Students show vested interest: In second year, the NE / NY SAF Student Conclave doubles in size!

Second Meeting of joint NE / NY Student Chapters by Emma Schultz

“This was organized and run by students from the Northeast... it is a testament to the amazing foresters all of the schools in our region are producing.”

— Joe Orefice, Assistant Prof., Paul Smith’s

As the brainchild of a student discussion at the winter NESAF meeting two years ago, the NE / NY SAF Student Conclave first convened last fall at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In its first year, it was lauded as a significant accomplishment for NE-SAF’s student chapters, and received national recognition for its level of student initiative. Bruce Danek, UMass senior and 2010 conclave organizer, explained that “the conclave started out to get students together for networking and learning, and it has done just that.”

This year, the 2nd Annual NE / NY SAF Student Conclave was held in Paul Smith’s New York, hosted by the SAF students of Paul (Continued on page 3)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES
Canada: Donald W. Floyd, UNB Faculty, PO Box #44555, Fredericton, NB E3B 6C2, Canada, (W) 506-451-6866 (F) 506-453-3539 dfloyd@unb.ca
CT: Mel Harder, Drawer N, East Hartford, CT 06027, 860-659-2444, mel.harder@state.ct.us
ME: Wilfred Mercier, PO Box 244, Orono, ME 04473 Wilfred.Mercier@umt.maine.edu
MA: Dana Hachigian, 64 Hadley street, South Hadley, MA 01075 (O)413-537-1758, dana.hachigian@waterandsewer.org
NH: J. Peter Howland, PO Box 2291, North Conway, NH 03860-2291, (H) 603-370-2289, howland3@verizon.com
RI: Paul Dolan, 120 Npmuc Rd., Foster, RI02825, (W) 401-647-3387, rmondor11@verizon.net
VT: William Samal, 6310 VT Rte 109, Belvidere, VT 05442 (O) 802-865-7488 samalb@sover.net
Forest Science: Roger Monthey, 3 Sylvan Lane, Cumberland Foreside, ME 04410, (H) 603-868-7694, rmonthey@fs.fed.us
Policy: Jonathan Wood
Membership: Jeff Hutchins, 617-954-2760, jeffrey.d.hutchins@gmail.com
Policy: Jonathan Wood
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Sec/Treas: William H. Livingston 5755 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5755 (O) 207-581-2990 (H) 207-827-4500 williaml@maine.edu
News Corres: Jonathan Nute UNH Cooperative Extension, Room 101, 329 Mast Road, Goffstown, NH 03045 (O) 603-641-6060 (H) 603-783-9684

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Vice Chair: Mary Beth Dewey
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Vice-Chair: Dana Hachigian, 64 Hadley Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 (O)413-537-1758, dana.hachigian@waterandsewer.org
Sec/Treas: Tony filauro, 212 Cottage Road, Millicent, ME 04462, (O) 207-723-9401, filauro@yahoo.com
Div. Manager: Laura Audibert, 11 Leopold St. Fort Kent, ME 04743 (O) 207-834-6773 (Cell) 207-231-0048 lisa658@sjv.net

Yankee
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Vice-Chair: Alex Barrett
Sec/Treas: Tom Worthley, Coop Ext, 1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438-0070, (O) 860-345-4511, thomas.worthley@uconn.edu

Rhode Island
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Sec/Treas: Robert W. MacMillian 66 Pinecrest Drive, North Kingston, RI 02852 (O) 401-295-7305 (O) 401-521-6300 ext 7381 williamr@provwater.com
News Corres: Paul Bisovirt 6657 Flat River Road, Greene, RI 02827 (H) 401-397-9421 paulbisovirt@verizon.net

Connecticut
Chair: Deborah Spalding 142 Temple St., Suite 206, New Haven CT 06510, 203-285-3971 dispalinding1@comcast.net
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News Corres: Mel Harder, Drawer N, East Hartford, CT 06027, 860-659-2444, mel.harder@net.com

Massachusetts
Chair: Chris Pryor, 126 Cherry Street, Newton, MA 02465 617-512-5507 c.pryor@earthlink.net
Vice-Chair: Name: Maggie and Scott Machinist, PO Box 9, Island Pond, VT 05846, (H) 802-723-5010 maggieandscott@myfairpoint.net

News Quarterly: Margaret and Scott Machinist, PO Box 9, Island Pond, VT 05846, (H) 802-723-5010 maggieandscott@myfairpoint.net
Website Administrator: Deborah Boyer, 4 Michaels Way, Ashland, NH 03217 (H)603-968-7212 boyer9646@roadrunner.com
2011 NE / NY SAF Organizer Marin George (left) enjoyed the insight that students from around the region brought to field tours. Sally Bogdanovitch, Professor at Paul Smith's, explained the values of prescribed burning in open space management (right).

Upon arrival, all were greeted by current SAF President Roger Dziengeleski, who discussed the potential of upcoming structural change within SAF, asking students their opinions on the issues involved, providing administrative insight on the admittedly uncertain outcomes, and taking notes to act in the interest of students in forthcoming assemblies. For the author, this was the most significant and personal conversation had during four years of SAF membership.

Over the course of the weekend, the group progressed through the conclave’s theme of succession, perceiving the effects of cutting practices at the FERDA plots with Mark Twery of the US Forest Service, learning about open space management at Bay Pond with Paul Smith’s Professor Sally Bogdanovitch, and exploring an old-growth white pine stand with Joe Orefice, Assistant Professor at Paul Smith’s. Students also had a chance to tour Paul Smith's draft horse facilities – the horses representing a relic of timber harvesting operations prior to the profession’s succession to mechanized equipment. Marin George (Paul Smith's College 2013), inspired by the 2010 conclave in Massachusetts, was the principal coordinator of this year’s event. She felt that the weekend “turned out to be a successful gathering,” and that “it was great to see the familiar faces of students from last year’s conclave as well as new faces this year.” For Danek, “friendships were strengthened and professional connections were made.” UMaine senior Eli Shank agreed, adding that “the value of sharing local knowledge makes [these] experiences even more valuable because we all graduate into the same job market.” Impending graduation and the transition to a vocation in forestry were common topics discussed throughout the weekend, with SUNY ESF M.F. student Jeff Kehoe stressing that several days of high-quality tours organized by his peers has led him to look forward to sharing his career with those in attendance.

Students appreciated the conclave for an array of additional reasons, from one last chance to camp before winter, to viewing unique management perspectives, to, more simply, enjoying a hearty crock-pot dinner provided by the culinary students of Paul Smith’s. Non-members of SAF who participated in the weekend left with positive opinions of the society, with one student commenting that he
DENNISTOWN, MAINE -- Stephen Carl Coleman, 59, loving husband of Sarah, and very proud father of Thomas, Tennie and Rachel, passed away Sept. 20, 2011, on Wood Pond in Attean Township. Steve was nearly in sight of his float plane, Coleman's Knoll and the hill he made his home, enjoying a calm day. He left home early in the morning, got some work done, saw some friends, purchased a coffee and then passed quickly. Steve accomplished more than most in his life, but most importantly he loved his wife, children, family and friends and did it well. In return he was loved and deeply respected by all, even when they didn't agree. Those who knew him will never forget him, and many will aspire to match him in many, many fields of endeavor.

As a long time SAF member and a remarkably active member of the forestry community Steve’s passing has left a magnificently large hole in the lives of his friends, colleagues and our industry. Steve graduated from the University of Maine and started his forestry career in Jackman for Scott Paper. In 1988 Steve joined LandVest and was serving as its Chief Forester at the time of his death. In addition Steve was a Registered Maine Guide, a bush pilot running his Coleman’s Flying & Guide Service along with his local business Coleman’s Landing. Steve was serving as North Maine Woods president, was active with CFRU and Maine Forests Products Council. We kiddingly called Steve the Mayor of Jackman and he would always correct us and say I live in Dennistown Plantation. But the nick name reflected his dedication and unending energy for his local community and the entire Jackman region.

As a forester and woodsman Steve was unparalleled in his skills, knowledge and get it done approach. He had a personal ethic of dedication to his principles and to an honest and direct means of addressing the debates surrounding land use, forestry and the future of the forests of northern Maine. We all will miss his presence and ability to get to the point.

A Memorial Service was held on September 27th. With over 300 in attendance the service was a celebration of a life lived to its fullest despite being cut far too short. Let’s not focus on what we have lost but how anyone who crossed Steve’s path was made better by it.

In lieu of flowers, (which Steve called Posie’s) donations will be accepted towards a scholarship to benefit local students, aspiring pilots and the Jackman region in general. Please send donations to: Steve Coleman Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o SAD 12/RSU 82, 606 Main St., Jackman, ME 04945.

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OUR MISSION AS FORESTERS IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF THE EARTH’S FORESTS WHILE MEETING SOCIETY’S VITAL NEEDS. THE CHALLENGE OF OUR MISSION LIES IN KEEPING FOREST ECOSYSTEMS HEALTHY AND INTACT WHILE CONCURRENTLY DRAWING ON THEIR RESOURCES. WE WILL MEET THIS CHALLENGE BY CAREFULLY MONITORING AND MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL AND HUMAN FORCES ON THE FOREST. OUR DECISIONS WILL BE GUIDED BY OUR PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, OUR COMPASSION FOR ALL LIVING THINGS, OUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE CITIZENS’ LIVES, AND OUR RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR THE ENTIRE FOREST ECOSYSTEM. BY ADVANCING FORESTRY SCIENCE, EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY, NE SAF WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION.
Introduction:
Four States in New England currently license foresters: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire. Although forester licensing is widely accepted by the forestry community for reasons discussed in these articles, there are still some reservations about higher costs and over regulation, among other issues. These articles provide some personal views about forester licensing in general, its positive aspects, and its potentially negative aspects. Deb Markowitz presents an introduction to the issue, Norrie Parr comments on the benefits of forester licensing, and Bill Samal provides a counterpoint perspective.

Professional Regulation of Foresters
Deb Markowitz
What do electricians, tattoo artists, realtors, morticians, doctors, accountants, and hairdressers all have in common? They (and dozens of other professions) are all regulated. From cradle (midwives) to grave (morticians) and everything else in between, we require members of a large variety of professions to have a license or registration before practicing in a given State. What are the considerations when deciding to regulate a profession? Would it make sense to add foresters to the list of regulated professionals?

Governments create professional regulations as part of their police power in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare. Professional regulation is also used to protect consumers in situations where the market will not, on its own, winnow out bad practitioners, or when the consequences of the actions of an incompetent or unethical professional are too great. As a practical matter, it is often members of a profession who initiate licensure legislation to enforce professional accountability and prevent practitioners who have not reached a particular level of training or skill from using the name of the profession in their title.

Is forestry a profession?
A profession is defined as an occupation with specialized skills in which the skill is acquired by intellectual training and the service calls for a high degree of integrity and involves direct or fiduciary relations with clients.

There are three types of professional regulation:

- Certification
- Registration
- Licensure

(Note that some States use these terms interchangeably, so you might see some variations in terminology in your State.)

Certification. Generally, certification is issued by a private organization that sets standards for a particular profession or occupation, and educates practitioners. It does not involve the police power of the State and does not limit the ability of others to practice the profession or occupation. When a practitioner is certified, this indicates to the public that he or she has met specified criteria for certification, which generally requires a particular course of study and passing an examination.

Benefit: Certification provides the consumer with more information about a practitioner. It also provides the practitioner with a way to increase his or her skills and then benefit from advertising the fact that they have completed the training. Governments sometimes encourage professional or occupational certification by adopting contracting policies that require certification.

Registration. Registration is similar to certification except that it is overseen or validated by State approval. Generally, registration of the occupation or profession does not prevent others from engaging in the registered activity, but simply prevents unregistered practitioners from calling themselves “registered.”

Benefit: Registration enhances consumer protection because the certification or examination that is the basis of the registration ensures that practitioners have met minimum competency requirements. It also provides an official list for consumers to determine whether a particular practitioner has met professional or occupational standards.

Licensure. A professional or occupational license gives the practitioner permission to engage in a particular activity and restricts unlicensed practitioners from practicing the profession in the State. A license restricts who can practice a profession to those who have met minimal educational, ethical, and competency requirements as defined by the profession and approved by the State through rule or statute. It often also includes practice standards that are designed to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Benefit: Licensure protects the public from unqualified or unethical practitioners by limiting who can practice in the State to those who have met the required standards.

(Continued on page 6)
When deciding whether professional regulation makes sense for the forestry profession, here are some questions to ask: What are the benefits of holding foresters accountable to professional standards? Is there a need to protect the forestry profession and consumers from unscrupulous and deceptive behaviors by untrained individuals who call themselves foresters? Finally, since the goal of the forestry profession is forests that are better managed and healthier as well as a vibrant forest products industry, will regulation help achieve this goal?

Secretary Deb Markowitz is the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources. Before serving in this capacity, she served for 12 years as Vermont Secretary of State where she was responsible for regulating 42 professions.

Forester Licensing Counterpoint
By Bill Samal

“Are there unscrupulous and incompetent people in forestry? Yes there are. Does state-mandated licensing provide an ethical and just way to remove these people from the forestry arena? No it does not.” (Personal communication, Travis Cork 2011)

I have yet to hear a good argument in favor of licensing. SAF maintains that there are 16 States with some form of credentialing, which includes licensing laws and other credentialing options as outlined by Deb Markowitz. In New England, Rhode Island and Vermont are the last holdouts. In many States, a public harm must be clearly demonstrated to justify licensing. Is the occasional landowner who isn’t savvy enough to check references a real public harm? Whatever happened to “buyer beware”? Aren’t we taught to get second opinions? The bad apples won’t go away for a while. Grandfathering will keep them around and licensing will never get rid of them all. What other possible public harm is there?

Licensing is discriminatory. In many cases public foresters and academicians are exempt from licensing. Why don’t they pose the imaginary threat of public harm? I would argue that they could potentially cause the greatest public harm. Licensing is further discriminatory because unlicensed foresters aren’t burdened with the costs—fees, dues, registrations, lodging, travel, insurance, and legal fees, among others—to keep that license. Who will ultimately pay those costs? The landowner will. Licensing just legalizes a different form of being ripped off. Qualifications, requirements, and even Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are different among States. If SAF supports licensing, why haven’t they facilitated reciprocity and some form of normalcy? Some States require working under a licensed forester for a year while California requires 7 years. Now that’s not a monopoly. Think about this. Some States allow a medical intern to start practicing after one year. In those cases, why are trees more important than people?

So let’s get to the nuts and bolts. Licensing is ineffective absent a comprehensive forest practices act. But forestry is as much an art as it is science, and you can’t regulate art, so a forest practices act doesn’t work. Before anyone gets too excited and wishes for that, take a look at California. Its Forest Practices Act is 355 pages long. It requires Timber Harvest Plans that can be 500 pages and need to be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester. Vermont has one of the highest percentages of land managed by foresters, and we have done it well without licensing.

Another argument for licensing has been that it raises the standards—it forces people into continuing education. I can’t think of any forester who would stop attending workshops if they didn’t need CEUs. In fact, workshops held in Vermont are always well prepared, which makes them well attended.

Licensing serves two purposes. It restricts competition and enhances the reputation of foresters who do not deserve that enhancement. If credentialing is so important to you, then become SAF Certified. It is more stringent than most licensing, it is voluntary, and it is a good marketing tool to sell your services. In fact, I would recommend that those States that require credentialing repeal their licensing law and codify the SAF Certified Forester program as law. There would be no problem with reciprocity. It would level the playing field and cost you and the taxpayers a lot less, and you wouldn’t have Joe the Baker scrutinize your silviculture on some arbitrary board. (The Natural Law Libertarian in me is going to keep me up for suggesting a law.) Deb Markowitz concluded with some good questions. The answers are the reason Vermont does not have licensing.

Bill Samal has been an SAF member since 1978. He is a New Hampshire licensed forester and an SAF Certified Forester. He is a Procurement Forester and works primarily in Vermont. He is currently serving as the Green Mountain Division NE-SAF representative. The opinions expressed here are his and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer or the Green Mountain Division.
Quarterly Theme

(Continued from page 6)

Forester Licensing: A Positive Perspective
By Northam Parr

The primary purpose of forester licensing is to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice within the forestry profession. A core principle of most regulations is the protection of public safety, health, and welfare. Consumer protection, environmental conservation, and professional competency fall within these parameters. Licensing provides the framework to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate, which typically include relevant education and training, hands-on experience, and professional and ethical behavior. Licensing recognizes that forestry is in the public interest of the State(s) and should thus be regulated.

Only seven States in the Nation require foresters to be licensed, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire. Five other States have mandatory registration of foresters, which is typically similar to the intent and criteria of formal licensing. Forestry licensing boards administer the pertinent statutes and rules within the powers and discretion of the States. Boards are generally comprised of experienced forestry practitioners, State forestry agency leaders, educators, landowners, and lay persons, which ensures balanced, nonbureaucratic oversight of the profession. It is worth noting that the impetus for licensing has been largely driven by foresters themselves, primarily to curtail incompetence, untrained practitioners, and malfeasance.

There are many benefits of licensing foresters. Several important ones are discussed here.

Consumer Protection
Most forest landowners rely on others to plan, tend, and apply treatments to their land. This is particularly true with timber harvesting. As we all know, the consequences of harvesting can be substantial and long lasting, and have impacts on future forest-based resources, including economic value and opportunity, productivity, habitat, aesthetics, and environmental quality.

Landowners are consumers who entrust a licensed forester to serve their needs. With forester licensing in place, landowners have some measure of assurance that the person they hire has met stringent requirements and has been authorized and sanctioned by the State to be a professional. Thus, licensing provides a stronger level of independent evaluation, standards, and oversight than does a trade group or professional association. When seeking the services of a forester, the consumer, and the general public, know which foresters have been examined, vetted, and approved—licensed—to be a qualified professional. Licensing thus instills public confidence. I am not aware of any State, including those with licensing, that requires a landowner to hire a forester. Licensing prevents, or at least limits, nonprofessionals from practicing forestry.

Licensing provides consumers and the public with a legal process and framework to pursue complaints and grievances. Boards are obligated to consider the merits of such queries and have the support of State agencies, including the Attorney General’s office, to objectively investigate, hold hearings, and resolve such issues. Note that the Board’s role is to serve the public interest and the resource, not to protect the professional forester. When merited, corrective measures, sanctions, and/or penalties have the force of the law—both criminal and civil—behind them. This is a powerful public and consumer protection recourse that trade groups and professional associations simply cannot credibly provide.

Professional Competence Development
Though licensing cannot ensure knowledge and competency, it does require and encourage professional improvement. Continuing education is a hallmark of any true profession. This has proven to be a very positive aspect of licensing. Continuing education provides opportunities for advanced training and the beneficial interaction and exchange of ideas with experts, specialists, and colleagues. It also keeps licensed professionals abreast of new science and in compliance with changing laws and regulations.

There are many, many opportunities to acquire the requisite credits to maintain a license, most at no or little cost to attendees. Silviculture, management, insects and diseases, wildlife, Best Management Practices, information technology, forest finance/taxes, business practices, and markets—opportunities to earn credits for nearly every topic related to forestry are available. Foresters are generally free to acquire the requisite credits in their own areas of interest rather than adhere to a prescribed curriculum.

Continuing forestry education credits are assigned

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Quarterly Theme

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by licensing boards and are generally closely aligned with SAF guidelines for these credits. Credits are mostly transferable from one State or jurisdiction to another for equal or similar credit. The administration of professional development requirements ensures that training is relevant to the profession and ensures an educated workforce to practice sustainable forest management.

Fostering Future Forest Resources

It must be the goal of all foresters, licensed or not, to better understand, protect, and sustainably manage forest resources. Though citizens may often have only a vague understanding of why, how, or where to accomplish this, they do have a notion that professional foresters are the Who. They expect foresters to be educated, trained, experienced, ethical, and credentialed. Licensing serves to bolster these expectations and provides assurance that laws and oversight are in place to protect the public and forests.

I believe that licensed foresters embrace these rules and are pleased to tout their licensing status to employers, employees, and certainly to clientele and the public at large. Licensing laws may be imperfect but continue to evolve to better serve the citizenry and, by extension, the profession. SAF supports licensing and is a proactive participant in helping States proceed down that path.

SAF surely recognizes that positive perception of foresters is critical to advancing the role and impact of forestry. Licensing is a powerful vehicle to do just that. Licensing, and the high requisite standards of those best qualified to practice forestry, should be welcomed by the profession.

Northam Parr is a New Hampshire licensed forester and a retired UNH Cooperative Extension Educator-Forestry. He has been an active SAF member since 1984 and was a member and secretary of the New Hampshire Forester Licensing Committee.

NESAF Award Nominations Due December 1st

Please take some time to think about the accomplishments of your various colleagues and perhaps team up with a co-worker to 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.

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

Thanks in advance,

Dana Hachigian
64 Hadley Street,
South Hadley, MA 01075
dana.hachigian@waterandsewer.org

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DIVISION NEWS

Maine - Anthony Filauro

Environmental Issues of Concern
Bats – White-Nose Syndrome has been identified within the bat population in Maine. It is uncertain the extent of this disease within the population; however insect problems might proliferate if the disease becomes widespread. Bats consume an enormous volume of insects during the summer months.

ALB – The importation of firewood into Maine has been prohibited in an effort to limit the spread of the Asian Longhorn Beetle. The insect has been identified in the Boston area but has not been observed further east in New Hampshire or Maine. Educating the public about not transporting firewood into Maine and constant vigilance by the forestry community to enforce regulations will be needed to limit the spread of this insect.

Woodland owners should keep alert for wind-damaged trees, to be certain the damage is not a result of the ALB. Concerns about such damage should be reported to the Maine Forest Service at (207) 287-2431. A sample of the damaged tree would be helpful.

Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle – In May, the importation of firewood from New Brunswick and spruce logs from Nova Scotia was restricted in an effort to limit the spread of the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle. Additional information about this insect is available at the Maine Forest Service website http://maineforestservice.gov/fhm/pages/CanadianFirewoodImport.htm.

Northern Maine Forest Forum
The Northern Forest Forum continues to meet at the Caribou Inn in Caribou, ME during the fall and winter months. In September, Charlene Donahue, forest entomologist with Maine's Insect a Disease Lab, presented a talk on forest insect problems that are of concern in the state. Future meeting dates and speakers are announced on the MESAF website: www.mesaf.org Continuing education credits are offered for attendance at Forum meetings.

Maine’s Spruce/fir Inventory
Information recently released by the Maine Department of Conservation indicates the state’s forest inventory of spruce and fir is currently at a significant level and harvest of these species could be sustainably increased over the next twenty years. This can have a positive influence upon the forest industry, with a subsequent benefit to the state’s economy and increased employment opportunities in Maine. The complete report about Maine’s spruce/fir inventory is available at http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/pubs/pdf/spruce_fir_resource_rpt.pdf

Summer Field Tours
MESAF hosted three forestry field tours in 2011. On July 22, 38 individuals enjoyed an excellent tour of the MFS Duck Lake Unit in the Springfield/Lincoln area, that focused on the subject of Rehabilitation Silviculture. George Ritz with the Maine Forest Service and Bob Seymour with the University of Maine hosted the tour.

On August 5, 36 individuals toured sites in Baxter Park, that featured silvicultural management in the Scientific Forest Management Area, which was established in 1955. Rick Morrill, Park Resource Manager and Jensen Bissell, Park Director with the BPA hosted the tour.

(Continued on page 10)
Timber Trespass

Timber trespass has been a perennial concern of forestland owners. The State of Maine estimates that authorities investigate 1000 +/- incidents of timber trespass annually. To minimize the likelihood of a trespass, landowners are encouraged to maintain property lines around their ownership and make certain the boundary is visible, using paint, blaze marks and/or plastic flagging. Landowners should be cognizant of logging operations in the vicinity of their property, be knowledgeable of the contractor overseeing the harvest operation and make certain their property boundary is not violated.

On September 16, the Mid-coast Chapter of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors hosted a one day program at the University of Maine that focused on timber trespass issues, what to do if you have suffered a trespass, who to contact for assistance, etc. Participants in the program were: Jeff Currier, Maine Forest Service; Bret Vicary, J.W. Sewall Co; Stephen Burlock, Assistant D.A. in Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties; Steven Mogul, attorney with the law firm of Gross, Minsky & Mogul; Sharon McHold, attorney with Conflict Solutions, Portland, ME, and Tom Doak, Executive Director of SWOAM.

Additional information about timber trespass is available at [www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpd/pages/programs.htm](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpd/pages/programs.htm).

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DCR State Lands News

**Forests and Parks Zoned**

The Massachusetts DCR is near to completing the Landscape Zoning portion of the two year Forest Futures Visioning Process (FFVP). This fall the department will assign all of the 308,000 acres in the State Forests and Parks system to Woodlands, Parks, or Reserves. The Landscape Zoning effort was recommended by the FFVP and will dictate what activities are allowed on each property. In general, the Woodlands zone will be dedicated to active forest management, the Parks zone will emphasize recreation and the Reserves will emphasize natural processes with minimal human influence. The Patrick administration required DCR to zone 60% of the lands as Parks and Reserves and 40% of the lands as Woodlands. MA Water Supply lands and Fish and Wildlife Lands were not a part of the Landscape Zoning.

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**Tornado Damage Cleanup**

The tornado that impacted western Massachusetts on June 1st caused damage to the forests at the DCR Robinson State Park in Agawam and Brimfield State Forest in Brimfield and Monson. The damage in Robinson was relatively light and was cleaned up in July. Brimfield State Forest was hit exceptionally hard. An estimated 940 acres of the 3500 acre state forest was affected by the tornado. Approximately 66% of the impacted area was damaged heavily where close to 100% of the trees were destroyed. Access to most of the forest was effectively obliterated creating significant public safety issues. Plans are, using FEMA assistance to remove down trees, hazard and hanger trees from forest roads and recreational trails. Brimfield State Forest was recently draft zoned Reserve (see above) and although the zoning is not final, much of the tornado damaged forest will most likely remain as is. There are also plans to study the imme-
diate ecological effects of the tornado and the subsequent long term successional trends in the tornado area.

**Massachusetts Forestry Legislative updates**

Of the bills that we are watching only House Bill 3438, which strengthens the Article 97 protections for land preserved for a natural resource purpose has made it out of committee and onto the floor of the House, but it was immediately sent back to the House Ways and Means Committee, where is still sits.

Senate 1508, which improves the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) program is scheduled for a hearing before the Revenue Committee on September 15 as is Senate 1437, which makes some corrective changes in the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B programs are the only bills to be heard in September. Only one bill is scheduled for October.

With the focus of the Legislature on the Casino Bill, there will probably be little movement on any of the forestry bills for the next month or so.

**Upcoming Workshop From Massachusetts Division of Fish & Wildlife**

**Saturday, October 29, 6:30 p.m. Southwick WMA, Southwick**

Walk through portions of a 50-acre site with some remnant sandplain grassland and meadow habitat adjacent to overgrown pasture lands that will be reclaimed into managed shrubland habitat to support native shrubland birds in need of conservation.

**Upcoming Workshops From Massachusetts DCR**

Registration information for DCR’s annual “Tree Steward Training Program” and a new one day “Urban Soils Seminar” are now available on our web site at http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/urban/urbanBranch.htm. Once again the training will take place at the beautiful Harvard Forest facilities in Petersham.

The two day Tree Steward Training on October 28th and 29th provides foundational instruction in tree physiology, tree care, and other urban and community forestry issues with the aim of developing better tree stewardship in Massachusetts communities of all sizes. Speakers include urban and community forestry professionals from the USDA Forest Service, green industries, and the Massachusetts Urban Forestry Program. The audience for this training includes Tree Wardens, Tree Committee Members, Conservation Agents, Other Municipal Decision Makers and anyone else interested in community trees and forests. Please note that the agenda for the two day event has not yet been finalized, but I urge you to consider registering now. I will post the final agenda as soon as possible.

**Special One Day Seminar on Soils:** This year, we will be offering a third, stand alone day on Thursday, October 27th also at the Harvard Forest that will be an intensive review of soil science and soil management with a focus on urban soils management. Again, this third day will be a separate registration from the two day Tree Steward training, but those who plan to attend the two day event should consider registering for this day if interested. The agenda for this one day event has been posted to the web site. **Please note that lodging at the Harvard Forest will not be provided on Thursday night.**

Please consider taking advantage of these course offerings and register soon. ISA and MCA credits may be offered but that has not yet been finalized.

**Please Help Massachusetts SAF**

**The state chapter may be ending!**

As of January 1, 2012, the Massachusetts Chapter of SAF may become a “non-functioning” body of SAF. The Massachusetts Chapter has been functioning for the past year with a vacant Vice-Chair seat. The current Chair, Chris Pryor, will be stepping down from his position as of December 31, 2011, a position he has held for two terms. In the meantime, no individuals have stepped forward to offer to run for election to fill the vacancies. Chris plans to call a meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter some time in October, 2011 to discuss the future of the Massachusetts SAF Chapter. In the meantime, there is still opportunity for individuals to consider serving. Interested parties should contact Chris Pryor at 978-952-6856 X 107.

Massachusetts SAF Chapter Update – Provided by Chris Pryor, Chair and Dana Hachigian, Massachusetts Rep.
On June 10, about 30 CTSAF members attended a summer meeting at the Yale Meyers research forest in Ashford CT. The morning program consisted of 3 presentations by members of the Yale School Forests community.

1. Nathan Rutenbeck, Alex Barret and Angela Orthemeyer presented various aspects of Yale’s Quiet Corner Initiative, a program to encourage landowner neighbors of the Yale Meyers forest to practice good forestry. CTSAF members provided feedback and ideas for the project moving forward.

2. Kevin Barrett presented his ongoing research on the effects of type and location of timber harvest on deer browsing activity. This included a visit to his experimental plot in the Yale Meyers forest.

3. Dr. Mark Ashton presented recent work that his lab has been doing on oak regeneration across topographical gradients. He led members on a visit to a recent regeneration cutting in the Yale Meyers forest.

During the business meeting, a motion was made and carried to accept the current slate of chapter officers: Chair Deborah Spalding, vice chair Michael Bartlett and secretary/treasurer Alex Barrett.

Alex Barrett reviewed the budget, and a motion was made and carried to allocate the following donations:

1. $400 to the CT Forest Forum
2. $100 to the Environthon
3. $100 to the Log A Load Campaign

In the afternoon session members visited and were given a tour of Hull Forest Products of Pomfret CT. Mike Bartlett, Bill Hull and Chris Dasadei led three groups through the mill which was in full operation at the time. Members got to see up close Hull’s milling process, plank flooring operations, and other innovative and high tech processes.

News from the Northeastern Loggers’ Association
Bangor, Maine – The Northeastern Loggers’ Association (NELA) recently honored Joan Nichols of Lebanon, CT as the recipient of its 2010 Outstanding Leadership in Industry Award. NELA President Jeff Durst presented the award at the Annual Loggers’ Banquet in Bangor, ME in a ceremony attended by over 200 members of the Northeast’s forest products industry.

Joan, an SAF member, organized and leads the CT Professional Timber Producers Association (TIMPRO). Under Joan’s leadership the organization has grown to over 150 members and has become the organization representing the forest industry in Connecticut. She has been active in forest management and the forest industry since the early 80’s, knows the industry, understands private forestland ownership, and has a firm handle on the history that has brought us to where we are today. Fortunately for the entire forestry community, Joan is always willing to share her knowledge and experience, and contribute ‘sweat equity’ whenever and wherever it might be needed.
Biomass in the Legislature
The Vermont Legislature convened a committee to look at harvesting biomass. There has been a draft of standards prepared which has received some comments, including some from Your Green Mountain Division Executive Committee. In a quick search of the website listing comments, I did not find the GMD’s comments listed. We will continue to watch this and inform the membership. A final draft is due this fall and a report to the Legislature in January. If anyone wants our comments, contact me.

Upcoming Meetings
The GMD is co-sponsoring a summer/fall meeting with the Green Mountain National Forest October 14th about harvests and silviculture on the GMNF. Information can be seen at http://www.gwriters.com/saf/uc.html

Forest Conditions in Southern Vermont Following Tropical Storm Irene
Sam Schneski: Chair, Green Mountain Division As many of you know Vermont was hit very hard by Tropical Storm Irene. It’s hard to think about forestry and forest management when lives have been lost, houses have been washed away, roads have been destroyed, and bridges that were once mainstays are nowhere to be seen.

That being said, forest management operations have indeed been severely affected at least for the short term. Besides wet ground that in most cases can’t or shouldn’t be operated on, a main issue is access. The flooding wreaked havoc on almost any channel that carried water, be it the West or Deerfield Rivers or Whetsone or Keets Brooks. Most woodland actually fared well considering the storm and its potential. Luckily wind was not a big issue. If we had received the forecasted winds after or during the rain event(s) I have a strong feeling we’d be facing a catastrophe larger than the hurricane of 1938.

Speaking of the ’38 hurricane, I was able to travel over route 9 (a major east/west road in Southern Vermont) from Brattleboro to Bennington this weekend for the first time since the storm. Ever since I was a kid I noticed the mark on the corner of the police station at the junction of route 9 and route 100 in Wilmington. The mark is a dashed line with the words “-Flood Level 1938-” painted on the siding indicating the high water mark for that event. I always imagined how amazing it would be to have water that high in downtown Wilmington. The line is roughly 5 feet off the ground. The other day I saw a new line a foot higher on the wall which read “-Flood Level 2011-”.

Some things I am recommending to landowners, foresters, and loggers are to inventory property damage and prioritize what to fix first, that is, what will potentially pose dangerous or unsafe conditions. Next, address any water quality issues that might have developed as a result of the storm, i.e. roads washing into streams, washed waterbars, blown out culverts, bridges etc. The Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMPs) are intended and designed to prevent mud, petroleum products and woody debris (logging slash) from entering the waters of the state. They are proven methods for loggers and landowners to follow for maintaining water quality and minimizing erosion.

Finally, remain as flexible as possible with regard to treatment timing and access issues. It’s not worth adversely impacting the woodlands you manage to “get the wood out/get the job done” if it is going to result in long-term damage and/or expensive repairs. Landowners who own property enrolled in Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA) can file forest management plan amendments when necessary. Please contact your county forester with questions regarding this.

As we continue with clean up efforts, we remain humbled at what nature can do in an afternoon and what people can do for their neighbors. Thanks to all who have participated and continue to participate in clean up and rebuilding efforts.

For more information on Irene and forestry go to the Forests and Parks web site www.vtfpr.org.

Collins, Leahy Win Exemptions to Highway Load Limits in Spending Measure
By Nathan Hurst, CQ Staff
Two northern New England senators secured exemptions in a transportation spending bill that would allow Vermont and Maine to bypass federal regulations barring heavy-load tractor trailers from interstate highways.

The provision, supported by Sens. Patrick J. Leahy.

(Continued on page 15)
Putnam Blodgett Named 2011 NE Region Outstanding Tree Farmer of The Year.

One of the 4 best Tree Farms in the US, Blodgett owns 670 acres near Lyme, NH. Besides the forest being improved by many forest management activities, it is also the home of the Challenge Wilderness Camp, a summer camp for boys. Based on the ideals of the Outward Bound program, Blodgett began the camp with an emphasis on his own interests in wood crafting, camping, canoeing and backpacking. Now managed by a separate organization, the camp continues under a lease arrangement to use the property.

With the assistance of consulting forester Paul Harwood the forest is managed for a mix of recreational, wildlife and forest harvesting activities. Blodgett does most of the work himself, with more than 90% of the timber for his home harvested on site and a supply of firewood produced each year. Also owning a Tree Farm in Vermont, Blodgett has been involved in leadership roles in both VT and NH woodland associations. Besides tirelessly advocating on local and state issues, he has traveled to Washington, DC to speak for Tree Farmers on the national level. Congratulations “Put” Blodgett!

Extension funding woes are causing a review of state wide operations. The legislature reduced funding to UNH by 50%, $32.5 million, and some of the County governments have reduced funding as well. The Strafford County office was closed in June after the County eliminated funding. County forester Deborah Goard has found employment in the private sector. Sullivan County is also temporarily without a forester as Chuck Hersey left on September 9 for a job on the West Coast. In Rockingham County, Land Conservation Specialist Phil Auger retired August 31, attracted by an early retirement package offered by the University to lower their costs. Cooperative Extension has created a committee to deal with the hiring freeze, budget changes and review functions and will be presenting a report in November.

Rhode Island - No News

If you would like a paper copy of the News Quarterly
E-mail us at maggieandscott@myfairpoint.net
Or call 802-723-5010

Don’t Miss the 2012 NESAF Winter Meeting

It will be held April 4-6, 2012
At UMass, Amherst

More details to come
Visit www.nesaf.org shortly
It’s Grant Time again!

Have a great project, and you could use some financial help?

The deadline for Grants is December 1st

For Grant information contact; Mel Harder mel.harder@snet.net or visit our website www.nesaf.org

Remember Grants have to come from the State Societies.

A visit to the FERDA plots at Paul Smith’s Visitor center appreciated seeing "so many students so actively involved and concerned with the future of the forest industry." At a time when many members of SAF are concerned about the upcoming societal changes, it is refreshing and encouraging to witness students leaving positive impressions on their communities and compatriots.

With another productive student conclave accomplished, the University of Maine’s SAF student chapter looks forward to hosting the 3rd annual event next year, in the fall of 2012. As Jeff Hutchins, NESAF Membership Chair, explains: "With plans already in the works for next year’s conclave, the opportunities for this event seem limitless."

Please join us next year in Maine – as all students from this year’s conclave will attest, you will have a terrific time!

VT News (Continued from page 13)

D-Vt., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, is designed to divert heavy logging trucks from local roads. The policy rider was included in a fiscal 2012 spending bill approved Tuesday by the Senate Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and slated for action by the full committee on Wednesday. Both senators serve on the subcommittee.

In 2009, Collins attached to an omnibus spending measure language establishing a pilot program allowing truckers to haul loads of up to 100,000 pounds on Maine and Vermont interstate highways. That is 20,000 pounds more than currently allowed. The pilot program was extended last year, and the policy rider included in the fiscal 2012 spending bill would make the exemption permanent.

Twenty-eight states already have various exemptions from the weight restrictions, as a result of tolling and grandfather clauses, including New Hampshire, which allows up to 100,000-pound trucks with a permit. Some states offer other more specific exemptions â€” such as Louisiana, where truckers hauling sugar cane get a pass for 100,000-pound loads.

Without the exemption, truckers in Maine are restricted to 80,000 pounds on Interstate highways other than a 167-mile tolled portion of the Maine Turnpike, which is part of Interstate 95. Both Leahy and Collins trumpeted the provisions as a key to keeping heavy truck traffic off state and local byways which commonly are used to circumvent the interstate restrictions.

Collins is an original cosponsor of industry-backed legislation (S 747) that would raise the truck-weight limit on interstate highways nationally to 100,000 pounds. So far, neither that bill nor a companion House measure (HR 763), sponsored by Rep. Michael H. Michaud, D-Maine, has been taken up in committee. The bill is supported by such industry groups as the Coalition for Transportation Productivity.

Meanwhile, safety advocates, such as the Truck Safety Coalition, lambasted the policy rider, saying it would put unneeded additional stress on already worn bridges and roads, many in need of additional repairs due to flooding across northern New England caused by Hurricane Irene.

Shop at the SAF Store!
Chair Report: Ed O’Leary
It has now been one month since tropical storm Irene visited New England, and Vermont continues to deal with its aftermath. It is currently estimated that repairs to just the state highway system could reach $500 million. This estimate does not include repairs to town roads, or personal property damage. The Green Mountain National Forest was actually closed to the public initially. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (where I work) has experienced extensive damage to its state forest highway system, on top of damage it already received as a result of significant spring flooding, which actually prevented six of Vermont’s State Parks situated on the shore of Lake Champlain to not open until the Fourth of July weekend, due to exceptionally high water. Assessment of recreation trails damage has been severely hampered, as simply getting to the trails has been impeded by the damaged road system which provides access to these trails in places, and access to trails is still impossible in places. The Waterbury State Office Complex, which once housed over 1500 state employees (including myself), was so severely damaged by the flood water that it has been closed and declared a hazardous site. It could be as long as 12 months before it is once again usable. A few buildings within the complex were damaged beyond repair. Cost estimates for this restoration have been reported to be $20 million. Due to the fact that this facility is located upon the Winooski River floodplain, discussions are currently taking place to determine whether rehabilitating the facility would be economically and ecologically sound.

Though devastation from the storm was extensive, and many people lost their homes and a few tragically lost their lives, Vermont’s forests withstood the event remarkably well. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation has created a webpage designed to explain to the public the impact that the storm did have on Vermont’s forests. It can be found at http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/StormResources.cfm.

Remarkably wind was not the culprit, but rain. In

(Continued on page 17)

Council Report
George Frame, District VI
603-224-9945
The full SAF Council met in early June and won’t meet again until just before the Convention at the end of October. During this summer ‘break’ there have been multiple conference calls and one meeting of the Strategic Planning committee. Topics recently discussed and of great importance to the membership are the tiered dues structure, the future look of SAF and the possible sale of the Bethesda property.

The dues changes should be hitting your mailboxes soon and will provide you with a range of alternative membership levels covering a cost spectrum from $95 per year to over $250 per year. You decide what you want from the organization and pay accordingly. Each level supports a different set of services which will be explained in full the next time you get your renewal notice.

The future look of SAF is a topic currently being discussed in The Forestry Source and, in my opinion, is the most important topic talked about since the Voluntary Organizational Structure task force report or the Future of Forestry in New England report. Beginning in July with Tom Straka’s et al article of Elite vs Broad membership, the letters and articles have flooded into the SAF headquarters. Tom is a Council representative from South Carolina who serves with me on the Strategic Planning committee. He is bringing the topic to the public forum to prepare the organization for some thoughtful discussion that will lead us to a decision on which path to follow into the future. If you haven’t kept up with the articles and letters you should find some back copies for July, August, and September and see what it’s all about.

A third topic which isn’t getting much press because it is a developing, ever-changing issue is the sale of SAF’s Bethesda property. Our Executive Vice-President and a committee of past SAF Presidents have been involved with complex negotiations concerning a sale of the property. Issues include protecting the historic nature of the SAF headquarters building, pleasing the County historic preservation committee, meeting an extremely convoluted set of

(Continued on page 17)
Tiered Dues Structure Approved

As announced earlier this summer, the SAF Council approved a tiered dues structure at its June 2011 meeting in response to the concerns of the membership and, especially, the House of Society Delegates. The Council believes a tiered approach will allow members to belong to SAF at a price and service level that suits their individual needs.

Beginning with the 2012 calendar year, SAF will be implementing the tiered dues options. Selecting a level does not change one’s "member type," but rather allows members to choose the level of services they would like. As the program grows, new and improved services will be added to the various levels.

When people join or reinstate their membership they too will be able to select their service level. Updated brochures and web pages will be available before the end of September.

NESAF Appoints New Membership Chair

In June 2011, after numerous years of service to our organization, Peter L. Greeno resigned as NESAF’s Membership Chair. Peter’s contributions to the Society are many, and he will be greatly missed. Replacing him is Jeffrey D. Hutchins, a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Jeffrey has been an active member of SAF since he joined as a student in 2007. Jeffrey now lives in Southern New Hampshire and currently works for Bay State Forestry Service. He is looking forward to continuing the many membership programs that Peter worked to establish.

Jeffrey can be contacted regarding membership by phone: (508) 954 - 2760 or email: jeffrey.d.hutchins@gmail.com
University Press of New England

*Bark A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast*
By Michael Wojtech

Many people know how to identify trees by their leaves, but what about when those leaves have fallen or are out of reach? With detailed information and illustrations covering each phase of a tree’s lifecycle, this indispensable guidebook explains how to identify trees by their bark alone.

Chapters on the structure and ecology of tree bark, descriptions of bark appearance, an easy-to-use identification key, and supplemental information on non-bark characteristics—all enhanced by over 450 photographs, illustrations, and maps—will show you how to distinguish the textures, shapes, and colors of bark to recognize various tree species, and also understand why these traits evolved.

Whether you’re a professional naturalist or a parent leading a family hike, *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast* is your essential guide to the region’s 67 native and naturalized tree species.
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