NE SAF Funds Vermont Big Tree Project

Maybe it’s a micro chip imbedded in the psyche of all Vermont foresters, but just mention the possible location of a “big” tree and some forester will want to look at it, measure it, compare it to others, and make it part of a list. And it’s not just foresters, thank goodness, because without the support of other tree people, the Vermont Big Tree List published this year would still be on the drawing board. About three years ago, armed with a NESAF Grant and another from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program Dr. Jeff Freeman started the long process of collecting big tree information for the publication of another Vermont Big Tree list. Jeff has been the administrator of Vermont’s big tree program since the creation of the first big tree list in 1973 (27 trees); its second and third lists in 1977 and 1982 (75 and 81 species); and the first big tree booklet in 1990 (91 species). The 2003 version contains within its 24 pages the details and many pictures of the 110 species growing in Vermont.

Foresters are the official measurers of any big tree candidate. They collect the DBH, height and crown size combinations to officially score a tree. County Foresters, Urban and Community Foresters, consulting foresters, and Jeff all spent field time following leads, measuring and re-measuring trees, and scoring trees for possible inclusion in this newest big tree point in time. Some trees remained as champions (Red Oak), others were unseated by competitors (Eastern Cottonwood), and still others became eligible because they were not listed in 1990 (Alaska Cedar). Some are truly large like the four cottonwoods that exceed 400 points and several white pines that exceed 300 points. Other trees are just large for their size, dwarf chinkapin oak, flowering dogwood, and nannyberry, none of whom exceed 60 points. Two national champions live in Vermont – European Larch and Roundleaf Shadbush and a White Poplar is a candidate as Vermont’s third.

It is interested tree people who promote the idea of big trees, contact landowners about trees, and encourage foresters to measure them. The newly formed Vermont Tree Society increased big tree interest considerably with the publication of a Vermont Big Tree Calendar in 2004. They also managed to network groups of people interested in trees many of whom GPSed tree locations and provided the information to the Vermont Center for Geographic Information to create the nice big tree map for the publication.

“VERMONT’S LARGEST TREES” captures those champions living in 2003. The 24 pages contain details about these trees and information about where to find them. It also has a nice section on the more visible (easy to find) champions growing in cities and towns or along roads plus additional information on comparing and contrasting similar species and individual trees within species. The NESAF Grant Program was instrumental in providing the funds to make this publication possible. Money well spent to capture 110 trees in time. Copies are available at the various county forester offices and at the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation office in Waterbury. The big tree list can be obtained from the Vermont Tree Society at www.vermonttreesociety.org

Read the News Quarterly at http://www.nesaf.org
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The News Quarterly is the official publication of the New England Society of American Foresters. It is published in January, April, June, and October, and is mailed from Berlin, NH under a non-profit organization bulk mail permit. Address all inquiries to Brad Wyman, 53 Wyman Road, West Dummer, NH 03588 603-449-6794 (voice), 449-3312 (fax), abwyman@ncia.net
Positioning the Forest Stewardship Program
The USDA Forest Service’s Forest Stewardship Program is the cornerstone of the agency’s outreach to non-industrial private forest landowners. Key to the program is comprehensive, multi-resource management plans for achieving landowner objectives and sustaining forest health and productivity. The success of the program is evident—238,000 management plans covering more than 27 million acres across the country since its inception in 1990.

The Forest Stewardship Program has traditionally been offered on a first-come, first-served basis, but program managers needed a method to assess the program’s impact across the landscape in order to make the best use of available resources in the future.

The Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) was developed in four pilot States (CT, MD, MA, & MO). It incorporates spatial analysis methods and geo-referenced (GIS) data to evaluate the Forest Stewardship Program’s effectiveness and position it for the future. Products include a digital data layer of existing stewardship plans, an electronic database containing tract characteristics and practices, a statewide spatial display of non-industrial private forest lands that would benefit most from the Forest Stewardship Program, and an analysis of the program’s impact to date.

Ultimately, the project will help track stewardship practices and efficacy and provide tools to enable States to focus future program efforts. While offering a model for evaluating program effectiveness, the SAP allows states to customize it to state circumstances.

Now the project is going national with a steering committee that will prepare a strategy for implementation, focusing on the most critical resources. The SAP has been initiated in eight additional States (AK, CO, DE, IN, IA, OR, RI, & WV) with full implementation targeted for December 2005. New states will be added based on funding and interest.

A Web-based data entry tool (Web-DET) is under development to enable States to enter SAP data just once and report results automatically. Web-DET will give field foresters the ability to map new or modify existing tracts, create Stewardship Plans, maintain a standardized relational database, and report State and Federal accomplishments. It will be beta-tested by the four pilot States and Colorado next year.

The pilot States are already reaping the benefits. “Without these maps, we couldn’t even begin to ponder our future and current policy,” observed MD State Forester Steve Koehn. MA State Forester Jim DiMaio adds, “The SAP has already been valuable in identifying needs for better effort in...Program implementation and where to focus future efforts.”

For more, contact Barbara Tormoehlen, (812-277-3567 or btormoehlen@fs.fed.us) or Tom Luther, (603-868-7710 or tluther@fs.fed.us).
HIGHGRADING!

Diameter-Limit Cutting -- The Past. The Present. The Likely Future?
Ralph Nyland, Distinguished Service Professor of Silviculture, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse NY

Forestry has done well in finding, valuing, and efficiently harvesting accessible timber. New tools and techniques made the work easier and more precise through time, and helped contain the costs. Yet landowners had few demands about managing the growing stock. Perhaps that encouraged diameter-limit cutting. It takes little preparation. It demands no silvicultural expertise. And it invests nothing in growing stock management. It also fits society’s short time perspective, and its interest in quick profits.

That contrasts with silviculture. Silviculture provides harvestable products at predictable times, and sustains a host of non-market benefits. But it focuses on just two things: 1. regenerating mature age classes; and 2. tending immature ones. Silviculture uses timber harvesting to accomplish those tasks. And it takes a long-term perspective, even while providing current benefits from the regeneration and tending operations.

Yet silviculture does not happen on most ownerships. Instead, logging leaves many understocked stands, removes the most valuable species, reduces quality within the standing timber, leaves a patchy tree cover, and makes no clear provisions for regeneration to restock the cutover stands. On some forests, landowners carefully planned their cuttings to bring their growing stock to a desirable condition. But mostly diameter-limit cutting rules, leaving little evidence of a commitment to sustaining the values forests can provide indefinitely.

(Continued on page 16)

Long-Term Research on Diameter-Limit Cutting
Laura Kenefic, (Research Forester), Paul Sendak, (Research Forester), and John Brissette (Project Leader), USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Bradley ME and Durham NH

Partial cuts in which only large and valuable trees are removed are widespread. Partial cutting in which only large and valuable trees are removed is common in North America. This type of harvesting, called high grading, removes the trees of the best condition and highest value. One common type of high grading is diameter-limit cutting, in which all merchantable trees above a specific size threshold are removed.

The problem with diameter-limit cutting is that it removes the largest trees without a deliberate attempt to establish new trees or improve the condition of smaller size classes. This practice is common because cutting and merchandising all the large and valuable trees generates a lot of money in the short-term. Silvicultural treatments, such as selection cuttings in uneven-aged stands or thinnings in even-aged stands, require more patience because the initial payoff is less and benefits are accumulated over the long term. However, research on diameter-limit cutting has shown that the short-term financial benefit is offset in the long term by degradation of the residual stand.

One of the most comprehensive studies of diameter-limit cutting is on the Penobscot Experimental Forest (PEF) in Bradley, Maine. Both fixed diameter-limit and selection cuts were made at 20-year intervals beginning in the 1950s. The fixed diameter-limit treatment used species-specific diameter limits ranging...
Reduced Growth Potential in High-Graded Stands
Michael Greenwood and Kerry Sokol, Department of Forest Ecosystem Science, University of Maine, Orono ME

Diameter-limit harvesting has long been suspected as a dysgenic forestry practice, but a conclusive, practical demonstration is lacking. To determine the effects of repeated diameter-limit harvesting on the phenotypes of residual trees, we compared radial growth patterns of residual red spruce (with ages greater than 100 years) after diameter-limit harvest with those of residual trees in stands subjected to positive selection harvesting. After nearly 50 years of repeated harvesting, residual trees in the diameter-limit stands were nearly 40% smaller and had grown 32% more slowly than residual trees in positive selection stands. Furthermore, diameter-limit residuals were initially smaller and remained significantly smaller than positive selection residuals throughout their life span. After release, the diameter-limit residuals responded with increased growth rates, but the increase was relatively small until the final 20 years of measurement, when growth rates in each treatment converged. Our results indicate that red spruce stands subjected to repeated diameter-limit harvesting will develop progressively less valuable growing stock with limited growth potential.

Do these results apply to other valuable timber species, such as white pine? Given that diameter-limit harvesting of white pine has been going on for 400 years in the Northeast, the answer is likely yes. Though our results do not distinguish between microsite and genetics as the cause of poor residual growth, the most likely answer is that it is a combination of both. Tree improvement programs are based on the selection of good phenotypes, and extensive progeny testing has shown them to be good genotypes as well. It is reasonable to assume that selection of poor phenotypes as residual trees would have the reciprocal effect.—Sokol, K.A., M.S. Greenwood, and W.H. Livingston. 2004. Impacts of long-term diameter-limit harvesting on residual stands of red spruce in Maine. North. J. Appl. For. 21:69-73.
Genetic Effects of Selection and Diameter-Limit Cutting
Gary Hawley and Donald DeHayes, University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, Burlington VT; and Paul Schaberg and John Brissette, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Burlington VT and Durham NH

We evaluated the influence of long-term silvicultural selection on the genetic structure of an eastern hemlock forest at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine. Plots in the study received one of the following three treatments: 1) selection cuts in which small and poorly formed trees were preferentially removed in 1957 and 1977; 2) diameter-limit cuts in which trees 24 cm in diameter and larger were removed in 1952, 1973, and 1994; or 3) no harvesting (an unmanaged control).

Because of an association between the occurrence of rare genes and tree size and form (phenotype), removals based on tree size and form dramatically altered gene frequencies and the genetic structure of this eastern hemlock population. Where smaller trees with inferior phenotypes were preferentially removed (selection cut), rare genes were lost, the level of genetic diversity remained stable, and estimates of the long-term genetic potential of the residual stand declined relative to an unmanaged control population.

Because of the theoretical long-term evolutionary benefit of unique gene forms, the loss of rare genes could diminish the potential of populations to adapt to and survive ongoing environmental change. In contrast, when smaller trees with poor phenotypes were preferentially retained (diameter-limit cut), the frequency of genes that are normally rare in the control stand increased so dramatically that they became common in the altered population. This elevated concentration of what are typically rare genes resulted in greater stand genetic diversity and greater long-term genetic potential of the residual stand following diameter-limit cuts relative to the control. However, artificial amplification of normally rare genes appeared to reduce stand productivity and could reduce overall stand fitness.

Rehabilitating Cutover Stands
Ralph Nyland, Distinguished Service Professor of Silviculture, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse NY

The Problem
Diameter-limit cutting leaves both crowded areas and places with few trees. Stands have mostly saplings, poles, and some cull or low-value sawtimber. Inadequate stocking also compromises the growth potential. Further, careless logging often damages or destroys many of the residuals, and deeply ruts the skid trails. These conditions complicate rehabilitation.

So What To Do
The number and distribution of acceptable trees determines the potential. For stands having insufficient numbers for traditional silviculture, rehabilitation might:

1. remove the poorest trees to adjust the spacing for better growth, adequate seed dispersion, and good brightness near the ground; and
2. release desirable advance regeneration.

Yet after a second diameter-limit cutting, stands commonly have only low stocking, with low-quality trees of little value. Then rehabilitation must:

1. remove all the poor overstory trees; and
2. establish regeneration across the site, even by artificial means.

Either treatment must restock the stand, even by planting at sites lacking advance regeneration and having a low seed production potential. Site preparation must also reduce interfering understory vegetation.

What Works Best
The cost may dissuade landowners from doing anything. If a stand has adequate advance regeneration or sufficient young trees of good promise, simply waiting will help. But poor trees just get bigger and by skipping any rehabilitation, they pass the problem to future generations.

Each case requires a unique solution. Yet some common rules-of-thumb can guide the planning:
**Genetic Effects** (Continued from page 6)

Although specific impacts differed with treatment, results show that silvicultural manipulations can alter the genetic structure and productivity of eastern hemlock populations and the delicate balance between immediate fitness and the potential for long-term evolutionary resilience and productivity.—Hawley, G.J., P.G. Schaberg, D.H. DeHayes, and J.C. Brissette.  In press.  Silviculture alters the genetic structure of an eastern hemlock forest in Maine, USA.  Can. J. For. Res.

**Rehabilitating** (Continued from page 6)

1. Look for trees with well-developed and balanced crowns, good stem form and a marketable quality, no or few epicormic branches, and a potential to produce seed.
2. Keep those trees, and cut the rest.
3. Make an operable cut, while keeping sufficient stocking for future management.
4. Leave uniform spacing, independent of the number left.
5. Deliberately establish a new age class, unless the overstory trees will fully occupy the site as they develop.
6. Reduce any interfering vegetation to insure regeneration success.

Best of all, if landowners have not yet done diameter-limit cutting, argue for silviculture. They will find it more profitable in the long run.

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**Quarterly Theme**

**Ethics of High Grading**

Victor Ford, MeadWestvaco, Phenix City AL

High grading is the antithesis of forestry. To knowingly remove the value from the stand without regard of future stands is just mining the resource and not practicing silviculture. As a result, future generations will pay the consequences from this lazy behavior. The question, however, is this: Are the ethics of such a practice contrary to the SAF Code of Ethics? Principles 1 and 2 of the code deal with the high grading issue. They are as follows:

1. **Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations.** We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.

2. **Society must respect forest landowners’ rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society.** We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.

As foresters, we have an obligation to practice and advocate methods that result in long-term worth and productivity of the forests. We are ethically bound to place this at the forefront of our practices, but there is another side of the coin. The forest landowner has rights to the land they own, especially to extract value from the property. In fact, continuing to produce acceptable rates of return from forestry investments will keep land in forests instead of alternative uses. The art of forestry is melding the landowner objectives and values with the current conditions of the forest stands that result in long-term worth and productivity.

Conflict with the code can occur with two types of behaviors. The first is to knowingly high grade without explaining the consequences to the landowner, or robbing the landowner of the value of his lands. The second occurs when the landowner is only interested in a short-term gain. The first behavior not only violates Principles 1 and 2 but blatantly violates Principles 5 and 6 by not openly communicating with the client and by being dishonest. The second behavior is much more common and puts the forester in the middle of a dilemma. The landowner may have valid reasons for wanting the money now and he has the right to it. The forester has two options at this point; walk away or explain to the landowner the consequences of these actions. If the forester continues working for the landowner after explaining the consequences, he/she has fulfilled the obligation to the Code of Ethics, but the forester must continue to be an advocate of good silviculture throughout the process. - Victor Ford is Chair of the SAF Ethics Committee.
“I don’t think there is a professional forester in Maine who wouldn’t recognize his name,” said Dave Field, Chair of the Department of Forest Management at the University of Maine. Fred Knight, former dean of the College of Forestry at the university, said Wilkins was an eloquent speaker; a talent that helped him negotiate agreements and get along with 13 governors of all political persuasions. “He was almost an orator,” Knight said. “His voice and diction were so beautiful that he could convince anybody about anything. He was revered. He’s sort of an icon of the past.”

Wilkins authored “Ten Million Acres of Timber,” a history of the Maine Forestry District. He is also wrote a book on the Civilian Conservation Corps.—Central Maine Newspapers, Meredith Goad, June 8, 2004.

Maine Outstanding Tree Farm Day
Maine Tree Farm Day was held August 7 to honor Maine’s Outstanding Tree Farm for 2004 at the Willard Walker Family Tree Farm in Canaan. Consulting forester Daren Turner welcomed the attendees to the 500-acre property and introduced them to the fully integrated operation.

In 1995 Willard’s son, Tad, returned to the...
property and started the family harvesting operation with a bulldozer, tractor and winch, and a Metavic forwarder. While they still use local loggers for larger jobs, they have their own full-time crew for road maintenance, harvesting and property chores. Planting to merchandising is done in-house. Only the sawing of the timber is done by a local contractor with a portable band saw mill. In addition, the Walkers have personally pruned over 9,000 trees and pre-commercially weeded 15 acres.

The woodlot tour visited four tour stops. **Bob Leso**, District Forester, Maine Forest Service discussed the Walkers’ 44 year old Norway spruce plantations. Howard Charles, SAPPI forester, addressed dollar value of pruning white pine as he stood next to some of the very nice large white pine pruned years ago by the Walkers. **Carl VanHusen**, SAF Fellow, talked about the hardwood management options for the various species on the land. At a harvest site, consulting forester **John Ackley** highlighted the various species that come off the woodlot and their merchandising, from veneer and cedar decking boards to firewood. Tad Walker demonstrated the versatility of his tractor loader.

**MESAF Members in the News**

**Lynn Wilson**, long-time MESAF member and past MESAF Chair, has been promoted by Plum Creek Timber Company from Unit Superintendent at the Marshall Yard near Jackman, Maine to head up Plum Creek’s 525,000 acres in Wisconsin. **Mark Doty**, Plum Creek’s Unit Superintendent of the Greenville area will add the Marshall Yard Unit to his activities.

**Mandy Farrar, Kenny Ferguson, Ken Laustsen and Dan Simonds**, MESAF members attended the SAF Leadership Academy in Nebraska, this past spring.

**Maine Institutes New ATV Laws**

The Maine Legislature recently enacted new ATV legislation. Brian Bronson, ATV Coordinator, Department of Conservation, said “The most notable change (for small landowners) is the law requiring ATV operators to have landowner permission. (The legislature found) that abuse of ATVs places general access to private property for (all) recreation at risk.”

An economic impact study is also planned with the Maine IF&W and the Margaret Chase Smith Center which will also address the negative costs associated with illegal ATV use. Documented damage by ATVs is being sought for the study. Contact Brian Bronson toll-free at 888-386-3288 for more information about the study. - **SWOAM News, September 2004**

**Forest Service Publishes New BMP Manual**


The manual identifies seven key BMPs:

1. Defining Objectives and Responsibilities
2. Pre-Harvest Planning
3. Anticipating Site Conditions
4. Controlling Water Flow
5. Minimizing and Stabilizing Exposed Soil
6. Protecting the Integrity of Water Bodies
7. Handling Hazardous Materials Safely

*(Continued on page 16)*
GRANITE STATE Division—Jonathan Nute

Summer Meeting
The GSD summer meeting focused on forest management activities on NH State forests and parks. Approximately 40 foresters gathered for a morning presentation followed by a field session at the State forest nursery. Speakers from the Division of Forests and Lands described their work, which began in 1881 with the establishment of a Forestry Commission, the governor and four others. They were to pursue land donations to the state to protect scenic beauty, sensitive mountain tops and get revenue from harvests. In 1910 the first employee was hired and emphasis also included fire protection. In 1961 it became the Division of Forests and Lands. The Division now manages 180,000 acres in 221 properties and 145 towns, as well as 11,000 acres of federal flood control land and 23,000 acres of Fish & Game lands. Over 150,000 acres of conservation easements are monitored by the Division.

Each timber harvest or management activity is preceded by up to two years of interdisciplinary review. Beginning with a very good map, an inventory is conducted, gathering information on timber and various other attributes and a Forest Operations Planning Report is prepared. The Forest Operations Manual can be found at www.nhdfl.org. Approximately 3 million board feet of timber is harvested from 12 sales each year. A major emphasis is made to involve the public officials in each town as well as notify the abutters of each planned harvest, as well as placing public notices in the media. Each harvest has a high degree of planning and oversight, with a 100% marking and tally of the harvest trees and flagging of trails, wetland crossings and yard location. Harvest strategies that have worked well have been 1/8 acre patch cuts in spruce and fir stands, single tree selection on good hardwood sites and patch cuts on poorer hardwood sites. Both the Division of Historic Resources and the Natural Heritage Bureau review each planned harvest. Cemeteries and historic sites are avoided, but most are not on file with DHR and become known only as each harvest is planned. This is usually the case with the NHB as well, with their effort being to locate and inventory rare species and exemplary natural communities. The NHB is a partnership which began in 1987 with the Division and The Nature Conservancy. It now has three Division employees and five from the TNC investigating the 13,000 species of plants and animals found in 209 NH natural communities. They receive approximately 2,000 requests for environmental review each year. A recent field inventory of Pawtuckaway State Park found 25 new occurrences of rare plants.

Bob MacGregor Moves On
Bob MacGregor has left his North Regional Forester position with the Division of Forests and Lands to join the US Forest Service at the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan.

Northern Forest Lands Study Reprised
The North East State Foresters' Association (NEFA) is sponsoring a conference on December 10 at the Mt. Washington Hotel in Northern New Hampshire celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Northern Forest Lands Council report, Finding Common Ground. A 24-member, four-state group following up on the Council's work will present draft findings and recommendations at the meeting. For more information please go to www.nefainfo.org or call (603) 229-4965.—Northern Woodlands, Autumn 2004

Forest Industry Summit
On June 11, industry leaders met for a NH Forest Industry Summit in Concord. Past Commissioner of DRED, George Bald, and the new commissioner, Sean O’Kane, made introductory remarks. State forester Phil Bryce moderated the morning session. UNH Coop. Ext. Forest Industry Specialist Sarah Smith reported on a recent survey of 22 sawmills, representing 75% of NH production. The survey revealed combined lumber production of 228.5 million board feet, an increase over 2002, with $85 million spent on log purchases. Power costs for the 22 mills was $5.25 million and salary, wages and benefits were estimated to be $29.5 million.
Four industry representatives gave examples from each of their businesses. Marcella Perry, of DiPrizio Pine Sales in Middleton, was concerned that US labor costs are higher than other parts of the world and suggested that insurance costs are contributing to this. Ross D’Elia of HHP, Inc. in Henniker was concerned about increased regulation in the industry. His mill pays $1,000/yr. for annual testing of the water well for the mill and $2,500 for air testing of the diesel generators, as well as assigning these reporting duties to an office employee. John Tommila of Tommila Brothers lumber in Troy was concerned that, at 9 cents/kwh, energy is the highest cost of his lumber production, compared to 2.5 cents in Quebec and 3.8 cents in the Tennessee Valley Authority area. John King of King Forest Industries in Wentworth believed that the prosperity of 1992 to 99 pushed demand for white pine nationally and so lead to an increase in log prices. Log concentration yards have also spurred exports, keeping demand high. Finally, opportunities for young loggers to get out of the business and do well in construction have limited log production.

George Barrett, of The Weekly Hardwood Review reported that due to foreign competition, mostly from China, the US hardwood industry has lost 30% of its jobs from 2000 to 2003. US production of hardwood lumber in 1999 was 14 bbf and production in 2004 will be 11 bbf. Of this, the furniture industry used 3.4 bbf in 1999, compared to 1.4 bbf now, with 26% of the furniture imported into the US today. China is the largest buyer of logs worldwide. Barrett suggested restrictions on US log exports requiring logs be at least 13” diameter, sustainable harvesting requirements and higher value to landowners.

NH Business and Industry Assoc. VP David Juvet reported that the service and tourism sectors have done a good job of relating how important they are to NH, and the sawmill industry needs to do likewise. He urged manufacturing to come together to speak with one voice, and invited the forest industry to a September 22 round table at the Grappone Center.

David Yocis, of the Coalition for Fair Lumber Trade, opined that Canadian policies distort log trade patterns with NH. With 77% of Quebec being government forest, prices can be held low to subsidize the industry. Softwood stumpage is $30/mbf compared to $100/mbf in NH.

The Forest Industry Task Force will meet again this fall to make any adjustments to the action plan. Topics include: 1) insurance, 2) regulation 3) energy and 4) log supply.

Massachusetts—Robert Rizzo

Licensed Forester meeting
On June 16, State Forester Jim DiMaio held the second in a series of meetings for licensed foresters. Marketing consultant John Newton presented his concepts and ideas on developing a uniform message and a communication strategy for foresters. Rob Rizzo and Gordon Boyce gave the group a detailed outline of current and proposed biomass projects within the state, and John Clement discussed improvements to MA current use laws.

The MA SAF Executive Committee is planning a fall workshop for members. Notification will be sent out soon after details are completed.

Paul Catanzaro was recently named the Extension Forestry Specialist for UMass Extension’s Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation program. The position will be located in the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the Amherst campus. In this newly created position, Paul will provide outreach to forest landowners, continuing education for MA licensed foresters and timber harvesters, and technical assistance to conservation organizations, community leaders and policy makers. In addition, he will help conduct applied research with the department faculty. He formerly worked as a service forester with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Paul’s new contact information is: cat@umext.umass.edu, (413) 545-4839.

Forest Stewardship Outreach Initiative
The MA Department of Conservation and Rec-
reation and the Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D Inc., just concluded a two year outreach and education initiative with $460,000 of Environmental Bond Bill funding made available through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). The goals of the initiative are to maintain the flow of public benefits and ecosystem services that emanate from private forestlands by reducing the likelihood of development and encouraging active forest management planning through 10-year commitments to the Stewardship Program.

Over the two years, 9,600 woodland owners in 99 towns received information on sustainable forest management, land conservation options, and sources of technical assistance. They represent 36% of the landowners eligible for the Stewardship Program but who were not enrolled in any state sponsored program. They were also offered up to 100% reimbursement for the preparation of a Forest Stewardship Plan. Numerous Stewardship Program workshops were held for landowners and to help connect them with the consulting foresters who would write their plans. Three hundred fifty three plans were approved representing 26,848 new acres in the Stewardship Program. Cost share reimbursements totaled $344,796. The cost per acre was $16, including the cost of the outreach. A majority of these landowners also enrolled in the Chapter 61 or 61A Program.

A USFS survey of Stewardship landowners showed that 86 percent began to implement their plan soon after receiving it, and in doing so, spent an average additional $1,827 out of pocket. Based on the survey results, the total amount spent by EOEA landowners implementing their plans in the near term would reach approximately $645,000.

Assessors of the 99 towns involved in the outreach initiative were provided with information about the initiative and Stewardship Program, two Southern New England Forest Consortium publications (Cost of Community Services, and Open Space: Helps Balance Municipal Budgets), and an in-house bulletin, Quantifying Public Benefits on Private Forestland in Massachusetts.

The EOEA budget for FY ’05 includes a request for $200,000 to continue this effort. - Jim Soper, Program Supervisor, Service Forestry Program, Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Recreation

<table>
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<th>Cutting Plan Statistics January 1 - June 30, 2004</th>
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**All Cutting Plans**

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<th>Plan Preparer</th>
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<th>Plan Acres</th>
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**Long-term (LT) Plans**

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**Short-term (ST) Plans**

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Data since January 1, 2004 indicate that 74 % of the cutting plans and 71% of the acreage have a long-term objective. Massachusetts Licensed Foresters are preparing 71% of the plans on 71% of the acreage. Licensed foresters are preparing 83% of the long-term plans accounting for 86% of the acreage. These data, although representing a relatively small data set, are very encouraging on two fronts. Increasingly, landowners are utilizing licensed foresters, which is consistent with the Bureau’s recommendation and, seemingly, landowners are choosing long-term management more than in the past.

**PROCUREMENT FORESTER**

Duties include research of town records, developing clients, boundary location, marking, contract negotiations, working with municipal boards and subcontracted logging crews and occasional equipment operation. Safety awareness and solid people skills required. Must be able to meet certification/licensing requirements in CT and/or MA. Full benefit package, company vehicle, and incentives.

Mike Bartlett
Hull Forest Products,
101 Hampton Rd.
Pomfret Ctr. CT 06259.
bartlett@hullforest.com 860.974.2083
Connecticut—Tim Hawley

State Forester Don Smith conducted two workshops to train foresters to examine land for forest classification, consistent with Public Act 04-115. Seventy-five foresters qualified to prepare and submit Qualified Forester’s Reports to local tax assessors. The new law may clarify the distinction between determination of forest by a forester and classification by an assessor. This frequently became problematic in the past when land changed hands.

New Publication

Environmental Merit Award
John Hibbard, Executive Director and Forester of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association for 37 years, received a Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the New England region of the Environmental Protection Agency. Hibbard has been active in guiding the development of environmental laws from the Open Space Act and farmland preservation to water pollution control and landowner liability protection. He is a stalwart supporter of SAF, Tree Farm, and Forest Stewardship, known for his common sense, fairness, and wit. Even in retirement, he continues to serve on the Governor’s Natural Heritage, Open Space, and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board. Hibbard received the NESAF Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

Former Water Company Land
The 15,000 acres acquired by the State of CT from Aquarion Company was designated by Governor Rell as Centennial Watershed State Forest. Unlike others, this State Forest is regulated by the Department of Public Health as water supply land and is managed by a 3 person committee made up of representatives from DEP, Aquarion Company, and The Nature Conservancy. SAF members Fred Gliesing and Jerry Milne are on the Committee.

State Timber Sales Resume
Timber sales on CT State Forests are resuming after a 6 month hiatus while the Attorney General’s office reviewed and updated the language of the state timber sale contracts.

Rhode Island—Gregg Cassidy

Forest Resource Plan
An update of the State’s Forest Resource Plan is nearing completion. This document is part of the State Guide Plan to which communities and state agencies must adhere. The forestry community, including the RI chapter of SAF, has been active in all steps of the process including creating a “vision” of the future forest, identifying issues, and developing policies to guide management of the State’s forest resources.

Draft policies for State owned and managed forestland include:
- Manage on a regional or watershed basis rather than the parcel level.
- Sustainable Forest Initiative certification for State owned forestland.
- DFE to be authorized to use the State Forestry Fund to implement the forest resource plan.
- State Acquisitions Committee to purchase conservation easements to buffer state lands from development.

Draft policies affecting privately owned forestland include:
- DEM to provide field technical assistance to landowners to provide guidance toward sustainable forest resource management.
- DEM to encourage landowners to seek assistance from qualified natural resource professionals.
- State and local government to encourage
Quebec—Kim Lowell

The Coulombe Commission
The Commission to Study the Management of Public Forests (www.commission-foret.qc.ca), is visiting throughout the province of Québec in a comprehensive study of potential revisions to the current provincial forest management. At a recent meeting held in Saint-Félicien in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, 22 different organizations accepted an invitation to appear before the commission. The importance of such meetings is apparent. The forestry sector in that region employs over 9,000 people, is involved in economic activity worth $1.8 billion (Canadian), and accounts for 36% of the manufacturing jobs in the region. One common theme that is emerging from such meetings is that all regions would like to have more local involvement in the management of their forests—a sharp contrast to the present situation wherein forest management planning and control is centralized in the Ministry of Natural Resources. In addition, the forest industry would like such local involvement to provide for flexibility in the regional regulation of companies instead of a set of rules that is applied with absolute rigidity.

Forest Sector Worker Shortage
In Québec, as in many other places in the US and Canada, it remains difficult to find workers in the forest products sector. During a recent conference, Dr. Michel Audet, Professor of Industrial Relations at Laval University, identified a number of reasons for the problem. He estimated that in the next 10 years, 35% of the current workforce in paper mills will have to be replaced. Moreover, both paper mills and sawmills currently lack people sufficiently trained in technological advances. Surveys show that younger people are not being drawn to the forest products sector because of the seasonal nature of work, a generally negative perception of the sector, and poorly adapted training programs.

FOR@C
After almost three years of existence, FOR@C is seen as an extremely useful resource for the Québec forest industry. The acronym FOR@C is derived from the French for “Research Consortium for Electronic Business in the Forest Products Industry.” Located at Laval University, and having a guaranteed financing of $9.5 million over five years, FOR@C includes approximately 60 scientists, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate students and has 15 partners; public and private organizations at the national and provincial level. The central research theme of FOR@C is to integrate and optimize different sectors of the forest products network to create value. Thus FOR@C undertakes projects that address a range of problems such as forest harvesting, wood transport, distribution of added-value forest products, and the industrial supply chain. More information is available at www.forac.ulaval.ca.
Councilor’s Report—Leo Laferriere

At Council’s June meeting, an item on the agenda was a presentation titled “SAF and Saving the Forest Products Industry,” by Richard Lewis of the Forest Resources Association (FRA). The FRA facilitates discussion among wood producers and wood. These meetings have been arranged by FRA all over the country, and have been shown to be effective in easing tensions, understanding perspectives and fostering helpful dialogue in the industry. SAF can play a role by identifying situations where FRA can bring its programs to the local community.

As a cost control measure, Council has scheduled three meetings in 2005 instead of four. Two of those meetings will be in Bethesda. The third will be at the national convention, as is customary.

Council discussed the issue of maintaining high standards regarding the quality of Fellow designation, and voted that beginning in 2005, each state or division will be limited to one new Fellow per year. The Fellow designation is in recognition of outstanding service to forestry and the Society of American Foresters. SAF caps the number of Fellows at five percent of the membership. The Committee on Professional Recognition (CRP) was assigned the task of auditing the election process and to make recommendations regarding the current cap and other possibilities addressing the goal of high quality. Personally, I have problems with numerical limits and would prefer to have other standards in place. Hopefully this new one-per-year limit will be temporary. Council looks to the CRP for recommendations, but I would like to hear from you as members as to how we may address maintenance of high standards in Fellow nomination and election.

I journeyed to Saranac Lake to participate in part of the New York SAF summer meeting. There was good discussion regarding their strategic plan and prioritization of activities designed to serve the needs of foresters and society in New York.

Management and Utilization Working Group Summer Tour - John Brissette

The Management and Utilization Working Group (D), still often referred to as the Silviculture Working Group, met at the Penobscot Experimental Forest (PEF) in Maine on August 4. About 20 enthusiastic foresters spent the day looking at research conducted by USDA Forest Service and University of Maine researchers. The tour consisted of seven stops that highlighted the history, on-going long-term research, and exciting new studies on the PEF.

The experimental forest was established in 1950 and the long-term silvicultural experiment was installed by the Forest Service between 1952 and 1957. Several treatments in the long-term experiment were visited, including: 2- and 3-stage shelterwood, commercial clearcutting, precommercial and commercial thinning in even-aged stands, selection silviculture with 5- and 20-year cutting cycles, and diameter-limit cutting. We also visited The University of Maine Forest Ecosystem Research Program (FERP), with its innovative expanding-gap shelterwood with retention treatments that were installed starting in 1995. The newest research toured was evaluating growth and yield of young stands under varying intensities of silviculture and different species compositional objectives, and a study of factors influencing seedling emergence and early survival of native and non-native tree species.

Tour hosts included John Brissette, Laura Kenefic, Tim Stone, and Rick Dionne from the Forest Service, and Bob Wagner, Mike Saunders, and Keith Kanoti from The University of Maine.


For all members, and using New York’s perspective, please contact me with your concerns and recommendations for foresters and how SAF may serve society.
Diameter Limit (Continued from page 4)
So what does that say about forestry? About the kinds and quality of forests that remain in our landscapes? About our stewardship? Probably future generations will lament this 20th Century exploitation, just as we criticized its prevalence in the years before forestry got its foothold on the continent. At least we will have located, valued, and efficiently extracted whatever accessible timber happened to grow up from the past. Will that be our legacy to the future? Perhaps time has come to change the outcome. Why else keep forestry alive?

Working Groups —Laura Kenefic
Congratulations to Ken Laustsen, who was appointed Acting Chair of Working Group A-Resources Measurements. If you wish to become active in this group please email ken at ken.laustsen@maine.gov.

We are looking forward to unusually high participation at the Annual Meeting in Portland. Working Groups C (Ecology and Biology), D (Management and Utilization), and E (Decision Sciences) are organizing technical sessions. They will not conflict with the social mixer or alumni gatherings this year! The program will be featured in the next News Quarterly.

D- Management and Utilization
Working Group D hosted a successful summer meeting and field tour at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine in August. See the article on page 15 of this issue. They also helped to advertise a Brown Bag Lunch and Discussion with Ralph Nyland, Distinguished Service Professor of Silviculture from SUNY, in Maine in September. Approximately 15 people attended the luncheon, and engaged in a lively discussion of forestry issues.

Maine News (Continued from page 9)
The Maine Forest Service is among the first agencies in the nation to concentrate on an outcome-based approach to water quality protection before, during and after logging operations. "It is more effective, cheaper and easier to prevent pollution than to fix problems after they occur," said Chris Martin, Water Resources Forester for the Service. "Maine is one of a handful of northeastern states participating in a BMP monitoring program with the USDA Forest Service," said Martin. "Maine’s forestry professionals have been very supportive of this effort. Since the manual's publication, more than 500 loggers, foresters and woodlot owners have been trained in water quality BMPs.”

The new manual was a cooperative effort of the Maine Forest Service and FORAT, the Forest Advisory Team, which has broad representation from Maine’s forestry community. Financial support for publication was provided by the Maine Outdoor heritage Fund, the State Planning Office’s Maine Coastal Program and the USDA Forest Service. For a copy of this new manual, go to the www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/pubs/bmp_manual.htm, or call 1-800-367-0223 in state, or 207-287-2791.

First Call for Poster Abstracts
2005 Annual NE SAF Meeting
Portland, Maine
Please email abstracts to Dan McConville by Friday, December 10, 2004. For poster abstract format guidelines please visit:
or contact Dan McConville at:
dan_mcconville@umenfa.maine.edu

2004 National Land Conservation Conference
October 28-31, 2004, Rhode Island Convention Center
This premier four-day conference is the largest gathering of land conservation leaders in the country. During four action-packed days, you will be challenged and inspired by workshops, plenary speeches, field trips, and networking with the top conservation practitioners in the country.

More information at www.lta.org/training/rally.htm
Onsite registration available
CFE Update

Activity/Date/Location                      Hours/Category
Focus Species Forestry, 6 locations and dates in Maine, 4/8/04—6/17/04  3.5/I
Protecting Maine’s Water Quality, 15 locations and dates in Maine, 5/5/04—8/28/04  2.0/I
Group Certification for Forestry Professionals, Orono, ME, 5/18/04  6.0/I
Northeast Utilization & Marketing Council Meeting, Springfield, MA, 6/6-10/04  3.0, 4.0, 4.0, 3.0, 2.0/I
NH Forest Industry Summit, Concord, NH, 6/11/04  5.0/I
MA Licensed Foresters Workshop, Amherst, MA, 6/16/04  3.0/I
NH-VT Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting, Swiftwater, NH 6/26/04  3.0/I
GMD/SAF Summer Meeting, Putney, VT, 9/10/04  3.0/I
Eastern Old Growth Conference, Moultonborough, NH, 9/23-9/04  0, 6.5, 2.0, 0/I
Forest Stand Dynamics, New Haven, CT, 10/11-15/04  30.0/I
National Land Conservation –Land Trust Alliance Rally, Providence, RI, 10/28/04, 10/30-31/04, Day-Long Seminars  6.0/I
10/29/04, Half-Day Seminars  3.0/I
10/30-31/04, Concurrent Workshops (each)  1.5/I
(3/day)  4.5/I
Healing Our Water, 15 locations and dates in Maine, 5/5/04—8/28/04  2.0/I
MAA Licensed Foresters Workshop, Amherst, MA, 6/16/04  3.0/I
UMA Licensed Foresters Workshop, Amherst, MA, 6/16/04  3.0/I
UNH Cooperative Extension
3785 Dartmouth College Highway, Box 8
North Haverhill, NH 03774-4936
Tel: 603-787-6944 Fax: 603-787-2009

Northam D. Parr,
UNH Cooperative Extension

NE SAF Membership Trend

New England Society of American Foresters Membership Summary

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National SAF

| Nov-07 | Nov-08 | Aug-01 | Oct-01 | Feb-02 | Apr-02 | Aug-02 | Oct-02 | Feb-03 | Jul-03 | Nov-03 | Feb-04 | Apr-04 | Oct-04 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 17,009 | 17,009 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 | 16,122 |
In Memoriam

Edgar Pitkin Wyman, 89, of North Sandwich, NH, died on July 13 after a long siege of Alzheimer’s disease.

“E.P.” was born in Somerville, MA. He received his BS from UNH in 1937 and his MF from the Yale School of Forestry in 1939. After Yale Ed supervised a WPA crew in Ohio. In 1940 he and his bride, Barbara Jocelyn Frost, moved to Shasta Co., CA to manage forestlands for a mill. At the onset of WWII he enlisted in the Coast Guard as an ensign and skipper of an 83-foot anti-submarine patrol boat which was subsequently assigned to the Philippines. Charged with the maintenance of navigation aids, Ed taught his crew to use backpacking methods learned in the White Mountains.

Upon returning to New England, Ed went to the University of Connecticut to teach logging and forest management. He was a dedicated and passionate teacher who for a number of years organized summer camps in Maine where he taught field forestry and forged friendships that lasted the rest of his life. He later served as Extension Forester for the State of Connecticut and was instrumental in revitalizing the CT Christmas Tree Growers’ Association.

E.P. was a lifelong member of the SAF and in 1996 received the NE SAF Distinguished Service Award.

Ed was remembered by many friends at a bean hole and corn roast held in his memory at his home.

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New England Society of American Foresters
85th Annual Meeting

"CHANGING FORESTS – CHALLENGING TIMES"

"MANAGING OUR NORTHEASTERN FOREST UNDER CHANGING GLOBAL PRESSURES"

March 16-18, 2005

Sheraton South Portland Hotel
(Between Exits 7 & 7A, Interstate 95)

For room reservations: 1-888-627-7188
or direct to the hotel, 1-207-775-6161

Guest room rates: $89.00 single/double; free parking

(Ask for the New England Society of American Foresters group)

Annual Meeting—Ron Lemin

Our plenary session will include David Refkin from TimeInc as our Keynote speaker with a followup from Maine gove Baldacci and, we hope, someone from Quebec discussing regional and international wood supply, demand and trade issues. We will also have sessions to include:

Conservation Easements
3rd Party Certification
Hardwood silviculture program
NE Pest Council’s Regional Status report
Invasive Species issues
SWOAM woodlot tour on Thursday afternoon

We will continue with the Town Meeting type of panel discussion similar to the session presented on Friday in Quebec. Issues around taking large land areas like the Adirondack Park, the National Park in Maine, etc. out of the supply chain and the regional/global effects on our resource.

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