New England Society of American Foresters

News Quarterly

Volume 87, Issue 3 July 2026

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***News Quarterly* Science Theme – Dr. Alexandra Kosiba, Theme Editor**

Sustainable forestry depends not only on sound stewardship, but also on a deep understanding of how forest resources can be efficiently and responsibly utilized. As forest managers respond to climate change, invasive pests, altered disturbance regimes, and changing forest conditions, advances in wood science are creating new opportunities to increase the value and versatility of forest biomass while reducing waste and supporting resilient forest ecosystems. For more than a century, the USDA Forest Products Laboratory has advanced the science of wood utilization, developing innovative technologies that expand the applications of renewable wood-based materials.

This science theme highlights past and current research at the Forest Products Laboratory—from mass timber and biodegradable packaging to biochar, bio-based chemicals, and advanced wood composites—and illustrates how forest products research contributes to sustainable forest management and the long-term stewardship of forest resources. Read the article on page 9.

New England Society of American Foresters

The ***News Quarterly*** is the official publication of the New England Society of American Foresters. It is emailed to members and advertisers in January, April, July, and October.

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:

Matt Russell
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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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***News Quarterly* Publication Calendar**		
Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Winter	1 Jan	15 Jan
Spring	1 Apr	15 Apr
Summer	1 Jul	15 Jul
Autumn	1 Oct	15 Oct

Advertising in the *News Quarterly*	
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Full Page	$150/issue
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One-Quarter Page	$50/issue
One-Eighth Page	$30/issue

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From the NESAF Chair – Paul Szwedo

Summer greetings from the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. I hope all of you are enjoying this most verdant time of year. In Vermont, it is easy to see why it is called the Green Mountain state. The Northern hardwood forests are lush and beautiful. The complexity in forest structures and biodiversity are on full display. Migratory songbirds provide an early morning alarm clock, trees and plants are growing - sequestering and storing carbon. Bear cubs, moose calves, and fawns all eagerly follow mom to food, water, and shade, and who could forget the black flies, deer flies, mosquitos, and ticks. Outside of the forest, the milkweed is beginning to flower, fruit trees are beginning to fruit, the second cutting of hay is imminent, and weeds are growing in the garden. How wonderful to be a part of an occupation that presents opportunities to appreciate seasonality.

As you read through this issue, you will notice how service to SAF, NESAF, and our local chapters is rewarding and fulfilling work. I began my service at the local level serving as Chair for the Green Mountain Division (GMD). Almost immediately, I broadened my professional network. GMD helped support my attendance at the Regional Leadership Academy hosted at Grey Towers. GMD provided new opportunities to collaborate with forestry professionals and influence themes for our annual winter meetings and field sessions. Most importantly, my service provided an opportunity to make meaningful personal connections with people that share the same passion and dedication to our forest resource. So, when NESAF Chair J.P. Barsky reached out to me about serving on the NESAF Board of Directors, I felt compelled to seriously consider the opportunity. Nervously, I agreed to run for the Chair position and was elected to serve NESAF from 2025-2027 in this role. I was decidedly "out of my comfort zone." The NESAF BOD is one of the most brilliant, dedicated, and diverse assemblages of professional forestry experience and talent in the country. I know this to be true, and the professional accolades of every board member speak for themselves. However, what is most impressive to me about every person on the Board of Directors is their personal character. They were welcoming and supportive of me in this role. They are helpful, open-minded, understanding, and work in the best interests of each member and in the best interests of the organization. I know I can count on them and all NESAF members who have been so supportive and encouraging to help me become a better forester. Being a part of NESAF has helped me develop personally and professionally and it is truly my honor to serve all of you in this role.

As we approach our annual NESAF and local chapter elections, I hope you will consider becoming involved in a leadership role and that my shared experience encourages you to take the leap, knowing that you have the support of so many who are invested in the success of NESAF.

I wish you all the very best and that you take time to enjoy this season in the forest and your favorite places that make summer so great.

NESAF volunteers needed!

Paul Dolan, NESAF Elections Committee

It's that time of year when we are looking for a few good individuals to serve as candidates for Chapter, Division, and NESAF Officers! Perhaps you attended a Leadership Academy, volunteered at an Annual Winter Meeting, or are looking to serve in a different capacity? An opportunity awaits you!

The opportunities are:

- NESAF Chair
- NESAF Chair-Elect
- New England Representatives from Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont
- Plus several Division and Chapter positions!

For more information, contact Paul Dolan (pcdolan1@verizon.net or 401-500-0399) or any Executive Member listed on page 2 before Oct. 1, 2026.

As mentioned at the NESAF Annual Meeting, many speakers talked of the personal rewards they received from holding positions in the Society of American Foresters. So please don't have remorse over not giving back.

I have found in my nearly 50 years as a member of the Society of American Foresters that it's not nearly a profession, it's a way of life, please make it part of yours.

We asked NESAF Executive Committee members: What does serving NESAF mean to you?

"Volunteering with SAF has always given me more than I have ever received. I have developed new friends and colleagues and been given the opportunity to network with natural resource professionals across the United States. I have worked with like-minded folks to give back to our Professional Society and helped to make our organization more meaningful for our members. The leadership skills I gained helped me in my daily work. I encourage you to take the leap—there are numerous opportunities to volunteer, many right here in NE SAF. If you do, you never know, you may end up fishing for catfish with the SAF President in South Carolina like my wife and I did. "

Thomas Martin, CF
District 6 Board Member
Former Chair NY SAF
Former Board Member NY SAF

"Plain and simple: volunteering in NESAF has helped me stay connected to my community while gaining valuable leadership skills that have helped me navigate my professional life."

J.P. Barsky
NESAF Past Chair

"Serving NESAF has been an extremely enjoyable way to contribute to the sustainment and growth of my professional society. Beginning with my term as the NESAF Secretary, and now as the NESAF Treasurer, I've found my time to be full of enjoyable discussions and a great way to connect with professional colleagues on a regular basis. It's not a heavy lift, and it is a hugely rewarding experience."

Nan Pond
NESAF Treasurer

"Back in 1998, I was asked by the then current Maine Representative to the NESAF Executive Committee if I was willing to stand for election to that position. Of course, I said yes! Over the ensuing years I've served in a variety of positions within the Executive Committee or the current Board of Directors. The best part of that tenure, is working with like-minded people, serving to maintain, enhance, and protect our professional society within our six New England states, and in some instances nationally. Don't wait to be asked, step up, volunteer for a NESAF Board position, you'll be glad you did!"

Ken Laustsen
NESAF Chair-Elect and Awards Chair

"My service to NESAF, in a variety of ways over a number of years, is a way to contribute to my professional community. The benefit back to me is a professional network of friends and colleagues across our large region, which has been helpful to me in my regional work but also a lot of fun. I encourage all to actively engage with your colleagues!"

Julie Evans
NESAF Secretary

"Service to one's profession can take many forms yet serving NESAF, whether at the Chapter, Division, regional, or national level, is as important and rewarding as other forms because it helps to ensure that the local/regional arm of our professional society remains strong and relevant, offering opportunities to gain and share knowledge not only within our disciplines, but with a variety of public audiences. Serving NESAF gives me the opportunity to: stay connected with the profession; meet new colleagues and maintain friendships with old ones; and enhance my organizational and leadership skills. Above all, it is a way to contribute to achieving our NESAF mission and to give back, in however small a way, for the privilege of being part of this amazing endeavor we know as forestry."

Carol Redelsheimer
Maine Representative to NESAF

2027 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Build confidence | Strengthen leadership | Grow your forestry network

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2027 | SARATOGA HILTON

The 2027 SAF Regional Leadership Academy is a collaborative program led by the New England, Allegheny, and New York State Societies to help forestry professionals at all career stages develop practical leadership skills, build lasting professional connections, and become more engaged leaders within SAF and the broader natural resources community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **DISC leadership and communication styles**
- **Ethics in the workplace**
- **Planning successful SAF meetings**
- **Volunteer management and engagement**
- **SAF finances, recognition, and structure**
- **Networking dinners and peer discussion**

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- **Self-awareness:** learn how you lead and communicate.
- **Collaboration:** build skills for teams and committees.
- **SAF engagement:** understand SAF structure and leadership pathways.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

A welcoming academy for professionals at every career stage:

- **Students and early-career professionals**
- **Mid-career and senior professionals**
- **Retirees and SAF volunteers**
- **Anyone ready to lead, serve, and connect**

WHAT PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS HAVE SHARED ABOUT IT

"The Academy fosters personal connections, strengthens emotional intelligence, and prepared me to take on roles with greater confidence."
— Paul Szwedo, Vermont State Lands Forester

"The network has become one of the most meaningful outcomes of the experience."
— Sara Fitzsimmons, Penn State University

"I left the experience more qualified and empowered to take on leadership roles at the local and regional levels."
— Jess Wikle, University of Vermont

"The Academy gave me tools to implement at work to help make challenging projects go more smoothly."
— Andrea Mercurio, New York State DEC

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Support participant scholarships, program development, and networking for future forestry leaders.

Opportunities are available for organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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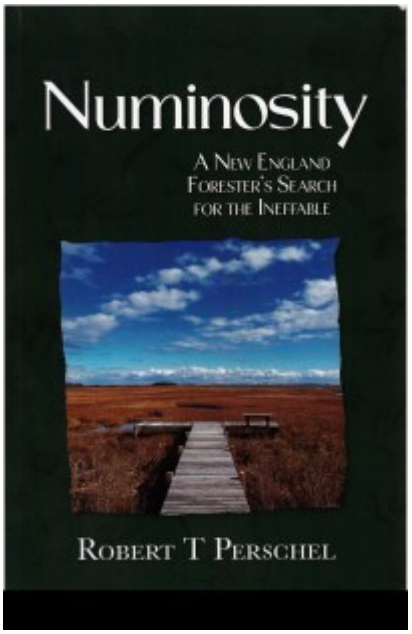
Book Review:
Numinosity - A New England Forester's Search for the Ineffable
By Bob Perschel



Psithurism is a word every forester should know. It describes the sound made by wind whispering through the trees. I first came across that word earlier this year in an art exhibit in Machias, ME, and I shared it with my longtime friend, Bob Perschel. Almost instantly, he wrote back to say that he'd just completed a short book and would love to send me a copy.

A week later, I received Numinosity- A New England Forester's Search for the Ineffable and sat down to read it. The book is a collection of short stories and poems in which Bob attempts to capture and describe how he's viewed the woods throughout his life. Some passages I immediately identified with, such as "Lie Down: A Forester's Directive". Others such as "The Forgotten Language," stayed with me for a while. And some, like "The Last Twitch," moved me to tears.

Taken together, the pieces offer not only the reflections of a seasoned forester, but an invitation to consider the deeper emotional, spiritual, and unspoken connections that develop between people and the woods. You can find a copy online at Amazon or wherever books are sold. Or, reach out to Bob.

- J.P. Barsky

NESAF Membership Report

Membership as of 6/8/2026

CURRENT

	S	G	F	T	Total
Granite State	**3**	**18**	**111**	**9**	141
Green Mountain	**1**	**8**	**79**	**6**	94
Maine	**19**	**30**	**132**	**20**	201
Yankee	**21**	**17**	**152**	**32**	222
Massachusetts	*11*	*6*	*76*	*11*	104
Connecticut	*10*	*6*	*63*	*19*	98
Rhode Island	*0*	*5*	*13*	*2*	20
Total	**44**	**73**	**474**	**67**	**658**

CURRENT

	S	G	F	T
Granite State	**2%**	**13%**	**79%**	**6%**
Green Mountain	**1%**	**9%**	**84%**	**6%**
Maine	**9%**	**15%**	**66%**	**10%**
Yankee	**9%**	**8%**	**68%**	**14%**
Massachusetts	*11%*	*6%*	*73%*	*11%*
Connecticut	*10%*	*6%*	*64%*	*19%*
Rhode Island	*0%*	*25%*	*65%*	*10%*
Total	**7%**	**11%**	**72%**	**10%**

FORMER

	S	G	F	T	Total
Granite State	**2**	0	**13**	**0**	15
Green Mountain	**3**	0	**9**	**4**	16
Maine	**0**	0	**16**	**4**	20
Yankee	**4**	0	**23**	**10**	37
Massachusetts	*1*	*0*	*10*	*3*	14
Connecticut	*3*	*0*	*11*	*7*	13
Rhode Island	*0*	*0*	*2*	*0*	1
Total	**9**	**0**	**61**	**18**	**88**

FORMER

	S	G	F	T
Granite State	**13%**	0%	**87%**	**0%**
Green Mountain	**19%**	0%	**56%**	**25%**
Maine	**0%**	0%	**80%**	**20%**
Yankee	**11%**	0%	**62%**	**27%**
Massachusetts	*7%*	*0%*	*71%*	*21%*
Connecticut	*23%*	*0%*	*85%*	*54%*
Rhode Island	*0%*	*0%*	*200%*	*0%*
Total	**10%**	**0%**	**69%**	**20%**

Former Members include expiration Apr. 1, 2025 through Mar. 31, 2026.
Member Categories are: S = Student; G = Golden; F = Full (including Full, Premium, Retired); T - Transitional.

NESAF also has 5 Affiliate Members.

Science and Technology at the Forest Products Laboratory

Kenneth Zwick and William A. (Andy) Martin

The USDA Forest Products Laboratory serves the nation as the Forest Service's only national research center devoted to the science and development of renewable wood-based products. The Lab was founded in 1910 in Madison, Wisconsin "to promote the greatest possible utilization of forest materials with the least possible waste." (Konig, 2010) Since then, research at the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) has led to many new and better wood products with longer service lives that support wise forest management. The FPL facility in Madison, Wisconsin hosts over 110 full-time employees in over 440,000 square feet of office and lab space. There are also strategically placed employees located throughout the U.S., including at the University of Maine.

Fig. 1. Forest Products Laboratory Building 1 in Madison, WI. Photo: Joshua Limbaugh.

Research at the FPL has been essential to the development of many products, including oriented strand board (OSB), laminated veneer lumber (LVL), cellulose nanocrystals and fibrils, wood-plastic composite decking, soy-based wood adhesives, and fire hardened structures. Current research is stretching the boundaries of where renewable wood-based products can go. Examples of new applications include sunscreens, cement additives, water purifiers, high-rise mass timber (MT) buildings, satellites, rockets, pharmaceuticals, flexible packaging, and more – products all made from wood-based materials. Scientists at the FPL collaborate with universities, private industry, and associations in nearly every state. For example, a collaboration with the University of New Hampshire Extension focused on locally sourced mass timber products. FPL scientists are nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts in their fields; they publish in high impact journals and are invited to share results at conferences and committee meetings around the world.

The Forest Products Laboratory advances the nation's forest management goals by strengthening the forest products industry through science, innovation, and strategic partnerships. A healthy forest products sector is essential to sustaining forest health, reducing wildfire risk, supporting rural economies, and ensuring landowners maintain forests as forests. Today's industry faces shrinking pulp markets, high costs for forest residual disposal, and stagnating lumber demand. In response, the FPL provides critical research, development, and commercialization support to expand markets, lower production costs, and promote innovative wood-based materials.

The Forest Products Laboratory focuses on five integrated research objectives that address national challenges across the full forest-to-market system:

1. Advance wood building construction to create lower-cost, higher-performance materials and systems, expand market acceptance of mass timber, and improve resilience to natural hazards.
2. Improve wood product durability to extend service life, reduce replacement costs, and develop environmentally compliant treatments and monitoring technologies.
3. Conduct economics research and market development to analyze competitiveness, project supply and demand trends, and support investment decisions with life-cycle analysis and techno-economic modeling.

4. Develop wood fiber, fuels, and chemicals to revitalize pulpwood markets, improve pulping efficiency, and expand opportunities for renewable packaging, biorefining, and nanomaterials.
5. Innovate wood-based composites that convert low-value residues into high-value products using sustainable materials, alternative adhesives, and advanced composites technologies.

Commercial success of innovations developed by the Forest Products Laboratory depends on strong industry, academic, federal, and tribal partnerships. The program uses multiple partnership models—including cooperative research and development agreements, joint venture agreements, and exclusive patent licenses—to move technologies efficiently through the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) pathway and bridge between research and deployment.

Research at the Forest Products Laboratory is supported by specialized labs, pilot facilities, long-term datasets, and expertise in wood anatomy, chemistry, physics, and engineering. This collaborative research program emphasizes early-stage, precompetitive research that builds foundational knowledge, reduces commercialization risk, and accelerates private sector innovation. These partnerships, along with strategic engagement in standards development and continuous communication with industry, ensure relevance, reduce technical and market risk, and position U.S. manufacturers to compete globally.

Together, these efforts will help the U.S. develop sustainable wood products, create new markets for forest biomass, support rural economies, strengthen wildfire resilience, and maintain the long-term health and productivity of America's forests.

Recent accomplishments include:

- **Biochar Board** – The FPL advanced composites team developed a specially activated biochar that can remove more than 99% of lead, mercury, and various PFAS from contaminated water more quickly and efficiently than standard activated charcoal. They then bonded this biochar together using lignin into a lightweight, porous board that can serve as a filter cartridge (Yan, 2025). Several patents were licensed in 2026 to support commercial development (US 11261308, US 11618719). This novel product, made primarily from biochar coming from woody biomass or sawmill residuals, pro-

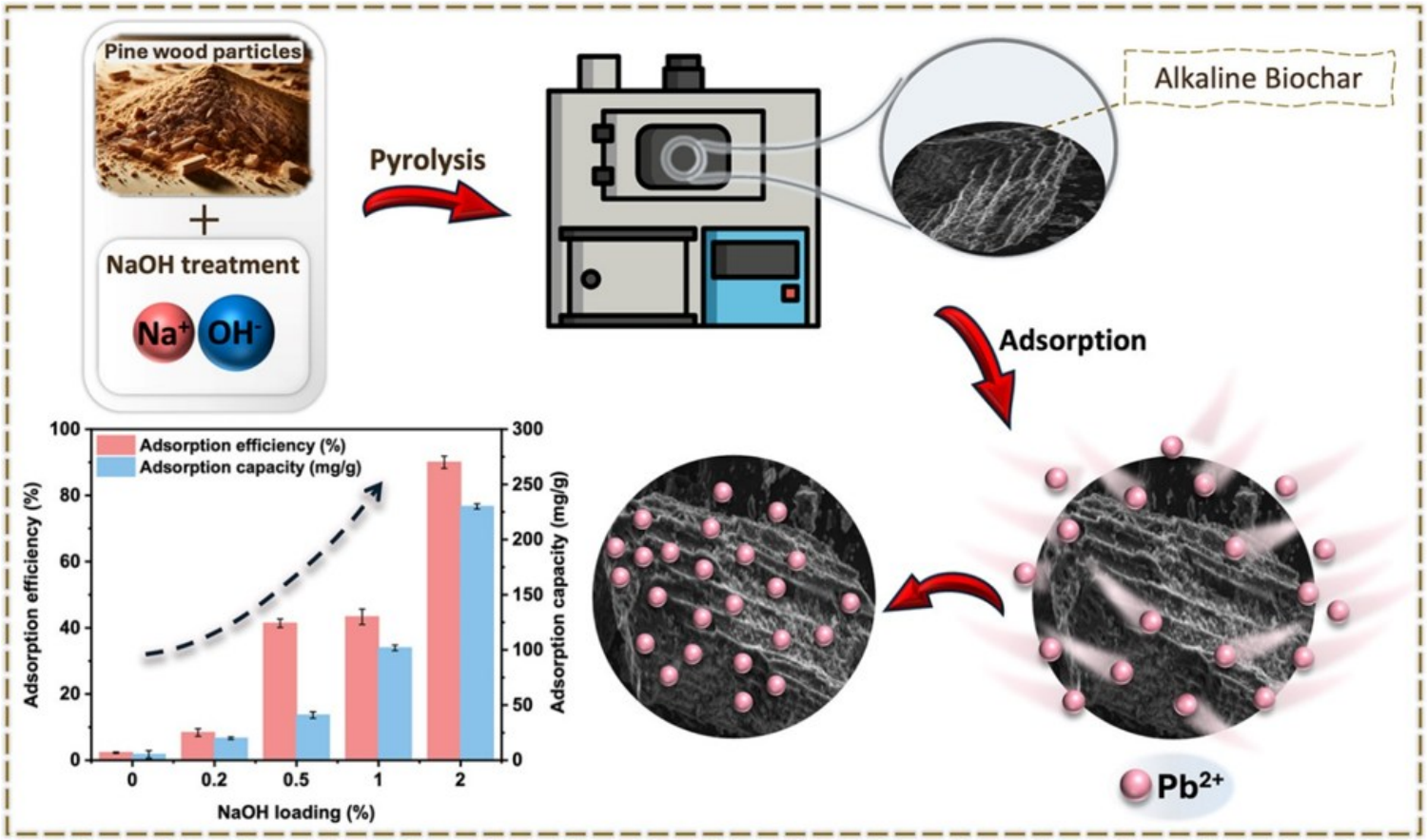


Fig. 2. Adsorption of lead by biochar is increased significantly by pre-treating the wood with sodium hydroxide prior to heating to make the biochar.

vides a valuable outlet for biomass that would have previously gone into pulping operations in areas where pulp mills are now closed. Thus, this product has the potential to support efficient timber operations around the country and help support rural economies. In addition, it supplies cost effective materials for a fast growing $4.5 billion dollar market in water and soil decontamination.

- **Sustainable Packaging** - FPL scientists developed sustainable, biodegradable nanocellulose packaging materials to reduce our dependence on single -use plastics and extend food life. For example, they recently patented a new process for making continuous clear films of nanocellulose with Purdue University (US 12281216B2. 22-April-2025), which could disrupt the $7.2 billion cold seal plastic film market and take up to 5% of the market in the next ten years. They also demonstrated and published results on a new food safe, biodegradable nanocellulose fruit coating that can double the shelf life of bananas (Geng, 2025), potentially taking up to 10% of the $3.6 billion global fruit coating market in the next five to ten years. In partnership with the University of Maine, they developed novel nanocellulose coatings for molded pulp containers for dairy and fruit packaging and for grease-proof paper plates, and in partnership with Vireo Advisors, they conducted a nanomaterial life-cycle risk assessment for functionalized cellulose nanomaterials for applications in water filtration, food contact packaging and food additives (Ede, 2025).

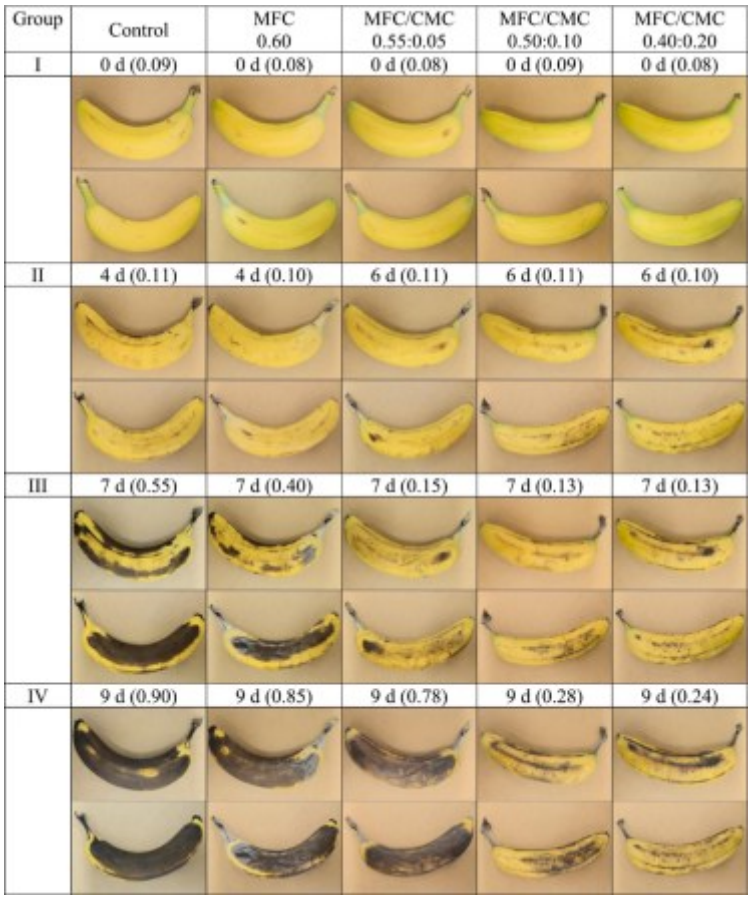


Fig. 3. Bananas coated with a thin layer nanocellulose stay fresh up to twice as long as untreated bananas.

- **Improved Fuel Pellets** – FPL scientists have demonstrated a low-cost method to increase the energy density and improve the durability of wood pellets while also removing valuable hemicelluloses that can help pay for the process. This process holds promise in growing the $13.3 billion wood pellet market while providing an outlet for wood waste (Elniski, 2025).

- **Biodegradable Electronics** – FPL scientists have shown that nanocellulose coatings can make low-cost paper stock smooth and durable enough to enable printing of highly precise electronic circuits. Working with the University of Pennsylvania, they have developed and tested sensors that can measure and report moisture and other environmental conditions in farmers' fields and then completely biodegrade after the growing season. This functionality is desirable in the $2.3 billion agricultural sensor market (Guyer, 2025).

- **Sustainable Chemicals** – FPL scientists have developed new processes to convert wood into valuable chemicals that are traditionally made from petroleum. For example, working with the University of Maine, FPL scientists have patented a low-cost method to synthesize hydroxy butyrolactone from cellulose for pharmaceutical applications like statins. They have also worked with scientists at the University of Delaware and Clemson University to show that nanocellulose can enable the production of biobased polyurethane foams. These foams are used in seat cushions and packaging and are part of 15 million tons and $50 billion global market. Biobased foams are highly desirable because they use safer chemicals and help meet greenhouse gas commitments.

- **Biobased Adhesives** – The market for natural adhesives for wood composite market is growing due to consumer demand and regulatory changes. FPL scientists are pursuing alternatives to synthetic adhesives, particularly using soy and fungal mycelia. Scientists have demonstrated that the

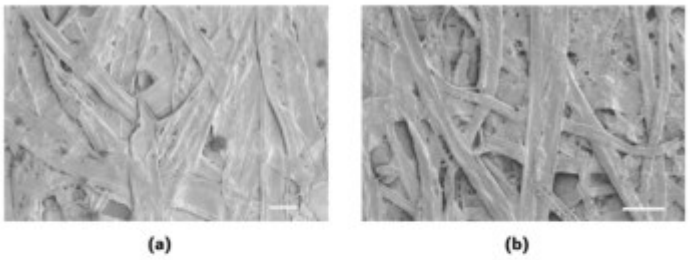


Figure 5: SEM images for the plane views for each substrate without coating. Scale bars are 50 µm. (a) Linerboard. (b) Envelope.

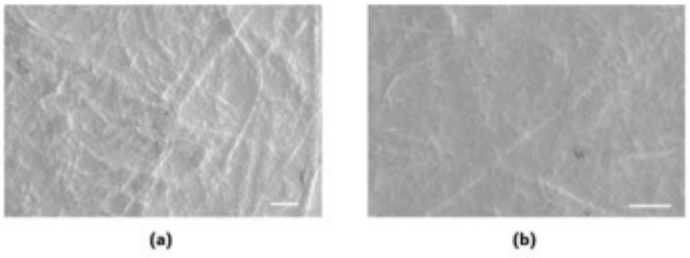


Figure 6: SEM images for the plane views for each substrate with coating. Scale bars are 50 µm. (a) Linerboard. (b) Envelope.

Fig. 4. Coating paper with nanocellulose makes a much smoother sheet that is ideal as a substrate for biodegradable printed electronics.

process of denaturing soy proteins influences surface properties of the adhesive, which can dramatically change the wet strength of the adhesive, representing a critical step in the commercialization of soy protein adhesives (Kallakas, 2025). With the University of Maine, scientists have developed a 100% wood-based composite bound with fungal mycelia (Sun, 2025).

- **Examination of Appalachian Hardwood Roundwood Resource**– FPL scientists are working with Virginia Tech University to evaluate the hardwood resource, mill infrastructure, and market dynamics across the Appalachian region, with an emphasis on West Virginia and southwestern Virginia. The study will use resource availability, quality, distance, labor force, and competitive pressures to draw on with the ultimate goal to highlight opportunities for industry to develop.

- **Locations for New Wood Processing Facilities** – FPL scientists are trying to identify potential locations for expanded, reactivated and new wood processing facilities to support new and existing wood markets. Examples and case studies from high-risk landscapes can be adapted to other regions.

- **Small Diameter Trees for Mass Timber Production** – FPL scientists are assessing the feasibility of new mass timber markets for low-value small diameter logs to be generated from planned fuel treatment and ecosystem restoration activities. An agreement with the University of New Hamshire Extension office is also exploring the utility of underused wood that can be locally sourced for mass timber production. Examples and case studies from high-risk landscapes can be adapted to other regions.

- **Nondestructive Evaluation of Lumber and Cross-Laminated Timber from Pine Trees Felled for up to One Year** - The use of downed timber from felled pine trees presents an opportunity to reduce economic losses and enhance sustainability in the forestry and construction industries. This study investigates the mechanical properties of lumber and cross-laminated timber panels from pine trees that were felled and then remained on the ground for up to 1 year. These findings suggest that storm-damaged timber retains much of its structural viability for up to 1 year (Azad et al. 2025). The study highlights the potential of using downed timber to promote sustainability in wood-based construction while reducing waste and economic losses.

Table 1. Mean mechanical properties of CLT[a] panels in four different time intervals. (Adapted from Azad et al. 2025.)

	Month				SEM	P-value
	0	6	9	12		
Density (kg/m³)	494	490	495	494	7.9	0.9326
AV (m/s)[a]	6,733	6,527	6,693	6,418	281.1	0.6567
D_{MOE} (million psi)[a]	3.26	3.04	3.22	2.97	0.243	0.5817

[a] *CLT = cross-laminated timber, AV = acoustic velocity, DMOE = dynamic modulus of elasticity*

Conclusion

Work on wooden propellors and railroad ties has given way to new research with nanocellulose and mass timber buildings – pushing the boundaries of science and technology of wood and wood-based products. Forest products research at the Forest Products Laboratory continues to evolve while supporting the Forest Service's mission to "sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands" and supporting the forest products industry that helps manage our valuable forest resources.

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Connecticut Chapter News

Amanda Bunce

TimPro Annual Meeting: Merchandising, grading, and a call to action!

More than 90 participants attended the annual meeting on June 5th, this time taking place at E.R. Hinman & Sons sawmill facility. The workshops were themed around grading both logs and lumber, as well as merchandising. Log buyers for Mercier Flooring and B&B lumber described what they're looking for when buying logs, and then out in the yard, they graded some logs for the crowd. Both buyers were looking for different things – Mercier looks for certain species and sizes to feed their operation where they control everything in the process from the log buying to a finished flooring piece, and B&B buys all grades from low-grade spongy moth-killed oak to high grade veneer logs and sends them off to different destinations. We learned about the prevalence of overseas shipping right now, and the havoc that a few days of tariffs between Canada and the US – usually a tariff-free exchange – had on the lumber market.

Joan Nichols and Nick Zito from DEEP let participants know about some behind-the-scenes work that they and others have been doing to keep the State from enacting a proposed "riparian" bill that would have eliminated tree cutting in certain environments. Legislators were unaware of the negative effects this could have on not just logging, but on the conservation work that foresters do. Advocacy from TimPro helped to stop this legislation in its tracks. Nick Zito went on to discuss inlands-wetlands policies and how they can differ around the State, providing loggers with some tips to navigate tricky situations. Joan updated everyone on the policy work she and others have been doing on behalf of the forestry and logging industry in Washington. This was a call to action for all foresters and loggers, reminding us all that she can't do this alone and we all need to pay attention to the policy scene.

Steve McMenamin, a mushroom grower from Greenwich, CT, told us how he uses oak to grow Shiitake mushrooms. Technically he is a wood buyer with yet another perspective – looking for smaller material and logs that loggers would normally send to the firewood pile.

Participants were treated to a demonstration of a portable sawmill to split apart the logs graded earlier that afternoon. Once the logs were turned into boards, Mike Hinman graded the planks and determined that the group would have come out in the black considering what the buyers would have bought the logs for. Good work, everyone! Timpro is also proud to report that over $3,000 was raised for Log A Load. Learn more about TimPro's advocacy work, charity work, and workshops for loggers, and become a member at TimProCT.org.

Log buyers grading the logs, sawing on a portable mill, and Hinman grades the lumber.

From The Desk of Tom Worthley, CT Extension Forester with UConn

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION

White Oak: Connecticut's Living Symbol of American Liberty and Independence

In 2026 the USA celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Local, State and Nationwide activities are planned all year long to celebrate this milestone. In CT, the forestry community is promoting white oak as a theme around which to recognize this anniversary because our nation has the Constitution it does thanks to a white oak tree!

In 1662, the British Crown (King Charles II) granted a Charter to the colony of Connecticut providing for autonomy and self-governance. Twenty-five years later, in 1687, the new King James II changed the policy and wanted the charter back.

A delegation from the Crown led by Governor Andros was sent to Hartford to collect the Charter. A meeting was arranged with the leaders of the Colony for the evening of October 31, 1687. During the meeting Governor Andros demanded that the CT leaders surrender their Charter at which point by some mysterious circumstance the candles were extinguished, a disruption occurred in the room and when the candles were re-lit the Charter had disappeared! A search was immediately conducted, the Charter was not able to be found and Governor Andros and his delegation returned home without the Charter.

Legend has it that during the disruption the Charter was surreptitiously passed out of a window to Captain Joseph Wadsworth who hid it in the hollow trunk of a large, old white oak tree nearby! CT colonists were very proud to have retained their Charter and continued to use it as a governing document for the next 90 years. After the Declaration of Independence the CT Charter went on to become the foundational document from which the US Constitution was drafted (which is why Connecticut is known as the "Constitution State"). The old, hollow white oak tree lived on for many more years and became known as the "Charter Oak", reputed to be more than 500 years old when it finally fell in 1856. Many items were made from the wood of the tree and acorns were collected, planted and seedings distributed around the state. Several CT communities can boast of still having one of these "Charter Oak Scions". White oak is recognized as the "State Tree" of CT.

Acorns from one of the documented Charter Oak Scions were collected and planted in containers at UConn in September of 2025. Germination rates were not spectacular, but about 100 of these Charter Oak Scion Seedlings (Grand-scions?) will be available for distribution to interested communities and organizations later this year.

Several other white-oak-related events and activities are also underway:

- White Oak Documentary: "Still Standing: Connecticut's Living Symbol of Liberty and Legacy" has been produced to highlight the historical, cultural, economic and environmental significance of white oak. We highlight the role of the CT Charter and the Charter Oak leading to US independence and the CT and US Constitution. Many experts and organizations contributed to this production including CT DEEP, CT Audubon, Parkerville Wood Products, Mystic Seaport.
- An online survey has been created where locations of old or large white oak specimens can be documented by citizens and Tree Wardens. An interactive map is coming together from the surveyed trees. Our goal is to document at least 250 white oak trees in urban and suburban settings.
- Instructional brochures have been produced to assist homeowners with cultivating a white oak shade tree.

White oak leaves. Photo: Chris Evans

Connecticut news, cont.

- White oak in the landscape: CT250 and white oak-themed hikes, tree walks, field tours or outings are encouraged. Guidance can be provided for identifying white oak seedlings and saplings in the woods and how to protect and encourage their development. Walks, tours or hikes to find or view very old white oaks are suggested, with a report-back encouraged. An Ancient White Oak Heritage Trail has been opened at UConn Forest in Storrs, CT. The trail is a gentle contemplative walk that visits a small grove of very old (250 years+) white oak trees as well as some examples of wildlife habitat management and resilient forest management practices.

Educational objectives:

While celebrating our country's 250th birthday, it is our hope that everyone will learn to identify a white oak, perhaps plant, grow and care for one (or a stand of oaks!) and come to understand the role of white oak in our history and its importance to our current environment and future landscape conditions. With luck, some of these trees will still be around 250 years from now.

UConn Extension Forestry is producing text for planting, tree care and management guidance documents for distribution with seedlings. We are building awareness and organizing additional assistance and momentum with tree-related organizations, such as the Tree Warden's

Association, Society of American Foresters, CT Forest and Park Association, CT Tree Protective Association, the CT Land Conservation Council and the CT Humanities Council. We are providing content for presentations at libraries, land trust meetings, community gatherings, etc. A white oak workshop was delivered at the CLCC Conference in March. We plan to present at meetings of the CT Tree Protective Association, the Society of American Foresters, etc. and other conservation organizations. A generous donation from the Hampshire Foundation has supported much of this effort.

In the process we aim to elevate awareness about the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the CT 250 celebration and CT's history and role of the CT Charter, the Charter Oak (and white oak) in the development of our state and national Constitution.

As forestry educators we also seek to raise awareness about the value and benefits associated with the white oak and other forest resources in our state, and the many people and organizations involved in the stewardship of those resources.

Our activities are updated on the Extension website.

Let us conclude with some factoids that make white oak (*Quercus alba*) an excellent living symbol of liberty and independence:

- Connecticut's Charter Oak was a white oak.
- White oak is Connecticut's State Tree.
- White oak is important historically, as raw material for ship building, cooperage, furniture, food source for livestock, tool handles, etc.
- White oak is extremely valuable as a commercial species today (shade trees whiskey barrels, flooring, furniture, tools, cabinet work, railroad ties, etc.)
- White oak has an important ecological role in today's forest resource, as a long-lived canopy species and as a host for a broad diversity of insects, birds and other wildlife. White oak hosts a broader diversity of insects, caterpillars and pollinators than any other individual tree species. Our bird population depends on the caterpillars hosted by white oaks as a food source during nesting season.
- White oaks are aesthetically pleasing as ornamental trees developing broad spreading crowns when grown in the open.
- White oaks are ideal choices as urban canopy components in many settings.
- White oak has significant cultural importance among indigenous people.
- White oak is ranked as having low vulnerability to anticipated climatic changes.

Connecticut news, cont.

From Yale School of the Environment:

- The Yale Forest Forum convened a three-part speaker series exploring the long arc of forest history and its relevance for the future. The series examined forests and human values across three distinct historical eras — preindustrial peoples' relationships with forests, the rise of scientific forestry, and issues facing forests today. Read a reflection on the series.
- Arun Dayanandan, doctoral candidate at the Yale School of the Environment, reenvisions plantation forests as dynamic systems with measurable ecological processes that can contribute to forest restoration.
- Sara Kuebbing, research director of the Yale Applied Science Synthesis Program, explains how the invasive kudzu vine reduces forest cover and changes how carbon and water cycle through soils.
- Representatives from the Hixon Center for Urban Sustainability and the Urban Resources Initiative welcomed six British Members of Parliament for a tour of bioswales in New Haven.
- Terry Baker '07 MF, CEO of the Society of American Foresters, and Kai Chen, associate professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, explain risks associated with wildfires.
- Seventeen alums, 17 students, and one Professor Mark Ashton attended The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment gathering at the New England Society of American Foresters' annual winter meeting in Portland, Maine, March 18 to 20. Robert Seymour '76 MF, '80 PhD received the Distinguished Service Award and Adam Moore '92 YC, '95 MF received the James W. Toumey Award for Outstanding Achievement. Students in Ashton's lab showed off their presentation skills during flash talks and poster sessions.
- Yale-Myers Forest and the Yale Forest Forum are hosting the annual summer research seminar series the evenings of June 10, June 24, July 8, and July 22 (Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. EDT) at Yale-Myers Forest and online, including four research presentations on the forests of our region.
    - **July 8**: "American ginseng in the northeast: Using genetics to understand a rare and treasured plant", Nat Burr '26 MF, The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment.
    - **July 22**: "Spider Webs and Climate Resilient Forests: A New Tool for Monitoring Biodiversity and Species of Concern", Jeffrey T. Miller, Ph.D, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular, & Biomedical Sciences, University of New Hampshire
    - Attend in person at 150 Centre Pike Rd., Eastford, CT 06242 or Register to attend on Zoom.

Students, faculty, and alum from Yale at the NESAF Annual Meeting in March 2026.

Yale Forest Forum Fall 2026 Speaker Series: Unlocking Forest Sector Innovation: The Practice and Potential Pathways to Scaling Up

Thursdays, September 3–December 10, 2026

The Fall 2026 Yale Forest Forum speaker series will explore the opportunities, challenges, and pathways that exist and are emerging in forestry innovation. Supporting and improving innovation can help enable sustainable forest management and community benefits, while filling gaps in awareness and research so that effective solutions can be created, adopted, and scaled. The series is developed and supported by members of the Latin American Network for Forestry Education (RELAFOR) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations' (IUFRO) Scaling-Up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation Task Force. You can register here.

Confirmed themes and speakers include:

- Digital Innovations in Forestry: Mikko Vastaranta, Professor, Digitalization and Knowledge Leadership in Forest-based Bioeconomy, University of Eastern Finland
- Innovations in Forest and Landscape Restoration: Adam Wei Fox, Professor, The University of British Columbia
- Forest-based Bioeconomy Innovations: Non-wood Products and Services: Ricardo Vargas-Carpintero, Researcher, University of Hohenheim

More information is available on the YFF website.

Short Course: Forestland Investment for Finance and Resource Professionals

The "Forestland Investment for Finance and Resource Professionals" short course is an intensive program that will cover all facets of acquiring and managing forests as profitable investments, from investment fund structuring and due diligence to tax considerations and financial reporting. Participants will be introduced to the financial, ecological, and operational aspects that drive value in forestland investments and will gain an understanding of how to evaluate forestland opportunities, balance risk and return, and make informed decisions in a complex and evolving asset class. The course will be held on Yale University's campus December 1-2. Register by August 31 for early bird pricing.

Rhode Island Chapter News

Chris Modisette

Recap of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management – Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment Forestry Workshops

RIDEM held two forest landowner workshops this past April. The purpose was to invite forest landowners who are already managing their woodland through existing programs such as the Forest Stewardship Program, RI's Farm, Forest & Open Space Program or USDA NRCS forestry programs to solicit input on additional resources that are needed. For more info contact Nancy Stairs, Cooperative Forestry Program Supervisor, Division of Forest Environment at 401-537-4069 or email at Nancy.Stairs@DEM.RI.gov

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization (RIFCO)

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) held its Annual Spring Program at the RI DEM's Great Swamp Management Area in South Kingstown, RI on Saturday, May 23rd from 10 a.m. to noon. A guided walk included a viewing of the state's habitat manipulation projects to benefit bird species and the New England cottontail over the past years, including a cut that was recently completed.

Rhode Island RC&D Council Forest Workshops

Paul Dolan has been busy hosting five public events across the state on a variety topics including plant identification, chainsaw safety, RI forest history, forestry training for the RI Envirothon competition and coordinating the Annual RI Envirothon Competition.

RISAF Chapter Annual Meeting

The RI Chapter held its annual meeting on May 27, 2026 and elected new officers who include: Chair – Christopher Modisette, Vice Chair – Wolf Mueller, Secretary-Treasurer – Rob MacMillan.

Yankee Division SAF Summer Meeting – Adapting Southern New Forests to Changing Conditions

The RI Chapter will be co-hosting the Yankee Division Summer Meeting on July 31, 2026. The focus will be to visit a slash wall and adjacent areas, highlighting regeneration differences, at RIDEM's Arcadia Management Area in Exeter/Hopkinton as well as a visit to the Southern New England Exurban Oak Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) research replicate site at RIDEM's Hillsdale Preserve. For more information contact Fern Graves at Phone: 401-539-1052 ext. 2 or fern.graves@dem.ri.gov.

Southern Pine Beetle in Rhode Island – Current Situation

The southern pine beetle (SPB) has been expanding its range northward, now threatening pitch pine forests in Rhode Island. It is especially damaging to pitch pines, which are ecologically and culturally important in Rhode Island's pine barrens and coastal forests.

Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Forest Health Program has been monitoring SPB for over a decade, focusing on pitch pine stands in areas like Prudence Island. In recent years, trap counts have shown spikes, prompting targeted management.

In 2025, DEM and partners from the University of Rhode Island and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve responded quickly when infestations were detected, using U.S. Forest Service–style thinning to remove infected trees and reduce pheromone signals that attract more beetles.

For more information contact Alana Russell, RI Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment Forest Health Program Coordinator at 401-539-2356 ext. 1, or Alana.Russell@dem.ri.gov or Johnathan Mitchell, Stewardship Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve at jonathan.mitchell@dem.ri.gov or 401-683-7369

Southern pine beetle. Photo: USDA Forest Service.

Maine Division News

Jason Desjardin

Between cruising timber, managing harvest operations, and dodging afternoon thunderstorms, summer in the Maine woods keeps us on our toes. Even so, some of the best parts of the season are the moments spent learning from one another while reconnecting with familiar faces. Maine SAF has some great opportunities taking shape, and we're glad to share some of what is in store.

MESAF Summer Field Tours

Our Members-at-Large have put together another strong season of field events. On June 12, a small but enthusiastic group kicked off the season with a sawmill and woodlot tour in Dixfield. Leo, the training coordinator at the mill, guided the group through the operation, including a look at the newly constructed shavings packing building completed earlier this year. David DeGruttola then led an afternoon tour of a managed white pine woodlot with more going on than meets the eye — a documented eagle's nest, a deer wintering area, and two rare and endangered species. A passing downpour added some character, but by all accounts it was a great day.

Looking ahead, there is plenty more on the schedule for field tours. Registration links are forthcoming — keep an eye on your inbox.

- July 16 — Urban Forestry Tour with the Bangor City Forestry Division.
- August 14 — Spruce Budworm Panel and Field Tour in Fort Kent. Panel discussion and field tour covering SBW history and current outbreak, treatment options, identification, and Early Intervention Strategy results.
- September 14 — Forest Legacy Project Tour. Learn about the Forest Legacy program and integrating legacy tree retention into harvest planning. Details forthcoming.
- October 16 — Fall Maine SAF Meeting. Theme centered on Accessing the Forest. More details as planning progresses.

Irving White Pine Mill & Field Tour participants standing in the Dixfield mill yard on June 12.

Maine Workforce Development Compact

The Maine Workforce Development Compact is a free program connecting Maine employers with grant-funded training support through the state's community college system. Compact members can access up to $1,200 per employee per year toward continuing education, formal coursework, or company-based training. Eligibility is broad: any employer, for-profit or non-profit, can apply, from large companies to small consulting forestry firms, as long as the business has a Maine location and the benefit applies to employees working in Maine. For forestry employers looking to offset the cost of keeping staff current on technical skills or certifications, it is worth a look!

New Temporary Bridge Program

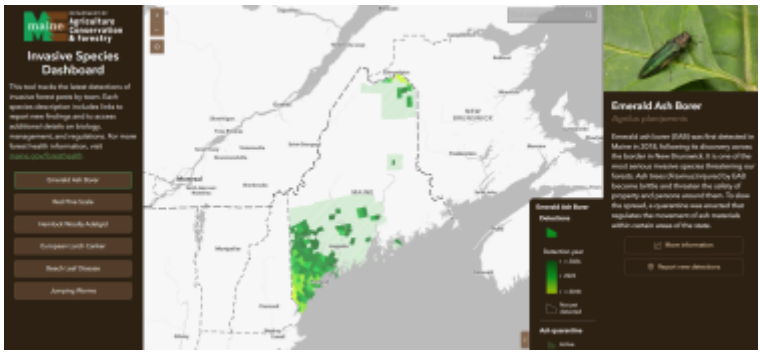
The Maine Forest Service (MFS) and the Maine Association of Conservation Districts have launched a grant-funded temporary bridge program to help loggers and forestry professionals access portable wooden bridges for stream crossings on harvesting operations. Eligible applicants, including logging contractors, private consulting foresters, and companies employing licensed foresters, may receive up to three bridges with costs covered up to $7,000, for a processing fee of $100 per bridge plus tax. Funding is limited and preference is given to sole proprietors and small companies. Download the application form to get started or visit the program webpage for more information.

WoodsWISE Resilience Program

The Maine Forest Service has launched the WoodsWISE Resilience Program, a $9 million initiative providing financial incentives for stewardship practices that build forest resilience — from pre-commercial thinning and regeneration management to invasive plant control. Landowners with 10 or more forested acres are eligible, with reimbursement covering 60% of eligible costs. Participants must work with an approved Resilience Forester. For consulting foresters, this may be a useful way to engage landowners who haven't yet acted on a management plan.

New Interactive Map for Invasive Forest Pests

The Maine Forest Service has launched an Invasive Species Dashboard showing detections of significant forest pests at the town level, including any associated quarantine areas, updated regularly by Forest Health and Monitoring staff as new detections are confirmed. Click on any town to see when a species was first detected, and use the built-in reporting form to submit observations in new locations. It is a practical tool for any forester scoping a new property or tracking emerging threats in their region.



The Invasive Species Dashboard from the Maine Forest Service showing emerald ash borer locations in the state.

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Massachusetts Chapter News

Joelle Vautour

Event Highlight – Mill Tour and Tree/Plant Identification Workshop in Southern Berkshire County – Sheffield, MA

Nearly 50 regional woodworkers, foresters, and loggers gathered at the recent Mill Tour and Tree/Plant Identification workshop held in Sheffield, MA. The Massachusetts Chapter of the Society of American Foresters co-sponsored the event with the Berkshire Woodworkers Guild on June 25, 2026. The evening started at Konkapot Tree and Timber, where owners Will Conklin and Cal Turner gave a historical overview of the mill site, showcasing their diverse business portfolio which includes custom sawing, log brokerage, and specialty product production. The mill tour included a tour of their log yard, firewood processing site, examples of rough sawn lumber through the finishing process, and a live demo of their solar powered Woodmizer LT70.

Following the mill tour, the group gathered at the Sheffield Land Trust's Ashley Woods property for a tree and plant identification field tour. Splitting into smaller groups, a handful of foresters led an assortment of loggers and woodworkers on a plant identification tour in a rich mesic northern hardwood forest in southern Berkshire County, a highlight of the evening was the identification of black maple (*Acer nigrum*) and bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*).

It was an excellent evening centered around forests, wood, and the people who consciously steward and utilize these resources.

For more information, see the following:

- Konkapot Tree and Timber
- Berkshire Woodworkers Guild

Green Mountain Division News

Jess Wikle

New Use Value Appraisal Standards Finalized

After over two years of review and revision, Vermont's updated Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Standards for current use, were finalized and took effect on May 31, 2026. The standards were last updated in 2010 and this revision was designed to incorporate additions through time and provide standards that are clearer to follow, with more examples and references. Key updates to the standards include a revised template with clearer structure and expectations for stand descriptions and prescriptions, more detail on forest health and water quality practices, improved management documentation, and a glossary. The updated standards can be found here.

Beech Leaf Disease Spread Continues

Beech leaf disease continues to move northward through VT. On the advancing front, the towns of Royalton, Thetford, and Clarendon reported first observations in 2026, and in the north, Shelburne and South Burlington join Jericho with infestations recorded this spring. The FPR Forest Health team continues to survey and track the spread, as well as carrying out targeted monitoring and several known infestation sites across the state.

UVM and VT Forests, Parks, and Recreation Plant Trees for Check Out Forestry program

In late May, UVM's Forest Ecosystem Analysis course (also known as "Forestry Field Camp") teamed up with the VT FPR Urban and Community Forestry team to plant trees at the Castleton Free Library as part of the Check Out Forestry program, which connects VT public libraries with financial and technical assistance to plant trees. Over the course of the day, the 30 students, let by Adz McCullough of VT FPR planted and mulched 16 trees and pruned a sugar maple.

UVM Forest Ecosystem Analysis students planting trees as a part of the Check Out Forestry program.

Photo: Adz McCullough.

Granite State Division News

Connor Breton

Protection of New Hampshire's Experimental Forests

This past March, an announcement was made that the US Forest Service (USFS) would "move its headquarters to Salt Lake City, Utah, and begin a sweeping restructuring of the agency…" As part of this "re-organization," research facilities at New Hampshire's Bartlett Experimental Forest (BEF) in the White Mountains were unfortunately selected for closure; however, public and political push back has been strong enough to force reconsideration.

Researchers, resource professionals, and New Hampshire's many conservation organizations quickly voiced their concern, gaining the attention of the state's entire US Congressional Delegation. At this point, the state's two US senators (Shaheen and Hassan, both Democrats) and two representatives (Pappas and Goodlander, also Democrats) have visited the threatened experimental forest and/or met with local conservation leaders. In addition, Republican Governor Kelly Ayotte has also spoken on the matter and discussed the importance of the state's experimental forests with USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, demonstrating bi-partisan concern and support at home (see here).

But why is this all so important? There are many reasons ranging from local to at least national in scale, but here is a simple summary: the BEF has long-term, forest monitoring data that span more than 90 years and would be irreplaceable if discontinued. Over the years, the forest and its diligent researchers (staff, partnering, and visiting) have provided countless insights guiding regional perspectives and land management decisions. Silviculture, forest growth and health, wildlife, nutrient cycling, hydrology, and atmospheric gas exchange are just some of the varied topics that have been studied at the site.

The USFS reorganization webpage emphasizes that listed experimental forests will not be closed, but rather just their facilities and that "the closure of facilities on experimental forests will not affect the ability to conduct research at these locations." However, those familiar with the BEF know that closing workspaces and accommodations for researchers would be a crippling blow to future projects and possibilities.

While the fate of the BEF is still pending, New Hampshire's only other experimental forest (Hubbard Brook) appears safe for the time being. Continued multi-level advocacy on behalf of these special places will be critical to further progress protecting them.

State-Significant Ownership Change Expected

Manulife, an insurance company (formerly Hancock Insurance), is set to purchase the 146,400-acre Connecticut Lakes Headwaters timberland property in Pittsburg, Clarksville, and Stewartstown, NH from Aurora Sustainable Lands.

Aurora has been mired in controversy after they purchased the land in 2022 from The Forestland Group and then shut down logging on the property to move towards forest carbon offset sales. Governor Ayotte's team negotiated with Aurora so that the harvesting that had been occurring with previous owners, around 30,000 cords per year, would continue. The property is covered by a Forest Legacy conservation easement. The property currently has a net annual growth of 68,000 cords per year.

Internship Grants Awarded

As in Q2 of previous years, the GSD has once again awarded several Student Internship Grants to forestry organizations in New Hampshire hiring summer help. Funds granted will subsidize the costs of offering paid work experience to student/recent graduate interns from SAF-accredited programs. Grant applications are competitive and experience offered by the selected organizations must meet certain criteria, followed by an end of season summary report before funds are dispersed.

This year, the NH Forest Society, Meadowsend Consulting, and Martin Forestry Consulting were each selected to receive $1,000 in support. Based on prior years, interns will likely gain experience in forest inventory, harvest layout and administration, boundary maintenance, and the many other responsibilities of a land manager.

Funding for each grant is made possible through allocation in the GSD's budget as annually voted on by membership. GSD members have a long had a steadfast commitment to supporting students and young foresters for the good of the profession. The tradition continues to this day, and for that we are grateful!

Obituaries

NESAF members are welcome to share any obituaries. Email them to nesafnq@gmail.com.

Robert McKinley Frank Jr.

Robert McKinley Frank Jr., 93, of Hampden, ME, passed away on July 1, 2026. Frank obtained his bachelor's and Master's degrees in forestry from Penn State University—Mont Alto. He worked for the USDA Forest Service for nearly four decades, serving as Research Forester and lead scientist at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine for over 30 years. He continued serving woodland owners through his private forestry consulting practice after his retirement in 1995. He also made many contributions to forests and forestry in Maine through his work with the Maine Forest and Logging Museum. Frank was named an SAF Fellow in 1998. A summary of his career and his observations of changes in Forest Service research, published as a general technical report in 2014, can be found here. You can read his obituary here.

Thomas F. Quink

Thomas F. Quink, 90, of North Port, FL, passed away on February 26, 2026. Quink obtained his bachelor's degree in biology from American International College, and his masters degree in forestry and wildlife management from the University of Massachusetts (UMASS). He held various titles with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, including serving as the Chief Forester for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also held positions with the Northeastern Area Association and served as a Director of the National Association of State Foresters Foundation. His professional career included involvement with local and national conservation districts, including serving as a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors. After leaving the Department of Environmental Management, Quink remained involved with forestry associations including work at the Environmental Institute at UMASS. Quink was named an SAF Fellow in 1988, and was a Golden member of SAF. You can read his obituary here.

Upcoming Events

See the NESAF website for latest details on upcoming events.

Women Forester Collaborative Gathering

September 26 – 27, 2026

The Women Forester Collaborative Gathering will occur on September 26-27, 2006 at the Smokey House Center in Danby, VT. Smokey House conducts applied research on its 5,000-acre property, and is developing innovative practices in collaboration with farmers, foresters, and scientists to help communities adapt to the climate crisis. This gathering will have a limited number of inside overnight beds. Most of us will be camping onsite. We will tell you more when we know more. One thing we know—there will be as much connecting and fun as we had at our last gathering!

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Research Webinar & Field Tour Series

June 10—Sep 1, 2026 (ongoing)

Second College Grant, NH

More information

Maine SAF Summer Field Tours

Rolland F. Perry City Forest
July 16, Bangor, ME

Spruce Budworm Panel and Field Tour
Aug 14, Fort Kent, ME

Yankee Division SAF Summer Field Tour

July 31, 2026

Hillsdale Preserve

Richmond, RI

More information

The Future of Forest Stewardship Workshop & National Guild Gathering

Sep 15-17, 2026

Wolfe's Neck Center

Freeport, ME

More information

Footnotes — Matt Russell

My wife and I often watch *Shark Tank*, the reality TV show where inventors and designers of new products pitch investors to put money into their company. One common saying that many entrepreneurs have on the show is something like "The product sells itself!" But there are more than a few examples of startups from *Shark Tank* that have failed, and it's often because of a sales strategy that is nonexistent or one that hasn't been carried out effectively. In short, the entrepreneurs rely too much on the product and never ask the customer for a sale.

As you read earlier in this issue, NESAF has a large number of leadership opportunities available as we begin planning for the next year. So, consider this issue our ask to you! A successful SAF doesn't run on great work alone, but instead relies on the people behind it.

I admit that my first involvement with serving SAF was done in a kind of selfish way, as a way to "check the box" for what was expected for service to a professional organization. But I quickly learned that service through leadership is a responsibility for us to ensure our forests are healthy and our profession is strong into the future.

Whether at your local level as a part of your chapter or division, or within NESAF or national SAF, opportunities to get involved are plentiful. What I love most about my personal involvement with NESAF is the connections I've made with regional leaders and the doors those connections have opened. For example, conversations with NESAF members have provided me insights into industry news across New England and discussions have provided me with referrals for project work.

In addition, a regional leadership academy being planned in New York in February 2027 is another great opportunity. This is a valuable experience that can provide the tools and tactics for leadership, skills that are too often learned on-the-job. I recall my former department head when I was in academia used to joke with new faculty: "Here are the keys to your office. You'll teach your classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 100. The rest you'll learn as you go." Fortunately, SAF has been running these leadership academies for a number of years and have developed an excellent package specific to the forestry discipline.

See back on page 5 for the open opportunities within NESAF. Best wishes as you're thinking about becoming more involved in our profession!