



NEW ENGLAND FORESTS

PRIVATE FORESTS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD



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

NEFF to Set Down Roots in Littleton, Mass.

In early October, NEFF completed the purchase of the 107-acre Prouty homestead in Littleton, Mass. Not only is this a wonderful accomplishment for forest conservation and community forest programs, the purchase will allow NEFF to consolidate its two Massachusetts offices. NEFF will continue to operate its Yarmouth, Me. office, but our Groton and Orange offices will be closed and moved to Littleton.

NEFF is scheduled to move to the property, which will be called "Prouty Woods Community Forest," in December. We cannot better express our enthusiasm and sense of anticipation about this move than did Carey Prouty, at the fall Littleton Town Meeting, when she characterized NEFF's interest in the Prouty property as "immediate, whole-hearted and sustained." Carey went on to say that she, her family, and Roger Prouty, her brother-in-law, "are convinced that NEFF's vision fits our dreams beyond all expectation." NEFF is, she explains, "uniquely qualified to honor and care for the land, and will make it available for the enjoyment and refreshment of those who seek solace in an unspoiled place with its woods and fields to repair to."

To complete the purchase in a timely manner, NEFF borrowed the funds for the \$2.65 million purchase. A fundraising campaign is being launched to pay off the loan and endow the property.

Blessed with a long history of careful management, the property includes hiking trails connected to a town-wide trail network, 1,600 feet of shoreline on Long Lake, and the top of Wilderness Hill, with stunning views as far away as

Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. NEFF's goal's for the project are to establish a permanent home for NEFF; establish Prouty Woods as a demonstration community forest and education site; enhance the visibility and accessibility of the organization; reach a broader audience with NEFF forest conservation programs; and conserve an outstanding resource. Our partners include the Prouty Family, Town of Littleton,

Littleton Conservation Trust, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, LandVest, First Pioneer Farm Credit, and NEFF's donors and supporters.

The board, staff, and members of New England Forestry Foundation are particularly gratified by the enthusiastic welcome that Littleton has shown us. At the Town Meeting in September, the community voted unanimously to allocate \$500,000 in community open space funds to support NEFF's acquisition of the Prouty Woods Community Forest through

the purchase of a conservation restriction. The acquisition was also made possible by a lead gift from Roger Prouty.

Carey Prouty spoke for all her neighbors when she closed the Town Meeting with her observation: "Living in town for so many years, we have been increasingly aware of the Prouty forebears who have preceded us. . . . Even as I move away from Littleton, I go with a strong feeling that we have done the best we can to ensure the preservation of a unique treasure in a town which has meant so much to us as a family."

NEFF is hosting a community open house on December 11th. The new headquarters is at 32 Foster Street, Littleton, Mass.



Roger Prouty and his sister-in-law, Carey Prouty

Stewardship on Conservation Easements

On a recent visit to one of the eighty-six properties around New England that NEFF holds a conservation easement on, I came across one of the great symbols of New England... a moose. Standing 75 feet away from a bull moose in the middle of his swampy home really gets your heart pumping. And it made me thankful that this little piece of woods north of Mount Monadnock had been protected.

Conservation easements are an effective tool in today's environmental state of affairs. They can provide the maximum amount of benefits for a minimum amount of money spent. Conservation easements can save farms and forestland from excessive urban sprawl, protect wildlife habitat and water quality, and provide timber for local jobs and markets.

But what happens after an important conservation deal closes? The files can't simply be put on a shelf and forgotten. Someone has to make sure that no houses are built on restricted land. Someone must make sure that stream banks and other sensitive areas are not clearcut. Regular, periodic monitoring is the only way to assure that the terms of a conservation easement are honored.

In crafting conservation easements, NEFF strives to cooperate with the landowner so the needs of both parties are met. Easement stewardship, which is where I come in, is no different. NEFF works hard to strike the proper balance between using the forest and conserving its resources. Monitoring the easements helps to make sure this balance is maintained.

— Chris Pryor

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North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival Attracts Record Crowd

North Quabbin Woods, a NEFF project, has stepped up involvement in the Orange, Massachusetts, based Garlic and Arts Festival. Scott Maslansky, director of the North Quabbin Woods Project, was pleased and surprised with the turnout. "This year we provided a tent for a dozen



A child at the Garlic and Arts Festival with a boat he made from wood.

craftsmen to show their work and talk with visitors to the festival. The woodworkers had strong sales and were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and interest among visitors in their products. We'll definitely do this again next year," said Maslansky. The tent

included a section for kids to create wooden sculptures and kiosks promoting local wood products, forestry, and forest guides.

"There is a lot of talent in the North Quabbin area, and this Festival is a fabulous way to demonstrate it to the region's visitors," Maslansky observed.

North Quabbin Woodworkers who participated at the Garlic and Arts Festival:

*Cadwell Joinery
Distinctive New England
Douglas Feeney Woodworker
James Fountain
Heyes Forest Products
Michael Humphries Woodworking
Bob Lindsey
Sammis Woodworking
Kallisti Percussion
Steve Smith Woodworking
David Tudman*

North Quabbin Woods is opening a storefront office at 1 East Main Street in Orange, Mass. For more information, visit the project's website at www.NorthQuabbinWoods.org.

The North Quabbin Woods Project mourns the passing of woodworker Mike Tatistcheff of Orange whose contributions to the community and Project will always be remembered.

NEFF Board Votes to Renovate Hawk's Hill Property

NEFF's Board of Directors voted to allocate funds to repair and renovate the main house at Hawk's Hill Demonstration Forest in East Barnard, Vermont. Work will begin this winter. The buildings are situated on 191 acres of land donated to NEFF in 1963 by Elizabeth and Richard Brett. The Brett's envisioned a vibrant managed forest that provided educational and

recreational opportunities with a resident forester/caretaker in the main house. The planned upgrades and renovations keep the main house as a resource for the Forest.

More information on the Hawk's Hill Demonstration Forest is available at NEFF's website, www.newenglandforestry.org

NEFF Program Activity

Community Forests

Peru, Mass. -- V. J. Guarino, a recent graduate of St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont, worked as an intern at the **Dorothy Frances Rice Sanctuary for Wildlife** during the summer. "V. J. lived on the property all summer and proved to be an excellent forest steward, clearing brush and downed branches, as well as providing tours to visitors to the forest," noted Cynthia Wood, director of NEFF's community forestry program. "We need about \$3,000 to sponsor a summer intern like V. J., who stayed in a cabin on the property. The Rice Sanctuary has a small endowment, which partially supports forest stewardship on the property."

Deerfield, Mass. -- NEFF enrolled **Pine Nook Forest** and **Tabak Memorial Forest** in the Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative. MWC is a landowner cooperative to engage in managing, processing, and marketing forest products in a sustainable way. As a member, NEFF benefits by receiving a higher return on wood harvested and supports innovative forest stewardship initiatives. The coop's website is www.MassWoodlands.coop.

Jackson, N.H. -- Representatives of the **Northern Forest Alliance (NFA)** toured NEFF's 475-acre **Dundee Forest** in Jackson, N.H. NFA is a coalition of conservation, recreation, and forestry groups that supports land conservation and economic development through sustainable forest management in northern New England and New York state. NEFF managers led a spirited discussion of sustainable forest management practices for the group. The remote Dundee Forest, which borders on the East Branch of the Saco River, provides habitat for moose, black bear, and bobcat, among other animals.

Orange, Mass. -- **Whitney Beals** and **Cynthia Wood** lead a workshop highlighting examples of land conservation for working forests as part of the North Quabbin Woods Fall Workshop Series. Participants learned about NEFF's conservation work in the region and sought answers to land conservation questions of interest to them.

Land Conservation

Even as the **Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership** continues its campaign to conserve 342,000 acres in Washington County, Maine, other projects capture the imagination and attention of NEFF and its supporters. NEFF recently stepped in to protect the Edmunds unit of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Machias, Maine, by buying over a thousand acres of the **Dwelly and Hitchings** parcels. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired the parcels from NEFF with funding from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The acreage was part of land being sold by International Paper.

In South Freeport, NEFF completed the Blair addition of twenty-six acres to the **Arnold Family Forest**.

In New Hampshire, Whit Beals, associate director of land protection for NEFF, is working with residents of Mont Vernon to conserve the **Nadeau Forest**. The campaign has raised \$60K of the \$90K goal. With a number of personal gifts in hand and a grant from the Fields Pond Foundation, the fund raising committee has been active in promoting the project in the town. Recently, a neighboring land trust announced a challenge grant to help the town complete the campaign. Enthusiasm and commitment for the town forest is running high.

Forest Stewardship

NEFF promotes wildlife habitat improvement projects as part of its forest management program and through the efforts of **New England Forestry Consultants' (NEFCo)** Tom Brule, \$85,000 in Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program grants have been awarded to NEFF by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Projects include field reclamation and establishment of early successional habitat, hard and soft mast production, and regeneration harvests on nine NEFF forests in Massachusetts. Partners in the project include the **Ruffed Grouse Society** and **Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game**.

Every year NEFF undergoes a "Green Certification" audit of its forest management practices by Smartwood under **Forest Stewardship Council** guidelines. This year's audit included a program review and field visits to NEFF's **Allen-Whitney Forest** in Manchester, Maine, and the **Arnold Family Forest** in Freeport. NEFF continues to serve as a regional model of sustainable forest management practices and serves as a source of green certified wood for the market place.

NEFCo's **Peter Farrell** has been guiding NEFF's forest management program over the past five months and has been continuing to upgrade NEFF's Landbase forest data base system. Using terminal services, all of NEFF's foresters now have access to the Landbase system over the Internet. Ninety-six forests are under the Landbase system and more are added each month. **Geographic Information System (GIS)** mapping is proceeding for NEFF forests, with all of the Maine forests complete, and the New Hampshire forests under way.

New England Forestry Foundation



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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.

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\$250+

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NEFF Secures \$100,000 Forest Legacy Grant

New England Forestry Foundation was notified in October that the U.S. Forest Service has awarded \$100,000 to NEFF for a two-year study to determine the feasibility of using medium resolution satellite imagery to provide reliable, cost-effective monitoring of conservation easements over broad forest landscapes. The project will test the Pingree monitoring protocols on a number of selected sites in New Hampshire, Vermont and New York State, and will be conducted in concert with the Department of Forest Management at the University of Maine. The U. S. Forest Service has been a leader in helping to fund this type of landscape monitoring.

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