New England Society of American Foresters

News Quarterly

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New Hampshire Establishes a Prescribed Fire Council– Jon Nute

New Hampshire has become the first state in New England and the 24th state nationwide to establish a state prescribed fire council.

Prescribed fire or prescribed burns are a management tool used by trained natural resource professionals. These fires are intentionally set to meet specific management goals under predetermined weather conditions.

Prescribed fire can provide agricultural and ecological benefits as well as benefits to public safety when used appropriately. Some examples include increasing low bush blueberry fruit production, reducing the amount of woody debris in populated fire prone areas before wildfires occur, and promoting rare New Hampshire plant and animal assemblages that require fire to persist. Safeguards are put in place to minimize impact to the public and the firefighters participating in the burns.

The New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council is an affiliation of agencies, organizations, and groups working together to:

- promote public understanding of the benefits of prescribed fire
- promote the development and utilization of prescribed fire practices to achieve desired environmental and ecological resource management goals
- anticipate prescribed fire issues and concerns and suggesting courses of action
- provide a framework for communication and cooperation related to prescribed fire objectives, techniques and issues
- disseminate technical information and training on prescribed fire and its application
- promote the long-term viability of prescribed fire as a management tool in New Hampshire.

Bryan Nowell, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands Forest Ranger Captain, who currently chairs the council says: "There are a multitude of benefits this council can provide for both the public and participating members – from increasing public and firefighter safety to highlighting examples of fire being used to conserve rare species and natural communities."

Representation on the council includes individuals from the White Mountain National Forest, NH Army National Guard, NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Division of Forests and Lands, NH Fire Academy, NH Fish and Game Department, a NH local fire department, North Country Council, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy, University of New Hampshire, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, and the US Air Force.

More information on the New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council is available at www.nhprescribedfire.org.

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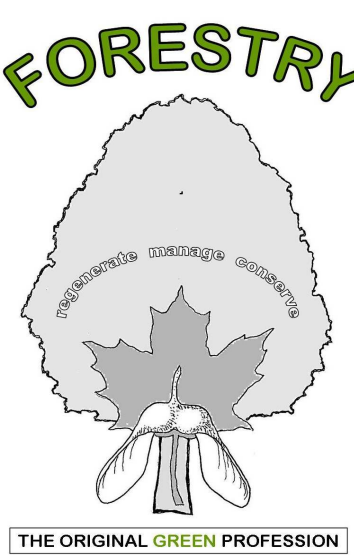
SAVE THE DATE- The 91st Annual Winter Meeting of the New England Society of American Foresters

will be held in Fairlee, VT, from March 30 thru April 1, 2011
at the Lake Morey Resort and Conference Center.



Two keynote speakers, Dr. Mark Borsuk from Dartmouth University in Hanover, NH, and Patricia Raymond, of the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, will kick off the meeting "Forestry: The Original Green Profession". Dr. Borsuk will discuss the decision making process in the context of climate change policy. Dr. Raymond will speak on irregular shelterwood as an approach for rehabilitative silviculture.

Sessions being planned for the meeting include: Rehabilitation Silviculture in depth, Remote Sensing and the Urban Forest, Non-Timber Forest Inventories, Floodplain Forestry, Soils, Mixedwood Silviculture, Deer Mismanagement, Woodland Partnerships, Invasive Species, and much more. We will have a traditional paper poster session, plus a special "Lightning Round" of short technical presentations of current research results. See the "Call for Posters and Papers" on page 15 in this newsletter.

Friday's field trips will include sessions addressing silvicultural options for managing invasive species, furniture manufacturing in the Connecticut Valley, Wood-fired boilers at Vermont schools, a tour of the Ryegate power plant, and field assessment of silviculture for bird habitat. Indoor half-day workshops will include Outdoor Recreation 'Cruising' for Natural Resources Professionals, Desktop GIS for foresters, and a discussion of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program.

Mark your calendars for March 30 – April 1, 2011!

What is your message?

Foresters are generally not good at communicating their story. In this age where sound bites, pictures and diatribes quickly make their way through cyberspace, foresters must be able to whip off at the tips of their tongues a clear succinct statement that extols the environmental benefits of our individual work.

I realized that I was part of the problem when I answered inquiries from my wife of what I did today. The days that I did TSI, I would say "cut trees". The next time she asked, I said "I was liberating a sea of oak seedlings from beech and red maple oppressors so that they can rise up and claim themselves as the rightful heirs of the Connecticut forest." To anyone else, I say "I was helping to grow a new oak forest."

My succinct message of what I do as a state lands forester is: "I help sustain forest ecosystems that cannot perpetuate themselves under current conditions while providing locally grown green products to society."

What do you do? Editorial by: Emery Gluck

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Quarterly Theme - Dr. James Harding, Theme Editor

Fire in New England

Introduction: To many New Englanders wildfires and fuels management are not part of our everyday vocabulary. It is easy to dismiss or ignore the natural or prescribed fires in this part of the country when each summer we are confronted with tremendous conflagrations across the western US where loss of life and property is, sadly, not uncommon. But fire management in New England has been a staple of an integrated forest management plan for several decades and it has a much longer history when we consider burning as a game management tool in the pre-Colonial era. Bill Peterson and Chris Casey document the history and assorted uses of prescribed fire on the Green Mountain National Forest as well as the challenges of making fire management work in such a small window of opportunity. Erin Small, Fire Planner for the US Forest Service considers the fire dependent communities scattered throughout New York and New England the role that prescribed burning can play in restoring these landscapes. Finally, Inge Seaboyer, from the New Hampshire Department of Resource and Economic Development writes about the truths learned over many years of burning blueberry barrens to increase production. Although fire has an historic role in New England forests, its use as a management tool continues to be understated when contrasted with the role of fire in western states and when compared to the suite of other forest management techniques practiced in our region. At the very least all three authors highlight how valuable fire is to our native low-bush blueberry production—personally, I can think of no tastier perk of employing fire in a comprehensive resource management plan.

Using Prescribed Fire as a management tool on the Green Mountain National Forest

Bill Peterson and Chris Casey*

***** Forest Service Representative and Forest Silviculturist, respectively, for the Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests**

Introduction

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), established in 1935, has long used prescribed fire as a tool to manage vegetation composition. Although infrequent, annual use of prescribed fire on Vermont's 400,000 acre national forest has averaged from roughly 50 acres to 400 acres per year over the past few decades. Today, forest managers see an increasing role for the re-introduction of fire on a limited basis on the national forest.

Examples of Prescribed Fire Use

By the late 1960s, agency foresters had located abandoned pastures and hill farms with established understories of low bush blueberries. Forest managers knew blueberries were valuable to both people and wildlife and noted that the state of Maine had managed blueberry patches with fire for centuries. With Maine's experience shared, by the early 1970s, these Vermont forest pioneers developed the first management goals and burn plans for use of fire to manage the 100 acre blueberry fields in Goshen, Vermont. Establishing control lines around two to five acre burn blocks with a small bulldozer, they used a "strip-head fire" technique and back firing, learning how to generate a fire that would prune the top of the plants yet stay within the control lines.

Using hand tools, pump cans and drip torches, Forest Service staff worked with the local citizenry to burn these units each April. The plan required a "rotation" of fire, burning about one-quarter of the area, keeping most of the site in berry production each year. This program was highly successful and Blueberry Hill remains a popular area on the Forest. "*I've met people that have come from Pennsylvania to pick berries here along with the black bears*" says Wildlife Technician Mike Burbank.

By the mid 1980s, agency foresters were using pre-

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scribed fire to regenerate oaks and to reduce softwood slash in preparation for tree planting. Research on fire effects was starting to become of interest. Dr. David Olson from the University of New Hampshire set up some early monitoring plots on the Rochester Ranger District of the GMNF. Results from this study yielded an understanding of the effects during season of burn, and how to time burns to meet key objectives. This research also formed the foundation to support the use of prescribed fire into the future.

Reasons for Use of Fire as a Management Tool

Forest managers know that forests are dynamic and ever-changing, not static ecosystems. Proper application of prescribed fire requires an understanding of social, ecological and economic considerations.

Social: many New Englanders have an understandable concern about seeing intentionally-set fires in forests that they cherish. There is a strong public concern about smoke generated by prescribed fires, which can have a negative effect in localized settings, and is a concern in high-quality air sheds. Public sentiment also desires to retain all the characteristics of a diverse and vibrant forest, which means allowing native disturbances to occur so that the forest has all its ecological assemblages represented on the landscape. Meeting all these needs presents a challenge for the resource manager.

Ecological: Despite feelings to the contrary, some forest communities have evolved with and are adapted to fire as a native disturbance agent in northern New England. One of the best understood examples is in oak forest types, where fire is often a controlling factor in recruiting and maintaining oak species composition and abundance. The use of fire has also helped maintain and improve habitat for a variety of species associated with scarce early successional habitat on the forest. *"It's one of a number of tools that we use for habitat management"* says John Sease, Wildlife Biologist on the Manchester Ranger District, *"… this use is geared towards maintaining early successional habitat"*. Other land management benefits from using prescribed fire include fuels reduction and site preparation for reforestation efforts.

Economics: In some instances, fuel reduction and prescribed fire treatments to maintain openings may cost from one-half to one-tenth that of more traditional treatments measures, such as tree felling, shrub mastication or stump pulling. Prescribed fire therefore can allow the land manager to get more "bang for the buck" in planned treatments. If use of prescribed fire were to become cost-prohibitive, the land manager would have less opportunity to use this tool and would quickly end up with a backlog of forest restoration needs. For the Green Mountain National Forest, Fire Management Officer Chris Schow knows this too well. Says Schow, …"*If we are to increase the use of prescribed fire across the forest, we need to be nimble, both in terms of how we use fire to control vegetation composition and in the financial aspects of employing prescribed fir*e".

Recent Accomplishments:

The 2010 prescribed fire season presented its own set of management challenges. In northern New England, the fire use "window" may be particularly narrow, which greatly limits the ability of fire managers to time and execute successful firing operations. Conditions must fall within the set limits of the prescribed burn plan, including temperatures, relative humidity, predicted weather, wind speed, fuel moisture and more. A highly-trained workforce is the key to pulling this off well. "*The narrow window for re-introduction of fire to the New England forest landscape very much limits the practical extent to which we can use this management tool*" continues Schow. But working across land ownership boundaries and sharing resources with interagency managers and other partners makes this a workable process.

Recent partnering with the Department of Defense had GMNF crews planning and executing 3200 acres of prescribed fire at Fort Drum, New York, 270 acres at Westover Air Base in Massachusetts and 300 acres on the national forests. A longtime and close relationship is maintained with the state fire organizations within the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission. The Forest Service collaborates with these partners, providing funding and training and responding to incidents within the compact.

Annually Green Mountain National Forest crews and individuals get prescribed fire use training in other regions of the country and respond to wildfires in other areas to gain experience and keep

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their skills sharp. Says Manchester District Ranger Alex Sienkiewicz: "*On my recent trip to the Desoto Ranger District in Mississippi, I had a blast getting hands on experience helping implement their large prescribed fire program. This unique detail gave me solid skills I can apply as a Ranger helping manage our fire program in Vermont*".

Summary and Conclusions

The use of fire as a viable management tool was not always viewed as such. We now recognize that fire has always been a part of the forest management picture, albeit a minor one. Further use of prescribed fire on the Green Mountain National Forest is planned for the future as the agency moves to improve wildlife habitat, reduce undesirable fuels, and restore ecological function to select forest landscapes. Transitioning to more of an opportunistic landscape management approach will require the judicious use of a suite of vegetation manipulating tools, including prescribed fire. As the use of fire as a tool becomes more commonplace, it is likely that returning fire to the forests of New England may over time become more accepted. And people will always be a part of the equation when it comes to prescribing fire as a tool in the management of your national forest.

Fire Management on the National Forests in New England
Erin Small, Fire Planner

The US Forest Service in New England manages about 800,000 acres on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine and 450,000 acres on the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont (with another 16,000 acres in New York's Finger Lakes National Forest). The fire program for these Forests focuses on fire protection and management. Each year the Forests have an average of 5 ignitions; 10-20% of these are caused by lightning. All human caused fires are suppressed with appropriate response actions. Management of a fire for resource benefit rather than full suppression is considered for fires that start with lightning. Areas of the Forest are assessed for values to be protected from fire and balanced with the desire to allow natural processes to play their role in the ecosystem. The opportunity to use a naturally caused fire for resource benefit is rare, but recognized as an important management tool. The goal is that wildland fire effects will be acceptable and fire will occur within historical fire regimes appropriate to the vegetation type. Fires, regardless of cause, are actively suppressed where necessary to protect life, investments, and resources. Strategies of response to wildfires are addressed in the Forests' Land and Resource Management Plans (2005, 2006) and are further analyzed at the time of each ignition using the Wildland Fire Decision Support System. In general, fires are kept small and suppressed in the first operational period. Every couple of years a fire will grow larger and take a few days to suppress, as in the case of the Rattlesnake Fire in May 2008, which affected 58 acres in Rumney, NH and the Lucy Brook Fire of November 2004 which grew to 138 acres. Both of these fires burned in pine -oak stands and vegetation recovered quickly from the burn.

Prescribed Fire is also used as a tool on our National Forest lands to enhance ecosystem resiliency and to maintain desired fuel levels. Spring and fall present the best conditions to achieve desired results with the lowest risk of escape. Together, the Forests' burn an average of 300-500 acres per year. Each burn project is designed to achieve multiple objectives which can include the following:

- Reducing hazardous fuel loading.
- Creating, maintaining, or improving wildlife habitat.
- Preparing sites for restoration of species (e.g., oak, pine, birch and aspen).
- Creating, maintaining, or improving plant community composition by influencing the scale and pattern of vegetation across the landscape, including changing successional patterns.
- Managing insect and disease.
- Enhancing blueberry production.
- Creating or maintaining scenic vistas.

The most commonly addressed objective is maintenance of openings for wildlife habitat. These openings exist on both the Forests and vary in size

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from 1 to 60 acres. Wildlife openings can be managed with mechanical efforts, such as mowing or brush cutting, but often prescribed fire is the preferred method for effectiveness and cost-efficiency. In recent years, interest in the use of fire to achieve silvicultural and ecological objectives has increased.

The role of fire was historically very important in the development of our forests in New England. Fire dependent communities exist in small, but significant ecosystems. Pitch, red, and white pine mixed with oak are the most commonly desired conditions that can be restored using fire. Where these vegetative types exist there is often a lack of regeneration age classes suggesting an uncertain future without management. In conjunction with vegetation management activity, such as a shelterwood harvest, prescribed fire can be used to prepare the site for germination and to remove the mid-story competition to provide sunlight opportunities for regeneration. Fire effects monitoring is critical for measuring the success of these treatments and planning the timing and combination of activities to achieve the best results. On one particular site in Conway, NH monitoring results showed that one hour fuels and litter layers were significantly reduced after the prescribed burn. Red oak seedlings, the desired species, increased by 185% 6 months after the fire, though most new growth appeared to originate from vegetative propagation.

Before and after a prescribed burn on the White Mountain National Forest conducted in 2009. The intent of the treatment was to restore the oak-pine ecosystem by killing the mid-story and preparing the seedbed.

Fire regimes in New England are complicated, if not impossible, to identify due to extensive human involvement with vegetation alteration affecting development and a relatively long term return interval for naturally caused ignitions. The fire management program on the National Forests of New England aims to balance the ecological role of fire with the socio-political impact and wildland urban interface issues that greatly affect decision-making.

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Burning is WILD!

Inge Seaboyer, New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands started using prescribed fire as a management tool in the early 1990's. At first we were looking at fire as a tool to encourage red oak regeneration. Our compatriots at Fish and Game were looking for a cost effective means to maintain fields. It only took a few burns for even the most diehard firebugs among us to decide that we should only consider fire as a tool for *truly* fire related habitats! Fire for maintaining fields quickly dropped off our list as a costly alternative to mowing. During my 21 years with the Forestry & Wildlife Program spring burns to restore blueberry and maintain pitch pine were the most frequent prescriptions executed.

Growing pitch pine is not every landowner's cup of tea, but getting wild lowbush blueberries to produce well, for wildlife, just picking, or both is something many landowners are interested in doing.

When planning our first blueberry burn I was surprised by the dearth literature on how to go about it. I went to the oracle of fire in New Hampshire, Dick Weyrick, to no avail. Then I ventured into the UNH Biological Sciences Library and found two invaluable references: "The Blueberry in the Atlantic Provinces" by Eaton and Hall, circa 1961, and "Nutrition and Growth of Low Bush Blueberry" by M.F. Trevett, circa 1962.

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Here's the long and the short of it…Low bush blueberry reproduces vegetatively by sending up rhizomes; over time these clones decline and fruit production drops off. The above ground part of the blueberry plant is only a small portion of the total, and most new shoots develop from dormant buds on the rhizomes, rather than the crown. So running a burn through low bush blueberry kills back the older, non productive crown and encourages new sprouts. And, since competing vegetation is generally more susceptible to fire than the blueberry, burning is an ideal technique for discouraging the invasion of brush and woody vegetation. Though blueberry burned in the late fall will produce sprouts, the greatest number of sprouts carrying flower buds result when burning takes place in the early spring. Recommendations for exactly when to burn varies, but the general consensus is burn immediately following snow melt (even when snow is still in the surrounding wooded areas). Since blueberries frequently grow on shallow, or other low fertility soils it is preferable that the ground be wet or still frozen to protect the topsoil and root, since the presence of an organic layer is directly correlated to fruit production. New shoots will emerge in about four weeks, but plants within the burned area will not produce fruit the year of the burn, but the following year. Burning every four to five years is recommended.

Of course it's not always that easy, but ten years of doing these burns resulted in some home truths:

- If a blueberry barren has been abandoned and gray birch has started to take hold, fire alone may not do the trick - gray birch likes to get burned in the spring too! Sure you'll kill the tops, but those skeletons will have lots of healthy sprouts surrounding them by the following summer. You have some options… If the birch is patchy and your landowner is chiefly interested in wildlife habitat, then don't sweat it, some early successional patches in the mix are good for the birds! Is your landowner up for some handwork? Repeated clipping of the sprouts during the summer months combined with the burns (*but not just before a burn*) will gradually set back even gray birch.

- Don't be overly cautious… there's still snow in the woods for goodness sake! These need to be HOT fires, running quickly through the blueberry burning the tops and leaving the roots unscathed. Don't be cavalier, but neither be too fussy. Don't go for backing fires, they're too slow - remember you don't want to damage the roots! And don't go for narrow strip head fires - control means getting in too close - and singed eyebrows! Use common sense. Are you on a slope? Put a hefty black line across the top, and let progressively wider strips burn up into the black. By the time you get near the bottom you'll be surprised how big a swath you'll feel comfortable burning.

- Think your patches of blueberry are too small? Think again. If patches are diminutive you can make basic fire behavior work for you. You may not even need to black-line! Ring the patches with fire and let it naturally draw in to the center, where it runs out of fuel. Quick, neat and effective! A word of caution, flame height when the ring of fire comes together can be impressive, watch nearby evergreens and don't forget to watch for spot fires… an errant gust can make things change quickly.

- There is nothing better for learning about how to make fire work for you than observing fire behavior, especially when you are NOT the one responsible for making sure everything goes right! See if you can go observe someone else's burn before you jump into the fray, the lessons you learn will be invaluable.

Society of American Foresters

Leadership Tools
Deborah Boyer– NESAF Website Administrator

Mass Email; Getting the Word Out - NESAF can help local units reach their members with our Constant Contact account. Constant Contact is a company who provides a mechanism to send emails to large groups of individuals – customizable to fit the needs of the target audience.

When an email is sent to your inbox with 'News from the New England SAF', it is sent via Constant Contact using an account set up specifically for the New England Society of American Foresters. This account allows us the flexibility to send time-sensitive, general information, or specific target audience emails. Some of these emails you may have received: an email sent to Granite State Division members regarding proposed changes to forester licensure procedures, a last call for NESAF winter meeting registration without late fee, or an email sent to Yankee Division members regarding Massachusetts Visioning process call for comments; to name a few.

If there is information you think would be valuable to other members and brought to their attention other than on the website, contact your NESAF state representative or chapter/division chairperson. Propose your email suggestion, which includes the documentation you would like to include in the email. If there is a supporting website link, please include that additional information. This is especially helpful when there is a registration form, as Constant Contact does not allow attachments. The contacted representative will then forward the email to either the NESAF chair or directly to the website/email administrator. Please include the timeliness of this email and the target audience.

Once the email is received by the website/email administrator please factor in 2-3 days for the email to be sent (unless you bribe her with chocolate).

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

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DIVISION NEWS

MAINE - Anthony Filauro

Field Meetings

MESAF continues to hold field meetings at different locations in the state. The multi-meeting format has proved successful in meeting the needs of the membership and offering a variety of meeting locations and agendas.

In May a field meeting was held at the University of Maine, concerning "Implementing Vernal Pool Habitat Management Guidelines". In June, a meeting was held in Brownville Junction concerning "Advanced Field Applications of GPS and Data Collection Tools in Forest Management". In September, the last field meeting of the year was held at the Cairn Leadership School in Baldwin, ME, concerning "Managing Growth, Diversification, and Change in Forest Resource Management in Southern Maine".

The membership is encouraged to suggest topics of interest that would form the basis for field meetings in 2011. Speak with or send an e-mail message to any MESAF officer. E-mail addresses are listed in the News Quarterly.

Gravel Road Maintenance Manual

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has issued an updated edition of the Gravel Road Maintenance Manual for camp and/or landowners. The manual presents information about road construction, the types of materials that should be used, methods to correct problem situations, the hiring of a contractor, etc. The manual is available online at: www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/roads/gravel_road_manual.pdf

Land Conservation

Keeping Maine's Forests (KMF), an organization of stakeholders interested in maintaining Maine's forestlands, is comprised of landowners, environmental groups, representatives of the pulp & paper and lumber industries, recreation & tourism groups, government organizations, Maine's Indian tribes, and others. KMF is seeking $25 million in financial support from the Federal Government, to preserve Maine's forestlands for future generations. The funds would be in addition to current programs and efforts. A report generated by the organization is currently making its way through various federal departments in Washington, D.C. Indications on the success of these efforts are expected within the next twelve months. We will keep you posted.

Forestry Tour

A forestry tour held August 9 and 10, visited research sites that dated back to the 1970's and 80's, on lands previously managed by Great Northern Paper Co. and Scott Paper Co. A site at Weymouth Point on T4R11 (GNP), established in 1981, examined the effects of nutrient removal resulting from a full tree logging operation. This forest practice was extensively used at that time on commercial forestlands. In addition, sites were visited on T5R11 (GNP) to inspect results of aerial strip thinning trials conducted in the 1980's. The spray trials focused on precommercial thinning of juvenile softwood stands, using aerially applied herbicides. Overstocking of juvenile forest stands was a concern of many forest managers in the 1980's and 90's.

On August 10, the tour group traveled to Austin Pond, on lands previously managed by Scott Paper Co., to inspect research plots established in 1977, using aerially applied herbicides to release softwood regeneration from overtopping raspberries and woody brush species. These spray trials laid the foundation for the vegetative management programs that were conducted on commercial forestlands in areas that were clear-cut in response to the spruce budworm epidemic of the 1970's.

The tour was attended by past employees of the University of Maine Cooperative Forestry Re-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)
search Unit, Great Northern Paper Co., Scott Paper Co, and representatives of Dow AgroSciences (Kent Redding and Rich Hendler). Dow supplied some of the herbicide products that were tested at Austin Pond.

Invasive Insects
The Maine Forest Service has expanded search efforts for the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid (HWA). During the past months, HWA has been identified at numerous locations from Kittery to Wiscasset. The problem is more widespread than first believed. Landowners are asked to report areas of infestation to the Maine Forest Service, so they can better manage this problem.

On September 2nd, Maine Forest Service Director, Alec Giffen, signed an order prohibiting the transporting of firewood into the State of Maine. The order compliments a law passed by the Maine Legislature to minimize the spread of insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB).

During the Labor Day Weekend, the MFS conducted a three-day program to exchange firewood that was being transported into the state by tourists, for an equal volume of firewood supplied by the state. The exchange took place at the Kittery Rest Area on the Maine Turnpike. The program was voluntary.

Voluntary compliance with regulations concerning the transport of firewood into Maine may not be sufficient to protect the state's forest resources. Invasive insects are expanding their range. It was recently reported that an infestation of the Asian Longhorn Beetle was discovered in the Boston area. Previously, the insect was known to occur in Worcester, MA, thirty miles west of Boston.

Granite State - Jon Nute

Conservationist of the Year
At the SPNHF annual meeting held September 11, Gordon Russell of Weare received the Conservationist of the Year award. For more than four decades, Russell has focused on the protection and stewardship of lands within the Piscataquog River watershed. Founder and vigorous supporter of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, easements and purchases have protected more than 3,000 acres in the area. More importantly, his enthusiasm and support has inspired countless landowners to consider similar conservation efforts on their properties. His neighbor-to-neighbor networking and long term persistence have been the key to success for this small but motivated organization.

Habitat Stewardship Brochure Series
Do you recognize important wildlife habitat when you see it?
UNH Cooperative Extension has just published a new brochure series to help landowners learn about and help conserve important wildlife habi-

(Continued from NH News page 11)
tats found on their land.
The *New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan: Habitat Stewardship Series* brochures cover a variety of habitat types critical for wildlife species at risk in New Hampshire. The first four brochures, published in March 2008, focus on grasslands, marsh and shrub wetlands, floodplain forests, and vernal pools. Four additional brochures were published in June 2009. They focus on peatlands, lowland spruce-fir forests, shrublands, and Appalachian oak-pine forests.

The colorful brochures include practical information for landowners. Pictures and text explain how to identify habitat types, describe the major threats to the health of those habitats, and offer information about wildlife species that depend on each habitat. The brochures also provide specific recommendations for landowners interested in helping protect and conserve the wildlife that depend on each critical habitat type.

The brochures are produced by UNH Cooperative Extension with support from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, N.H. Fish & Game Department, the NH Natural Heritage Bureau, and private contributions by NH Coverts Project volunteers. Landowners may download brochures from www.nhwoods.org or receive a single set free through the UNH Forestry Information Center (call 1-800-444-8978, email forest.info@unh.edu).

NH coming events for NESAF News

-Nov. 3, 9-12, Laconia. Making Maps the Google Way! Learn how to make interactive and 3D maps using free Google mapping tools. www.extension.unh.edu/GISGPS/GISGPS.htm
-Nov. 5, 8:30-4, Lancaster. NH Tree Farm inspector training. www.nhtreefarm.org
-Dec. 3 & 10, 9-4, Pease Tradeport. Winter Plant ID for Wetland Boundary Determination. www.learn.unh.edu

GREEN MOUNTAIN - Kurt Zschau

Division News- The 2010 Green Mountain Division Field Meeting will be held on October 15th from 9-3 in Enosburg. A very comprehensive field session titled "Floodplain Forests; Form, Function & Future" has been planned. The Green Mountain Division is anticipating a strong turnout; to register please email James Harding at hardingj@greenmtn.edu.

The Green Mountain Division will be hosting the 2011 New England SAF Meeting. The meeting will take place in Fairlee again, at the Lake Morey Inn. Since the last meeting the GM Division held here was very well received we chose to remain at the Lake Morey Inn. Please refer to the "save the date" ads in this quarterly to mark your calendar.

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation News- Jason Gibbs has stepped down from his post as Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to focus on campaigning for the Sec. of State vacancy. Interim Commissioner Sara Clark will guide the department until a new Commissioner is appointed, after a new Governor is elected this fall. The Department recently filled the position of Bennington County Forester with Chris Stone. According to the Department; *"We are pleased to announce that Christopher Stone has been hired as Bennington County Forester for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Chris is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a B.S. Degree in Forestry. He has eight years of professional experience in the field of forestry.*

Green Mountain National Forest News- Colleen Pelles Madrid recently accepted the Forest Supervisor position for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest. Madrid oversees the forest which encompasses more than 400,000 acres in southwestern and central Vermont, forming the largest contiguous public land area in the State, and the Finger Lakes National Forest of more than 16,000 acres located in New York. Prior to working in Vermont, Colleen served as the District Ranger on the Cave Creek Ranger District in Arizona for four years, and the Zigzag Ranger District in Oregon for six years. As District Ranger she worked with public partnerships, and state and federal agencies to help facilitate collaborative resource management and resolve important, and often controversial, issues of local

(Continued on page 13)

and national significance. She has worked collaboratively with partners and local communities to meet conservation challenges and believes in public participation in natural resource management. Ethan Ready was recently hired as the Public Affairs Officer for the GMNF. Ethan graduated from Johnson State College, majoring in Political Science. Most recently Ethan worked as an Outreach Representative for U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders in Burlington, Vermont.

Other News- The largest private landowner in Vermont has made the news this summer for potential violations to its Current Use Forest Management Plan. As reported by Peter Hirschfeld of the Vermont Press Bureau; published in the July 18, 2010 Rutland Herald; *"The largest piece of privately owned land in Vermont has been expelled from the state's Current Use property tax program after environmental regulators cited the owner for improper logging. Last winter, say regulators, Plum Creek Timber Co. Inc. violated its forest management plan by cutting too many trees on 140 acres in Lemington, in northeastern Vermont. As is required under state law, Vermont officials said last week, the entire parcel will be withdrawn from the Current Use program that offers landowners substantial tax breaks on forest and farmland. The 56,000-acre parcel spans eight towns – Averill, Avery's Gore, Bloomfield, Brighton, Brunswick, Lemington, Lewis and Morgan – in Essex, Orleans and Caledonia counties.*
Mark Doty, community affairs director for Plum Creek, admitted that the logging operation in Lemington ran contrary to the company's harvesting plan." The adverse inspection we take responsibility for," Doty said Friday. "There was heavier cutting than we'd planned, for sure."
"We plan to continue to manage these lands and the others we own in Vermont to the highest silvicultural standards," he said. "We want Vermont to be proud of us."

MASSACHUSETTS - Randall Stone

Chapter News: The Massachusetts Chapter of the Society of American Foresters held a joint summer meeting with Yankee on Friday August 27 at the Blue Meadow Road Conference Center at Quabbin Reservoir. Thanks to MA Chair Chris Pryor for organizing the event and providing lunch and CEUs. Thanks also to Quabbin Chief Forester Herm Eck for his power point presentation of Quabbin forest management practices, and to Quabbin foresters Steve Ward and Randy Stone for leading the field tour.

Forestry Booth at the Big E: The Massachusetts Association of Professional Foresters, the Massachusetts Wood Producers Association and the Massachusetts Private Landowners Association are sharing a booth in the Massachusetts State Building at this year's Big E. The purpose is to present the benefits of forestry and inform the public about the wood producing economy in the state. The display includes wood samples, literature on forestry and wildlife management, a powerpoint show, and a cordwood raffle. MA SAF and MAPF members have volunteered to man the exhibit.

Student Conclave: UMASS student chapter member Bruce Danek has organized and will be hosting a conclave for students from New England and NY the weekend of October 15, 16, and 17. Included on the agenda will be a tour of Quabbin on Saturday the 16th.

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

RHODE ISLAND - Paul Boisvert

RI Forest Resource Assessment and Strategies Plan
The USDA Forest Service has recently accepted the 2010 RI Forest Resource Assessment and Strategies Plan to replace the 2005 Forest Resource Plan to satisfy the requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill. Copies are available by contacting Bruce Payton, Supervising Forest, RIDEM-Division of Forest Environment at bruce.payton@ri.dem.gov. SAF members who participated in the assessment process included: Catherine Sparks, Paul Dolan, Bruce Payton, Thom Abbott, Gregg Cassidy, Chris

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from RI News, page 13)
Modisette, Hans Bergey, Rich Blodgett and Marc Tremblay.

Forest Health Works Project

Invasive plants, such as Japanese barberry (Berberis thubergii), glossy buckthorn (Frangula alnus), and Japanese stiltgrass (Microstegium vimineum) represent a growing management concern for the future of New England's forests. In Rhode Island, land managers and SAF members have implemented an integrated, landscape-scale initiative to address the issue of forest invasives called the Forest Health Works Project.

Summer Twilight Walk

Rhode Island Forest Conservator's Organization held their summer woods walk on August 12th. The locations, Campbell Farm were the first walk was held 20 years ago.

SAF member, Marc Tremblay led an interpretive walk through the woodlands that are being managed for improved habitat diversity.

Deer Population Study on Providence Watershed.

The focus was not on the number of deer, but rather the impact they are having on tree seedlings, saplings and the native shrubs and herbaceous community. A number of SAF Members and the Foresters at the Watershed are working together to develop a management plan to help mitigate the issue.

CONNECTICUT - Mel Harder and Deborah Spalding

Summer Meeting

On August 20, CT SAF held its summer meeting in Pomfret CT. The topic of discussion and presentations by 5 speakers was the Forest Heritage Plan in neighboring Massachusetts. The MA Heritage plan has caused quite a stir within MA, and in CT, given the potential ramifications for CT. CT has several proposals in the works for bio energy facilities, which are a major consideration in MA. The speakers included Charlie Thompson (MA DCR Forest Futures Steering Committee); Thomas Worthley (UCONN Extension); Bill Labich (Highstead conservationist); Chris Pryor (New England Forestry Foundation); and Chris Martin (Director of Forestry, CT DEP). The general conclusion of the meeting was that it is important that the 110 CT SAF members take responsibility for education and outreach in their respective communities in order to counter negative public perception of forestry and forest resource utilization.

50 Year Members: Bill Bentley, Joe Voboril & Stan House

Also at the CT SAF summer meeting, three SAF members received 50 year awards. The three members are Bill Bentley of Granby, Joe Voboril of Willington and Stan House of East Hampton.

Conn. Forest Conservation & Research Forum

The sixth annual Connecticut Forest Conservation and Research Forum will be held November 23, 2010, at the University of CT West Hartford Branch. As part of the CT Statewide Forest Planning process, a series of local forest roundtables were held that led to a statewide Forest Roundtable in March of this year that produced 10 visions of CT's forest future. Some of the goals of the visions include increasing public awareness of the benefits provided by our forests; protect our core forests from development; sustain sustainable populations of plants and animals; and apply the best science to the management of our forests.

Miscellaneous News

Nominations are now open for 2011 CT SAF officers. Nominations are needed for vice chair and secretary/treasurer.

NESAF Winter Meeting 2011
CALL FOR Posters and Papers

The New England Society of American Foresters is announcing a call for papers for the 91st Winter Meeting to be held March 30 – April 1, 2011, at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT. The papers will be presented during the new Lightning Round session and Posters will be presented during the Poster Session. Papers can be submitted as Oral (with a poster) or as a stand-alone poster. The idea of the lightning round is to provide a forum for anyone with new research results or other relevant information to present to NESAF.

Oral presentations will run for a total of 10 minutes including any questions, and the timekeeper will be strict. Anyone giving a lightning round oral presentation may also prepare an accompanying poster to display during the poster session. Posters may also be offered as stand-alone presentations.

Submissions will be evaluated based on their scientific merit and relevance to the fields of forestry and natural resources. This call for papers is open to all attendees wishing to present new developments in all disciplines related to forestry and natural resources.

Submission Guidlines

1. Send electronic copy of 200 word abstract in MS Word Format by February 15th 2011.
2. Use lead author's name as document file name (e.g., Smith.doc).
3. Put "NESAF 2011 Abstract" in the Subject Line of the email message.
4. In the body of the message…
   - Include preference for 1) Oral + Poster or 2) Poster Presentation.
   - Write out Title of Presentation.
   - Give full contact information of Lead Author.
5. Send to Dr. Jim Harding at the following address: hardingj@greenmtn.edu and to Dr. Mark Twery at mtwery@fs.fed.us.

NE SAF AFFAIRS

Chair Letter – Ron Lemin

It's the last day of summer and the leaves are beginning to change color here in New England. This will be my final column in my tenure as NESAF Chair. The time seemed to fly by. Like the leaves, the NESAF Executive Committee will also change with new energetic leadership under the reins of Chair Ed O'Leary. Your vote this fall will ensure a smooth transition for both NESAF and your State Division leadership.

During my 8 years as Maine representative, Vice-Chair and Chair I was able to work with and meet many professionals within New England, New York, and nationally. I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve and represent the membership of NESAF. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience. As Past-Chair, I will continue the example set forth by my predecessors and continue to serve as an integral member of the NESAF Executive Committee.

To represent NESAF nationally at House of Society Delegates (HSD) for the last two years gave me the opportunity to meet many forestry professionals throughout the US. It was a great honor to represent NESAF at the National Convention as both Vice-Chair and Chair. We submitted HSD success stories from New England last year and this year. Last year we were presented one of the three awards for the Forestry Awareness Program in MESAF, and this year we submitted the Digital Poster Session orchestrated by Keri Yankus at the last NESAF Winter Meeting in Nashua, NH. Keep your fingers crossed!

With SAF Vice President Roger Dziengeleski taking the reins of SAF next year and with George Frame as our Council Representative, look forward to the possibility of highlighting the New England and New York region through some type of National SAF Symposium within the next two years. The ideas and energy are there and I look forward to sharing some of the energy and enthusiasm that Roger brings to SAF as President.

(Continued on page 17)

Council Notes August 2010

First and foremost, my sincere thanks to all of you who donate your time and energy to our professional society. Our strength is in the professionalism and dedication of our members and whether you choose to run for Chapter, Division or State Society office, serve on a national task force or committee, organize a meeting, or run a program for local school children, your efforts are the foundation of SAF.

Having accepted the position of Director of Science and Education at SAF, I regret that I must resign my Council seat. Our By-laws provide that when a Council Rep has to vacate a seat, the SAF Council may appoint a replacement. Vice-President Dziengeleski has been working to identify someone willing to assume the District 6 Council seat and we anticipate an appointment shortly.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your Council rep for the past 8 months and I am very excited about the new opportunity to continue to serve our members as Director of Science and Education working from SAF headquarters in Bethesda. I continue to look forward to hearing from all of you at any time with your thoughts and ideas for ways we can continue to strengthen and improve this great organization.

The SAF Council met June 11-13 in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Highlights of that meeting include:

•Advertising and other revenue year-to-date is on target with budget projections; membership is projected to be on target or possible up by the end of the year. Financial information is now timely and we are no longer searching for historical data.

•SAF continues to be the go to organization for forestry issues on Capitol Hill – our credibility is strong and our opinions are respected primarily because we are objective in our analyses and do not have a financial stake in the outcome of legislation.

(Continued on page 17)

Chair Report *(Continued from page 16)*

It is that time of year! Make sure you remember to cast your vote for your favorite NESAF or State Division representatives. Also, December 1 is the deadline for NESAF Award Nominations and NESAF Grant Applications. Please refer to the NESAF website (www.nesaf.org) for information and forms to complete a grant or awards package. There are efforts to create a "New" NESAF award to be presented at the Winter Meeting in Fairlee, VT on March 29-April 1, 2011. Stay turned to your email or the website for further details.

Again, thank you for the honor to serve as your Chair. Enjoy the Fall colors and feel free to contact me with issues or concerns related to NESAF.

NESAF Award Nominations Due December 1st

The NESAF Awards Committee is once again reviewing nominations for our annual awards. Please take some time to think about the accomplishments of your various colleagues and perhaps team up with a co-worker to share the background preparations and nominate one or more worthy professionals for an award this year!

Information about each of the awards and the nomination process is available on the NESAF website at www.nesaf.org. Criteria for each of the awards is included as well as lists of past award recipients.

New Award! In addition to the 6 awards listed, this year the Awards Committee will be offering a new award for silviculture in honor of David M. Smith. By mid-October the award and criteria will be posted on the website. Please consider nominations for this new award this year!

Nomination forms are available online and can be emailed to me directly, or can be printed out and mailed to me.

Thanks in advance,

Randy Stone , MA State Rep, Awards Chair
321 Montague Rd.
Shutesbury MA 01072
H: 413-259-1557
W: 413-323-6921x156
Email: Randall.stone@state.ma.us

Council Report *(Continued from page 16)*

- Council created a new task force on Climate Change Offsets and the Use of Biomass for Energy. This task force will evaluate and assess the implications of global climate change on forests and the role of forestry in addressing climate change and the potential impacts of energy policy on forests, wood harvesting, and timber industries. National policy and legislative initiatives have been moving much more rapidly than the science in this arena and it is crucial that we focus on bringing together the best information available in order to inform energy debates intelligently and objectively.

- Council approved Fellows nominations, including two from District 6. Congratulations to Roger Dziengeleski and George Frame! And don't forget – it is not too early to start putting together nomination packets for next year.

Council also approved a dues increase to be effective for 2012 and every five years thereafter. While no one likes to see dues increase, the costs of running the organization increase with inflation every year, while there has only been a $3.00 increase in dues since 1997. The amount of increase will be 15% to reflect the general consumer price index, which measures inflation at approximately 3% per year. The Loyalty Program has been discontinued. Recent graduates who were Student members will be allowed to continue paying the Student rate until they obtain their first professional job in forestry, after which they will be eligible for the Young Professional rate.

The 2012 – 2017 dues schedule will be:

- Professional member - $153
- Retired Professional - $121
- Young Professionals (first 5 years of professional membership - $98
- Student - $40.

NEWS QUARTERLY Publication Calendar

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
January	December 22	January 15
April	March 22	April 15
June	May 22	June 15
October	September 22	October 15

Membership Report

Welcome to the fall season in New England. We're looking forward to the October student conclave in Massachusetts, headed up by our University of Massachusetts Chapter and student volunteers from across New England. We'll be certain to share some stories and pictures in the next NQ.

If you or your organizations would like to get notice out regarding employment opportunities please contact our website administrator Deb Boyer, or submit them online at nesaf.org. While we can't share our mailing list with outside parties, we can post the opportunities online and highlight them in our email newsletter that goes out to over 1,000 members throughout the region. Posting them on the national site is another great opportunity, but for more specific outreach efforts please send it to us here in New England.

The membership drive is underway. A new brochure is accompanying informational packages that are being sent 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. Included in the outreach are some 100 members who have not renewed for 2010; we're hopeful that they will choose to reinstate for the coming year. I'd encourage local units to include inactive members in notices about potential events put on by your chapter; I can also provide lists of former and potential members for your unit to use in outreach opportunities.

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

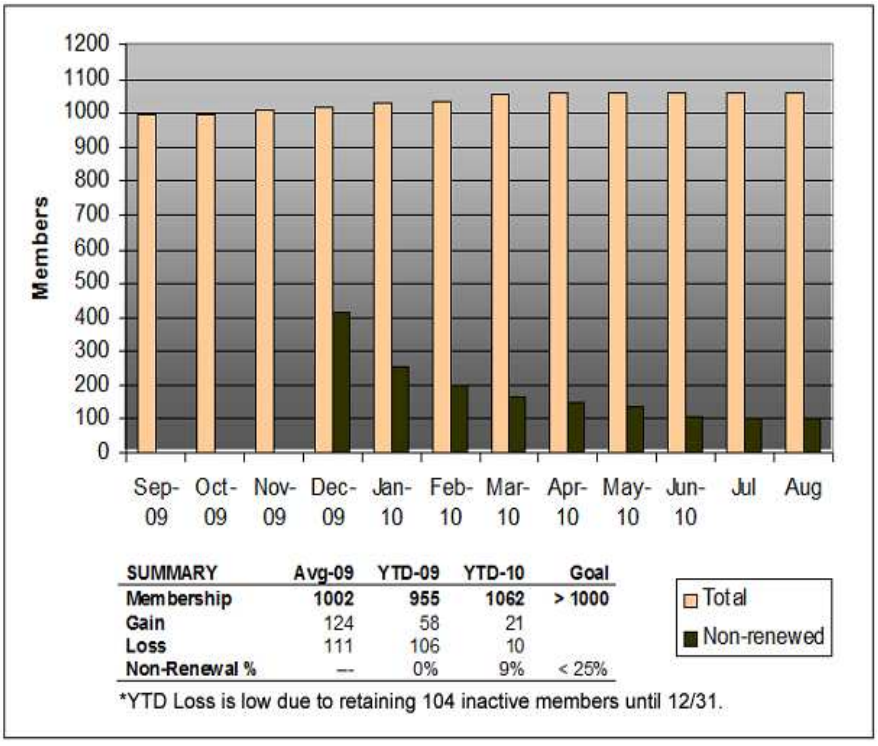
NESAF Welcomes New Members

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

Green Mountain Division
Jason W. Lathropc
Andrew R. Sheere
Eric Hansen
Daniel D. Tesini

Yankee Division
David Logan Mausel (MA)
Ann E. Camp (CT)
Matthew Marshall Cooperrider (Yale University)
Hylton J. Haynes (MA)
Maxson B. Hence (RI)
Ben Larson (Yale)
Peter A. D'Anieri (MA)
Jason Lawhon (Yale University)

Maine Division
Brett Harold Gerrish
Richard D. Nickerson (University of Maine)



SUMMARY	Avg-09	YTD-09	YTD-10	Goal
Membership	1002	955	1062	> 1000
Gain	124	58	21	
Loss	111	106	10	
Non-Renewal %	---	0%	9%	< 25%

*YTD Loss is low due to retaining 104 inactive members until 12/31.

CFE Update– Andy Fast

USDA - NRCS Technical Service Provider (TSP) Training – 12/8/10, Bangor, ME	7.5 / I
USDA - NRCS Technical Service Provider (TSP) Training – 12/7/10, Bangor, ME	7.5 / I
Developing Effective Strategies to Reach Small Woodlot Owners – 11/5/10, Auburn, ME	4.5 / II
14th Annual NEMO Meeting – 11/2/10, Stockbridge, MA	4.0 / I
14th Annual NEMO Meeting – 11/1/10, Stockbridge, MA	4.0 / I
Forging Relations - The New CCC: Conservation, Challenges and Collaboration – 10/19/10, Orono, ME	4.5 / I
Floodplain Forests: Form, Function, and Future (restoration) – 10/15/10, Enosburg, VT	4.0 / I
Maine's Bioenergy Marketplace: What You Need to Know – 10/7/10, Orono, ME	7.5 / I
Scouting for Pests and Problems of Woody Ornamentals – 9/30/10, Worchester, MA	2.0 / I
Return of the American Elm to the Community Forest – 9/24/10, Woodstock, VT	5.0 / I
Managing Growth, Diversification, and Change in Forest Resource Management in Southern Maine – 9/23/10, Baldwin, ME	5.0 / I
Science, Myth, and the Future of Forestry in New England – 9/23/10, Keene, NH	4.0 / I
Maine Forest Products Council Annual Meeting – 9/13/10, Augusta, ME	2.0 / I
Wetland Identification and Delineation for Foresters – 9/10/10, Campton, NH	6.5 / I
Invasive Plant Workshop, Unity, NH	3.5 / I
Wetland Identification and Delineation for Foresters – 9/7/10, Nottingham, NH	6.5 / I
2010 Cool Climate Soil, Hydrology, and Site Evaluator Workshop – 9/1/10, Saddleback Mountain, ME	6.5 / I
The Ultimate Invasives Workshop – 8/28/10, Dummerston, VT	5.5 / I
Massachusetts Chapter & Yankee Division SAF Summer Meeting – 8/27/10, Belchertown, MA	3.0 / I
Weed Identification Workshop – 8/24/10, Amherst, MA	5.5 / I
Penobscot Experimental Forest Tour: Celebrating 60 Years of Research and Demonstration – 8/19/10, Bradley, ME	4.5 / I
Biomass Retention Guidelines; Considerations and Recommendations for Retaining Woody Biomass on Timber Harvest Sites in Maine – 8/17/10, Augusta, ME	4.5 / I
Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association 50th Anniversary Meeting – 8/7/10, Shelton, CT	3.0 / I 2.0 / II
Identifying Sedges and Rushes – 8/6/10, Durham, NH	5.0 / I
Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association 50th Anniversary Meeting – 8/6/10, Shelton, CT	3.5 / I
Conservation Restriction (Easement) Baseline Monitoring Training for Foresters – 8/5/10, Green field, MA	3.5 / I
GIS for Foresters – 8/4/10, Augusta, ME	2.5 / I

CFE Update Cont'd

Identifying Freshwater Wetlands in the Landscape – 6/3/10, Amherst, MA	5.5 / I
Scouting for Pests and Problems of Woody Ornamentals – 6/3/10, Bridgewater, MA	2.0 / I
Upland Invasive Species Identification and Control – 6/3/10, Topsham, ME	3.5 / I
Identifying Freshwater Wetlands in the Landscape – 5/27/10, Amherst, MA	5.5 / I
Foresters for the Birds II: Integrating timber and songbird habitat management – 5/20-21/10, South Strafford, VT	12.0 / I
Breaking through Barriers: A Roadmap to Invasive Plant Control – 5/20/10, Rye, NH	4.5 / I
Lessons from the Past - Research for the Future – 5/20/10, Orono, ME	5.0 / I
ROW Forestry Recertification Meeting – 5/19/10, Bangor, ME	6.0 / I
NCASI Northern Regional Meeting - Biomass Energy and Sustainability Workshop – 5/13/10, Portland, ME	3.5 / I
NCASI Northern Regional Meeting - General and Forestry Sessions – 5/12/10, Portland, ME	6.0 / I
Forestry Skidder Bridge Workshop – 5/12/10, Fort Kent, ME	5.0 / I

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