration, the policymakers issued a proposal to protect 30% of the United States land by – you guessed it – 2030.

Big goals are all the rage these days. Last time, I wrote about planting a trillion trees. This autumn, the newsfeeds were full of ambitious proposals – cut carbon emissions almost completely and do it in 30 years. Somewhat less well advertised was the proposal being considered by the UN's Global Biodiversity Convention to preserve 30% of the world's natural landscape and oceans. At Glasgow last fall, world leaders agreed to eliminate tropical deforestation by 2030 (but not to adopt bold CO2 emissions cuts). Should be easy in nine years, right? Another group emerged as well, supported by famous scientist and author E. O. Wilson, to protect *half of the world's land*, and while you're at it, *half the oceans too*. Not only are the targets more ambitious, but the deadlines are moving closer.

The 30 X 30 concept seems to have garnered little attention here in the Northeast. How could it affect us, with all of our reserves, parks, and easements? Had it been announced with immense amounts of funding attached, you can bet it would have made news, but it wasn't. So what is this about?

It's hard to parse out what it means for the Northeast, because key key definitions were left for later. Here, we are accustomed to reading "protected" to mean "protected from development". The Administration's May 2021 30x30 report raises the question and then neatly goes around it without supplying an answer. This leaves every interested group to imagine its own best or worst case scenarios.

Let's illustrate for Maine. When you add up all the land we might consider "protected" by a fairly broad definition, you get 21% of the land. But if you look at the USGS's tables showing degrees of protection by how stringent they are, a very different picture emerges. They don't consider public land or land under even the lightest forms of management to be "protected". The USGS uses definitions from an international group to define degrees of protection. Total biodiversity protection includes GAP 1 & 2. Adding in "multiple use", GAP 3, is maybe "protection lite", and all the rest has "No Known Mandate for Biodiversity Protection". So, whose definition will be used to keep score on this goal? We don't know.

I'll admit it's discouraging to see such tiny numbers as "biodiversity protection" in our region where a proud history of conservation brings us the millions of acres of Forever wild in the Adirondacks and Catskills, dedicated Wilderness and unsuitable acres in the 2 National Forests, and a total of 21% protected in Maine. By the GAP 1 & 2 criterion, Maine is no more protected than Connecticut. Measured by GAP 1+2+3, the 7 state region actually meets the old target recommend by the 1987 Brundtland Report, which was 12%.

Thousands of Acres and Percent	Total Land Area	"Biodiv. Prot." GAP 1 & 2 and percent		GAP 1+2+3 and percent		30% Target	Needed to meet 30% 1,2,3
Maine	22,643	215	4.1%	1,727	7.6%	6,793	5,066
New Hampshire	5,984	184	5.5%	1,525	25.5%	1,795	270
Vermont	6,154	138	4.4%	905	14.7%	1,846	941
New York	34,915	26	11.0%	4,698	13.5%	10,474	5,776
ME, VT, NH Total	**34,781**	**538**	**4.4%**	**4,157**	**12.0%**	**10,434**	**6,277**
Four Northern Forest States	**69,696**	**564**	**7.7%**	**8,855**	**12.7%**	**20,909**	**12,054**
Connecticut	3,548	3	4.0%	443	12.5%	1,064	621
Massachusetts	6,755	119	3.4%	988	14.6%	2,026	1,038
Rhode Island	989	4	3.2%	104	10.5%	297	192
Southern New England	**11,291**	**125**	**3.6%**	**1,536**	**13.6%**	**3,387**	**1,851**
Total Seven State Region	**80,987**	**689**	**7.1%**	**10,391**	**12.8%**	**24,296**	**13,905**

30 X 30 Possibilities: Current Biodiversity Protection and Needs to Reach 30% of Landscape

*Source: Irland Group calculations from USGS PAD database:*https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/6064e14cd34eff1443414d7e

The May 2021 report certainly raises many questions. There is no analysis comparable to the carefully worked out Wildlands and Woodlands proposal (fair disclosure: this writer was one of the co-authors). How do the USGS criteria make sense when applied to landscapes that have been heavily managed for centuries, and some of which were plowland, pasture, or hayland 50 years ago or less? How does protection from development fit in? How can meaningful connectivity be established in the presence of spreading strip sprawl and existing development? Surely at some level the issues are real, and it would be good thing to update the past Gap Analyses with existing knowledge and by acknowledging existing protections and even management strategies short of perfection. As The Defenders of Wildlife, who are most pleased by the 30x30 concept, noted:

"*High spatial heterogeneity highlights the need for tailored approaches from a mix of authorities at federal, regional and state scales. Critically, current protections regularly don't overlap with areas essential for conserving imperiled species biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts through carbon sequestration…. For imperiled species, biodiversity hotspots and existing Protected Areas are largely spatially incongruous (sic) with only 7% of hotspots*" (p. 1).

It is no surprise that howls of outrage are being heard from the Plains states, where public lands are scarce - - and therefore biodiversity protection quite limited. Kansas ranks lowest in the country with 1% of area protected. The jump to 30% might seem to most people pretty draconian and hard to understand either why or how it might be done. Yet, a major urban newspaper has endorsed a proposal for a 1 to 2 million acre "Buffalo Commons," to restore natural prairie in western parts of the state. The TNC is a lead partner in an existing effort of this kind in the famous Flint Hills.

It is hard to take the May 2021 30x30 report seriously as a Plan – it isn't one. It is stuffed with assurances that almost all imaginable interest groups will be kept happy. All will be voluntary, funding is not clear, priorities are not set, and exactly who will do what is unclear. Not for lack of good intentions, this just reflects the trained incapacity to make decisions inside Crazytown. To see what 30x30 means for the Northeast we'll have to wait and see until real plans emerge.

(*Article continues on next page*)

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What Can Serve as a Forest Reserve? ~ Si Balch

In the Maine Governor's Task Force on the Creation of a Forest Carbon Program Final Report of October 29, 2021, they made the following recommendation about reserves.

Establish forest reserves on sites with high carbon density and in areas of special ecological value to allow the development of late-successional forest.

Having been a working forester since 1970 I have seen and helped manage both large and small landscapes. The advances in remote sensing, mapping and forest modeling have greatly increased our abilities to know the land.

The current discussion about "reserved lands" is very important in our discussion about sequestering carbon. There is wide disparity in identifying what counts as reserved. Legally protected unmanaged wilderness is one kind of reserve, legally protected from conversion to non-forest is another, current use taxation systems that discourage conversion to non-forest is a third, areas legally zoned to protect water quality and other ecological values are another, and areas that landowners choose not to manage due to topography other personal values are another.

Across the forests I have been associated with across New England as well as the southeast, midwest and northwest, plus northern Europe, a common range of numbers keep appearing. When you add together the zoned areas such as stream side buffers plus steep, wet, special wildlife habitats, roadside buffers and other reserves identified by the landowner the percent of a given landscape that is set aside from "normal" forest management comes out to be 15 to 25 percent of the landscape. These areas have a variety of reserve values. Many, but not all, can produce late successional forest stands sequestering large amounts of carbon They all make significant contributions to ecological goals.

I recently made a presentation to Maine Audubon Down East chapter titled "What is a Healthy Forest?"
These figures were in that presentation.

- Federal – 174,000 acres (18,600 designated wilderness)
- State - 940,000 acres (Baxter Park – 200,000 acre wilderness and other lands have 97,000 acres of designated eco-reserves)
- Private (NGO's) - 425,000 acres
- Conservation Easements – 1,736,000 acres
- Shoreland zoning – State wide – my experience with forested landscapes is that about 15% of the land is zoned as shoreland (brooks to ocean)
- Current Use taxation – Tree Growth Tax Law 3,700,000 acres and Open Space Law 70,900 acres
- There is some overlap of some of these designated acres, but the message is that at least 4 million acres of Maine forest are protected in some way from conversion to development.

Beyond these are the many acres that are made unmanageable by topography. Too steep, rocky, wet etc. They can range from one acre to hundreds of acres. Additionally, following the Maine Biodiversity Projects recommendations, many foresters and landowners identify "retention patches" to hold as unmanaged areas scattered across the landscape. Forest reserves are an important component of our carbon sequestration plans. As we count acres, we need to be quite inclusive in deciding which acres serve our goals.

(*Article continued from previous page*)

Reading for some rainy afternoon:

Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful. 2021. https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf Preliminary interagency report on how to pursue 30x30 program objectives. (Administration's Report)

30% Goal from the UN Convention on Biodiversity https://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework

Wildlands and Woodlands www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org

Half Earth project by E. O. Wilson and many cooperators. https://www.half-earthproject.org/explore-maps/

Defenders of Wildlife report: https://defenders.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/getting-to-30x30-guidelines-for-decision-makers.pdf

Irland, Lloyd C. "Maine's Public Estate and Conservation Lands: Brief History and Assessment." Maine Policy Review 27.2 (2018) : 11 -29, https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/vol27/iss2/3. (source of 21% estimate)

Mike Ferrucci's Response to Dr. Lloyd Irland's Essay on the Trillion Trees Campaign—A Perspective from Southern New England

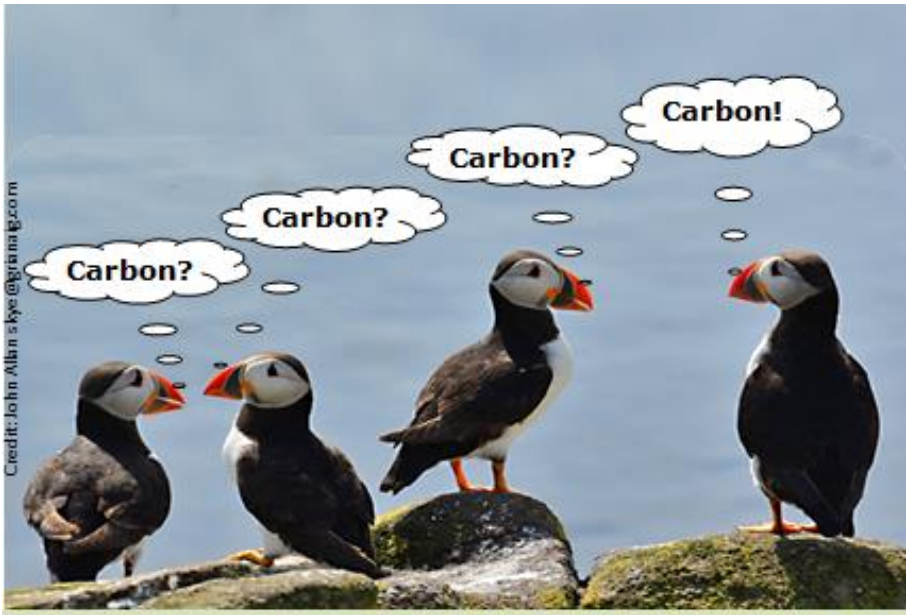
My response to the Trillion Trees Campaign is intended to represent one viewpoint from the more-densely populated but still heavily-forested southern portion of our region. Here we face challenges familiar to foresters who work in the northern states. And some different ones.

I like the idea of planting trees as much as I like the idea of "conserving" forests, as in protecting them from development. No matter where these new trees are planted, in urban settings, in the suburban forested fringe, or on open land in rural areas the trees and the forests that may be created will have to be cared for. How will we ensure that this care will occur?

The lessons we have learned from generations of conserving pubic forests are instructive. Here in Connecticut we have been steadily losing public support for management of pubic forests, when measured objectively by the ratio of state foresters to state forestland. Or when measured by the numbers of our citizens who appear to support scientifically dubious ideas like "Proforestation" or "let the forest fend for itself". These ideas manifest in varying ways in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. While recent efforts led by SAF members have pushed back on these and other unworkable notions, we still have a lot of work yet to do.

If the Trillion Trees Campaign is to work in southern New England some issues will need to be resolved. Where will the tree planters, the tree-tenders, and the forest managers come from? When the trees that are planted grow large, and some need to be removed, who will cut these trees, and what markets will be accepting the products from them? And how will we find the resources to conserve our existing forests, while rolling out a big, new tree-planting program?

Foresters and forestry institutions in southern New England have learned how to work in a place that is not always favorable for our calling. Whatever final form the TTC takes, we will find a way to participate. For now, I'll do my part to advocate for laws and programs that go beyond the lovely idea of planting more trees, and which to the crucial work and incentives needed to sustain all of our trees and forests, not just the ones that might get planted under a the TTT initiative.



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Also, for those of you who may be interested in receiving a paper copy of the *NESAF News Quarterly*,

Contact nesafnq@gmail.com

Northeastern Forest Pest Council (NEFPC)

Conservation Conversations

Co-located with the

Symposium on Eastern White Pine Health and Management

March 23-25, 2022 Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks South Portland, ME

SPONSOR & EXHIBITOR LEVELS

Level	Cost (USD)	Registration Benefits*	Exhibitor Benefits	Recognition
White Pine	$1,500	2 full	Table with Power, Cloth, and Drape	Promotion in Program (Logo); AM or PM Break "Underwriter" Status and Promotion; Highest Traffic Exhibitor Location
Sugar Maple	$1,250	2 full	Table with Power, Cloth, and Drape	Promotion in Program (Logo); Shared Lunch "Underwriter"; High Traffic Exhibitor Location
Oak	$750	1 full	Table with Cloth and Drape	Promotion in Program (Logo); Choice of Exhibit Space if desired
Spruce	$500	1 full	Table with Cloth and Drape	Promotion in Program (Logo); Choice of Exhibit Space if desired
Exhibitor Corporate	$400	1 full	Table with Cloth	Promotion in Program (No Logo)
Exhibitor NGO/UNI	$300	1 full	Table with Cloth	Promotion in Program (No Logo)

**Registration does not include the Wednesday evening awards banquet ticket.*

For more info on being an exhibitor or sponsor CONTACT Bob Cousins:

BCousins@wagnerforest.com; 207-570-0553 (mobile)

To register visit https://nesaf.org/events/nesaf-annual-meeting-2022/

Registration closes March 8

Hotel Reservations: We have a room block at the conference hotel with a rate of US $110/night. To receive this rate, book by March 1st here: **Book your group rate for NESAF**

For donations to the raffle/auction, contact:

Katie Manende Hall | Kathryn.Manende@cmpco.com | 207-629-2570

102ND Annual Winter Meeting ~ New England Society of American Foresters

Conservation Conversations

Co-located with the

Symposium on Eastern White Pine Health and Management

March 23-25, 2022 Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks South Portland, ME

Please note: schedule and presentations subject to change

Wednesday March 23

8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Registration, Exhibits, Posters, Silent Auction and Raffle		
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Plenary I	Conservation Conversations	Roger Milliken (Baskahegan)
	Plenary II	Conservation Conversations	Toni Lyn Morelli (Umass)
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Box Lunch		
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	Avian Ecology and Forestry	Forest Degradation and Avian Community Functional Diversity	Michael Thompson (UNH)
		Adding the Passenger Pigeon to Recognized Natural Disturbance Agents of Pre-Settlement Forests in Southern New England	John Scanlon (MA DFW ret)
		Three Decades of Bird Response to Forest Management in Northern ME	Jonah Levy (Tufts)
	Monitoring Forest(er) Dynamics	Tree growth and soil carbon response 35-years after whole-tree and stem-only clearcutting on adjacent watersheds in spruce-fir ecosystem in north central Maine - the continuing saga	Russ Briggs (SUNY)
		Adaptive Management in the Northeastern US: Common Strategies and Motivations of Rural and Urban Foresters	Tessa McGann (UVM)
		Introducing the Northeast Forest Health Monitoring Network - Annual Measurements for Tracking Changes in Forest Condition	James Duncan (FEMC)
	Evolving BMPs	BMP's in Extreme Weather	Steve Roberge (UNH)
		Safe Wood/Risky Wood	Keith Kanoti (UMO)
		Stream Smart	Sarah Haggerty (ME Audubon)
	NEFPC Student Forum	Collaborative Forum	
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Break		
3:00 PM-4:30 PM	Forest Carbon Science, Dynamics, and Management	Climate Change and the Importance of Forest Carbon	TBD
		Forest Carbon Dynamics: Causes and Impacts of Flux Between Pools	TBD
		Managing Forest Carbon: What You Need to Consider	TBD
	White Pine Health	Field Parameters Associated with Severity of *Caliciopsis* Symptoms and White Pine Needle Damage (WPND)	Isabella Munck (USDA-FS)
		Updates on Insect Pests of Eastern White Pine, Including Southern Pine Beetle Outbreak in NC in 2000	William Livingston (UMO)
		Drought and Eastern White Pine Health	Cameron McIntire (USDA-FS)
	A New Silviculture Guide for Spruce-Fir	Overview of the New Silviculture Guide	Laura Kenefic (USFS), Keith Kanoti (UME), Bob Seymour (UME) & Nicole Rogers (UME)
		Breakout Groups: Guided Discussion of Guide Content and Format	
		Reporting Back: Your Feedback on the Guide	
	Examples of Resilience to Changing Conditions	Oak Resiliency in Southern New England	Forest Steward's Guild
		Climate Adaptation Fellows Program	Todd Ontl (NIACS)
		Logger Responses to Decreasing Frozen Conditions	Jennifer Shakun (NEFF)
4:30 PM-6:00 PM	Break		
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Awards Banquet		

Thursday March 24

7:30 AM-8:30 AM	SAF Working Group Meetings		
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Registration, Exhibits, Posters, Silent Auction and Raffle		
8:30 AM-10:00 AM	METWS Flash Talks	(7) Ten-Minute Presentations	various
	Wildlife Habitat Management	Options for landowners with MDIFW assistance	Joe Roy (MDIFW)
		Martin and Fisher occupancy in light of forest change	Bryn Evans (UME)
		Forestry for Maine birds	Maine Audubon- tentative
	State of the States I	Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	NH Division of Forests and Lands
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	Maine Forest Service
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	Provincial Agencies as available
	Carbon Implications of Silviculture	TBD	TBD
	Invasive Species Management	Invasive Plants in Our Maine Forests, Current and Future Concerns	Gary Fish (ME IFW)
		Control Strategies for Invasive Plants in Maine, an IPM Approach	Ronald C Lemin, Jr. (Nutrien)
		Jumping Worms - Another Invasive Forest Threat?	Gary Fish (ME IFW)
10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Break		
10:30 AM - 12:00PM	Managing for Forest Carbon and Incentives/Financing for Forest Carbon	Case Studies: Researchers Managing for Forest Carbon	TBD
		Case Studies: Practitioners Managing for Forest Carbon	TBD
		Overview: Financing Forest Carbon Management	TBD
	State of the States II	Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	NY-DEC
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	MA-DCR
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	PA-DCNR
		Update on Current Forest Health Issues & Projects in Each State	USDA-FS
	Speed Networking with Students	Connecting Forestry's Future with it's Present	collaborative forum
	Flash Talks I (NESAF speakers)	(7) Ten-Minute Presentations	various
	Silviculture for Adaptation and Resiliency	New England Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change: Testing Adaptation Strategies for Northern Hardwood and Mixedwood Systems	Tony D'Amato (UVM)
		SNE Oak: Resistance, Resilience and Transition Treatments in Oak Forests of the Parcelized Southern N.E. Landscape	Tom Worthley (UCONN)
		Managing Northern Conifers for Climate Change and Market Resiliency	Laura Kenefic (USDA-FS)
12:00 PM- 1:30 PM	Grab-n-Go Lunch	NESAF Business Meeting	
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Landowner and Forester Case Studies: Forest Carbon Markets and Carbon Friendly Management	Climate-Informed Forestry Case Study - Landowner and Forester	TBD
		Small Landowner Forest Carbon Financing Project - Landowner and Forester	TBD
		Small Landowner Forest Carbon Financing Project - Landowner and Forester	TBD
	Wildlife Species Management	Rusty Blackbird Use of Commercial Spruce- Fir	Luke Douglas (UME)
		Effects of Wind Farms and Bat Abundance	Tentative
		Lynx Habitat Characteristics and Monitoring in Western Maine	Clinton Parrish (US Navy)
	Critical Pathology Issues	Diplodia Blight of Red Oak in the Northeast	Nick Brazee (UMASS)
		Oak Wilt in New York: Updates and Early Detection Research	Kelsey McLaughlin (NY-DEC)
		The Status of Beech Leaf Disease in the Northeastern US	Cameron McIntire (USDA-FS)
	White Pine Management I	Eastern White Pine Management in Wisconsin: Use of Patch Cuts for Regeneration	Gregory Edge (WI-DNR)
		Eastern White Pine Management in New York: Forest Conditions and Management Activities	Robert Cole and Jessica Cancelliere (NY-DEC)
		Eastern White Pine Management in Massachusetts: The Urban/Rural Interface	Nicholas Brazee (UMASS)
	Update on Major Tree Conservation Efforts	Concepts and Techniques Involved with Genetically Modifying American Chestnut in the United States	Andrew Newhouse (SUNY ESF)
		Update on Where the ACF Long Standing Chestnut Restoration Effort Stands	Kendra Collins (TACF)
		Overview of Resistance Breeding in Hemlock, Ash, Elm, and Butternut	Carolyn Pike (USDA-FS)

Thursday March 24

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	**Break**		
3:30 PM-5:00 PM	**Critial Entomology Issues**	**Significant Suppression of Invasive Emerald Ash Borer by Introduced Parasitoids: Potential for North American Ash Recovery**	Jian Duan (USDA-ARS) *or* Joe Elkinton (UMASS)
		Field Variation in Emamectin Benzoate Concentrations in Healthy, Declining and EAB Infested Ash Over Time	Breanne Aflague (UNH)
		Impacts of Tree Species and Size on the Survival and Fitness of Emerald Ash Borer and its Parasitoids in New Hampshire	Todd Johnson (UNH)
	White Pine Management II	**Eastern White Pine Management in Maine**	Robert Seymour (UME)
		Eastern White Pine Management in New Hampshire	Steven Roberge and Karen Bennett (UNH)
		Eastern White Pine: Past, Present, and Future	William Livingston (UME)
	Flash Talks II (NESAF speakers)	**(7) Ten-Minute Presentations**	various
	Non-Timber Forest Products	**Harvesting Sap and Producing Syrup From Trees Other Than Maples, Birches, and Walnuts**	David Moore (UNH)
		Culturally and Economically Important Nontimber Forest Products of Northern Maine?	TBD
		Walden Hill Farm: Sustainable Acorn-Fed Pork From New England	Jennifer Milikowsky (Walden Hill Farm)
	Carbon Programs for Small Landowners	**The Family Forest Carbon Program**	Richard Campbell (AFF)
		Forest Carbon Works	Sarah Ford (FCW)
		Natural Capital Exchange	Alex Macintosh (NCX)
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	**Alumni Socials**		

Friday March 25

Depart at 8:00 AM	**Field Tour #1**	**Urban Forestry Tour**	Portland Parks & Rec, ME Audubon
Depart at 8:00 AM	**Field Tour #2**	**Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge**	USFWS
Depart at 8:00 AM	**Field Tour #3**	**Sebago Clean Water Easement Project**	ME Forest Society
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM	**Workshop #1**	**Technology Workshop**	Wheatland Geospatial Lab

The Maine Division of the New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) is delighted to be collaborating once again with the New England Forest Pest Council (NEFPC) and the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society (METWS) to host the 2022 Annual Winter Meeting, *Conservation Conversations*. We are equally pleased to have the *Symposium on Eastern White Pine Health and Management* co-locating with us. The ambitious program includes a variety of plenary talks, technical sessions, field tours, and workshops exploring a range of contemporary topics relevant to forests and their management for multiple benefits. Participants will be able to earn CFE credits for maintaining Certified Forester status and for state licensure programs, as well as TWS certification.

You may have noticed it will have been three years since we last were able to meet in person. The planning and program committees fully recognize the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents a continually fluctuating challenge. However, we remain optimistic that with proper precautions we will not have to "go virtual" in 2022. On the preceding pages you can see the program as currently laid out, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, and on the next two pages, the policy and protocols regarding COVID-19. The latter were established based on the best information available to us in late November. As the virus continues to vary and CDC guidance shifts, we will monitor the situation and may need to change the meeting policies.

Registration will be online only, and please visit the NESAF website for updated information. Registration will close at midnight on March 8, 2022. There will be no walk-in registrations this year. NESAF Group Room Rates at the conference hotel are US $110/night. To receive this rate, book by March 1st here: **Book your group rate for NESAF**

Conference Registration Rates for the meeting are:

Student Members - $75
Non-Members (Jan 1-Jan 31) $250
Members 1 day W or Th - $125

Members - $215
Non-Members (Feb 1 – Mar 8) $300
Non-Members 1 day W or Th - $150

We thank you for your patience as we navigate this uncharted territory, and look forward to welcoming you to Maine!

CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

NESAF-NEFPC-METWS Winter Meeting 2022
Tuesday 03/22/2022 - Friday 03/25/2022
Portland, Maine Hotel in South Portland, Maine | Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks (marriott.com)

COVID PROTOCOL STATEMENT

As professional organizations and individuals, we wrestle with a fluid set of multifaceted conditions that may influence our annual traditions to gather and learn. Regarding the meeting in March, we are monitoring a dynamic situation and considering what prudent actions we can take to enable maximum participation while at the same time trusting individuals to consider the health and safety of their colleagues, while making decisions regarding participation that are best for them. Following are policies and protocol as of 00:01/15 December 2021.

Given the constantly evolving situation:

These protocols may change at any time. Monitor the nesaf.org winter meeting webpages for the most current information.

Registration capacity is not currently limited, but may have to be limited. In-conference social events are not currently curtailed, but may have to be.

No walk-in registrations will be allowed.

Pre-registration is required.

Registration will close March 8.

All meeting attendees will be required to follow State of Maine and City of South Portland COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time of the meeting. (Currently there are no mandates.)

To stay up to date on Maine COVID-19 protocols and recommendations see Home | Covid-19 (maine.gov).

Full COVID-19 vaccination[i] or proof of negative non-antigen test will be required of ALL attendees.

All registrants will be required to complete and sign the Acknowledgment of Personal Responsibility to attest that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or cannot get vaccinated for a qualifying medical condition or disability, that if requested they will provide proof of vaccination or a negative medical test within 72 hours of arriving on site, and that they will report becoming symptomatic during or within two weeks following the meeting to the meeting organizers.

If we learn that someone has been untruthful, we will pursue an ethics complaint via any available avenues.

There will be NO exceptions.

Masks required.

Masks must be worn at all times in the conference space except when eating or drinking.

No food or beverage consumption will be allowed in sessions.

Everyone in a session room must be masked. (Speakers may remove their masks to drink water, if needed.)

Masks will be required on field tour busses.

The U.S. CDC does not recommend using face shields as a substitute for masks.

Some people cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to a disability. If you must wear a face shield instead of a mask:

choose a face shield that wraps around the sides of your face and extends below your chin or a hooded face shield.

All this is subject to change. If there are questions, please feel free to contact meeting general co-chairs Ken Laustsen and/or Carol Redelsheimer.

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[i]In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or

  2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

  This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines that are:

- Currently approved or authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines)

  Listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (such as Novavax and AstraZeneca/Oxford)

  Additionally, this guidance can be applied to clinical trial participants from:

- U.S. sites who received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is neither approved nor authorized for use by FDA but is listed for emergency use by WHO, or who have received the full series of an "active" (not placebo) COVID-19 vaccine candidate for which vaccine efficacy has been independently confirmed (e.g., by a data and safety monitoring board).

- U.S.-based AstraZeneca and Novavax COVID-19 vaccine trials. These U.S. participants in COVID-19 vaccine trials can be considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they complete the vaccine series, if it has been confirmed that they received "active" vaccine, and not placebo.

More information is available at Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC.

Acknowledgement of Personal Responsibility

The New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) considers the safety and wellbeing of our members, collaborators and their members, and guests a top priority as we wrestle with a dynamic situation.

Together with the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, NESAF has taken preventative measures to reduce the spread of Communicable Diseases, including COVID-19, at its upcoming March 22 – 25, 2022 Annual Winter Meeting (AWM). However, even diligent efforts to follow public health guidance and orders cannot guarantee that attendees will not contract or transmit the virus that causes COVID-19 or other Communicable Diseases, even if the participants have been vaccinated against those diseases, and that participants or those they encounter face risks of infection from a potentially deadly disease as a result of traveling to and participating in the AWM and related activities. NESAF will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the U.S. CDC's recommendations, and federal, state, and local requirements. Should any changes to the protocols be required prior to the AWM, an updated protocol will be provided to all AWM registered attendees.

As a participant in the AWM I attest that I am either fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or cannot get a COVID-19 vaccination due to a qualifying medical condition or disability.

I further agree that I will not attend the AWM or have in-person contact with AWM attendees unless I:

1. do not have symptoms[1] associated with COVID-19;
2. can supply evidence of a suitable COVID-19 vaccination or a negative **non-antigen test**, such as a PCR or NAAT test, taken within the previous 72 hours of arrival at the AWM, if requested;
3. have not had a close contact with or exposure to a COVID-19 case in the 14-day period prior to attendance at the meeting; and
4. am able to indicate that my attendance will not pose a heightened risk to myself or others.

In addition to all other rules relating to my attendance at the AWM, I agree to comply with all COVID-related laws, guidelines, protocols, or procedures that may be implemented by NESAF, the Federal, State of Maine, or City of South Portland governments, and the venue as applicable at the time of the AWM for the duration of my stay, in order to protect as much as possible the health and safety of all attendees, including directives for frequent hand washing, social distancing, and the required use of face masks. I agree that if I experience any symptoms associated with a Communicable Disease during my attendance at the Event, I will inform NESAF meeting organizers as soon as reasonably possible and depart the AWM. Furthermore, I will report becoming symptomatic of or testing positive for COVID-19, if it occurs within two weeks following the meeting.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I have read and understood the above warnings concerning COVID-19 and other Communicable Diseases, and I am familiar with the health risks from COVID-19 infections. I understand that NESAF's health and safety protocols for the AWM include either mandatory full vaccination against COVID-19 or, if I cannot get a COVID-19 vaccination due to a qualifying medical condition or disability, a mandatory COVID-19 negative non-antigen test. By attending the AWM, I hereby choose to accept the risks of in-person attendance at the AWM, including from travel to the AWM, and of any associated activities in which I choose to participate. In doing so, I release NESAF, Maine TWS, NEFPC, the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks, and all of their staff and contractors from liability should I become ill as a direct or indirect result of my participation in the AWM.

[1]People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

| Fever or chills | Cough | Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | Fatigue | Muscle or body aches | Headache |
| New loss of taste or smell | Sore throat | Congestion or runny nose | Nausea or vomiting |Diarrhea |

NESAF Policy Chair Needed

Are you interested in the issues of forestry? Do you believe the forestry profession; NESAF should take positions on topics that affect how we as foresters and natural resource professionals conduct our business? If issues such as carbon, climate, biomass and renewable energy, viable product markets, forest biodiversity, wilderness, clearcutting, and innovative silviculture interest you then NESAF would like you to join the Executive Committee as Policy Chair.

The Policy Chair of the NESAF Executive Committee oversees the Forest Policy Committee whose role is *"... to advise the NESAF Executive Committee on state society forest policy matters, in adherence to and guided by the Society Bylaws and forest policy process. Additionally, the committee is charged with informing and engaging the NESAF membership in policy matters. It is the committee's primary responsibility to recommend the development, review, adoption, and use of NESAF policy position statements."*

If you are interested in or have questions about the Policy Chair role with NESAF contact Diana Frederick Chair of NESAF at diana.frederick66@gmail.com.

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NESAF to Incorporate

The New England SAF (as well as *all* SAF state societies) will be incorporating soon. You will hear much about this in the coming months and year. Look for a notice and detailed information in your email and on the website.

As an unincorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, NESAF and our assets are exposed to lawsuit and loss. This important step will legally join us to our parent national organization, protect our assets and protect all of you who serve as volunteer leaders in NESAF, it's divisions and chapters. National SAF will be guiding us and paying initial costs.

This is a complicated topic with too much to explain in a short article in the *News Quarterly* so stayed tuned for the full story. In the meantime, if you have immediate questions you can email NESAF Chair Diana Frederick at diana.frederick66@gmail.com or Immediate Past Chair Bill Hill at foresterhill@comcast.net. Here is a link to a summary of whys and hows that the Appalachian SAF - one of the first in SAF to incorporate - experienced on the road to incorporation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQn0J21K6ps&authuser=0

Maine Division News ~ Jason Desjardin

Reflecting on MESAF Fall Activity

Looking back on autumn and staring head-long into a bright, chilly winter, here's to hoping everyone has had a bountiful harvest season! Our MESAF annual virtual fall conference, in the midst of October, explored the social side of forestry. The juxtaposition of discussing forestry's social side through virtual technology is no doubt an evolution, and somewhat akin to a familiar constant in the environment – change, for better or for worse. The assortment of topics and speakers kept our attention, with topics ranging from professional ethics, multiple-use facets, and the variety of means we communicate within our diverse profession. In recognition of our inspiring colleagues, congratulations to our members earning awards during the annual conference: **Barrie Brusilla** – SAF Presidential Field Forester Award, **Ron Lemin** – SAF Fellow Award, **John W. McNulty** – NESAF Distinguished Service Award, **Lloyd C. Irland** – NESAF James W. Toumey Outstanding Service Award, and **Nicole S. Rogers** – NESAF Mollie H. Beatie Young Forester Leadership Award.

News from the University of Maine Student chapter shows an active and engaged, up-and-coming membership. Fall activity included a well-attended bonfire, volunteer work with the Orono Land Trust, and introduction of new members… speaking of foresters being social!

MESAF Executive Committee election results are in! Let's welcome our new and returning elected officers; **Kyle Burdick** – Chair, **Nicole Rogers** – Past-Chair, **Kris Hoffman** – Secretary, **Jake Metzler** – Treasurer, **Brandon Learnard** – Member-at-Large, **Cullen Utermark** – Member-at-Large, and **Jason McClellan** – Member-at-Large. The Chair-Elect position remains unfilled, anyone interested in serving their professional organization in that role is encouraged to reach out to Kyle (kyleleroyburdick@gmail.com).

Task Force Updates

Many will recall Governor Mills' executive order early in 2021, establishing the Forest Carbon Task Force. The Task Force was charged with developing incentives to encourage forestland management practices that increase carbon storage specifically on woodlands of 10 to 10,000 acres while maintaining harvest levels overall. The nearly year-long process of public and stakeholder input has culminated into a report released at the end of October that contains wide-ranging recommendations which aim to enable Maine's forests to contribute significantly toward achieving the State's climate goals. Click here to view the final report.

In early November, over 80 individuals contributing to the Spruce Budworm (SBW) Task Force virtually convened to discuss priority focus areas, receive updates, and make recommendations regarding SBW-related activity. Team leaders directed working groups in the following categories: monitoring and protection, wood supply and economic impacts, public communications and outreach, research needs, forest management, wildlife habitat, and policy, regulation, and funding. Task force work products will be distilled into a new executive summary and action items tentatively slated for release in the first quarter of 2022.

In Other News

The Board of licensure of Foresters has been undertaking a review of Chapter 100 of their rules, Code of Ethics. Along with a subcommittee, the Board has reviewed existing language, considered changes that are necessary to clarify provisions, and has considered new sections and language to further explain what is expected of licensed foresters. The work is ongoing and is conducted at virtual public board meetings. Anyone interested in learning about meeting schedules and Zoom links can find the information by clicking here. Any formal actions surrounding this effort would also be posted to the Board's webpage.

Dr. Elias Ayrey's (et al.) New England Enhanced Forest Inventory data package was published this past quarter and made available online via the Environmental Data Initiative. Using publicly available LiDAR data across New England and a three-dimensional convolutional neural network (CNN) model to standardize disparate datasets, they produced 14 publicly available LiDAR derived inventory metrics. Output map data range from biomass measures, basal area, height, species composition, QMD, and volume… to name a few. Details and access to the data package can be found by clicking here.

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) Northeast Region resumed their Forest Forum in December following a Covid-19 hiatus. The forum is intended to bring together the entire forest industry supply chain. Held on the first Thursday of each month near Bangor, the Forum is an opportunity for loggers, foresters, and wood-using industries to connect and learn about the latest issues facing the forest industry. The December Forum highlighted three new wood-using companies, providing updates to their projects and discussions as to what it might mean for markets in the Northeast. Presentations were provided by representatives of Maine Plywood, Standard Biocarbon, and Dirigo Building Science Engineers. Brian Whitney, President of the Maine Technology Institute, spoke about the Forestry Recovery Initiative. The Initiative was established to distribute upwards of $10M in federal funding to help Maine's loggers, foresters, and sawmills recover from any losses they suffered during the pandemic. Discussion included examples of how people might qualify for funding and what it can be used for. More information about the Initiative and eligibility can be found here. Upcoming funding to be announced in early 2022 was also previewed – which will support the development of new or expanded markets for forest products.

Green Mountain Division News ~ Ginger Anderson

***Lymantria dispar* Information Update**

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has released a new leaflet on the recent outbreak of *Lymantria dispar*, the insect formerly known as the gypsy moth. Over 51,000 acres of defoliation was mapped in western Vermont in 2021 raising concern over the rising pest levels. The leaflet outlines a process for foresters and landowners to use this winter season to evaluate potential risk of defoliation in 2022. It also spells out the procedure to follow for those interested in obtaining permits for aerial chemical applications to control the pest this spring. The deadline for permits is March 15, 2022. The leaflet will be posted at vtforest.com or you can contact any FPR office for a hard copy of it. Lastly, the Entomological Society of America is in the process of providing a new common name for this species sometime in 2022. For those interested, visit www.entsoc.org/new-lymantria-dispar-name

Vermont's First Climate Action Plan Released

On December 1, 2021, The Vermont Climate Council released the first Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP provides background on climate change in Vermont and possible strategies that could help the state reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more resilient and equitable communities. Because reducing sources of greenhouse gases is the most important step in mitigating the effects of climate change, many strategies in the CAP address emissions reductions from transportation, heating, and industry, But the CAP also recognizes the importance of Vermont's farms, forests, wetlands and other ecosystems in capturing and storing carbon, providing critical services to people and wildlife, and reducing natural hazards, like flooding. Included are strategies to educate and provide technical assistance to landowners and managers on carbon and climate adaptation/resilience practices, to expand local markets for farm and forest products, to provide training and workforce development, and to increase support for land conservation.

Among the recommendations are expanding the Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) program, implementing the Vermont Conservation Design goals, and revising the Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor rule. The CAP now goes to the Vermont Legislature to be addressed in the upcoming session. To find out more, please visit: climatechange.vermont.gov.

For a summary table of the recommended strategies and actions see: https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/anr/climatecouncil/Shared%20Documents/VT%20CAP%20Pathways%20Strategies%20Actions.pdf

Femmes in Forestry at UVM

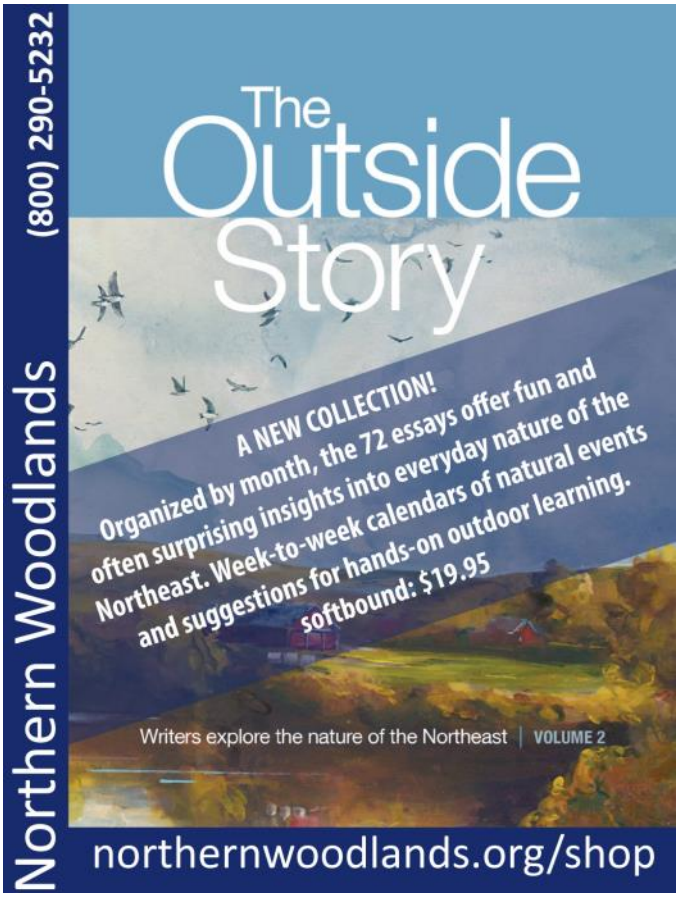
The Femmes in Forestry Club is now officially recognized as a student organization at the University of Vermont. This is great achievement for all of the forestry students who helped form the group. It will provide broader gender perspectives and support for natural resources students and complement the activities and outreach of the Forestry Club on campus.

Upcoming Webinars (register at: vtcommunityforestry.org)

January 11, 12:00 – 1:00 Invasive Earthworms and their Effect on Forest Soils and Vegetation with Josef Gorres of UVM

January 18, 12:00 – 1:00 Status of HWA and EHS in VT and how populations are predicted to change with climate change with Jim Esden and Savannah Ferreira of VT FPR

January 25, 12:00 – 1:00 Ecological, silvicultural, and cultural consideration for ash preservation in northern forests with Tony D'Amato of UVM



Granite State Division News ~ Stephen Eisenhaure

From Gabe Roxby, GSD Chair

The Granite State Division's annual winter meeting will be held virtually this year on Friday February 11th, 2022. The executive committee has been hard at work planning an in-person meeting, but the recent spike in COVID cases forced us to reconsider. In December, we sent out a survey to membership asking for people's preferences on holding the meeting in person or virtually. We received responses from about 30% of our membership, with a clear preference for holding the meeting virtually. The survey results revealed that 83% of respondents would be willing to attend an annual meeting held virtually, as opposed to just 36% of respondents who said they would attend an in person meeting. (The survey allowed for people to indicate that they would be willing to attend in both formats, which is the reason the percentages above total to more than 100%.) Our virtual meeting will include updates from partners around the state, a business meeting, the presentation of student awards, and educational speakers. Continuing education credits will be available, and we plan to make the meeting free or available at a nominal cost. We hope to see many of you there in February, and we sincerely hope to be able to return to an in-person meeting format in 2023.

The GSD/SAF Executive Committee has been having frequent discussions about two of the most pressing issues that we feel face the forestry community - the loss of low grade markets and the increasing loss of our forests to development. In the coming months and years, we hope to make meaningful contributions to these issues, to better insure that we retain the actively managed working forests that are such an important part of our state.

Finally, our Timber Tax Subcommittee has spent the last two years analyzing New Hampshire's timber tax, to gather information and determine the effect the tax has on forest management in our state. The subcommittee is closing in on making a final report on their findings, whereupon the committee will determine next steps, if there are any. Stay tuned for more information!

From Steve Roberge, Forestry News for Foresters

Job Shadowing – UNH
UNH has a new Forestry Job Shadowing/Work Experience website. This is an opportunity for employers to connect with UNH students by posting forestry / forest industry related opportunities. Register as a member of the site, and then you can begin posting opportunities by filling out the form that is available online.

Be sure to sign up for NH Forest Industry News
This is an intermittent e-newsletter intended to share relevant information with our forest industry. This e-newsletter is for **you**. It is not intended to be a one-way channel. Let Andy Fast know if you have information that you feel should be included (andrew.fast@unh.edu; 603-841-6544). Please share this sign-up link with others who may want to receive this e-newsletter: NH Forest Industry News sign-up.

Eastern White Pine Management Institute
The Eastern White Pine Management Institute (EWPMI) is a new collaborative effort between UNH Extension, UMaine, and UMass to expand existing knowledge on eastern white pine management and make available trainings to natural resource professionals. Feel free to subscribe to the EWPMI periodic newsletter at this link.

From Steve Eisenhaure, NESAF Quarterly correspondent

News and Upcoming events

The 2021 NH annual forest health newsletter, produced by the Division of Forest and Lands Forest Health Program has been released. It's full of great information and can be found here.

Commercial pesticide applicators: Supervisory trainings, hosted by UNH Cooperative Extension, start January 11, 2022. The trainings will prepare students to take the State of NH certification exam. Classes will be a combination of online and in-person.

A reminder that the winter classic, Farm and Forest, is February 4th and 5th at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Manchester. More information can be found here.

The 2022 NH Forest Career Field Day is planned for May 5, 2022. Hosted by NHTOA and in partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension and UNH Thompson School of Applied Science, this is an excellent opportunity to expose High School students to careers in Natural Resources. For more information check the NHTOA website.

Connecticut Chapter News ~ Amanda Bunce

At UConn: In the Natural Resources Department, the labs of Chadwick D. Rittenhouse and Zhe Zhu are developing innovative ways of mapping and classifying forest vegetation. In one project, they've mapped young forest and shrubland in CT using a combination of data from remote sensing (which covers large areas over time), laser scanners (measuring vegetation height), and detailed aerial imagery. They were also able to classify young forest and scrubland in terms of the structure of the vegetation. They mapped young forest and scrubland as about 3.3% of land area in CT and 6.3% of forested area. A little under half is composed of areas greater than 5 acres. This approach could improve our ability to restore, maintain and manage for young forest and shrubland in CT.

A second study takes a close look at understory vegetation, which is not easily mapped with remote sensing techniques, because the overstory is always in the way. Their method utilizes the "spring window," a time when the understory greens up in the spring before the canopy. Using satellite imagery from different years in various combinations, they can classify several patterns that show up, enabling them to map four major understory species: barberry, greenbriar, mixed invasive species, and mountain laurel. This work could be a help to forest researchers and managers considering the extensive field work involved in mapping understory vegetation. Be on the lookout for these exciting publications!

"A Multi-sensor and Object-based Approach to Young Forest and Shrubland Vegetation Classification"; Authors: Chadwick D. Rittenhouse, Elana Berlin, Nathaniel Mikle, Shi Qiu, Dustin Riordan, and Zhe Zhu

"Mapping and Classifying Forest Understory Vegetation using Phenological and Spatial Information Derived from Sentinel-2 Time Series"; Authors: Xiucheng Yang, Zhe Zhu, Dustin Riordan, and Chadwick D. Rittenhouse

At Yale: There is exciting programming coming up at the Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, shared with us by Communications, Outreach, and Extension Forest Fellow Sara Santiago! To learn more and register for these events, and to see the Forest School's newsletter "The Overstory" visit https://yff.yale.edu/

Yale Forest Forum Spring 2022 Webinar Series: Theory to Practice of Urban Forest Management: This speaker series will explore the structure and function of forests in natural areas in cities, especially the importance of street trees as part of the tree canopy and of the stressors that affect urban areas. The series will cover a variety of topics presented by researchers and urban forestry practitioner experts. The webinars will be held on Thursdays at 11:30 am ET from January 20 to April 21

Yale Forest Forum Webinar Spring 2022 Series: Forest Products in a Changing Climate: Bioenergy from Forests: This speaker series will bring a wide range of experts to discuss the future role of bioenergy from forests in addressing climate, resource, societal, and environmental challenges at regional and global scales. Guests speakers will represent forestry, energy, conservation, and climate science. The webinars will be held on Tuesdays at 11:30 AM ET from January 25 to April 19

Yale Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters' Annual Conference: (ISTF) Yale ISTF will host its 28th Annual Conference: "Rethinking Restoration and Recovery: Landscapes of the Past, Present, and Future in the Tropics". The conference will take place on January 27 - 29th, 2022. Registration for the free conference is at: https://istfconference.events.yale.edu/

At Great Mountain Forest: Great Mountain Forest is beginning to bring back workshops and lectures and looking to the future in developing programs that will engage the community as they adapt topics to an ever-changing climate. The winter lecture series, shared by Program Developer Matt Gallagher, is scheduled to start in February. Learn about these programs and more at www.GreatMountainForest.Org

Moose in Connecticut: History, Status, and Future Expectations - Andrew M. LaBonte, CT DEEP Wildlife. Saturday, February 5th, 2022, 4 p.m. at the Falls Village Children's Theater

Back to the Future: The Forest and Brain Health - Dr. Susan A. Masino, Vernon D. Roosa Professor of applied Science at Trinity College. Saturday, March 5th, 2022, 4 p.m. at The Norfolk Library

Witch Hazel: Nature's Little Power Plant - Kevin Jackowitz, Vice President & Brand Creative Director, American Distilling, Saturday, April 9th, 2022, 4 p.m. at David M. Hunt Library, Falls Village

In the State Offices: Trees and Forests have been recognized as critical infrastructure in Congress through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed in November. This recognition comes in no small way through the action of SAF and forestry professionals. Governor Lamont is echoing this recognition in CT in Executive Order No. 21-3 on Climate. This Order includes 23 actions recommended by 2021 report from the Governor's Council on Climate Change, and three of those actions are focused on **the role of natural and working lands in mitigating climate change and its impacts**. One action spurs the development of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to address flooding, erosion, storm water, and coastal migration in state infrastructure projects. A second action will support and enhance protection and improvement of soils and agricultural lands. A third directs DEEP to work with stakeholders in the state to improve resilience in Connecticut forest lands and to meet goals of carbon sequestration and emissions reductions with sustainable forest management.

See Executive Order No. 21-3 at https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Governors-Actions/Executive-Orders/Governor-Lamonts-Executive-Orders

Massachusetts Chapter News ~ Joelle Vautour

Massachusetts DCR Service Forestry Updates

Service Forester Position Open, New District Map Coming Early 2022

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Service Forestry Program is hiring for a Service Forester for District 5, the posting and application are available through MassCareers: www.mass.gov/anf/employment-equal-access-disability/masscareers/masscareers.html.

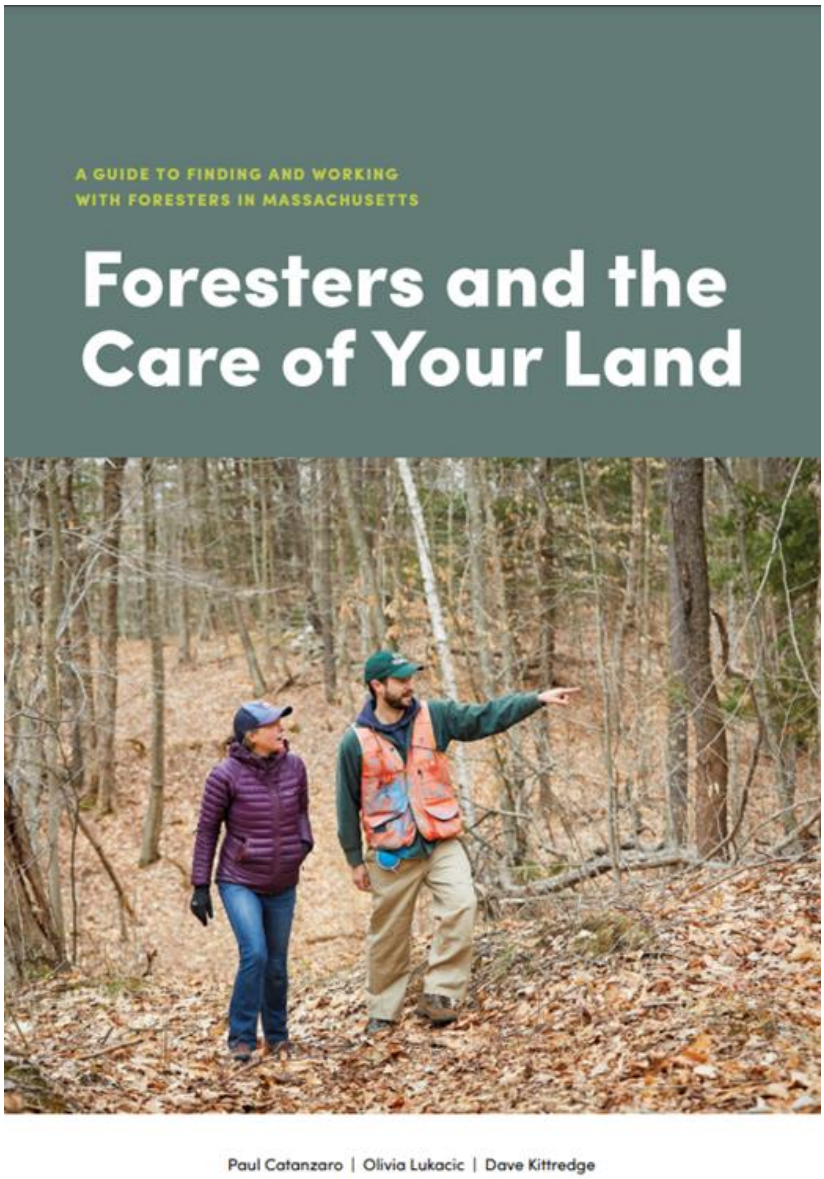
This opening is the result of Doug Hutcheson taking a job with DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Greening the Gateway Cities Program and the recent retirement of Guy LaChance. A new Service Forestry district map will be available in early 2022 to reflect district changes.

Massachusetts Forest Alliance Announces Award Recipients

In November 2021, the Massachusetts Forest Alliance announced two award recipients to foresters in Massachusetts. Rexford Baker was awarded the Howard F. Mason Forester of the Year Award. Rexford worked as a consulting forester for over 40 years, helping hundreds of landowners in managing their land. John Scanlon was awarded the John H. Lambert Forest Stewardship Award. John recently retired after a 35 year career as the Habitat Program Supervisor for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. A licensed forester and wildlife biologist, he oversaw efforts to create and enhance suitable habitats for threatened, endangered, and declining species of wildlife and plants on Mass Wildlife's 220,000 acres of wildlife lands.

Updated Publication

The publication, "*Foresters and the Care of Your Land*" has been recently updated and is available for download from the DCR Service Forestry website: https://www.mass.gov/doc/foresters-and-the-care-for-your-lands/download



In Memoriam

Robert S. "Bob" Bond of Granite Hill Estates, Hallowell, Maine, passed away on the morning of August 28, 2021 in Augusta. Bob was born on October 12,1925 in Cambridge, MA. He enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1943 serving in the Pacific during WWII.

Bob received his bachelor's degree in forestry from University of Massachusetts, a master's degree in forest management from Yale University, and a doctorate in forest economics from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University. His career included two summers on a US Forest Service lookout in Montana, working for a private lumber company in Arkansas, spending two years as a forester with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Resources, serving for 21 years on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Forestry department, and serving for 10 years as director of the School of Forest Resources at Pennsylvania State University. Bob was extremely dedicated to the forests of our country and had an exemplary academic career. He was a leader in his field with research, writing articles, and involvement in a number of forestry related organizations and committees. In recognition of his contribution to forestry he was elected a Fellow to the Society of American Foresters.

Bob married Barbara Ann Simmons (deceased in 2012) in 1950. Bob is survived by his and Barbara's two children: Judy Bond Ross (Jim Carr) and Rob Bond (Martha). Bob leaves behind 5 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

A family graveside service with Coast Guard honors was held in mid October at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta, Maine. A memorial contribution in Robert Bond's name is suggested to the New England Forestry Foundation at www.newenglandforestry.org.

John A. O'Brien, 78, died peacefully on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, in Sharon, VT, while working in the woods. He was born July 16, 1943, in Keene, NH, and attended The Thompson School at the University of New Hampshire. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science and a master's degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from UNH. In between degrees, John served in the US Army as a platoon leader and company commander with the combat engineers in the Vietnam War, receiving a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts for wounds received in action. Upon his return, John joined the NH Air National Guard as a commissioned officer, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal as commander of the 157th Civil Engineering Squadron of the Reserves until his retirement in 1991.

He began his lifelong forestry career at Wagner Woodlands in Lyme, NH, before starting O'Brien Forestry Services in 1983, where he consulted with landowners and managed over 30,000 acres throughout NH and VT. John also dedicated a great deal of time to building and managing O'Brien Family Christmas Trees, continuing until the day of his passing to plant and care for the trees he loved to share with others each holiday season. He was most pleased to receive the Wes Meier Award for National Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year in 1998. Equally dedicated to his friends and community, John was especially generous with his time as an active volunteer on the Parks and Playground Committee, the Orford Historical Society, and the Orford-Fairlee Lions Club. He took pride in organizing the annual Orford Veterans commemoration and honoring local Veterans.

A celebration of John's life will be held in the spring; all will be welcome. Knight Funeral Home & Crematory has been entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: New Hampshire Tree Farm Program, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 or Vietnam Veterans of America, 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

George H. Bourassa, 85, of South Central Vassalboro died peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Maine Army National Guard and attended Army ROTC while pursuing a degree in Forestry at the University of Maine, Orono. He spent college summers on a timber crew in the Lassen National Forest and at the Rast Farm in Vermont. Upon graduation from UMO in 1958, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army and served with the 1st BG 5th Cav Division in Korea. He would serve over 30 years of military service, retiring in 1996 with the Coast Guard Reserve, Rockland, Maine.

Upon return from Korea in 1960, he began his Forestry career with Eastern Pulpwood Co., Calais, Maine. He was a sales rep for Timberland Machines and Aetna Life & Casualty, Bangor, Maine. He began his service to the state of Maine as a tax examiner, and, in 1974, joined the Department of Conservation as a Forester. He would hold several roles in the Maine Forest Service to include Director of Forest Fire Control and Forest Management Division. He also served the State of Maine for over 30 years, retiring in 2002, and epitomized the essence of leadership and forest stewardship for many to emulate.

NEWS QUARTERLY,
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NESAF Membership Report

membership as of 12/13/2021

CURRENT						CURRENT				
Division/Chapter	Student	Golden	Full[2]	Transitional	Total	Division/Chapter	Student	Golden	Full[2]	Transitional
Granite State	**7**	**10**	**137**	**16**	170	**Granite State**	**4%**	**6%**	**81%**	**9%**
Green Mountain	**6**	**9**	**90**	**7**	112	**Green Mountain**	**5%**	**8%**	**80%**	**6%**
Maine	**23**	**26**	**171**	**17**	237	**Maine**	**10%**	**11%**	**72%**	**7%**
Yankee	**30**	**17**	**162**	**21**	230	**Yankee**	**13%**	**7%**	**70%**	**9%**
Massachusetts	*5*	*7*	*80*	*6*	98	*Massachusetts*	*5%*	*7%*	*82%*	*6%*
Connecticut	*25*	*7*	*68*	*12*	112	*Connecticut*	*22%*	*6%*	*61%*	*11%*
Rhode Island	*0*	*3*	*14*	*3*	20	*Rhode Island*	*0%*	*15%*	*70%*	*15%*
Total	**66**	**62**	**560**	**61**	**749**	***Total***	**9%**	**8%**	**75%**	**8%**
FORMER[1]						**FORMER[1]**				
Division/Chapter	Student	Golden	Full	Transitional	Total	Division/Chapter	Student	Golden	Full	Transitional
Granite State	**10**	**0**	**23**	**12**	45	**Granite State**	**22%**	**0%**	**51%**	**27%**
Green Mountain	**31**	**0**	**25**	**12**	68	**Green Mountain**	**46%**	**0%**	**37%**	**18%**
Maine	**69**	**0**	**48**	**26**	143	**Maine**	**48%**	**0%**	**34%**	**18%**
Yankee	**94**	**0**	**39**	**34**	167	**Yankee**	**56%**	**0%**	**23%**	**20%**
Massachusetts	*43*	*0*	*21*	*20*	84	*Massachusetts*	**51%**	**0%**	**25%**	**24%**
Connecticut	*49*	*0*	*17*	*14*	80	*Connecticut*	**61%**	**0%**	**21%**	**18%**
Rhode Island	*2*	*0*	*1*	*0*	3	*Rhode Island*	**67%**	**0%**	**33%**	**0%**
Total	**204**	**0**	**135**	**84**	**423**	***Total***	**48%**	**0%**	**32%**	**20%**

[1] *Former Members include expiration 2020-2016*

[2] *Full Membership includes Silver, Gold and Platinum Members. It also includes a total of 14 retired members (not included the NESAF Total Member number on the National SAF website).*