Sudden Oak Death in the East?!

A silent threat may loom over New England's forests—a disease with the potential to cause devastation rivaling chestnut blight or Dutch elm disease. Caused by a fungus-like organism that produces leaf spots and blight, it infects a variety of trees, shrubs, and landscape plants. Though most species that suffer symptoms survive, one group of trees faces almost certain mortality—the mighty red oaks. A valuable source of timber as well as food and habitat for wildlife, red oaks occupy over 1.5 million acres in New England.

Until recently this disease, Sudden Oak Death (SOD), had been confined to the west coast, where it has killed tens of thousands of trees. However, recent discoveries of SOD in California nurseries that have shipped material all across the country, along with confirmed reports of infected plants at nurseries in 13 States, have heightened concerns that this devastating pathogen may have been transported to New England. Fortunately, all confirmed reports to date are limited to nursery plants; SOD does not yet appear to have spread to forested areas outside of the west coast.

In 2003, preliminary surveys of eastern nurseries and forests by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the USDA Forest Service were negative. However, the number of surveys scheduled for 2004 has increased dramatically following the grim findings in California. As part of a national effort, State crews from New England were trained in Rhode Island on the identification of Sudden Oak Death. puppygrass (producers of this disease) has been found in the following states: California, Oregon, Washington, Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia, South Carolina, and New Jersey. Additional locations are under investigation.

Leaf spots caused by Phytophthora ramorum on rhododendron. Leaf spot margins caused by this are often fuzzy rather than sharply defined.—USDA Forest Service Photo

In California Phytophthora ramorum causes crown symptoms and tree mortality—USDA Forest Service Photo

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Sudden Oak Death (Continued from page 1)

...tuation of suspect plant materials and will begin surveys in early June.

Also called Ramorum blight, Sudden Oak Death affects a variety of shrubs that in turn provide the inoculum for the fungus to infect nearby oaks, causing tree mortality. Individuals who have recently received camellias, viburnums, or rhododendrons from any west coast nursery should inspect them for symptoms of spotting and dieback. Unfortunately, many different diseases causing similar symptoms can be found on these plants, so distinguishing symptoms resulting from Sudden Oak Death is extremely difficult. Because of the catastrophic potential of this disease on oak trees and forests, however, individuals with recently installed plants showing symptoms should contact their State agriculture department for further direction.

More details, including a pest alert leaflet on Sudden Oak Death and a section on Frequently Asked Questions, are available on the Forest Service’s Web site at [http://www.fs.fed.us/nav/durham/](http://www.fs.fed.us/nav/durham/) under News.—Helen Thompson, USDA Forest Service

The Temperate Forest Foundation

The Foundation is seeking a new President and CEO as Bob Legg, its current President and CEO, is retiring. Director Chad Oliver requests members to “please inform anyone you know who may be interested and qualified for this position.”

The Temperate Forest Foundation ([http://www.forestinfo.org/](http://www.forestinfo.org/)) provides information in the form of information bulletins (“Eco-Links”), videos, K-12 teachers’ tours, and other creative venues to the public and to those communicating with the public. It is supported by public contributions and prides itself on its credibility. It is headquartered in the Portland area of Oregon, but is active nationwide.

The position is ideal for someone with experience in industry or the NGO community who is looking for a fulfilling position leading a highly respected foundation. For more information, or a position description, contact Chad at:

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Wanted—Website Contributions!

If you have documents or pictures that should be posted on nesaf.org please contact Lindsey Santianello, at 603.224.3006 or space@connet.com

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

**Conservation Biology**
Malcolm Hunter, Jr., Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, University of Maine, Orono ME

What is Conservation Biology?
Conservation biology is the applied science of maintaining the earth’s biological diversity. A simpler, more obvious definition - biology as applied to conservation issues - would be rather misleading because conservation biology is both more and less than this. First, it is not just a subset of biology. Conservation biology is cross-disciplinary, reaching far beyond biology into subjects such as philosophy, economics, and sociology - disciplines that are concerned with the social environment in which we practice conservation - as well as into subjects such as law and education that determine the ways we implement conservation. On the other hand, there are many biological aspects of conservation, such as biological research on how to grow timber, improve water quality, or graze livestock, that are only tangentially related to conservation biology.

Thirty years ago maintaining biological diversity meant saving endangered species from extinction and was considered a small component of conservation completely overshadowed by forestry, soil and water conservation, fish and game management, and related disciplines. Now, with so many species at risk and the idea of biological diversity extending to genes, ecosystems, and other biological entities, conservation biology has moved into the spotlight as the crisis discipline focused upon saving life on earth, perhaps the major issue of our times.

What is Biodiversity?
Definitions of biodiversity usually go one step beyond the obvious - the diversity of life - and define biodiversity as the diversity of life in all its forms, and at all levels of organization. “In all its forms” reminds us that biodiversity includes plants, invertebrate animals, fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms, as well as the vertebrates that garner most of the attention. “All levels of organization” indicates that biodiversity refers to the diversity of genes and ecosystems, as well as species diversity.

Maintaining Biodiversity
Managing ecosystems to maintain biodiversity requires a mixture of different approaches including: protecting natural ecosystems in reserves; combining biodiversity conservation and commodity production (e.g., forestry and fisheries) in modified, semi-natural ecosystems; managing cultivated and built ecosystems to ensure that they efficiently provide for human well-being without having a negative impact on other ecosystems; and restoring degraded ecosystems. For protected ecosystems the key issues are selecting reserves that will protect a representative array of ecosystems, designing reserves (e.g., deciding on their size, shape, and location with respect to other types of ecosystems), and managing the reserves to maintain their natural structure and function (e.g., controlling exotic species and human visitors).

Modified ecosystems dominate the earth’s surface, and thus it is essential that they provide habitat for most biota in addition to connectivity among reserves. This can be accomplished if these ecosystems are managed in a way that is as consistent as possible with natural processes, for example, logging forests in a manner designed to mimic the role of natural disturbances. Cultivated and built ecosystems do provide habitat for some species, but they are generally not species jeopardized with extinction. Conservationists need to ensure that these ecosystems are safe, enjoyable places for people to live and produce most of their needs.

(Continued on page 5)
Biodiversity In and Around Urban Areas

J. Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Burlington VT

Once an urban center has been established, human population densities and activities can affect biodiversity in many ways—both increasing and decreasing the variety of flora and fauna. These impacts span a variety of spatial scales. Thus we can discuss the alteration of biodiversity in the urban centers or surrounding suburban regions, or examine the impacts at the landscape level due to the import and procurement of resources from surrounding rural areas to urban areas or the export of pollution or heat. Moreover, the effects on biodiversity span both ecological and evolutionary time scales. Finally, the intensity of impacts can vary—from the complete loss of species to the creation of entirely new ecosystem complexes to less obvious alterations in the genetic makeup of populations.

Characteristics of the environment vary within and across ecosystems and influence community composition—resource availability, environmental heterogeneity, disturbance regimes, invasion dynamics, inter-specific interactions, and habitat area and connectivity. Humans alter all of these determinants of biodiversity, and thus alter patterns of biodiversity within and around urban systems. In addition, humans create, alter, or destroy habitats in urban centers. Thus human influences on biodiversity fall into at least four categories:

1. Alteration of habitat
2. Destruction of habitat
3. Creation of habitat
4. Fragmentation of habitat
5. Alteration of resource flows
6. Reduction in net primary production
7. Increase in regional temperature
8. Mobilization and concentration of nutrients
9. Dispersion of toxins
10. Diversion of water and changes in timing of availability
11. Degradation of water quality
12. Alteration of disturbance regimes
13. Increases in small-scale disturbance
14. Attempts to decrease large-scale disturbance
15. Unintentional shifts in disturbance
16. Alteration of species composition
17. Preferential cultivation or destruction of native species
18. Introduction of nonnative species

It is evident that urbanization is a clear and dominant trend that will continue to characterize our species and the biodiversity of Earth. Ecologists have traditionally treated human social systems as separable from ecological systems and have traditionally treated anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity as an exogenous, rather than endogenous, perturbing force. But as an increasing number of the Earth's ecosystems come under the influence of these highly populated human habitats, and as an increasing number of species are influenced by the manipulations (either intentional or unintentional) of humans as they shape and respond to their surroundings, the scientific community will—predict—discover that understanding the future of biodiversity of the planet—not just in cities—will require treating Homo sapiens as an interacting member of ecological communities, and not as a species that stands apart from them. Cities are an ideal environment for examining humans as integral parts of ecological systems, and therefore serve as an ideal proving ground for the theories of how human activities will influence biodiversity patterns in the future.


Conservation Biology (Continued from page 4)
so that the pressure on other ecosystems is minimized. Finally, all of the activities described above can only maintain the status quo; if we want to improve an ecosystem that has been degraded by human activities we must turn to restoration ecologists who are devising many methods for restoring ecosystems.

Biodiversity Conservation on State-Owned Forestland in Massachusetts
John Scanlon, MassWildlife, Westborough, MA

Simply put, ‘biodiversity’ is the variety of life and related processes. That includes all plant and animal species, natural communities (recurrent assemblages of plants and animals), nutrient cycles, water cycles, etc., etc. How do we go about conserving all of this—especially when some components of biodiversity such as invertebrate animal species are poorly studied or even undiscovered?

One way to begin is to accept that our knowledge is incomplete, but to understand that we do know enough to begin. Natural ecosystems that are un-impacted by people (if there is such a thing in the world today) are generally thought to maintain a full component of biodiversity. Within ecosystems that are impacted by people, such as the 500,000 acres of state-owned forestland in Massachusetts, we can make a concerted effort to incorporate structural patterns found in natural systems into managed forests. We can also make a commitment to establish a system of forest reserves where human impact is minimized, and natural processes are allowed to unfold to the greatest degree possible. This allows biological monitoring of plant and animal communities on actively managed lands to be assessed relative to communities in reserves. Ideally, we will be able to maintain the same communities on managed lands as are found in reserves.

Massachusetts recently became the first state in the Nation to have all of its public lands certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for sustainable forestry. An important component of the FSC standard involves conservation of biodiversity. In order to meet this component of certification, state-owned forestlands in Massachusetts are utilizing retention-based harvesting where portions of a mature forest canopy are retained through one or more future rotations. This practice diversifies forest structure, provides shaded microclimates throughout harvested sites, sustains den and cavity trees, and ultimately increases the amount of coarse woody debris in the forest. In addition, efforts are being made to establish a better working relationship between state management foresters and ecologists with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. This relationship should enhance the long-term conservation of rare species and unique natural communities.

Another important undertaking to conserve biodiversity on state-owned forestlands is the designation of reserves where no timber extraction will occur. An extensive GIS effort is underway to identify potential reserve sites that include multiple examples of the full range of forest types and conditions that occur in Massachusetts. Through an open public process, high priority reserve sites will be determined. Ultimately, more than 100,000 acres of state-owned land is expected to be designated as forest reserves.

Eventually, Massachusetts expects to harvest more than 20 million board feet annually from its state-owned forestlands, and also expects to maintain the full component of biodiversity associated with these lands. Active silviculture provides opportunities to maintain viable populations of wildlife species that are associated with early-seral habitats. Given that natural disturbance processes such as fire and flooding that formerly provided early-seral habitats have been substantially curtailed by people, active management can provide surrogate habitats to benefit wildlife species experiencing long-term population declines. In fact, multiple benefits accrue from active forest management. Valuable habitat is created while renewable wood products are generated that sustain rural economies. Presently, wood products harvested from Massachusetts forestlands account for less than 5% of wood consumption in the state. Over time, Massachusetts can substantially reduce its dependence on imported wood while realizing important habitat benefits.

At the same time, forest reserves will ultimately provide habitat for species and processes associated with late-seral habitats, and will also provide unique recreational and spiritual opportunities for people. Forest reserves are an essential component of biodiversity conservation, and reserve function will be enhanced by maintaining surrounding buffers composed of extensive working forestland. Taken together, managed forestlands and forest reserves will provide a full range of ecological, economic, and social benefits to the citizens of Massachusetts.
Biodiversity and Small Woodlands - Opportunities for Connecting to the Forest
Roger Monthey, USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Durham, NH

I recently presented a talk on the ecological and natural history values of woodlands in urbanizing areas at the NESAF Annual Meeting in Quebec. A focus of my talk was the importance of conserving and managing woodlands and their associated biota. Some of the organisms that I discussed included fungi, wildflowers and shrubs, lichens, mosses and liverworts, and wildlife. I believe that increasing our personal knowledge of these species, and their important ecological and natural history values, will lead to greater appreciation of them. This, in turn, will lead to more engaged and responsible woodland stewardship.

What do I mean by ecological and natural history values? Ecological value refers to the functional importance of organisms in ecosystems. Natural history values include the inherent uniqueness and beauty of these organisms as well as their uses as food, medicine, etc. Evidence that our ancestors knew about and depended on these organisms was found on the Iceman, a mummified individual located in a glacier in the Northern Alps in the 1990s. The Iceman, aged by carbon dating as over 5300 years old, had 17 trees and shrubs and 2 fungi on his body, many of which were being used for utilitarian purposes.

Woodlands serve as great outdoor laboratories for people living in urbanizing areas to increase their Stewardship IQ and to feel more directly connected to the land. Maintaining connectedness to the land is critically important for our youth, especially in urbanizing areas where opportunities to understand and experience woodland values are diminishing. Active management will enhance the long-term health of woodlands, and if done appropriately, can enhance many of the species that inhabit them.

Wildflowers are an important component of biodiversity in New England. Spring ephemerals, for example, are an important group in northern hardwood forests. These plants flower before dense shade develops. The forest floor may appear quite barren during times of dense shade, but some plants, such as woodland asters, are adaptive to lesser amounts of light and develop as the season progresses. Wildflowers add greatly to the spice of life. Their various colors and shapes are splashed as from an artist’s brush throughout your woodlands, and provide moments of pleasure and appreciation to you as you walk your forest trails.

Shrubs are also a major growth form under many forest stands and, like wildflowers, can be excellent indicators of site conditions. Shrubs are distinct from young tree regeneration because they do not develop into tree-size forms (although some can get quite large). Of course, being able to distinguish young tree regeneration from the shrubs that grow in your woodland can tell you a lot about what your woodland will look like in the future. Shrubs and young tree regeneration are important components of vertical and horizontal diversity in woodlands, and provide important nesting cover and food for wildlife. The important values that plants provide to us and the environment are discussed at the website: http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/plants/celeb.html.

Fortunately, the value of woodlands as an escape from suburban pressures and for woodland education has been recognized by local grassroots organizations, woodland owner organizations, regional conservation organizations, and governmental agencies. There are many examples of woodlands that have been conserved in urbanizing areas and of educational efforts to teach us about woodland values. However, we need to increase the extent of conserved and sustainably managed woodlands in the face of unrelenting development pressures.
MAINE Division— Marc Johnson

MESAF Spring Meeting
The Spring Meeting began with dinner and an evening program on “Liquidation Harvesting” on May 27th and spent the 28th visiting the Bartlett Experimental Forest to discuss “Northern Hardwood Silviculture.” The evening panel, moderated by Bob Seymour, included Philip Bryce, NH State Forester, Alec Giffin, Director, ME Forest Service, and Brian Stone, VT Chief of Forest Management.

Giffin explained that his focus has been on liquidation harvesting since he took office. He described Governor Baldacci’s commitment to improving forestry and protecting ME forests. Maine’s new Liquidation Harvesting law defines Liquidation Harvesting as “the purchase of timberland followed by a harvest that removes most or all commercial value in standing timber, without regard for long-term forest management principles, and the subsequent sale or attempted resale of the harvested land within 5 years.” The ME Forest Service estimates that the total land area affected annually ranges from 12,000-54,000 acres.

Brian Stone discussed Vermont’s “Intent to Cut” law, designed to deter “Heavy Cutting.” It requires management plans similar to Maine’s law, and gives Vermont a mechanism to monitor the activity. In seven years, there have been 499 applications involving about 85,000 acres, representing 0.2 percent of Vermont’s forested land.

Philip Bryce stated that NH has no liquidation harvesting law. They have discussed the problem continuously over the last 10 years, but he believes that the State Forester’s efforts are better spent “promoting both land conservation and forest stewardship” through education and incentives.

The field tour at the Bartlett Experimental Forest was hosted by Bill Leak, Mariko Yamasaki, and Chris Costello who described northern hardwood ecology and 70-plus years of silviculture management on this unique field laboratory in Northern New Hampshire. The tour visited small group/patch selections, a 52-year old “liquidation harvest” that has developed into a nice valuable large-pole stand, a 15-acre clearcut, an individual-tree selection, a 70-year old clearcut with pre-commercial thinning at
age 25, and a recent commercial thinning in 2003, a 3-acre patch cut to maintain an aspen component, and ended with a goshawk nesting area in a pine/ hemlock stand.

Discussion ranged from limiting beach regeneration using the larger group/ patch cuts versus the single tree selection, to requiring larger harvested areas (around 15 acres), with residual slash, to maximize the population of early succession bird species, bats, and browse and/or food availability for larger mammals. It was enlightening to see the quality timber produced from clearcuts in 1934 and 1952, and how we will continue to manage them to rotation ages of 100-120 years, producing 16-18 inch sawtimber.

Our hosts emphasized the need to provide a wide array of silvicultural options to guarantee habitat diversity for all wildlife species while managing the hardwood resource for timber quality and value.—Ron Lenin

Maine Governor Approves “Liquidation Harvesting” Rules
Governor John Baldacci has approved a new set of rules to take effect in January, 2005 and meant to substantially eliminate so-called “liquidation harvesting” within five years. Supporters of the initiative say the practice fragments the forest, compromises wildlife habitat and hurts outdoor recreation. Woodland owners who practice sustainable harvesting say the practice floods the market with low-cost wood from questionable harvesting.

The new rules require landowners who want to buy, cut and sell parcels within five years to do one of the following:

- Limit harvesting to 50% of the merchantable timber. High-grading is not allowed.
- Have a harvest plan signed by a licensed forester.
- Use a logger or forester who has completed a training course accredited by the Maine Forest Service.

Legislators also approved a companion bill providing for strict penalties for landowners who violate the new rules for liquidation harvesting. Landowners stand to lose all economic gain from a harvest that is found to violate the new rules. The rules contain 12 exemptions, including owners of parcels that are 20 acres or less, owners who have a total of 100 acres or less statewide and owners who have their forest management activities certified by an independent third party. For more information visit http://www.maineforestservice.org. - Source: Central Maine Newspapers, May 26, 2004.

Focus Species Workshop
In April and May, the Maine Audubon, Small woodland Owners of Maine, the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine and the Maine Forest Service co-sponsored a series of workshops on a multi-species approach to integrating timber management and biodiversity. Speaker Rob Bryan, Maine Audubon and SAF member, developed the management guide that was used at the seminar. The strategy is to focus on the habitat needs of one or two wildlife species with large territories, such as the goshawk. Thus, the habitat needs of many other wildlife species are also met, along with biodiversity goals. For example, by focusing on

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Seeking Panelists In Edmonton
We have heard from Leo Laferriere about a program he is working on for Edmonton and he’s looking for your help. Here’s what he writes:

I just received notice from the Edmonton convention program planning team that a proposal I made has been accepted. It’s a professional development project, for the benefit of students, titled “Career Experiences in Forestry.” The program is a 45 minute presentation by a three to five member panel with diverse backgrounds (field, research, academia, government, industry, etc.). The format is very short career-experience presentations by the panelists, followed by an open question period from the students. I’m looking for potential panelists of varied backgrounds who plan the trip to Edmonton. I’ll likely try to find at least one Canadian panelist, but I’d like to hear from NY-NE folks as well. “
the larger goshawk habitat one is helping to create habitat for ruffed grouse and a host of songbirds, while still being able to manage the woodland for wood products. About half of the attendees at the Augusta session were landowners interested in wildlife management of their woodlots, suggesting a key ownership goal for many. Working with wildlife management objectives is an excellent method to help foresters reach landowners to help them manage their lands sustainably. For more information, or a copy of “Focus Species Forestry,” contact Rob Bryan, Maine Audubon, at rbryan@maineaudubon.org or (207) 781-2330.

Tree Farm Inspector Workshops
A series of Tree farm Inspector workshops were held in May throughout Maine to unveil the new American Tree Farm certification requirements that are to take effect on July 1, 2004. The intent of the new requirements is for the American Tree Farm System to become a stronger player in the forest certification of sustainable small woodlands throughout the United States. For more see [www.treefarmsystem.org](http://www.treefarmsystem.org).

Maine Forest Service Cost-Share Workshops
In late May and early June, the Maine Service held a series of cost-share program workshops. The meetings were well attended by foresters eager to help landowners obtain funds for forest management plans, forest improvement work and forest health. Landowners with 1 to 1000 acres are eligible. The funds are to be distributed under the ME Forest Service “Woods-Wise” program. Morten Moeswilde, of the MFS, is the coordinator for the program.

New Guide Available: Improving Habitat for Forest Thrushes
The Cornell lab of Ornithology has released “A Land Manager’s Guide to Improving Habitats for Forest Thrushes.” Since 1997 the lab has been studying habitat selection among forest-dwelling thrushes. Survey results helped create the guide, which first addresses some contemporary forest health and management issues. The heart of the guide is a set of regionally specific recommendations for forest thrushes including tips for managing key forest characteristics for breeding birds. One conclusion relating to the northern US forest, where the sale of timber is the primary industry, is that a shifting mosaic of forest habitats of various ages will probably benefit the most species as long as disturbance and harvesting practices don’t lead to forest loss or fragmentation. The guide is available for $5 from mb105@cornell.edu or call (607) 254-2446.

*** Field Tour Announcement ***
Wednesday, August 4, 2004

NESAF members are invited to attend a tour of silvicultural research on the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Bradley and Eddington, Maine. View and discuss research by the Forest Service and the University of Maine. Topics include shelterwood and selection silviculture, thinning, diameter-limit cutting, restoring degraded stands, and the effects of management on ecosystem structure and function, including habitats of insects and amphibians.

Participants should meet at 8:30 AM at the USDA Forest Service office on Government Road about ½-mile east of Maine Highway 178 in Bradley. The tour will end by 4:00 PM. Bring a lunch; we’ll eat in the woods. Come prepared to hear the latest results from research that has been going on from 2 to 50 years. Here is a chance to ask questions, learn new things, get great ideas, and tell researchers what concerns need more attention.

RSVP, or for more information: John Brissette (jbrissette@fs.fed.us or 603-868-7632)

Hosted by Working Group D (Management and Utilization)
GRANITE STATE Division—Jonathan Nute

Blackfly Breakfast Held
The sixth Annual Blackfly Breakfast was held on April 6 at Alan’s of Boscawen, NH. A hundred foresters and loggers feasted on breakfast and a cornucopia of topics, starting with a “round table” for all to report on happening in their world, and followed by a market update. There was general agreement that business is better this year than last.

State Forester, Phil Bryce and his staff to reported on the state of NH forestry. Jen Bofinger updated us on hemlock woolly adelgid (we got it), the Asian longhorn beetle and emerald ash borer (we don’t got them), and sudden oak death (we sure hope we don’t get it).

Darrel Covell, Extension Wildlife Specialist reported that they are developing species profiles and wildlife maps as part of the NH State Comprehensive Wildlife Plan.

Jasen Stock and Hunter Carbee both of NHTOA covered legislation, SFI, logging capacity and insurance rate issues. Jeff Eames, for the Timber Harvesting Council, reported on a book on roads for municipal officials and the forest industry that will be ready this fall and should help both groups know the law and help prevent miscommunications.

Forest Industry Specialist, Sarah Smith, presented her slide show on the “Woman’s Sawmill at Turkey Pond” (Concord NH) that was set up to saw trees felled by the 1938 hurricane. NH had the greatest amount of blowdown in New England (estimated over a billion board feet in NH) with Massachusetts close behind. Over half of the downed trees were salvaged, more than in any of the other

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 6th Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference

Moving Toward Sustainable Forestry: Lessons From Old Growth Forests
September 23-26, 2004 Geneva Point Center, Moultonborough, NH
Session Subject Categories
1. Forest Dynamics Age and structure, forest types, woody debris, disturbance regimes, nutrient cycling, etc.
2. Biodiversity Natural communities, speciation, bio-genetics, evolution, etc.
3. Wildlife Invertebrate/vertebrate population dynamics, rare species, metapopulations, etc.
4. Conservation Protection strategies, living legacy, funding options, stewardship, etc.
5. Socio-Economics Viable management, silvicultural mimickry, recreational/spiritual values, etc.
6. Nuts & Bolts Old growth characteristics, dendrometrics, GPS & GIS, dendrochronology, etc.

Submission Information
Please indicate your preference of poster or presentation, and submit an abstract not to exceed 300 words, along with a short biography, your affiliation, and contact information in writing or by e-mail, by June 30, 2004.

Abstracts should be submitted to:
callforpapers@oldgrowthconference.org (email) or:
Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference
PO Box 231
Canterbury, NH 03224

Please see our web site at: www.oldgrowthconference.org

Sponsors—University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Society for the Protection of NH Forests

11
states. If you have a chance to hear Sarah speak about the hurricane of ’38, take advantage of it.—Karen Bennett, UNH Cooperative Extension

Mud Breakfast
In Southern NH we eat black flies. In the North Country we eat mud! The 14th annual Mud Breakfast was hosted by Dartmouth College Forester, Kevin Evans on May 12 at Dartmouth College Grant. Over 100 foresters and loggers attended a hearty breakfast and debate about land use changes in the historically industrial forest of the northeast. Speakers presenting a broad spectrum of views on the topic included Kevin Evans, Dartmouth College; John Harrigan, Colebrook News & Sentinel; Tom Henderson, International Paper Co.; Mike Kelley, Kol-Log; Charles Levesque, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions; Tom Morrow, Lyme Timber Co.; Charles Niebling, Society for the Protection of NH Forests; Will Staats, NH Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist and Don Tase, Upland Forest Management. The challenges of the new age in forest industry remained unresolved but well acknowledged!

After lunch, Kevin Evans led the group on a tour of the 27,000 acre College Grant to view and discuss integrated forest management. Featured stops were woodcock management, road stabilization/ fisheries management and a five-year-old hardwood improvement cut. Dartmouth College requires that the Grant remain self-sufficient in addition to producing a scholarship revenue for New Hampshire students.

Sarah Smith Honored
Sarah Smith, Extension Forest Industry Specialist, was honored this past Saturday by the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association. Sarah received the organization’s most prestigious award, the Kendall Norcott Award, to recognize the outstanding contributions that Sarah made to the timberland owners group.

GREEN MOUNTAIN Division—Ray Toolan

Governor Honors U&CF Work
At a ceremony in Montpelier on May 7th Governor James Douglas not only proclaimed the first Friday in May to be Vermont’s Arbor Day, but also honored three programs for their efforts at promoting Urban and Community Forestry in Vermont. One hundred and seven students, teachers, parents, forestry professionals, legislators, and town officials attended the ceremony at the Sculpture Garden near the State House.

Five fifth grade students were first honored for their efforts at creating local Arbor Day posters on the National Arbor Day Theme: “Trees Are Terrific….In Cities and Towns!” They received certificates and savings bonds (from the Green Mountain Division) and then helped the Governor mulch a newly planted tree. Several communities were then honored as Tree City USA communities throughout Vermont. Finally, the Governor honored the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation for becoming a Tree Line USA company, which honors utilities for their stewardship in power line ROW management.

All three programs are sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and supported by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation through their Urban and Community Forestry Program.—Gary Salmon

http://www.gwriters.com/saf/
Massachusetts—Robert Rizzo

Licensed Forester Workshop
Jim DiMaio, State Forester, reports that approximately 90 Foresters attended a Licensed Forester Workshop on February 26th. Workshop objectives were to improve relationships among licensed foresters, improve the public image of licensed foresters, and expand forest management in Massachusetts. John Newton, marketing consultant, reported that foresters are not well known and that the public is confused on what foresters actually do. He provided examples of organizations that developed “a voice of one” and how powerful a genuine message can be. The group decided to continue to work together to foster forest management and commissioned John to propose a plan to develop a foresters’ message and communications strategy. A second meeting on June 16th in South Amherst will review proposal; address the utilization of poor quality forest resources through bio-energy initiatives; and discuss improvements to Massachusetts current use laws.

State Lands-Green Certification
Approximately 500,000 acres of State lands, were green certified by Scientific Certification System under Forest Stewardship Council certification standards on May 11.

Massachusetts Forestry Forum
Environmentalists, conservationists, landowners, harvesters, sawmill owners, foresters, and local officials spent two days focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the state’s forest products value chain at Harvard Forest on May 12-13. Sustainable forest management and a vibrant timber industry were recognized as critical to maintaining forests and biodiversity in the state. High priority action items were organizing a Massachusetts Forestry Commission with a broad mission and diverse interests, educational needs, bio-mass and bio-energy, state emphasis on natural resource management, legislative changes, and development of model forests for education.

Connecticut—David Beers

Legislation
Under Public Act 04-115, DEP must adopt new regulations to certify foresters who will evaluate land proposed for forest land classification (PA-490) and provide a report to the landowner. This frees the State Forester of the task of certifying forest land. The act also authorizes the DEP Commissioner to apply for 3rd party certification of state forests or state forest products under at least one of nine specified certification programs. In addition, state forest revenue in excess of $875,000 is to be deposited in the Conservation Fund, which funds DEP’s central office and conservation and preservation programs. Revenue for the past five years has averaged about $1 million.

Public Act 04—209 mandates that local wetlands agencies may not regulate plant or animal life outside of wetlands unless a proposed activity is likely to affect such life or habitat in the wetlands or watercourses or the wetlands or watercourses themselves.

Great Mountain Forest Easement
The DEP bought 145 acres in fee and placed a conservation restriction on 5,383 acres of the Great Mountain Forest owned by Elizabeth Childs in Norfolk and Canaan. Total price was $5.1 million. Nearly 25,000 acres are now protected from development in that part of CT. The Childs family will continue to manage the land, as it has for almost 100 years. Yale, UConn, and UMass have used the Forest for research projects and it has been a popular destination for SAF and Tree Farm field trips. It was one of the first sites in CT where wild turkeys were successfully reintroduced in the 1970s. The fee parcel connects two pieces of Housatonic State Forest where a new "Iron Ore Trail" trail will be developed.
New Publication
“A Shared Landscape,” by Joseph Leary, a 240-page color guide to 130 state parks and forests, is available at the CT DEP Bookstore for $25 plus $5 s&h. Call (800) 424-3555 or order online at www.dep.state.ct.us/store/index.htm. The guide was published by the Friends of Connecticut State Parks, Inc., in collaboration with CFPA and the DEP.

Briefly Noted
CT DEP reports the following towns earned the Tree City USA designation for their commitment to tree care during the past year: Danbury, Fairfield, East Hartford, Groton, Middletown, Southbury, Stamford, Wethersfield, Ridgefield, and Hartford.

Phil Royer, forester for the Metropolitan District Commission for 17 years, recently accepted the MDC position of Water Supply Construction and Maintenance Supervisor. In his new job he supervises a staff of 15 people and is responsible for maintenance of grounds and facilities throughout the water supply area, including dams, pipelines, and related structures.

Jody Bronson of Great Mountain Forest reports the 2004 sapping season was slightly above average, yielding 310 gallons from 1200 taps.

Rhode Island—Gregg Cassidy

Yankee Division Summer Meeting
The Rhode Island Chapter is hosting the Yankee Division summer field meeting on June 24. Topics to be covered include a hemlock salvage harvest in a recreation area, Rhode Island’s experience with their annual ‘Walk in the Woods’, and a tour of a privately owned game farm that has used USDA, WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) to enhance wildlife habitat. For more information, contact Paul Dolan (pmdolan@cox.net) or Rob MacMillan (macmillan@prowater.com).

Envirothon
The RI Chapter participated in the Rhode Island Envirothon in Warwick on May 20th. The special topic for this year’s event was urban resource management - forestry. Teams from Coventry High School dominated the event taking aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, as well as the special topic portions of the competition. RI SAF members Tom Abbott, Gregg J. Cassidy, Paul Dolan, Rob MacMillan, and Chris Modisette served as judges.

Alternative Forest Use Challenge Grants
RIDEM and the Rural Lands Coalition has completed a program to offer challenge grants to forest landowners. The intent of these grants is to promote sustainable forest practices on private woodland by helping owners overcome the financial barriers to starting up a natural resource based business. The program has allocated over $28,000 for 29 projects involving alternatives such as edible and medicinal products, floral greens and fee-based recreation.

SAF members Tom Abbott, Gregg J. Cassidy, Chris Modisette, and Marc Tremblay are on a Steering Committee overseeing this project. For more information, contact Gregg J. Cassidy
(gcassidy@dem.state.ri.us).

Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival
The Rhode Island Chapter sponsored an exhibit at a Sustainable Living Festival held Saturday, June 5th at the Apeiron Institute. The event is held at the organization's 55-acre forest in Coventry, which, with the assistance of RI SAF, is being managed as an educational resource. SAF members Tom Abbott and Marc Tremblay are organizing the RI chapter's participation. See http://www.apeiron.org/.

Quebec—Kim Lowell

Commission to Study the Management of Public Forests
As part of efforts to ensure that forest management in Quebec is achieving societal aims, the provincial government has created the Commission to Study the Management of Public Forests (CSMPF). The CSMPF is chaired by Mr. Guy Coulombe and is mandated to study scientific, technical, public, and independent aspects of Quebec forest management. The CSMPF will examine the administration of forest planning, the scientific base for calculating the sustainable harvest, the quality of forest management plans and all other aspects affecting public forestland in Quebec - i.e., wildlife, regional development, environmental protection, etc. The CSMPF is holding public meetings in different regions from April to June as well as working with scientists and industry experts, before preparing its final report. More information is at www.commission-foretqc.ca.

Anticosti Island
A long-awaited management plan for Anticosti Island - a 100 mile-long island off the southeastern portion of Quebec - has been developed through the collaboration of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Wildlife and Parks Commission and Anticosti Forest Products, Inc. The island has long had a problem related to its deer population. In 1896, 220 white-tailed deer were introduced to the island and by 2001 the population had reached an unsustainable 125,000 - or 30% of the entire deer population in the province of Quebec. The plan calls for restoring vegetation across the island over a period of 70 years by fencing the island into 150 blocks of 750 to 7500 acres. Harvesting will occur on 60% of the surface and deer will be controlled via recreational hunting. The work has required novel solutions to various problems, including development of photo-interpreted maps of deer shelter/nutritional sources, constructing 25 miles of fencing each year, managing a recreational hunting program that will not impact existing hunting activities and adoption of site preparation techniques that will provide for the establishment of 500,000 balsam fir annually.

Life Cycle of Forest Products
A new way of looking at forest products is being employed to assist wood product producers. The “life cycle of forest products” approach examines historical trends in forest products to determine the present “stage of development” -- Introduction, Growth, Maturity, or Decline -- of an existing forest product. The goal of the approach is to allow producers to better anticipate future markets for existing products, and to know when to increase the production of a given product at the expense of another.

Forum 2004
November 16 to 18, 2004
Ottawa Congress Centre
55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario Canada

For further information contact:
Guy Smith
(705) 541-5595
NE SAF AFFAIRS

From the Chair—Tom O’Shea

When a discussion arises about the profession of forestry, you will often hear foresters emphasize that forestry is science-based and how science is the foundation and fabric of the profession. Part of SAF’s mission is to “advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry,” which begs the question, how are you engaging with science in your profession?

Recently, I attended the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Ocean City, MD. Foresters are few and far between at this conference so I thought we could gain some insight.

The Conference is organized by the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which is comprised of agencies from 13 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces and is attended by fish and wildlife biologists, researchers, conservation enforcement officers, engineers, information and education specialists, and many others. Students and other interested members of the public are also invited.

I was struck by the model of technical committees charged with integrating management and science, identifying research needs, and developing and implementing research activities. Technical committees run concurrent presentations for two days and meet regularly throughout the year. They report to the Northeast Wildlife Administrators from whom they are given certain charges, and in turn the Northeast Wildlife Administrators interact with the Northeast Agency Directors. All of this is integrated in a cooperative forum among professionals within a large region. I was impressed with contributions and productivity of the technical committees and the meaningful connections to management needs.

SAF and NESAF has an established mechanism to provide similar opportunities through the working groups structure. The goal of SAF’s Forest Science and Technology Board (FSS&TB), with the involvement of working groups, is to “provide the Society an effective means for the

(Continued on page 19)

Councilor’s Report—Leo LaFerriere

The deadline for this issue of the Quarterly preceded the June Council meeting, so I am unable to provide the most recent update. However, an item on the Council agenda is a presentation titled “SAF and Saving the Forest Products Industry,” by Richard Lewis of the Forest Resources Association. In forestry and industry circles, there has been much discussion about the current competitive status of the US wood-using industry. I have long regarded participants in our wood processing businesses as some of the most durable people I have ever met and I have great respect for them. Global competitive pressures have resulted in the United States being a net importer of wood products, and that extends to even my small state of Vermont. Wood is a uniquely outstanding renewable resource. There are significant disadvantages to being a net importer, and it just makes a whole lot of good sense to manage our woodlands wisely for all the benefits our resource can provide. I’m looking forward to hearing Mr. Lewis’ presentation and his perspective regarding SAF’s place in assisting the industry.

As part of the Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force Review, we will be reviewing VP John Helms’ findings in regard to how SAF state and multi-state Societies manage their work and support services to the membership. John is further asking Council members to provide input as to the current SAF operating structure. This includes Council’s ability to represent the diversity of members and sub-disciplines of the forestry profession. Additionally, the Forest Science and Technology Board structure in regards to stimulating member involvement and providing an effective basis for SAF to function as a science-based organization. The House of Society Delegates structure will be reviewed with respect to ensuring that local and regional issues are brought before Council. And the organization of the Committee on Forest Policy will be discussed, asking if

(Continued on page 17)
Working Groups — Laura Kenevic

Congratulations to John Brissette and Mark Ducey, who were elected Chair and Secretary, respectively, of Management and Utilization in March, and to James Harding, who was appointed Acting Chair of Social and Related Sciences in May.

Annual business meetings were held during the NESAF meeting in March. Reports are as follows:

C-Ecology and Biology
We debated topics that could be addressed jointly with other working groups. One such topic was watershed management. Members also debated the role of science within NESAF meetings. We concluded that NESAF should at least co-sponsor a cutting edge research theme/resource issue meeting once each year that rotates around New England. These themes/resource issues should be revisited periodically to assess progress. Attendance was low, and elections were not held. Mark Ashton continues as Chair.

D-Management and Utilization
Topics discussed at the Winter Meeting in Quebec included development of a web page to keep members better informed and a field tour this summer. The Working Group web page will be part of the NESAF web page. Expect an announcement when it becomes operational. The Working Group field tour will be on the Penobscot Experimental Forest on August 4 (see announcement in this issue). The tour will focus on the USDA Forest Service long-term silvicultural experiment and the University of Maine Forest Ecosystem Research Program. We hope to see you there!

New Working Group officers were elected for two-year terms. John Brissette of the (USDA Forest Service) was elected Chair and Mark Ducey (University of New Hampshire) was elected Secretary. If you have questions or comments about the Working Group, please contact John (jbrissette@fs.fed.us or 603-889-7632) or Mark (mducey@csunix.unh.edu or 603-862-4429). We look forward to serving NESAF and hearing from members.

Councilor (Continued from page 16)
the current mechanism is satisfactory for bringing current and emerging policy matters to Council.

All the above is being done with the intent of improving the workings of SAF, adapting constructively to change, and to enhance SAF’s contribution as a strong and relevant guiding force for professional forestry. This project will continue beyond the June meeting. Your comments can be a part of this good work and be assured I will forward them to Council.

This issue of the Quarterly is centered on conservation biology, an emerging and very relevant field of interest. It is an example of how experience and study can nurture new thinking, increase sensitivity, and enable all of us to continually grow and gather very necessary public support — as respected practicing professionals. Here is a new chapter in the great book of learning, and a significant new direction in forestry. Let’s all move forward with it.

E-Decision Sciences
The Northeastern Forest Economists collaborated with Decision Sciences to present an all-day technical session at the Quebec meeting, which was well attended and received. Dave Field (University of Maine) moderated the program. Presenters included Lloyd Irland (Irland Group), Don Dennis (USDA Forest Service), Dave Field, Bill Bentley (Salmon Brook Associates), Doug Jones (Renssoft), Kathleen Bell (University of Maine), Paul Sendak (USDA Forest Service), and Bret Vicary (James W. Sewall Co.). The consensus was that this collaboration was very successful and that future similar efforts would be worthwhile.

Attendance at the working group business meeting was low, and elections were not held. Paul Sendak continues as Chair.

A-Resources Measurements, B-Forestry Systems, and F-Social and Related Sciences
Chair was vacant or absent and meetings were not held.
CFE Update

Activity/Date/Location

Growing Trees and Cutting Wood on NH State Forests and Lands, Boscawen, NH 7/23/04 4.0/1
Fern Identification Workshop, Hillsborough, NH 7/21/04, Thornton, NH 7/22/04 3.5/1
2nd Northeastern Forestry Agroforestry Conference, Oakland, ME 6/26/04 5.0/1
Yankee Division, NESA, 2004 Summer Meeting, Chpachet, RI 6/24/04 3.0/1
Northern Hardwood Silviculture, Bartlett, NH, 5/27-28/04 2.0/1 & 2.0/1
Forest Stewards Guild, 2004 Annual Conference, Orono, ME, 5/19-22/04 0/1, 6.0/1, 3.0/1 & 5.0/1
Vernal Pool Documentation, Henniker, NH 5/14/04 4.0/1
Coos County Mud Season Program, Dartmouth College Grant, NH 5/12/04 3.0/1
Meet the Foresters Day, Cabot & Marshfield, VT 5/7/04 1.5/1
Forest Health Information Meeting, Hartford, VT 4/16/04 4.0/1
6th Annual Black Fly Breakfast, Boscawen, NH 4/16/04 3.0/1
NE Forest Inventory and Analysis Users’ Meeting, Sturbridge, MA 4/13/04 5.0/1
Trees For a New Horizon, Stockbridge Hall, Umass 3/30/04 5.0/1

Northam D. Parr,
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3785 Dartmouth College Highway, Box 8
North Haverhill, NH 03774-6936
Tel: 603-787-6944 Fax: 603-787-2009
grafton@ceunh.unh.edu

NE SAF Membership Trend

New England Society of American Foresters Membership Summary

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In Memoriam

Samuel Hall (1917—2003) - studied mycology and forest pathology at Brown University, graduating in 1938. He went on to Yale, after which he served in the 10th Mountain Division of the US Army from 1943 to 1946 as a lieutenant with the Army Engineers. In 1946 he joined Draper Corporation as head forester and surveyor, and in 1952 he became resident manager of the Beebe River Plan for 12 Years. During that time he was a member and president of the New Hampshire Woodcrafters Association, lakes region Industrial Management Club (past President), Society of American Foresters, New Hampshire Forest Fire Warden and Yale club of New Hampshire, among others. He conceived, designed, constructed and operated Tenney Mountain Ski & Snowboard Resort for over 20 years. He died in Plymouth, NH on December 27, leaving his wife, Bernice, three sons, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Source - Environment: Yale Spring 2004

Chair (Continued from page 16) development, dissemination, and use of forest sciences.”

But how do we as foresters stay science-based? Is attending presentations sufficient? How well do field foresters interact with researchers or stay current with forest sciences? Can we do more to integrate researchers and practicing foresters in forums where there can be a real exchange and push from both sides?

Please join and participate in a working group. We can all benefit from this interaction of sharing ideas and creating an exchange with researchers. On page 17 and in the adjacent column, Laura Kenific provides information on working groups and how to participate.

Forest Science—Laura Kenific

Working group meetings are an integral part of the NESAF annual meeting. Unfortunately, attendance is often low. This may be due in part to confusion about working group membership. It is not uncommon to hear members say “What happened to Silviculture?” or “Where is the Economics meeting?” Unlike the National SAF, which has distinct sub-groups, NESAF Working Groups are at the subject area level. This is because membership in many sub-groups is low, and sub-groups share interests that can be served by one organization. For your information, the following list includes our six working groups, the sub-groups they include, and contact information for the Chairs.

A-Resources Measurements. A1-Inventory, A2-Remote Sensing, A3-Biometrics, and A4-Geographic Information Systems. Chair: Vacant. (Would you like to serve? Please contact Laura at lkenific@fs.fed.us)

B-Forestry Systems. B1-Nonindustrial Private Forestry, B2-Urban and Community Forestry, B3-International Forestry, and B4-Agroforestry. Acting Chair: Merv Stevens (mervbet@sover.net).


D-Management and Utilization. D1-Forest Genetics and Tree Improvement, D2-Silviculture, D3-Forest Production and Utilization, D4-Fire, and D5-Forest Pathology and Entomology. Chair: John Brissette (jbrissette@fs.fed.us).

E-Decision Sciences. E1-Economics, Policy and Law, E2-Land Use Planning, E4-Management Science and Operations, E5-Technology Assessment and Future Analysis, and E6-Sustainability and Forest Certification. Chair: Paul Sendak (psendak@fs.fed.us).

F-Social and Related Sciences. F1-Wilderness Management, F2-Recreation, F3-Education and Communication, F4-Human Resources, and F5-Philosophy and History. Acting Chair: James Harding (hardingj@greemntn.edu).

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Conservation Biology in

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