



NEW ENGLAND FORESTS



NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

CONSERVING NEW ENGLAND'S FORESTS SINCE 1944

The How's & Why's of Forest Management

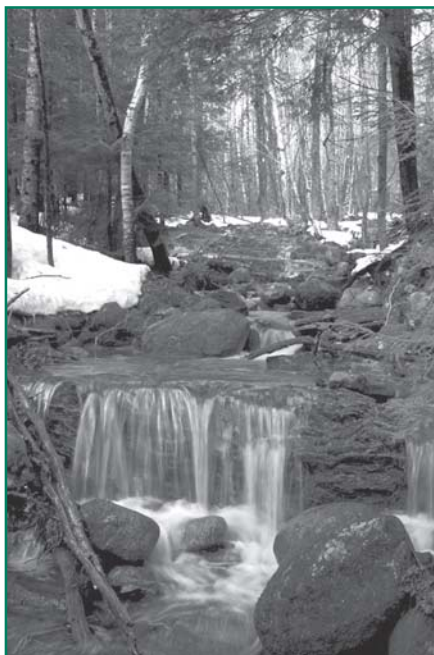
Sustainably managed forestland offers many benefits to society and the environment as well as to the landowner. When the New England Forestry Foundation was founded in 1944, its original mission was to encourage private forestland owners to implement a new and sustainable forest management system, one that generated income while fostering all the ecological benefits of a healthy forest. Because landowners recognized a shared vision with NEFF, they began to donate gifts of forestland to NEFF throughout New England. NEFF used those forests to demonstrate the sustainable forest management system it was trying to promote. As a result, NEFF now owns and sustainably manages 23,000 acres of forestland in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and

Connecticut. NEFF's management meets the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and its forests have been certified as well-managed under those principles.

NEFF manages its properties for the long-term production of high quality wood products. However, we recognize that trees and forests also provide other values such as wildlife habitat, visual quality enhancement, recreation, and water quality protection. Every property NEFF owns is managed according to a plan, written by a professional forester, that takes into account both the commercial and non-

commercial qualities of the forest. Individual forests may be managed to show different aspects of good forestry including varieties of income generation, silviculture, recreation, and biodiversity while still meeting FSC principles.

Before a scheduled timber harvest begins, the forester typically marks the trees that will be harvested so the logger will know which trees to cut. The intensity of the harvest in any area is related to past management activities, current forest conditions such as tree species and age, and the intended result that is prescribed in the management plan. In some cases, all the trees might be harvested to make a large opening so a desired tree species will regenerate. In other cases, only select trees will be harvested to improve the growing conditions for the trees that are left standing. Both cases will provide a different type of wildlife habitat than the surrounding area. This will increase the opportunity for different wildlife species to use the area thus potentially increasing biodiversity. The method by which the forest is harvested will determine what will grow back and what trees will be there to harvest the next time.



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Message from the President

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) is one of a handful of land trusts nation-wide whose conservation mission focuses on sustainable forestry. NEFF has accomplished more forest-land conservation in the last seven years than any other New England-based land trust — more than 1.1 million acres. For a small organization, that is a remarkable achievement.

NEFF's most recent success, the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, is in its third and final phase. As an added incentive to complete this project by year-end, an anonymous donor has offered a generous match of \$1 for every \$2 contributed or pledged to the project up to \$1,500,000. If we collect \$3 million in new gifts by December 31st it will be enhanced by \$1.5 million for a total of \$4.5 million, thereby fully funding the project and assuring the perpetual conservation of 339,000 acres of the northern forest. This is an extraordinary opportunity to have your charitable contribution increased by fifty percent.

Finishing this landscape scale project by the end of this year will allow NEFF to focus on other land protection projects around New England. NEFF continues to work with landowners, large and small, on many forest conservation opportunities throughout the region. Since 2001, we have protected hundreds of thousands of acres for sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. There are many new projects under way throughout the region ranging in size from 35 to 4,000 acres.

Over the past two years, NEFF's community forest education program has grown significantly, as has the Forest Steward program, which now has more than 70 stewards who look after 42 of NEFF's community forests. In 2005, NEFF held Community Forest Discovery Day at twelve NEFF forests on the third Saturday in May. In 2006, the event was expanded to include the third Saturday in May, June, July, and



Timothy A. Ingraham

August with a variety of programs at over twenty community forests and a popular geocache challenge, which included twelve locations. Hundreds of people of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to visit a NEFF forest. Plans are already under way for next year — I hope you will join us for a program in your area.

All of these activities would not be possible without the support of individuals like you. As the holiday giving season approaches, please keep NEFF in mind. Don't pass up the opportunity to help finish the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership through the \$1 : \$2 challenge!

Thank you and Happy Holidays!!

...continued from page one

Each year about 15,000 tons of wood are harvested from NEFF's 23,000 acres. Trees harvested from these forests are processed into the highest value products possible including veneer, dimension lumber, paper, and firewood. Trees typically harvested from NEFF's forests include white pine, red oak, white oak, sugar maple, red maple, white ash, black cherry, birch, and red spruce. Other native species will be harvested and marketed at the same time. Where trees go for processing depends on the price paid for the tree and the cost of shipping it to the processor. High value trees

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normally command a price that makes it worth trucking them long distances if need be. Low quality trees and low value products do not always pay their way out of the woods, for instance when logging and trucking costs are more than the log is worth. Therefore, the closer a forest is to pulpwood or biomass markets, the better the utilization of these lower value trees will be.

The money NEFF gets paid from timber harvesting operations is used to pay the costs associated with owning and managing our forestland. Forestland that returns enough money to the landowner to pay the costs of owner-

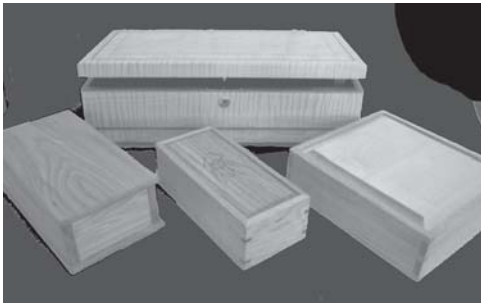
ship and management is more likely to remain a managed forestland and less likely to be converted to other land uses such as development.

Prior to every planned timber harvest, NEFF offers abutters and other interested people the opportunity to take a pre-harvest tour. On the tour, NEFF staff and the consulting forester explain the upcoming operation and answer any questions about forestry and NEFF's management. Please visit our website to learn more about NEFF's forest management and to check the calendar for upcoming pre-harvest tours in your area, www.newenglandforestry.org.

Buy Local Wood This Holiday Season!

Hand crafted gifts from the North Quabbin Woods of Massachusetts:

North Quabbin Woods' network of over 40 woodworking businesses produce everything from gifts to fine furniture. To browse products, visit our showroom in Orange, MA, on-line at www.northquabbinwoods.org, or call Scott at 978-544-3332.



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An assortment of **Jewelry Boxes** from \$35-\$400, Multi-Species **Cutting Boards** from \$45-\$75, **Photo Frames** from \$40-\$75, Beautifully-toned **Marimbas** from \$120-\$595, **Bent Wood Baskets** from \$30-\$500, **Wooden Burl bowls**, and more.



Congratulations to Laurie Maldari of Leominster! She is the grand prize winner of the 2006 Community Forest Discovery Days Geocache Challenge. She wins a one-week stay at NEFF's Hawk's Hill cabin tucked away in East Barnard, Vermont. Laurie, an enthusiastic participant, visited 10 of the 12 forests on which NEFF hosted cache sites. Laurie says she loves the adventure of geocaching and she's not alone. Participation is huge. Visit the official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site www.geocaching.com and see for yourself. This outdoor activity is growing in popularity worldwide with over 320,000 active caches in 222 countries!



NEFF Welcomes New Staff

Upon arriving at Oberlin College to study choral conducting, Lisa Spalding quickly fell in love with the rich (and buggy) ecosystems of northeastern Ohio and pursued a degree in environmental studies instead. After college she worked in conservation and environmental education at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Wisconsin, the Museum of Science in Boston, and the New England Aquarium.



Lisa Spalding

Before coming to NEFF, Lisa completed her master's degree at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, where she studied environmental planning and conflict resolution. She also worked closely with the Sonoran Institute to evaluate collaborative planning efforts on Western public lands.

In her new role as NEFF's Community Forest Programs and Communications Coordinator, one of the duties Lisa looks forward to is expanding NEFF's Forest Stewards program or being the "Steward of the Forest Stewards" as she puts it. The Forest Stewards are citizens who have volunteered to look after one of NEFF's Community Forests in their nearby area. She is also looking forward to continuing the success of Community Forest Discovery Days and building upon NEFF's outreach programs to "invite even more people to explore NEFF's Community Forests throughout New England. Drop me a line if you have any program ideas!"

Forest News

Why Forests Provide the Best Protection for Water Resources

Paul K. Barten

Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Natural Resources Conservation

In “*Man and Nature*,” published in 1864 and widely regarded as the wellspring of the Conservation Movement, George Perkins Marsh wrote . . . “*With the disappearance of the forest all is changed.*” Then and now, after a century of scientific research, this simple declarative statement confirms our intuitive sense that forests provide the best protection of water supplies and aquatic ecosystems. By contrast with developed areas, forests are remarkably efficient, low maintenance, solar-powered living filters.

Comparing the hydrologic characteristics of forests and developed areas highlights the sometimes subtle differences in vegetation, soil properties, and pathways of water flow that lead to substantial differences in streamflow and water quality. In forests, rain tumbles through the mature tree canopy, understory trees and shrubs, and herbaceous plants such as ferns before reaching the litter layer. Renewed by annual additions of leaves, twigs, and branches, the litter layer is: a natural mulch that limits evaporation, a shock absorber that protects soil pores, an insulator that inhibits soil freezing, and a slow-release source of nutrients to foster more plant growth and site protection. The underlying organic, mixed, and mineral layers (horizons) in forest soils can store and transmit large quantities of water. This water storage capacity and permeability — exceeded only by some hurricanes and rain-on-snow events — is developed over centuries by microbes, insects, earthworms, burrowing animals, and the

extensive, deep, and perennial root systems of trees and shrubs. As a result of these ecological characteristics, overland flow and soil erosion are rarely, if ever, observed in forests.

Roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads (impervious surfaces) in developed areas convert rain or snowmelt immediately and directly to stormwater. Ornamental trees, shrubs, and gardens cast some shade, use water, recycle nutrients, and intercept rain and snow in imitation of forests. Lawns (a monoculture of shallow-rooted grasses) also use water and nutrients but typically require irrigation, fertilizers, lime, and pesticides to maintain the color, density, and uniformity that most people desire. Mulching mowers leave grass clippings to form a thin thatch layer that is a laudable yet poor functional substitute for the litter layer in forests. Last but not least, the excavation and grading associated with most construction projects decreases the ability of the soil to store and transmit water. Topsoil (a jumbled mixture of the original forest soil horizons) is bulldozed into piles before the subsoil is subjected to “cut and fill” earthwork. The topsoil is spread back over the site and seeded to grass at the end of the construction phase. The weight and vibration of the heavy machinery needed for this work causes soil compaction that often inhibits drainage and root growth. Water-logged soils in developed areas are subject to freezing that, in effect, temporarily converts them into impervious surfaces. With the disappearance of the forest much is changed—

overland flow and soil erosion become commonplace events.

In sum, when forests are converted to residential, commercial, or industrial land uses high flows increase, low flows decrease (. . . or go to zero), and the response time to rain or snowmelt may decrease substantially. These changes in streamflow and water quality occur because water that once percolated *through* the leaf litter and forest soils now flows *over* compacted soils and impervious surfaces. Overland flow (stormwater) lifts and carries soil particles, nutrients, and other pollutants (e.g., pet waste, motor oil, metals, etc.) downstream — to public water supply intakes, recreation areas, and estuaries. Subsurface flow that once took days or weeks (even months) is replaced by overland flow that occurs in minutes or hours. Obviously, this reduces the contact time with plants, soil microbes, and organic matter and the opportunity for what remains of the forest filter to work on our behalf. The conversion of forest land to developed areas replaces a stormwater and pollutant *sink* with a stormwater and pollutant *source*. This is the two-edged sword of suburban sprawl and forest fragmentation and the reason why a comprehensive approach to forest conservation and the revitalization of urban areas is at least as important today as it was a century ago.

For more information about forests, water, and people go to: www.wetpartnership.org; www.na.fs.fed.us; and www.umass.edu/ecologicalcities.

Forest Steward Profile

Reed Anthony

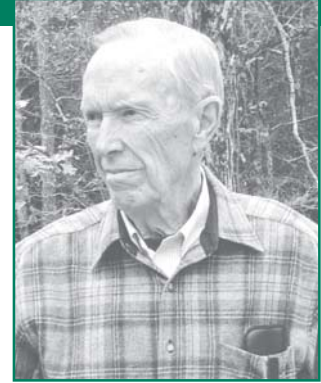
Weeks Memorial Forest, Guilford, Vermont

Reed Anthony first came to learn about the New England Forestry Foundation through his acquaintance with John Hemenway and Farnham Smith, two of NEFF's earliest members and supporters. He had long been interested in working woodlands and finding ways to keep it that way so his involvement with NEFF was a natural fit.

When Reed and his brother, Nathan, began planning the future of their family's forestland in Guilford, Ver-

mont, the New England Forestry Foundation came up as a possible recipient of the donation of the property. The property had been in their family since the time of their great-grandfather, Andrew Weeks.

Serving as one of NEFF's 70-plus volunteer Forest Stewards has allowed Reed to further his interest in the subject of land stewardship. It has also increased his connection to a piece of land that already meant a great deal to



him and his family. Reed has met neighbors of the property as well as members of the general public who have come to walk the trails through the forest.

Andrew G. Weeks Memorial Forest Guilford, Vermont

This 175-acre property was donated by Reed and Nathan Anthony in 1992 & 1993. It is named after their great grandfather Andrew G. Weeks, a wholesale druggist from Boston and a partner in the Guilford Mineral Spring Water enterprise that flourished in the late 1800's.

The spring site is just over the logging bridge that spans the main brook where the banks have been lined with granite slabs. The spring, called Guilford Pool, was known locally for its curative powers, and in 1817, Dr.

Erasmus Root delivered a talk on its medicinal properties. The public flocked to the site. When the owner tried to charge admission, the public tore down his house. He then filled in the spring and banned the public.

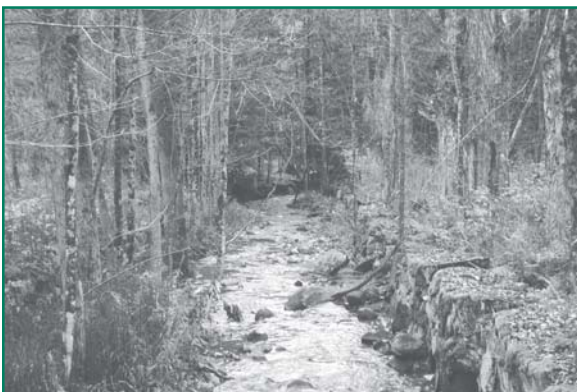
In 1868, the Guilford Mineral Springs Company was incorporated, and started operation. A health spa was developed with numerous buildings and a bottling plant. Water was marketed through 21 agents in cities as far away as New Orleans. After a decade or so, interest faded and the enterprise folded.

The forest is now primarily comprised of sugar maple, white ash, white pine, and hemlock. The property's soils are rich and sweet with limestone. It is also a relatively wet site requiring winter logging to avoid excessive damage. There are 20 acres of hay fields worked by a local farmer.

A Walk in the Woods

The property is protected under a conservation easement held by the Vermont Land Trust and is "green certified" under Forest Stewardship Council guidelines. It is managed under the general principles of multiple use forest management, which takes into consideration the property's timber, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values. The property has two uncommon plant species: ginseng and Goldie's fern. There is an older stand of hemlock and northern hardwoods containing some large individual trees that will be retained. NEFF has harvested timber on the property in 1993-94 and 1995-96.

This winter, NEFF will be conducting another timber harvest on the property. This operation will combine releasing existing tree regeneration, thinning out an overcrowded stand, and salvaging the dead or dying ash trees throughout the property. Ash trees throughout southern New England are suffering from a combination of biological and environmental factors leading to their temporary decline.



Who's in the Spotlight?

Merloyd Ludington NEFF Board of Directors



Merloyd Ludington, a Boston book editor-publisher and longtime forest conservation advocate has been a respected member of the New England Forestry Foundation board since 1989. Merloyd co-publishes with the Perseus Books Group

under the Merloyd Lawrence imprint and specializes in books on child development, natural history and environment. Among notable books under her imprint are Sandra Steingraber's *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*; works by T. Berry Brazelton; a comprehensive child health guide with Children's Hospital Boston; John Hanson Mitchell's *The Wildest Place on Earth* and *You Can't Eat GNP* by Eric Davidson.

"I was drawn to NEFF both because of its great work in forest conservation and also out of a feeling for forests deepened over thirty years of summer holidays spent in a small cabin at the end of a forested trail in Nova Scotia. Savoring the spruce, pine, fir, larch and oak woods in these northern woods brought me back home to appreciate what

is closer at hand in New England. While I have a special interest in forests left forever wild, the importance of sustainable, responsible harvesting of timber, as advocated by NEFF, is equally clear. "Woodlands and Wildlands" need one another.

"NEFF was very much ahead of its time. Long before the role of forests in the climate system was widely known, NEFF, now over 60 years old, was promoting the conservation and stewardship of New England forests. Under Bayard Henry and Bill King's leadership NEFF has undergone remarkable growth, not just in the gigantic easements it now holds, but in the sophistication of its land preservation strategies and in the model it sets for community forests and forest practice. It's been exciting to watch this evolution."

In addition to NEFF, Merloyd is a board member of the Northeast Wilderness Trust, Island Press, and the Woods Hole Research Center. She is also a former trustee of MassAudubon and Milton Academy.

Merloyd lives in Boston with her husband John Myers.

Gail Wilson Development Associate



Gail Wilson joined the NEFF staff in March of 2004. She came to NEFF after working three years in the development office at The Fenn School in Concord, Mass., and seven years in the alumni and development office at Groton School in Groton, Mass.

Gail said she wasn't actively looking for a job when she saw the NEFF ad, but because she had lived in Littleton for about fifteen years and graduated from Littleton High School, the idea of working in a community that holds many fond memories was very appealing. She decided to pursue the opportunity and it has worked out very well for all involved.

Gail is the assistant clerk for the Board of Directors and is in charge of planning and coordinating meetings and recording meeting minutes. Her responsibilities also include membership and donor stewardship, fundraising, database

management, and participation in various NEFF events throughout the year.

Recently, Gail met with Lauri Maldari, the grand prizewinner of our Community Forest Discovery Days Geocache Challenge. Lauri gave Gail a brief GPS lesson and led her on a geocache adventure. Gail brought back pictures and a better understanding and enthusiasm for this new activity added to our programs. Gail enjoys being involved in the range of activities that working at NEFF offers. "It's a great work environment — lots of variety, always plenty to do, and much to learn. I feel as though I've come full circle — working here in Littleton and occasionally seeing old friends again is certainly an added benefit."

Gail now lives in Leominster and her pride and joy comes from time spent with her four grown children and two grandchildren.

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 here, please know every donation is vital to our work.

July 20, 2006 through October 25, 2006

\$250+ Donors

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Land Protection Success

Land Conservation Across New England and the US

NEFF is working on several new land conservation opportunities, some of which will be closing before the end of 2006. Projects in five New England states are under way, plus one project each in New York and Wisconsin, the latter one coming to us through our recently inked cooperative agreement with the Ruffed Grouse Society. Highlights include the pending addition of 90 acres to the 420-acre Mixer-Nields Memorial Forest in Hardwick, Massachusetts, and a conservation easement on 290 acres of farmland and forestland in Gilford, New Hampshire. In Hardwick, the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts is providing funding for NEFF's bargain-sale purchase of the new acreage by purchasing a perpetual conservation restriction on the 90 acres and on 180 acres of the abutting Mixer-Nields forest. In Gilford, the Persons family is donating the conservation easement prior to establishing a new non-profit entity that will support NEFF's programs through on-site activities, farming and forestry revenues, and an endowment.

NEFF soon will benefit from another way to support the organization: the donation of land for the express purpose of having NEFF sell it to generate income. Late last year, NEFF

accepted a gift of 18 acres in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, which the owners had purchased to prevent future development. An abutter was interested in acquiring the property at a price well below its development value, so NEFF agreed to place a conservation restriction on the land and then convey it to the abutter. The regional Metacomet Land Trust will hold the conservation restriction. The result will be 18 acres of permanently protected land and a significant cash infusion to NEFF's Prouty Woods campaign. If there are others of you who are in a position to make a "trade land" donation to NEFF, please contact either Whitney Beals or Ed DeVenne.



New England Forestry Foundation

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New Incentives for Forestland Conservation

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 could help you maximize your tax deductions while supporting NEFF and its mission.

Conservation Easements: If you donate a conservation easement or sell one to NEFF as a “bargain sale” in 2006 or 2007, you will be eligible to claim a tax deduction for the donation up to 50% of your adjusted gross income (AGI), and you can carry forward any unused portion of the deduction for up to 15 years. The former law limited deductions to 30% of your AGI with a carry forward of 5 years.

If you are a farmer or rancher (forestry is farming under this law) who earns 50% or more of your income from farming or ranching, you would be eligible to deduct up to 100% of your AGI for donations like the above; the same carry forward applies.

Charitable Giving by S Corporations: If an S Corporation donates a forestland conservation easement to NEFF in 2006 or 2007, every shareholder may be able to get a tax benefit that was not available last year and may not be available after 2007. Each shareholder will be able to deduct their proportionate share of the fair market value of the donation up to 50% of their adjusted gross income and carry any unused forward for 15 years. Each shareholder’s basis in the corporation will be reduced by the pro rata share of

the adjusted basis in the donated property. Under the former law, each shareholder would have been allowed a deduction of only up to the value of his or her stock basis.

An LLC as well as a closely held C corporation also may benefit. The closely held C corporation could elect S corporation status by March 15, 2007, and then take advantage of this avenue of donating an easement to NEFF.

Charitable Gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts: If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and wish to use it to make a contribution to NEFF, you could direct the IRA trustee to make up to a \$100,000 distribution directly to NEFF. Under the new law, as long as you are at least 70.5 years of age at the time of the distribution, the distribution will not be considered as income. Although you would not get a charitable deduction, you would avoid paying income tax on the amount distributed. The exclusion is limited to \$100,000 or less per taxpayer per year.

To learn more about supporting NEFF and qualifying for a long-term tax deduction contact Whitney Beals at 978-952-6856. Your tax advisor will be able to guide you on the most appropriate structure for applying the changes to charitable giving laws. The changes are in effect only for 2006 and 2007 and may not be extended!

Give a Gift to NEFF!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Send your Contribution to:
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P.O. Box 1346
Littleton, MA 01460



For more information call Penny Flynn at 978-952-6856 or visit www.newenglandforestry.org