The Heart of New England,  
The Gifts of Land, Memory, and a Way of Life

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

What is New England? There is the land, the waters, the sky. Then there is the way we experience land, water, and sky so that they become place. Place becomes relationship, relationship becomes memory, and memory becomes story. If you want to know what New England is you ask people to tell you a story.

One of the great joys of working at NEFF is hearing the stories our supporters tell about our community forests. Each story makes me think of the above introduction I wrote a few years ago for a book about Maine. To be sure, our 139 community forests and 144 easements represent at least 283 different stories. However, there is a common bond in all of them: a deep desire to protect forests and pass down the experiences associated with them to future generations.

In order to protect more of these precious connections to New England, I’ve asked our staff to consider NEFF’s greatest strengths and the specific role we can play in completing the Wildlands and Woodlands vision to protect New England’s forested landscape. We gave ourselves two criteria: our new programs had to be both innovative and capable of transforming the pace of forest conservation and management.

The result of this multi-month effort is called the Heart of New England Forest Conservation Campaign. It includes three focused programs that empower our three key constituencies—forestland owners, partner land trusts, and professional foresters—to do the work necessary to protect 70% of our landscape by 2060.

We now are putting the finishing touches on each of these programs. In this newsletter Sonya LeClair, our Community Forest Programs Coordinator, describes our innovative landowner communication program. Our following newsletters will cover our other two programs—including an exciting new forest management tool we are importing from Europe and a toolbox of support products we are developing for land trust coalitions.

Together, we will take on the challenges and lead the way to safeguard the Heart of New England ... forever.

Robert Perschel  
Executive Director

In This Issue

- A season of giving: what forests give to us and what we can give to forests.
- Looking ahead—engaging social networks for sustainable forest management—our new outreach program
- The Carye family, a legacy of conservation and their recent donation of nearly 400 acres abutting beautiful Lake Winnipesaukee and the town of Gilford’s Kimball Castle estate
- On the horizon at New England Forestry Foundation—a glimpse of projects in the works in Gloucester and Granville, Massachusetts and Strafford and Strafford, Vermont
- Gift memberships and other ways of giving the gift of forest conservation for future generations
- News at New England Forestry Foundation: Alec Giffen is hired as our State Coordinator for our new Maine Satellite Office and Chris Pryor is promoted to Forest Director

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Forests enhance our lives in so many ways. They provide a peaceful respite in a hectic world . . . a sanctuary for stunning wildlife . . . a source of clean water, air, and carbon sequestration to keep us and the planet healthy.

Forests also provide wood to heat our homes and warm our hearts. They provide trees for beautiful wooden floors, furniture, and useful items such as cutting boards, bowls, and more. Forests are the ultimate green resource. They are renewable, all-natural, abundant, and versatile.

Forests provide a sense of community and – when conserved – define our irreplaceable New England landscape. They are our heritage and way of life.

In this season of giving, there is a myriad of ways to give back to the forests which give so much to us and humankind. We can support forest conservation and sustainable management through our everyday actions.

Whether choosing products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), taking a walk in the woods, volunteering at your local forest, or preparing a forest management plan on your property to ensure a healthy environment and habitats, these are all activities that support the future of our forests.

Other ways to give include supporting our work through membership, a contribution to our annual appeal, a donation of land or conservation easement, or including New England Forestry Foundation in your estate plans.

The gift of conservation is one that will last beyond a lifetime. Your generous contributions provide a legacy of conserved forests for future generations.
Most of New England’s forests are family forests, owned by over 200,000 private individuals. The owners are our family, friends, and neighbors, and what many of them value most about their land is the land itself – the beauty of the woods, an opportunity to enjoy quiet recreation, and the buffer they provide from the busy world around them. Though many landowners initially choose not to manage their land, we know that goals and decisions change over time – perhaps as a result of an unexpected life event or solicitation. These decisions can be complex, and when landowners are not aware of the resources available to them in these circumstances, they are much more vulnerable to reactive decisions that are neither in their best interests nor in the best interests of the land they love.

Because the health of our region’s forests and the many benefits they deliver to all New Englanders are dependent upon how our family forest landowners care for and manage their land, it is to our collective benefit to ensure that landowners know who to turn to when these decisions arise. For decades, efforts have focused on educating them about sustainable forestry and conservation of their property beyond their ownership tenure. However, recent studies suggest that these efforts have been largely unsuccessful at sharing critical information, as only a small percentage of landowners seek professional guidance prior to harvests or know their local land trust. In Massachusetts alone, only 15% of landowners use a consulting forester, and nationwide only 4% of landowners have a forest management plan. In light of these findings, it is time to reconsider and redirect our efforts.
Sustainable Forest Management

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The New England Forestry Foundation, in partnership with a team of experts, is developing a new communication approach to reach landowners through the power of their social networks. The objective is to provide landowners with reliable information through networks they trust so that they will be better equipped to make informed and proactive decisions about their land both now and in the future. Importantly, this plan will serve as a model that can be implemented, tested, refined, and tailored for replication throughout New England.

Anticipated Components
We are working to develop a thorough and practical toolkit to ensure that this program is successful, and anticipate that it will incorporate a number of components.

- Core Volunteer Program
We know that landowners put a lot of stock in people like them, and when making decisions about their land, they invariably rely on peer landowners and neighbors for advice. This trend suggests that a critical strategy for reaching landowners involves tapping into the power of their social networks, which will provide an important support structure to share accurate and reliable information with landowners at times when they need it most. Identifying, cultivating, and supporting influential community members who are willing to serve as volunteers will be the focus of this new approach.

- Forester Outreach
A broad outreach strategy helping landowners become familiar with local resources must include a strategy to communicate these efforts with local consulting foresters. It is important that foresters are aware of and key into our efforts to reach these communities, and that we develop a strategy to engage them appropriately.

- Harvest Walks
New England Forestry Foundation lands are available as demonstration areas for volunteers and others to engage local communities in forest management, and walks exploring upcoming or recent timber harvests can facilitate introductions to management planning and local foresters.

Launch
Our goal is to incorporate this program both as part of our general outreach efforts and the Heart of New England campaign. Currently, we aim to launch a pilot within the area of the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, a region of 35 towns spanning the border of South-Central Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut. As a first step, we are seeking funding to increase staffing, which will improve our capacity to connect with the social networks in these communities. Further, we are working to integrate this approach into our current volunteer program, and are taking steps to determine how to do so most effectively.

In the next five years, we hope to expand this approach into three to four additional regions in New England through local partnerships and in areas where we have substantial landholdings.

Looking Ahead
The road before us will be challenging, and it is one that we will walk closely with our members, donors, and local communities across New England. However, we believe that this approach will provide more meaningful support to landowners, thus enhancing the integrity of our region’s landscape in the years to come.
Thanks to the generosity of the Carye family, New England Forestry Foundation recently received a donation of nearly 400 acres in beautiful Gilford, New Hampshire. Named the Carye Family Woods, the 387-acre property contains a substantial portion of the Lazy Brook watershed and affords views of nearby Lake Winnipesaukee. The forest also abuts the historic Kimball Castle estate, Kimball Wildlife Forest with 250 acres, and The Meadows with 65 acres, creating a significant conservation corridor.

The donors, Raymond A. and Barbara F. Carye, have owned the property since the 1950s and have a long history of caring for their forest and community. Their property has been sustainably managed by New England Forestry Foundation and later our affiliates, New England Forestry Consultants, for approximately 30 years. In 1998, the Caryes donated The Meadows’s land and farm buildings to the Gilford School District, providing an excellent opportunity for the young people of the town to learn more about the land and wildlife.

Family-owned, commercial real estate developers by trade, the Caryes wanted to leave a legacy of conservation for future generations, as well as ensure the proper management and future growth of their forest. They understood the important role of sustainable management and its impact in creating healthy forests and vibrant habitats. They also wanted to encourage more land conservation in the area, creating a movement to retain the natural landscape in the sparkling lakes region.

The Caryes’s son, Edward, reminisces about their history in Gilford. “In August of 1959, during the family’s one-week cottage vacation on the lake, my folks noted a For Sale sign on 11A heading towards Belknap, just beyond the Cat Path. The property was a 60-acre tract owned by the Keisling family directly across the road from the family home. After certain discussions, my folks decided to purchase the parcel to build themselves a vacation home.”

“Over time, my folks bought abutting parcels to expand or connect their early purchases. Within 30 years, they had pieced together over 700 acres and, despite the size, they insisted on keeping a rather low profile. Their’s was never an obsession...
The projects and programs of New England Forestry Foundation depend upon your support. There are many giving options available—from naming our organization as a beneficiary in your will, to a more complex trust arrangement. Your planned gift to New England Forestry Foundation can assist you in meeting your financial goals while helping to conserve our New England forest landscape.

If you are a landowner you could conserve your forestland permanently by donating the land to New England Forestry Foundation with a restriction that the land remains in active forestry. Another way to conserve your forestland forever, and to provide income to yourself and your heirs, is to have New England Forestry Foundation hold a conservation easement on your land and oversee its management, with a percentage of the income from future harvests designated to you or your heirs.

For more information on creating your forest legacy, contact Whit Beals at 978/952-6856 x109 or wbeals@newenglandforestry.org.
New England Forestry Foundation has many conservation projects in the works at all times and hopes to conserve an additional 3200+ acres in FY2013. Below is a glimpse of several initiatives, protecting forests large and small throughout New England.

**Natti Addition to Norton Memorial Forest**
**Gloucester, Massachusetts**

The Norton Memorial Forest is a popular community forest with 121 acres located in the Dogtown area of Cape Ann. The forest was donated to New England Forestry Foundation by Professor and Mrs. Frederick H. Norton in 1975 and is a favorite area for outdoor recreation, especially with its proximity to the Atlantic coastline and abutting Dogtown State Forest. Professor Norton did most of the original evergreen plantings and road building in the forest. With his exemplary management work, the forest was awarded “Outstanding Tree Farm” from the American Forest Institute.

The Natti Addition will conserve 20 acres as an addition to the Norton Memorial Forest. It provides a key link in a proposed network of town and privately-held conservation properties in the forested Dogtown section of Gloucester. Studies were conducted of the various parcels and found the area is rich in biotic diversity. Working in collaboration with the Essex County Greenbelt Association, New England Forestry Foundation and the Association will share ownership and stewardship activities. The addition will enable us to create a small parking area and a designated trailhead to offer enhanced access to the forest and trails for public use.

**Hull Forest Woodlots**
**Granville, Massachusetts**

The Hull Forest Woodlots initiative will conserve an additional 728 acres in Granville, Massachusetts. The three parcels involved are critical to the protection of Valley Brook, a major tributary to the Hartford Metropolitan District Commission’s Barkhamsted Reservoir, which supplies public water to greater Hartford, Connecticut. Two of the parcels, comprising 235 acres, abut our Phelon Forest of over 1000 acres, creating a great forested corridor. They are also in close proximity to the recently conserved Meiklejohn property with...
Sustainability and Forest Conservation Series

At New England Forestry Foundation, we are passionate about sustainability—it is the core of our mission and work. In upcoming issues, we will feature a series of articles highlighting the role forests play in the environment, society, and economy, enhancing life for the greater good.

Topics include forests and their direct impact on climate change, clean water, clean air, and carbon sequestration. We also will feature the agricultural model of supporting local tree farms and forest products, just as we support local farms and locally-grown food. Other themes include the impact of forests in sustaining local economies with related jobs such as ecotourism and sustainable timber harvesting. We also will highlight how forests sustain communities by retaining the natural, scenic landscapes, thereby preserving irreplaceable community character.

Forests are a versatile, all-natural, and renewable resource that provide so many benefits. Stay tuned for our “Sustainability Series” to learn more about the amazing opportunities available with conserved and sustainably-managed land.
Our Donors

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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We have made every effort to accurately list those who have made contributions. We apologize for any errors or omissions and hope you will notify us of them.
This Holiday Season,
Give the Ultimate Eco-friendly Gift—
**A Year-long Membership**
to the New England Forestry Foundation!

Share the joy of forest conservation with a gift membership to New England Forestry Foundation. Not only are you conserving forestland for future generations, you also are providing clean air and water, enhanced wildlife habitats, protection of fragile resources, and outdoor recreational opportunities.

This is a perfect “one-size-fits-all” gift for those who love the outdoors, tracking and watching wildlife, and who want to support New England’s rich history of forest management and conservation. To order your gift membership online, visit www.newenglandforestry.org and click on “donate” or email Penny Flynn at pflynn@newenglandforestry.org.

Each member receives our full-color newsletter along with a subscription to the award-winning magazine, *Northern Woodlands.* Each issue is packed with information on native wildlife, forest conservation, sustainable management, and more.

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**Give the Gift of Forest Conservation**

**Give a Gift Before Year-end**—If this newsletter has inspired you and reignited your passion for forest conservation and the heart of New England, please send a gift now to help us kick off a new year and an ambitious agenda.

**Be a Forest Ambassador**—Consider a gift for someone else. Honor a friend or family member or maybe your neighbor or even a teacher who has made a difference in your life by making a gift in their name to New England Forestry Foundation. For a gift of $40 or more we will send your honoree a special card detailing the benefits of membership—including a subscription to *Northern Woodlands* magazine. Your honorary gift will go directly to help New England Forestry Foundation meet its mission.

**Join the Reynolds Society** with a gift of $1,000 or more.

**Leave a Lasting Legacy** by joining the Wharton Society with a Bequest.

**Give a Gift of Land** or other Real Property.

For further information check our website at www.newenglandforestry.org or to talk about these and other ways of giving, please contact: Penny Flynn at 978-952-6856 x101 or e-mail at pflynn@newenglandforestry.org.
Introducing Alec Giffen, State Coordinator for Maine Satellite Office

New England Forestry Foundation is pleased to welcome R. Alec Giffen as the State Coordinator for our new Maine satellite office. Our goal is to establish NEFF’s identity in Maine as a regional resource for forest conservation and sustainable forest management.

Alec’s work will focus on three primary areas: visibility; engagement; and forest protection and stewardship. Serving as a primary liaison for NEFF in Maine’s conservation community, Alec will inform headquarters staff about forest-related developments as well as establish and sustain a public outreach plan for the state.

Alec also serves as the Senior Science and Policy Fellow for the Clean Air Task Force, a leading nonprofit environmental organization in the United States and China where Alec focuses on the role forests play in reducing air pollution and mitigating climate change. Alec also recently served as the Director of the Maine Forest Service with a staff of 150 people. He holds an MS in Forest Ecology from the University of California and BS in Forestry from the University of Maine. Alec is a licensed forester and registered Maine guide.

Chris Pryor is Promoted to Director of Forest Stewardship

We are pleased to announce Chris Pryor’s recent promotion to Director of Forest Stewardship for New England Forestry Foundation. He replaces Interim Forest Director, Si Balch.

In this position, Chris will oversee the organization’s community forests and serve as the chief forest policy director and spokesperson. As Director of Forest Stewardship, Chris will bring together three equally important components of NEFF’s land activities—land protection, forest stewardship, and conservation easement management.

Previously, Chris served as the organization’s Conservation Easement Coordinator/Forester, overseeing the forest monitoring activities for 144 easements with over 1.144 million acres in seven states. Chris began working at NEFF in 2001 and holds a BS in Forestry from Virginia Tech. He is also a licensed forester.