

INTO THE WOODS

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION | SPRING 2016

Same mission,
new look

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Dear Members and Friends,

NEFF has been protecting and stewarding forestland for more than 70 years. Last year, we decided it was time to refresh our brand marketing strategy to better convey the essence of who we are and what we do. Since then, we have been working hard with a team at 451 Marketing, as well as a committee of Board members and staff to get this just right. Many thanks are due to those who contributed to this process. I especially want to recognize and applaud Tim Ingraham who, for family reasons, recently resigned from his position as board President. Tim's long-time dedication and enthusiasm for NEFF's mission is and has been an inspiration for us all, particularly during this branding work as we reflect on NEFF's history and our most dedicated supporters.

In the fall of 2015 we hired 451 Marketing to help us communicate our continuing work on behalf of New England's forests to our members and the public in a more impactful and clear manner. The first step was to introduce NEFF to 451 Marketing, because it was crucial to us that they know who we are as an organization. The raw details were relatively easy. NEFF focuses on New England, one of the most beautiful and heavily forested regions in the country. We have held a unique position as the only regional advocate for exemplary forestry, and over the past 70 years, we have conserved more than 1.2 million acres.

The team from 451 Marketing pushed us to dig deeper into our identity, asking about our aspirations for the organization. This is where the process became really fascinating. Here's our response: As an organization, we want to celebrate our forest conservation niche, and lead the quest to protect New England's forests forever. This means that NEFF, alongside land trusts, and state and federal partners, will need to conserve 21 million more acres in the next 45 years. We envision NEFF as a catalyst, helping to achieve this goal swiftly and efficiently, and communicating to the region the benefits of forest management to the economy, wildlife, and efforts to minimize climate change.

NEFF will stand as a firm advocate for forestry and for the quintessential New England way of life that forestry has historically supported. We want New Englanders to know us as a familiar, powerful force that protects the lands we care about and creates new, innovative programming in conservation finance, landowner communications, and public marketing. Above all, we want everyone to know how much we love our region and our work, because we believe that passion and emotion is what ignites change. This is how we will meet our mission to conserve New England's forests for future generations.

You'll see our new logo and look in this newsletter.

Robert Perschel
Executive Director

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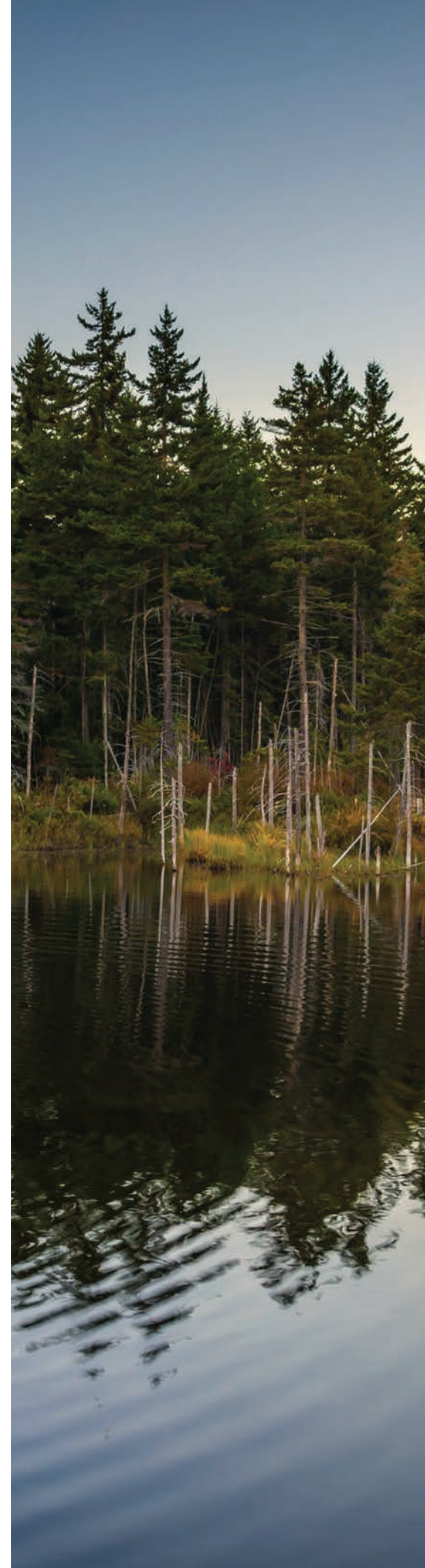
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Save the date!

Join us on June 4th, 2016 for our Annual Meeting, a picnic celebration on NEFF's Prouty Woods in Littleton, MA.

More details about activities and keynote speakers coming soon.



SAME MISSION NEW LOOK

At NEFF, we see our new logo as an opportunity for a meaningful conversation about the history, growth, vitality, and importance of New England's forests.

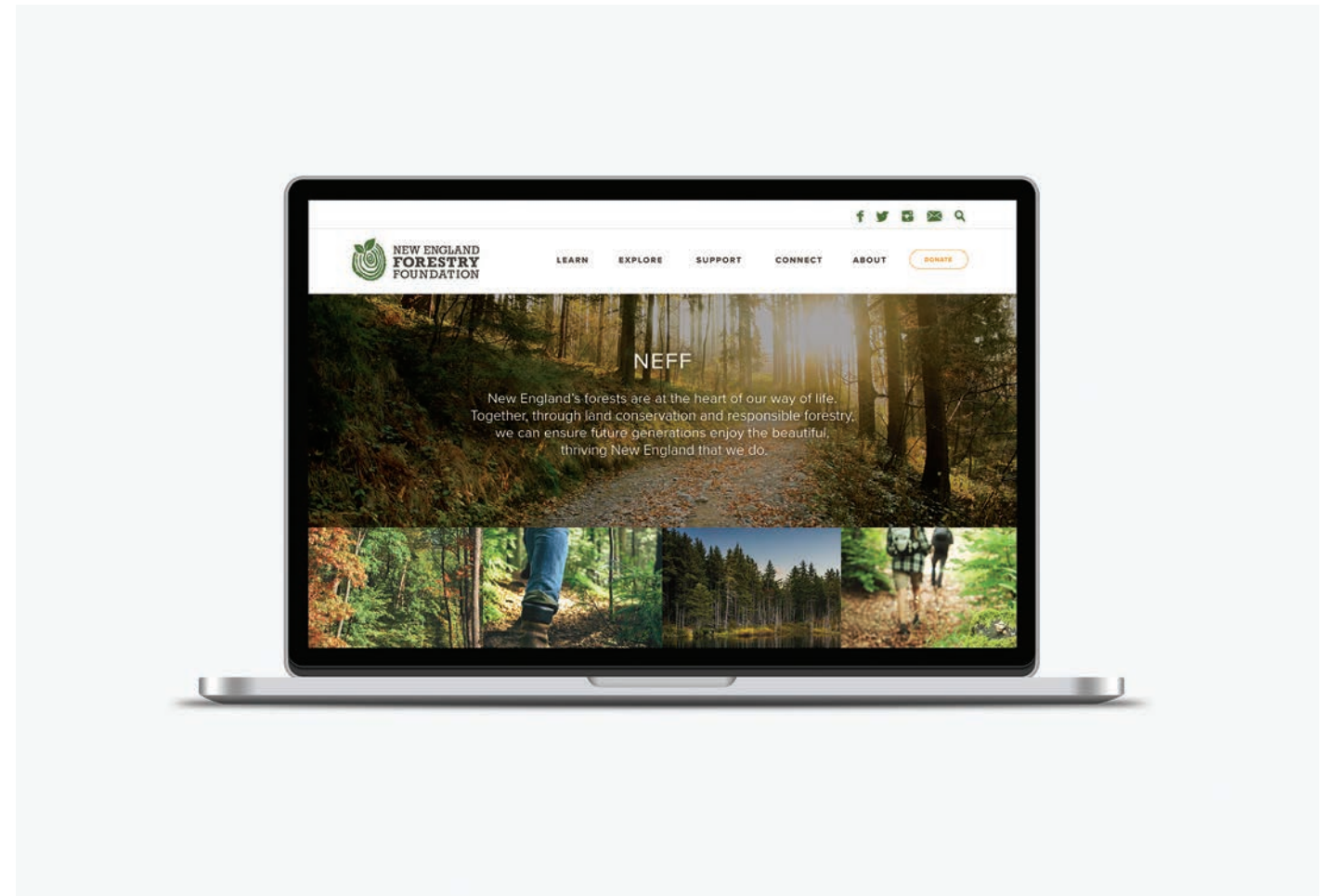
Over time, we hope this logo will come to be associated with the values that NEFF stands for. The logo cannot tell our entire story, but it can serve as a meaningful place to start.

The tree rings speak to years of commitment. As an organization that has been working to conserve New England's forests for over seven decades, we wanted a logo that would celebrate our history and achievements, as well as our mission. The tree cross-section gives us the opportunity to inspire important conversations about forestry and the many benefits of our working forests.

The logo would not be complete without the young tree sprout. The sprout represents the vitality, productivity, and resiliency of New England's forests, as well as our own commitment to innovation and new approaches to achieve our mission. Take a look at our new logo. We hope it is memorable. And then keep your eye on where NEFF is going and what we are doing. Together with your help, we intend to conserve New England's forests for all generations.



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WOODLAND NARRATIVES

Jean Mertinooke never misses an opportunity to walk through her woods in Tamworth, New Hampshire.

WRITTEN BY Charlie Reinertsen and Carson Hauck
ORIGINAL PAINTINGS Jean Mertinooke

When Carson Hauck, NEFF's Conservation Easement Stewardship Associate, invited Jean to join him on the annual visit to the conservation easement NEFF holds on her property, there was no question—Jean would be going.

It was a hot August day when Carson met Jean on her property. The trails winding through the trees were uneven and strewn with branches, but neither the heat nor the trail conditions could suppress Jean's enthusiasm to be in the woods. With one hand holding Carson's arm, and the other wielding a walking stick, the pair set off to explore the woodland.

Jean told Carson stories of the forest as they walked, describing picnic lunches by the brook, days spent working in the woods, and afternoons painting the surrounding landscape. Her family has owned and managed the land since the 1800's, and in 1975, Jean and her sister, Joan, inherited the woodland from their uncle. "My sister lived down in Rockford, Illinois at the time. She would come out in the summer, and we would go up there quite often. My husband and I would stay in the house and work in the woods. We thoroughly enjoyed that land."

As the years passed, Jean and her husband, Andrew, started looking for ways to make sure their land would be permanently protected. Working with New England Forestry Foundation, Jean and her husband put a conservation easement on the land to conserve its working forest heritage forever.

"I'm glad I've got New England Forestry Foundation to have the conservation easement on the property, because I want it to be a working forest. I don't want it to be abandoned," Jean said. The easement ensures that the property will remain forested, while providing future landowners the opportunity to practice forestry. "I just love those woods, and I just want them taken care of," explains Jean. As she and Carson



I inherited 144 acres of forestland on the southern side of Cleveland Hill Road, in Tamworth, NH, from my uncle Earle H. Remick in 1975...The southern bound of the property runs along a lovely small brook, called Mill Brook...

— JEAN MERTINOOKIE

walked through a recent timber harvest on the property, Jean spoke highly of Peter Farrell, the consulting forester she hired in 1989 to write and carry out the property's forest management plan. "He has done a wonderful job keeping those woods a good working forest," Jean said.

When asked about Jean, Peter was eager to respond. "Jean is one of my most cherished clients," Peter said; "She's fiercely independent, and really loves her woods. While she has a really great appreciation for the beauty,

she also understands resiliency, and that the forest is dynamic."

Peter has managed the forest to meet Jean's goals, which include maximizing wildlife benefits, sustainably producing timber and other wood products, providing clean air and water, and ensuring the forest's scenic values. He especially enjoys working with Jean because she gives him her full confidence. "When somebody puts their trust in you, it's just the most rewarding thing you can have. Jean has always been that way," Peter explains.

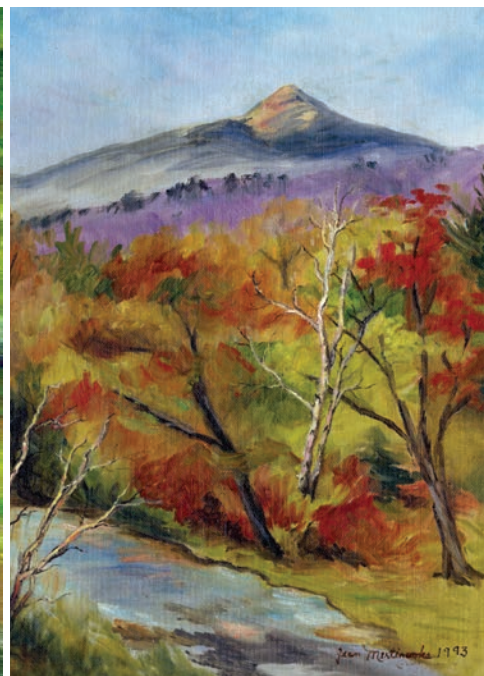
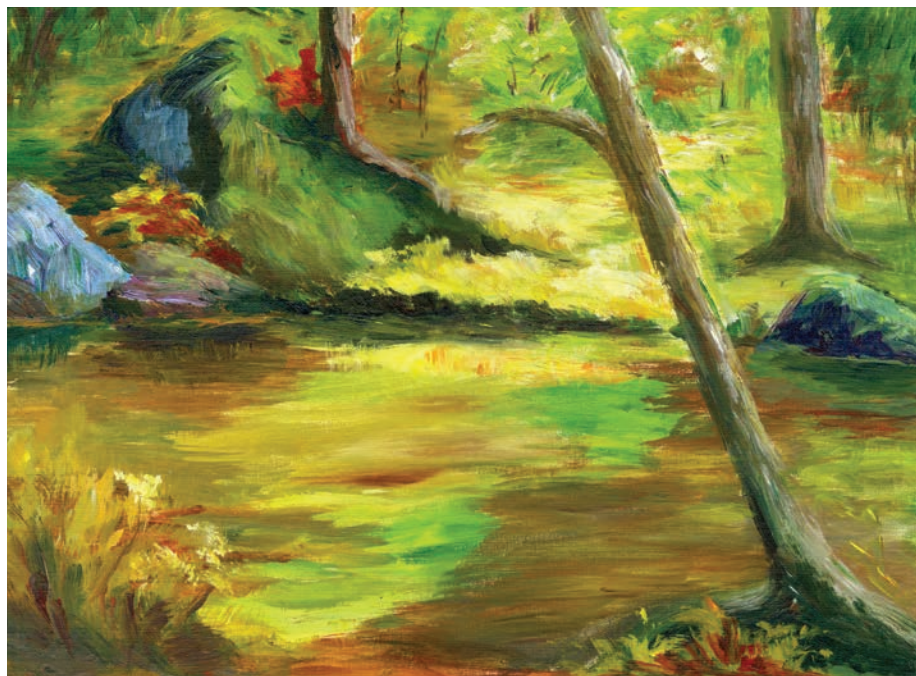
Conservation easements are tools that allow landowners to permanently protect their woods; continue to achieve their own land management goals; and maintain private ownership of their land.

Landowners work together with land trusts like New England Forestry Foundation to place a conservation easement on their land. With every easement NEFF holds, we make a commitment to the landowner to ensure that the conservation values of the property are permanently protected.

This is accomplished through regular visits to the property to meet with the landowner and track the conditions of the land. Conservation easements can be tailored to the goals and interests of each landowner. Many of the easements NEFF holds, such as Jean Mertinooke's, emphasize healthy, working forests. These easements allow and encourage current and future landowners to practice forestry on their own land.

After walking two and a half miles through the woods, Carson and Jean made their way back to her sister's house across the street from the property. Jean's paintings of the woodland and the surrounding landscape cover the walls. "I learned to paint in 1954, and I love to paint," Jean explained. "I've done a lot of paintings, especially of Mount Chocorua. Quite a while ago, I took my favorite painting of Mount Chocorua to see if it could be made into a puzzle. They liked the painting so well that I ended up gradually taking more of my paintings down there, and now most of them are puzzles."

Jean's paintings capture the rural scenery of Tamworth, depicting quaint farmhouses, meandering brooks, forested hills, and rugged mountain peaks. With each painting, it is clear that Jean has a very strong connection to the land that she and the many generations of her family have cared for. "I just love those woods," Jean said, "I just love them, and I want them taken care of. They're thoroughly enjoyable."



ENGAGING LANDOWNERS IN THE MASSCONN WOODS

When asked in surveys or in person, landowners are likely to say they own their woods for recreation with family, or for the birds and wildlife that depend on their trees and meadows.

But when you ask about the future of their land—what they want it to look like in 50 years, and have they made plans to make that future a reality—many responses are less certain. Some landowners actually become worried, because they've seen other farms and forests in their communities subdivided for home building or commercial development.

NEFF has been piloting a new approach to bridge the information gap that many woodland owners face. Working with local and national partners, including

If NEFF has learned anything about family forest owners, it's that they have strong feelings about their land.

WRITTEN BY Lisa Hayden

the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership and the American Forest Foundation, NEFF has been using social marketing techniques to make information on forestry and conservation more accessible to private woodland owners.

The project has focused on a region of 10 towns on the border of Central Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut. The project has helped connect woodland owners with resources they need to make informed choices about big decisions, such as harvesting timber, managing invasive species, or taking steps to plan for their land's future.

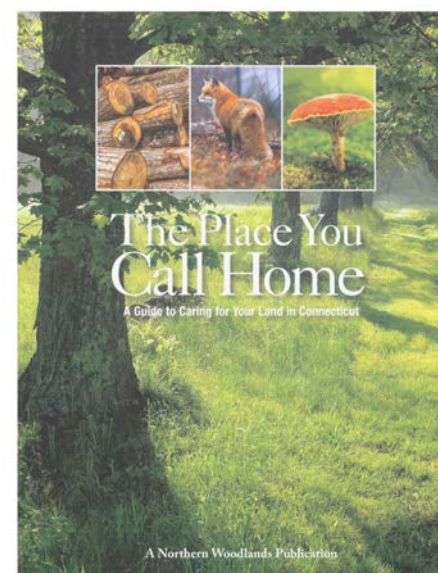
Over the past 18 months, these new outreach strategies have engaged 220 landowners, representing nearly 10,000 acres. About two dozen of those landowners representing approximately 1,800 acres have requested to meet with local land trusts or with foresters to discuss goals for their land. Compared to traditional conservation and forestry outreach efforts, this response is as much as a 10-fold increase.

Looking ahead, the MassConn Woods landowner outreach initiative will enter a new phase with the announcement of a multi-year, \$250,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Climate Adaptation Fund, supported by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable

Foundation. The grant to American Forest Foundation will fund work with NEFF, the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership (MassConn), and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Sciences for landowner outreach concerning climate-adapted forestry. With its large forest blocks and mosaic of farms and rural communities, the MassConn Woods is recognized as an important north-south corridor for wildlife movement. The goal of the grant is to provide landowners with information about management practices that will help them contribute to, as well as benefit from, a healthy and resilient forest landscape.

Where to Learn More

If you own woodlands in Northeastern Connecticut or South Central Massachusetts and would like to sign up for the twice monthly "Tips for Landowners" e-news, email Lisa Hayden at LHayden@newenglandforestry.org or visit MyMassConnWoods.org. To access additional landowner outreach resources, call 978-952-6856 ext. 121.



Woodland owners who accepted a free meeting with a forester or local land trust received a copy of *The Place You Call Home: A Guide to Caring for Your Land* (pictured), a map of their property, and a personalized summary of action steps to meet their goals.

FORESTS ON THE FRONTLINE

The 25,000 delegates who converged in Paris have gone home, but the accomplishments of the Paris climate negotiations from December 2015 remain.

WRITTEN BY Frank Lowenstein

Some 196 nations converged in Paris, unanimously agreeing on an approach to transform the world's energy systems and economy. Oil-rich countries agreed to a document outlining reduced use of fossil fuels. Countries in the early stages of economic development agreed to follow a new path out of poverty, relying less heavily on cheap coal and oil. After 24 years of negotiations, and increasingly stark warnings from scientists, the world has agreed to an expectation of action by all nations.

At first glance, it seems like the agreements might have less to do with forests than with renewable energy, home design, urban planning, or automobile manufacturing. But in fact, forests figure prominently in the Paris Agreements. The reason stems from the basic biology of trees. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air, and use

energy from the sun to transform that carbon dioxide into trunks, branches, bark, and roots. Until the tree rots or is consumed by fire, the carbon in the wood is not released back to the atmosphere — lowering the overall level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the amount of warming.

The Paris Agreements call for action to reduce deforestation; suggest a need for more attention to forests' long-term management; and set the stage for ongoing innovations in using wood in place of steel and concrete in order to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Each of these outcomes from the Paris Agreements has implications for New England forests.

Every year, U.S. forests absorb 13 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions, removing approximately 700 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere per year. Without trees, our net emissions would be 13 percent higher, making global climate change even worse.

Within this national picture, New England forests play a significant role. Even though our region is small and trees here grow relatively slowly due to cold winters, New England is the most densely forested region in the nation, with more than 33 million acres of forest land. Each year, thousands of acres of forest land are permanently lost to development. Almost 3 percent of New England forests vanished beneath homes, shopping malls and roads between 1990 and 2005; a forthcoming Harvard Forest study will provide an update on these numbers. Turning forests into suburbs or other forms of development eliminates their ability to store carbon, as well as to deliver benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and quality jobs and products for the local community.

Land conservation is one tool to prevent deforestation. Over the last 120 years, land trusts and government

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have conserved 9 million acres of New England forests. But an additional 24 million acres is still at risk. New tools to speed conservation are needed.

In addition to recognizing the threats of deforestation, the Paris Agreements recognize that forests are dynamic, and not isolated from climate. The U.S. Forest Service reports that "wildfires, insect infestations, pulses of erosion and flooding, and drought-induced tree mortality are all expected to increase during the 21st century." These changes, partly resulting from changes in climate, will increase mortality of mature trees and reduce regeneration of some species. To maintain forests' ability to store carbon, new management techniques are needed to be able to anticipate and plan for climate change impacts.

Finally, the Paris Agreements invite innovative solutions to reduce climate change. In the last five years, architects and engineers around the world have piloted techniques that use engineered wood in place of concrete and steel construction. Using wood saves unnecessary carbon emissions that are required to manufacture steel and concrete, both of which must be heated to more than 2500 degrees Fahrenheit. By featuring solid wood walls, at times a foot or more thick, these new methods of construction also capture the carbon stored by trees. The carbon will remain trapped in the wood for decades. NEFF is already at work to make sure

New England forests benefit from the opportunities created by the Paris climate agreements. We are actively engaged in partnership efforts to create new conservation tools that will protect the most land possible for the least amount of charitable investment. As described in "Engaging Landowners in the MassConn Woods" on page 8 of this newsletter, NEFF is helping landowners access information on managing and conserving their forests. NEFF is also working with Manomet, a nonprofit dedicated to applying science to sustain our world, to test new forest management strategies for a changing climate at our Allen-Whitney Community Forest in Maine. Finally, NEFF's Build It With Wood partnership (www.builditwithwood.org) aims to foster increased construction of wood buildings here in New England. As part of this effort, NEFF seeks to communicate the benefits of wood construction to the public and sustainability leaders.

The 196 world leaders who convened in Paris recognized the critical role of forests in maintaining a livable climate. With the Paris Agreement in place, now is the time for action to ensure the benefits of our global and local forests are here to stay.

For more information about the Paris climate negotiations and their implications for forests, visit our blog entry by Katie Dolan and Frank Lowenstein at newenglandforestry.org





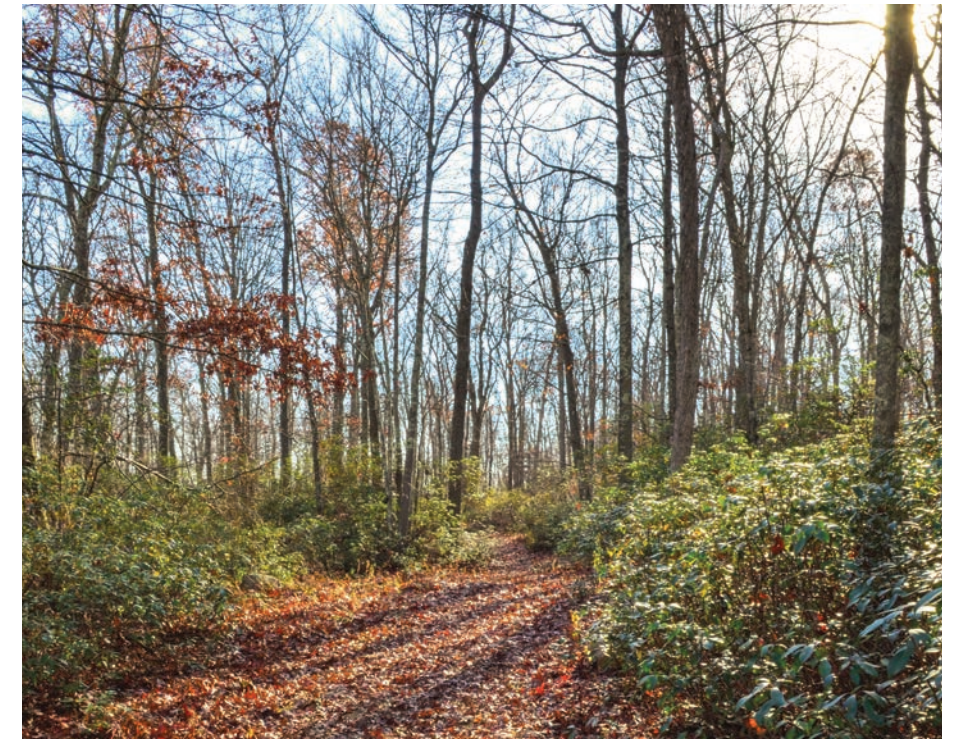
CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

NEFF works with landowners to help meet their land management goals through conservation easements, conservation restrictions, planned giving, and other innovative methods. NEFF also purchases land in order to demonstrate sustainable forestry, and to help conserve New England's forests for future generations.

The Headwaters of the Niantic River, East Lyme, CT: 166 Acres

By spring we will have conserved 166 acres in East Lyme, CT. The property includes wetland habitat, critical to helping preserve the water quality of the Niantic River Estuary. The parcel is part of a larger, unprotected 2,200-acre forested area in East Lyme and Waterford.

This year, NEFF is working hard to conserve an additional 33 acres that abuts this land. The local community has shown full support for conserving the Headwaters of the Niantic River, with the town of East Lyme committing \$350,000 towards its conservation. The woodland will be open to public recreation and will soon provide educational opportunities for local science education programs.



The Cate Community Forest, Alton, NH: 138 Acres

Addison Cate contacted NEFF in 2000 to donate a conservation easement on two woodlots in Alton, NH, totaling 71 acres. These woodlots run along the Merrymeeting River, and abut the Merrymeeting State Wildlife Management area.

In 2001, Cate donated an additional conservation easement on a 67-acre woodlot that provides educational opportunities for local schools. During Cate's estate planning, he decided to donate these three properties to NEFF using a provision in his will. NEFF will work with another land trust to transfer the conservation easements, ensuring that Cate's woodlands will be permanently conserved.

OUR DONORS

NOVEMBER 1, 2015 – JANUARY 31, 2016

Generous support from the individuals and organizations listed below has allowed us to continue and expand our efforts to conserve the forest landscape and the environmental, social, and economic benefits it supports.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and are vital to our success. While we have listed gifts of \$100 or more, we want you to know that every gift is important to us and helps us fulfill our mission.

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