



NEW ENGLAND FORESTS



NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

CONSERVING NEW ENGLAND'S FORESTS SINCE 1944

COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAMS AT PROUTY WOODS

Build a fairy house; identify invasive burning bush; listen for owls at night; watch a meteor shower; or just take a leisurely walk in the woods and enjoy the trees and the sounds of the birds and critters that live at Prouty Woods. These are just a few of the activities that have taken place since NEFF conserved the 107-acre Prouty Woods and the historic buildings on this wonderful property in Littleton, Mass. The surrounding community has been invited and encouraged to

explore and enjoy this precious community resource—and we're pleased to say many have. The New England Forestry Foundation's activities at Prouty Woods are an excellent example of how our mission is put into practice. One recent program brought a group of over fifty children from the community to build fairy houses in the woods. Using fallen branches, leaves, and other material from the forest floor, kids built large and small houses for the fairies of the woods. Imagination was the order of the day!

Exploration Camp where they learned to identify many plants and animals, played nature games and practiced their arts and crafts skills. They all had fun and left with a greater knowledge and appreciation of the forest.

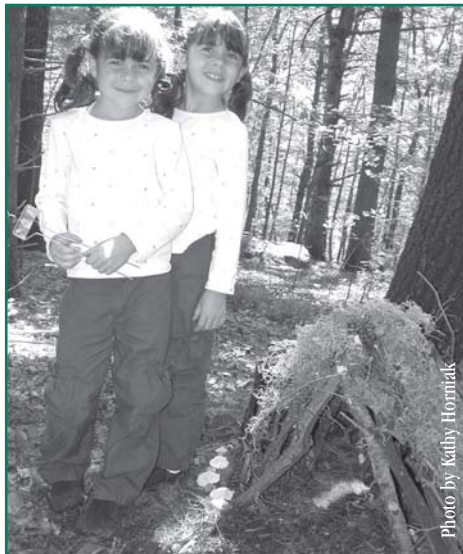


Photo by Kathy Horniak

Sarah & Kaitlyn Roffman with their newly built 'fairy house.'

"NEFF's cooperation with and contribution to Littleton has exceeded my wildest expectation. We couldn't ask for better neighbors" — Andrea Curran

Over the past few years, in partnership with the community, NEFF has offered workshop opportunities on tree and wildflower identification as well as pre-timber harvest tours to provide a better understanding of a sustainably managed forest. Next spring, come to a workshop co-sponsored by the US Forest Service as part of their work with NEFF on invasive species. You will learn about multiflora rose, buckthorn and burning bush, why they are a problem, and what can be done to combat them.

"NEFF is a welcome addition to Littleton. I can think of no organization better suited to steward this vital piece of property" — Jim Coull

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"I wanted to bring 'fairy houses' to the woods of Littleton and NEFF enthusiastically supported this idea. The initial response was wonderful and now we are planning a second workshop." — Sharon Corbin

A summer program in cooperation with the Littleton Parks and Recreation Department brought kids to *Nature*

Our goal is to add new educational opportunities at Prouty Woods for the *Continued on page three...*

Message from the President

Many of you, like me, take pleasure in owning forestland or working to conserve it. But, the real pleasure is walking on it throughout the year and seeing and hearing the changes. Every walk brings something new and every year has been different for me. This year was no exception! On one of my many adventures this year, the recent flood line showed a good two feet above the 100-year mark, something totally new for me. I wondered when was the last time and when would be the next. It was a water year for sure in these woods, not the best for logging but good for growing.

My woods, like NEFF's, are managed sustainably for wood production under a forest management plan. At NEFF, we have always encouraged sustainable management of forests by private landowners. My real interest in forest management is seeing the results. What grows back in the places where trees were cut? How fast does this

happen? If left alone which species win in the battle to become a saw log? The answers to these questions are complex and dependent on many variables, some of which are out of our control. Observing natural systems at work is always fascinating.

In my woods there are many wildlife events too and each year they bring new insights. The return of the migratory birds, the nest building to support breeding, and the boisterous mating calls of all those males seeking a mate. And then my eyes find the wood duck popping out of that tree trunk onto the ground, a rather unexpected sight, but then again, nature is nothing but the unexpected. Yes, walking in the woods is an adventure of sight and sound.

Your sustainably managed forest, like mine, provides clean water and clean air too! For example, every ton of wood a forest grows removes 1.47 tons



Timothy A. Ingraham

of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen. This is one of the major reasons for conserving private forestland.

You can help conserve forestland so your family can have clean water and air and a place for adventures by joining with NEFF to bring more forestland into the conservation portfolio. Make your contribution on line at www.newenglandforestry.org or send a check to NEFF at P.O. Box 1346, Littleton, MA 01460 and then take a walk in the woods.

Stewardship

What It Really Means

If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound? If a forest is placed under a conservation easement and no one follows up, is it really protected?

A conservation easement (or conservation restriction in Massachusetts) is a land protection tool that has become more and more popular over the past 30 years. Essentially, a basic conservation easement restricts the owner's use of their property for development purposes. But how does the holder of the conservation easement ensure that restrictions are enforced? The answer

is what is called conservation easement monitoring.

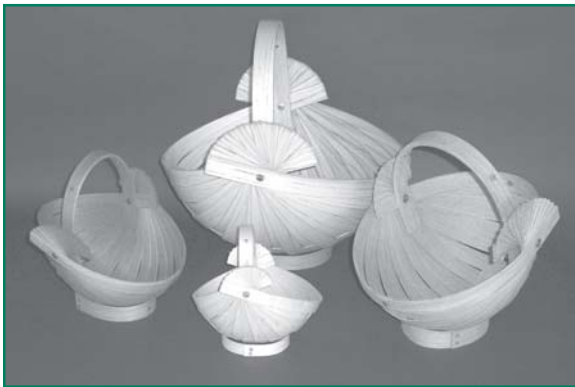
Conservation easement monitoring is a program of ongoing data gathering, communication, dialogue, and visits with the landowner by the organization holding a conservation easement. Monitoring is referenced to baseline documentation, a data set describing the condition of the property at the time the conservation easement is put in place. Monitoring is the best way to ensure that land under a conservation easement is truly protected. Without monitoring, a conservation easement is just another piece of paper filed away at the local Registry of Deeds.

Conservation easement monitoring is not the most glamorous part of land protection, but it is a very important part. When NEFF agrees to be the holder of a conservation easement, it is accepting the responsibility to enforce the restrictions set forth in the easement, forever.

So even though NEFF may have closed the deal on many significant land and forest conservation projects, our work on the land and with the landowner is far from over, it is just beginning. To learn more about baseline documentation and monitoring and forest stewardship visit NEFF's website at www.newenglandforestry.org.

North Quabbin Woods: Meet an Artisan

The basket has traditionally been a symbol of the art of using local vegetation such as grasses and thin stems to produce beautiful and functional objects. In New Braintree, Mass., Matthew Newman has taken this tradition into a new level with his bentwood baskets and sculpture. A sawyer and artist, with formal training in photography, sculpture, and wood-working, Matt uses thin slats of local



wood, sawn at his own sawmill, to develop original patented designs that catch the eye of children, homeowners, and mathematicians.

Following a 5-year apprenticeship with master sawyer, Stanley Stephenson of Stow, Matt moved to New Braintree and, in 1980, began his own specialty sawmill operation. Now, over 20 years later, his mill carries 8-10 year old air-dried, quartersawn lumber—all locally harvested.

In 1985, Matt produced his first bentwood basket and has been expanding on the concept ever since. Using local species such as elm, oak, maple, and cherry, Matt's "Newman Basket Company" has developed a line of baskets ranging from a 14" maple basket (\$28) to a 60" cherry basket (\$500) and sculptures that stimulate

the imagination, receiving awards at shows and exhibits across the country.

Exhibiting baskets and sculptures in fine art and craft galleries throughout the United States, Matt has been known to turn to acquaintances for ideas. Recently, Matt responded to the consistent attempts of people to fold his non-folding baskets by creating the "Metamorph," an interactive toy and sculpture which allows the user to create seemingly endless patterns from a folding basket.

Matt's creativity extends well beyond his finished product. Powered by a 1953 6-cylinder GMC truck engine and some imaginative electric work, Matt's gasoline/electric hybrid sawmill (which passed

inspection by the way) is rare, if not otherwise unknown.

Matt's introduction to North Quabbin Woods and the New England Forestry Foundation came through the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. Now an involved member of the North Quabbin Wood Products Network, Matt has been an enthusiastic supporter of our work and has made important connections and sales in the process.

To find out more about Newman Basket Company's products and Matthew Newman's sawmill visit the North Quabbin Woods showroom at 1 East Main St. in Orange, MA or online at www.northquabbinwoods.org and www.asthesawturns.com.

Hawk Watching at Prouty Woods

Each fall thousands of hawks migrate south to warmer climates for the winter. Red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, broad-winged, and Cooper's hawks are frequently seen in eastern Massachusetts. Wilderness Hill, at the center of Prouty Woods, offers an exceptional north and northwest view for watching hawks during this annual trek. This fall NEFF and a local birder are offering opportunities to participate in tracking the hawk migration. The migration is weather dependent, so please contact Cynthia Henshaw at cbenshaw@newenglandforestry.org if you are interested in being notified of the days we will be tracking the migration.

...Continued from page one

community to enjoy. But we need your help. If you have an idea for an educational workshop or you would be interested in leading a workshop please let us know by sending an email to info@newenglandforestry.org or call (978) 952-6856.

The Proutys had remarkable vision and left an extraordinary legacy for Littleton. NEFF is proud to be a part of conserving this spectacular property and we greatly appreciate your help and support. Your financial support will assure that Prouty Woods will continue to be an active part of the community.

Forest News

Invasive Plants: The Wildfire in Slow Motion

by Thomas J. Rawinski, Botanist, USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH

A water-lily plant in a pond doubles its leaves every day, and after 30 days the entire pond is covered. On what day is the pond half-covered with lily-pads? Congratulations if you said the 29th. On day seven, do you think anyone noticed the small patch of 64 lily-pads? Probably not, or if they did, they probably weren't concerned. But by the time the plant covered a



A dense stand of burning bush in the understory at Prouty Woods.

quarter of the pond surface, on day 28, I bet people would begin to get a little nervous, and perhaps attempt to control the plant. A battle of man versus plant would then ensue, consuming great energy, expense, and time, with no assurance of ultimate victory. Ah, if only the insightful pond-owner had perceived the potential problem early on, and nipped the problem in the bud.

Okay, sorry if some of you like water-lilies, and yes, the species is native here. So let's change the story a little. The plant is now water chestnut. Yikes! Or it could be phragmites, purple loosestrife, or in forest settings, glossy buckthorn, Oriental bittersweet, winged euonymus, or Japanese barberry. Not much changes.

This age-old story is relevant today as we seek to understand and control the spread of invasive exotic plants.

These plants are indeed capable of exponential population growth, in part because their natural predators (insects, diseases, etc.) are largely absent in North America.

The rate of population growth varies from species to species, and from site to site. Garlic mustard, for example, is a biennial that produces seeds in its second year of growth.

Glossy buckthorn produces berries at about age five. Age at first reproduction is a critical determinant of population growth potential, as is the number of seeds produced. In the above example, garlic mustard has the potential to increase more rapidly than glossy buckthorn.

Another important consideration is the rate at which plant populations can expand geographically. Here we are talking about seed dispersal mechanisms. The winged seeds of Norway maple, for example, travel only as far as the strongest winds will carry them, which isn't all that far. But consider

the brightly colored fruits of honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet, porcelain-berry, and Japanese barberry. These are relished by birds, and the seeds are thus deposited, largely unscathed, far and wide.

The threat of invasive plants has been described as "a wildfire in slow motion". Yes, these plants are sweeping across the landscape and their impact on forest health is largely detrimental. Prevention, early detection, rapid response, containment, suppression, and restoration are terms that apply to both kinds of "wildfires."

In New England, where private landowners are the stewards of most forestland, it's important that we all learn to recognize the invasive species, and to control them sooner rather than later. Toward this end,

visitors to the Prouty Woods Community Forest at NEFF Headquarters in Littleton, MA now have an opportunity to visit a recently established invasive plant control

demonstration area. If you're in the area check it out, and watch for invasive plant program announcements.



A close-up of burning bush.

Forest Steward Profile

Michael Martin

Wright Memorial Forest, Chester, Massachusetts

Even a brief conversation with Mike Martin makes it easy to understand why he volunteered as a NEFF forest steward. "I'd rather be hiking up a mud filled road than in the city," said Martin. "What better thing is there?" Looking at the number of bug bites on his legs tells you that he spends quite a bit of time outdoors.

Martin came to love the woods through early interactions with his Cherokee Indian grandparents. Spending time in the Georgia woods and wildlands with two people he dearly loved set the stage for future adventures. These days you are apt to

find Martin with a camera, capturing flowers, wildlife and scenic vistas. Virtually everything has photographic appeal. "I just love it!"

In late 2003 the estate of Mildred Wright donated the 970-acre property to NEFF. The property includes over a mile of frontage on the Westfield River and two mountaintops overlooking the Westfield River valley. A beautiful brook, called Abbott Brook, tumbles down the mountain through the property.

In early 2004 NEFF installed a property sign that got Martin's



attention. After researching NEFF online, Martin applied to be the forest steward for the Wright Memorial Forest. Since that time, Martin has helped map the trails, clean trash and install signs. "It's a privilege to be a forest steward," said Martin.

NEFF thoroughly appreciates Martin's efforts on behalf of the Wright Memorial Forest and those of our other Forest Stewards!

Sortwell Memorial Forest Wiscasset, Maine

Daniel Sortwell donated the property to NEFF in 1955. Later his sister added more land to bring the forest to 90 acres. Mr. Sortwell intended for NEFF to use the property to demonstrate how a forest could be managed to provide forest products and other benefits simultaneously. Records of the forest inventory and

stewardship practices have been kept since the early 50's. These records show years of active management yielding significant income and wood products along the way while still leaving a productive forest today. Due to this management, the quality of the trees is dramatically improved from the original stand in the early 50's.

A self-guided trail map is available at the main entrance. Numbered posts

highlight examples of tree pruning, shade tolerance, coarse woody debris, and a variety of other features along the way.

The most recent timber sale in 2004 included areas of "overstory removal," meaning that all of the tallest and biggest trees were harvested. The best of the younger ones were left to continue growing.



Sortwell Memorial Forest after a recent timber harvest.

A Walk in the Woods

From a foresters perspective the area looks great; trees well spaced, roads in good condition, limbs laying near the ground, and not too many scars or bruises on the remaining trees.

But what a dramatic change! Moving from a densely packed forest to lots of sunlight and open air. We invite you to see this example of sustainable forestry in action at the Sortwell Memorial Forest.

The sign and main entrance to the Sortwell Memorial Forest is on the right about a mile from the start of Willow Lane, a windy and scenic road in Wiscasset. The forest follows the road for about half that distance. When driving the road along the property boundary marked by red paint, a footbridge and an area that was recently harvested are visible. Stop in and take a walk.

Who's in the Spotlight?

Frederick J. Weyerhaeuser NEFF Board of Directors



Frederick J. (Rick) Weyerhaeuser has been a valued member of the NEFF board since 1999. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Yale University. Currently, Rick is a senior project manager at The Lyme Timber Company in Hanover, NH focusing on forestland investment opportunities

nationwide and consulting for large landowners interested in conservation dispositions. Prior professional experience includes State Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and for ten years he was Director of the World Wildlife Fund's Africa Program. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Seventh American Forest Congress, the Student Conservation Association, the Minnesota Chapter of TNC, and the Forest History Society. In addition to serving on NEFF's board, he also serves on the board of the Great Ape World Heritage Species Project, the Leadership Council for the Yale

School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Council of Wildlife Trust, and is a member of the Society of American Foresters.

Rick has recently taken on the role of chair of NEFF's Nominating Committee and has served for many years on the Land Committee. He joined the NEFF board because of his strong belief that the economic and social elements are too often neglected in devising conservation programs and that working forests are critical to landscape scale conservation. He lives in Winchester, MA with his wife Annie Brewster, a physician, and their four children under the age of 10.

Whitney Beals Director of Land Protection



Whit admits that he was "born" to his career in land conservation, having been raised on active farmland in what used to be a rural town 10 miles east of Worcester. He spent two summers as a teenager doing timber stand improvements, mostly chemical treatments of "weed" trees, on family woodlots in Winchendon and Royalston, Massachusetts. Ever mindful of expenses, the family forester sometimes mixed the chemical in solutions that were too dilute to do their intended work. "Fortunately, a lot of pole-sized red oak, which at the time had no projected value compared to the

white pines that we were trying to release, survived our attempts and grew on to become valuable sawlogs when market conditions changed." Lesson learned: maintain a naturally diverse forest to hedge your investment risks. Following college, Whit received a masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry, worked at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and spent five years in the Nature Conservancy's preserve stewardship program before going to Sudbury Valley Trustees where he was associate director for twelve years.

In 1999, Keith Ross, a longtime acquaintance who then was NEFF's vice president and director of land protection, contacted Whit regarding a conservation project in Hawley, MA. Keith said to Whit, "I need you to come work here at NEFF. Our small staff is completely consumed with the

new Pingree Forest project, and we have lots of other land conservation activity in the pipeline." Whit soon started on the Hull/Peck Forest conservation easement project, a multi-faceted effort resulting in the permanent protection of 8,100 acres in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Whit finds his work at NEFF to be a fine match for his experience and training. Every project is different, every landowner both interesting and motivated to protect active forestland. At any given point in time, NEFF is involved in at least thirty different land protection efforts. "Each parcel of land that we conserve to grow trees for wildlife, to keep water supplies clean, and to provide future forest products is a plus for future generations," he says. "More landowners should be aware of what we do, so please help us get the word out."

New England Forestry Foundation

Our Donors

The generous support of these donors and organizations is greatly appreciated. Although space limitations do not permit us to thank everyone, please know every donation is vital to our work.

April 24, 2006 through July 19, 2006

\$250 + Donors

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Land Protection Success

By the time this newsletter reaches you, NEFF will have closed on two additional forest conservation projects, one of long gestation and the other an opportunity that arose very recently.

As part of a project that began in 2003, NEFF became the holder of a **conservation easement on nearly 4,000 acres** of mostly forested land associated with what formerly were the U.S. Generating Company's hydroelectric generating facilities on the upper Connecticut River near St. Johnsbury, VT. Last year, TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc. became the new owner of the land and facilities located at Fifteen Mile Falls. The donation of the conservation easement resulted from a settlement

agreement, reached by multiple conservation stakeholders, that was part of the late-1990s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-licensing procedure for the hydro dams. The easement protects forestland located in four **Vermont towns: Barnet, Waterford, Concord, and Lunenburg**. The donation included a substantial contribution to NEFF's easement monitoring endowment.

In January this year, Francis Dack of **Winchendon, MA**, offered to sell the fee interest in his family's **128-acre woodlot** located in the northeast corner of town, with the New Hampshire state line its northern boundary. The property is part of the Forest Legacy Program's Bush Hill Conservation Area, which includes protected

acreage in the abutting town of Ashburnham. NEFF actually had learned of the project in early 2004, when the state Department of Conservation and Recreation asked for assistance in finding a conservation buyer to purchase the woodlot after the owner sold a conservation restriction on it. We located a conservation buyer, but he lost interest due to complications over access to the woodlot. Mr. Dack agreed to sell the restriction-encumbered land at a price considerably below its appraised value. NEFF used funds from its newly named Hemenway Conservation Fund and from a generous anonymous donor to close the deal.



New England Forestry Foundation

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Leaving a Legacy

By establishing a charitable lead trust you can combine a charitable donation to New England Forestry Foundation with a gift to your children or others. It's easy. The charitable lead trust pays income to New England Forestry Foundation for a specific number of years, usually ten or more. At the end of the term, the principal in the trust passes to the beneficiary you designate. If you are interested in exploring this option as part of your legacy planning, please contact Frank Reed at (978) 952-6856.

Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership Update

Remember back to May of 2005. The NEFF Board of Directors took a bold step and borrowed \$6 million to allow the partnership to purchase 27,080 acres of forestland now owned by the Downeast Lakes Land Trust and purchase a conservation easement over 311,684 acres of forestland around Grand Lake Stream, Maine. NEFF has now reduced that debt to less than \$3.75 million. Pledges to the project amount to nearly \$1 million and outstanding requests total \$1.5 million. But, NEFF is still a ways from paying off the loan.

The natural resources associated with the conserved lands are outstanding. That is why NEFF took the risk. The area is designated a globally significant Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. The area supports more than 188 bird species

with four Watch Listed species and at least four boreal species. Lynx habitat abounds, as does habitat for moose, bear, pine marten and deer. Land-locked salmon and smallmouth bass are abundant and offer great fishing. The conservation of this area bridges the gap between other conserved lands in Maine and more than 750,000 acres of conservation land in New Brunswick—truly conservation without borders.

NEFF needs your help to call this project truly complete. Your tax-deductible contribution today brings NEFF closer to paying off the loan. Please contribute on-line at www.newenglandforestry.org or send a check to NEFF at P.O. Box 1346, Littleton, MA 01460. Your help is greatly appreciated!!



NEFF has recently been approved to join 1% For The Planet. As a qualifying environmental non-profit, we have been included in the 1% database for potential funding. Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia outdoor clothing company, and Craig Mathews, owner of Blue Ribbon Flies of Yellowstone, Montana, launched 1% For The Planet in 2001. Member companies directly contribute 1% of their annual net revenues to any of the nonprofit organizations that have met 1% For The Planet's criteria. Join 1% and choose NEFF! www.onepercentfortheplanet.org

Give a Gift to NEFF!

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For more information call Penny at (978) 952-6856 x 101
or visit www.newenglandforestry.org