Dear Members and Friends,

I love visiting our community forests, particularly when I get a chance to visit with the foresighted people who helped establish them. The November sun was a pale ghost as we sat by the fireplace in Jessamine Warren’s house and listened to her tale of how she and her husband conserved their forest in Walpole, Massachusetts by giving it to New England Forestry Foundation. That was back in the 1970s. Jess is 102 now and although Winslow passed away in 1973, his presence still graces the house and property. Jess shooed us out the door to take a walk in the woods before the light faded completely.

I was joined by Whit Beals, our Director of Land Protection, who has been involved with this property for over 12 years and Chip Small, Mrs. Warren’s godson, who has been a live-in forest steward for over 30 years. As the newcomer, I followed behind as we wove our way through the trees. We reached our destination, a small wooden sign that marks Winslow Warren’s final resting place in the woods. He wanted it made of wood, not stone, so that eventually it would return to the forest he loved and cared for. On it he had carved:

*Hold this land forever free
For here is where I wish to be
Here is a sailor
Home from the sea
And a woodsman under his pine*

After a moment we continued our journey past the sign and went deeper into the woods. I noticed that as Chip and Whit passed the sign, they lightly touched it for a moment. I can’t tell you what they may have thought, but as I passed and touched the sign I simply said, “I’ll do my best.”

It’s an honor to carry on the work of others. In New England we have some big and well-known shoulders to stand on like Henry David Thoreau, Percival Baxter, Benton MacKaye, and renowned silviculturist David M. Smith, my personal mentor. Then we have the lesser known folks like Winslow Warren who are content to do their work well and then pass along into the pines. There are thousands of New Englanders like that—landowners and foresters and conservationists who are working to leave a New England legacy by protecting our forested landscape. When we are guided by the good work of those before us, and when we work together, I know we are capable of great things.

I’m pleased to offer our Spring newsletter. In it you will find the seeds of change. Our Director of Forest Stewardship, Chris Pryor, will tell you about our hands-on forestry tool. We look at personal sustainability from a new perspective. And we tell you how we saved an orchard and raised some money for our land protection fund.

Thank you for your continued support,

Bob Perschel
Executive Director

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The Quest for Sustainability

OUR ROLE IN BUILDING AWARENESS

We hear the term “sustainability” a lot lately as our region, nation, and world are challenged by growing populations, expanding third-world economies, and rapid use of the planet’s resources. Rising sea levels and megastorms force us to consider what sustainable coastal development looks like and how great cities like New York and Boston will prosper in the future. The effects of climate change in our region challenge our historic approach to land protection for wildlife habitat and biodiversity. And the need to manage forests through a warming period that will shift and transform ecological communities makes excellence in forestry more important than ever.

At the New England Forestry Foundation, we pay a lot of attention to sustainability. It is a complex concept that becomes even more complex when applied to forests. Our goal is to manage each of our community forests sustainably: maintenance of the ecological integrity of these forests is always our first priority. Our forests also are asked to provide goods and services to New Englanders, so we are challenged to maintain the flow of clean water, forest products, scenery, recreation settings, and wildlife habitat that citizens of New England require for sustainable and healthy lives. In addition to this dual purpose—maintaining ecological integrity and meeting society’s economic and social needs—there are temporal and scale aspects to sustainability. Simply said, our forests need to be sustainable in the short and long term and at the woodlot level as well as at the larger landscape scale.

In this issue of our newsletter we’ll introduce the Marteloscope—a new forestry tool we have imported from Europe that will help foresters and landowners manage their forests more sustainably. We also launch a discussion on why the equation that yields a truly sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyle must include variables that protect our forest base and support the practice of sustainable forestry in our region.
At New England Forestry Foundation, we use two important bookends to ensure that we practice sustainable forestry. At the front end of our process, we employ the very best forestry professionals to develop an inventory of forest resources and a management plan for each of our Community Forests. At the back end of the process, our management is accredited by two independent parties, the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) and the American Tree Farm System®. In between these bookends—when we actually execute a management method and choose the trees for harvest and retention—is when some of the most critical decisions are made in the woods by the individual forester.

The choices that the forester makes as he or she walks through the woodlot with their marking paint gun are based on years of education and field experience. Each decision on what to retain and what to mark for removal has a huge bearing on the future success, productivity, and health of the forest. Seemingly routine choices—such as removing a sugar maple and leaving red oak—can have major effects on forest productivity and financial returns 50 or 100 years from now. The anticipated effects of climate change add another deep layer of complexity to the tree selection process.

Foresters understand the importance of tree selection and good foresters are always looking for ways to improve their skills whether through continued education or by learning from the techniques of their colleagues. The constraint they have is that forests grow and respond relatively slowly. Foresters typically have to wait several decades to see if their choices played out as expected and only then can they fully evaluate and adapt their techniques. By that time they might be ready to hang up the paint gun and retire. But what if we could offer a real-time picture of what their choices today will mean to the future...
of the forest stand? Wouldn’t that help immensely at honing the efficiency of foresters’ marking process? Imagine if we had a tool that could improve a forester’s marking efficiency by even 5% or 10% and then multiply that across the active forestry profession working on hundreds of thousands of acres per year.

Pro Silva European foresters now are using such a tool. It is called a Marteloscope. A hectare of forest is inventoried and the results are placed in a computer database that is linked to a forest growth model. Foresters tally trees to be marked in a hypothetical harvest and then the computer program—the Marteloscope—projects the results of their decisions by growing the forest over time. The computer displays models of “before-and-after” stand volumes, timber volume, and value. The program also includes long-term projected environmental benefits and effects, such as wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration.

We began installing a Marteloscope prototype at our Prouty Woods headquarters forest in Littleton, Massachusetts last summer. Over the winter, we worked on the forest growth models and anticipate our first Marteloscope will be up and running this spring. We expect to use it in two ways.

Foremost, we’ll offer it as a tool for the foresters of New England to increase their proficiency. We intend to install a number of Marteloscopes throughout the region to service the forestry community and cover the range of forest types and conditions that foresters work in. Our next installation is scheduled for our Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest in Maine. Eventually we would like to see Marteloscopes installed and available in all forested areas of New England and in reasonable proximity to all Regional Conservation Partnerships that are working to fulfill the Wildlands and Woodlands Vision.

Secondarily, but perhaps more importantly, we will use our Marteloscopes as a fun and informative way to introduce the public, media, and decision makers to the practice of forestry. We can’t wait to host our first crop of media representatives, legislators, community, or environmental activists. We’ll give them orange marking vests and set up a little competition within the group to see who can manage our cherished woodlands the best.

Marking timber is an engaging and fulfilling opportunity to work with a natural biological system in a sustainable way. Many people love gardening and forestry is a lot like that. But few people outside the forestry profession have had the chance to get a hands-on experience of tending a forest—until now. We think a session with the Marteloscope will give non-professionals a feel for the complex choices and unique skill sets that are required to manage forests. That, in turn, should open the door for a greater appreciation and support of forestry and foresters—the profession that accepts the challenge of managing a natural biological system in a sustainable way while it produces the products and amenities we all require as New Englanders.

**Update from the Heart of New England**

**Forest Landowner Outreach and Education Program**—A nine-member Expert Panel is working with us to design a comprehensive communication prototype for implementation in Regional Conservation Partnership areas in New England. Our prototype should be complete this spring and we expect to launch our first project in the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership area.

**Forestry Innovation and Techniques**—The field work for our first Marteloscope is complete at our Prouty Woods forest in Littleton, Massachusetts and we are working to tie in appropriate growth models. We expect to have the first tool available this spring and install at least one more Marteloscope at our Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest in Manchester, Maine this year.

**Land Trust Collaboration Services**—Version 1.0 of our Land Trust Conservation and Aggregation Tool Kit is scheduled for release this winter. This will provide ready access to a variety of documents, approaches, skills and expertise to increase the efficiency of land trusts to aggregate and raise sufficient funds for land protection priorities.
Many people have taken steps to reduce their impact on the environment and are paying attention to their ecological footprint as a measure of a sustainable lifestyle. This includes recycling and minimizing waste, eating local, sustainably-produced food, reducing mileage and driving fuel-efficient cars, lowering thermostats and switching to local, renewable energy sources, installing LED lights and solar panels, using all-natural and non-chemical based products, reducing water consumption, and more. If the previous markers of sustainability are incorporated into an equation it might look like this:

Sustainable lifestyle = Recycling + Food + Transportation + Heating + Lighting + Products + Water + ………

or more succinctly put—
R + F + T + H + L + P + W + ………

Unfortunately, one of the most important aspects of sustainable living is often not incorporated in the personal equation: sustainable forest products such as flooring, building materials, paper, and packaging. People may be surprised to learn the average American consumes over 5,000 pounds—more than 2.5 tons—of forest products a year for home and office use. The sources are usually from around the world and could come from the destruction of an invaluable tropical rainforest or illegally logged timber in Siberia. In Massachusetts alone, it is estimated that only 2% of the forest product demand is met locally. However, studies have indicated a goal of 50% could be achieved with proper and effective resource management.
The over arching goal of the Wildlands and Woodlands vision is to eventually protect 70% of New England’s forested landscape, but to fulfill that objective we need to change the equation by adding sustainable forestry in the variable.

The question to ask ourselves as a society is, “How can we acquire more of our forest products from local and sustainably managed forests?”

People may be surprised to learn the average American consumes over 5,000 pounds—more than 2.5 tons—of forest products a year for home and office use.

As part of our Heart of New England Campaign to support the Wildlands and Woodlands vision, we realize we need to do a much better job of communicating with landowners and the general public about the need to protect and manage forests in New England. We need to demonstrate that sustainable forestry is not a threat to the environment, but if performed well on local, privately owned woodlots, it can be an important part of each person’s sustainability equation. That’s why one of our three key Heart of New England programs focuses on better communications.

Our initial background work for our communications project reveals that our audience often has a good headstart on the importance of forests to mitigate global climate change. Respondents understand the importance of keeping forests as forests in order to maintain the sequestered carbon. They often relate the importance of forest protection more to tropical forests, which are contributing 15% of the world’s CO2 emissions as they are deforested rapidly. One of our goals is to build awareness in lowering our individual and collective ecological and carbon footprint by caring for New England forests.

One of our greatest challenges is that a portion of the public equates harvesting with ecological damage. This also may be a residue of media attention on tropical forest destruction. In order to get forest management into the sustainability equation it can be helpful to state, right upfront, that we understand forests don’t necessarily require our intervention to be healthy and ecologically sustainable. They’ve done quite well for tens of thousands of years without human tinkering. However, if society requires goods and services from the forest, then our job—and the job of the ecologically minded citizen—is not how to “leave them alone,” but to determine how to manage some of them sustainably, with as small an ecological footprint as possible, in order to produce those goods and services.

Once we have reached that point of agreement, we think we have a compelling story to tell and some revealing facts and figures to use. What we do know is that we can meet more of the demand for products and services from sustainably managed private lands right here within our region, under some of the best environmental regulations in the world, and directly under the eyes and political influence of the consumer. In addition, products produced locally support regional landowners and provide jobs for local foresters, loggers, and wood product manufacturers.

With your support we are using our Heart of New England Campaign to bring a new understanding and comfort level about forestry to all New Englanders. If we do our work well, we expect the operative question will become, “How much of my own consumption of forest products can New England Forestry Foundation, foresters, and New England landowners produce sustainably and locally?”

When we hear that, we will know we have successfully added the forestry variable to the sustainability equation and we will be on our way to protecting New England’s forests.

Sustainable lifestyle =

R + F + T + H + L + P + W + Forests ……….
It was a spectacular fall afternoon with clear blue skies, radiant sunshine, and row after row of big, fragrant apple trees at the Tougas Family Farm. Families strolled throughout the orchard, enjoying the simple pleasures of a seasonal New England harvest.

Aside from the perfect weather, what made this day particularly memorable was a visit from a special guest – Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Together with the Commonwealth, the town of Northborough, the Tougas family, and many supporters, we celebrated the permanent conservation of the farmland made possible through the state’s Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program.

For over three decades, New England Forestry Foundation has worked in partnership with the Tougas family by leasing a portion of the organization’s Rocky Pond Community Forest, a 238-acre property comprised of forest and farmland. Over the years, the family cultivated a pick-your-own operation on the property’s 35-acre field to complement their growing apple orchard and fruit farm, which is also conserved by the APR program beginning in 1986. The property previously was owned by Gertrude Falby, who donated the field and 132 acres of woodlands to New England Forestry Foundation in 1980.

In June 2012, New England Forestry Foundation placed the field into permanent conservation through the Commonwealth’s APR program, a voluntary initiative intended to offer a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of “prime” and “state important” agricultural land. To further support the agricultural initiative, the Foundation then sold the conserved...
The "Buy Local" food movement has exploded in popularity during the past few years. Today people share aware-
ness of the importance and benefits of locally sourced food: high-quality produce, reduced carbon emissions, local
jobs, and conserved regional landscapes spared from development. And it is good for the economy: the number of
small family farms in the state of Massachusetts has increased by an astounding 27%.

Local, sustainable forestry delivers these same benefits, but despite decades of communication and education the
forestry sector is nowhere near the level of acceptance or support as local farming. We can learn a lot from the recent
successes of the local farming movement, organic agriculture, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects.
And it can benefit the forestry sector to partner with the agricultural community and emulate its success.

New England Forestry Foundation recently gave its endorsement for a new standards system to promote Massachusetts-
grown forest products. It is part of the new Commonwealth Quality Program (CQP) administered by the Massachusetts
Department of Agriculture that covers agricultural products, including forest-based goods. Forest products with the
CQP seal will assure consumers they were harvested in accordance with high standards, and also provide rural jobs,
reduce carbon emissions compared with imported wood products, conserve rural forestland, and provide landowners
with an economic alternative to forestland development.
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.
will 2013 be the year you consider a special gift to New England Forestry Foundation? If so, we hope you might consider one of these gift options to secure your forest legacy in New England.

**The IRA Rollover**
If you are 70½, or older, you are required to take minimum distributions from your retirement plan each year. Congress recently extended the IRA Rollover for 2013 and individuals who are 70½ and older can make direct transfers of these distributions totaling up to $100,000 per year to 501(c)(3) non-profits, without the transfer counting as income for the donor’s federal tax purposes. If you don’t need the additional income necessitated by this minimum required distribution, perhaps you will consider making a special IRA Rollover gift to New England Forestry Foundation this year.

**Conservation Easements (”Qualified Conservation Contributions” in IRS parlance)**
Congress first enacted an enhanced tax incentive for donating conservation easements in 2006. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 reinstates the enhanced incentive, which had expired at the end of 2011, for 2013 and retroactively for all of 2012. The enhanced incentive raises the federal income tax deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of adjusted gross income to 50% and has a carry forward provision of up to 15 years for any unused portion of the deduction. If you are thinking about donating a conservation easement to protect your forest land from development, now is the time to do it!

For further information on gift opportunities to support New England Forestry Foundation, please contact: Penny Flynn, Development Manager, pflynn@newenglandforestry.org or call at 978-952-6856 ext. 101. We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor to determine which charitable gift vehicle is the right choice for you.

Thank you so much for considering New England Forestry Foundation in your estate plans.
News at New England Forestry Foundation

Conservation Success Stories

New England Forestry is pleased to announce the conservation of two additional forests—the Natti Woodlot in Gloucester, MA and the McClellan Family Forest in Sandgate, VT.

The Natti Woodlot is co-owned with the Essex County Greenbelt Association. The property is a 20-acre addition to our Norton Memorial Forest, a popular community forest with 121 acres in the Dogtown area of Cape Ann. The original forest was donated to New England Forestry Foundation by Professor and Mrs. Frederick H. Norton in 1975 and is a favorite destination for outdoor recreation, especially with its proximity to the Atlantic coastline and abutting Dogtown State Forest.

The Natti Woodlot was previously owned by Erik and Theresa Natti and is named after his family. The parcel provides a key link in a proposed network of town- and privately-held conservation properties in the forested Dogtown sector. Studies conducted on the land found the area to be rich in biotic diversity. The land will also help provide clean, naturally-filtered water to the local community.

New England Forestry Foundation and Essex County Greenbelt Association will share the woodlot’s stewardship activities. The addition will enable the organizations to create a small parking area and a designated trail head to offer enhanced access to the forest and trails for public use.

The McClellan Family Forest is a 63-acre parcel recently donated to New England Forestry Foundation by Elizabeth Martineau and John McClellan. The forest is an addition to the organization’s S. Lytton Scott Memorial Forest. The Scott forest, comprising 425 acres, was donated to New England Forestry Foundation in 1976 by the late Mrs. Dorothy Sullivan Scott in memory of her late husband.

The combined forests now have 488 acres of picturesque woodlands with rugged terrain and beautiful views. The forests are open to the public and may be used for quiet recreation. They also provide an excellent venue to demonstrate the role and benefits of sustainable management in creating and maintaining diverse woodlands and wildlife habitats.