Connecticut Launches Forest Plan

The published version of the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan is now available. The Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan is designed to serve as an overview for planning future activities within the forest community of Connecticut. The plan identifies issues as perceived by various stakeholders regarding the State’s forestlands, and provides the basis for putting limited available state and federal funds to the best and most urgent uses through a series of action steps.

It is an ambitious plan, and the success will lie in the development of partnerships between the various stakeholder groups to achieve goals that benefit Forestry along organizations and individuals will determine the Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan.

Recently, the Connecticut Forestlands Committee was formed to monitor progress of plan implementation over the ten-year life span of the plan. Over the next few months, a series of 8 subcommittees will be formed to begin addressing action steps listed in the plan. If you have already agreed to partner with this plan, either as an individual or an organization through an August 2003 questionnaire, you will be contacted to participate in subcommittees under which you have listed an interest. If you have not signed on yet, but are interested in participating, please read the plan, determine what action steps or vision categories interest you, and contact Helene Flounders through one of the following avenues: (860) 295-9523, 209 Hebron Road, Marlborough, CT 06447 or through email at helene.flounders@po.state.ct.us

For a hard copy of the plan, please contact: Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106 or call (860) 424-3630. Questions can also be directed to dep.forestry@po.state.ct.us. The plan is also available in a PDF format on the DEP Division of Forestry website at www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/forestry/index.htm.

(Photos— Courtesy of Connecticut DEP)

Read the News Quarterly at http://www.nesaf.org
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, PO Box 587 South China, ME 04538 (O) 207-445-6794 (FAX) 207-449-3312, abwymann@hcia.net

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Forest Stand DynamicsCourse Offered

Forest Stand Dynamics, a one-week, mid-career course co-taught by Chad Oliver and Bruce Larson will be offered this fall at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in New Haven, Connecticut.

The course examines how forest stands grow, beginning with individual tree architecture and growth and how they respond to disturbances and silvicultural manipulations. The course will be of interest to silviculturists, forest managers, forest ecologists, wildlife biologists and others interested in how forests develop.

The course instructors co-authored the textbook Forest Stand Dynamics which is widely used in silvicultural classes throughout the country. Chad Oliver is the Pinchot Professor of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University and Director of Yale’s Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry. His research is concentrated on understanding the ecological aspects of how forests develop, and ways in which silviculture can be applied to ecological systems most effectively. Bruce Larson is the FRBC Chair of Silviculture at the University of British Columbia. His research is focused on development and growth of forest stands, and efficient management of multiple forest resources.

Professors Oliver and Larson have taught their one-week immersion course for 16 years at the University of Washington’s Pack Forest, where the class is regularly filled with members of the Forest Service and of the forest departments of the western states. Last year it was offered for the first time at the Yale location, making it accessible to residents in the eastern half of the US. In addition to using examples from forests throughout North America and other parts of the world, each course addresses conditions in the region it is offered, increasing its relevance to those taking it. Field trips to local forests are included.

The east coast course will take place October 23-28, 2005 on the Yale University campus. The fee is $1,650 and includes tuition, private accommodations at a local hotel, and most meals. The course provides SAF Continuing Forestry Education credit of 30 hours in Category 1.

More information and an on-line registration form is available at www.yale.edu/gisf, or contact Barbara Ruth at the Yale Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry, barbara.ruth@yale.edu, (203) 432-5117.

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

3
NESAF Grant Money Available—
www.nesaf.org

Have a good idea and need some money to help pay for it? Each year NESAF makes about $2500 in grant money available to divisions of SAF within New England meeting the NESAF grants criteria. Last year $2,870 was awarded to the Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island Chapters.

The NESAF Grants Program will fund approved projects developed for the following purposes:

- To educate NESAF’s many publics about professional forestry, and
- To advance the role of the profession in society by promoting the role of foresters in forest resource management.

Recent projects include a tri-fold informational display board promoting forestry and SAF to be used for meetings and demonstrations, and a publication of champion trees for the State of Vermont and one for the State of Rhode Island.

Grants are due by December 15. For more information and an application form, see www.nesaf.org. Or, contact:

Tom Degnan, NESAF Grants Chair
22 Caulkins Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

860-434-3497
Tdegnan67@yahoo.com

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Northern Forest Heritage Park: The Present—Jean Boutin, NFH Park Administrator

About ten years ago, citizens met to explore options to diversify the economy of the Androscoggin Valley, home of New Hampshire’s only remaining paper mill. The USDA Forest Service supported a study to identify options. The study found a rich cultural heritage existed and this resulted in creation of the Northern Forest Heritage Park. The Park’s Mission is to tell the story of the working forest and preserve the rich cultural diversity of the region.

Heritage based attractions exist throughout New England. However, cultures that created the heritage in the Berlin/Gorham area of New Hampshire are still here and employment is still primarily forest based.

The centerpiece of the Park is a circa-1900 logging camp constructed on the banks of the Androscoggin River within view of the paper mill and log yards. It consists of 6 log buildings and a 300-seat amphitheater. The logging camp includes a blacksmith shop, horse hovel, filer’s shack, the camp boss office, and a cookhouse/bunkhouse. Construction was supported by donations from industry and grants from the Forest Service and NH Division of Forest & Lands.

Education is a primary function of the Park. Visitors may take a self-guided tour of the logging camp; take a boat tour to learn about the River and log drives; tour the active paper mill; take an evening moose tour (operated daily in partnership with the Gorham Recreation Department, in season). Moose Tour interpreters also teach the importance of forest management as it relates to healthy wildlife populations.

The Park teaches visitors about our working forest and how good stewardship of the forest contributes to the well being of an urban population by showing how forest products are used in their daily lives.

The historic Brown Company House, built in 1853, houses administrative offices, exhibit rooms, and the Artisans Gift Shop & Gallery. Here a variety of locally made goods, many from forest products and others representative of the folk art of the diverse cultures of the region.

Celebrating culture has many forms at the Park. Festivals celebrate a variety of cultures through music, dance, folk art, food and interpretive exhibits. The season begins with a Norwegian Folk Celebration who were among the first to arrive to work the forest and river drives. They also formed the still active Nansen Ski Club, the oldest in the United States. Festival du Bois (July 23, 2005) celebrates wood products in the context of our local French-Canadian culture that is still a big part of today’s forest workforce. The Park continues to host our most successful Lumberjack Festival & Contest (October 1, 2005). This event is largely supported by local forest industry, is hosted by Don Quigley, and has seen several world records set.

The Park is working to bring log rolling back to the area by having classes and contests for youth, preserving the rich heritage of the Androscoggin River drivers

(Continued on page 8)
Brown Company was one of the first in the country to hire a professional forester, Austin Cary, to oversee tree harvesting.

The company hired all the woods bosses, loggers, timber cruisers, scalers, cooks, blacksmih, and teamsters needed to run the logging camps. The first camps were very crude and provided only rough shelter. There was usually one building just big enough to house the men under one roof. The floor was dirt with a fire pit in the center. Above the pit was a hole in the roof to allow smoke to escape. Food was prepared in a large pot hung over the fire. The men slept together on a field bed made of boughs laid on the floor and covered with a large quilt or blanket. A second quilt was used to cover the men.

As demand for wood increased, it became necessary to construct more elaborate camps for the men. The boss, clerk and perhaps the scaler shared one cabin. If the camp had its own blacksmith, he would have a separate shop where he would likely live as well as work. Loggers were housed in a bunkhouse where each man had his own bed. In most cases, the men wore the same clothing all season. Wet clothing was hung over the stove to dry. The men smoked pipes and spit tobacco on the stove. It was a smoky, smelly place with a unique ambience.

A stable, or hovel, was built for the horses used for twitching logs, hauling sleds, and toting supplies. Teamsters often chose to live in the hovel because “it smelled better” than the bunkhouse!

The residents could buy limited supplies from the wangan, or company store. Items such as socks, jackets, tobacco, axe handles, and patent medicines were available. In a large camp, there might be a separate store, but the wangan was often run from the boss’s office. A large camp might also have a filer, whose job was to sharpen the cutters’ saws. He lived alone in his

(Continued on page 8)
Northern Forest Heritage Park: The Future—Julie Renaud-Evans, Vice-chair of the Board, NFH Park

The future is hard to predict but prospects for growth are promising. Marketing, programming, and construction are all part of the story.

Outreach to tour companies and summer camps are a promising niche for the Park. These entities provide outstanding links to urban populations and provide a healthy opportunity to tell the story of the working forest and why urban populations should support good forestry practices.

Program development is currently focused on a heritage curriculum. Valley Quest, a curriculum development organization, will be at the Park this summer to host educators from New Hampshire to learn about state requirements for heritage studies. Schools in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire have already discovered the Park and make field trips a regular part of their programs.

A docent training program is being developed to more actively entertain visitors and provide a more focused educational opportunity about the working forest, past, present, and future.

New Park based tours are in the development stage. A walking tour of Berlin has already been developed and work is progressing toward use of nearby forest tracts for interpretive walks for tree identification with additional information on products in our homes that come from those trees. Questions like; Which tree did our wooden spoon come from? What kind of wood is wrapped up inside our couch? Why should we continue to use wood for framing a home instead of steel? These are all part of the story to be told.

The existing moose tours are very popular and provide opportunity to teach what it takes to manage a forest to continually provide all habitat components needed to keep moose happy. We hope to create additional tours to view management for other creatures, especially birds. How might the urban population view forest harvest patterns if they had a better understanding of different silvicultural practices and the kinds and numbers of birds that use early successional habitat or older forest communities?

The biggest upcoming project for the Park is construction of a regional visitor center. The center will be located on the site of the former Brown Company R&D buildings, a place that represents the history of hundreds of paper industry related patents. This project will take much coordination and many donations. The Park is particularly interested in acquiring building materials from our many friends in the forest industry and a way to showcase regionally made wood products. Preliminary design is looking at finishing each room with a different wood. Doing so provides an opportunity to further educate visitors on the value of wood in our homes and places of work. Imagine your name on a room in an exciting building: benefactor red oak room, supporter white pine room, or the donor sugar maple room!

Long-term prosperity for the Park can be better assured by establishing a healthy endowment fund from which a reliable revenue stream can be realized. Initial efforts for this purpose are focused on the logging camp and amphitheater. If a business or individual is willing to have their name on a stadium or university building, why wouldn’t they want their name on a great log building at Northern Forest Heritage Park?

Contact Northern Forest Heritage Park and see how you can help create a future.
Quarterly Theme

Present (Continued from page 5)

and their “walking on water”. The last festival of the year, Heritage Holiday Traditions (December 10, 2005), celebrates seven cultures that worked together to create “Berlin, the City that Trees Built”.

The Park hosts meetings, conferences and tours. Facilities are used by NHSFI, NH Timberland Owners’ Association, Granite State SAF and other groups. Last year’s visitors included the Bentley Car Club of America, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, and groups from England, Hungary and Atlanta, Ga. It was also the primary location for the City of Berlin’s “River Fire” event, and for class reunions and family celebrations.

Contact Northern Forest Heritage Park at 603-752-7202, e-mail at heritage@ncia.net, or write to 961 Main Street, Berlin, NH 03570 to learn more, become a member, book a tour, or schedule your event.

Past (Continued from page 6)

own shack which was off limits to the loggers. He didn’t want “any horny handed lousy loggers” in his place.

The loggers worked from early fall through the winter piling up pulpwood to be sent down river to the mills in the spring. As soon as the ice was out from the lakes and streams, logs were pushed into the water and the annual spring log drive began.

For nearly sixty years Brown Company was family-owned. W.W. Brown and his five sons managed the mills and forestlands with great success. Brown Company became a world leader in pulp and paper technology. It had its own research and development department where over 600 patents relating to the industry were developed. It made many of the materials needed for its pulping processes and found uses for some of the by-products from the paper making process. Company scientists developed the first hydrogenated vegetable shortening using hydrogen, a by-product from making chlorine used to bleach pulp. It also developed products using wood fibers such as artificial leather, artificial silk, filters for chemical processes, Solka Floc (used as a filler in many foods), and medicines, even a natural fertilizer called Gro Bark.

For nearly two centuries, forest products and good forestry practices have been important to the economic, environmental, recreational and spiritual health of our northern communities.
MAINE Division—Marc Johnson

Community-Based Forestry Exchange
Over one hundred attended a community-based forestry (CBF) conference sponsored by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine in April in Portland. The goal of the meeting was to introduce participants to the concept of community-based forestry. The premise is that groups of people with diverse forest values and interests can better protect all their values by working together than by working independently.

The exchange brought together, loggers, environmentalists, town managers, mill owners and managers, foresters, forest-products manufacturers, land managers, forest-land owners, land trusts and community citizens. Speakers came from a wide sampling of the US and Canada, including MESAF members Tom Doak, Director, SWOAM; Andy Cutko, Ecologist, Beginning With Habitat, Maine Natural Areas Program; and Mike DeBonis, Program Director, Project Canopy, Maine Forest Service.

John Hagan, of Manomet, started off the session by saying, “Community-based forestry is more social science than ecology. We hope by the end of the day, to learn what we know about it and what we can do with it to help our small woodland owners and protect against sprawl.”

Steve Blackmer, President of the Northern Forest Center, summarized the day by saying, “CBF can organize people to build healthy landscapes and forests.” He highlighted patience, humility, willingness to change and adapt and a community-shared land ethic as themes of the day.

Forestry Awareness Program
Sue Aygarn is leading a Forestry Awareness Program designed to replace our poster contest for K-12 students and teachers. This new effort incorporates forestry into the Maine Learning Results program and improves integration with foresters and Project Learning Tree.

Time, Inc. Accepts Tree Farm Wood
Time, Inc. recently announced that it will accept wood from Group Certified Tree farms as meeting the standards of its Certified Sustainable Forests (CSF) program. The Small Woodland Owner’s Association of Maine Certified Tree Farm program qualifies.

Maine legislation
A proposal to require public access on lands in Tree Growth tax status was tabled until further review.

Plum Creek Concept Plan
Plum Creek Timber Company has presented to the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) a petition for rezoning to implement a 30 year comprehensive Concept Plan for its Moosehead Lake region lands. The plan covers 426,000 acres and is the largest application ever submitted to LURC. For a two-page fact sheet, a map and a DVD of the application contact LURC’s Augusta, ME office at 1-207-287-2631 or visit www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reference/resourceplans/moosehead.html.

Fraser Papers Announces Sells Timberlands
Fraser papers will sell approximately 240,000 acres of timberlands in Maine for $80.5 million to Heartland Forestland Fund V Limited Partnership, an investment vehicle managed by the Forestland Group, LLC. Fraser will continue to own approximately 765,000 acres in the Province of New Brunswick. For more info visit the website www.fraserpapers.com.

MESAF members in the news
Rory Eckart, SAF Student Chapter Chair at the University of Maine, was awarded the Maine Division SAF Award by MESAF Chair Bob Wagner. Furthermore, Rory and Molly Simonson, another UMO student member, were selected by MESAF to attend the 2005 SAF National Leadership Academy in June.

David Maass and wife, Laury were highlighted as Maine Audubon Birdathon veterans in the Maine Audubon Habitat, Spring 2005.
David’s mother, Dr. Eleanor A. Maass, a Forest History Society member, has written *The Life of Joseph Trimble Rothrock*, (http://pfa.cas.psu.edu/pubs) a biography of the Pennsylvania botanist and conservationist (1839-1922). Known as the “Father of Pennsylvania Forestry”, Rothrock was the first secretary general of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, on the first state commission of forestry and a founder of the state’s first forestry school.

**Coming Events**
The *New England Invasive Plant Summit* will be held September 16-17 in Framingham, MA. For more, visit www.ipane.com or contact Cynthia Boettner, Cynthia_Boettner@fws.gov or at 1-413-863-0209x6.

**GRANITE STATE Division— Jonathan Nute**

**2005 Black Fly Breakfast**
Over 120 attended the 7th annual Black Fly Breakfast in Boscawen. UNH Coop. Ext. Forestry specialist Karen Bennet introduced the speakers. USFS wildlife biologist Mariko Yamasaki distributed a copy of her new book, “Landowner’s Guide to Wildlife Habitat.” Tree Farm re-inspection czar John O’Brien reported that there are 420 re-inspections to do this year. Sept. 23-25 is the national TF convention in Springfield, MA and the tour of the NH outstanding TF will be in October at Philips Exeter Academy. USFS Deputy Forest Supervisor Barnie Gyant invited us to visit www.fs.fed.us/r9/white/centennial.html for a list USFS centennial of activities. GSD SAF program manager Janet Mulherin announced that the NE SAF convention will be in April, 2006 in Nashua, with the theme “Race for the Resources”.

Karen Bennett reported on a state legislative study committee to revise the Shoreland Protection Act. Emphasis seems to be on development along lakes, rather than logging, but we should watch their progress. UNH Coop. Ext. Forest industry specialist Sarah Smith reported on world market trends. Last summer, Sweden suffered a catastrophic blow-down of 75 million cubic meters of softwood timber. Preserves are being created in Quebec, slowing lumber production. Russia is a big exporter of softwoods, with most of it going to China and Japan. Malaysia and the US are the big hardwood exporters, with Russia increasing in volume. The European Union dominates in hardwood imports, with China increasing. NH log markets remain strong, but producers are squeezed with thin profit margins and are concerned about the loss to China of low grade red oak markets for flooring. Rising fuel costs have made biomass chips more attractive and PSNH is converting a portion of its Portsmouth coal-fired facility to chips, creating a 450,000 tons/yr. market.

State Forester Phil Bryce reminded us to participate in the state forest management plan revision. A new 7 page pamphlet, “The Economic Importance of NH Forests” is available free from his office. State legislators are concerned about timber harvested from public forests going out of state. Brad Simpkins is the new chief of Forest Protection. The spring fire season was “lively” with more than 155 fires reported in the 3 weeks from snow melt to green-up. Forestry Division entomologist Jen Boffinger reported on Emerald Ash borer and Sudden Oak Death. Neither is in NH, but the state is monitoring likely sites. White pine logs are under a federal quarantine for pine shoot beetle and hemlock logs are quarantined in Rockingham county.


**MESAF Fall Meeting** to be held October 11, 2005.

**Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine** will celebrate its 30th Anniversary with a Landowner Summit, October 22, 2005, in Augusta. Contact Tom Doak, Executive Director, SWOAM, at www.swoam.com, tom@swoam.com or 1-207-626-0005.
NH Timberland Owners’ Association Director Jasen Stock is monitoring 40 bills in the state legislature. Education director Hunter Carbee announced that the Professional Logger Program is adding training for mechanized harvesting, in addition to the two successful classifications for truckers and conventional harvesting. NHTOA has formed a joint study committee with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests to investigate abusive timber harvesting in northern NH.

New Sullivan County Extension Forester, Chuck Hersey, reported on his 2004 research with U. Mass Extension Forester David Kitredge on forester fees in Massachusetts. The average cost to prepare a forest management plan was $10/acre or $45/hr. The cost to manage a timber sale averaged $20/acre or a 15% commission. Complete survey results are at http://forest.fnr.umass.edu/stumpage.htm.

The rest of the morning program featured Coos County Extension Forester Sam Stoddard with a presentation of New England logging activities from the pre-colonial era to the present.

The Coos County Mud Season Breakfast and field trip was under way as this issue was going to press.

GREEN MOUNTAIN Division—Ray Toolan

There is not a lot of news at the moment. The big items in Vermont are exotic invasives and the anticipated Forest Tent Caterpillar invasion. With the legislature in session we are all holding our breaths to see what will happen before they adjourn for the summer. Thus far the Department of Forests, parks and recreation has lost ten positions. Five of those were vacant. We have been advised that two positions will be filled. One is the State Lands Forester in Rutland and the other will be to replace the outgoing Addison County Forester. Dave Brynn has decided to resign to accept a position with UVM. Fire season was thankfully brief with there being two significant cases of fires being started by trains. Scott Pfister is the new Chief of Resource Protection at F,P&R. He comes to us from the Agency of Agriculture. Some bills being considered in the legislature have many up in arms. One would cause class four roads, under certain conditions, to be abandoned. There are more than a few parcels which are accessed by these “ancient roads”. It is possible that the state may end up creating landlocked parcels which is not permitted under state law. Another bill would allow people essentially unlimited access to any lands in Use Value Assessment. This is far beyond merely prohibiting posting of these lands. As it now stands UVA cooperators can post their lands against hunting and fishing. The wet weather has, hopefully, brought the spring fire season to a close. On a final note, there seems to be some very mixed reports from sugar makers. Some claim a very good year while others are way down. Much of the difference seems to be related to aspect and/or elevation this year.

Connecticut—William Bentley

CT SAF has again this year pledged its financial support for the Envirothon Program.

Currently there is collaboration underway between the CT DEP, The UCONN Cooperative Extension System and the CT Forest and Park Association to develop new adult education programs targeted towards forest landowners, conservation and environmental professionals and local municipal leaders. This work will be centered around the Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton. Steve Broderick, Senior Extension Forester with UCONN Cooperative Extension and Fred Borman, Program Specialist with the DEP will be leading the efforts in establishing a high quality demonstration forest management program. The Goodwin State Forest has been under continuous forest management since 1915 and with the dedication in 1964 of the Goodwin Farm House, a stated mission to “provide education in forest, wildlife and general conservation”, makes the Goodwin State Forest a natural fit for this project.
Massachusetts—Anne Marie Kittredge

The recent conference, Diameter Limit Cutting (DLC) in Northeastern Forests (May 23-24, 2005), co-sponsored by Yankee Division SAF, brought more than 200 practicing foresters, loggers, researchers, and land managers together with regional silvicultural experts in Amherst, MA for stimulating professional presentations as well as lively discussions relative to the implications of DLC, silvicultural rehabilitation options, and ethical considerations.

A list of Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) opportunities and other continuing educational activities are compiled at: http://forest.fnr.umass.edu/foresterlicense/texts/upcoming.htm.

Welcome: Brian Kane recently joined the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst as Assistant Professor of Commercial Arboriculture. This new position is funded through a Faculty Endowment created by the Massachusetts Arborist Association (MAA), and supported by arboricultural associations in New England, alumni and commercial arboricultural firms. Brian received his Ph.D. from UMass Amherst in 2002, is an ISA Certified Arborist and ISA Certified Tree Worker with 14 years of commercial and municipal tree care experience as a climber, crew leader, and arborist. Brian’s research interests, tree risk assessment and tree mechanics, will greatly enhance the Department’s ability to train the arboriculture professionals of the future.

“Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the Forests of Massachusetts”, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA. The loss of open space to development at a rate of 40 acres/day in Massachusetts represents an alarming statistic and foundation for this report. The Wildlands and Woodlands approach is consistent with other conservation initiatives in Massachusetts and can be applied to other states in the Eastern U.S. that are also characterized by expanses of forest that are similarly dominated by private ownership. “We have to realize that we rely on our forests for clean air, clean water, recreation, wildlife habitat and wood. The nature of forest loss in the 21st century is different than anything we have seen in the past. Pave-ment is almost always permanent,” adds Dr. David Foster. In this report, the authors strongly support timber harvesting and management on private and state-owned land, but also believe that it is time to delineate and evaluate large forest reserves. Available at http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/wandw/

MA Div. of Fisheries & Wildlife Director, Wayne MacCallum was honored twice in April. The first award, the John Pierce Award, was presented to him by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society in recognition of his service to the wildlife profession. This is the Section’s highest honor. The Distinguished Alumnus, presented by the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst was the second award. This award honored Wayne’s commitment and accomplishments in the field of wildlife conservation.

Rhode Island—Gregg Cassidy

Envirothon

Twelve teams participated in the annual Envirothon held in May at Camp Hoffman in South Kingston. The RI chapter cosponsored the event and assisted with the Forestry component of the competition. Paul Dolan coordinated SAF participation in this event.

100 Years of Forestry in Rhode Island

An SAF Committee was formed to coordinate the celebration of 100 years of Forestry in Rhode Island. A series of events, including a Champion Tree publication; Forest Products Expo; and the opening of the Liberty Tract Demonstration Forest, are planned. Paul Dolan, Chris Modisette, Marc Tremblay, and Hans Bergey are SAF members on this Committee.

Tee Shirts

The Rhode Island, Division of Forest Environment was contacted by a member of the Air Force from Rhode Island deployed in Iraq requesting four tee shirts promoting RI forests.
Quebec—Kim Lowell

The provincial government has moved to adopt the most notable recommendation of the Coulombe Commission -- reducing the allowable cut for softwood trees by 20% until 2008 (as reported in this column last quarter). Although this action will have dramatic consequences across the province, the impact will vary considerably from one region to another. In some regions, the amount of wood harvested is already well below what could be harvested under a sustained yield management scenario. However in the regions of the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean, the Bas-Saint-Laurent, and the Mauricie, harvesting is occurring up to the maximum allowed. The response of the government to the report of the Coulombe Commission continues to be closely monitored by the forest industry, regional associations, and local communities.

To modernise forest inventory techniques, the Division of Forest Inventory of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife, and Parks in cooperation with the Division of Computer Services has developed a generic forest inventory data system. In Quebec, a forest inventory is completed approximately every 10 years. During the recent completion of the 4th such inventory, the utility of integrating this information – obtained from some 80,000 temporary sample plots – with information from previous inventories was recognised. The system developed allows users to produce special-use data collection forms, to download them to hand-held data loggers, and then to upload the information collected and incorporate it into the master database. Moreover, the system was designed in a secure manner to permit limited access and to maintain control on the quality of data in the system.

After 10 years, the provincial government is in the process of revising the credits accorded for different sylvicultural treatments. In Quebec, forest companies must invest in forest improvement either by paying directly to a common fund, or by conducting silvicultural work of a prescribed value. However, the current dollar value of different silvicultural treatments often does not allow the companies to adequately pay the groups that conduct the work. Among the actions taken to resolve this problem will be to make admissible costs of planning and monitoring work, eliminate the application of regional average values in order to account for local variability in topography and forest conditions, and provide more flexibility to forest companies in the rate paid to silvicultural crews given the present shortage of woods workers.

Finally, after more than 10 years of writing this column, this will be the last by this correspondent. I have accepted a job in Melbourne, Australia and will be moving in mid-July. I have enjoyed the contact I have had with NESAF members over the last few years and send my regards to all of you.

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The RI chapter of SAF produced a number of tee shirts, selling extras to cover the cost of the ones to be sent to Iraq. Chris Modisette and Cathy Sparks lead the effort in designing and producing the shirts.

Tom Dupree retires
RI DEM, Forest Environment chief Tom Dupree has announced his retirement after 30 years of state service. A graduate of UMASS/Amherst Tom promoted forestry in Rhode Island first as a Service Forester and managed Arcadia Management Area before taking the helm of the Division of Forest Environment in the late 1980’s.

Highlights of Tom’s tenure include the formation of the Southern New England Forest Consortium and the RI Forest Conservators Organization, creation of green space plans for major watersheds and development of key resource elements of the state guide plan including an Urban and Community Forest Plan for RI and revision of the State’s Forest Resources Management Plan.
At the March 16, 2005 NESAF Annual Business Meeting, a motion was passed instructing the Executive Committee to inform, communicate, and provide for a fall referendum ballot, on the individual VOS-TF recommendations. The timing of this ballot and its compilation of results will be concurrently conveyed to House of Society Delegates (HSD) and SAF Council at the SAF National Convention in Fort Worth, TX in mid-October. In lieu of their regular columns, Council Delegate Leo Laferriere and NE SAF Chair, Kenneth M. Laustsen have collaborated to provide the following point/counterpoint presentation to help inform members of the issues prior to receiving the referendum ballot.

VOS-TF Recommendations

1. Reduce number of SAF districts from 11 to 7 (This recommendation has multiple facets vying for your single vote.)
   Ken: SAF members have been represented equivalently by a council member for a long time and that will continue. The current equivalent representation by council members, representing 11 Districts, is now skewed and needs to be fixed regardless. The VOS-TF strived to find an area-based balance that combined similar patterns of forest types, land use issues, and ownership patterns without splitting any existing state societies. In that effort they reviewed alternative aggregations of 11, 9, 7, and 6 groupings. The only one that appealed to all task force members is the recommended 7 region model. The state societies of New England and New York, currently in District 6, will combine with the state societies of Allegheny and National Capital, currently in District 7, to encompass the new region.
   Leo: Council has not had a problem with proportionate member representation; all votes are considered equal, regardless of differences in numbers of members represented. This does not appear to be an issue with members generally. If change is desired, Council member votes can be weighted in accordance with number of members represented.
   Ken: Regions become the focus of carrying out the SAF mission at a level closer to individual members.
   Leo: The proposed region is too large to effectively represent. Council reps need to be able to attend at least some local meetings. Local contact is difficult enough as is – enlarging that area means abandoning that contact for areas most distant from the Council rep’s home. SAF does not reimburse Council reps for travel within their own district – another reason for dropping distant contacts. The current District VI configuration is manageable and works fine. New England and New York societies each, and together have commonalities enabling them to function well. For members, travel is manageable, issues are locally relevant, members know one another and develop a shared culture. West Virginia and Maine have little in common and National Capital in Washington, DC, is different from everyone. With its small membership, National Capital’s possibilities of ever electing a Council member from one of it’s own are further reduced.
   Ken: The revised council will serve as a Board of Directors rather than the current management/operations team approach.
   Leo: Council already tends to operate as a Board of Directors.
   Ken: Removal of the HSD, Forest Science & Technology Board (FS&TB), and Committee on Forest Policy (CFP) Chairs as permanent non-voting members of council meetings.
   Leo: These three elements represent essential functions of SAF, and it is appropriate that they be present at Council.
   Ken: HSD goes from a national body to a regional body.
   Leo: Two major concerns here: more volunteer time (seven administrations vs. one), meetings and travel would be required. Second, council would be dealing with seven separate HSD agendas instead of one. HSD functions well as is. There is much to be said for delegates interacting at the national level.
Ken: National Convention is scheduled every 2 years, with a regional convention held in the alternate year.

Leo: What would exhibitors feel about this? Although the SAF budget is now being prepared anticipating the annual convention to break even, the fact is SAF needs the benefit of profit from this event. With careful planning the convention should make a profit - reducing the opportunity to profit by 50% doesn’t help the financial situation. Regarding finances generally, the effects of these proposed changes have not been addressed at all, locally or nationally. This is a major deficiency impairing a full and objective analysis of this proposal.

Regional conferences are already being done successfully at a smaller (area) scale. Adding another wider-scale meeting is a significant additional burden for the local volunteers. In the context of declining membership numbers, this is no time to be adding tasks. The trend in large meetings is toward adding involvement of associated interests (water, wildlife, pest control, etc.) located within the area, not large-scale expansion of areas.

2. A Regional Student Representative (RStR) to serve a 1-year term as a full voting member on the Regional HSD

Ken: Increased opportunity and involvement of student members is the lifeblood and roots of SAF’s future.

Leo: Agree. Continual encouragement is fully appropriate.

3. Add a Council Student Representative (CSR) to SAF Council as a non-voting member with a 1-year term that will rotate annually through the 7 RStR’s.

Ken: Same point as #2

Leo: A good thought, but can students take the amount of time necessary to do this well, and who pays the expenses of travel?

4. Establish a National Student Congress (NSC) to meet at national conventions as a replacement venue for existing National Student Assembly.

Ken: Same point as #2

Leo: This appears not all that different from what is already taking place, except the number of meetings is reduced by 50%. How is this an improvement?

5. Establish a Student Executive Committee (SEC) composed of the CSR and 6 RStR’s to serve the NSC.

Ken: Same point as #2

Leo: Same as above, plus can students participate at the level necessary?

6. Create a Science Committee (SC) to replace, expand, and realign the role of the current 6 member FS&TB. Each region will supply a committee member, with 3 at-large members appointed by SAF President for representation of specific subject areas. The SC is charged with expanding their scope and interface with allied fields and professions.

Ken: SAF strives to find and promote the balance between the science and the practice of forestry. This recommendation is well suited and directed to enhancing the scientific aspects of the profession.

Leo: Again, this relies upon the validity of the regional concept. It is not clear that perceived operational problems will be solved by creating a large structure counting heavily on more volunteer effort.

7. Create “Interest Group (IG)” as an evolution of the current “Working Group” structure. IG’s will require a minimum involvement of 20 members that will address a specific issue or topic that is science, policy or practice in nature with a “Sunset” charter.

Ken: This is a polarized recommendation; if the current working group structure has failed to serve your needs as a scientist or as a practitioner, then the suggested change provides a different and focused opportunity for your direct involvement in an issue of interest.

Leo: Some potential merit here, but again more volunteer effort needed. We need to hear from the current working groups regarding what they would like to do.

Recommendations 8 – 14 have been approved by SAF Council. Recommendation 15 is undergoing further development and review by SAF Council.

You can comment on-line at www.safnet.org/members/member-pw/comments.cfm?requestedDoc=/members/member-pw/comments.cfm. We encourage your continued interest and involvement.
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