Harvey, Laferriere Recognized in Burlington

Ernest "Bart" Harvey, III, was the recipient of the NE SAF Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Winter Meeting in Burlington. His friend and colleague, Ken Laustsen, NE SAF Vice-Chair, prepared the nomination and was obviously pleased to be making the award. Another friend and past colleague from Great Northern Paper Co., Steve Fairweather, hopped a plane from Portland, OR, to congratulate Bart on this occasion.

Bart has been a member of the SAF since 1964 and has had a long career in forestry and papermaking for the lands and mills historically owned by the Great Northern paper Company. When the spruce budworm erupted, Harvey implemented new technologies to salvage dying trees more safely and efficiently. He lead initiatives in tree planting and GIS and helped create the Cooperative Forest management Research unit of the University of Maine. He helped develop paper recycling capabilities for Maine paper mills.

Bart is a graduate of the University of Maine and a Vietnam veteran. He serves on the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and the Millinocket Regional Hospital board of Directors.

UVM Will Not Seek SAF Re-accreditation

Is the SAF Sanction Still Relevant?

The University of Vermont decision to not seek SAF re-accreditation was hot topic at the Winter Meeting. A Wednesday session featuring forester education and SAF accreditation ran well past schedule as members sustained a spirited discussion on the issue. Jo Ellen Force, from the University of Idaho and member of the recent SAF task force on accreditation joined the panel with John Shane, Chair of the UVM Forestry Program, and Ted Howard, past Chair of the UNH Forestry Program. Jo Ellen spoke of the difficulties faced by the task force in finding requirements to drop in favor of new technology and disciplines. The result was expanded requirements, providing for few, if any, electives in a four-year program of studies. Furthermore, the new standards state that schools "must," instead of "should," meet these requirements. Ted Howard reflected on the UNH relationship with accreditation and the myriad factors affecting a decision to maintain the SAF sanction. He pointed out that, among other factors, the sheer size and prestige of similar medical and engineering programs often overshadow the forestry schools at the university administration level. John Shane anchored the panel with the UVM rationale for their decision. He was kind enough to provide a synopsis which appears on page three.

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Opinion

Forestry education must meet several challenges in order to attract and retain the brightest students, and produce graduates capable of addressing the demands that will be placed upon them. Perhaps the biggest challenge we face is the proper definition of the role of a forestry professional. I dislike the definition that a forestry professional is a timber manager, because such a narrow definition will likely result in a diminished role in decision-making in the future. Rather, I prefer a very broad definition. Essentially, I believe that if an activity occurs in a forested ecosystem, the activity should be able to be performed by a person with a forestry education. The challenge, then, is to design an educational program that can meet the broad goal of training these professionals.

What are some of the problems associated with this? The biggest is simply fitting everything into a 4-year program. Traditional forestry programs have always struggled with this. My undergraduate degree—taken some 25 years ago—consisted of a very packed 4 years, with virtually no electives. That was before personal computers, GIS, GPS, certification, complex deed restrictions, and a host of other important developments. Additionally, since that time a number of newer university programs have emerged within natural resources and the environment. These programs are attractive to students for a number of reasons, including offering more flexibility in program options than traditional forestry curricula. At UVM, these programs are attracting excellent students, and graduates of these programs are finding good employment options. We, who are responsible for designing forestry curricula, must acknowledge the basic fact that, no matter how wonderful a program we design, it is doomed to failure if it is not attractive to the brightest high school graduates.

What is the answer? There are probably a great number of answers—maybe as many answers as there are forestry programs. Unfortunately, that is not the direction that SAF accreditation standards are leading. Rather, the standards are becoming increasingly prescriptive. In fact, one SAF task force recommendation states that there should not be any regional variation among forestry programs—essentially mandating a one-size-fits-all solution to forestry education.

Faculty from The University of Vermont’s Forestry Program have decided that this model is too restrictive, and have determined not to seek SAF reaccreditation. Rather, the program will design a curriculum that allows students to study selected aspects of the field in depth while still providing for an acceptable level of breadth, and one that allows enough flexibility to be attractive to the best entering students. As a beginning to this process, the Forestry Program recently hosted a conference, “Sustainable Forestry Forum—A Conversation on Sustainable Forestry Education in the 21st Century”, in which forestry professionals, practitioners and educators engaged in discussions concerning needs of undergraduate forestry programs. Results of this forum will help inform and guide the development of the program.

John Shane, UVM

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, NE SAF WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION.
Winter Meeting 2003

Bob Ricard & Everett Towle, newly elected fellows from NE SAF were presented with their awards.

50 Years with SAF for Gibb Dodge!

The "Commish," Jon Wood

Fred Hunt & Jane Difley at the poster session.

Sponsors
Bill Kropelin, Program Chair, seems pleased with his work!

Mainly Maine: Duane Nadeau, John McNulty, Ron Laviglio, Bart Harvey

Bill Kropelin, Program Chair, seems pleased with his work!

The 2003 Frozen Foresters!

Fred Hunt & Jane Difley at the poster session.

Maine's stalwart correspondent.

Wally Robbins taking it in.

Thank You!

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Vendors
Douglas MacCleery Keynotes at Burlington
Declares Resource Consumption "Bastard Child" of Conservation

Douglas MacCleery, Senior Policy Analyst at the USDA Forest Service in Washington kicked off the NE SAF Winter Meeting with his talk, "Resource Consumption, the Land Ethic and NIMBYism"

In proclaiming that "resource consumption is the 'bastard child' of conservation in the US," MacCleery evoked Aldo Leopold’s land ethic. He said that while "today the concept of an ethical content associated with land management has become widely accepted" and "has been used as one of the rationales for asking landowners to provide more environmental services from their forests," that ethic has not extended to our actions in resource consumption. "We understand its importance implicitly...nobody really wants to talk about it much or take responsibility for it. The reality is that resource demand is a major driver. We should begin to address it explicitly."

MacCleery pointed out that in Leopold’s time 40% of the people lived on or close to the land. Now, less than 2% of us are farmers and few of us, even in rural areas, have any direct role in the management of land. In The Conservation Ethic (1933), Leopold wrote "The ultimate issue...is whether the mass-mind wants to extend its powers of comprehending the world in which it lives, or, granted the desire, has the capacity to do so.... I do not know the answer to either. I simply affirm that a sufficiently enlightened society, by changing its wants and tolerances, can change the economic factors bearing on land."

"For Leopold," said MacCleery, "the Land Ethic did encomapss the concept of intelligent consumption. Today, society has yet to make that connection."

Pointing out that "chasing logging from one place to another just shifts the environmental impacts, and product substitution is often counterproductive," MacCleery brought to our attention the work of The Intelligent Consumption Project, a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters and the USFS Forest Products Laboratory.

The Project identifies these key elements of an intelligent consumption strategy:
• Ethics and Moral Authority
• Technical and Scientific Information
• A National Materials Commission
• Research and Development
• Public Education
• Institutional Incentives and Barriers

Project recommendations can be found at: http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/programs/icp/index.html

Hancock Selling Timberland

Hancock Timber Resources Group, a subsidiary of John Hancock Financial Services, has put 212,000 acres in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York on the auction block. Hancock said the sale was prompted by declines in the stock market that left the company with too much money invested in timberland. The 14 parcels are worth an estimated $100 million.

Henry Whittemore, New England regional manager for Hancock, said that large tracts of land had been changing hands in Maine for more than 150 years. "Nothing's changing. We are still pretty sure the new owners will stay in timbering." - Maine Woodsman

Poster Winners

1. Ten Years of Change in a Beech Stand in North Central Maine Long Affected by Beech Bark Disease A. Farrar, A.J. Kimball, and W.D. Ostrofsky (UMO, Dept. of Forest Management)

2. Effect of Harvest Intensity on Soil Productivity and Red Spruce Growth Response A.B. Reinmann (UME), L.S. Kenefic (USDA FS and UME), W.C. Shortle (USDA FS), I.J. Fernandez (UME), and J.W. Bryant (International Paper)

3. Modified Diameter Limit Cutting: Silviculture or Exploitation? L.S. Kenefic, P. E. Sendak, and J.C. Brissette (USDA FS, NE Research Station)
Leo C. Laferriere was recognized for his Integrity in Conservation with the eponymous award created under his own leadership in 1998. Leo served in the NE SAF chairs in 1997-1998, was HSD member in 1998, and 1995 national convention finance chair. He is active in the GMD SAF. He received the 2001 Distinguished Service Award and was elected a national Fellow that same year.

Leo shares his understanding of forestry and conservation with quiet, determined diplomacy. In heated public debates over timber harvesting, forestry and land use, Leo distinguishes himself by his steadfast, calm and reasonable approach. He invited the most strident opponent of logging on National Forests to walk a woodlot with him, even though he, himself, had no direct connection to the debate. His goal was simply to offer a better understanding of forestry.

Glenn Freden received the Austin Carey Practicing Professional Award. A consulting forester, Glenn has been preparing management plans, making timber and overseeing timber harvests for a quarter century. He is also an instructor for the MA Coverts Project and he conducts high school field trips to active logging jobs. He is an 18-year member of his town conservation commission and has served extensively on town planning and zoning boards. He has helped place 10,000 acres under conservation restrictions.

Ernest M. Gould Jr. Technology Transfer Award recipient Karen Bennett is well known to us all for her tireless service to NE SAF. In NH she contributes equally enthusiastically to Cooperative Extension and Forestry and Wildlife Programs. Karen has spent her entire career in the UNH Extension Service where she develops and delivers natural resource educational materials for a wide range of audiences. She helped establish forester licensing in NH, which has encouraged many practicing foresters to participate in Continuing education programs.

The James W. Touney Outstanding Service Award went to Robert Ricard. A powerful source of energy for the SAF, Ricard currently serves on the *Journal of Forestry* editorial board, chairs the Yankee Division, and is general chair of the 2004 NE SAF meeting. Ricard was on the national certified forester exam committee, vice-chair of the HSD and chair of both the CT SAF and NE SAF. He was invited to speak at two national SAF conventions.

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David Irvin, Mollie H. Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award recipient, had been in CT only five years when he demonstrated his leadership qualities in the development of a log and lumber grading workshop. He was elected vice-chair of the CT Chapter SAF in 2001. Irvin volunteers as an interpretive guide at the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area. As a public lands forester for CT DEP, Irvin seeks opportunities to interact with the public and neighbors to help broaden understanding of forestry issues and develops educational material for use at recent timber harvests.

Finally, Maine's Everett Towle, Tree Farmer and past president of the Small Woodland Owners of Maine, and Bob Ricard, from CT, were elected national SAF Fellow in 2002 and received recognition at the awards luncheon.
DIVISION NEWS

MAINE Division — Marc Johnson

MESAF will hold its annual Spring Field Session, entitled, "White Pine Management: Past, Present and Future," Wednesday evening, May 21 and Thursday May 22, 2003 in white pine country near Sebago Lake. This meeting may be of interest to nearby New Hampshire and Massachusetts foresters and landowners. Contact Laura Audibert, la4568@mail.sjv.net.

Brascan Corp., of Toronto Canada, came in with an eleventh-hour bid to buy the assets of the Great Northern Paper for $91 million, plus an additional $5 million "breakup" fee to the original bidder Belgravia Paper Co. of Vancouver, B.C. The 103-year-old GNP Co. had been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since late December, shutting down two paper mills, putting more than 1,100 workers out of business and seriously challenging the area economy. This is welcome news for the people of the Millinocket region. Brascan is a known entity, with Maine ownership of the former GNP hydroelectric facilities, and lumber mills in Ashland and Marsadis. Another Brascan subsidiary, Nexfor Inc., owns Fraser Paper in Madawaska, ME and recently purchased the mills in Berlin and Gorham, NH. Brascan hopes to have the mills open for work no later than May 1. (Source: Central Maine Newspapers, March 25, 2003).

Forest products industry flagging in Western Maine — In February, H.G. Winter and Sons of Kingfield went under. Solon Manufacturing laid off 30 people. Forster Manufacturing Co. plans to close its Strong toothpick factory. One-by-one, the hardwood turning mills of western Maine, are going out of business. The mills are struggling against cheap imports and substitutes from Asia.

Joe Rankin, of the Waterville Sunday Sentinel, 2/2/03, noted that plastic is replacing some of the wooden items, but also reported that one company, in order to survive, is buying cheaper Chinese wooden dowels for their cotton swabs. Maine Wood Turning used to make wooden handles for Mirro® pots and pans, one of their largest accounts. Mirro was unable to find the same quality at a cheaper price, so Walmart®, a Mirro customer, now buys whole pots and pans from China, ending the entire handle account for Maine Wood Turning.

Peter Lammert, of the Maine Forest Service, noted that in 1976 there were 13 sawmills or turneries in a one-mile radius in the Norway-South Paris area. Last year, the last one went out of business. He said, “...we're turning these communities into bedroom communities.” Lloyd Irland, a forest economist said, “If there is a trend, it's simply a continuation of a long-term shrinkage.”

Maine State Tree Farm Chair, Mike Dann turned the gavel over to the newly elected Cliff Foster, who recently retired from the state legislature. We thank Mike for all his work for the Maine Tree Farm Program and welcome Cliff to his new role.

Jeffrey Romano resigned his position of Executive Director of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine. Jeff served for five years at SWOAM increasing its membership 90%, protecting its financial stability, adding Paul Miller as an education and outreach for-ester, expanding its land trust and increasing programs for its members. Jeff is moving on to the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, a new non-profit organization promoting non-regulatory, market-based forest management. Congratulations Jeff, and thank you for your service at SWOAM for Maine landowners and for good forestry.

Some of the bills affecting forestlands on the Maine legislative agenda this session are items on ATV use, enforcement and fees, liquidation harvesting, state shoreline zoning standards. Visit the Maine legislative website at: www.janus.state.me.us/legis or call the legislative information office at (207) 287-1692 for details.

www.mesaf.org
John Calhoun of Gilsum was the recipient of the GSD Forester of the Year Award at the winter meeting. A consulting forester for 47 years, he has tirelessly sought to improve markets for low grade wood and worked to educate loggers in proper forest harvesting techniques. A 1952 graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, John started work with the St. Regis Paper Co. in northern NH, before starting his own practice. In 1999, he donated a conservation easement on his 325 acre Tree Farm to SPNHF. Also recognized, for doing more than 10 Tree Farm inspections, were John Conde, John Ferguson, John O'Brien, Jack Wadsworth, Charlie Moreno, Wayne Young and Peter Pohl. Phil Auger is the 2002 Regional Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector in the North East. The Dave and Anne Howard Tree Farm in New Ipswich is the state Tree Farm of the year. Outstanding Student Awards went to Christopher Campbell of the Thompson School and Kathleen Utter of the four-year school.

State Forester Phil Bryce expressed encouragement by the re-opening of the Berlin paper mills by Nexfor Fraser. He is concerned with Hemlock Wooly Adelgid quarantine in Rockingham County. To assist with forest laws enforcement, his department is proposing local officials create "deputy forest rangers". Nory Parr, from the forester licensing board, reported that ten new foresters were licensed, bringing the state total to 274. There were more than 500 continuing education credits available from 95 educational activities. Esther Cowles thanked us for our strong financial and volunteer support for the PLT program. She is planning "A Walk in the Forest" statewide program in May to train teachers from grades 3-6 in PLT activities. WMNF Supervisor Tom Wagner urged our involvement in the draft 15 year forest management plan being created. SPNHF policy director Charlie Niebling was concerned about decreased funding in the new governor's budget for forest resources. Planned improvements for Mt. Monadnock State Park were eliminated. Town regulation of ATVs on state and private land is being debated. Jasen Stock, Exec. Director of NH Timberland Owners' Association, reported that revision of wetland rules, town regulation of logging, landowner liability for snowmobile trails, and biomass electrical generating factories are up for discussion in the coming months. Hunter Carbee and Spencer Laramie proclaimed the 10th anniversary of the Timber Harvesting Council program last year, with 459 loggers participating in classes. Living Legacy program coordinator Ellen Snyder reported on a 3 year comprehensive wildlife planning initiative by NHF&G to identify critical habitats for possible protection. Also, the Audubon Society of NH, NHF&G and UNH Coop. Ext. are participating in an international effort to identify important bird areas for protection. See www.ceinfo.unh.edu. The Land & Community Heritage Investment Program has been very successful in protecting open space and historical structures across the state, reported Coop. Ext. Land Protection Specialist Phil Auger, but is slated to receive just $4 million in the governor's budget instead of the requested $6 million. SPNHF President/Forester Jane Difley was pleased to report the ownership of 135 reservations totaling 36,000 acres. They have launched a campaign to protect 1 million acres in 25 years.

At the business meeting, resolutions prepared by Gibb Dodge (regarding maintaining present mix of WMNF land uses during the plan revision) and John Calhoun (regarding continued support of the biomass facilities) were reviewed. The membership voted to forward the resolutions to NESAF and National for review and acceptance. Finally, they voted to explore hiring a lobbyist.

Karen Bennett moderated a panel discussion on public opinion regarding the northern forest. Chuck Prausa, for the WMNF, reported on the management plan revision process. Written comments from MA were 55% of the responses, and 18% from NH. "Economic returns" from forest use was ranked last of the preferences and 90% are against motorized summer recreation. Kate Stewart of Belden, Russonello and Stewart, reported on a survey
of 1,257 New England residents done by her firm. The two main concerns they voiced were "appreciate the role that forests play to balance nature and link habitats" and "limit development and human activity". See www.brspoll.com/pages/ourreports.htm.

VERMONT Division — Ray Toolan

Jonathan Wood was appointed Commissioner of the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in January. He had been the forester for Bell-Gates Lumber Corporation in Jeffersonville for the past 21 years. Prior to Bell-Gates, Jonathan worked consultant in the Lamoille County area. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Johnson State College, and is a Certified Forester. Jonathan has been Policy Chair for the New England Society of American Foresters, a past chair of the Lamoille County Planning Commission, trustee for the Vermont Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and on the board of directors of the Vermont Council on Rural Development. He is also the Tree Warden of Cambridge. Jon replaces outgoing Commissioner, Conrad Motyka, also a member of SAF — Source: Vermont Forest Exchange & Information Bulletin

As a direct result of our "Legislative Breakfast" with Vermont lawmakers in February, the Division was asked to testify on House bill H.85 before the Fish and Wildlife Committee. H.85 seeks to create a "Lands Management Account" to be funded by revenues generated from timber sales on Vermont’s Wildlife Management Areas. In addition, the bill would authorize the creation of a new position titled "Lands Management Wildlife Biologist" within the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. The bill's provisions would promote increased on-the-ground management activities on the 119,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas within the State.

Selected Notes from the 20th Annual Forest Pest Workshop

Tom Vogelman and Margaret Skinner posthumously presented the Vermont Forest Pest Workshop Award to Mariafranca Morselli, Emeritus professor of Botany. Maria, who passed away in August, international recognition for her work in maple science. She was an active participant at past Forest Pest Workshops and worked tirelessly as a proponent for women in science.

Kathy Decker, VT Forests and Parks warned that Sudden Oak Death (SOD), currently found in isolated areas of California and Oregon, is known to affect a wide range of hosts, including, perhaps, red and pin oak. We should keep an eye on SOD, even here in the Northeast. Go to www.suddenakdeath.org for more.

Trish Hanson from the VT Forests and Parks reported that this past year saw only 11 cases of indigenous Lyme disease (positively acquired in-state), although these cases are likely underreported.

Ron Kelley from VT Department of Forests and Parks expects heavy Bruce spanworm defoliation this spring. Ron also commented that the European snout beetle, balsam woolly adelgid, beech scale, sphaeropsis shoot blight in Christmas tree plantations, bronze birch borer, linden borer, as well as larch decline seem to have been exacerbated by the drought.

Barbara Burns from the VT Department of Forests and Parks reported that beechnut bark disease problem seems to have been compounded by the dry conditions. Gypsy moth egg mass counts came back low and are expected to stay that way for the foreseeable future.

Bruce Parker from the University entomology lab has been examining the Hemlock wooly adelgid's cold-hardiness and how Vermont temperatures will affect its chances of becoming established here. Scott Costa of the UVM entomology lab offered hope that future HWA infestations can be controlled with entomopathogenic fungi. Future work will likely try to examine carryover effects of these fungi, explore new delivery techniques, and evaluate their effects on non-target species.

Margaret Skinner of the UVM entomology lab addressed the Asian long horned beetle (ALB). A new infestation was found in New Jersey late in 2002. The beetle has now been confirmed in New York City, New Jersey and Chicago. The battle against ALB is looking good in Chicago but is still on shaky ground in the
New York City/New Jersey area. See www.uvm.edu/albeetle/index.html.

Dale Bergdahl from the UVM forest pathology section reported that 20 fungal species have been found to be associated with 14 hardwood trees species. Dale hopes to develop a pictorial guide that could be used for field identification.

Dennis Souto from the USFS, Durham, noted the emerald ash borer, which is native to Asia, has become a serious concern in the Midwest.

Connecticut—David Beers

At the recent winter CT SAF meeting, Doug Emmerthal of the CT DEP, gave an eye-opening slide show of timber harvests that resulted in the prosecution of timber theft. We learned the ins and outs of CSI-forestry style. The next CT SAF event is a course on basic surveying and boundary location on 4/30 by a professional surveyor. Anyone (even outside of CT) is welcome to attend. Please call our sec/treasurer, Jerry Milne, for more information (860-379-7085).

As part of CT State's forests centennial year, the CT public television show, "Main Street", aired a January program about the history of forestry and the Division of Forestry in Connecticut. As part of the same centennial, a CT forestry image library is being created. So far 130 images have been scanned.

Four of CT's own have won awards. David Irvin, received the 2003 Mollie H. Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award. Bob Ricard won the James W. Touney Outstanding Service Award (SAF Service Award). Larry Rousseau won the Yankee Division 2002 Outstanding Forester Award. Steve Broderick won the 2002 northeast extension directors' award of excellence.

Rhode Island—Gregg Cassidy

The Rhode Island Chapter, with grant funding from Yankee Division, is involved in developing a forest stewardship plan for the Apeiron Institute for Environmental Living. The Apeiron Foundation is a non-profit foundation working to create ecologically healthy communities by promoting sustainable living practices. One of their major areas of focus is an environmental education center located on 55 acres of forest in Coventry, Rhode Island. The Forest Stewardship Plan will enhance sustainable forest management on the property and incorporate forest stewardship into the educational programs offered at the Center.

The Rhode Island Chapter received a grant from the SAF Foresters Fund to develop an information packet about forest resource issues and the role of SAF in ensuring forests for the future. Tom Abbott and Chris Modisette developed the material and will present the information packet to members of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

ADMIRE THE WORK OF A FIELD FORESTER?

TURN HIM OR HER IN...FOR A PRESIDENTIAL FIELD FORESTER AWARD!

The selected individual must be actively practicing and have had a positive impact on the practice of the forestry in the field. Submit the nomination for your outstanding colleague to:

Councilor John McNulty, jmcnulty@sevenislands.com
Massachusetts — Robert Rizzo

Governor Mitt Romney has designed sweeping changes to state agencies in his recently distributed initial budget proposal to the legislature. He is calling for consolidation or elimination of environmental agencies, departments and bureaus, termination of administrator positions, and reducing duplication of jobs. His newly appointed Secretary of Environmental Affairs brings to the job a background of venture capitalism and natural gas electrical production, so everyone is waiting to see how this will affect Massachusetts environmental policies.

The State continues to be without a Chief Forester. Interviews were held this winter but the process has not moved forward.

Proposed changes to the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act, MGL Ch 132 are pending. The changes involve the cutting plan form and are aimed at clarifying landowner objectives and educating landowners. Various factions of the forest products industry have provided input into this matter, but there is still quite a bit of disagreement between foresters and loggers.

Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner MA is reporting that during the first three months of operation (Dec., Jan., & Feb.) the newly installed biomass heating plant has saved 638,400 KWH of electricity or approximately $51,019 as compared to FY02. The figures, as compared to FY01, are even more impressive with a savings of 1,203,800 KWH representing a $96,298 savings.

The College recently received notification from Congressman John Olver that it has been awarded a Federal Highway Administration appropriation in the amount of $200,000 to continue to administer the Massachusetts Wood in Transportation Program. It is anticipated that the majority of the funding will be used to support pedestrian infrastructure projects throughout the State.

W.D. Cowls Lumber in North Amherst burned to the ground last year, but the company owners are determined to rebuild. They are anticipating start-up in June 2003 with the capability to manufacture timbers up to 32'.

Hull Forest Products' new office building in Russell Mass is nearing completion. Hull has a CSX rail siding on this industrial site, which was the former Westfield River Paper Company. Company representatives are interested in talking to anyone who might have a need for such a rail siding.

A new national forest is under consideration by the Romney administration in the sparsely populated northern Berkshire and Franklin counties in the northwest section of the state. The proposal is in the earliest stages of development and already facing criticisms from the forest products industry. The process will be long and complex, first needing local input, then the state legislature must approve the plan, and finally the U.S. Congress would have to pass legislation to create the forest.

The Massachusetts SAF Chapter is fading away. The last membership meeting was June 2001. Unfortunately, SAF has not participated in the myriad of forestry related issues within the state and the perception is that SAF is not relevant to the forestry debate due to lack of participation.

Important Announcement

The 2004 Annual Winter Meeting of the Society of American Foresters will be held March 23 – 26, 2004, at the Hilton Quebec, Quebec City, Canada. Additional information will soon be available through the New Quarterly, the NESAF web site, and from Bob Ricard (robert.ricard@uconn.edu).

QUEBEC 2004

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
March 23–26, 2004
NE SAF AFFAIRS

From the Chair — Tom O'Shea

www.nesaf.org - Get Ready!!

When we think of an organization today we almost automatically think of its website. But for a non-profit organization like the NE SAF, a website can be difficult, as they often depend upon volunteers due to the cost of professional website work. Finding and retaining qualified, reliable volunteers will always be a challenge. However, the Executive Committee is committed to providing you with a website that meets your needs.

To continue the momentum of Past Chair, Bob Edmonds’ pioneering of our first website by Web Goddess, Donna Bungard, I am excited to announce that NESAF has partnered with Jim Oehler, a new volunteer, or "Web Deity," to empower members, Divisions and Chapters with expanded opportunities. A wildlife biologist with New Hampshire Fish & Game, Jim has had experience with designing and building wildlife management-related websites and is eager to get started with ours.

Jim and I will work together to achieve the website vision of enhancing and maintaining a new forum and tool for NE SAF members and our “window to the world”. We hope to realize this vision by accomplishing the following:

1) Create attractive, informative public and members-only areas of the site.
2) Provide members with downloads of forms, information, and procedures.
3) Enable members to register and pay on-line for annual meetings.
4) Invite Divisions and Chapters to use the website.
5) Post links to other organizations.
6) Post CFE opportunities and events.
7) Post an accessible SAF operations manual.

Websites that attract visitors and users are usually ones that are fluid, dynamic, up-to-date, and relevant. Please join us in creating a website that works for you by sharing your ideas and vision. I look forward to hearing from you. All the best and enjoy the spring!

Councilor’s Report — John McNulty

Policy Wonk or Advocate?

jmcnulty@sevenislands.com

Part of the Councilor’s responsibility is to keep one’s ear to the ground to stay attuned to the rumblings of the membership. A recurring undercurrent of frustration is that SAF should do more to advocate for the profession regarding problematic legislation and regulatory initiatives at the state level; that SAF deal directly with issues that affect a member’s daily working environment or that SAF advocate a position or support an initiative vitally important to you. It only seems logical that the organization that represents 16,000 forestry professionals should be willing and able to take up this challenge. However, nothing is ever as easy as it seems.

At the national level, SAF has made tremendous progress in the policy arena, having built a talented policy group. Legislative staffs routinely call on SAF for advice on natural resource issues. Our stature has been carefully nurtured by adhering to good science in support of good legislation. Our continued success in this arena depends on maintaining the foundation of trust SAF has established; not as an advocate but as a credible resource that can be tapped to bring science to the discussion in support of sound public policy.

With a diverse membership from different regions, forest types, employment categories and cultural perspectives, SAF position statements are necessarily broad in context to provide state societies the latitude to craft positions specific to their needs. Therein lies the difference between an advocacy organization and an organization whose purpose is to facilitate the development of science-supported public policy. Advocacy tends to be narrowly focused, where people close to an issue and personally affected by a policy initiative, work to influence the outcome of the debate. They have a personal or business stake in the outcome. SAF members may have opposing viewpoints based on their particular circumstance but SAF,
the organization, usually doesn’t have a “dog in the fight” unless the science used to support the policy or the policy itself is misguided in its purpose – its purported outcome can’t be supported by science; in which case SAF has the responsibility to bring clarity to the debate.

SAF is most effective as a facilitator to its members as they struggle with policy discussions at the local level. The national staff is ready to assist local policy committees in responding to policy initiatives and in developing local relationships and response protocols that can vastly improve your effectiveness. However, SAF must continue to keep its “eye on the ball” by debating the science and not advocating for a particular political outcome - a position I’m sure will not please those who believe SAF should be in front advocating positions that furthers the cause of professional forestry (whatever that might be?).

The better question is...“Has SAF been an effective advocate for the profession?” Yes. By ensuring the best science is used in the development of public policy, SAF has enhanced its stature and the stature of its members. There is no quick fix here. Patience is a virtue, required to build credibility, gained through trust. Remember - advocacy may win battles, but patience, credibility and trust will win the war.

Northern Woodlands Goes Non-Profit

Northern Woodlands Magazine began its tenth year of operations by changing itself to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. By doing so, it is diversifying its revenue streams and expects to be able to increase funding through tax-deductible contributions from individuals and grants from foundations. The only publication of its kind, Northern Woodlands has loyal supporters from the forestry, environmental, industry, and conservation communities, and it bridges the gaps that threaten to further split these people whose futures are tied to the forest. They are doing important work. Those wishing to help can go to www.northernwoodlands.com or call (802) 439-6292.

Ron Lemin Takes Membership Chair

Ronald Lemin, Maine’s NESAF Representative, has agreed to occupy the vacant position of Membership Chair on the NESAF Executive Committee. In the next couple of months the membership database for NESAF will be obtained from National. The data will be dissected from a historical sense to determine where we have fallen short in addressing the concerns of our members. We will attempt to address these concerns to increase of membership numbers.

For example, looking at the list of delinquent members for Maine, 50 percent are 2-8 year members. It may be possible that we are getting individuals to join, but not following up to strengthen their ownership in SAF. It might be likely that you will get a call from Ron asking you about your membership concerns or ideas. Also, if you have suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact Ron at teiron@aol.com.

Parr is NE SAF CFE Coordinator

Nory Parr, the Extension Forester in Grafton County and volunteer CFE Coordinator for the state forester licensing board, has agreed to also serve as the NESAF CFE Coordinator. “Nory is a strong supporter of SAF”, said previous NE SAF CFE Coordinator Jon Nute, “and I am very pleased that he has volunteered for this important function. He has been doing a great job assigning NH state forester licensing credits, and it makes sense that he also be the person to assign SAF credits as well. This will also make it more convenient for activity sponsors to contact just Nory for credits rather than the both of us.”

SAF Calls for Fellow Nominations

Would your state society like to honor a colleague’s outstanding contributions to forestry and to SAF? If so, now is the time to start processing SAF Fellow nomination packets. Nominations are being accepted now through May 31. The nomination packet is available on the SAF website at www.safnet.org/members/fellowinst.cfm.
Policy Committee — Rich Carbonetti

In sessions at the NESAF Winter Meeting in Burlington the Policy Committee developed an agenda for the upcoming year. The Policy Committee Meeting Wednesday served to lay out a series of topics and strategies for the committee and set the tone for the Forest Policy Roundtable held as two concurrent sessions Thursday. The committee identified actions and strategies for implementation so SAF can effectively advocate in forest resource policy discussions. Outgoing Policy Chair Jonathan Wood listed a series of potential position statements. Rich Carbonetti, of the GMD, described the division’s legislative breakfast and Position Statement booklet delivered to the legislators. This will be provided to NESAF’s Divisions. Also discussed was the idea of developing a funding method for the hiring of a Policy Coordinator. Charlie Levesque, former Council Member, outlined his ideas on a SAF culture change that would provide for the reallocation of funds from national back to the regions to facilitate this effort. The Roundtable sessions were well attended. A critical participant was Michael Goergen our national policy director and interim SAF EVP. His insights on national issues, including the upcoming volunteer Task Force, were invaluable to our deliberations. Equally important, he was there to listen to our debate regarding NESAF’s vision on policy development and the Policy Coordinators position. The session outlined a series of policy areas to consider, suggestions for funding mechanisms and an outline of a job description for the PC position. We need a volunteer for the Task Force and a new NESAF Policy Chair.

Leadership Academy

We have a good news/bad news scenario from Council on the Leadership Academy. First, the good news. Council has agreed to support the Leadership Academy. The bad news is that we will not have a Leadership Academy this year. The good news is really good news. The conversation has progressed from “the Leadership Academy can’t go on until it pays for itself” to an attitude of “this is really important and we will find a way to finance it.” So, a Leadership Academy is scheduled for 2004. Having said that, I believe that it is important for the Leadership Academy to be self-sustaining, so our work isn’t done yet.

As for the decision not to have the Academy this year, the predominant sentiment was the concern that we didn’t have enough time to properly promote the Academy before our spring deadline. Although I was a strong proponent of having the Academy this year, I have to concede that there is logic in that argument. As one Council member told me after the vote, “I didn’t want to set the Leadership Academy up for failure.” That sentiment is strongly indicative of support. So, the work of the Leadership Academy Steering Committee is not to help setup the Academy for this year, but to pull together a plan for institutionalizing the Leadership Academy for 2004, and into the future.

I want to thank all of you for your help and passion on this issue. I regard the outcome as a success. There is a commitment now in Council to support the Leadership Academy that wasn’t there last year. The Leadership Academy will survive.

Mike Lester
Councilor, District 7
milester@state.pa.us

Have Views On Policy Matters? Want Effective Representation?

Here’s YOUR opportunity!
Executive Committee seeks two volunteers!
- NE SAF Policy Committee Chair
- National Task Force on Volunteer Issues

Contact Tom O’Shea for details:
508-759-3400
Tom.O'Shea@state.ma.us
tosheal9@comcast.net

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CFE Update

Activity/Date/Location
Advanced Logger Rescue, 5/6/03, CT
Professional Chainsaw Operation, 5/7/03, Chester, MA
OSHA Logging Standards, 5/14/03, CT and 5/15/03, Otis, MA
Game of Logging, Levels 1-4, 5/21&28, and 6/4&11/03, Petersham, MA
Game of Logging, Levels 1-4, 5/22&29, and 6/5&12/03, Barkhamstead, CT
Forest Health Information Meeting, 4/8/03, Hartford, VT
Basic Surveying & Boundary Location, 4/30/03, Burlington, CT
Our Past, Present and Future White Pine Resource, 5/21-22/03, Portland/Hollis, ME

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NE SAF Membership Trend
Winter Meeting Coverage in this Issue!

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