

THE FUTURE OF LOW- AND HIGH-GRADE WOOD

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Picture Perfect: 2018 Photo Contest Winners

AUTUMN 2018

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PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS

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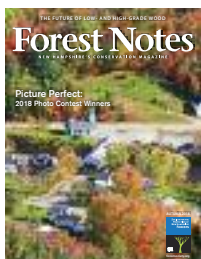
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Passing the Torch

I recently shared my plan to retire in October 2019 with the Forest Society board, staff, and supporters. After 22 years, I'm ready to spend more time exploring the land the Forest Society has protected during my tenure here. I'm looking forward to taking my canine sidekick, Minnie, on hikes of Black Mountain, Deaf Dog Reservation, and Grandpa Watson's Woodlot. I want to hike the length of the Hedgehog Ridge Trail in Deering and return to the Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville. And I'm always game to hike Gap Mountain, where I spent my early years as a Forest Society summer intern.

I am grateful to our members, staff, and Board of Trustees who have contributed to all that's been accomplished over the last two decades. Together, we've protected nearly 300,000 acres of New Hampshire's most important forests, fields, wetlands, and vistas. We've protected public drinking water supplies, wildlife habitats, and amazing recreational resources. The lands we own as reservations have doubled in acreage. As a friend of mine used to say, "Not too shabby!"

From an organizational standpoint, this is a good time to transition to new leadership. The Forest Society is on stable footing with a great board and experienced staff. Our trustees are already convening a committee of the board to begin a search for a suitable person to lead the organization forward.

In the meantime, there's a lot of work to be done: Northern Pass will (perhaps) be at the Supreme Court next year; we want to engage more people on our lands; and there are land protection projects to complete along with myriad other important challenges to keeping New Hampshire, New Hampshire. I'll have three or so more columns to write for *Forest Notes*, but right now, I've got to get back to work! I hope to see you in the forest!

Jane Difley is the president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.



Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A nonprofit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is \$40 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

Executive Editor: Jack Savage

Editor: Ryan Smith

Design & Production: The Secret Agency

Printing: R.C. Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

Forest Notes is printed on elemental chlorine-free Sappi Flo paper with 10 percent post-consumer recycled content. Sappi Flo is made from pulp purchased from suppliers who document sound environmental practices and sustainable forest management.

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Difley Honored at Alnoba Leadership Awards

President/Forester Jane Difley was presented with the first ever Moral Courage and Leadership Award in recognition of her work over the past eight years defending New Hampshire landscapes.

“As with many great leaders, Jane gives credit to the guts, smarts, and tenacity of her team at the Forest Society,” said Alan Lewis, CEO and co-founder of Alnoba. “Jane’s legacy was cemented when she put the Forest Society front and center against the development of the Northern Pass transmission line. While she will go down in the history books for her persistence against Northern Pass, it is also Jane’s passion and dedication to New Hampshire’s landscapes and forests that will be remembered and enjoyed by those visiting the Forest Society’s 185 forest reservations.”



From left, Martha Prybylo of the Lewis Family Foundation; Susanne Kibler-Hacker, Forest Society vice president for development; Jane Difley, Forest Society president/forester; and Allan Lewis, CEO and co-founder of Alnoba, pose for a photo at the Alnoba Leadership Awards.

Alnoba is an organization dedicated to developing courageous leadership and sustainability models to help change people’s lives, create stronger communities, and a healthier planet. The first annual Alnoba Leadership Awards were presented in October at Alnoba’s headquarters in Kensington, N.H.

“The Forest Society may have lead the charge, but we were not alone,” Difley said in accepting the award. “Citizen activism, the support of many donors, and our success at tapping into the authentic, dedicated, generous spirit of New Hampshire citizens who recognized the real New Hampshire advantage—it’s landscapes, forests, mountains, and waterways.”

Alnoba established the award to honor a visionary leader whose body of work,

“Difley Honored” continued on page 4.

Sign up for

Forest Explorer

The Forest Society’s new outdoor recreation and activity e-newsletter.



Visit forestociety.org to sign up.

Roses are Red, Trees are Blue: Currier Museum Artist Paints Trees for a Purpose

The Currier Museum of Art has commissioned artist Konstantin Dimopoulos to create an environmental community art installation called The Blue Trees. With the help of volunteers, Dimopoulos temporarily transformed nearly one hundred trees at the Currier and in nearby Manchester parks by coloring them with an environmentally safe pigment in a beautiful shade of blue. The art installation helps to promote awareness of global deforestation, while enlivening the city with this dynamic community-wide artwork. The trees will slowly return to their natural color over several months.

An ad hoc group of New Hampshire partners with interests in forests and urban and community trees collaborated with museum staff during the planning stages. For the museum and its community partners, the installation provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate and open an important conversation about the critical role of New Hampshire forests and urban trees. The exhibit runs from fall 2018 until spring 2019. ♪



Using an environmentally safe pigment, volunteers assisted artist Konstantin Dimopoulos in coloring nearly one hundred trees in Manchester to raise awareness about global deforestation.

Learn More

For more information, visit forestsociety.org/bluetrees.

To learn more about New Hampshire's forests, visit forestsociety.org/new-hampshire-everlasting.

"Difley Honored" continued from page 3.

vision, passion, and personal example has made a meaningful and measurable difference in New England.

"When Northern Pass first proposed to cut a 192-mile scar through the middle of New Hampshire by placing towers of up to 155 feet tall from the Canadian border to Deerfield, Difley declared the Forest Society "all in" for the fight," said Martha Prybylo in presenting the award. "Difley mobilized her team to conserve lands targeted by Northern Pass; mounted a legal challenge based on private property rights; spearheaded legislation preventing Northern Pass from gaining eminent domain access; educated landowners in the 31-town corridor; placed her staff front and center at every state and federal public hearing; and mounted formal intervention at federal and state permitting processes." ♪



Tag #forestsociety on Instagram for a chance to be featured in a future issue of *Forest Notes*.

@karthik.g.s captured Mount Major's true colors on a quintessential fall day in New Hampshire's Lakes Region.

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Head to The Rocks for Christmas Trees, Gifts, and Outings

The Rocks Christmas Tree Farm, the Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education center in Bethlehem, N.H., is ready to make your upcoming holiday season a memorable one. The Marketplace and Gift Shop will be open daily (except Thanksgiving Day) from Monday, November 5 until Christmas Eve.

The shops are chock-full of USA-made items, including many from local and regional vendors. You'll find New Hampshire-made gifts, ornaments, holiday decorations, and The Rocks' own maple syrup.

Starting on November 17, cut-your-own and pre-cut Christmas trees are available daily (except Thanksgiving Day) until Christmas Eve. Many families make The Rocks part of their holiday tradition by combining the search for just the right tree with a horse-drawn carriage ride around the scenic estate. The carriage rides begin on Saturday, November 17. They are very popular, so please call ahead for dates and reservations.

The Rocks also boasts a network of pet-friendly walking trails, open daily, year-round, from dawn until dusk. And The Rocks Mobile Tour, with more than a dozen signs throughout the property displaying QR codes, allows visitors to use their smart phones to learn more about the history of the estate, modern day conservation and management practices, and the different types of Christmas trees grown on the farm.

Would you like to ship a New Hampshire Christmas tree or wreath to far-flung loved ones? Visit therocks.org or call 603-444-6228 for more information. ♻️



Volunteers help trim Christmas trees at The Rocks.

NOVEMBER 23, 24, 25;
DECEMBER 1, 2, 8, 9 | 9 A.M.–4 P.M.

Volunteer Opportunities: Christmas at The Rocks

The Rocks, Bethlehem, N.H.

The Forest Society is looking for three to five volunteers on weekends in November and December to help in the pre-cut Christmas tree area. Volunteers will help families pick out pre-cut trees; measure, stock, and drill holes in trees; haul purchased trees to the baler on wagons; and maintain a fire pit for S'mores. Volunteers will have a chance to go on a horse-drawn wagon ride and search for their own tree.



No experience is necessary; Forest Society staff will provide training. Children must be occupied by a parent/guardian.

For more information, contact Carrie Deegan by emailing deegan@forestsociety.org or calling 603-545-2992.

Creek Farm Event Series

DECEMBER 14 | 4–6 P.M.

Owl Prowl

Creek Farm, Portsmouth, N.H.

This fun event introduces participants to the amazing adaptations of native owls. Following the presentation, we'll take a short walk into the surrounding habitat to call for owls and listen for *whoow* might call back. We welcome owl prowlers of all ages, but please remember that patience and a quiet atmosphere are crucial for viewing owls. This event is co-sponsored by the Forest Society and the Center for Wildlife.

Free. To register, visit forestsociety.org/event/owl-prowl.



Sarah Kern, education and outreach lead at the Center for Wildlife, introduces a great horned owl at a past event.

FEBRUARY 23, 2019 | 10–11:30 A.M.

Making Tracks With Wildlife

Creek Farm, Portsmouth, N.H.

What happened here? Whose footprint is that? Join us to answer these questions and more! We'll hike and identify the tracks of local wildlife as well as the evidence of several telltale wildlife encounters! By recognizing the wing prints of an owl catching their prey or the midden left over by a red squirrel's snack, we can learn so much about our wildlife's winter habits. We will also practice making our own tracks and seeing how our actions look in the fresh fallen snow. This event is co-sponsored by the Forest Society and the Center for Wildlife.

Open to all ages. Free. To register, visit forestsociety.org/event/making-tracks-wildlife.

For a complete list of events, check out forestsociety.org/events.

PICTURE PERFECT:

THE WINNERS OF THE FOREST SOCIETY'S 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

Last year, Forest Society members and friends captured some stunning photographs on our reservation and easement land. From waterfalls to waterfowl, we received a variety of submissions from people living in New Hampshire and beyond. Our judges struggled to vote for category winners, but in the end, they were quite pleased with the results—we hope you are too.

—Ryan Smith, *Forest Notes* Editor

For more information on the 2019 photo contest, visit forestsociety.org/2019photocontest

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE:

LOVELY LANDSCAPES



"Stark from Devil's Slide" by Ken Paulsen (Kauffmann Forest, Stark)

"I have made several trips that had Stark, N.H., as one of my northern destinations and, like many others, I have tried to time my visits for peak color conditions. The viewpoint atop the Devil's Slide provided a wonderful view of Stark. While I am not a fan of being on the edge, I was not going to let that stop me from getting the image you see."

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE: **LOVELY LANDSCAPES**

"My wife and I frequently find ourselves in Cockermouth Forest when we want to get away from the scores of people en route to completing their 4,000-footer list. The brooks, forests, and overlooks at Cockermouth (and frequent sightings of bears) are a welcome refuge. I took this photo because I was struck by the beauty of the crimson blueberries, ever-present granite, and ridgetop view."



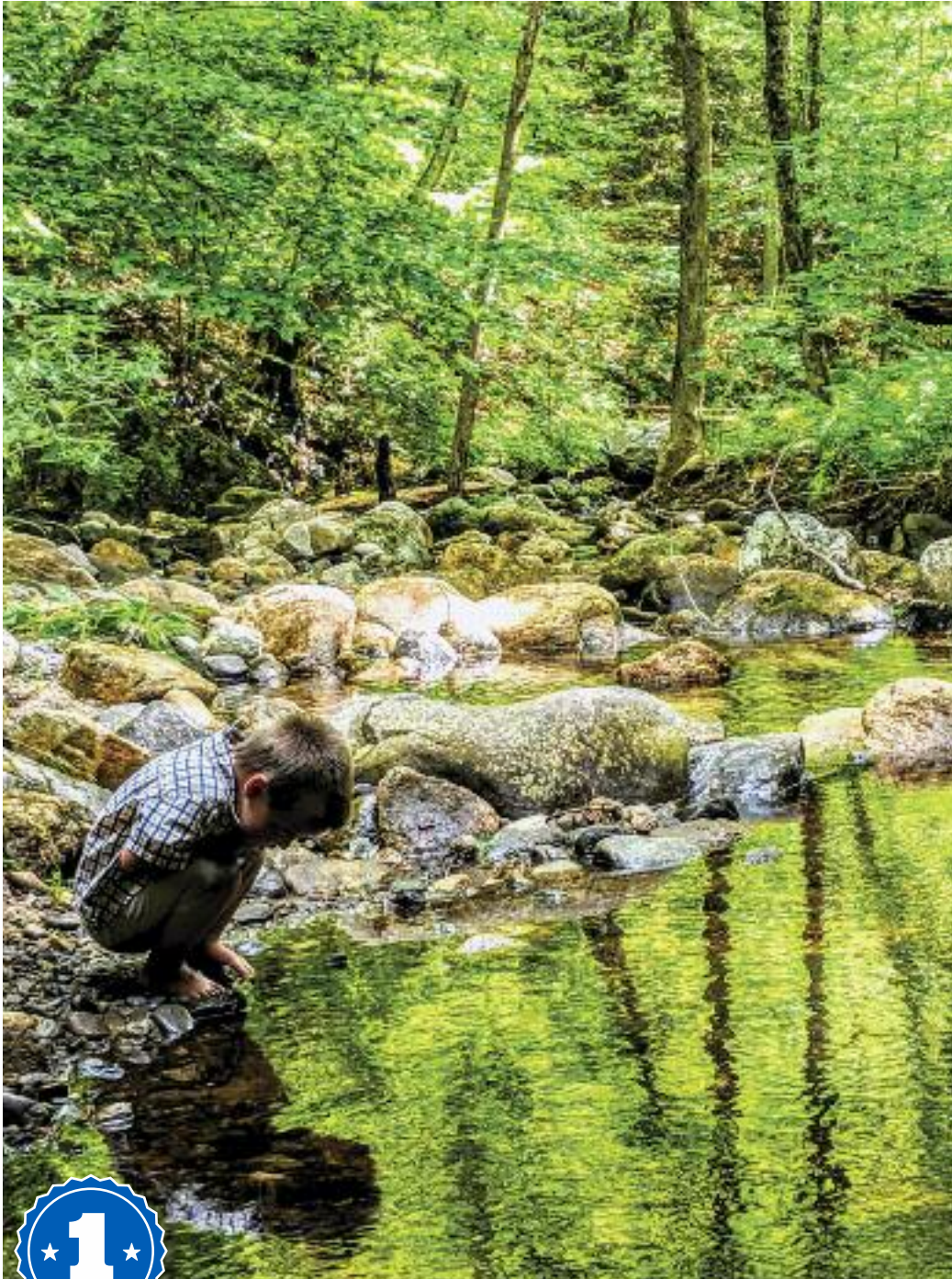
"Beautiful Gap in the Forest" by Mark Runquist (Cockermouth Forest, Groton)



"Sunset Hill" by Michael Vinson (Hay Reservation, Newbury)

"I love when I get a summit all to myself—just me and the scenery having an unspoken connection. I had such luck on Sunset Hill in August of last year. It was an evening when [the reservation] definitely lived up to its name. The sunset I witnessed was incredible. The clouds seemed like broad brush strokes crisscrossing the deep blue sky above me. The sun's last rays on the horizon bathed the trees on the hill in a gorgeous warm light. It was like nature had painted this sunset just for me, and I was honored to be its lone observer that evening."

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE:
HAVING FUN OUTDOORS



"Exploration" by Jillian Lynch (Cockermouth Forest, Groton)

"My son and I were getting some fresh air and exercise at the Cockermouth Forest. After a little walking, we decided that the creek at the beginning of the trail was the best place to be on this hot, humid day. The forest was such a peaceful, quiet adventure to enjoy. Thank you to those who help preserve and protect our beautiful surroundings."



"Taking it In" by Kate Wilcox (Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Sr. Preserve, Alton)



"On a hot, steamy day in June, Forest Society volunteer Jack Swatt, a summer Long Pond resident and an avid birder, and Dylan Jackson from Audubon Capital Chapter, led about 20 people on a bird walk through Lempster Town Forest (LTF) and Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest. This photo was taken at Duck Pond in the LTF. It warmed my heart to capture so many folks experiencing one of my favorite places and a place that I helped to protect."



"Bird Walk" by Sue Lichty
(Lempster Town Forest [Forest Society easement], Lempster)



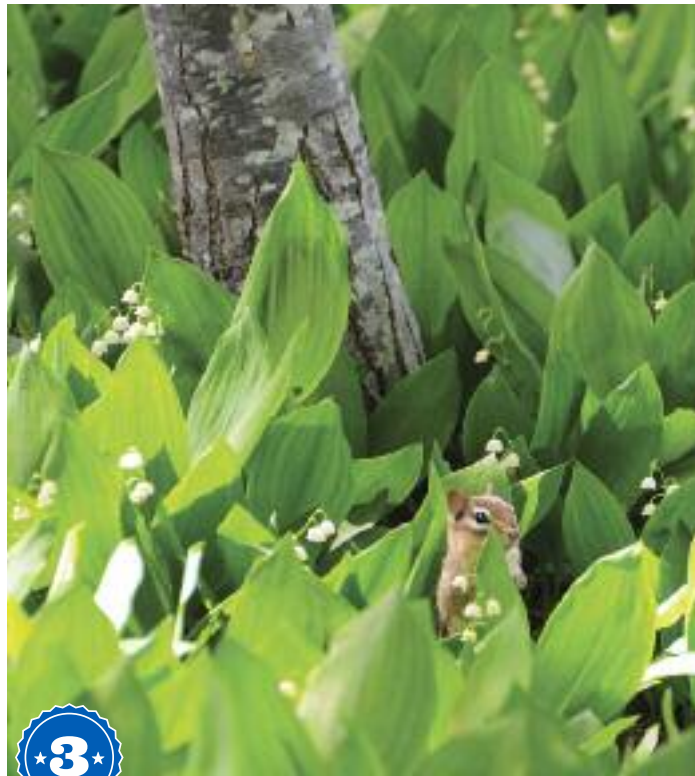
"Frog" by Jackie Sawyer (Beatrice Trum Hunter Preserve, Deering)

"I slowly glided by this little frog while kayaking on the Hunter property in July. It thought it was totally camouflaged, and it kept perfectly still. So cute!"

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE:
FLORA AND FAUNA

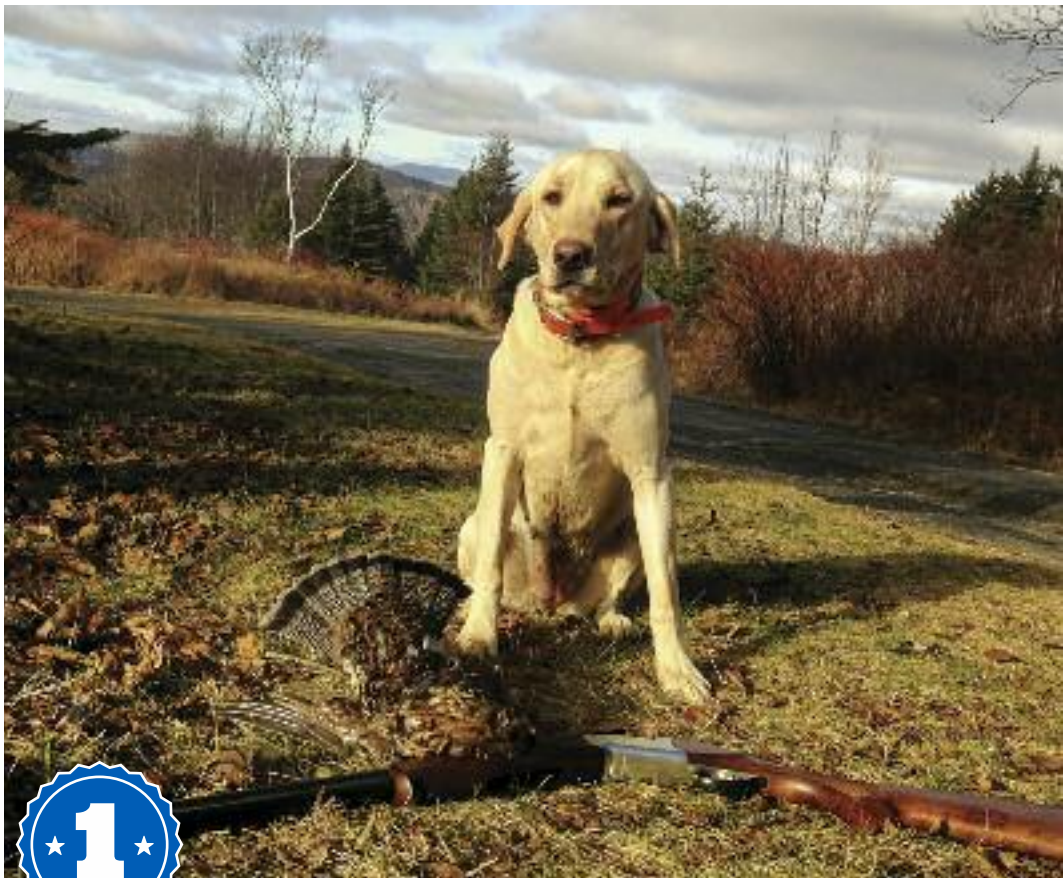


"Loon" by Jim Moul (Grafton Pond Reservation, Grafton)



"Chipmunk" by Sandy Murphy
(Creek Farm, Portsmouth)

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE:
DOG HEAVEN



"Belle's Bird" by David O'Hearn (Washburn Family Forest, Clarksville)

"I have a passion for ruffed grouse. As New Hampshire's landscape matures, the Forest Society knows that young forests are crucial to the survival of birds and small mammals. This grouse was taken in just that type of habitat at the Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville, N.H., on a cold December morning."



"Daisy Taking a Rest" by Mark Runquist
(Cockermouth Forest, Groton)



"Proud Pup on Pine Mountain" by Kate Wilcox
(Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Sr. Preserve, Alton)



"Pink Lady Slipper" by Megan Hanrahan
(Grafton Pond Reservation, Grafton)

"I went to Grafton Pond with my aunt and cousin. It was a chilly, gray morning, but the pond was very pretty and calm. We heard a loon call echo across the water but we couldn't see it. On our way back from the pond, just off the trail, we saw a small area with several lady slippers. The soft pink really stood out against the brown forest floor. It was a short visit, but I am really glad we went!"

HONORABLE MENTIONS

LOVELY LANDSCAPES



“Sagamore Creek” by Kate Wilcox (Creek Farm, Portsmouth)

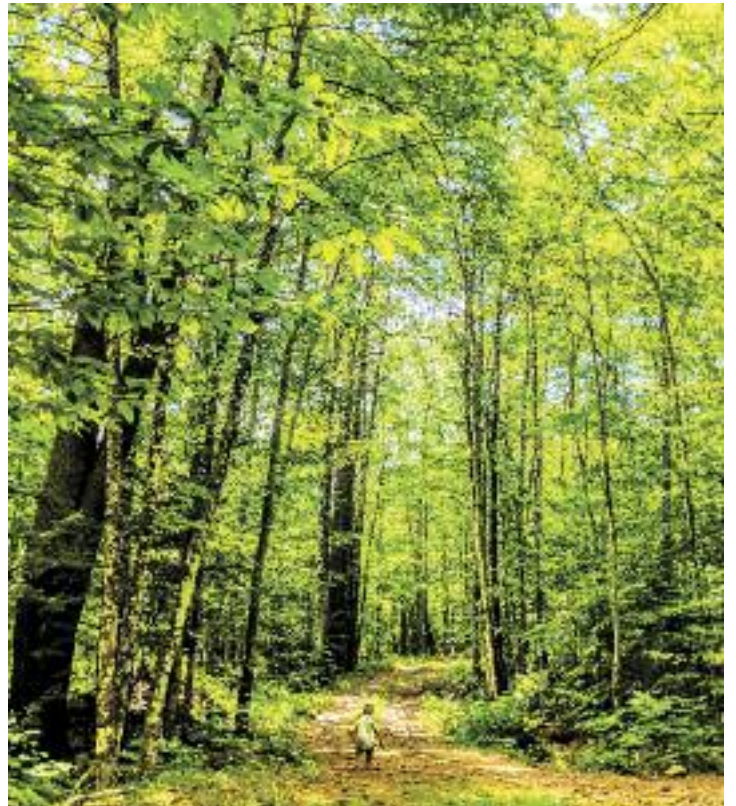


“Rainy Hike” by Kate Wilcox (Creek Farm, Portsmouth)

HAVING FUN OUTDOORS



“Lost River Cleanup” by Kate Wilcox
(Lost River Reservation, Woodstock)



“Kids on Woods Road” by Jillian Lynch
(Cockermouth Forest, Groton)

DOG HEAVEN



"Just Griff" by Sheila Goss (Grafton Pond Reservation, Grafton)



"Buddy Explores!" by Kelsy Allan
(Madame Sherri Forest, Chesterfield)

FLORA AND FAUNA



"Molly and Finn's Birthday" by Sue Lichty
(Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Lempster)



"Maple Tree" by Margaret "Daisy" Yatsevitch
(Michael M. and Claudia Yatsevitch Forest, Cornish and Plainfield)



What's Next for Wood?

Opportunities and Challenges Abound
for Low- and High-Grade Products

— By Eric Kingsley —



The forest industry is always changing.

When this century began, New Hampshire's two surviving pulp mills in Berlin and Groveton were still operating. Today, those pulp mills are idle, closing its doors in 2006 and 2007, respectively. In Maine, long a state known for its critical market of wood, five pulp mills have closed since 2014, leaving only four operating mills in New England, all of which are in Maine. Biomass electricity plants, high-volume users of low-grade wood, also face economic headwinds that threaten their viability. Northern New England has thirteen operating biomass plants, seven of which are in New Hampshire. New England has lost many markets for wood in recent years, but these losses have created opportunities for new products and new applications to emerge. The issue is attracting much discussion given the recent political debate about the future of low-grade markets in the state.

As a consultant in the forest industry, I have the opportunity to review emerging technologies hatched in university and federal research labs, meet with developers claiming they have identified the next big thing for wood, and visit pilot projects where prototypes face rigorous testing environments. What I have learned, time after time, is that it is easier to talk about a technology than it is to bring it to market.

A professor friend often tells me that anything you can make from oil can be made from wood. At some level that only a chemist can appreciate, I am sure he is correct. After all, oil is just organic matter processed with heat, pressure, oxygen, and—something researchers don't have a lot of—time.

Completed in January 2017, the John W. Olver Design Building at UMass Amherst, the largest and most technologically advanced academic contemporary wood structure in the U.S., was made with innovative materials, including cross-laminated timber.





(Clockwise from top left) A biomass facility in Oregon turns raw material (pictured) into energy; woody biomass chips; cross-laminated timber samples; wood pellets fall into a conveyor at a mill in Oregon.

Entrepreneurs and scientists are looking into ways to speed up the time it takes to turn wood into a liquid fuel or otherwise find new uses for wood. Here are a few of the technologies researchers are exploring:

Wood Fuels

Biofuels made from wood is a market with lots of potential. It has been well established that woody biomass can be turned into ethanol, butanol, or other liquid fuels using several processes, including fermentation, gasification, and pyrolysis. What researchers haven't been able to establish is how to make commercial-scale biomass fuel while simultaneously making money. Despite the challenges researchers face, there have been some recent promising developments. In 2016, a jet using a blend of 20 percent wood-based fuel flew from Seattle, Wash., to Washington, D.C., proving that the fuel can be used by modern technology. In 2014, North Conway's Memorial Hospital began heating its facilities with a bio-oil made from wood in a Canadian plant. Given the significant market for home heating across the Northeast, liquid fuels that can replace traditional home heating oil provide a great opportunity for the region. Though there might be some bumps along the way, it appears that the technology may be nearing a point where it can be deployed at a commercial scale as long as it can clear the economic hurdles. Of course, a wood fuel doesn't

have to fit into our existing fossil fuel infrastructure to make an impact. New Hampshire plants have manufactured wood pellets for more than two decades, providing a locally made alternative to heating with fossil fuels. In addition to pellet stoves, which provide great supplemental heat, modern boilers combined with bulk storage provide opportunities to heat entire homes, offices, or schools using local wood. The big driver of growth for wood heat is the price of competing fuels. If oil prices rise again, expect a spike in this market.

Bioproducts

In addition to wood-based fuels, there are emerging opportunities in the bio-based product market (i.e., products traditionally made from fossil fuels that are now made from wood). In the past year, there have been credible efforts to site manufacturing facilities in New England that would

- produce a range of organic chemicals from low-grade wood, which could be used to make plastics, pharmaceuticals, and other products;
- manufacture a low-density fiberboard for use as an insulating material in construction;
- create blown-in cellulosic insulation that competes with fiberglass insulation;
- combine wood chips and recycled plastic to form the material for highway signs (currently made of aluminum);
- create a high-protein pellet to replace soy-based animal feed and nutrition in aquaculture operations.

Having followed similar proposals for a few decades, I can say with certainty that most of these won't go anywhere; a few may succeed. That is the nature of emerging industries, and it's nothing unique to the forest products industry; bringing new technologies to market is hard work. What can provide us with some real optimism is that the recent loss of markets in the region has attracted entrepreneurs and developers looking for



the next generation of how to use the region's forests. Elected officials and economic development agents are also eager to make sure the forest products industry continues as an important contributor to northern New England's economy.

Mass Timber

In addition to low-grade wood markets (the material that would normally go to pulp mills or biomass) there are emerging opportunities to use wood in ways previously thought technically impossible or uneconomical. These new construction technologies are changing the way wood is being incorporated as a building material.

The most prominent of these technologies is cross-laminated timber (CLT). The technology is remarkably simple: take lumber, layer it, and glue it together. CLT panels, which are often as large as ten by sixty feet, can be pre-cut with openings for doorways, windows, plumbing, and cables. Under current building codes, CLT can be used in buildings up to six stories high. Efforts are currently underway to increase the permissible usage to 18 stories, which would cover all of the construction in New England with the exception of skyscrapers.

CLT isn't a pipe dream; it's an accepted building material around the globe. In London, an eight-story CLT building was completed in 2009. In Vienna, Austria, a 24-story building is currently under construction. Here in the U.S. a 12-story project in Portland, Ore., and a 10-story project in New York City are being built.

CLT is catching on because it has significant benefits for consumers, builders, and the environment. For consumers, wood has a warmth and ambiance unlike other building materials; namely, steel and cement. For builders, assembling pre-manufactured CLT panels on site reduces construction time and labor, yielding more projects and thus more profit. And for the environment, a CLT building stores lots of carbon in the wood as long as the building is standing. On the flip side, steel or cement construction is carbon-intensive due to the significant energy inputs used to manufacture these materials.

Most CLT panels are made from structural lumber tree species, including Northeast spruce-fir, Pacific Northwest Douglas Fir,

and southern yellow pine. These species are also used to make two-by-four lumber that can be purchased across the country. It is great to have expanded markets, but it's important to note that CLT promises to be an expanded market for a species group that has historically had strong sawlog markets. Recognizing this, there is research underway to include hemlock, hardwoods, and oriented-strand lumber as part of CLT manufacturing, thus expanding markets for underutilized species.

Currently, CLT is manufactured in Europe, Quebec, and the western United States. However, as the technology is poised to grow, two firms, SmartLam and Ligna Terra, have announced plans for manufacturing facilities in Maine, and other companies have evaluated sites across New England.

When?

New products made from New Hampshire's woods are coming, but a fair (and hard) question to answer is When? It can take years to site, permit, and build manufacturing facilities. Add the risk of bringing a new technology to commercial scale on top of that timeline, and even a project announced today could wait five or more years before it is turning out a product.

I like to quote a paper industry executive who thought a lot about new forest product development. Speaking in New York, John Hinman, president of International Paper, said:

"[O]nce wood is reduced to a pure and stable chemical it provides the base on which the chemist can build a hundred different products....It is conceivable that the forests of the United States and Canada within the next half-century will supply us not only paper for many varied purposes...but also quantities of foodstuffs, alcohol, and chemical raw materials from parts of the wood which we are only beginning to use today."

The year was 1948. In the more than half-century since, we have made progress, but we are probably far from what Hinman was imagining in his speech.

Today, universities, entrepreneurs, and industries are researching ways to produce products that meet consumer needs in a sustainable manner. In New Hampshire and across New England, we have the forest resource, the forest industries, and the proximity to market that will allow the next generation of forest products to emerge and take hold. While we all want to see the new industries established today, that probably isn't going to happen. We can take comfort in knowing that while new forest products are developed and brought to market, the forests of New Hampshire can continue to grow and will be ready when new opportunities emerge. ♪

Eric Kingsley is a partner at Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC, a New Hampshire-based forest industry consulting firm.

New Americans, Old River

What can children from Africa and Nepal teach us about free play in nature?

By Dave Anderson

Over the summer, students from Broken Ground Elementary School's English Language Learners (ELL) program visited the Forest Society's Merrimack River Outdoor Education Area in Concord for a guided walk and for some unstructured free play. The 12 students, in grades 4 to 6, are originally from Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Nepal, and were recently relocated with their families to the Concord area by churches working with social service agencies.

Our plan was to explore the fish, animals, and insects around the mouth of Mill Brook, a sandbar at Eastman Cove where a shallow river oxbow meanders east before rejoining the main stem of the Merrimack River opposite the New Hampshire Technical Institute.

During the tour, it was amazing to see that the students had not forgotten how to play unfettered in the outdoors. Without stern parental warnings and a structured or scientific approach to plants and animals, the students immediately took to exploring the river and its surroundings using their five senses to touch, smell, and experience. They are tactile learners, wanting to touch plants, trees, sand, and water.

Ellen Kenny, a Broken Ground ELL teacher, shared how her students relate to plants as potential sources of food or medicine. As we walked, students exclaimed "bamboo" when we found the segmented stems of scouring rush. They told me how large it grows in their country and how it can be used for building homes. They interacted with plants as if they were old friends.

A girl spied green milkweed pods and talked of picking them and floating them in water because they resembled green fish. To Kenney's students, plants have



Above: Students from Concord's Broken Ground Elementary School explored the Merrimack River over the summer.

Inset: The author displays a handful of freshwater mussels.



utility and a potential use. During our river exploration, the students expressed few fears about being outside. Having taught environmental education for nearly thirty years, I'm accustomed to hearing a litany of questions and concerns about perceived hazards: mosquitoes, ticks, poison ivy, poison sumac, snakes, spiders, and bears. The students spoke about snakes inhabiting their homelands, but I countered with the fact that our common garter snakes are harmless.

The kids did not hesitate to wade into the shallow, sandy-bottomed cove. Running, laughing, and splashing in the water ensued. We found freshwater mussels. "Shells!" some students enthused. I talked about mussels as potential food. Soon, students had collected half a bushel. "You stimulated a hunting and gathering impulse," Kenny noted. We studied the mussels and then let them go in the warm water.

After some time, we collected our shoes, sandals, and T-shirts from the sandy bank and gathered for a snack alongside the river. The students gazed at the forested hills and the sky. I asked them if they could tell me about a river in their homeland. Softly, the students shared stories of remembered places. One student remembered gathering water to wash bodies or clothing while another remembered catching fish for food. One girl told me about crocodiles in the river. These children have already known other rivers more intimately than most.

I wondered if these kids will always relate naturally to forests, plants, animals, and a river. Do they hold up a figurative mirror to their peers who, in my experience, would have likely been less comfortable turned loose to wade and explore without formal, structured learning activities?

After the tour, Kenny explained to me the value of field trips for new Americans this way:

"Many new American children have sophisticated areas of competency, survival skills, comfort levels in the forest, and an understanding of foraging we would not likely have discovered, had we not had the opportunity to bring them to wild places and watch them roam and explore. How unusual and wonderful for them is the opportunity to show us what they can do and what they know about the ways to interact with and understand our—and now their—woods."

I couldn't imagine a more age-appropriate and immersive experience for learning about a floodplain forest and its river. It was perhaps the highest and best use of the Concord conservation land that I've ever witnessed. ♪

Naturalist Dave Anderson is senior director of education for the Forest Society.



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High Five Reservation and Hedgehog
Mountain, Deering



Roger and Ann Sweet
(1st class of Forest Society Land Stewards)
with Beth McGuinn (right)



Lee Baker
McGreal Forest and Kulish Forest, Hancock

Working for the Land

The Forest Society's Land Steward Program Turns 25

Story and Photos by Emily Lord

I'll never forget the first time I worked on a trail crew. I was enrolled in the Student Conservation Association's New Hampshire AmeriCorps program, and our assignment of the day was to trim branches and saplings on nine miles of trail at Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham. That morning, I packed my bag with the traditional hiking staples: a lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Some new and unfamiliar additions to my pack were a pair of loppers and a handsaw. I was nervous that I wouldn't have the strength to carry the tools all day, but I was also eager to see parts of the park I had never seen before.

Before we started working, the experienced trail workers in my group showed me how to properly prune branches and where to discard the trimmings off trail. They shared tips on how to avoid black flies and prevent blisters. Try as I might, I still finished the day with some painful bug bites and the biggest blister I've ever had, but more importantly, I walked away with some great memories and new friendships.

Trail maintenance and other types of environmental stewardship help to ensure special places are treated with kindness and respect. They also provide an opportunity to connect and to share one's passion for nature with like-minded people.

In August, I attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Forest Society's Land Steward Program where I shared stories about bug bites and blisters with a multi-generational group of volunteers. In the program's inaugural year, Forest Society staff taught 12 volunteers how to monitor and steward reservations in southwest New Hampshire. Over the years, staff have trained more than 180 stewards who now monitor every Forest Society reservation, 185 in total, from the North Country to the Seacoast. Volunteers visit the properties

Turn to page 30 to learn more about volunteer land steward

Lee Baker, Forest Society's 2018 Trish Churchill Volunteer of the Year.

annually to make sure they are not being misused. They also lead interpretive hikes for visitors, and some have gone beyond just monitoring trails by building them too.

Jason Morris and Scott Lavoie, Moose Mountains Reservation land stewards, put so much work into creating and

Get Involved

For more information about the Land Steward Program or to learn about upcoming volunteer workdays, email Andy Crowley at acrowley@forestsociety.org.

At the 25th anniversary celebration of the Forest Society's Land Steward Program, volunteers were asked to write a word or phrase that best describes what it means to be a land steward.

"I felt inspired by the stories I'd heard about lasting friendships and shared experiences."

maintaining a clean and properly signed trail system that the reservation has become a popular hiking destination for many locals. Since their training in 2011, Morris and Lavoie have built footpaths to scenic vistas, helped clean up a former dumping site, pruned trees, installed trail signs, and led community hikes. Once known for trash, ATVs, and vandalism, the reservation is now in good hands thanks to Morris and Lavoie's regular presence on the property. "The neatest thing is seeing the local people here and just hearing them say how awesome it is that there are trails, signs, and blazes. That makes [our efforts] worth it," Morris says.

The program has become a model for other nonprofit organizations across the

country. The Forest Society receives requests for information about the program from land trusts as far away as Michigan and California. Staff from other environmental groups, such as the New Hampshire State Parks and volunteers from local conservation commissions, take the land steward training to learn how to prepare volunteers for property monitoring and stewardship.

Every spring, the Forest Society runs a two-day land steward orientation training and also offers workdays throughout the year where interested stewards can meet, work, and ask questions alongside experienced volunteers.

After leaving the celebration, I felt inspired by the stories I'd heard about lasting friend-

ships and shared experiences. A love for the land and desire to help brought each new class of land stewards together in the first place, but for most volunteers, the connections they made with others are why they stay involved. Thinking about my early days of doing trail work, I also felt touched by the connections I made. I'll always be grateful for the kindness, advice, tips, and shared laughter that helped turn one day of stewardship into a career in conservation. It was worth every bug bite and blister. ♪

Emily Lord is digital outreach manager for the Forest Society.

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Ellen Kennelly donated this summer house in Dublin surrounded by 49 protected acres to the "Assets to Acres" program.

A Lifetime of Loving Land

By Tom Howe



When I first met Dick Ware in 1996 as a newly arrived Forest Society land agent, he proudly produced the thank-you card the Forest Society had sent to his mother and him in 1929, acknowledging their one-dollar donation to help conserve the once threatened Franconia Notch. The card confirmed that their contribution had “bought” them one tree in this now-protected, iconic part of New Hampshire. Dick would go on to live a long life “buying” many more trees in many other special places in the White Mountains.

Upon his death in 2016, Dick donated 54 acres to the Forest Society on East Branch Road in his hometown of Bartlett. His devise was the last in a long history of generous gifts to the organization. In fact, he appears to hold the record for the longest span of giving of any Forest Society member—some 87 years! Dick understood and embraced both the principles and pragmatics of conserving land, and he wanted to ensure that his gift would provide both conservation and financial benefits to the organization. Accordingly, the gift restrictions he set up included a requirement that any net proceeds from the sale of this land go into the Forest Society’s general endowment fund in support of operations.

This past September, the Forest Society completed the sale of his property by selling a 5.7-acre building lot subject to a limited conservation easement. The restrictions of the easement cap development at one residence set back from the edge of East Branch Road. The restrictions also created a buffer strip along the road to protect the existing ground cover and terrain and to minimize the visual impacts of a new home on the lot.

Earlier in 2018, the Forest Society sold the abutting 48.4-acre parcel to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) subject to a full conservation easement. The restrictions prevent conventional development and contain other typical terms protecting the land’s conservation features. They also guarantee pedestrian access to the property and allow for the creation of a parking lot and trailhead. In making this purchase, the USVLT has collaborated with the Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA), a nonprofit group dedicated to creating and maintaining backcountry skiing opportunities in New Hampshire and western Maine. This parcel will give backcountry skiers access to an abutting area on the White Mountain National Forest where GBA has received a permit to develop glade skiing on Bartlett Mountain. This increasingly popular sport requires removal of some understory vegetation to accommodate skiers zigzagging down through the glades of trees. To reach the gladdened zone, skiers will use the existing Maple Villa Ski Trail, originally cut in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, on USVLT’s newly acquired tract. Hikers and

other recreational users will also enjoy this property and its various other trails, including the Mount Surprise Trail, which connects to Merriman State Forest.

Engaged in many community-based activities, Dick and others also set up and administered the Pequawket Foundation, providing grants to cover transaction-related expenses for worthy land conservation projects undertaken by the Forest Society and other nonprofits in the Mount Washington Valley.

This winter, as skiers and snowboarders flock to ride untouched powder on Dick’s land and adjacent areas, I’m confident he’ll be smiling from above about the outcome of his final project and the legacy he left in the mountains. ♯

Tom Howe is the senior director of land conservation for the Forest Society.

Learn More

Find out how to donate land or real estate as part of the Forest Society’s Assets to Acres program by visiting forestsociety.org/A2A.





Wildlife preferentially forage and consume white oak acorns (right) immediately while caching red oak acorns (left), which have a longer shelf life.

In a Nutshell: The Boom and Bust of Red Oak Acorn Crops

Story by Dave Anderson

This summer, posts of daring squirrels swimming across rivers, lakes, ponds, and even saltwater creeks popularized social media channels. More posts popped up in late-summer with photos of roadkill gray squirrels. In gardens across the state, peaches, sweet corn, sunflowers, and even tomatoes have disappeared. The scant apple crop was next. In the fall, a New Hampshire pumpkin farm closed its pick-your-own fields. What is going on?!

Lest you imagine that suicidal squirrels and periodic acorn crops are unrelated, guess again. Mass migrations of gray squirrels are not unprecedented. While the cause was attributed to overpopulation and a scarcity of food, there's more to this story, and it begins in the woods.

Red oak acorn crops had been plentiful in southern New Hampshire from 2015 to 2017. As a result the state experienced an



A gray squirrel makes off with a mouthful of hickory nuts.

increase in small rodent populations. People commented on all the chipmunks in 2016, the white-footed mice in 2017, and in 2018, the gray squirrels.

September typically brings no shortage of natural foods: late berries, wild grapes, apples, corn, acorns, beechnuts, beaked hazelnuts, and hickory nuts abound. The autumn 2018 menu featured a plethora of mushrooms and hickory nuts, but the difference this year is the acorn mast crop is entirely limited to white oak acorns. A lack of red oak acorns this autumn has been driving gray squirrels nuts. Here's why.

Oak trees favor dry sites with a history of disturbance (e.g., former pastures or logged areas) that have created sunny openings for regeneration. The Northern red oak is the dominant oak tree species in New Hampshire as opposed to white oaks, which prefer warmer, well-drained south-facing hillsides typically found in the southern tier of New Hampshire and New England and the central Appalachians. Both red and white oak trees drop their acorns in autumn. The red oak acorns, however, consist of more tannins and phytic acid, which help to protect and preserve nuts, than white oak acorns. The red oak acorns germinate the following spring whereas white oak acorns can germinate immediately in autumn. Once acorns sprout, they lose their nutritional value, and squirrels know this. They consume white oak acorns immediately or nip-out the acorn's embryo in an attempt to store them. Sweet white oak acorns are also consumed by mice, chipmunks, flying squirrels, turkeys, deer, raccoons, porcupines, and wood ducks, who covet good acorn crops that tend to occur every three to five years. You may also find white oak twigs with empty acorn cups scattered on

the forest floor beneath a white oak canopy—the work of porcupines and raccoons. This fall, where red oak acorns are not as abundant as white, foraging for winter food has ramped up.

Adult female squirrels with good nutrition can birth both spring and summer litters. Breeding in February, a female gray squirrel yields a spring litter in March or April after a 44-day gestation. A spring breeding season, usually in May, yields summer litters. Depending on available food, litter size can range from one to nine, though a typical litter size is two to three. Juveniles can breed for the first time the following year.

What's next? Populations of many rodent predators—fishers, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, hawks, and owls—will all temporarily increase in response to the peak prey availability. Scavengers—ravens, crows, jays, and turkey vultures—will also benefit from the spike in roadside dining. Inevitably, the lack of red oak acorns and the limited caches of white oak acorns and shagbark hickory nuts will cause the rodent populations of southern New Hampshire to crash.


Many wildlife species depend on red oak acorns. The current squirrel population spike and coming rodent population crash is the direct outcome of oak trees' natural selection favoring periodic boom and bust cycles. As rodent populations bottom-out, oaks will produce a bumper acorn crop. Some of these acorns will go on to germinate and perpetuate the next oak forest. No matter what happens, I'm sure social media will cover what happens next. ♫

Naturalist Dave Anderson is senior director of education for the Forest Society.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both red and white oak acorns are edible, though white oak acorns can be eaten raw while red oak acorns need to be soaked in water before consuming. Native American woodland tribes purportedly soaked acorns by sinking brown ash baskets weighted down by heavy stones in the shallows or eddies of swift moving streams.

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No Stranger to Conservation

The Forest Society presented its Conservationist of the Year award to Ben Gayman of Manchester at its 117th Annual Meeting at Southern New Hampshire University on September 29. This annual award honors exemplary people who have worked to promote land conservation through many different avenues, often with significant sacrifice. It is the Forest Society's highest recognition.

Gayman began with the Forest Society in 1986 when Paul Bofinger, former president-forester, enlisted him to become an incorporator and then a trustee and vice chair of the Trust for New Hampshire Land, a one-time campaign to secure \$50 million in state funding for land conservation. In 1993, Gayman was elected to the Forest Society's Board of Trustees, serving terms as treasurer from 1994 to 1997, vice chair from 1997 to 1998, and board chair from 1997 to 2001. He remains the longest serving and most productive member of the Development Committee.

Gayman was a key player in some extraordinary land conservation projects, including the 171,500-acre Connecticut Headwaters Project and the conservation of 5,800 acres of land surrounding The Balsams Resort in Colebrook. He was an invaluable advisor and solicitor for land campaigns, which conserved more than 46,000 acres in Forest Society Reservations.

Looking at his total conservation legacy, more than 400,000 acres of New Hampshire's protected lands have his fingerprints on them.

Forest Notes caught up with Gayman to talk about the award and all things conservation.

What's been the most memorable Forest Society project you've worked on?

The Connecticut Lakes and Nash Stream projects were certainly the grandest and most challenging and complex. Two others that mean a lot to me personally are the reservation of the land around the old Balsams Resort in Dixville Notch and the securing of an easement of forestland on Crotched Mountain in Greenfield, Bennington, and Franconia where an extensive network of accessible hiking trails were built.

What does receiving this award mean to you?

Well, it was quite a surprise. I never thought of myself as one of the people who might receive such an award. I'm not a forest landowner; I only had my time and effort to give to the cause. I must say that I had never thought about all the projects I've worked on over the years, so it has been fun to look back on them altogether.



President/Forester Jane Difley poses with Ben Gayman, the 2018 conservationist of the year, at the Forest Society's 117th Annual Meeting in Manchester.

What's your favorite Forest Society Reservation?

There are now 21 of us—children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren. From the very beginning of our time in New Hampshire more than 40 years ago, an annual family adventure is the quest for blueberries on top of Mount Major. 🍷

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If you are like so many others, your financial resources are tied up largely in non-cash assets. From a tax standpoint, it may be better for you to give something other than cash. When you make charitable gifts to the Forest Society of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other long-term appreciated assets (assets you have held for more than one year and have grown in value), you receive a double tax benefit. You receive a charitable deduction for the current fair market value of the asset and you are not taxed on your capital gain in the asset. This means you receive a tax break for the appreciation on which you never paid taxes. By using appreciated assets, your gift costs you less. Another tax-wise option is to use your appreciated securities to fund a life income gift, such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. This kind of gift allows you to avoid tax on some or all your capital gain and receive income for life. For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker by emailing skhacker@forestsociety.org or calling 603-224-9945.

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It Comes Natura-lee:

Hancock's Lee Baker Awarded Volunteer of the Year

By Carrie Deegan

As I was having lunch with Lee Baker at Fiddleheads Cafe in Hancock, one of the restaurant employees approached us with some grave news and a request: "There's a huge dead bird in the parking lot," she said, "and I thought, 'Get Lee, he'll know what to do!'" Lee and I put our lunch on hold and walked out to the parking lot to have a look. Sure enough, there was an adult red-tailed hawk sprawled lifeless on the gravel. In a matter of minutes, Lee found a box and prepared the hawk for transport to the appropriate authorities. "This is the kind of thing that happens to me quite a bit around here," Baker mused sheepishly as we returned to our lunch.

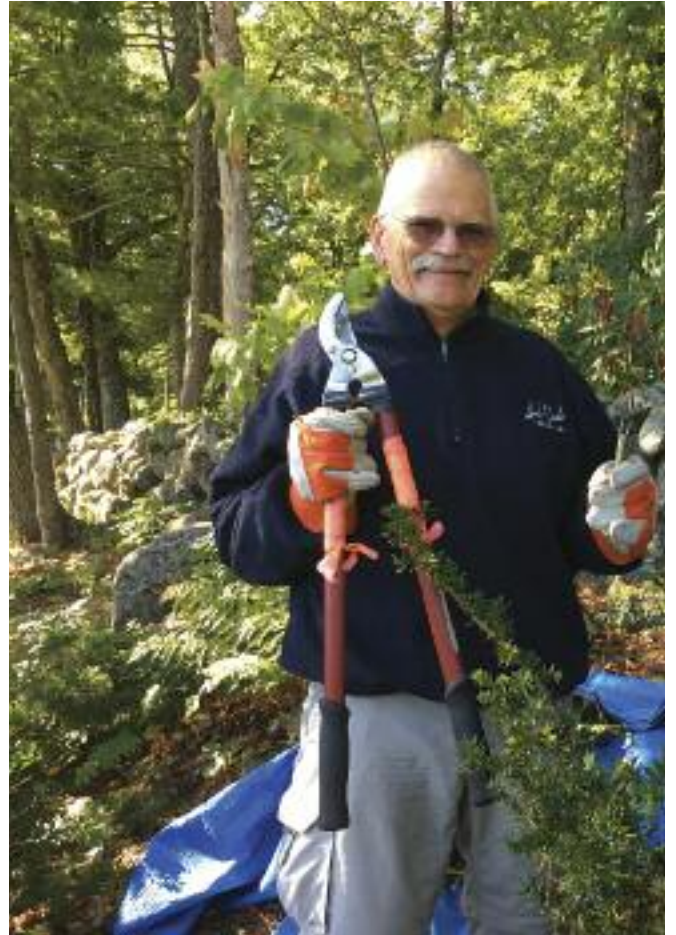
In his little hometown of Hancock, Baker is known as a "conservation guy" who is easily approachable and has the answers to all sorts of nature-related questions and conundrums. A volunteer for 25-plus years for the Forest Society and other organizations, including the Harris Center for Conservation Education and Monadnock Conservancy, Baker doesn't just know conservation, he lives it. In 1993, after becoming one of the first trained volunteers in the Forest Society's nascent Land Steward Program, Baker went on to steward Jaffrey's Blaine Forest and Hancock's McGreal and, following its protection in 2006, Kulish forests.

To recognize Baker's many years of hard work and dedication, the Forest Society named him the 2018 Trish Churchill Volunteer of the Year at its Annual Meeting in September. This award is given annually to recognize volunteers who go beyond the call of duty.

Baker cannot remember doing a lot of structured hiking in his childhood years, but he notes that he was outside a lot. As

a young adult, he was employed as a caretaker for several properties in the Monadnock Region, one with a tree farm and others with extensive trail networks. The time spent outdoors on these properties is where he credits developing a love for hiking and being in the forest. "My life really started when I became involved with conservation," he says. Baker began volunteering by mowing and trail clearing in his free time, and he has never looked back. Twenty-five years later, he is still at it, keeping trails open on the McGreal and Kulish forests, and mowing the rocky fields at nearby Welch Family Farm and Forest.

Baker's many community connections in the Monadnock region have made him an invaluable resource for the Forest Society's land protection staff over the years. He regularly leads hikes in the local area, and he recently guided a hiking tour of the Welch Family Farm and Forest for several Forest Society staff and trustees. When asked whether he likes doing stewardship work or teaching people about it, Baker can't make up his mind. "Both are great," he notes, "but I do really enjoy getting out and showing other people these places. People often miss so much in the woods;



No matter the time of year, Baker can be spotted volunteering throughout his hometown of Hancock.

they won't stop to see the tiny mushroom or the bee on the flower, and I love helping others discover that." He readily admits that people routinely show him things he didn't see or know about in the forest too. "The best thing about volunteering is the interactions and connections you make with people." ♪

Carrie Deegan is volunteer and community engagement manager for the Forest Society.

The SEC is Not Broken

Regulatory Success Requires Good Projects

By Matt Leahy

The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) decision to deny a Certificate of Site and Facility to Hydro-Québec's Northern Pass project set off a wave of assertions from project supporters that the SEC review process is "broken." Somewhat confusingly, organizations such as the New Hampshire Business and Industry Association claim the SEC process was both too long, because it had lasted for well over two years, but also too short, since the committee took just three days to complete its deliberations on the statutorily required findings.

Critics of the current SEC also suggest that SEC members may lack the expertise needed to appropriately adjudicate a complex energy facility proposal. In addition, they contend the regulators' rejection of Northern Pass sends an anti-development message to energy companies.

Yet, a review of the SEC's decisions since 2015 demonstrates that it approved two projects, a controversial wind farm in Antrim and Eversource's Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, within the one-year time frame called for in state law (RSA 162-H). The fact the SEC was able to review and approve two significant energy projects within the required time period undermines the critics' arguments. What, then, has changed in the wake of the Northern Pass decision? After all, the groups who believe our state needs to do more to address energy costs were not critical of the SEC's decisions in the Antrim or Merrimack Valley projects. The fact that the law, the regulations, and the procedures were the same in all these cases, but the outcomes were different, illustrates that it is not the process but the project that needs to be scrutinized.

A key point to remember is that the burden of proof is on the energy developer to demonstrate its project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development in the region, will not adversely affect the natural environment, and will ultimately serve the public interest, which Northern Pass was unable to do. There is no automatic assumption that every energy project is entitled to SEC approval. The statutory Declaration of Purpose, the underpinning for the state's energy facility law (RSA 162-H), bears out this point. It acknowledges that energy facilities can have both significant impacts and benefits, but notes the public interest is served by maintaining a balance between the two sides. Implicit in that statement is the fact that a project that tips too far towards those negative impacts cannot not be in the public interest.

Unquestionably, assessing whether an applicant has met the burden of proof can be complex. Moreover, the SEC's rules and procedures should be clear and predictable, as critics maintain.

For example, the SEC will formally accept an application for adjudication after it has determined the application is administratively complete. Perhaps the definition of what constitutes completeness should be further refined so, as was the case with Northern Pass, the applicant does not inform the SEC after the proposal has been accepted that the exact project



In February 2017, newspapers covered the committee's rejection of the Northern Pass proposal.

route in certain locations has shifted or has not been finally determined. On the other hand, the law should not short-circuit the timeframe needed for a thorough SEC review of an application, as was proposed in the Legislature this year by a proposed bill that would have required the SEC to issue a certificate for an energy facility if the SEC fails to act within 365 days of acceptance of an application.

The truth is that balancing the benefits and impacts of large-scale energy transmission projects is not an impossible goal. Far from being broken, New Hampshire's current energy facility siting process does work if developers are truly committed to working proactively with communities and other stakeholders to find this balance. The substantial return on investment energy developers typically realize should serve as their incentive to reaching this endpoint. After all, New Hampshire is worth it. ♪

Matt Leahy is the public policy manager for the Forest Society.

New Hampshire Supreme Court to Consider Northern Pass Appeal

Forest Society will defend decision to deny Certificate

By Jack Savage

On Friday, October 12, 2018, the New Hampshire Supreme Court said that it would consider Eversource's appeal of the March 2018 decision by the state's Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to deny a Certificate of Site and Facility for the company's controversial Northern Pass transmission line project.

Northern Pass is asking the state Supreme Court to force the SEC to reconsider its rejection of the proposed transmission line.

"If allowed to stand, the orders will erect major obstacles to the siting of new energy projects in this state, as the process becomes a popularity contest instead of one bound by the rule of law," the 150-page appeal said.

"Northern Pass wants the court to believe that because they didn't get approved that no projects would ever get approved, which simply isn't the case," says Amy Manzelli of BCM Environmental & Land Law and an attorney for the Forest Society. "In fact, [project] denials are rare."

The SEC voted unanimously in the spring of 2018 to deny the Certificate. Northern Pass then filed a Motion for Rehearing, which the SEC denied in writing in July. In August, Eversource filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, which is the last resort for the embattled proposal.

"At the Forest Society, we've been working with our attorneys in expectation that the Supreme Court would take up Northern Pass's appeal," says President/Forester Jane Difley. "We think the SEC decision to deny a permit was the right one made for the right reasons—Northern Pass failed to meet the burden of proof."

"We'll be working to make sure the court has a full understanding of the issues that led to the SEC decision."

"We think the SEC decision to deny a permit was the right one made for the right reasons."

— Jane Difley

The schedule for filings and oral arguments before the court has not yet been set. The SEC has until December 11 to produce the record of the proceedings, which were voluminous.

The Northern Pass project was first revealed to the public at a press conference eight years ago, in October 2010.

Potential Outcome

A common question among those following the case has been whether or not the Supreme Court could simply overrule the SEC and grant a Certificate to Northern Pass. That does not appear to be a likely outcome, which even Northern Pass acknowledged in a statement: "Northern Pass proponents believe that a favorable court ruling will enable the project to return to the SEC for further review in 2019."

Among the issues raised by Northern Pass in the appeal is whether the SEC is required by law to consider all criteria an applicant must meet if it determines that the applicant has failed to meet the burden of proof on one. With Northern Pass, the SEC deliberated on two out of the four criteria. Upon concluding that the applicant failed to meet the burden of proof on the second of the four, the SEC ended deliberations and voted unanimously to deny the Certificate.

The Subcommittee addressed this issue in its written order denying the Motion for Rehearing:

"Site 202.28(a) requires the Subcommittee to 'make a finding regarding the criteria stated in RSA 162-H:16, IV, and Site 301.13 through 301.17, and issue an order pursuant to RSA 541-A:35 issuing or denying a certificate.' The rule does not state that the Subcommittee must make a finding regarding each of the criteria, or that it must continue deliberations after it determines that the Certificate cannot be issued.

"The Subcommittee did precisely what the rule requires it to do and found that the Applicant failed to carry its burden of proof and failed to demonstrate that the Project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. The Subcommittee considered the criteria of RSA 162-H:16, IV and determined that (1) it did not have sufficient information to determine whether the Project would unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region and (2) the Certificate could not be issued even if it found that the Applicant satisfied the other criteria of RSA 162-H:16, IV."

But even if a majority of the five justices on the Supreme Court found legal grounds to disagree with the SEC's conclusion, logically the case would have to go back to the SEC for further deliberation with no presumption that it would lead to any different outcome. ♪

Jack Savage is vice president of communications and outreach for the Forest Society.

Help Say No to Northern Pass Forever

By Jack Savage

Like many people across New Hampshire, the Forest Society was pleased when the state Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) voted unanimously last spring to deny a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Northern Pass transmission line. That was why we intervened at the SEC, and why we stood shoulder to shoulder with conservation partners and local municipalities to oppose Northern Pass.

It's no surprise that Eversource, the company behind the misguided proposal, appealed the SEC's decision to the New Hampshire Supreme Court in August 2018. After all, Eversource has long demonstrated that they aren't good listeners and don't understand when no means no.

Just recently, the Supreme Court accepted the appeal, as we anticipated in a high-profile case such as this. The Forest Society will have the opportunity to file our own brief to counter the arguments made by Northern Pass attorneys in their last gasp attempt to somehow turn a firm, unanimous no into a yes.

But we need your help to stay in the fight before the Supreme Court. While the

"Many of us knew instinctively that Northern Pass was not what it purported to be and not in the best interests of New Hampshire..."

schedule for the case is yet to be determined, we are already preparing for briefs to be filed in 2019, with oral arguments to follow.

We're pleased to have Amy Manzelli and her colleagues at BCM Environmental & Land Law on our side. It's with their help that we've gotten to this point—a determination by the SEC that Northern Pass did not meet their burden of proof and were denied a permit.

Many of us knew instinctively that Northern Pass was not what it purported to be and not in the best interests of New Hampshire, and BCM helped us show the SEC the extent to which Northern Pass couldn't and didn't prove their case.

Please make a donation today to help slam the door on Northern Pass forever. Local communities and landowners need to be freed from the cloud of uncertainty and concern that out-of-state interests will somehow get this unnecessary 192-mile transmission line approved despite the overwhelming opposition of so many people in New Hampshire.

Help us make sure that the New Hampshire Supreme Court gets a full and clear understanding of the deficiencies that led the SEC to make the right decision in the proper way. Please give today to say—for a final time—no to Northern Pass. ♾

Jack Savage is vice president of communications and outreach for the Forest Society.

☐ YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE FOREST SOCIETY

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54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. Or donate online at forestsociety.org.

For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945
or via email at skh@forestsociety.org.

Thank you
for your help!



NP11BFN



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THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION



Bob Macentee

Deering, N.H.

Member since 2013

**MEMBERS MAKE
THE DIFFERENCE!**

Bob is among the 10,000 members who helped the Forest Society protect more than one million acres in New Hampshire. To join him, use the envelope in this issue or contact Margaret Liszka at 603-224-9945.

PHOTO: AL KAREVY

I have been a land steward for the Forest Society's Wilkins-Campbell Forest for about five years. My initial interest in becoming a steward started when I built my log home on the Deering Reservoir. I became aware that my lot was surrounded by 400 acres of land conserved by the Forest Society. One day while doing construction on my home, I met two Forest Society staff members doing forestry work at Wilkins-Campbell. I talked with them about the Forest Society's volunteer Land Steward Program and was excited about the possibilities. During the time I was considering this opportunity, the Wilkins-Campbell Forest was in need of significant work. It had at one time been a camp, and a group of buildings located on the property were vacant and being vandalized.

I had thought for some time about becoming involved in volunteer work, and had often been invited to help out with

various committees. But due to my challenging work schedule as an airline captain, this simply had not been possible. Much of my life had been focused on my passion for outdoor activities, including technical climbing, hiking, winter mountaineering, and kayaking. I also possessed a toolbox of skills, including carpentry and landscaping. Putting two and two together, I decided that volunteering as a land steward would be a good chance for me to utilize my skills and most importantly, be able to give back not only to the forest but also to my children and future generations who find solace beneath the trees. The rest is history. I can tell you that from my perspective, the old saying, "better to give than to receive," rings true. The satisfaction I get in offering myself to the forest has had a profound impact on my life and the arrangement has proved to be more than mutually beneficial." ♪