Let’s Welcome Our New Website Administrator, Wendy Weisiger!

Wendy earned her forestry degree from the University of New Hampshire in 2001. She’s spent much of her career at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests where she works as the Lead Forester. She has been a member for SAF for ten years and has previously served as the Chair of the Granite State Division.

Let’s help her keep information current on the website! All she asks is that you to send information, such as job postings, workshops, or other updates for the site, to her at Wendy.weisiger@gmail.com

Michael Dann, SAF Fellow ~ By Kenneth M. Laustsen

Earlier this year, Mike was nominated and he received notice in June from SAF that he had been confirmed by the Board of Directors as a SAF Fellow. Mike now has the opportunity to attend the National Convention in November and be recognized with all other new Fellows at an Award Ceremony and then again at a special SAF Fellows Breakfast.

The nomination package for SAF Fellow has to address two major criteria: 1) Commitment to SAF and 2) Impact to Forestry. Major points to highlight within criterion #1 is whether the nominee is a recognized leader on committees, task forces, or boards; service as an elected officer; a mentor; and a collaborator with colleagues. This service has to occur at two or more SAF organizational levels (Chapter, Division, State Society, National, or International). For criterion #2, there are five major categories to choose in order to address forestry impact. These categories are – Application of Forestry, Education, Public Policy, Research, or Technology Transfer; and within each category there are three or more major points to focus on. Like criterion #1, criterion #2 has to have occurred at two or more levels. The nomination package goes to a District VI Fellows Committee, composed of 3 NYSAF and 2 NESAF Fellows. This committee reviews the package content and must reach a consensus on the suitability of the nomination. If deemed favorable, the nomination moves to the national SAF Committee on Professional Recognition (CPR), for a final review. The CPR submits all approved Fellow nominations to the SAF Board of Directors for a motion to accept and confirm.

This has been an extraordinary year for Mike, at the recent March NESAF Annual meeting, Mike received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award and the April News Quarterly provided a thumbnail sketch of his accomplishments and endorsements relative to this award. As the nominator for SAF Fellow, I used his NESAF award nomination package as a springboard, enhancing and focusing specifically on required Fellow criteria. The District VI Fellows Committee was unanimous in strongly supporting a recommendation for his recognition as Fellow.

Within SAF, Fellow is a very special recognition of extraordinary service and contributions, and is considered an ambassador for the advancement of forestry. Mike now joins a current listing of only 37 other living members, who are also Fellows in the NESAF State Society!
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Greetings From The Ocean State! ~ Paul Dolan, NESAF Chair

As we look ahead to fall it would be nice to get a little rain, because it’s really dry down here and will probably result in poor foliage this year.

Please read this issue closely for an explanation of an important upcoming ballot issue, (what I refer to as the $25,308 Question). This ballot will be separate from our election ballot, coming out around November. Please read Ken’s column on page 4 for further details.

The Silvicultural Working Group had a tour of Providence Water Property in Scituate, RI. It was well attended with approximately 40 foresters in attendance. The major focus was deer and forest regeneration.

Looking ahead, we have several items coming up. First, the winter meeting committee has set the location at Sturbridge, MA and it will be from March 9 - 11, 2016, with speakers and topics shaping up nicely. It will be well worth the trip to attend, with the theme of “Leadership and Innovation”.

We are looking for membership assistance with helping recruit exhibitors and with silent auction items to help our grant program. Similar to the Vermont meeting, we will be offering half price registration fees to students who pre-register. We are also planning to assist our SAF student representative to attend the National SAF conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this November.

Second, we were asked by North East Forester’s Association to partner with them on a grant proposal to work on developing a regional silviculture training program for northeastern foresters that would be a module in the National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP), which we whole heartily endorsed.

Lastly, election ballots should be out soon, with all slots filled except for the Chair-Elect. If you are interested please contact me or any board member. With your participation we can keep our organization functioning! There are also NESAF grants and awards. These are great opportunity to start a program, and recognize our colleagues who have done exceptional work.

Enjoy the upcoming fall and the holidays, if there are any questions or concerns about the organization please send me a message.

Research On LiDAR Applications To Forestry

News Quarterly Science Theme ~ Dr. Anthony D’Amato, Theme Editor

Accurately measuring and mapping forest resources over large areas has been a central challenge to forest conservation and management efforts for centuries. This challenge has generally been approached by pairing networks of inventory plots with aerial photographs or satellite imagery to generate estimates of stand - and landscape-wise attributes, such as timber volume, carbon, or forest structural conditions; however, the resultant maps these generate are often too coarse to guide fine-scale management decisions.

The emergence of inexpensive LiDAR data products over the past several years has provided a new tool and technology with which foresters can accurately and continuously map standard (e.g., basal area, volume) and more complex forest attributes (e.g., forest canopy structure) across a given stand and landscape.

This theme provides an introduction to LiDAR technology and the ways in which it can be applied to increase the effectiveness we map and manage forest lands in New England and highlights work currently ongoing in the Barbara Wheatland Geospatial Lab in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine applying these technologies to forest resource assessment issues ranging from the individual tree to broad landscapes.

…It is clear that the availability and use of LiDAR will continue to increase, and so it is becoming important, for foresters to learn what it is, what it can do, and how to use it…
The $25,308 Question ~ Ken Laustsen, Maine Division

Back in the fall of 1995, thanks to the hard work and fiscal conservatism of a bunch of New England SAF members, our state society received $25,308 as our share of the profit from the SAF National Convention held in Portland, ME. A question emerged regarding what to do with such a huge largesse? It took a few years of hashing out at both the NESAF Executive Committee (EC) meetings and at annual Business Meetings, and in the January 1997 issue of the News Quarterly the proposed “The NESAF Fund Management Policy” was published and scheduled for a vote by the membership at the 1997 Business Meeting in Portland, ME. The policy was passed as published.

Ongoing in 1997 were discussions on how to disburse monies within a Grants program, and this was settled at the EC meeting in September and announced in the October News Quarterly issue. No grant requests were received in 1997.

There have been a total of 26 grant requests between 1998 and January 2015, with at least one request coming from each of the NESAF chapters and divisions. Seven of these requests were denied at the time of application as not meeting the grant requirements. Another six requests actually reimbursed all of the grant monies after two years because the project either never occurred or some awardees did not spend all of the allocated monies indicated in their budget. One way to look at this is that $20,162 was approved for initial funding, $5,838.10 was returned for one reason or another, leaving $14,323.90 that has actually been disbursed as part of the grants program.

Actual interest earned by the Fund and by the Funds Earning Account, (i.e., restricted monies available for grant requests), is a little harder to track across the period. But my best accounting indicates a total of $13,401.18; making it a seemingly pretty even wash between interest income and grant disbursement. Thanks to an EC decision to invest $2,405, representing the proceeds from the recent Silent Auction/Raffle in Fairlee, Vermont, the Fund Earnings Account has a balance of $3,397.20 available for disbursement later this year for pending and potential new grant requests.

The discussion of how to manage the Fund and how to disburse earnings has bubbled/erupted quite frequently, especially at EC meetings and at annual Business Meetings (2006, 2013, and 2015), with a range of options, ideas, and opinions offered. For background, a front page News Quarterly article from June 2013 can be accessed and read here: http://www.nesaf.org/userfiles/Quarterlies/2013/June%202013_color.pdf

Since June of this year, a small sub-committee has been further wrestling with what and how to present to the membership a proposed series of changes to “The NESAF Fund Management Policy,” in a referendum ballot. That referendum has been finalized, accepted and approved by the EC on September 09, 2015, and is scheduled for distribution to the membership sometime this November, for a simple and single approve/disapprove vote on all changes.

The proposed changes can be characterized with three major points:

1. Allow the NESAF EC the discretion to periodically add surplus operating funds to the Fund balance, intending to grow the principal and increase earnings for grant requests,
2. Require an annual report by the NESAF Treasurer on all Fund and grant activities at the annual NESAF Business Meeting,
3. Allow the NESAF EC the discretion to diminish the Fund principal from its $25,308 balance to a minimum floor of $10,000 in order to fund extra-ordinary grant requests.

If any member desires more history on Fund management and discussion on disbursements from the Fund Earnings Account, or the proposed referendum, please contact me (207-287-3135 or ken.laustsen@maine.gov) and I would be happy to have a conversation or provide additional materials.

### NEWS QUARTERLY Publication Calendar

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LiDAR and Forestry: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions

Aaron Weiskittel, Elias Ayery, and Daniel Hayes

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What is LiDAR?

The use of aerial Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) is emerging as a powerful tool for forestry. LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light to provide a detailed 3D depiction of the forest canopy and the ground below it. LiDAR calculates distance by measuring the time it takes light to travel between the sensor and a target object and then return, similar to other remote sensing technologies like Radar or Sonar. Each time the laser returns to the sensor, a point can be plotted in 3D space. Each laser pulse is capable of reflecting back multiple times as it travels down through the forest canopy. A collection of these points is often referred to as a ‘point cloud’. Thus, LiDAR can be characterized as a series of points mapped in 3D, resembling the shape of the landscape or objects below the sensor.

LiDAR technology has been adopted worldwide because it produces a variety of useful products, generally only has to be flown once, and is becoming competitively priced with other forms of airborne sensing. In fact, several states like Pennsylvania and Minnesota, have complete statewide LiDAR coverage, while New England states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine have partial LiDAR coverage. It is clear that the availability and use of LiDAR will continue to increase, and so it is becoming important, for foresters to learn what it is, what it can do, and how to use it. Just as important, perhaps, is that managers and practitioners also understand what it isn’t, what it can’t do, and how not to use it. Nevertheless, what LiDAR shouldn’t be is ignored or avoided because of perceptions that it is an overly complicated technology or involves a mysterious process. Our goal here is to provide and explain a few of the basic concepts for LiDAR collection and processing, along with some examples of this increasingly mainstream technology to New England forestry.

In forest mapping applications, LiDAR is typically collected using a low-flying, fixed-wing aircraft with a laser scanner that has a small laser footprint on the ground (0.12-1.27 m), and high laser pulse-rate. The individual laser pulses can each be categorized by the sequence of returns (i.e., first, second, third, or “last” return), which is useful for determining the object reflecting that pulse (e.g., ground vs. tree). In forests, the first return is typically reflected from the top of the canopy, and the last return reflected from the ground. By subtracting the height of the ground from the height of the top of the canopy, one can measure absolute canopy and/or tree height.

LiDAR data is commonly discussed in terms of its density, which is described as the number of laser pulses per m². This is primarily related to sensor and the speed/height of the aircraft collecting the data, which ultimately determines acquisition costs. For most forestry applications, low-density LiDAR data (1-3 pulses per m²) is considered sufficient, while high-density LiDAR data is needed (8+ pulses per m²) for detailed analyses like individual trees. LiDAR acquisition and processing costs can vary widely based on the LiDAR specifications, desired deliverable, and acquisition acreage, but can range from $0.50 to >$1.00 per acre. LiDAR data are stored in .las or .laz files, which is a public (non-proprietary) file format for 3D point cloud data containing the 2D horizontal map position along with the height (i.e., the X-Y-Z coordinate) for each laser return.

The primary product from a LiDAR acquisition is a detailed Digital Elevation Model (DEM) that often has a resolution of 1-3 m. These high-resolution DEMs are useful for identifying streams, wetlands, steep slopes, and floodplains without detailed field surveys. In particular for forestry, a high-resolution DEM is invaluable for road building, harvest layout, and site assessment. This by itself can offer a significant return on investment for landowners. In addition to the DEM, the LiDAR point cloud can be used to estimate or predict a variety of forest inventory attributes. Even without field-level forest inventory data, LiDAR data can still be used to accurately estimate canopy height, percent crown cover, and the vertical structure profile. Linking ground-based forest inventory with LiDAR data offers the greatest potential to predict a wide array of key mensuration attributes such as stem density, basal area/volume, species composition, diameter distribution and percent sawlog volume. These forest attributes can be mapped at a high spatial resolution across the full range of the acquired LiDAR data.

This type of data can dissolve typical stand boundaries and allow for more effective within-stand management. Forest inventories have typically used an “area-based” approach that relates ground-based plot measurements to stand-level LiDAR metrics (Figure 1). Alternatively, new technologies and algorithms are allowing researchers to develop and test individual “tree-based” methods (Figures 2 and 3).

(Story continues on next page)
Using LiDAR to assess large forested areas

To produce forest inventory attributes from a LiDAR point cloud, a multi-step process is required. First, an extensive ground-based forest inventory must be conducted around the time of acquisition and include detailed measurements of the desired forest attributes. To accomplish this, a series of fixed-radius plots that are representative of each forest stand type within the study area are established. Fixed-radius plots are often preferred as they allow for an easier linkage of the LiDAR and ground-based data. Regardless of the plot type used, one of most important factors influencing the relationship between the ground and LiDAR data is the geo-locational accuracy of the plot center. Obtaining the necessary accuracy requires the use of high-precision GPS units. Based on recent research at the University of Maine, the number of required plots can vary based on forest type and diversity, sampling method, and desired accuracy, but rarely was a density greater than 1 plot per 5 acres necessary to meet the desired objectives. Also, stratification was often beneficial when the LiDAR data is being collected across a large area.

To relate LiDAR data to the forest inventory data, a number of metrics for each plot are computed from the 3D point cloud. These metrics include a variety of density (e.g. mean # of hits) and height information. Generally, various percentiles (10, 50, 70, 90th, etc.) of LiDAR pulse heights are the most effective predictors as they reflect the basic canopy structure. Across a range of forest types and structures in Maine and New Brunswick, the combination of the 45th and 85th percentiles of LiDAR point cloud heights were the most effective predictors of observed plot biomass. Once the most effective predictors are determined, parametric (e.g. regression) or nonparametric (e.g. random forests) analysis methods are used to develop empirical relationships between the LiDAR metrics and the ground-based plot data. Depending on the inventory variable, quality of the LiDAR data, and range in ground-based data, these relationships often explain 60-90% of the observed variation with typically lower accuracy for stem density and higher accuracy for volume or biomass.

Once the relationship is established, the attribute is then mapped across the LiDAR data coverage area by gridding it into square cells (e.g. 20x20 m), computing key LiDAR metrics in each cell, and using the empirical relationship to predict the desired attribute. Stand or strata-level estimates are then computed by averaging or summing across cells within a stand or strata.
Given the high spatial resolution of these predictions, within-stand or -strata variability can be easily visualized. Recent work at the University of Maine indicated limited differences in estimated stand volume using cell sizes that ranged from 2 to 100 m squares, but the LiDAR estimates were generally quite different than those determined from the ground-based inventory. Ideally, the resolution matches the expected stand conditions; for example a small cell size (~10 m) is logical in recently harvested stands with high variability in structural attributes, whereas a larger cell size (~30-60 m) could be used where variability is lower or the acquisition area is large.

Measuring individual trees with LiDAR

An alternative to these “area-based” LiDAR estimates of forest attributes is to use an individual tree approach. In this approach, LiDAR data are used to determine the species, size, and location of individual trees. These attributes can be used to populate tree lists with information such as volume or diameter estimates on each tree, or can be summarized to provide plot-, stand-, or strata-level estimates. One advantage of this approach is that little to no field data needs to be collected, since there is no modeling involved. As mentioned above, this approach requires higher-density LiDAR data (8+ hits per m²) and is much more time intensive. Researchers at the University of Maine are leading the development and testing of algorithms for segmenting individual trees across a range of forest types. This and similar approaches often produce better estimates of plot- and stand-level volumes when compared to traditional “area-based” approaches. Clearly, this approach offers additional benefits like more detailed information and the potential to examine tree-level attributes.

Despite the numerous opportunities offered by LiDAR, some challenges remain. For example, LiDAR still has a relatively high cost, area-based LiDAR estimates require high-quality forest inventory data, specialized software for processing LiDAR point clouds is often required, and the involved sequence of steps for producing useful forest inventory attributes can be statistically complex and time consuming. Just like any forest inventory, a LiDAR-based inventory will deviate from reality over time, particularly with harvesting or other forms of disturbance. This means that either repeat acquisitions of LiDAR or other aerial imagery is necessary. However, once a high-resolution DEM is available, other lower cost aerial imagery can be acquired and used to produce the desired forest attributes, which suggests that the expense of acquiring LiDAR is a one-time investment cost. One common and free software suite used for visualizing and manipulating LiDAR point clouds is LAStools (http://www.cs.unc.edu/~isenburg/lastools/) developed by Martin Isenburd and Jonathan Shewchuk and hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Another popular free software suite used to develop LiDAR metrics and forest inventories is FUSION (http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/rsac/fusion/), which was developed and is currently provided by the US Forest Service.

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On July 23, NESAF members congregated for a field tour of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Property, owned and managed by Providence Water. The event was arranged by Bennet Leon of the NESAF Silviculture Working Group, and hosted by Rob MacMillan, forester at Providence Water, who lead about 40 foresters and other natural resource professionals on old fire roads from site to site. MacMillan explained many of the specifics of a forestry program aimed at ensuring water quality; after all, the Scituate Reservoir provides water to about 60% of the population in Rhode Island. Sustaining water quality relies on forest regeneration and throughout the day foresters compared notes from their experiences of forest regeneration in southern New England.

The tour began with a visit to a deer exclosure in the Tunk Hill block where Providence Water erected a deer fence with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. While regeneration within the exclosure was evident, a modest increase in seedling height elsewhere in the area was attributed to a deer management program involving recreational hunting by permission. Tom Rawinski, U.S. Forest Service Botanist, reported that professional sharpshooters have been found to be much more effective at other areas in reducing deer pressure compared to recreational programs, because although hunters harvest deer, they also value a large herd. Following prolonged drought stress and orange-striped oakworm defoliation, an upland site of the Tunk Hill block was planted in 2006 with pitch and white pine. Few seedlings survived the trial, as deer have a taste for pitch pine seedlings, leading to a “recalcitrant” understory of huckleberry and sweet fern, as described by Rawinski, and has inhibited tree regeneration.

In addition to the attempts to mitigate deer impacts, Providence Water is also trying to adapt to climate concerns. University of Rhode Island forest ecologist, Bill Buffum, spoke on some of his research modeling the effect of increased precipitation, temperature, and frequency of storms. Providence Water is considering these potential scenarios in choosing whether to pursue trial plantings of longleaf and Virginia pine and post oak.

The tour then visited to two sites on the Riverview Block, first a white pine stand managed since the 1920s. Robert Thurber, Jr. of Jerimoth Forestry, was one of the loggers who operated in this stand and shared his experiences operating in the Scituate Watershed property. The tour concluded with a walkthrough of a mixed oak-hardwood stand in which a shelterwood harvest was completed earlier this year, motivating a discussion of management objectives and operations leaving many thinking about how to improve forest regeneration on the lands they manage.

ICEsat-2, which may yield higher quality LiDAR metrics than past systems. Ongoing research at the University of Maine will continue to explore the potential of LiDAR for forestry applications. In particular, the Barbara Wheatland Geospatial Lab in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine plans to collect a variety of experimental LiDAR data at a series of long-term research installations across Maine. Researchers, including students, are actively working on new algorithms and methodology to develop products useful for forest managers.
The SAF Board of Directors held several conference calls this summer, and as always, there are many different projects going on that SAF is directly, or indirectly, involved in. On a sad note, SAF lost a board member, a very dear friend, and a huge advocate for forestry and SAF in Kurt Gottschalk. Kurt was from Allegheny SAF and served many roles in SAF throughout the years. He will most undoubtedly be missed.

SAF Elections Update

SAF members will be electing an incoming vice president (who will become SAF president in 2017) and three members to the Board of Directors representing Districts 3, 6, and 9. The three-year terms for the directors will begin January 1, 2016. Ballots will be mailed on or near October 1 and members will have approximately 30 days to return them to the national office.

2015 SAF National Convention

We are in the final stages of preparations for the 2015 SAF National Convention: “Recreating Forestry: The Confluence of Science, Society, and Technology,” to be held Nov 3-8 in Baton Rouge, LA. Registration continues to do well. We are tracking ahead of previous years compared to the same time out from the event. The room block at the Hilton is now full. Spaces are available at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel. Exhibits are also doing well with over 100 exhibit booths having been sold.

New SAF database and website in 2016

The new iMIS membership database and SAF website will debut in early 2016. When completed, these infrastructure improvements will increase SAF’s organizational efficiency and enhance communication and engagement with our members.

New membership renewal structure to be introduced

With the implementation of the new iMIS database, SAF will be moving to an “anniversary-type” renewal system and away from our current annual cycle. Doing so will eliminate prorated dues (and the confusion on the part of newly reinstating members that comes along with it), allow student members to join at the beginning of the school year, make it easier to add new and rejoining members at the annual convention, and facilitate member recruitment throughout the year without lost revenue due to prorated dues.

New member benefit: “Issues and Advocacy Now” newsletter

This electronic newsletter provides a monthly update on the activities of the Government Affairs and External Relations team and demonstrates how members are getting involved with and having an impact on forest policy issues at the national and local levels.

“Evolving Forestry” initiative to be launched at convention

This initiative will be a long-term conversation with members and other stakeholders about the future of foresters, forestry, and SAF. A “Conversation Circle” consisting of a network of well-connected and engaged members will lead discussions at convention, meetings of local units, online, so we can fully understand our members’ sentiments regarding the future of the forestry profession and SAF.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or the national office with questions and be safe out there.

-Andy
Maine Division News ~ Anthony Filauro

Summer Field Tours

The summer field tours were quite successful. Attendance was heavy for each of the tours and the weather, cooperated nicely...mostly.

On June 19 in Windsor, a tour entitled “Rehabilitation for Small Woodlots” focused on silvicultural prescriptions to improve stand quality. Information presented on the tour was summarized in an article published in the August issue of the Forestry Source. Also, SWOAM issued a summary of the tour that includes graphs, charts, photos, etc. The SWOAM report is available at the MESAF website www.mesaf.org under 2015 Field Tours. MESAF members are encouraged to read the article in the Forestry Source and the report issued by SWOAM. The two articles give an excellent of the information presented on the tour.

On July 10, a tour entitled “Hemlock...Take It or Leave It?” was held in the Grand Lake Stream area on lands managed by Downeast Lakes Land Trust and Baskahegan Company. The tour focused on silvicultural prescriptions, regeneration methods to propagate the species, efforts to establish other species in mixed softwood stands and problems caused by the Hemlock Woolley Adelgid. Baskahegan currently ascribes to a two-stage shelterwood prescription (rather than three-stage) and wider stand openings, as a way to encourage spruce/fir regeneration over that of hemlock.

On August 26, a tour was held at the Wells Demonstration Forest (WDF) in Milford that focused on “Cooperative Forest Restoration”. The WDF is 1100 acres in size and was heavily logged in prior years. The current landowner is now confronted with managing extensive, over stocked, juvenile stands. Stream restoration is an additional focus as more than two miles of Sunkhaze Stream is on a portion of the property. The Maine Forest Service, the Penobscot County Natural Resource Conservation Service, the University of Maine, the Maine Fish and Wildlife Service, and private contractors are doing the restoration work. Photos of the tour are available at the MESAF website www.mesaf.org.

Maine Department of Conservation

Over the past several months changes have been pending within the Department of Conservation concerning the number of forest rangers in the department and their responsibilities; disbanding the Bureau of Public Lands, and increasing the annual allowed harvest from public lands. To-date none of these changes have taken place. The Legislature has not supported the changes; however Governor LePage has not rescinded his intent to enact the changes. Also the governor continues to withhold bond funds from state programs until the changes are implemented.

Recently the Legislature established a commission to review the proposed changes to the DOC. A report is to be submitted to the Legislature before year’s end. The four member commission is co-chaired by Senator Tom Saviello and Representative Craig Hickman, forestry consultant Jonathon Robbins from Searsmont and Richard Smith, previously affiliated with Pleasant River Lumber in Dover Foxcroft. The commission will hold four public hearings. The first public hearing was held on September 9.

MESAF members should contact their state legislators, the governor and members of the commission, to state their views concerning the proposed changes within the DOC and the withholding of bond funds from state programs. Our elected officials need to hear from us concerning these matters.

New Forestry Building

Earlier this year, the forestry program at the University of Maine at Fort Kent moved into a newly renovated 17,700 ft² facility. The new facility replaces the use of Cyr Hall as the primary classroom facility for the forestry program at Fort Kent. In addition to classroom space, the building houses a geographic information system lab, global positioning system technology and offices of the Cooperative Extension Service. Additional information about the new facility can be addressed to Dave Hobbins at UMFK.

Northern Long-Eared Bat

In May, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued rules governing forest management activities that affect the northern long-eared bat, which is protected under the Endangered Species Act. The rules do not impact management activities or harvest operations unless a known bat roosting tree or hibernation area is within 0.25 mile of the planned management activity. However, special rules apply if the forestry activity involves participation with a federal agency or if federal dollars supports the work to be undertaken.

Questions about the federal rules can be addressed to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Additional information is available at:

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/
http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/FAQsInterim4dRuleNLEB.html
http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/Interim4dRuleKeyNLEB.html
Connecticut Chapter News ~ Mel Harder

**Summer Workshop**
The Connecticut Chapter and Audubon Connecticut co-sponsored a workshop entitled, “Foresters for the Birds: Engaging Conservation-Minded Landowners with Bird and Other Wildlife-Friendly Silvicultural Techniques” on July 7 in Sharon. The event had a bird identification/banding presentation, followed by a session focusing on concepts related to improving forest habitat with birds in mind, and ended with a practical session on employing those techniques.

![Sean Grace from Audubon CT leading the discussion. Photo courtesy of Eric Hansen](image)

Massachusetts Chapter News ~ William Hill

**MA SAF Hosts Silviculture Tour and meeting with Matt Menashes**

On a warm late spring evening the Massachusetts SAF cosponsored with the MA Division of Fish and Wildlife a silviculture field to view silviculture designed to enhance rare habitat and endangered species. Forester and Habitat Biologist Brian Hawthorn led the tour through the Montague Sand plains, a unique fire adapted, inland sand plain that naturally supports a pitch pine - scrub oak forest type. The tour viewed even-aged silviculture implemented to favor individual pitch pine, white oak and red oak, and to stimulate understory growth of scrub oak and low-bush blueberry beneath an open forest canopy.

Also discussed and viewed was mowing and prescribed fire to reduce dangerous fuel loads and stimulate new shrub growth. In addition to providing habitat for a variety of rare butterflies and moths, this project also benefits declining shrubland birds like whip poor wills and Eastern towhee, increases local populations of game birds like American woodcock and ruffed grouse, provides awesome low-bush blueberry picking, and improves public safety for the people and property in the community of Lake Pleasant adjacent to this fire-adapted ecosystem. Population levels of rare moths have increased at Montague Plains as a result of this restoration effort.

The tour was followed by dinner and the MA SAF business meeting highlighted by a discussion by SAF CEO Matt Menashes. Matt talked about his vision of the national SAF leadership and its relationship to the grassroots membership. He spoke particularly about enabling and keeping small divisions/chapters engaged and active. Those attending were enthused about continuing with regular continuing education events coupled with member get-togethers, food and fun.

![Brian Hawthorn leading the tour of the Montague Sand Plains highlighting oak-pine savannah systems.](image)
New Hampshire ~ Jonathan Nute

Conference on Climate Change & New England Forests

A conference is scheduled for Nov. 18-19 at the Hubbard Brook Research Forest in N. Woodstock, NH. The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, US Forest Service and UNH Cooperative Extension are hosting this workshop to help foresters, natural resource managers, land trusts and other members of the conservation community to integrate information related to climate change and forests into their management and conservation activities. Participants will identify climate change impacts relevant to their lands as well as identify robust actions that help ecosystems adapt to these changing conditions. Nov. 18 is the forest adaptation seminar with Nov. 19 featuring additional training. The cost is $20 per day with lunch included. Registration and more information can be found at www.forestadaptation.org/NH.

2015 Tree Farm Field Day

The event was held Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH. Eighty Tree Farmers and others enjoyed a beautiful blue sky day with cool breezes. Tours were held on the Gregg Trail, a 1.3 mile fully ADA accessible recreational trail, the wood chip biomass facility that provides heat to the complex, the maple sugar house run by residents and the nearby New England Forest Products sawmill, which has been a NH Sawmill of the Year. Crotched Mountain Foundation owns more than 1,300 contiguous acres in Greenfield, Francestown and Bennington, with 1,247 acres being a Tree Farm since 1985. Consulting forester Robert Todd has been their forester for 33 years. A 2010 clear cut removed damaged trees from the 2008 ice storm and restored 15 acres of historic wild blueberry pasture for public picking and creation of early successional wildlife habitat. In 2012, 1,226 acres were permanently protected with a conservation easement through the Federal Forest Legacy program. The famous pork roast and chicken BBQ lunch waited everyone at noon under the big tent, followed by awards and presentations. Granite State SAF is a sponsor of the NH Tree Farm program, along with UNH Coop. Ext., SPNHF and NHTOA.
In Memoriam

David Wendell Taber, 78, of Syracuse, NY, died on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Amsterdam, NY. He was born on Feb. 12, 1937, in Boston, MA, the son of Wendell Taber and Frances Townsend Taber. He grew up in Cambridge, MA and in 1955 graduated from Belmont Hill School, Belmont, MA. He attended Northeastern University in Boston, MA for two years before transferring to the University of Maine at Orono. He graduated from the University of Maine in 1961, with a BS in Forest Management. In 1968 he received an MS in Wood Technology, also from the University of Maine. He began his forestry career in June of 1961 with the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters. From Nov. of 1961 to Nov. of 1963, he served as a 2nd and 1st Lieutenant with the U.S. Army.

He worked for the Maine Forest Service and the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service. For 25 years he was employed as a Wood Utilization Specialist for the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Service, retiring in 1995. From 1995 to 1997 he worked as a consultant for the New York Pulp Wood Association. During his career, he was awarded numerous honors for outstanding professional service, including being named by his peers as a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 1984.

Paul Van Deusen died at Massachusetts General Hospital on August 21, 2015. He grew up in Alford, MA and was 1 of 4 children raised by Alfred S. Van Deusen (Bud) and his wife Eleanor.

He received a bachelor’s degree in forest management from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1975. He then spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in Jamaica, then obtained a position as research assistant at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. After obtaining a master’s degree from MSU in 1979, he worked there for 2 years as a research associate. He obtained another research assistance grant from the University of California, Berkeley and obtained a PhD in forest Biometrics in 1984. After Berkeley, Paul worked for 10 years at the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans, LA.

Paul obtained a job with a forest products industry funded research organization called the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement at an office north of Boston in 1994, working on studies involving endangered species, such of the Northern Spotted Owl, and performed various computer simulations and data analyses that were important for the forest industry to sustainably manage their land.

Kurt W. Gottschalk, 63, of Waynesburg, Pa., died on Aug. 10, 2015, while on a mission trip with his church to Belize, Central America.

He was born April 30, 1952, in Bloomington, a son of the late Donald E. Gottschalk and Ruth Ahrends Gottschalk. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Waynesburg, Pa., where he was the chair of the finance committee and president of the Antioch Connection. He was also a member of the choir and enjoyed playing dartball. Over the years, he served on many other boards with the church and the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1974 and the Pennsylvania Forestry Association since 1980. He was the former editor of the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry. He was also a member of several other professional organizations.

He was a graduate of Stanford-Minier High School and received his bachelor’s in forestry at Iowa State University. He earned his master’s degree in silviculture forest ecology and his Ph.D. in tree physiology at Michigan State University. He worked as the project leader, director’s representative and research forester with the USDA Forest Service in Morgantown, W.Va.
Continuing Forest Education Update ~ Andrew Fast, UNH

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Note: The CATEGORY column represents the level of intensity, with higher numbers indicating more intensive training or workshops.
Hey...you...

Would you like to promote your project or program?

It’s easy, just contact joseph.barsky@ct.gov to sign up and give a 10 minute flash talk or present a poster at the NESAF Winter Conference!

Have you ever felt that your colleague or mentor should be recognized for their outstanding work and service? Here is your chance! The NESAF Awards Nomination Form can be found on page 17, and also at www.nesaf.org. The categories include:

- Integrity in Conservation Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- James W. Toumey Award
- Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award
- Ernest M. Gould, Jr. Technology Transfer Award
- Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award
- David M. Smith Award

For information, please contact:
Bill Hill, P.O. Box 484, Amherst, MA 01004
or william.hill@state.ma.us
Nominations must be received by December 1st!
Supplemental Announcements

Introducing the NorthEast Forest Information Source (NEFIS)

To address the lack of regionally specific applied journals and the limited ability for researchers and practitioners to communicate with each other directly, The University of Maine Center for Research on Sustainable Forests has launched the NorthEast Forest Information Source (NEFIS). NEFIS is an online, open-source web portal that allows individuals to upload documents and post items to a forum. The documents can be previously published materials or new unpublished contributions. To increase interactivity between authors and readers, NEFIS users are given the ability to rate and comment on all contributions. The online forum is intended as a place where researchers and foresters can share information, questions, problems, and solutions about managing the northern forest. Users can receive electronic notifications when new documents are uploaded or when new items are posted to the forum. NEFIS registration is free and open to all. For more information on NEFIS, see [www.nefismembers.org](http://www.nefismembers.org) or contact Dr. Robert Wagner (robert.wagner@maine.edu, 207-581-2903), Director of the University of Maine Center for Research on Sustainable Forests.

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Hampshire Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Forest Regeneration Enhancement Project

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands as well as adjacent uplands on their property. Since 2009, NRCS has been acquiring conservation easements through agreements directly with private landowners in Rockingham County. Past clearing and harvesting methods have resulted in the growth of tree and shrub species that prohibit or restrict the growth of desirable species such as white pine and oak. The Forest Regeneration Enhancement Project is an opportunity for landowners to have a professional licensed forester inventory their property, provide silvicultural recommendations, and design pre-commercial or commercial harvests to remove species such as hemlock and American beech that are an impediment to desirable forest regeneration.

Presently, there is a need for inventory and forest regeneration enhancement recommendations on approximately 1,116 acres enrolled in WRP over 18 conservation easements in Rockingham County. Parcels range in size from 25 to 175 acres. NRCS has been working with the Rockingham County Conservation District, West Environmental Services and UNH Cooperative Extension to address environmental issues, such as invasive plant species removal, that have been identified on these properties. Foresters who are interested in learning more about the Forest Regeneration Enhancement Project and who might be interested contact Brooke Smart, NRCS-WRP Coordinator at (603) 868-9931, ext. 106 or by email at brooke.smart@nh.usda.gov.
NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please indicate the award for which you are submitting a nomination
Nominations must be received by December 1st

☐ 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 process 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.

☐ James W. Toumey Award: Presented for Outstanding Achievement in Service to the New England Society of American Foresters.

☐ 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.”

Your contact information:

Contact information of the individual or organization you are nominating:

NOMINATION LETTER: Must include a description of how the nominee meets the stated award criteria. Please limit your comments to a maximum of two pages and attach to this Form.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Please attach to this cover form a one-page biographical sketch of the nominee’s education and experience, if available to you.

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT: Please seek 2 letters of endorsement and attach to this cover form.

MAIL ENTIRE NOMINATION PACKAGE TO:
William Hill, NESAF Awards Committee Chair
P.O. Box 484, 40 Cold Storage Drive
Amherst, MA 01004

OR SEND BY EMAIL TO: william.hill@state.ma.us
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St. Amand, ME (418) 593-3426
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NESAF News Quarterly
Greetings everyone,

I would like to begin by thanking all who reached out to me and shared their comments and suggestions this past summer. As I am finding my way through my rookie season as your News Quarterly Editor, I do appreciate hearing from you, and your thoughtful suggestions.

As with any endeavor, especially one you think you can pursue with a reasonable chance of success, you quickly learn there is a lot more that you do not know, you need to learn, and in short order.

So I set about a challenge for myself. During this past summer, instead of catching up on my garden, I gobbled up ideas from publications across a variety of formats. One thing I honed in on what some of our other SAF State Societies have been doing. From what was able to glean through their newsletters, some face challenges, such as membership development, while others are knocking level of engagement it out of the park! Some publications have very a serious tone, while others feature silvicultural crossword puzzles, and poems.

The bottom line to my story is that [ I think ] there really is an interesting world to SAF, and I would encourage you to take a look beyond our own regional border. You may come across an idea or concept that you could help you out in not only your day-to-day activities, but you may discover that there is something that you would like to see in our State Society. More directly, maybe a little something for the blank column to the right. Your journey into the wide world of SAF can start at: http://www.eforester.org/lu/chapter_sites.cfm

So, I can now conclude my letter to you, and consider this Issue done. I hope you enjoyed it. It is a fun, worthwhile, and rewarding challenge for me, and I look forward to checking my inbox in a few weeks and reading your comments.

See you in January!

Best,

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.