



NEW ENGLAND FORESTS

PRIVATE FORESTS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Landscape Conservation...534 square miles

By Sally Price, Director of Development

There is a relatively new term in the environmental movement ... "landscape conservation". It's one of those visual terms. You get the meaning even if you aren't quite sure how to explain it. It's like that word "sustainable". You think you know what it means but can you explain it? When I look up the word landscape in the dictionary it says, "scenery, backdrop, countryside". That's not the vision I had of the word. I think Webster needs to get with it.

Landscape in this context means to me expansive, vastness, as far as the eye can see. The feeling it brings to me is peace, tranquility, open space, wildlife, a world away from the one I live and work in.

And, that's exactly what I found when I drove hours and hours to reach Grand Lake Stream, the heart of a project taken on by the New England Forestry Foundation.

Why ... it's so far out there they don't have cable.

Why ... it's so far out there you can't order out for pizza.

I made jokes about it as I had one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. I was stepping back in time ... to a time of community, wildness, living with and off of what the earth has to offer. The 125 residents of Grand Lake Stream know what they've got and they are hell bent on keeping it the way it is.

I'm from New Jersey where my "landscaped" yard was about ¼ acre. But, the people of

Grand Lake Stream have rallied to protect their landscape of 342,000 spectacular acres (how many square miles is that? - 534) ... including almost 80,000 acres of pristine lakes, 445 miles of virtually uninhabited shoreline, 54,000 acres of wetlands. Are you getting those numbers? Can you imagine it? If you fly over it, you see lakes and streams as far as the eye can see. The area has Maine's largest breeding population of loons and eagles. When I was there a couple of weeks ago two eagles sat above me in a tree screeching at each other.

I'm not sure how many more opportunities like this we have left in the United States. In the book *Hinckley Township*, Minnie Atkinson wrote, "Almost in the center of the old Passamaquoddy land lay a tangled chain of lakes and streams like trinkets of silver on the deep green of the earth." "Trinkets of silver" filled with beautiful landlocked salmon and togue, which are like lake trout; you can still catch a ten pounder. You can also find white perch and pickerel, and a little delicious fish weighing about a pound called white fish. But, whether you enjoy hunting or fishing, or hiking and canoeing ... Grand Lake Stream is a sight to behold. The landscape, the smells and the sounds are like no place else on Earth.

That's why the people of Grand Lake Stream formed the Downeast Lakes Land Trust and asked the New England Forestry Foundation to help them conserve the area and together they came up with a plan. The New England Forestry Foundation has a reputation for finding creative ways to conserve privately owned lands.

In 2001, the Foundation had successfully completed the Pingree conservation easement project, the largest forestland conservation easement in the nation.

So, together, the staff and volunteers of the Land Trust and the Foundation have been racing to raise \$35 million (about \$14 has been raised), to protect 342,000 acres. They've launched into an enthusiastic campaign, which has already successfully purchased the prized 50-mile-long, 3,000-acre Spednic Lake/St. Croix River recreational corridor for the state of Maine, and is now focused on purchasing an additional 27,080 acres, which will serve as a community forest, and an additional 312,000-acre no-development, sustainable forestry easement on the surrounding acres.

The Land Trust and the Foundation have joined to protect the total 342,000 acres. But, this area is strategically situated between more than 600,000 acres of conserved lands in New Brunswick, Canada, and 200,000 acres of state, federal, and Native American lands in Maine, the project lands will contribute to the ultimate conservation of more than one million acres of essentially uninterrupted wildlife habitat across an international boundary. It's an exceptional opportunity to protect an amazing region.

So, I invite you to join us. Your support is important. In addition, if you'd like to fly over the region or come for a visit, please give me a call. We're taking reservations for this summer. For more information, please call (207) 847-9313.

The New England Forestry Foundation is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of private woodlands in New England.



PrivateLandownerNetwork.Org New Website Offers One-Stop Shopping for Landowners

By Amos Eno, Executive Director

Many of today's large land parcels have been in families for generations. Hard-working people are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the financial obligations that come with owning undeveloped land. Ever higher property taxes, property management, and maintenance costs are daunting. Many landowners are aware that conserving their land can lighten these burdens, but when they search for answers and advice, they get tied up in the internet maze of agencies and nonprofit organizations.

For those landowners seeking a comprehensive online guide to conservation resources, the **Private Landowner Network** (PLN) may be just the answer. PLN, a collaborative project of the Resources First Foundation and the New England Forestry Foundation, is an internet-based resource to facilitate and encourage private landowner conservation.

PLN provides a wealth of information and a communications corridor to qualified conservation experts. Many of the site's articles, including "Six Basic Steps to Conveying a Conservation Easement," "Tax Aspects of Donating Land or Conservation Easements," and a "Conservation Easement Quiz," were written by Maine-based conservation attorney Rob Levin specifically to assist landowners in gathering practical information. "So much of what I see on the internet is geared towards those who are already conservation experts," said Levin. "The PLN information is for the typical landowner who's just trying to figure out what a conservation easement is and why it might be a good fit for them." The PLN site also offers a zip-code searchable directory of New England land trusts, attorneys, and other advisors, so landowners won't have to go wandering the internet in vain.

The reason PLN is reaching out to private landowners is simple. Today, private individuals own, protect, steward and work more than 70% of the land in the United States. There are over 900 million acres of cropland, rangeland and farmland throughout the United States managed by private farmers, ranchers and their families. Private lands provide the best chance to save what remains of critical natural resource habitats; they also offer the opportunity to reclaim some of what we have degraded through restoration and enhancement. Further, private landowners represent the largest intellectual bank of stewardship intelligence in the country.

Private landowners are actively seeking ways in which to protect their prized properties and allow for the continuity of family tradition, business and land ownership. PLN provides these private landowners with a myriad of options, resources, and programs to choose from in order to make educated and informed decisions regarding what may be their families most valuable holding.

PLN is dedicated to simplifying the process of conservation planning for individuals that are interested in exploring cost effective and affordable ways of maintaining their land and protecting the environment.

By using the power of the internet and all of the conservation networks available to private landowners, PLN is making it as easy as a few clicks to find the answers to conservation questions, and more importantly, finding a way to bring partnerships in stewardship together.



A WALK IN OUR WOODS

Many of the more than 125 forests we own are located close to population centers and most of them have a trail system. Bliss Woods is an 86 acre forest in Freeport, Maine that was purchased by NEFF with help from the Freeport Conservation Trust, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, the Citizens of Freeport, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It is an island of forestland in the middle of suburban house lots. It provides a place for people like David DeLorme, president of DeLorme Mapping of Yarmouth, Maine to "take a walk" in the woods. David says that, "NEFF's purchase of these forestlands gives me and my neighbors an accessible forest right around the corner. I am proud to support this effort."

Bliss Woods is about a mile and a half from the shores of the Harraseeket River and Casco Bay. The forest is dominated by red oak, white pine, and red spruce providing a variety of habitats for wildlife. Mast-producing hardwood stands, mixed softwood stands for winter cover, flooded wetlands, and grassy openings offer food and shelter to an array of mammals and birds. You are invited to "take a walk" in Bliss Woods and see what David and others are finding in the woods.



Updates from the Forest Stewardship Department

With the programming expertise of NEFF's Information Technology Manager, Willard Dyche, we have developed a new database system to help us track and monitor our 86 conservation easements. The Easement Monitoring Database will allow us to better track landowner correspondence, and our monitoring efforts. The new database is just part of our effort to revitalize our easement monitoring program.

The database will benefit both NEFF and the easement landowners by facilitating regular contact. Most easement violations can be avoided through communication prior to a questionable activity. Reporting features in the database will ensure all of the easements are visited on a regular basis and will allow one stop shopping for past monitoring reports making the monitoring process more efficient.

Meet The Forest And The Trees

There are many different kinds of plants and animals in our forests. Some are large and easy to see while others are so small or secretive that we don't even know they are there. One of the most noticeable trees in our forest is the White Pine, the state tree of Maine (1945) and the state flower (1895) and one of our more important species for commercial harvesting and for wildlife. White Pine is easy to identify and it grows everywhere!

Eastern White Pine is known to taxonomists (they name plants) as *Pinus strobus* L. (the L. is for Linnaeus or

Karl Linn who was the first to name the tree taxonomically). The native range is the eastern US and Canada. White Pine has five needles in a bundle. They are flexible and 2 to 5 inches long. The cone is 4 to 8 inches long and usually has a

fragrant gummy resin that gets all over your hands.

Before we got here, virgin stands

NEFF owns more than 125 forests in New England. Many are easily accessible from where you live and we encourage you to visit our forests and let us know what you think we can do to help you better understand and enjoy these forest resources. From Maine to Connecticut these offer an opportunity to observe the forest and the trees as well as the birds, mammals, shrubs, insects and mushrooms that make a forest more than just the trees. Learn about a nearby NEFF forest by logging on to www.newenglandforestry.org.

contained an estimated 3.4 billion cubic meters of White Pine. By the late 1800's most of this had been logged. White Pine lives about 200 years with some reaching 450 and can grow to be 46 m (150 ft) tall. The Maine record is a tree 44.8 m (147 ft) with a diameter of 173 cm (68 in). Many animals use White Pine for food and some, like the Eastern Gray Squirrel, actually plant seeds and help new pine trees get started.

White-tailed deer, wild turkey, meadow voles, mice, chipmunks, beaver,

mourning doves, goldfinch, and titmice feast on various parts of the White Pine. Others, Bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, black rat snakes, raccoons, wood ducks, blue jays, ruby-throated hummingbirds and goldfinchs use White Pine for shelter,

nesting, or as a platform for viewing the surrounding area in search of prey.

The American bald eagle favors White Pine for nesting. Mushrooms like the Honey mushroom and Bleeding conifer parchment mushroom grow on White Pine. The roots of White Pine support several fungi and bacteria important to the forest.

We use White Pine for a variety of uses. Probably the most famous use is for masts on sailing ships. The King of England actually had the best trees marked for use by the Royal Navy when we were but a colony. While still used for masts today, White Pine is used in construction, paper making, cabinets, boats, coffins, furniture, matches, boxes and crates. Much of the early country furniture of New England was made from White Pine while more "upscale" furniture was made with "poor man's mahogany" better known as black cherry.

White Pine, one of the trees in our forest, has served us well since colonial times. So, take a walk in the woods and find a White Pine and give a look around and see all the resource needs the state tree of the Pine Tree State (Maine) has to offer.

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.

November 1, 2003 – January 31, 2004

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Forestry Q&A

We talked with Jim Philp, Extension Forester and Wood Technology Specialist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Program to get the keep-it-simple scoop on where paper actually comes from.

NEFF: First a simple question, which part of a tree is used to make paper?

JP: Wood for paper usually comes from smaller trees. Bigger trees are used for lumber. After the trees are cut down, they're usually sent to paper mills and cut into shorter lengths and then stripped of the bark. Then the wood is either chemically or mechanically treated until what's left is the fiber. Depending on what kind of paper you're making the fiber is either bleached or left unbleached. (Unbleached fiber is the color of most paper bags. That's the natural color of paper.) From there the fiber is combined with water, anywhere from 98-99% water. That mixture is basically sifted, ironed, dried, and then cut down to size for whichever product

it will be used for.

NEFF: Interesting. Are some trees better for certain kinds of paper?

JP: Sure. Newsprint is made from soft woods like spruce and fir because of the long fibers. Writing paper and magazines is made from a mix of hardwoods and softwoods.

NEFF: How many trees does the average American utilize per year through various products?

JP: Three 80 foot trees about 16 inches in diameter. And that covers everything from lumber, to writing paper, to toilet paper, to pencils.

Want to make your own paper or learn more about how it's made? Jim recommends this site: www.bowater.com/paper.html.

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