Recent Patterns in Defoliation and Tree Mortality in Southern New England

News Quarterly science theme- Dr. Anthony D’Amato, theme editor

From maple leafcutters to forest tent caterpillars, this summer has provided plenty of opportunities to observe foliar damage and defoliation in hardwood forests across much of New England. Although defoliation events are a natural part of the dynamics of our forests, the introduced gypsy moth has represented a novel defoliator most notably causing widespread damage across southern New England in the early 1980s.

The past three years have witnessed the reemergence of broad-scale defoliation events by this insect, which in combination with drought have resulted in widespread oak mortality in several locations. This theme highlights monitoring and research efforts led by the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection program that document recent, regional patterns in gypsy moth activity and describe the mechanisms contributing to the greater severity of recent outbreaks, particularly in CT, MA, and RI.

(Article begins on page 5)
The News Quarterly is the official publication of the New England Society of American Foresters. It is published in January, April, June, and October, and is mailed from Berlin, NH under a non-profit organization bulk mail permit. Address all inquiries to Joseph P. Barsky, 890 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518 or nesafng@gmail.com

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Greetings from the Granite State! ~ Kevin Evans, NESAF Chair

Fall has arrived, the days are shorter, temperatures are better for working and the foliage abounds! Summer employees are back at school, hopefully full of stories and great learning experiences. Field season has turned into a rush to get all the things we need done before the snow comes. I had a college student work for me this summer, it was fun to hear her enthusiasm and energy as we completed our work every day. We really do have some great young people coming along in this profession to take over for us “gray hairs”.

As I write this I am at the SAF National Convention in Portland, Oregon. We talked a lot this week about community. I am a member of this society because I like belonging to this community of foresters - those that love land and trees as much as I do. It is always great to see old friends and meet new ones, connect with like-minded individuals and with people that share my passion for the science of forestry. The learning opportunities were great, alumni socials brought us together and it was great to see hundreds of students. It was a great experience to volunteer for the quiz bowl, and our eastern schools did very well. Thirty two teams competed this year; University of Vermont made it into the quarter finals and Paul Smith’s was in the final round, losing to Stephen F. Austin State University (in Texas). Congratulations to both schools.

This Falls Quarterly Theme: Defoliators and Recent Patterns of Oak Mortality in Southern New England. The theme is being led by Kevin Dodds and Mike Bohne from the USFS Forest Health Protection Unit and they'll be summarizing recent trends in defoliators in southern New England and the high levels of mortality being observed across the region. Seems like every time we turn around there is a new bug or invasive to look out for. Seems to me that being a member of SAF is becoming more important as you need to keep up with all that is going on.

It’s fun to see big trees here on the west coast, but I am looking forward to getting back and seeing those great fall colors of the east. I love this time of year in the woods, and though Portland is a very nice place, the big city is no place for this guy!

Enjoy the fall.

My best,
Kevin

Council Update ~ Si Balch, CF

Identify with your profession

A recent discussion about the breadth of the profession led to a conversation about how we identify ourselves. How do you introduce yourself? Do you first tell them about your job?

Think of other professions: lawyer, architect, engineer. Most of those folk will first say their profession. It is a simple but meaningful shift to lead with your profession as a self identifier. “Hello, I am a forester”, or “Hello, I am a natural resource manager” or a similar version. Just those words peak people’s interest and leads to good conversations.

By identifying yourself with your profession you establish that you have skills and knowledge that are valuable, interesting and desirable. Choosing a profession in natural resources is a lifestyle choice that also allows you to make a living doing what you love. Own that, and show the world how good you are.
Greetings from Wanakena, New York. This is Mariann Johnston, and I am running for the SAF Board of Directors as Region 6 representative. One of the reasons I decided to throw my hat in this ring is because of my recent positive experience serving as New York (NYSAF) Chair. The New York membership welcomed me when we moved here in 2008, accepting me as Society Chair at a time when I was new to the state, and through positive support making that job not only easy, but enjoyable. One of the reasons I was open to serving NYSAF so soon after moving here was, in turn, because of my positive experience volunteering with the NESAF EC as website coordinator, when my family and I lived and worked in the Granite State. At that time, we were transitioning from our prior forestry careers in the northwest, and volunteering with NESAF provided a wonderful opportunity to engage with local professionals in our new home state.

The story could go on from there, about how I sought out NESAF because of the positive interactions I had with the Inland Empire SAF while living in the northwest, and so on back throughout my career. I guess the common thread is that I very much enjoy serving my profession as a member of SAF, largely because of the people who make up this organization. I’ve always felt welcomed and supported by SAF members and leaders regardless of where I have lived, and am very privileged to have met and served with so many SAF colleagues during my career.

Having lived and worked in the northeast for nearly 15 years now, I would be honored to represent and serve my New England and New York colleagues as Region 6 Board Member. I would greatly appreciate your support. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns or comments. And finally, thank you all for your time, energy, and continued support of SAF. Regardless of the outcome of this election, I look forward to continuing to serve you and our professional society for years to come.

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I am enthusiastic about growing and supporting the Society of American Foresters, a professional society that has provided so much guidance and support to me and countless others in the profession of forestry.

I have been engaged in the Society in various roles since I first joined as a Penn State student in the School of Forest Resources in the 1990’s. I served on the SAF board in my role as Chair of the SAF Committee on Forest Policy while also advancing the forest policy agenda of SAF and organizing special forest policy sessions at the National Convention. I have also served as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Forestry and Chaired the Private Forestry Working Group. I am committed to the values of SAF and this opportunity coincides with my interest in becoming more involved in SAF since my term on another board (American Forest Foundation) recently concluded.

The position is of interest to me because I can provide important service to SAF while also gaining important professional experience and networks. I am able to bring 6 years of experience serving on the Board of Trustees of the American Forest Foundation (AFF) to the Society of American Foresters, including working with stakeholders, policymakers, members, and other decision-makers to advance forestry agendas.

My vision for SAF is that it continues to be at the forefront of the forestry profession while expanding in inclusive and innovative ways. Thank you for your consideration. -Shorna Allred, Associate Professor, Dept. of Natural Resources, Center for Conservation Social Sciences, Cornell University.
Defoliation of hardwood forests in southern New England has been severe over the past three years. This defoliation, coupled with drought conditions, is now resulting in reports of widespread oak mortality in affected forests. These forests are recovering from a massive outbreak of gypsy moth, the largest defoliation event caused by the caterpillar since the early 1980s. The gypsy moth has been a pest of hardwoods in the United States since its introduction in 1869. It mostly feeds on oaks but defoliates many other species, including white pine, when populations get this large. Other defoliators have also been active locally, including forest tent caterpillar and winter moth.

Defoliation can be aesthetically displeasing to the public and a concern to private landowners. However, in terms of tree and forest health, trees are generally only mildly effected by a single year of defoliation. When defoliation occurs early in a season, as it does for gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillar, and winter moth, trees usually refoliate with a new flush of leaves allowing them to gather resources over the remaining growing season. When heavy defoliation occurs over consecutive years, trees become stressed, opening opportunities for secondary insects such as two-lined chestnut borer and diseases such as Armillaria root rot to become established and kill trees. Tree mortality can be especially high on poor sites.

Gypsy moth defoliation of this magnitude has been a rare event in New England since 1982 (figure 1). The rarity of gypsy moth outbreaks has been largely due to the emergence of the soil-borne gypsy moth fungal pathogen called *Entomophaga maimaiga*. The Japanese fungus was intentionally introduced into the United States by scientists in 1910 and 1911, then again in 1985 and 1986. These attempts to establish the fungus to control gypsy moth were considered failures, but miraculously the deadly fungus was found killing gypsy moth in Connecticut in 1989. The fungus is sensitive to environmental conditions – especially rainfall – and, until recently, has flourished during the wet New England springs, naturally suppressing gypsy moth populations by turning the late stage caterpillars into bags of fungal spores.

Unfortunately the wet springs dried up in 2015, leaving much of southern New England in severe drought. As a result, the fungus remained dormant in the soil and gypsy moth populations began to increase in size, leading to large outbreaks in 2016 and 2017. Much of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island experienced heavy defoliation which was visible via satellite data (figure 2).

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**Figure 1.** Acres with gypsy moth defoliation in southern New England (1977-2018) as reported through cooperative Forest Insect and Disease Detection Surveys. 2018 acres are an estimate and are expected to increase marginally.

(Article continues on next page)
Once defoliation becomes noticeable, it is generally too late to apply treatments to reduce gypsy moth damage. Forest Health experts monitor gypsy moth egg masses in the fall and winter to make management decisions for the following spring. Common treatments for large gypsy moth outbreaks include spraying with a bacterium called Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) or the naturally occurring nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) which is registered under the name Gypcheck.

Managers in New England expected the large gypsy moth outbreak in 2017 based on egg masses detected earlier in the fall, but decided against aerial spray programs, electing instead to wait and see if Mother Nature would assist with a wet spring and provide the conditions favorable for the return of Entomophaga maimaiga. That decision appears to have paid off in some areas. The region had above average rainfall in the spring of 2018, ending the drought. Furthermore, officials from all three states have reported thousands of fungal-infected gypsy moth larvae this summer and anticipate additional signs of a gypsy moth population collapse. While overall defoliation was down, there was still heavy defoliation scattered in some areas. Unfortunately, the repeated defoliation of some trees has led to widespread tree mortality over tens of thousands of acres in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Forest health officials in New England have learned a lot about population dynamics of gypsy moth over the past 100 years. Some tree mortality as a result of repeated defoliation by gypsy moth and other species of caterpillars is expected. However, outbreaks of gypsy moth rarely last more than three to four years as nature usually returns the balance between host tree and caterpillar.

Figure 2. 2016 and 2017 forest disturbances caused mostly by gypsy moth defoliation as seen through the Forest Health Assessment and Applied Sciences Team’s Operational Remote Sensing Program. The program uses a library of Landsat and Sentinel-2 satellite imagery to compare greenness and other forest characteristics between one or two analysis years and several baseline years.
The New England Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont ~ March 27-29, 2019.

Forests and Forestry: Changing, Adapting, Growing will feature workshops and discussions on strategies for protecting forest landscapes, thoughtful approaches to adaptive management and technology to monitor and share data and information.

The DoubleTree is conveniently located on Williston Road within sight of the UVM Campus and close to I-89 and the Burlington International Airport. It is a short drive or bus ride to shopping, fine eateries, craft breweries and Lake Champlain!

Please watch the NESAF website for more information, or contact Ginger Anderson at ginger.anderson@vermont.gov. We are actively seeking vendors and sponsors as well as wicked cool raffle items!

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... extremely helpful and innovative ... helped us become more efficient, and their staff has been responsive ... the system is easy to use, affordable, and runs on an iPhone that can be used for other functions ... without a doubt the most useful forestry tool I own—saving time and making my work fun again ... until I can’t work in the wood, my work continues. I work both in the woods and in the office ... easy and intuitive ... set-up on my iPad Mini is great ... cruise program is unbeatable ... time spent preparing reports has dropped dramatically ... should have made the switch years ago ... Excel spreadsheet reports proven to be a valuable and necessary tool in my business as a consultant ... fast reliable results, with little time in terms of cruise setup ... makes setup and data collection a breeze ...

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Maine Division News ~ Anthony Filauro

Summer Field Tours

Summer field tours offer opportunities for SAF members to interact with their peers, become better informed of forestry issues and receive continuing education credits toward license renewal. MESAF members are encouraged to take advantage of the field tours that MESAF offers each year.

The following tours were offered in 2018.

In June, a tour to Nautilus Island (14 attended) focused on issues of forest management on offshore islands and problems caused by invasive plant species. Extensive blowdown is a problem on the island due to shallow soils and delayed harvest operations.

In July, a tour to Chadbourne Tree Farms in Bethel, ME (43 attended) focused on white pine regeneration, vegetation control, thinning practices and forest health.

In August, MESAF cosponsored a tour to the Wicopy Tree Farm owned by Bob Seymour and Jessica Leahy. Many subject areas were discussed and results of recent harvest operations were viewed.

In September, a tour to Ashland, ME (36 attended) focused on the management of American beech, the selective application of herbicides to control vegetation and the employment of silvicultural prescriptions to deal with beech bark disease.

Photos from the tours and a summary of forestry information distributed during the Wicopy Tree Farm tour is available at the MESAF website www.mesaf.org. Click on “2018 Field Tours” and scroll down the page.

Invasive Beetles

This spring the emerald ash borer (EAB) officially arrived in Maine. Entry occurred in the northeast section of the state, in the town of Madawaska. The extended range of the beetle is yet unknown; however its spread to other parts of Maine is a concern. Spread of the beetle may not be rapid if quarantine restrictions are put into place and adhered to by the logging industry and local citizens. In August, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry placed emergency restrictions on the movement of firewood and other wood products in the towns of Grand Isle, Frenchville and Madawaska. In September a second entry of EAB was documented in western Maine. This occurrence significantly changes the impact this beetle will have on Maine’s forest resources and the spread of EAB in Maine.

In August, the Maine Forest Service issued an information bulletin entitled, “Emerald Ash Borer - Guidance for Maine Forest Managers”. The bulletin can be viewed at the MFS website, www.maineforestservice.gov.

ALB: Another beetle of concern is the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). This beetle has not been found in Maine; however it is present in Massachusetts. The movement of firewood and other wood products is the likely means for introduction of this beetle into Maine and is a major concern to Maine forestland owners.

Biomass

Future markets for biomass are uncertain at the present time. Biomass plants in Enfield and Jonesboro have not operated since March and prospects for their future operation are uncertain. Biomass plants in Ashland and Fort Fairfield may be the only other option in northern Maine; however as of this writing, the continued operation of these two facilities is uncertain going into the fall season.

Matching biomass facilities with other businesses that could use the heat or electricity produced at biomass plants has the potential to improve the economic outlook for the biomass industry and their partnering businesses. To make this a reality, cooperation is needed from the Maine Public Utilities Commission and financial investment is needed through Opportunity Zones proposed by Governor LePage. MESAF members are encouraged to contact their state representative and senator to ask for their support for biomass facilities.

Ticks Under the Microscope

The University of Maine was recently awarded a USDA grant of $1.17 million to develop practices to protect forestry workers from tick borne diseases. This is a significant study as the number of tick borne diseases continues to increase in Maine and tick populations continue to expand. The work is being led by Dr. Carly Sponarski in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology and Dr. Allison Gardner in the School of Biology and Ecology. Inquiries about this work can be addressed to the project leaders.
99th Annual NESAF Winter Meeting

Mark your calendars now for the 2019 Winter meeting to be hosted by the Green Mountain Division in Burlington, Vermont at the Doubletree from March 27 through March 29.

Forest Pests are Active

Emerald ash borer has now been confirmed in Stamford in Bennington County even as it expands in central VT. Vermont foresters can keep up with the latest at the website https://vtinvasives.org which has links to up-to-date public information and management recommendations on EAB.

Southern Vermont is also seeing an eruption of maple leaf cutter. Forest Health staff are assessing the affected areas. Aerial survey reports indicate that forest tent caterpillar-affected acres are up, but the severity of defoliation from this pest is somewhat diminished. This is cold comfort to landowners who have seen tree mortality on sites that have endured multiple defoliations, often coupled with drought.

FPR Retirements

Steve Sinclair, longtime Director of Forests for Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation retired as of September 1. Bill Guenther, long-time Windham County Forester retired at the end of September. While they were not SAF members, they worked closely with all foresters in the state and county, respectively.

Forest Licensing in Vermont

The very first renewal for professional forester licensing is now due! Please contact the VT Office of Professional Licensing www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/ if you have not renewed by September 30, AND you intend to keep your license. If you are concerned about keeping up with the required recertification credits stay in touch online with NESAF www.nesaf.org/, VT FP www.fpr.vermont.gov, UVM Extension and Vermont www.uvm.edu/extension and Woodlands Association www.vermontwoodlands.org for workshop opportunities. Please pass on other eligible workshops or ideas for learning opportunities that you would like. As we transition from being “grandfathered” to needing to earn credits to qualify for licenses, we need to support and publicize educational events.

Green Mountain Division SAF Summer Meeting

The GMDSAF welcomed nearly 70 member and non-member participants to their summer meeting held in Waterbury on September 14. Students and instructors from the University of Vermont and Green Mountain College were invited to hear morning speakers on white pine health, moose research in VT, and research through UVM on forest adaptation strategies for Vermont. The group took a short trip in afternoon to nearby Mount Mansfield State Forest where they discussed management of northern hardwood stands which have a significant ash component.

Photo of field session. Photo courtesy of Gary Salmon.
Honored

The SAF National Board of Directors has selected Geoff Jones as the District 6 Presidential Field Forester. Recipients are “foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to the application of forestry on the ground using sound, scientific methods and adaptive management strategies”. Geoff has also received a number of other diverse honors including the NESAF Austin Cary Practicing Professional Awards and the Northern Loggers Association Outstanding Management of Resources Award.

Research

The Granite State Division of SAF obtained a $4500 grant from the SAF National Foresters’ Fund to conduct a research project on land-use change in New Hampshire from 1996 to 2018. The New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy contributed $500 to the project and GSD added $1000 for a total of $6000. The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands wrote a strong letter of support which helped win the grant.

The project involves the application of geospatial analysis combining Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing technology with the following four primary objectives:

- Determine the amount of forestland converted to “higher and best uses” from 1996 - present.
- Determine the amount of bare land that has reverted to forest from 1996 - present.
- Determine the net change in forested area in the State of New Hampshire from 1996 - present.
- Identify geographic (regional) trends in the change in forested area an attempt to identify their causes.

All work is being conducted by researchers at the University of New Hampshire, College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, Durham, NH. The project is led by Dr. Russell G. Congalton, Professor of Remote Sensing and GIS and Director of the Basic and Applied Spatial Analysis Lab (BASAL) and a PhD graduate student, Ms. Heather Grybas. Dr. Andrew F. Howard, the Science and Technology Chairperson for GSD, is the project manager. The findings from the study will be presented at the GSD Annual Meeting in February of 2019 and submitted for publication in a refereed scientific journal.

Forest Health

New discoveries of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Center Tuftonboro and Moultonborough have led officials to consider loosening the quarantine on the movement of ash within the State and into Vermont and Massachusetts. EAB is now found in 54 of the 221 towns and 7 of the 10 counties in NH. Your comments about eliminating the EAB quarantine may be sent by email: piera.siegert@agr.nh.gov or by mail: Div. Plant Industry, NH Dept. Agriculture, Markets & Food, 29 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH 03301.

Legislation

NH lawmakers recently voted to overturn our Governor’s veto of the “Biomass Bill”. SB365 requires utilities to purchase a portion of their electricity from wood chip burning plants. Without this support, many of these facilities would not be viable. The subsequent loss of this low grade market would have had far reaching negative repercussions that would be felt throughout the forest products industry.
Connecticut Chapter News ~ Mel Harder

CTSAF Summer Field Meeting

60+ CTSAF members, other professionals and students attended the CTSAF Summer Field Meeting held July 26, 2018 and hosted by CTSAF member and consulting forester Jim Gillespie at his tree farm in Sharon CT.

To start the day guest speakers addressed a number of current topics including forest songbirds, the Young Forest Initiative program, and NEC projects. Jim gave a brief history of the the property, silvicultural practices and NRCS funding. His management objectives are wildlife habitat, quality timber, site protection and invasive control.

Jim then led the group on a tour of the tree farm’s 96 aces of 3-24 year old mixed hardwood clearcuts. Other presenters were Dr. Mark Ashton (YALE), and Eileen Fielding & Todd Bobowick (NRCS). Along the way Dr. Ashton and others shared observations, initiating discussions regarding observed regeneration, stand growth and condition, wildlife and soils.

At the conclusion of the field tour, lunch was provided, during which CTSAF chair Larry Rousseau ran a short business meeting and distributed CEU certificates (1.5 CT CEU’s and 4.5 SAF CFE’s).

Forested Wetland Soils Workshop

Over the course three days in mid August about 150 forest practitioners, soil scientists, inland wetland agency members and other professionals participated in day long lab and field workshops held at the University of Connecticut campus in Storrs, and sponsored by CTDEEP, USDA & Society of Soil Scientist of Southern New England. Doug Emmerthal of the CTDEEP led the opening session dealing with the CT Forest Practices Act, the CT Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act, and case law effecting activity in or near wetland soils.

The meeting broke out for lab sessions which covered online lidar and aerial imagery, the Web Soil Survey, and introduction to soils. The afternoon field sessions visited an area of UCONN forestland under active management. CTSAF member Tom Worthley led a session at an outdoor classroom describing current forest practices and management objectives, before a walking tour of the site. Along the way the group stopped at several deep test pits to observe historic and current soil profiles, and inspected active and possible stream crossings. At the conclusion of the field session a wrap-up session was held and CEU certificates handed out.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program Forester Hired

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) has hired Pat MacMeekin as a forestry consultant to work in Rhode Island in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - Division of Fish and Wildlife (RIDFW) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Pat will be working to implement sustainable young forest management practices to benefit a variety of at-risk wildlife on private lands as part of WMI’s Young Forest Initiative, a project funded by USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partners Program (RCPP).

By way of introduction, Pat was formerly the Community Wildfire Forester for the West Oregon District, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2012. Additionally, he has over five years of experience in forestry at the professional level, including three years implementing private landowner assistance forest management programs.

In his former work, Pat was responsible for wildland fire fuels mitigation projects in western Oregon. Additionally, Pat worked closely with NRCS to implement EQIP projects. The local NRCS priorities in his area were white oak habitat restoration projects in the Willamette Valley, and pre-commercial and commercial thinning projects to increase the quality of forest products by manipulating forest stand density and structure. For these projects, Pat scheduled site visits with landowners to evaluate their property and take forest measurements. He developed conservation plans to provide to NRCS staff and the landowner and made technical recommendations on how to best meet the goals and objectives of the landowners and the EQIP program.

Pat will work directly with RIDEM Wildlife and Forestry staff, NRCS and Wildlife Management Institute specialists to identify private landowners for involvement with forest planning and wildlife habitat management treatments to create, enhance and maintain critical young forest habitats required by New England cottontail, American woodcock and over 50 other species of wildlife. Work will involve close collaboration with RIDEM and NRCS and utilize funds available through RCPP, Working Lands for Wildlife, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and general Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP).

For more information on the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program visit https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/, and for more information on the Young Forest Initiative please visit https://youngforest.org/. Pat can be reached by calling 401-822-8851 or email at pat.macmeekin@ri.usda.gov.

Envirothon

The 2018 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon competition began July 22 on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. More than 250 high school students traveled to the Idaho State University campus from across the United States, Canada and China for the week-long competition. Students tested their knowledge of soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a special topic, through written tests and oral presentations.

This year’s winner was from Esopus, NY. Teams from Maine (6th) and RI (9th) finished in the top ten of the schools that participated.

The Envirothon competition began in 1979, when the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts created an “Environmental Olympics” competition. Conservation districts throughout the country have supported Envirothon since its inception to encourage high school students to pursue environmental, conservation and natural resource-related fields.

For more information on Envirothon, contact Paul Dolan at 401-500-0399 or rircd2283@gmail.com or for the Envirothon Coordinator in your state at https://www.envirothon.org/local-programs/state-provincial-representatives.
The benefits of sustainable forest management practices include better habitat for wildlife, the protection of public drinking water supplies, making forests more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and the creation of sustainable jobs within rural communities. Importantly, each acre of forest removes one to two tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Recognizing the benefits a well-managed forest can have on local communities, regional areas, and throughout the Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration increased funding for the Working Forest Initiative from $500,000 in Fiscal Year 2018 to $750,000 in Fiscal Year 2019. To reach the 500,000 acre milestone, the DCR has funded nearly 2,000 forest plans and added approximately 200,000 acres into the Forest Stewardship Program, which connects landowners with local foresters to implement plans and meet shared goals.

By participating, private landowners will develop a ten year forest management plan, or a Forest Stewardship Plan, based on goals for the property. The Forest Stewardship Plan documents options and best management practices that will lead to a productive and healthy forest for the next generation. Soil and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, timber and other wood products, as well as, outdoor recreation are among the many factors taken into account when developing the Forest Stewardship Plan. The plan also recommends actions that will protect or increase the environmental values of the forest, while providing social or economic benefits.

“Massachusetts has wonderful natural resources and the proper, sustainable management of our forest by professional foresters working with landowners and state agencies will assure that current forestry will help to assure that trees will be here for future generations,” said State Senator Anne Gobi (D - Spencer). “Our forests provide a plethora of benefits from conservation of soil, air, and water to providing habitat for flora, fauna and many species of birds and wildlife.” Good forestry management practices also support over 4,000 sustainable jobs in rural communities due to:

- The hiring of professional foresters;
- The harvesting of renewable forest products; and,
- The processing of wood at facilities, such as sawmills and wood manufacturing businesses.

Currently, there are thousands of private forest landowners who collectively own approximately two thirds of Massachusetts’ forest lands. The private landowners serve as the primary caretakers of some of the Commonwealth’s most precious and dynamic natural resources, and by working together, future generations will benefit from today’s forest management practices.
The announcement of this awesome award comes on a year of definitive anniversaries for me:

- 2018 is the 25th anniversary of the Guide to Logging Aesthetics,
- the 50th anniversary of the Churchill River trip,
- And it is a year I leap into my 7th decade (how strange to be 70).

Three mentors come to mind: John C. Calhoun, a forester from Gilsum, the town I grew up in, Sarge Goodhue, who I worked with the first 5 years at SPNHF, and John O’Brien, an extraordinary individual with whom I share roots that go back to my early childhood.

I’ve known NH forester John O’Brien for over 30 years. His aunt and cousins lived on a hill behind my house, in the small town of Gilsum, where I grew up. His uncle Donald Ballou was my school bus driver, the road agent and a childhood friend of my father’s.

Over the years, our paths have crossed many times. The first SPNHF timber sale that I was responsible for took place on the Peirce Reservation in Stoddard, over on the Windsor side. One of the challenges in conducting the sale was to upgrade a mile and a half of class VI road.

The late Bruce Hovland, my supervisor at SPNHF, suggested that I contact him to see if he could help us out. Bruce said John was the “premier field forester” who could build a road anywhere. He also suggested that if we were lucky enough to hire him, that I should study his every move, so that I could be the SPNHF’s “John O’Brien”. That was in the summer of 1981.

Fortunately for me, John agreed and the foundation for not only a successful timber sale, but my forestry career was laid. Listed below is a list of highlights on how our personal and professional lives have crisscrossed:

- We both graduated from Keene High School in the early/mid 1960’s (he was 4+/4- years ahead of me),
- We both played football at KHS, and we both received the coveted defensive player of the year award,
- We both attended the UNH-TSAS 2-year forestry program in the early years and went on to get bachelor degrees (he his masters),
- We both served in Vietnam,
- We both resumed our higher education on the G.I. Bill,
- We both had prostate cancer (agent orange related)... and had successful surgery (cancer free 10+ years out... knock on wood),
- We were both recipients of the NH Forester of the Year,
- We were both recipients of Austin Carey Award,
- AND now we are both recipients of the SAF Presidential Field Forester Award from District VI. John was the first NH recipient, Nory Parr was the second, and I am the third.
- We both received/will be receiving the award in Portland, Oregon!!!!!

This list is an extraordinary example of serendipitous synchronicity... two guys who grew in small rural towns surrounding Keene, NH, during the 1950’s and ’60’s, and had the same passion for FIELD forestry, loved the great outdoors, and had a desire to make the profession better!

In 2002, I had the pleasure of nominating another mentor, John Calhoun for the New Hampshire Outstanding Forester Award. A few excerpts of my nomination letter follow:

“...Protecting forest and agricultural lands has been a cornerstone of John’s professional concerns over the years. In addition to helping his clients protect their forestlands through conservation easements and gifts of land to the Forest Society, John has worked to provide markets for low-grade wood, giving incentives for good forest management, and by helping to provide economic opportunities to remove low-grade wood through better markets.

His vision and pioneering efforts in the 1970’s to try to bring biomass energy facilities to Cheshire County are well documented. John’s innovative efforts were over a decade ahead of the current biomass markets that became established in the mid 1980’s. Unfortunately his efforts were sabotaged by the low value of oil, not because of any lack of effort on his part.

Over the years, John has been a thoughtful and articulate advocate for issues concerning timberland owners. Issues such as open space, alternative fuels, forest policy, the management of the White Mountain National Forest, all have been subjects of letters to the editor of the Keene Sentinel. They have not gone unnoticed...”
In the Spring Issue of Forest Notes, I had the opportunity to write a Conservation Profile of Sarge Goodhue another mentor. Some Excerpts follow:

“...Sarge worked as a state forester for 26 years, where he was chief of forest management. Prior to that he practiced forestry in Lincoln and before that, he farmed in Lyme, New Hampshire. Sarge began his forestry career with the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930’s. When Sarge retired from the State in 1977, he took a part-time position with the Forest Society as Director of Land Management.

I met him when I arrived at the Society in 1979 as an assistant forester. With over 50 years of practical forestry knowledge, Sarge set a standard that made a lasting impression on the Society forestry staff. For some of us, he helped to shorten the transition time from the classroom to the real world.

Sarge authored numerous articles and guidebooks on forestry topics ranging from forest practices guidelines to soil erosion control techniques to maintaining property bounds. His writings and field expertise helped to inspire my interest in developing the concepts of logging aesthetics.

Another side of Sarge I enjoyed were his endless stories. As we drove from one Society woodlot to another, I was rewarded with a lifetime of experiences. No matter how many times we traveled a given road, Sarge had an anecdote about the area. He rarely repeated a story, unless of course you asked him to, in which case few details were left out...

But the best part of this award is being able to share it with friends and colleagues, like you, who are some of the best foresters/loggers to ever walk and work in the woods of New England!!
In Memoriam

David A. Pilla, of Wilmot, NH, passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at the age of 61. He graduated from Falmouth, MA High School and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Wildlife Sciences from UNH in 1979 and later his Master’s Degree in Forestry. He began his career at Proctor Academy in 1980, teaching Forestry and Wildlife Science classes, Woods Team, Maple Sugaring during Project Period, he led Wilderness Orientation trips and was the creator and director of Proctor’s Ocean Classroom program. Most importantly, over four decades he masterfully stewarded Proctor’s commitment to environmental studies and land conservation. With Dave’s guidance, Proctors’ land base grew to over 2500 acres of woodlands and wildlife habitat.

Dave worked closely and served as a volunteer or as a board member with many organizations: Ausbon Sargent Land Trust, the Society of American Foresters, Wildlife Society, Ocean Classroom Foundation, Hurricane Island Foundation, Pacific Whale Foundation, Whale Trust, Andover Elementary School and the New London Outing Club to name a few.

The depth of Dave’s love for and commitment to his students was matched only by his love for his family and the impact he had on the thousands of young men and women he taught, coached, advised, and mentored over the past 39 years at Proctor. He lived on campus at Proctor until moving to Wilmot in 1998 with his wife Terry where they started their family.

Dave had a wide range of talents. He and Terry along with their son Kai, were active in their community. They loved to spend time traveling and on the water. He excelled at all his passions; surfing, sailing, photography, music, reading and baseball. He was the lead singer in the popular band, Nick’s Other Band. An accomplished musician and singer, he was especially proud of his son Kai’s musical talent and loved playing and performing with him. He was gentle and patient in his willingness to share his vast knowledge and insights with anyone who asked. While Dave considered his friends his family, nothing gave him more joy than his wife and son.

Dave chose to be an educator, but that was just a start. His gregarious personality coupled with his humility could engage people of all walks of life and ages. After spending just a brief amount of time with Dave, one was left with the knowledge they were in the presence of a very special man. He cared deeply for everything he touched; the woodlands, the ocean and the environment, his friends and family. Dave provided a safe harbor for those in need. He was a renaissance man who transformed for the better, our natural world and the lives of all he touched. His values, humility, passion and grace will continue to shape our lives, communities and world for future generations.

The family held a private ceremony this summer, and there was a celebration of Dave’s life earlier this year in August for all to attend. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (www.afsp.org). See also OUT OF THE DARKNESS Community Walks via the link.

Another funding season is just around the corner! Have an idea for a project or program that is in need of financial support?

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

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

Interested? Contact Mel Harder or any EC member on page 2 with questions!
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<td>Vermont Annual State Lands Meeting (Day 1)</td>
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<td>6-Oct</td>
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<td>9-Oct</td>
<td>Arboriculture Care Training: Tree Planting and Preservation</td>
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<td>Intro to ArcGIS (day 2)</td>
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<td>Arboriculture Care Training: Support Systems and Tree Appraisals</td>
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NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please indicate which award you are submitting a nomination

- □ INTEGRITY IN CONSERVATION AWARD: Presented to an individual or organization working with natural resources for adherence to principles and demonstration of high standards in the face of adversity. The work may be in progress and the effort need not have “won” or “lost” — only that it was conducted in an outstanding manner in an adverse operating environment. Nominations need not be limited to members of NESAF.

- □ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: The purpose is to give official recognition to professional achievement in forestry; to make known to the general public outstanding contributions of individual foresters to their profession and to enhance the public image of the forestry profession. The criteria include: professional achievement in the field of Forestry or closely allied fields (i.e. working group of the parent society); participation in SAF; and service to the local or regional community.


- □ AUSTIN CARY PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL AWARD: Presented to a member who has shown outstanding achievement recently or over a period of years as a practicing forest manager or consultant forester.

- □ ERNEST M. GOULD, JR. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARD: Presented to a member who has made outstanding contribution to natural resource science and management through education, extension, or youth service.

- □ MOLLIE BEATTIE YOUNG FORESTER LEADERSHIP AWARD: Presented to a member who is less than 40 years old at the time of nomination and has shown leadership in a program or project benefiting the practice of forestry.

- □ DAVID M. SMITH AWARD: Presented annually to a member engaged in research, teaching, or the field application of silviculture whose work reflects Dave’s advice that, “we should observe and analyze the patterns of stand development first and devise silvicultural treatments to fit or modify them afterwards.”

Nominee (Name, address, phone number, email of the individual or group you wish to nominate):

Nominator (Your name, address, phone number, email):

A complete nomination package must include these four elements

1. NESAF AWARDS NOMINATION FORM
2. NOMINATION LETTER: The Nominator’s description of how the nominee meets the stated award criteria. Please limit your comments to a maximum of two pages.
3. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: A one-page (maximum) biographical sketch of the nominee’s education and professional experience.
4. TWO LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT: Please supply 2 letters of endorsement, which provide additional descriptions of how the nominee meets the stated award criteria.

Mail/email entire package to:
William Hill, NESAF Awards Committee Chair
PO Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004
william.hill@state.ma.us

Award nomination packages must be received by December 1st. Deficient and/or incomplete nomination packages will be returned to the nominator, with allowance of a resubmission until December 31st.
A Note from the Editor—J.P. Barsky

Greeting friends,

The *News Quarterly* has been jam-packed with content for the last two volumes or so. As such, I haven’t been able to allot any space to share any updates, commentary, or thoughts with you. I appreciate the encouragement, but more importantly, I value the suggestions for improvement. In short, I have an extra page to fill, and thought it would be a good opportunity to ask for your assistance.

In 2015, I began serving as the editor for this publication and have enjoyed the challenges and rewards. As with any adventure, the learning curve was steep—and my source of training was on-the-job. I’ve learned several new skills, made new friends, and enjoy the opportunity to serve NESAF. Many of you have reached out with your suggestions, opinions, and support.

Since taking on this responsibility, I have attempted to continue a vision set forth by previous editors: to put out a quality product that serves as a conduit for current Society affairs, informs members of scientific discoveries, shares stories, and promotes the many good endeavors of our members. I hope to continue serving in this role in the years to come.

A thought I’ve had is whether there are any changes that you would like to see in the coming years? Are there any ideas that you would like me to pursue? I would appreciate hearing from you, and have a simple idea to help out. Below is a short survey. Please take a few minutes to share your ideas with me, so I can improve our publication. Your individual responses will be kept in confidence, but I plan to share the results with the NESAF Executive Committee. Feel free to complete the survey online at the link below, or print out this page and mail it to me!
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NY3LPWG

The following inquiries pertain to the *News Quarterly*. Please rate on a scale of 1 (I don’t like) to 5 (I really like).

1. Overall Rating of the *News Quarterly*?  
   1  2  3  4  5  (N/A)

2. What is the primary benefit you receive? ________________________________________________________________

3. Visual appeal of the *News Quarterly*?  
   1  2  3  4  5  (N/A)

4. How organized is the *News Quarterly*?  
   1  2  3  4  5  (N/A)

5. How engaging is the *News Quarterly*?  
   1  2  3  4  5  (N/A)

6. What do you dislike about the magazine? ______________________________________________________________

7. What changes would you improve the magazine? __________________________________________________________

8. How well does it meet your needs?:  
   1  2  3  4  5  (N/A)

9. Is there anything else you would like to share? ____________________________________________________________

Thanks for taking the time to help me out, and I look forward to hearing your suggestions! Kind regards, J.P.
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.