Sarah Smith, Forest Industry Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill to assist agriculture and forest land owners and operators with matching payments for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible biomass material. The program, administered by the USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA), allows biomass owners to request payment, for up to two years, from the FSA for each dry ton delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. A biomass conversion facility (BCF) is one that converts biomass (including residue) to heat, power and/or biofuels. The BCFS include wood energy plants, wood pellet manufacturers, green houses, schools and many other facilities. The BCFS must also sign up or qualify with the FSA despite receiving no payments under the BCAP program. The incentive for the BCF is a negotiated (with the producer) price differential for BCAP biomass received.

The Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for BCAP was published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2009. The NOFA outlined the initial details for the program including definitions of who is eligible, what is eligible and how the program, at least initially, should proceed. For those that signed up, payments began in January of this year. Contracts for this initial period expired on March 31, 2010 pending the final rule making by the FSA. No new sign ups were allowed after February 3, 2010. The BCAP program is set to restart late summer or fall under the final rules for implementation.

The matching payment rate (during the initial stage) was $1 for each $1 dollar received from a biomass conversion facility up to $45 per dry ton. The matching payment comes from the FSA not the receiving facility. The payments are based on a dry ton. Biomass moisture content varies somewhat but usually falls within the 40-50% moisture content range. The receiving facility is responsible for determining moisture content using an approved (by the FSA) method.

An example would be if a 30 ton truck delivered a load of biomass (45% moisture content) to an approved facility and is paid $30 per green ton or $900 for the truck load (green). The dry ton equivalent would be 30 tons x (1 - .45) = 16.50 dry tons. $900 ÷ 16.50 is $54.55 dry ton basis. The maximum USDA, FSA payment per dry ton is $45.00 per dry ton. So, the load 16.50 dry tons is eligible for an additional 16.50 x $45.00 = $742.50 payment.

The BCAP program, although presently in hiatus as the final rules are worked out, brought an unprecedented federal subsidy to an industry not used to or comfortable with government payment programs. Despite an initial reluctance, many participated and the result, in just three months, was over $42 million flowing into New England. What the Biomass Crop Assistance Program will look like when it reappears in the fall is anyone’s

(Continued on page 4)
JOHN A. O’BRIEN
Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award

The Austin Cary Award recognizes New England SAF members who have shown exceptional achievement as practicing forest managers. Austin Cary (1865–1936) graduated from Bowdoin College and introduced northern landowners to forest sampling, growth estimation, and simple silvicultural techniques. Cary’s Woodsman’s Manual, written in 1909, continued to be used as a textbook until the 1960’s.

For over the past 28 years, John O’Brien as owner and president of O’Brien Forestry Services, a forestry and wildlife consulting firm, has managed 30,000 acres of land in the Upper Connecticut Valley region of NH and VT. John’s clients range in size from large institutional ownerships like Dartmouth College and Hanover Water Works to town and school forests and many family forests, including the 1994 and 2004 NH Outstanding Tree Farms.

A nominator noted that, “John thoughtfully weighs if he can philosophically carry out the management of a landowners goals and objectives. If the highest silvicultural standards for the property are not of paramount importance, he suggests that the landowner seek the services of another consulting forester.”

In another venue, John has served as the inspection “Czar” and is known as the “Inspector General” of the New Hampshire Tree Farm Program, keeping foresters motivated to complete a consistently high percentage of re-inspections and contacts. He regularly attends committee meetings and conventions and was awarded the inaugural Wesley Mears award as Tree Farm Inspector of the Year in 1998. Like several previous Austin Cary awardees, John was recognized in 2007 with the SAF Presidential Field Forester Award.

John received an A.S. Forestry degree from the Thompson School of Applied Science in 1963, a B.S. in Forest Management from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in 1966, and a M.S. in Forest and Wildlife Management from UNH in 1973. In addition, John is a U.S Army veteran serving 4 years of active duty and then 18 years in Reserves in the NH Air National Guard, retiring as a Commander/Lieutenant Colonel in 1990.

Several comments from his nomination package, “His continued efforts in forestry and land management practices insure healthy forests for generations to come;” and “John O’Brien is a credible and tireless advocate for, profitable and multi-purpose forest management. For his entire laudable career, he has practiced what he has preached. Never compromising his forestry principles for his own personal gain, his work is truly illuminative of the canons of our profession.”

Our deepest apologies to John O’Brien for leaving him out of the last issue. It was an oversight on our part and we are sorry for not including him with the other prestigious award winners.

Apologies again, The Editors
Leadership Tools
Spencer Meyer, Maine Representative to NESAF

Easy Online Registration Attracts Participants – Local and regional SAF units put on many terrific outreach and education events each year, including field tours, indoor sessions and other events, often in conjunction with other organizations. Offering quick, simple registration options for event participants has been a real challenge for the larger events. NESAF is too small to have our own user-friendly online registration website, but too big to do it all by hand.

Enter RegOnline.com. It’s one of a new breed of websites that allows just about anyone to setup online registration forms with simple but effective event websites, secure registration payment, surveys and more. RegOnline is very easy to use, allowing users to choose between existing templates or virtually limitless customization. Organizers in NESAF have recently had great success using RegOnline to promote and manage events. We have found it particularly useful for larger events where payment and attendee communications can be very time consuming.

Setting up an account with RegOnline is free and you only pay when you actually host an event. The basic service option costs $3.95 per registrant. For this fee you get online registration, an event website, simple tools to communicate with your registrants and tools to create surveys about your event. If you want RegOnline to handle all secure credit card transactions, they will charge 4.95% of the event registration fee but we have found this is well worth the cost. RegOnline offers many additional features, including webinars, one-site registrations, and even wicked easy name badge creation.

It is easier than you think to get started and after watching the online video demonstration, you will be off and running. Then, instead of licking stamps and opening envelopes with paper checks from your registrants, you can spend more time outside doing what you do best!

Leadership Tools is a short-term, recurring column in the New England SAF News Quarterly that highlights tips and tools to common challenges faced by SAF members in leadership roles. Any units or members with interest in sharing are encouraged to contact Peter L. Greeno at (207) 951-0955 or petergreeno@live.com.

(BCAPP—Continued from page 1) The FSA is in the process of reviewing input from a 60-day comment period which ended on April 12, 2010. Many from the region submitted comments. Of particular interest to professional foresters is the present interpretation by the FSA (of the Farm Bill) that landowners who are biomass owners and sell wood directly to a biomass conversion facility must have a stewardship plan in place but loggers and consolidators who become owners, for example through stumpage purchase, do not.

The BCAP program is big and messy and may become even more complex when it resurfaces. The question remains whether it will be anything the region’s landowners and industry can continue to take advantage of. I would encourage all forestry professionals to stay tuned for BCAP program updates. The best information available is on-line at the USDA, Farm Service Agency web site. It is easiest to Google: FSA, BCAP, or call your state FSA office. I would also be glad to assist with any questions: sarah.smith@unh.edu.
## Forestry on Reality Television

**Introduction:** Forestry operations have become a popular programming choice for assorted reality television shows. No fewer than four programs currently feature harvesting operations as a main focus. The History Channel airs a program called *Ax Men*. *Swamp Loggers* and *American Loggers* both appear on the Discovery Channel and *Heli-Loggers* is shown on The Learning Channel. While there is an abundance of cable programming on a range of topics, I can’t imagine there was ever a time when four different programs dealing in part with forestry were all in production at the same time. I wondered, what is the appeal of these shows to people not involved with forestry or natural resources management? A related question is, how do these programs communicate our profession to the public at large? Through the three theme articles that follow, I think the question remains open. Forestry operations in the northeast bear little resemblance to those practiced in extreme wet conditions of the southeast US. And the scale of harvests coupled with the use of helicopters similarly is not standard operating procedure in New England. Three authors have taken the time to share their thoughts on some of these programs. Dave Stevens, Retired Forester from Morristown, VT struggles to explain the practices of the *Swamp Loggers* to his grandson. Consulting Forester, Anthony Filauro from Maine shares his experiences with the Pelletiers from Millinocket whose operations are profiled on the program *American Loggers*. Finally, Joe Smith, from National SAF gives a broader overview of all the programs and asks us to question the convenient narrative presented by some of these programs wherein the tired old “us against them” battles seem to be re-fought.

### Swamp Loggers- a critique

**By Dave Stevens, Retired Vermont Forester**

The reality show of the above title appears regularly on satellite TV and follows the trials and tribulations of a North Carolina logging company as they encounter a multitude of obstacles ranging from equipment breakdowns to uncertain log and pulp markets. But, as the title indicates, the overriding challenge to both their profitability and survival is the challenge of logging in swamps with 8-20 feet of muck, capable of swallowing up the oversized equipment being used.

The question put forward for this article was, “How did such a show portray our profession as Foresters?” Obviously, the show’s producers have centered on the portraying the challenges presented to loggers in difficult environment in which to operate large heavy modern logging equipment. To get an unbiased reaction to the show, I asked my 13 year old grandson to watch a segment. He has followed me around in the woods and on log jobs, helping to clean water bars and other such chores, but as he watched a loaded skidder slowly sink five feet into the muck, he asked, “Why are they doing this?”

That is a question that also exists in my mind. The show regularly contains scenes of large clear cut portions of swamp land, but never a mention of what objective, other than supplying the mill, will be gained, or is intended. Each segment usually has the “company procurement” person appear. I assume that he is a professional forester, although that is never said and his role is, in most cases, to deliver some bad news such as everyone is being put on a reduced quota or the mill is shutting down and no log deliveries for two weeks or some other negative message to further challenge the loggers in their quest for productivity and profit.

How does this portray the profession? I think that the average person viewing the show, who had any concern, let alone knowledge of the forest ecosystem, would conclude that the resource was being mined rather than managed. This is unfortunate since the public usually equates scenes from one geographic area to other areas. Here in the Northeast, untold time and effort has been put into wetland and water quality protection. How does clear cutting swamps in North Carolina mesh with what should be professional foresters’ concerns with other resource values in that area. Obviously, the show’s producers are portraying the sensational aspects of harvesting timber. If forestry could be made part of such shows, a few minutes of explanation of silvicultural goals, including scenes of regenerated sale areas, would go far in

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Quarterly Theme

(Continued from page 5)

reaching the public mind. In my mind, the forestry profession is being ignored and the forester’s involved in the matter, should demand some time to explain what is being done and why. As it appears, the loggers are turned loose to produce on a weekly basis what the mill requires to both operate and build inventory. Foresters should be concerned when such large scale logging operations are presented to nationwide audiences with no explanation of professional input to the harvesting. Is this really proper forest management or is it the entire opposite? In general, I think the forestry profession, by name alone, regardless of the absence of participation, is being negatively portrayed.

American Loggers

By Anthony Filauro, Consulting Forester

In 2008, the Discovery Channel began filming forest harvest operations in Telos, Maine, revolving around activities of the logging contractor, Gerald Pelletier Inc. Gerald Pelletier, Inc. is comprised of seven brothers who operate a multi million-dollar forest harvest operation in an area west of Baxter State Park in north central Maine, on lands managed by Katahdin Timberlands Company.

The goal of the Discovery Channel was to showcase the dangers and the adventures of a logging operation in the unorganized forestlands of northern Maine and to capitalize on the public’s interest with similar television programs such as Ax Men and Swamp Loggers and other adventure programs such as Ice Road Truckers, the Deadliest Catch, etc. All these programs are far removed from the urban environment and this is partly the reason for their attraction.

There are many benefits that result from the American Loggers that go beyond the entertainment value of the program. The public is exposed to the management and harvest of a natural resource and the linkage between harvesting timber and the forest products we’ve come to rely on in our everyday lives. The program does not emphasize society’s utilization of forest products but the public is made aware in the program that logs are being transported to lumber mills and that pulpwood is being transported to paper mills. Being made aware of these connections is beneficial since the U.S. population is becoming more urbanized and some of the younger members of our society appear to be less focused on outdoor activities or the outside environment.

Another benefit is the public’s exposure to the different types of heavy equipment used in harvest operations and the significant financial costs involved. Informing the public of the difficulties encountered in forestry work, the need to be self reliant and the financial strains that need to be overcome, hopefully might resonate when the public needs to pass judgment on decisions concerning resource conservation and resource utilization. The program does not directly address these subject areas but at least the public is more aware that forestry work is a business that requires some finesse, planning and investment. In addition, the mechanical equipment used in forest harvest operations may spark an interest in forestry work, especially in rural settings such as northern Maine. The workforce is aging and younger recruits

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willing to commit to a life style of woods work, has diminished.

Additional benefits from the American Loggers program have come from the notoriety it has brought to north central Maine and the small town of Millinocket. The economy of the town has been limited in recent years due to global competition in the paper industry and reductions in the housing market. This, coupled with the economic downturn caused by the recent financial crisis, has further strained the local economy and much of the economy of rural Maine. The program has generated a fair amount of free publicity and has made a few members of Gerald Pelletier Inc., recognizable figures in their own right.

In closing, the American Loggers program has been a positive influence on forest management and the harvesting of forest products. The difficulties and adversity that needs to be overcome when dealing with the natural environment, or with business matters in general, may be less in real life than as depicted in the episodes that are aired on TV (and fortunately so); however the essence of the work involved in logging operations is properly depicted in the series.

Also the viewing public has an introduction to the forestlands of northern Maine. Many viewers of the program are possibly not aware that 90% of Maine is forested and that ten million acres in the northern part of the state, exceeding an area 15,000 square miles in size, has remained in its natural state since colonial days, due in part to the private or industrial land holdings that have dominated the area to the present day.

If individuals viewing the American Loggers program have somewhat grasped the above-mentioned points, it’s a win/win situation for forestry, forest management and education of the public.

The Results of Televised Tree Harvesting: We Know Drama

By Joseph M. Smith, Society Affairs Editor—The Forestry Source

Through the modern magic of e-mail (and after a little good old-fashioned “buck passing”), I was asked to write an essay in response to a deceptively simple question: How is forestry perceived by members of the public who may see it only through television programs such as “Ax Men,” “American Loggers,” “Heli-Loggers,” and “Swamp Loggers”? Well, before I try to answer that, I’d like to respond with a question of my own: Should we care?

That may sound like a flippant response, but it’s worth asking for one very good reason.

Before I divulge that reason, though, let me confess that I don’t watch any of these shows so I’m not too familiar with them. That said, based on the information I’ve gleaned from the show’s websites, I wonder if we should care because I’m not sure these shows are even about forestry. After all, just look at how the networks that produce these shows describe them:

The History Channel describes “Ax Men” as a show that tells the “remarkable stories” of loggers past and present, and that “detail[s] the history of the logging industry and how technology has transformed life for today’s logger, even as they struggle in the ultimate battle of man vs. nature.”

The Discovery Channel offshoot, The Learning Channel (or TLC) promotes its show “Heli-Loggers” in a similar way, saying, “In the rain forest of northern British Columbia, a rowdy group of extreme loggers risk their lives to provide the world with something that we often take for granted; logging has a fatality rate that tops all other jobs performed on land. Working against the clock, these loggers battle perilous terrain, weather and even bears, while maintaining an eco-friendly, environmentally sustainable mission.”

As these excerpts suggest, the producers of these programs seem less concerned with an accurate
Quarterly Theme

portrayal of forestry (or maybe even logging) then they are with showcasing the epic “battle of man vs. nature.” How many foresters do you know who describe their work this way?

Yet, regardless of the accuracy or intent of these programs, there’s no getting around the fact these programs definitely show viewers the first step in the process of how forest products get from the woods to the local Home Depot. Therefore, given this unavoidable reality, perhaps a more appropriate question might be: How is the harvest of natural resources viewed by members of the public who may see it only on these shows?

The answer to this question is simple, for the attitudes toward these shows look to be no different from those of society toward tree harvesting in general. But don’t take my word for it, just look at what people write on the shows’ message boards.

For example, on the “American Loggers” message board, one (presumably former) viewer wrote, “I am disgusted by you Discovery Channel! Boycott this channel! Save the planet or destroy it? Sick!”

In response to the above, another (presumably current) viewer replied, “There is a method to cutting trees! They don’t just go in and clearcut the forest you [expletive deleted]. They have foresters that they work with that must be certified by the state. They go in and will mark the trees to be cut. Oh, and after the trees are cut, new trees will grow on the same lot.”

Similar comments are available on the “Heli-Loggers” message board. As one disgruntled viewer put it, “I bet you guys don’t even care that your destroying the homes and making all the animals … die, and for what, money? So stupid … go somewhere else and get your stupid lumber.”

Offering a contrary viewpoint, a supportive viewer wrote, “This is the best show ever. My husband is in this business and it is about time they showed how dangerous but also beautiful it is. These men have heart and love the outdoors.”

Drama, it has been said, is essence of conflict, and as these comments suggest, these shows produce the same conflict—the same clash of positive and negative reactions—over tree cutting that anyone associated with forestry or logging has already experienced. As foresters and loggers (and even forestry-friendly desk-jockeys like me) know all too well, there are those who see the harvesting of trees, be it on these shows or in the real world, as nothing less than an ecological crime; and others who see it as a necessity performed with artistry, courage, and skill. These shows, it seems, are doing little to change that.

Smith is Society Affairs editor of The Forestry Source and works at the SAF National Office in Bethesda, Maryland. He can be contacted at smithj@safnet.org.

Elections are here again!

Please send all state and NESAF executive committee election packages to:

Paul Dolan
paul.dolan@dem.ri.gov
By August 1st.

*Remember to update you e-mail on the National website or you won’t receive a ballot.

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Deer Management
Management of Maine's deer herd is getting increased exposure in the press and television media. A recent editorial by Dr. William Beardsley, past president of Husson University, appeared in the May 22-23 weekend edition of the Bangor Daily News. Some of the points advocated by Dr. Beardsley will be discussed and commented on by many in the environmental and conservation communities, as some of the proposed changes will be substantial or are political in nature. Changes in forest management practices, as outlined by Dr. Beardsley, will be of importance to MESAF and its members.

Hopefully, the points expressed by Dr. Beardsley, and others, will help advance a productive discussion of deer management practices and policies, subjects that are near and dear to many a Maine hunter.

Hemlock Tip Blight
Dr. William Ostrofsky, with the Maine Forest Service, recently documented a tip blight condition witnessed on Eastern Hemlock trees in central and southern Maine. The condition has been observed on current year foliage, at the very tip of the branch. The causal agent is the pathogen, Sirococcus tsugae. Severity of the condition varies; however several hundred branch tips can be affected on a single tree. There is some concern that significant loss of current year foliage may reduce tree vigor and make trees susceptible to other pathogens or insect injury.

Foresters who observe this condition in the field are asked to report the location to the MFS Forest Insect and Disease Laboratory at 287-3008 or on-line at http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fhm/pages/forms/frm_ailing.html

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)
It was recently documented that a population of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has been identified in Harpswell, ME area. The new population is considerably north of its last documented location at Ferry Beach State Park in Saco and is believed to have resulted from the natural spread of the insect. The new population center does not bode well for controlling the advance of this insect further north into the state or for the long-term well being of the hemlock specie.

Foresters are asked to observe the underside of hemlock foliage for the presence of white woolly cottony masses, the signature characteristic of the insect, and report its presence to the MFS at 287-2431 or Allison Kanoti at allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov. Information received from foresters in the field is greatly appreciated and will help the Maine Forest Service to better structure an effective control program.

A Third Season
The Discovery Channel has made arrangements with Gerald Pelletier Inc. to film a third series of programs depicting forestry work in the Telos area, west of Baxter State Park. Filming will commence in June. The new series will begin airing this fall. The series has been quite successful and has generated a fair amount of positive feedback from the public.

Vernal Pool Habitat Management Guidelines
On May 7th, the Maine Division - Society of American Foresters, the Forest Guild and University Forests sponsored a meeting at the University of Maine to discuss management guidelines for vernal pools. The meeting focused on vernal pool ecology and forest management guidelines recommended by state and federal agencies, conservation groups and forestland managers.

Presentations were made by: Rick Morrill, Intern Forester, University Forests; Katie Cousins, Wildlife Biologist, SAPPi Fine Paper; Aram Calhoun, Assoc. Professor – Wildlife Ecology, UMO; Gordon Moore, District Forester, MFS and Al Kimball, Forest Manager, University Forests.

The indoor morning session was informative and gave an overview of vernal pool ecology. The afternoon session focused on investigation of a (Continued on page 10)
STATE FOREST NURSERY TURNS 100

The NH state forest nursery was established in 1910 by the NH Forestry Commission to grow white pine transplants to reforest the NH landscape. Replanting after forest fires as well as planting old pastures now growing back to brush was seen as an important application of modern forestry teaching. In 1911, a house, barn and 1.5 acres were acquired in Boscawen and the first seeds planted. In 1914, more acreage was purchased. Today, the nursery uses part of 887 acres, with the rest as managed forest. The ongoing tree improvement program began in the 1960’s to upgrade planting stock offered to the public. Today the nursery offers over 50 types of seedlings including conifers and hardwoods as well as fruiting shrubs for wildlife. Bare root seedlings are sold beginning January 1 and are available for planting from April 1 to the end of May. A catalog available at www.nhnursery.com provides purchase and species information. Income from the sale of seedlings makes this department of the NH Division of Forests and Lands self supporting. An anniversary celebration and open house was held on Saturday, May 1. Clear skies and cool weather greeted the more than 150 members of the public that visited to tour the nursery and see the educational displays. More than 300 Scouts were there for a weekend camporee and to work on service projects with forest staff. A new hiking trail was started and will soon be open to the public. Even Smokey Bear was there to thank everyone for their support!

SAVE THESE DATES.
Saturday, Sept. 11 will be the SPNHF annual meeting. See www.spnhf.org.
Saturday, September 18 will be the Tree Farm Field Day at the Parody Tree Farm at 61 Aldrich Road in Keene. See www.nhtreefarm.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN - Kurt Zschau

New Commissioner of FP&R

Governor Jim Douglas recently announced the appointment of Sarah Clark as Commissioner of the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) in the Agency of Natural Resource. Clark, who has served as the Financial Manager for FPR for the past two years, replaces outgoing Commissioner Jason Gibbs. “Sarah will do an excellent job leading FPR at an exciting time for the Department,” said Governor Douglas. “I am confident that her experience will be a tremendous asset as we work to increase utilization of our parks and continue to responsibly manage state lands.” “I am honored by the Governor’s confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve as the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation,” said Clark. “I am excited to lead the Department and its dedicated employees.

Current Use
The current use bill H.485, a bill that proposes...
certain changes to the states use value appraisal program, was recently delivered to the governor recently. There is a short window for him to take action or let it become law without his signature. The proposed changes include a one-time surcharge to help fill the states budget gap. Another change includes increasing the withdrawal penalty on land currently enrolled. Between the governor’s office, the legislature and a plethora of concerned groups, this bill has been a political football.

**NESAF 2011 in the Green Mountain State**
The Green Mountain Division is hosting the 2011 NESAF Annual meeting, to be held at the Lake Morey Resort from March 30 to April 1. The committees have begun the planning for what will shape up to be a meeting with great content. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Green Mountain Division is also currently working on our summer meeting, focusing on river morphology. Please stay tuned for the date and more detailed agenda. Applications will be accepted soon for the Bill Wilkinson Award. This award will be given to a serving student later this year.

**Leaving County Forester**
The Bennington County Forester has moved on to another position in Pennsylvania. FPR plans to fill the Bennington Co. Forester position and move the office from Lake Shaftsbury back to Bennington.

**VT Resource Strategies Plan**
The state of Vermont is nearing completion of the Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategies plan to satisfy the requirements of the US Forest Service. This plan will replace the old Forest Resource Plans and be more spatially-driven. It will be updated in 5 years. A draft is on the FPR web site.

**RHODE ISLAND - Paul Boisvert**

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<th>The following officers were elected</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Chair: Christopher Modisette</td>
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<td>Vice-Chair: Thomas Dupree</td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer: Rob MacMillan</td>
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<td>NESAF Representative: Paul Dolan</td>
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**The RI Chapter was involved in the following activities:**

**Walk in the Forest**
The Chapter co-hosted with Rhode Island Forest Conservators a Saturday morning interpretive walk through an old growth forested area in the western section of Rhode Island. In spite of the rain, 45 forested landowners and one 9 year old boy (grandson of a landowner) were treated to a historical walk through time.

**Envirothon**
The Chapter again sponsored the RI Envirothon, a competition that tests high school students on environmental knowledge in forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics and a special current issue. Chapter members serves as forestry mentors, prepared the forest section exam, and organized and ran the Forestry section of the competition at the day long competition.

**Tree Farm and SAF**
The Rhode Island Tree Farm Committee has teamed with the State Chapter of SAF in the development of their 5 year Strategic Plan. Members of

**RISAF will be providing the technical and leadership expertise.**

**Local High School Science Class becomes a Tree Farm**
SAF Members have been working with the Scituate High School Science Class in the development of a Stewardship Plan in order to have a section of the school’s property designated as a Tree Farm. The class is made up of Juniors and Senior under the direction of their classroom teacher Shannon Donovan. Chris Modisette and Paul Dolan from the RISAF Chapter has spent the last years working with the students.

**Scituate Reservoir Watershed and RISAF host a rural walk**
The late Spring tour was a loop walk in the site of the former Joslin Family Farm Homestead. Discussion included how the landscape has changed over the years, the conversion to grassland to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and a look at the recent timer harvest.

**COVERTS Project working relationship**
SAF Members teamed with the University of Rhode Island’s Natural Resource faculty to hold a day long outreach education program for forested landowner at the annual RI Coverts Project Workshop.

**Contact Information**
Paul H. Boisvert; email paulboisvert@verizon.net
The following press release was issued following the submittal of the Forest Futures Technical Steering Committee’s final recommendations to DCR Commissioner Sullivan in April:

**Patrick-Murray Administration Announces Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan**

*More land will be held in reserves, protected from logging, as state forests are managed with focus on conservation biology*

BOSTON — April 21, 2010 – Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles announced today a Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan for management of state forests that quadruples the amount of forest land where no commercial logging takes place. The Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan also calls for greater coordination of land management across all state agencies, and a shift in how DCR conducts forest stewardship – toward one focusing more on conservation biology and greater public engagement and transparency.

“Governor Patrick sees our state forests as precious natural resources, and we intend to protect them, not exploit them,” said Secretary Bowles. “We need to manage these assets to maximize benefits for forest ecosystems, and that means protecting more of our forests from any kind of logging and sharply restricting timber harvesting where we do allow it. From now on, we will be clear about how we manage the different kinds of forest land that are owned by the state.”

The forest management approach announced today in large measure follows that recommended by a year-long Forest Futures “visioning” process held by DCR. Final recommendations to DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan from the Forest Futures Technical Steering Committee were also made public today. Specific measures announced today will apply to forests managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as state and urban parks.

“I am very grateful to everyone who participated in the Forest Futures process, which gave me great insight into the diverse interests and values held by people who cherish our state forests the way I do,” said Commissioner Sullivan. “I am confident that the thoughtful recommendations of the Technical Steering Committee, as adopted and amplified by Secretary Bowles, will make Massachusetts a national model in forest stewardship.”

“We applaud the leadership that Secretary Bowles and Commissioner Sullivan have provided, and we are eager to see the Technical Steering Committee’s recommendations implemented,” said Lisa Vernegaard, chairwoman of the Technical Steering Committee. “We are confident that our recommendations will help DCR improve its stewardship of our state forests and parks so they will continue to provide the Commonwealth’s citizens with an abundance of values – today, and into the future.”

Going forward, DCR will adopt a “zoning” model that specifies management practices according to forest designation. These zones will be established through a consultative public process. The three zones for DCR forests and their attendant management practices will consist of:

- **Parklands**: primarily managed for recreation, human experiences and protection of cultural and natural features. **Commercial timber harvesting not allowed.** Cutting is limited to that which is necessary to support recreational assets and uses, including public safety.
- **Reserves**: primarily managed for biological diversity based on natural processes and the protection of large contiguous blocks of high-value ecosystems. **Commercial harvesting not allowed.** A new Forest Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee, informed by the public process, will guide the department in selection and stewardship of reserves.
- **Woodlands**: primarily managed for state-of-the-art sustainable forestry, forest products, and active carbon management. No new harvesting contracts will be issued while woodlands are being zoned. Once woodlands are delineated, **commercial harvesting will be allowed under new, more protective guidelines:**
  - Level 1 – small patch reserves for areas of ecological or cultural significance (e.g., wetlands, endangered species protection, etc.) – no commercial harvesting
  - Level 2 – uneven aged management in high productivity forests up to 150-200 years old – maximum of 1/3 acre openings and requirement of best management practices.
  - Level 3 – under exceptional circumstances (invasive insect infestation, fire risk, storm damage, or compelling biodiversity/habitat needs), lár-
(Continued from page 12)

For DCR Water Supply Protection forests

- **Review:** Before new FY2011 timber sales on DCR Water Supply Protection forests are finalized, DWSP will have the existing Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) conduct a review of the scientific principles that guide existing Land Management Plan objectives. The STAC will also analyze DWSP proposed changes to implementation on issues such as opening sizes and retention standards. Resulting recommendations will be reviewed by the existing public Advisory Committees and appropriate changes or clarifications to Land Management Plans and future watershed forestry projects implemented. DCR will defer any new timber sales for FY11 until this review is concluded. Habitat management practices will be reviewed in coordination with the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) as part of a broader statewide effort.

- **Increase review and oversight** of all existing timber sales to ensure strict compliance with all standards.

**Implement new transparent process** with cutting plans posted online and increased public input opportunities for planned projects.

For DFG/DFW Wildlife Management Areas

- **Review:** DFG/DFW will conduct a 10 year review of its existing “Forest Management Guidelines for Wildlife Management Areas” in the context of the 2006 State Wildlife Action Plan, and as part of a larger review of its statewide land protection and habitat management. DFG/DFW will conduct a public process on recommendations to update the Guidelines in the context of a review of overall land protection and habitat management effectiveness. One goal of the process will be to align, coordinate and integrate forest stewardship on all state lands.

**Maintain transparency:** DFG/DFW will continue to post online information about any active forestry management sites to make this information easily available to the public, and will invite interested members of the public to view and tour agency sites where active management has occurred.

**Moving Forward from the Forest Futures Vision**

Bob O’Connor

Director of Land and Forest Conservation:

It has been a very busy time for forestry issues in Massachusetts. A year-long intensive public process reviewing forestry on DCR State Forests and Parks concluded with a wide-ranging report from the Technical Steering Committee, a group of 11 experts in various fields related to our forests. The process included many steering committee and stakeholder advisory committee meetings, public meetings and tours of recent timber sales. The process concluded with 5 public meetings across the state attended by over 450 citizens and with about the same number of letters of comment. EEA and DCR are beginning to implement key elements of the Steering Committee Report including the zoning of the 308,000 acres of DCR Forests, Parks and Reservations into designations of Parks, Woodlands or Reserves. The overall goal for zoning is about 40% in Woodlands, where state-of-the-art forestry for habitat, carbon management, and local forest product goals will be practiced and about 60% in Parks and Reserves where commercial harvesting would not occur and where recreation and habitat values that benefit from a “hands off” approach would occur. EEA and DCR will begin involving the public in the process of finalizing criteria to zone land and reviewing draft zone maps over the coming months. Other recommendations in the Steering Committee Report to be implemented soon include the completion of the Chapter 132 Cutting Practice Regulations and the hiring of a Director of Forest Stewardship to broaden the Bureau of Forestry to include a greater emphasis on forest ecosystem and carbon storage initiatives and to elevate the posi-

(Continued on page 14)
Don’t miss out on the National Convention

Register online at www.safnet.org

(Continued from page 13 Mass News)

We have not worked for many weeks because the OF OUR NEEDS including adding of 34,000 acres (53 square miles) in our operations. We depend on consistent log volumes from timber lots, which were auctioned to the Forest Stewardship Program via plans funded by DCR by private consultant foresters and commitments by landowners to the ten-year plans. Nearly 90% of these lands are also entering Chapter 61. Included in the list are over two dozen towns, schools and land trusts who are completing plans in anticipation of beginning forestry demonstration projects on their lands. This aspect of the program will educate thousands of local residents about the benefits of carefully conducted forestry. In addition, DCR recently was awarded Forest Stewardship Council Certification for the Chapter 61 Program, only the 2nd such group certification in the nation. Chapter 61 landowners can opt into the Certification and are required to upgrade their Chapter 61 Plan to a Forest Stewardship Plan. So far, 103 landowners with 21,000 acres have agreed to join with DCR funding the upgrade plans.

Comments from a logger who has worked on DCR land for decades:
I am 61 years old and have been logging for over 30 years. I have worked for lumber companies, and for the past 20 years as a self-employed contractor.

My son and I have a cut-to-length operation consisting of an eight-wheeled Valmet forwarder, Timber-Pro six-wheel harvester with a Rolly II head, and a log truck. We depend on consistent log volumes from timber lots to keep this very expensive equipment working. The Quabbin, Ware River, and Wachusetts reservoirs have been supplying most of that wood up until a few months ago. I have to buy stumpage months, and often years, in advance to keep things going smoothly. 70%-80% of our wood comes from state timber sales. We have not worked for many weeks because the timber lots we bought at Quabbin have been put on indefinite hold due to the politics in Boston. We as stakeholders in the forest industry have had very little to say about the process. Why? The money generated from timber sales on state land has been grossly overlooked, and markets will suffer along with all businesses that are connected with logging and forestry.

How they think they can just stop logging on state land is just beyond me.

Tom King, Certified Northeast Master Logger
King Timber Harvesting
Hubbardston, MA

A list of Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) opportunities and other continuing educational activities are compiled at: http://www.masswoods.net/

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.
Chair Letter – Ron Lemin

Just like clockwork, every spring the national office sends us the list of delinquent members that were purged as of June 1, 2010. I feel we are in a better position than previous years due to the diligent efforts of Peter Greeno, Christopher Whited and others. The membership committee has contacted all of these delinquent members at least once in the past six months. I encourage our new professionals, and others to stay involved and participate in SAF. A great avenue is through your state division, where volunteerism is strongly encouraged. SAF provides an excellent springboard for our young foresters to get involved and increase their professional network and become recognized within New England. If you need help making contact please feel free to contact Peter Greeno or me.

This fall the SAF National Convention will be in Albuquerque New Mexico and Ed O’Leary and I will represent NESAF at the HSD meeting prior to the convention. I encourage you to contact Ed or me if you have any issues or would like to present a local success story for a HSD award. Last year we did not present any issues from New England, but we did present a success story that received a national award. Please give me a call if you may have an issue or a success story.

In 2011 the National Convention will be in Honolulu Hawaii. Yes there are trees in Hawaii, I’ve been there visiting with the US Forest Service. As you can imagine, the invasive species issues are tremendous. My term as chair ends and Ed Oleary will represent you in Hawaii; however, we have not received interest in a candidate for Vice Chair? NESAF historically sends the Chair and Vice Chair to the HSD meeting and it would be foolish to pass up this opportunity if one was interested in volunteering to serve on the Executive Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in serving.

Don’t forget your nominations for the 2010 NE-SAF Executive Committee and State Division

(Continued on page 16)
leadership. The nomination packages need to be in Paul Dolan’s hands by the beginning of August, so they can get to National for inclusion on the electronic ballot. Please contact Paul about package specifics. Paul will ensure each state gets their package submitted for the fall election, and also function as the liaison between National and the state divisions. NESAF Executive Committee positions open for 2010 are Vice-Chair, VT, ME and MA representatives. Your interest and participation are strongly encouraged. If you have any questions or would like to run for office please feel free to contact Paul Dolan or your NESAF state representative.

Most members should have received the email from Peter Greeno on restructuring our Policy and Communications Committee within NESAF. We’ve had an opportunity to dabble with the logistics of how our “new” committee might operate when we assisted Massachusetts and Yankee with their comments concerning management of their state lands. However, the process is difficult without an assigned Policy Chair. Please comment on NESAF’s direction and forward your questions or interest to Peter Greeno or me if you are interested in the open Policy Chair Position on the Executive Committee. There are plenty of issues at hand that need an attention.

Enjoy the early spring weather while it lasts. Please feel free to contact me on any matter concerning NESAF.

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SAF staff has been changing since last fall. Several folks on staff left just as the new membership database and electronic communications systems were brought on line. The accounting staff is new and functioning well. Michael’s assistant recently left and a couple of folks in advertising are on to other opportunities. Some of these vacancies are being filled by contract workers and other positions are being covered by current staff. We can all relate to the stresses of downsizing and/or furlough days, so be patient as they do more with less and shift responsibilities. (Staffing at NOS is now down to 14 from a high of 30 not too many years ago.)
SAF is working for you. SAF, as part of the Coalition of Natural Resource Societies, a body that includes the American Fisheries Society, The Society for Range Management, and The Wildlife Society, recently sent letters to all 50 governors, supporting natural resource professionals. For those of you who haven’t already seen it, the letter is accessible on the SAF website under the Featured Articles heading. (Thank-you Maine Division SAF for your considered feedback on this.) Also in the featured articles section is a video of EVP Michael Goergen addressing the Orlando convention on the State of SAF. If you want to be inspired with some of the work SAF does for our profession, take a look.

In addition to the outstanding policy work, SAF now offers several new services to state societies including conference call services, registration support for meetings, opportunities for CFE’s via webinars, Dictionary of Forestry online, a forestry encyclopedia online, and my favorite, the member look up function. The benefits of SAF membership are numerous, although sometimes it is easy to take them for granted.

I understand that our current membership is approximately 14,000 and we have about 1,500 people left to renew this year. We purged more members than last year! The phonathon will be held in May and with the help of able volunteers, we hope to get some 500 members back. We recognize that the down-turned economy presents financial challenges for us all, but SAF is committed to working with you to create a payment plan if needed, rather than forcing you to choose to give up your membership benefits. The membership chairs may have the least visible and most thankless jobs on the excoms, but their hard work here in District VI and across the country is clearly paying dividends for our Society.

Please feel free to give me your input via phone or e-mail at any time

Carol Redelsheimer
District 6 Council Representative
O 207-723-8194  C 207-731-3621  H 207-944-0736
carol.redelsheimer@gmail.com
Membership Report

Membership challenges continue to be met by great teams across New England. Many thanks to those that put in time to contact members in the renewal process. This year National SAF will no longer purge our lists of non-renewed memberships at the end of May. Instead, non-renewed memberships will be moved to ‘inactive’ status. That status will remain until the end of the calendar year, after which they will be moved to ‘former’ status unless there is a renewal. This change brings us into alignment with the practices of many other organizations, and removes the negativity of a purge process. Local units are encouraged to include inactive members in event notifications to keep them interested in what we have to offer. We also have former and potential lists available for outreach opportunities as you see fit.

We’re looking forward to the student conclave this fall in Massachusetts, headed up by our University of Massachusetts Chapter. All students are welcome to both attend and assist in the preparations. Contact Bruce Danek (bdanek@student.umass.edu) for more information, and to indicate any interest in how you or your chapter can be a part of the event.

We want to thank Greg Clarke, of Connecticut, for encouraging 9 new members to join in March. Greg worked with his employer, NESAF and National to find matching monies to assist in the first year costs. His efforts have made a tremendous impact and we’re glad to have him as part of our team.

I’m also happy to announce that Emma Shultz (Maine) will be joining the NESAF Membership Committee. Emma is a graduate student at the University of Maine and comes to us from the Minnesota Chapter. We are hoping that her input will enable us to make positive changes in our student programs, in addition to having extra hands as we tackle the 2010 membership drive.

The membership drive is underway. We are finishing a new brochure that will accompany informational packages that will be going to 1,700 employers, former, and potential members. We need your help to identify employers that may have interest in considering our group membership packages. We would also like to identify specific examples of how your local unit brings value to your members through events, training, or other point-source opportunities. Please share ideas with me so that we can target the materials to potential members in your specific area.

Thanks to all of you for making this such a great organization. If you ever want to get more involved or to see positive changes, please contact me. We have a variety of opportunities for varying levels of involvement from short-term to sustaining efforts; all of which will make a substantial impact.

Peter L. Greeno, Membership Chair
petergreeno@live.com
(207) 951-0955

NESAF Welcomes New Members
The following members joined, reinstated, or transferred into NESAF between March 1, and May 1, 2010. Please take a moment to welcome them to our professional organization!

Granite State Division
Peter W. Ellis
Mary H. Dellenbaugh
Rachel Knapp
David Speirs
Samuel J. Blatchford
David M. Hodge
Elijah S. Shank
Justin C. Soucy
Yankee Division
Barbara H. Honkala
Gregg A. Corso
Anna T. Campiformio
Jeremy J. Clark

Green Mountain Division
William S. Keeton
Graham E. Leitner
Nathaniel G. Cyrus
Linsay M. Dreiss
David V. Granucci
Michael G. Palladino
Charlotte C. Rand
Nicholas T. Zito
William Lynam
Shelby Leigh Semmes
Jas Somers Smith

Maine Division
Justin Lyons
Nathanian G. Cyrus
Linsay M. Dreiss
David V. Granucci
Michael G. Palladino
Charlotte C. Rand
Nicholas T. Zito
William Lynam
Shelby Leigh Semmes
Jas Somers Smith

Yankee Division
Anna T. Campiformio
Jeremy J. Clark
Michael S Riegler
Christopher John Casadei
Campbell Moore
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