Arbor Day Brings out the Governors!

Arbor Day and Envirothon events produced stories from three of our correspondents this quarter, as SAF members across New England worked to raise environmental awareness. In Maine, the Department of Conservation’s Forest Service presented six individuals and 11 municipalities with a variety of environmental awards on May 21, 2001 at a celebration held at the Maine State House on behalf of Maine’s Arbor Week Celebration. Governor Angus King was guest of honor, presenting several of the awards. A number of SAF members were part of the reception. Ron Lovaglio, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation presented

(Continued on page 5)
Quiet Revolutionaries — Bryan Foster

(In accepting his Distinguished Service Award in March, Leo Laferriere remarked that membership in the Forest Stewardship Guild and in the SAF are not mutually exclusive. At Leo's suggestion, we asked Bryan to submit this piece for our consideration. Your comments are welcomed. — Ed)

This spring, 130 people came to the Adirondacks from all over the country—California, Georgia, Maine, Montana. Most flew in, then drove along the crayon-scrrawl roads north of Albany—up and down hills, alongside irregularly shaped rivers and lakes. The lodge they drove to has a porch like a waistband facing out to Lake George, and the lake was still woolly gray with ice when they came, with potholes in a few weak spots. These were mostly forestry consultants, "dirt foresters," mixed with some landowners, loggers, extension agents, scientific researchers, land trust staffers, certification staffers and students. They said that they came for "renewal and refreshment," "a new vision," and "a community of spirit."

This was the fifth annual meeting of The Forest Stewards Guild, a non-profit organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The group has 361 members and they plan to triple that number over the next three years. Guild members are already responsible for the management of 5 ½ million acres of forestland, an area greater than the state of Connecticut.

The organization's mission is "to promote ecologically responsible resource management that sustains the entire forest across the landscape." Essentially, the Guild provides a support system to foresters and resource professionals dedicated to sustainable forestry. "The Guild is made up of men and women," said forest consultant and researcher Jim Crevelling from New York, "who share a passion for their work and a reverence for their work place."

Origins of the Guild - In 1995, Henry Carey and Steve Harrington of the Forest Trust in Santa Fe, New Mexico wrote up a list of foresters doing good work and called them together to discuss their ways of working in the woods. The first moments of the meeting were bumpy, Carey recounted. With 30-some people gathered in a circle, Carey asked everyone to introduce themselves and to speak as individuals, not representatives of companies or organizations. Carey first spoke of feeling isolated when he had worked as a forester. A spark lit. Everyone talked about feeling awkward as a forester, feeling as if they were the only ones seeing trees, instead of just logs, in the forest. They all spoke of the need for an organization where they could share their practical ideas about environmental forestry. Two more meetings were called in New Hampshire and California, leading up to a founding meeting for the Guild in North Carolina in 1997. A picture in The Forest Trust office, now shared by The Forest Stewards Guild, shows the North Carolina group—some smiling, some serious, no one probably knowing what they had started.

Guild members subscribe to six principles endorsed at the North Carolina meeting. The principles call on foresters to retain the forest ecosystem, to imitate nature's processes, to recognize that the forest has value in its own right, to be humble, and to use field experience as well as scientific knowledge. The final principle asserts that: "The foresters first duty is to the forest and its future. When landowner direction conflicts with ...the principles of the Guild and cannot be modified through dialogue and education, the forester should disassociate."

Today, the Guild gives voice and power to people working the land: a regular journal,
Distant Thunder, lets foresters, loggers and landowners speak about their own experiences; a handbook provides information about Forest Stewardship Council certification from the perspective of foresters who have gone through the certification process; regional chapters in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast, the Southeast and the Rocky Mountains offer regular field trips for foresters to see each other’s work. “The Guild is one of the few organizations that provides solutions instead of just pointing out problems,” said Mike Wood, co-founder of the Northern Rockies branch of the Guild. “The Guild stands up for what’s right instead of always fighting what’s wrong.”

Guild Forestry - So how do Guild forests look? Most are as handsome as a sylvan scene in a painting, and close-up have a mix of tree species and sizes. Guild members employ a variety of harvesting methods, but most commonly use single tree and group selection, even developing new methods for these systems. Guild members consider silviculture a science—requiring education on how to maintain natural systems—and an art—requiring experience on how to make managed forests beautiful.

Guild members model their forest management after natural structures and processes. The painter Marc Chagall, for example, would hold a natural object, a rock, flower or branch, up to his finished pictures. “If the painting stands up beside the God-made object,” he said, “then it is authentic.” Consultant Ross Morgan from New York carefully considers the aesthetics of his management. He leaves tall trees near roads and landings to give an invitation into the forest like building columns. And he avoids cutting over the tops of hills so he doesn’t interrupt the curving flow of the land. Researcher Jensen Bissell in Maine identifies stand progressions—likely changes in forest density and species composition under natural disturbances—so his harvesting replicates what might arise naturally. Fred White, a Guild board member and chief forester for a pension company, The Forestland Group in North Carolina, uses three rules to guide his site-specific forestry: don’t change the forest type; harvest less than the annual growth rate; and leave some “bait” so the forest continues to have larger, more valuable trees. “I try to take wood from the forest,” he said, “but still leave it whole.”

“These forestry practices come from people with Stihl caps and flannel-shirts, and from people with pony-tails and bluegrass festival t-shirts,” said Mary Chapman, executive director of the Guild. She welcomes anyone who shares the philosophy of the Guild and commits to applying the principles on the ground (mary@foreststewardsguild.org). “The Guild is for all forestry professionals,” said former board chair V. Alaric Sample, “who remember that first spark, the attraction to nature, that brought them into the profession.”

Bryan Foster is the editor for The Forest Steward’s Guild.
national Tree City USA Awards to eleven Maine municipalities, three with 24 years of meeting the national standards.

Governor King presented Outstanding Forest Stewardship Awards to five recipients, including MESAF member Terry Walters, of Hollis. The awards are given to those individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to forest stewardship in Maine, through their advocacy of stewardship principles, through their work with landowners and by example on their own lands. Congratulations, Terry.

In Vermont, the Green Mountain Division was directly involved in Vermont's Arbor Day program this year. Several members volunteered to do some of the 94 school programs and of course the Division provided the US Savings bonds to the four Arbor Day poster contest district winners and the Vermont Poster artist selected as Vermont Arbor Day poster for 2001. Nearly 12,000 students participated in school programs around the State to help celebrate Vermont trees and forests. On May 8 Governor Dean held a Statehouse ceremony honoring the Poster winners which was covered by three television stations. The other major supporter of the Arbor Day program includes the International Paper Company which donates the seedlings for each student to take home and plant. Fourteen high school teams met on May 17th for the Vermont Envirothon exam held at Shelburne Farms on Lake Champlain. All were required to take the Forestry Exam (along with exams on aquatics, soils, and wildlife) to determine the Vermont winner. Forestry knowledge focuses on scale stick use, prism use, dendrology, and a general knowledge of how forests function all determined by a field examination of 20 questions. The high and low scores were 80 and 24 respectively with the VINS Homeschool team garnering both the high score in forestry as well as the state championship. This team will now participate in the national Envirothon later this summer. Last year's Vermont entry won the forestry portion of the national competition.

The Rhode Island Chapter Sponsored Envirothon Forestry in their state. RI Chapter member Paul Dolan ran the forestry component of the RI Envirothon competition, which was held on May 17th at the Champlin Boy Scout Reservation in Cranston. The Chapter helped out with a donation and chapter members Cathy Sparks, Tom Abbott, Rob MacMillan, Marc Tremblay, and Paul Dolan spent the morning assisting students on the forestry course and grading exams. Other topics included wildlife, aquatics, soils, and a special topic.

This year's National Envirothon will take place in Mississippi during the month of August! Although that's not a fun time to be in the Deep South, the high school teams were competitive. Next year's National Envirothon will be in Amherst, Mass. A great opportunity for local involvement!
Consumption & Production

It is always sobering to hear about increasing rates of consumption and decreasing sources of supply. While we tout the needs for decreasing our demands on resources through recycling and using renewable sources of energy, consumption per person continues to rise very year. It's ironic that with the nation's increasing consumption habits, resource extraction, such as mining or harvesting timber, is decreasing in the United States. Because of this trend, the nation's imports are on the rise, and our country's excessive consumption mixed with its preservation ethic could be detrimental to resources globally.

"This is a good example of the prevalent 'Not in my back yard' syndrome in the Unites States," said Bill Imbergamo, NASF Executive Director. "Americans need to understand that as long as we consume the resources we do, we are going to have an effect on the environment." In the last decade timber harvests, gas leasing, and livestock grazing have dropped on Forest Service lands. On National Forests, softwood harvests alone decreased from 9 to 3.1 billion board feet per year between 1991 and 1996. Yet, paper consumption in our "paperless society" has increased by 90% between 1965 and 1999, from 468 to 750 pounds per person per year. The average size of homes grew by 600 square feet between 1971 and 1996, while the average family size has decreased by 16%. Because of these trends, our imports are increasing. Softwood imports from Canada alone increased nearly 6.5 billion board feet per year between 1991 and 1996. A good deal of this timber is coming from Canada's old-growth boreal forests, thereby shifting U.S. concerns regarding the protection of remaining old growth forests to Canada. Between 1977 and 1997, net growth of softwood forests in the Southeast, where land is primarily privately owned, decreased by 400 million cubic feet while harvest levels increased by 2 billion cubic feet. "While harvests on Forest Service lands have decreased by nearly 70 percent, the demand for forest products hasn't, so pressures for harvests have simply shifted," Imbergamo said.

Yet while the United States continues to set more resources aside within its borders, consumption continues to increase and with it the sustainability of natural resources decreases globally. "Halting resource extracting within our borde4rs does no simply make it go away," Imbergamo stressed.

This article was taken from Vermont Forest Exchange & Information Bulletin where it was reprinted from the National Association of State Foresters Washington Update, Volume 17, Number 3 - April 2001.

Economic Importance of Forests

Forest-based manufacturing, tourism and recreation contribute more than $18.6 billion to the economies of the Northern Forest states, according to a recent publication of the North East State Foresters' Association (NEFA).

The Economic Importance of the Northeast's Forests highlights the following economic contributions of the 45.7 million forested acres in ME, NH, VT & NY...

- $15.7 billion in manufacturing shipments,
- $2.9 billion in recreation and tourism revenues in 1997,
- Manufacturing jobs for 97,000 people generating a payroll of $3 billion,
- Recreation and tourism jobs for 23,000, generating a payroll of $300 million,
- Estimated annual stumpage revenue of $533 million to landowners,
- Estimated value of mill-delivered roundwood in ME, NH & VT is $745 million,
- Six percent of NH & VT and 24% of ME energy use provided by biomass chips, generating chip sales revenue of $34 million,
- $216 million in cordwood sales.
- $70 million in associated forest products such as Christmas trees, wreaths, maple products, ginseng,
- 2.1 manufacturing and .5 tourism/recreation jobs per 1,000 forested acres.

Excerpted from The Economic Importance of the Northeast's Forests, one of a series of reports by NEFA. Additional information can be found at http://nefa.conknet.com
Councilor’s Column — John McNulty

Having an Influence

This column is usually my opportunity to describe for members those news items and events that are taking place at the national level. I’m going to take a different approach this issue and provide each and every one of you the opportunity to have an influence on how the practice of sustainable forestry is assessed in the U.S. and the northeast particularly.

Since 1994, SAF has empanelled two task forces to study the issue of forest certification. These schemes evoke a wide range of sentiments among forestry professionals, both about the standards and the concept in general. Many in the profession dislike the idea of having a group or groups, from outside the profession; establish standards of performance for landowners and foresters. I can tell you that certification and third-party audits of forestry practices are here to stay. In fact within the next ten years I predict it will be common practice for a landowner/forester to certify that forestry practices comply with a set of principles of sustainability which will lead to a product carrying a label of sustainable origin.

The larger question is whether we, as practitioners sit back and accept the standards being developed or become engaged in the process and have an influence on what the standards will be?

I serve as co-chair of the FSC’s Northeast Working Group. Our group recently completed a draft of standards for the NE/NY region and is seeking input from regional stakeholders. This is your opportunity to have direct input into the standards. The standards will be posted on a special FSC website in the next month. www.fscstandards.org Simply click on the Northeast section to offer your comments on individual indicators or to offer overall comments. I implore each of you to take the time to review and comment. We need and want your input. The standards may shock, frustrate or please you but they are too important to ignore! Standards such as these will drive forest policy for the foreseeable future.

Maine SFI Oversight — Lloyd Irland

In 1998, the Maine State Implementation Committee (SIC) was challenged to develop a third party audit process for the SFI Program through a Resolve of the Maine Legislature. Concurrent with the Resolve, the SFI Program developed an SFI Verification Process that the Maine SIC adopted to meet that mandate. The SFI Verification Process was developed to provide SFI members a way to document that they are in compliance with the SFI Standard. The SFI Verification has several options including a 3rd party fully independent process which is the only option being used by SFI members in Maine.

Additionally, the Maine SIC developed an Oversight Panel (OP) to review each SFI Verification conducted in Maine. The OP, made up of 12 people expert in sustainable forestry issues, has the purpose of determining and publicly reporting on the following criteria:

- the objectivity of both the individuals involved in the verification and the verification report itself;
- the expertise of the verification personnel;
- the review for appropriate issues and practices;
- the thoroughness of the verification and the truthfulness of the verification report.

The OP has developed a protocol which guides it in maintaining consistency and thoroughness in its review of different Verifications. The OP receives clerical assistance from the SIC Coordinator and funding through the Maine Forest Products Council.

The AF&PA’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) will likewise be posting their most recent standards on a website this month for input. The AF&PA website - www.aboutsfb.org provides another chance to have an influence on how our profession’s practices will be assessed in the future. This site is as important to review and the FSC site. Both provide an excellent window into the world of forest certification. Opportunities we cannot afford to miss! Remember -- The World Is Run By Those Who Show Up!
The 3rd annual Black Fly Breakfast, organized by Coop. Ext. Foresters Karen Bennett and Tim Fleury, drew a standing room only crowd of 100. Lionel Chute described the SPNHF bio-timber inventory project. The prototype is being tested for writing management plans, using 2 computer programs they developed. Extension forest industry specialist Sarah Smith spoke about the expired US/Canadian softwood lumber agreement. It had limited exports from Canada to 14.7 billion bd. ft., with a tariff on volumes over that amount. Although locally important, the Northeast is a small player (1 billion of 53 billion bd. ft. in the U.S.). One producer said the exchange rate ($1 US = $1.57 Canada) is the real reason for high exports from Canada.

State forest entomologist Jen Bofinger reported that the 70 mature hemlock trees in Portsmouth infested with wooly adelgid will be treated with insecticide this spring. She expects to see hemlock looper in the SW this summer, as well as defoliation by gypsy moth caterpillars around Canobie Lake. Watch also for maple leaf cutter in the western half of the state. Ken Desmarais, Div. of Forests and Lands, is completing his timber harvesting assessment project. DRA timber tax authority Dennis Thorell announced new rules requiring towns to consider the sale price of stumpage of each harvest when determining the yield tax. Sarah Smith distributed the new 13 page "NH Best Log Scaling Practices Guide." Forest Ranger Bryan Nowell reported that 4,700 intent-to-cuts had been filed in 2000. Harvest laws workshops for municipal officials are being held in 5 locations around the state.

Sarah Smith summarized the recently published evaluation of the NH Professional Logger Program. A 27 question telephone survey was made to 200 workers in the forest industry, with 83% being loggers. Many respondents felt there was an opportunity to offer an advanced certification, or "Master Logger" recognition. NHTOA director Jasen Stock announced that the organization is launching a non-profit enterprise called the Timberland Foundation, to attract grants and pursue education, outreach and training in the forestry community in NH.

The 10th Annual Mud Breakfast, organized by Sam Stoddard, drew over 120 foresters, NH Coverts Project cooperators, and wildlife biologists from the North Country and beyond. Many of the Black Fly Breakfast presentations were repeated. In addition, North Country participants heard from:
- Ellen Snyder on the NH Biodiversity Project
- Peter Benson & Doug Bechtel, from The Nature's Conservancy, on the Bunnell Tract project
- Dave Gavotski, who introduced Frank Hagan, the new timber officer for the WMNF
- Will Staats, who gave a presentation on the Fish & Game bear study and talked about the dire condition of the deer herd after the hard winter

The bulk of the day was devoted to the subject of wild turkeys—their natural history, habitat, status and management in New Hampshire. Habitat improvement practices were discussed during a tour conducted in cooperation with Northam Parr of UNH Cooperative Extension at the Grafton County Farm.

The Fox Research Forest (FRF) conducted an
assessment of timber harvesting in New Hampshire during the summer of 1999. The study looked at 57 timber harvests covering all 10 counties. The study results are nearly completed and the final report is anticipated by September of 2001. For a copy of the report contact the Fox Research Forest at PO Box 1175, Hillsboro, NH 03244, tel. 603-464-3453 or e-mail foxforest@mcttelecom.com.

The FRF staff is also conducting research on forest inventory techniques. The staff is assessing the efficiency and accuracy of different techniques and their appropriateness for New England forest conditions. Workshops are planned for this fall.

Dick Weyrick was voted this year's most outstanding teacher by the students in the UNH Department of Natural Resources. Dick started teaching at UNH in 1965 and hasn’t lost his enthusiasm for his students.

Ed Wyman was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the UNH Department of Natural Resources. In his presentation, Dr. Ted Howard honored Ed for his work as a forestry professor, which will transcend his lifetime through his students and, in turn, their students. John Bosa, professor at the UNH Thompson School of Applied Sciences, and one of Wyman’s students, was sitting at his table.

The 2002 NESAF Winter Meeting is scheduled for March 26-28, 2002 at the Center of NH in Manchester. The focus is on forest fragmentation, parcelization, and sprawl.

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MAINE Division — Marc Johnson

Maine Forest Legislation News: Maine has had a busy legislative session with continued attempts to change Maine’s Tree Growth Taxation rules and to attempt legislatively last years' defeated forest referendum. Maine tree growth law continually sees attempts to make the law more restrictive, or take on rules that do not relate to the productivity of trees, such as, requiring public access for the tax benefit or increased tree growth taxes if one hired migrant workers or exported wood to a foreign country. These bills were voted unanimously ought-not-pass by the Taxation Committee. Everett Towle, President, Small Woodland Owners of Maine says, “Hopefully this trend (of defeating the adding of new requirements to the tree growth law) will continue. What the Tree Growth Tax Law needs more than anything else is stability.” May 2001 SWOAM newsletter.

Last year’s defeated forest referendum requirements for sustainability, by mandating harvest volumes and other rules, came back in the form of a legislative bill. This time it was focused against landowners with more than 1,000 acres, instead of being for all landowners in tree growth. This was defeated at the Judiciary Committee level with a unanimous ought-not-to pass vote.

A bill to require permits for all clear-cuts greater than five acres was voted 11-2 ought-not-pass. This allows the bill to go before the full legislature in May. A bill to test the concept of outcome-based forestry by the Maine Forest Service will also go before the full legislature for review.
The burning ban has been lifted but fire danger is still at moderate. The Greenmont/Greencrow Mill in Jericho is shut down and there are questions if it will reopen. Wood prices have fallen severely and there is more supply than demand. The individual who decided to clearcut a swath of State land on the Green River Reservoir was found liable for $62,500 in punitive damages by a jury in the Washington County Superior Court. This was the second civil suit in this issue. The legislature is still in session so anything is possible.

“Advances in Forest Biology” were addressed at the annual summer meeting of the Yankee Division, in cooperation with UMASS and UCONN Extension. The seminar featured nine different speakers who shared expertise on invasive exotic plants, soils, carbon and nutrient cycling, climate changes, genetics, shifts in species composition, songbirds, and coarse woody debris.

Following the severe drought of 1999 and the “overabundance” of moisture in 2000 (allowing fungal diseases to flourish), the spring of 2001 has returned the state to a drought and “extreme” wildfire danger. Additionally, two consecutive nights of killing frost in early May across many parts of the state resulted in glaring frost damage in the upper canopies of some hardwoods, primarily the late-leafing oaks. The high visibility of damaged oaks has resulted in a barrage of calls from the curious and concerned.

One consolation of the suddenly dry conditions has been facilitation of timber harvests after a long winter of deep snow cover. Despite the heavy blanket of snow across most of the state, loggers in northerly towns went from snow-covered skid roads to clouds of dust in under a couple of weeks.

Aircraft and have returned to forestry in Connecticut. The Division of Forestry has been regularly using an airplane in the forest fire program for the first time in over a decade. The busy fire season during the 1999 drought rekindled interest in the benefits of aircraft and prompted the Division to evaluate their role and to streamline aircraft policy. The state’s Forest Practices Act program has also used aircraft in mapping of illegal timber harvest activities and for timber harvest detection.

Beginning this year, all state DEP employees working in-state prescribed fires or on fire suppression must also be trained in use of, and equipped with, fire shelters. The U. S. Forest Service has required all firefighters to carry fire shelters on its national mobilizations for years.

The March forest practitioner certification exams resulted in little change to total numbers. There are now 135 Forest Products Harvesters, 298 Supervising Forest Products Harvesters, and 113 Foresters certified by the state. But 26 certifications are being revoked for failure to complete the required continuing education units (CEUs). The application deadline for the October exams is September 1, 2001.

The state of Connecticut continues to acquire and preserve open space at a record rate. Governor Rowland’s 1998 “Open Space Initiative” calls for over one-fifth of the state’s 3.2 million acres to be permanently held in open space. The 2000 annual report to the Environment Committee on open space divulged that DEP currently has 67.7% of its 320,576-acre target and municipalities, water companies and con-
servation groups hold 64.4% of their 352,630-acre goal, totaling 444,740 acres or 13.9% of Connecticut’s land area. Since this report, another 15,000 acres of open space was secured on Bridgeport Hydraulic land (see April NEWS Quarterly). In 2001 look for publication of the “Connecticut Green Plan for Open Space Acquisition” by DEP and $20 million in new funding through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program.

Connecticut is one of three states (with MD and MO) being used to refine and test a “Model to Engage Non-engaged Audiences,” an off-shoot of the “Community Future Forum” program of the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose is to learn how to help natural resource professionals better reach and communicate with audiences that show little interest and limited involvement in resource issues. For more information, contact Kathryn Maloney, Director, or Robin Morgan, Assistant Director (610-557-4103), or Lisa Burban, Group Leader (651-649-5245, lburban@fs.fed.us).

“America the Beautiful,” the Urban Forestry program, is anticipating 30 grants to receive a total of $90,000.00 this year, according to the Connecticut Division of Forestry.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, Inc., has published an abbreviated edition of its Forest Advisory Committee report concerning the Connecticut Forest Practices Act, available for the public review. Included are a discussion of the existing statutes related to forestry, forest statistics, a review of the May 1999 hearing on the Forest Practices Act, a municipal survey, review of licensing and regulation in other states, and recommendations for the future. For more information, contact the Farm Bureau Association at (860) 298-4400, or visit www.cfba.org.

The South Central Regional Water Authority of New Haven has a new Natural Resource Supervisor. Charles Gaura, originally from Connecticut, has returned to his home state from International Paper in North Carolina to fill the role. Welcome home, Mr. Gaura.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the State Forester designation in Connecticut. The Division of Forestry is already beginning the initial stages for a major celebration of the centennial of the state forest system in 2003.

MASSACHUSETTS — Jennifer Fish

Umass has two new faculty members: Dr. Timothy Randhir who specializes in watershed management and Dr. Peggy Clouston a wood engineer form the Department of Wood Science at the University of British Columbia who specializes in wood composites.

David Kittredge’s term on the Forester Licensing Board has expired.

The Department of Environmental Management is updating the 1985 State forest resource management plan. The plan focus on the issues of the day: sustainability, outreach, information, and state lands management. The process is expected to take one year.

Forest Health - There is a bill before the legislature that would require the state to report on the health and potential loss of eastern hemlocks, and what steps that state should take to combat the woolly adelgid. The DEM Forest Health Program has released an Asian lady-bird beetle that preys on the adelgid. The release occurred on MDC property in the town of Newton. There has been significant frost damage to oaks this spring due to late frosts in May. Damage is most prevalent in eastern Massachusetts.

“Call Before You Cut,” an outreach initiative planned by the DEM for summer and fall of 2001, seeks to improve landowner’s awareness of forestry programs and management opportunities as well as promote the use of professional foresters.
RHODE ISLAND — Mark Tremblay

Chris Modisette, executive director of the Southern New England Forest Consortium (SNEFC), recently announced SNEFC's release of a new study titled "Land Conservation, Development and Property Taxes in Rhode Island". Conducted by Deb Brighton out of Vermont, the study, when combined with SNEFC's Cost of Community Services study, gives towns the ability to financially assess the impact of land use decisions. In general, the report found that commercial and industrial development over time has not resulted in lower taxes as has often been assumed. For more information on the study, contact Chris at 401 568-1610.

The RI Forest Conservator's Organization (RIFCO) was recently awarded a USFS Stewardship grant to update and improve the RI Forestry BMP Manual. RIFCO will be working with RI Tree Farm, Providence Water, and the RI DEM, amongst other participants, including the RI Chapter SAF, to revise the current manual and incorporate a few new chapters, such as the wildland interface, carbon sequestration, and current-use tax laws. RIFCO members recently constructed a portable skidder bridge, which will be available for loan to landowners and loggers, as part of its effort to increase implementation of BMP's.

RIFCO has also developed its website. The address is www.rifco.org. The site is brand new and still being worked on. Have any links? Send RIFCO a message through the site, or contact Marc Tremblay, RIFCO's Outreach Coordinator, at 401 232-1522.

CANADA — Quebec News by Kim Lowell

The 12th World Forestry Congress will open in Quebec City on September 21, 2003. The WFC takes place every 6 years under the sponsorship of the United Nations. (The last one was held in 1997 in Antalya, Turkey.) The 7-day WFC is expected to draw some 5000 academic, business and government attendees from all parts of the world. More information is available at the Web site www.cfm2003.org.

The Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, as part of its ongoing research program and in collaboration with the Society for Wildlife and Parks has developed a new tool to more easily measure the quantity of suspended sediments in water. The tool is comprised of two perforated cylinders that are filled with gravel that permit water and sediment to flow in a natural manner. The device was developed specifically to examine the effect of culverts on sediment loads of flowing water in forested situation and is being commercialized by the company Bio-Concept (Patent Pending).

The Association of Forestry Industries in Quebec has recently compiled some interesting statistics concerning the Quebec paper industry in 2000.
- Between 1999 and 2000, there was a 1.2% increase in productivity.
- During the same period, there was a 3.9% reduction in the production of newsprint.
- Approximately 60% of newsprint sales go to the United States.
- Quebec produces one-third of all paper products made in Canada.
- The number of jobs in the industry increased 8.5% last year.

University News: As part of its effort to maintain a program of high quality research and scholarship, the Faculty of Forestry and Geomatics of Laval University has created two academic Chairs. In the Department of Wood and Forest Sciences, Dr. Jean Bousquet has been named to head the Chair in Forest Genomics. He will also work with Professor Damase Kasa, and Jean Beaulieau, Nathalie Isabel, and Armand Séguin from the Canadian Forest Service. All of the associate researchers are experts in Forest Genetics. The other Chair will be held by Dr. Geoffrey Edwards in the Department of Geomatics.

The Centre for Research in Forest Biology of Laval University has recently expanded its ranks considerably. Four new professors from the University of Sherbrooke have been added:
Drs. Robert Bradley and William Shipley, in Pedology and Vegetative Ecophysiology, respectively, and Drs. Marco Festa-Bianchet and Donald Thomas in Animal Ecology. With this addition, the CRBF has 20 researcher members as well as approximately 100 graduate student members.

A student in the Department of Wood and Forest Sciences has received a double honour. Ms. Evelyne Thiffault was recently honoured by the Canadian Forestry Institute by being awarded the Institute's Gold Medal. Ms. Thiffault won this honour for the quality of her academic record as well as her active participation in the affairs of the Institute. In addition, Ms. Thiffault was recently awarded a Julie Payette scholarship for post-graduate studies. Only 24 such scholarships exist across Canada and they are awarded across all disciplines. They are named for the Canadian astronaut Julie Payette who embodies the qualities of leadership that are encouraged in scientific institutions across Canada.

IN MEMORIAM

Raynor K. Brown age 83 of North Waterford died on November 11, 1998 in Norway, ME.

He was born in North Waterford on July 13, 1915, and graduated from South Paris High School in 1933 where he participated in football, the debate team, and was manager of the baseball team.

He graduated in 1937 with a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Maine, where he served on the Student Senate. In 1937, he bought his first timberland and started a logging business. Thereafter he engaged in numerous business enterprises, including a spool mill, sand & gravel, concrete and paving.

Mr. Brown was a 50-plus-year member of the Society of American Foresters, a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, and Past President of the Western Maine Forestry Forum. He belonged to the Norway-Paris Kiwanis Club, was a 50-plus-year member of the Mt. Tirem Lodge AF&AM, and former director of the Norway National Bank.

In 1938, Mr. Brown was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Waterford and later served four additional years as a Waterford Selectman. He served 20 years on the Waterford School Board. He was active in the North Waterford Congregational Church and community school athletics and scholarship. He was a founding Father of Stephens Memorial Hospital, where he served as a Trustee for 46 years.

Roger Pagan Sloan, 81, of Newfields Road in Exeter, NH, died May 2, 2001 after a long illness. He was born July 8, 1919, in Claremont, son of Harry Edson and Edith (Pagan) Sloan.

He had been a resident of Exeter since 1946 and was formerly of Claremont, where he graduated from high school. He was a veteran of the US Army Air Corps, serving during World War II.

Mr. Sloan graduated from the University of New Hampshire with his bachelor's degree in Forestry and received his master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government a Harvard.

He was employed with the University of New Hampshire Extension Service from 1946 to 1983, serving first as the county forester and than as the state extension forester. He was an associate professor at UNH. He was also a former chairman of the Exeter Conservation Commission, a trustee of Gilman Park, and a former director of Exeter Cooperative Bank.

Mr. Sloan was a longtime member of the Exeter Congregational Church, serving as deacon for several years.

In his spare time he enjoyed gardening, beekeeping, reading, managing his woodlots, and his grandchildren.
From the Chair — Bob Edmunds

Those #X@&!### Environmentalists!

Little Lisa showed up, unrecognized, because it was her first gymnastics class. My wife, her coach-to-be, approached the 4-year old, smiled and said, “Hi, can I have your name. Dutifully, but with tears welling in her eyes, Lisa said “Yes... but what will I use?” Some foresters give away our identity every day without shedding a tear. It’s time for us to rethink the travesty that we are bringing upon ourselves and rightfully claim our place in the environmental community.

Listen to us. Good, loyal SAF professional foresters, who have spent our entire careers advocating for good stewardship of forests, are dissociating ourselves from the term “environmentalist”. To make matters worse, many of us bestow that honored title on anyone else who dares to speak out boldly on environmental issues, no matter how wild their premise. It seems the wackier the rhetoric, the quicker some of us are to label them “environmentalists”.

But, some foresters argue that the public views “environmentalists” as granola crunching wackos left over from the sixties, bent on disrupting society with no regard to science or the economy. Research doesn’t bear that out. Seventy to seventy five percent of the public consider themselves to be “environmentalists”. This percentage holds true also for forest owners in the Northeast, according to a study by Jones and Finley at Penn State. Why do we try so hard and so publicly to dissociate ourselves from the very people that we are trying so hard to reach?

We are doing an effective job of marketing. The problem is that we are marketing in reverse! When we say “... Those “#X@&! ### environmentalists ...”, we have separated ourselves from our audience. We present three poor messages to about three quarters of the population: 1. “I don’t hold the same environmental values as you”; 2. “I’m not one of those people dedicated to protecting the environment.” and 3. “Other people are better qualified to be called an “environmentalist” than I, even though I’m a life-long dedicated professional forester”.

On an interstate highway in the Pacific Northwest, I saw a billboard, which showed an odd-looking character saying, “You can tell when an environmentalist is lying. His lips move.” What do you think the people looking at that sign perceive about the people who put up that sign?

In the Foster’s Daily Democrat newspaper, serving the Seacoast of New Hampshire, a few weeks ago, the headlines read, “Environmentalists Battle Wooly Adelgids in Portsmouth”. It was about a couple of forester friends of mine, who were on the front lines of stopping the spread of the insect in New Hampshire. They were called “environmentalists” out of respect for their expertise and effort and the newspaper passed that message of respect right on to the public in the news story.

Let’s face it. Professional foresters are among the best #X@&!### environmentalists around. Foresters, who adhere to the SAF code of ethics, are science-based in process as well as facts, seek continuing education to be current on issues and knowledge and are dedicating their lifetime to a love of forests, should stand prominently in the public arena as trusted environmentalists.

Let’s stop giving that title to others who deserve it less and begin to use the label proudly for ourselves.

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WELCOME!  CONGRATULATIONS!

CFE Update

Workshop  Hours/Cat  Rick Assessment; 5/23/01; Orono, ME  6.5/1
Logging Costs Seminar; 4/3/01 in S. Paris,  5/1
4/4/01 in Bangor & 4/5/01 in Sanford, ME
Black Fly Breakfast; 4/10/01; Boscawen, NH  2.5/1
Mud Season Breakfast; 4/13/01; Littleton, NH  4/1
Logging Aesthetics; 5/1/01; Whitneyville, ME  3.5/1
NEFCo. Spring foresters Mtg.; 5/3&4/01  10/1
Nashua, NH
Chain Saw Maint. & Felling; 5/7/01 in Saco, Me.  2/1
& 5/10/01 in Old Town
Climate Change; 5/11/01; Gorham, NH  5/1
Hardwood Log Grading & Scaling; 5/17/01  5.5/1
Orono, ME

Workshop  Hours/Cat
Chain Saw Maint. & Felling; 6/4/01 in Saco, Me  2/1
& 6/11/01 in Old Town
Forestry Regulations in Me; 6/5/01; Orono, ME  4/1
Advances in Forest Biology; 6/7/01; Enfield, CT  6/1
Upland Invasive Plant Workshop; 6/8/01  3.5/1
Brattleboro, VT
Identifying Ecologically Significant Areas  3.5/1
6/15/01; Gorham, NH
Hazard Tree Workshop; 6/19/01; Orono, ME  4/1
Ecology of a Beaver Pond; 7/13/01  3.5/1
Gorham, NH
Mtn. Ecosystems; 7/27/01; Gorham, NH  2.5/1

For a chronological list of all evaluated programs in the past three years, send me $1 cash for postage and printing.

Jon Nute,
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