New England Forestry Foundation Celebrates 70 Years!
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Happy 70th Birthday, New England Forestry Foundation! When an oak tree is your age its roots are deep, its bole is stout and sturdy, its crown is full and spreading, and it has been shedding acorns for decades to nourish forest wildlife and seed new trees. An oak tree seems to be an appropriate analogue for your growth and productivity over the last seven decades.

NEFF’s founders assured you a solid foundation when they rooted your mission in fertile ground — the love and passion people have for forests and for the wise stewardship of land. Through the years, your growing base of support enabled you to hire dedicated staff to nurture you from a seedling upstart with new ideas about helping forest landowners to a mature regional leader of land conservation and excellence in forest management. Your limbs now encompass almost 1.2 million acres of protected forestland — more than any other non-profit organization in the region, and second only to the U.S. Forest Service for any type of organization. In fact, you have protected one out of every eight acres of conserved land in New England, and one in three acres conserved in the last 15 years.

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And that’s not all. Many of your acorns took hold and thrived as a profession of consulting foresters emerged to assist New England landowners. Others became the land trusts that sprang up to service almost every New England town and region to share the mission of conserving and managing the forest landscape. And still others are the men and woman who worked for or supported you, who went on to lend their hands and hearts to guide other organizations with the same love and passion for passing our forest heritage on to future generations.

When we look at you now, in your 70th year, we harbor a hope for your future: Become the Heart of New England. Spread your branches wider, push your roots deeper, and cast yet another new crop of acorns until 30 million acres are protected and we can be assured that New England will always be New England, for all the generations to follow.

Thank you for your continued support,

Bob Perschel
Executive Director

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Cover image — Braintree Mountain Forest, Braintree, Vermont.
The View from Wilderness Hill:  
History and Prospect of Conserving and Sustaining New England

Wilderness Hill sits at the center of New England Forestry Foundation’s Prouty Woods headquarters. It offers hikers a nearly 40-mile view to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. Aside from two church spires, one sees only forests. That vista provides a metaphor for both the past success of and future need for New England Forestry Foundation. Because, while Prouty Woods is conserved — along with nearly 150 other community forests — it sits on the edge of metro Boston, and the forested view is at risk still.

This year marks New England Forestry Foundation’s 70th year working to protect forests and manage them well. We have accomplished a great deal. Today there are 8.6 million acres of conserved forest land in New England, and NEFF is responsible for more than 1 million of them. But there is much more to be done. If the view from Wilderness Hill is to remain forested, and the people of the region are to retain forests’ many benefits — clean air and water; recreational opportunities; sustainable local wood products; and the myriad wildlife that depend on forests — then analysis from Harvard Forest argues that we need nearly four times today’s amount of conserved forest land.

So we are pleased to announce our 70th birthday, and to celebrate the legacy of NEFF’s founder, Harris A. Reynolds. And we’re driven to achieve his vision — to ensure the forests of New England are conserved and properly managed, so they can continue to flourish for future generations. New England Forestry has always kept this vision alive, conserving and sustaining the forests of New England.

In these pages, you can read of NEFF’s history, along with Voices of the Forest, quoting friends from the region who influence the forested landscape in diverse ways. We also include Glimpses of the Future, outlining our current efforts and activities, with links to resources on the web for more details. Lastly, our recent conservation success stories document nearly 3,500 additional acres conserved at the close of 2013. We hope you enjoy this 70th anniversary issue.
Forests define New England. For many Americans, mentioning the region brings up memories of green hills and brilliant fall foliage. Before European colonization, it is said that a squirrel could go from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and never touch the ground. But in the 1800s and the early 1900s, the region’s forests were in rough shape. Poor logging techniques caused erosion and loss of topsoil. Straightening of streams to facilitate log drives and pollution from paper mills destroyed fisheries.

Harris A. Reynolds saw that professional, sustainable forest management could deliver the benefits of a healthy forest and contribute to the region’s economy. To advance forest conservation and management, he and fellow visionaries, such as William P. Wharton and Farnham W. Smith, founded New England Forestry Foundation in 1944. This year we celebrate our 70th year of working to fulfill that vision, and to help keep New England well-forested.

In addition to his leadership at New England Forestry Foundation, Reynolds served as Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Forest and Parks Association and was a key player in the permanent protection of the White Mountains in New Hampshire, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the creation of many town-owned forests in Massachusetts. Today, all of these forests provide respite from the pressures of our daily lives, drawing millions of visitors each year to enjoy their natural beauty and the wildlife they support.

For 70 years now, New England Forestry Foundation has followed the principals espoused by Reynolds. Today NEFF holds easements on more than one million acres of New England woods — more than any other organization. In the last fifteen years, fully one in every three acres of land conserved in the region has been conserved by NEFF. Our easements cover an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. New England Forestry Foundation holds the largest conservation easement in the United States, the Pingree Forest with 762,192 acres in Maine.

New England Forestry Foundation also owns nearly 150 community forests, all of which are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the American Tree Farm System for the highest environmental and ecological standards. Our most recent milestone is the organization’s largest land gift — Braintree Mountain Forest in Braintree, Vermont with 1,547 acres in conservation — from Paul Kendall and Sharon Rives of the Todhah Hill Foundation.

It’s not enough, however. Forest cover is declining in every New England state. Sprawl is eating up the landscape, and not just near Boston. The US Forest Service reports that Maine lost more than 35,000 acres of forest cover between 2006 and 2011, nearly exclusively to sprawl and development.
New England Forestry Foundation has responded with its Heart of New England campaign to ensure the permanent conservation of 30 million acres by 2060, or 21.4 million more acres beyond current conservation lands. This campaign supports and implements the vision articulated through Harvard Forest’s Wildlands and Woodlands campaign. Through this initiative, we are partnering with land trusts, connecting with landowners, and offering tools to foresters to maximize our collective results in reaching this goal. You can get more information here: http://www.newenglandforestry.org/our-initiatives/heart-of-new-england.

In addition, New England Forestry Foundation soon will release a Forestry Futures report, providing trendsetting information regarding the benefits, opportunities, and potential of forests and forest resources. New England’s forests have so much to offer . . . from carbon storage to offset climate change . . . to critical habitat and biodiversity . . . to local renewable energy, green building materials . . . and more. Forests are the ultimate, all-natural resource of the 21st century. And New England Forestry Foundation is committed to ensuring that forests are here for the region as well, as Harris A. Reynolds and his compatriots intended.
New England Forestry Foundation’s successes during the last 70 years depended on a remarkable range of people from across the region. We turned to a cross section of these forest conservation leaders for their take on forests and NEFF.

**Bayard Henry, Conservationist Extraordinaire**
Bayard Henry is a long-time supporter, board member, past president and — most notably — conservation leader for New England Forestry Foundation. He captained the New England Forestry Foundation’s voyage to conserve 762,192 acres through the Pingree Forest Partnership in Maine.

**Why are forests important to you?**
Well, because they are important to the planet, among other things. That’s the “maxi” answer, but the “mini” answer is that it’s nice to walk in the woods.

**What accomplishment, while you were on the Board at NEFF, are you most proud of?**
The Pingree Forest Partnership. I was sitting on a porch down in south Dartmouth and my friend, Bill King, with whom I went to grade school, who was then the President of the Foundation, came down and said, “We’ve got to go raise this money. And there’s no one dumb enough but you to do the job . . .”

No, he didn’t say that. He said, “You’re the only guy who can do it.” At that point, I was really having a pretty easy life. I was just learning — almost cresting — on how to play the cello. And I had to give it up because it was an 18-month, 7-day-a-week job. Weekends, everything. But it was a remarkable opportunity.

**Why do we need forestry and forest conservation?**
Once it goes into cement, it never comes out. You put a parking lot there and it doesn’t go back to trees.

**Bill and Mary Hull, Forest Landowners and Co-Owners, Hull Forest Products**
Forest conservation and sustainable forest management have been central to the Hull family for nearly 50 years. Mary’s father, William Boston Hull, founded Hull Forest Products as a teenager in the 1960s in a Rhode Island backyard. Over the years, the company relocated to Pomfret, Connecticut and has grown to employ 65 associates, providing over 10 million board feet annually for use around the globe. Mary, her father, and her three brothers are co-owners of the multi-generational enterprise. In 2013, New England Forestry Foundation expanded
our conservation partnership with Hull Forest Products by acquiring conservation easements on 728 additional acres.

When do you first recall becoming interested in forests?
Mary: Growing up in the wood business you spend your childhood in the woods, following my dad cruising woodlots on weekends. What I remember as a very young child are these long walks in the woods, where you can’t keep up with Dad because he’s walking so fast and it seems like you’re never going to stop.

We all worked at Hull forest products, too. Wood clothed us and fed us and put us kids through college. So I have a great appreciation of working forests because my whole family is supported by them. And because forests provide so many benefits: not just sustainable forest products but air and water quality enhancement, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, biodiversity. It just goes on and on.

Why are forests important to you?
Mary: When you’re working with wood, you’re not only providing a sustainable building material, but you are also protecting this incredibly rich ecosystem that provides so many ecological services, that are not adequately accounted for in the marketplace I might add. And so what you do really matters because you’re keeping these forests intact. So many people don’t understand the resource that we have here, and to my mind the best way to protect that resource is to use it sustainably. If we can create demand for local wood, we can ultimately help landowners keep their land in forest.

We need to educate the public with clear and consistent messages about our forest resources: if you’re going to buy wood, you want to buy it here where it’s sustainable — we’re actually helping to protect your own view. When you buy local wood, you’re actually paying your neighbor for keeping their land in forest and that’s a situation that benefits us all. The arguments for eating local food apply equally well to local wood. It’s not the foodshed; it’s the woodshed. If people can’t sell wood, they’ll sell their real estate and we’ll see a conversion of woodlands to residential development.

How did you first become involved with NEFF?
Bill: In 1998 I worked a deal to buy 7,000 acres from the heirs of the Peck Lumber Company. That’s when I went to NEFF and said, “I’ve got an option to buy all these properties, but I don’t have the three and a half million dollars.”
In the year 2000 we closed, with 23 lawyers in the room. Almost all of it ended up under easement [some to NEFF, most to the state of Massachusetts].

What do you like best about NEFF?
Bill: The thing I like best about NEFF is that NEFF has a very explicit understanding that the land exists to be used. They conduct forest management on their own lands and they promote sustainable forestry on the lands of others. In our urban society today, too many people think the only way to protect land is to put a fence around it.

John McClain—Forester
New England Forestry Consultants
John McClain is a forester — a keeper of the forests, in that he keeps the forests healthy and thriving with his forest management expertise. New England Forestry Foundation has a long tradition of working with foresters like John, following in the footsteps of Harris A. Reynolds’s mission. For many years John and other NEFCo foresters were actually a branch of New England Forestry Foundation; they organized independently in 1994 and continue to provide forest expertise to NEFF and other forest landowners.

Tell us your best forest story.
A number of years ago, I was asked to do a timber appraisal on a 400-acre tract for some potential buyers. It encompassed a ridgetop. I had a helper, radios, and a plan whereby I would do the far end of the lot and flag the lines. We were to meet at the southwest corner of the lot at 3pm.

It was January and the snow was deep and fluffy. As time was getting short to make it to the corner, I tried to find a spot to get up over the ledge. Finally I found a chimney in the rock. A large red maple had fallen over it but there was a way to paddle under it and climb the fissure. I made a hole in the snow just about big enough to crawl under. I soon realized that this would not work, as there was a huge black paw of a hibernating bear in front of me!

When and how did you become involved with New England Forestry Foundation?
Twenty or so years ago, I was recruited by a former UMASS classmate to oversee a single timber sale which led to me being hired full time. It has been a great alliance.

Why are forest conservation and forestry important to you?
Forests are so much more than trees. The products they yield are so important to us. The benefits of long-term forestry are enormous. Forest products, clean air and water, aesthetics, and recreation are things that need to be recognized by the public as being supplied by the forest.

Garry Hinkley, Forest Steward, Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest
New England Forestry Foundation cares for our nearly 150 community forests with the help of approximately 80 volunteer forest stewards. Garry Hinkley and his wife, Lynne Cayting, are a dynamic duo who steward New England Forestry Foundation’s Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest with over 700 acres in Manchester, Maine. They are literal and figurative trailblazers, spearheading work with the Manchester Conservation Commission to improve the trails within the forest.

The Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest is particularly special to the organization because of the climate-change research on this property. Working in conjunction with the Manomet Center for Conservation Science, the study will provide information regarding the impact of global warming on forests.

When do you first remember becoming interested in forests?
I think I’ve always been interested in forests as far back as I can remember. Growing up on a small family farm in Turner, Maine, the woodlots were an important part of our lives, from cutting fire wood and saw logs, to harvesting Christmas trees sold from the front lawn. In college, I worked three summers in Baxter State Park, which solidified my interest.

When and how did you become involved with New England Forestry Foundation?
I had recreated in the Allen-Whitney Forest for several years. I knew one of the other stewards from the Manchester Conservation Commission. When Lynne and I moved to our current home adjacent to the A-W, becoming a steward was logical and easy.

Why are forests important to you?
Forests are important for many reasons. For me, forests provide a place to recreate and recharge my batteries. A place for peace and quiet. Forests protect our water and air quality, provide wildlife habitat, and help to mitigate climate change. Forests also provide economic opportunities. Forests provide a community good for our town that residents can use.

Megan O’Keefe—Former Intern, New England Forestry Foundation
Each summer, New England Forestry Foundation hosts several ambitious interns who are keen on making a world of difference on behalf of the environment. In 2012, Megan O’Keefe assisted NEFF with forest inventories throughout New England. A graduate of Green Mountain College with a B.S. in Natural Resources Management, she recently completed an Americorps program in California, working for the U.S. Forest Service.

When do you first remember becoming interested in forests?
As a kid, my family and I would take a camping trip every year in the Adirondacks. I loved being able to wander through the woods there.
Tell us your best forest story.
Last summer, as an Americorps intern with the Forest Service in northern California, I was working in an inventory crew. We were in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park for about a week, and had some down time. We visited one of the redwood stands where some of the Ewok footage from Star Wars was shot. The hike was incredible . . . the gigantic redwoods are so awesome!

Why are forests important to you?
Forest ecosystems provide a range of benefits from recreation to spiritual to forest products. To me, all of these things are important, but the thing I enjoy most is the variety of species that can coexist in an area, and how varying conditions completely change the species living in an area. So I would say forests are most important to me because I am a plant nerd.

Why are forest conservation and forestry such important causes for you?
Forest conservation and sustainable forestry are important because with the rates of population growth and needs for forest products, we are not able to sustain our forests through traditional forestry practices. Old practices such as high-grading have severely diminished the value of some of our forests in the northeast. By incorporating sustainable management practices and silviculture, we are able to have a sustained yield over time while keeping the integrity of the forest ecosystem intact.

What would you say to others in your generation?
You are going to be the forest stewards of the future. It’s not just about forest products. Forests have so much intrinsic value — benefits that are not tangible such as spiritual and recreational qualities. We must foster an appreciation for the environment in the age of climate change. It’s our responsibility to foster awareness of forest issues and ecosystems for future generations.

Glimpses of the Future
“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”

John Muir published these words more than 100 years ago. Today at New England Forestry Foundation we find them increasingly true, as we incorporate regional, national, and global connections into our work. Some of our current projects include:

- **Four Scenarios for the Future.** In December, Harvard Forest and the Smithsonian Institution released an analysis of four potential futures for Massachusetts’s forests. NEFF co-led development of the scenario with the greatest benefits, which called for expanded conservation and improved forest management to meet more of our wood needs locally. [http://bit.ly/1gRrqQD](http://bit.ly/1gRrqQD)

- **Is Conservation a Valid Charitable Purpose?** NEFF is at the center of a landmark Massachusetts case as to whether conserving land is a valid charitable purpose, and whether only recreation or all the benefits of conserved land (e.g. clean air, clean water, sustainable forest products) should be considered by tax assessors. [http://bit.ly/1daUjT6](http://bit.ly/1daUjT6)

- **Money for Carbon.** Conserving forests is key to stabilizing climate. So California’s new carbon laws are funding forest conservation here in New England, with the first sale of carbon credits on land owned by the Downeast Lakes Land Trust that NEFF helped to protect. NEFF itself is on the verge of our first sale of carbon credits for our Hersey Mountain forest. [http://bit.ly/1f9ObkD](http://bit.ly/1f9ObkD)

- **Forestry Futures.** In June, New England Forestry Foundation will release our report on the potential for New England’s forests to provide a wide range of benefits to the region. More on this in our next issue!

- **Check our new blog.** In February, New England Forestry Foundation launched our blog. Our Into the Woods blog offers lively posts on a variety of topics—for example, new research on how tree roots help to stabilize climate, and the implications of our snowy winter for rodents, wildflowers, and Lyme disease. You can find these and other posts at [www.newenglandforestry.org/blog](http://www.newenglandforestry.org/blog). While you’re there, consider signing up for our email news so that you can keep up to date on all that’s happening with NEFF.
Our Donors
[NOVEMBER 1, 2013 - JANUARY 31, 2014]

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.

Harris A. Reynolds Society ~ $1,000 or More

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Create a Forest Legacy with New England Forestry Foundation

“We have not inherited this earth from our parents to do with it what we will. We have borrowed it from our children and we must be careful to use it in their interests as well as our own.”

— MOSES HENRY CASS,
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION, AUSTRALIA, 1974

New England Forestry Foundation ensures the permanent conservation and perpetual sound management of forest lands throughout the region. To do this takes talented staff members, well-coordinated volunteers, and generous supporters. Your annual support and gifts to our endowment funds enable us to care for the region’s forests.

All of us build a legacy on planet earth, whether through our deeds, our writings, our children, or the institutions we’ve helped to build and sustain. We hope you will consider making New England Forestry Foundation a part of your legacy. Through tools such as charitable trusts you can even make a gift that supports New England Forestry Foundation while providing you with lifetime income or providing benefits to family members. A wide variety of assets such as land or securities can be included in legacy gifts.

New England Forestry Foundation itself is a legacy of Harris A. Reynolds and the organization’s other founders (see page 3). We hope you will help to ensure that we remain a legacy and a benefit to future generations of New Englanders.

For more information, consult your financial advisor or contact Penny Flynn: pflynn@newenglandforestry.org or 978-952-6856.
News at New England Forestry Foundation

Conservation Success Stories

New England Forestry is pleased to announce four conservation initiatives which closed at year-end in 2013:

The Millpond Perry Plantation, a 3,300-acre conservation easement in Thomasville, Georgia, was transferred recently from The Nature Conservancy to New England Forestry Foundation to allow consolidated oversight in caring for the land. The Plantation is now under active management to encourage the growth and continued health of the longleaf pine forest type. Several state- and one federally-listed species, the red cockaded woodpecker, are known to occur on the property. The Plantation is an addition to the Foundation’s existing Sedgwick conservation easements of 7,594 acres.

The Nielsen Giarusso property is part of a collaborative effort to conserve more than 900 mostly contiguous acres as working lands and natural areas in Leyden, Massachusetts. With the financial support of the state’s Landscape Partnership Grant Program, and in conjunction with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and Franklin Land Trust, we conserved 91 acres of the Nielsen-Giarusso land with a perpetual conservation restriction. The restriction helps provide protection for the Leyden Glen Reservoir, a public water supply for the city of Greenfield.

The Phillip Weld Forest, with 39 acres in Wareham, Massachusetts, received two contributions of land from William Elkins, his son, Jacob, and daughter, Sheila Baltzell. All are descendents of the original donor. The two parcels, 17.6 and 3.8 acres, are additions to the original forest. The forest also has been renamed The Weld Forest to reflect the multi-generational gifts. The property is entirely forested and features a mix of white pine and oaks and abuts town conservation land, creating a contiguous corridor for habitat.

Spiegel Memorial Forest, with 100 acres in Pomfret, Vermont, received a 70-acre addition thanks to the fee gift of the Sennott Maple Forest from Robert and Susan Sennott. The parcel contains a well-managed woodland dominated by sugar maple of mixed ages and class sizes. The new addition provides enhanced access to the original 100-acre forest, which abuts the Green Mountain National Forest. The Vermont Land Trust holds a conservation easement on both forests.