DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Here at New England Forestry Foundation we believe forests are key to keeping the region on the path to sustainability. And we are thrilled with the response to our groundbreaking report of the same name. Since the release of *New England Forests: The Path to Sustainability* in June, it has been acclaimed as one of the best researched and presented communication efforts in the last several decades about the potential of forests. The report illuminates 12 benefits forests can deliver for our environmental, economic, social, and spiritual well-being. Now it is time for us all to roll up our sleeves and ensure that we capture these benefits.

At NEFF, we are looking closely at the organization’s role in advancing two of the benefits: decreasing our use of fossil fuels by displacing them with modern wood heat and increasing the use of regional wood in construction.

Each of these approaches can yield huge returns on investment. New Englanders could shift 26% of the homes now heated with oil or propane to wood fuels, and we can keep 3.5 million metric tons per year of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere by using local wood in place of steel and concrete construction. But these benefits won’t be achieved without making vast improvements to the pace of land protection and forest management.

Consider two data points that signal why we have to redouble our efforts:

- A report from Vermont over the summer indicates only 40% of timber harvests actually utilize modern silvicultural management techniques.
- In Maine, the latest stocking information reveals that although the optimum stocking per acre for timber and biological diversity is on the order of 25-30 cords per acre most of Maine actually has only about 15 cords per acre.

Through the work of New England Forestry Foundation and our partners to promote sustainable management, the region can improve on these results. This is why in *The Path to Sustainability*, NEFF indicated that our region could grow and produce twice as much wood while still protecting the region’s ecology and enabling the forest to do even more to clean our air and water.

*The Path to Sustainability* points the way forward. It’s time to leap forward in our abilities to communicate with the public about the value of forests. It’s time to innovate and seek creative new and unexpected partnerships. In this newsletter you will read about our first steps to take the potential in *The Path to Sustainability* and turn it into a bright future for New England.

Robert Perschel  
Executive Director

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Cold weather sends New Englanders scurrying for warm coats, hats, gloves, shovels, and for many, ski gear. Winter covers the forests of the region with crystalline powder that supports a whole different set of recreational pursuits—including snowboarding, downhill and cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. More than 11 million residents and visitors ski or snowmobile in New England every winter, keeping cabin fever at bay and supporting hundreds of local businesses.

But winter recreation is under threat. Organizations and programs like Protect Our Winters, Keep Winter Cool, and I Am Pro Snow, have sprung up as winter sports enthusiasts see their preferred color—white—disappearing from the winter woods. Celebrities like extreme snowboarder Jeremy Jones and Olympic boarder Gretchen Bleiler are speaking up about the changes, and the need to address climate change if winter recreation is going to remain an American tradition. Climate change threatens other aspects of the forest as well—maple syrup production is likely to disappear from the region at about the same time as downhill skiing.

But the forest isn’t just threatened by climate change; the forest also provides us with opportunities to address climate change. Through our choices about what materials we build with, how we heat our homes, and even what forms of decoration we use for the holidays, we can reduce our use of fossil fuels by using renewable products from the forest.

In this newsletter we focus in on modern wood heat and its potential to substitute for oil and propane for heating. Wood could replace about $1.85 billion of heating oil, with half that amount as savings for consumers, and the rest staying in the local economy instead of the pockets of distant oil producers. We also share some thoughts on renewable decorations from the woods. This newsletter also includes our remembrances of one of the champions of New England’s forests, long-time NEFF board member and one-time executive director Bill King. Enjoy, and get out in the woods too.
Remembering an Extraordinary Man and His Legacy to Conservation

William A. King

September 15, 1931 — August 28, 2014

Bill King’s generous stewardship profoundly shaped the course of New England Forestry Foundation for more than 20 years. During Bill’s leadership of the organization, New England Forestry Foundation undertook the Pingree Forest Partnership project to conserve 762,192 acres in Maine. Completed in 2001, the project remains the largest forestland conservation easement in the United States. Reflecting a renewed focus on land conservation that still holds today, NEFF realigned its structure to function more as a land trust and sustainable forestry advocate, moving out of providing direct forestry consulting to landowners. The foresters were spun off as New England Forestry Consultants, a separate for-profit, forestry consulting company owned and operated by the foresters. These two accomplishments set the stage for later NEFF successes including our Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership that conserved an additional 342,000 acres in Maine, and our ongoing land conservation work today.

Bill joined NEFF’s Board of Directors in 1987 with encouragement from his long-time friend Bayard Henry. From then until 2008—a span of more than 20 years—he fulfilled many roles with expertise and uncompromisingly high standards. Most significantly, Bill held the office of President of the Board from 1991 to 2000 and during that time he also served as Executive Director, providing daily guidance and stability for the staff. From 2000 to 2004 Bill served as Treasurer of the Board, working closely with staff to monitor and report on the financial health of the organization—which under his vigilant eye was quite good. In 2008, he resigned from the Board and was elected an Honorary Director.

Bill’s dedication and passion have left a lasting impression, and we share words of remembrance from his fellow board members and former NEFF employees:

Bayard Henry ~
Bill and I shared four years of middle and junior high school, where he was the brightest and one of the most interesting boys in the class, and clearly the least physically fit. His determination was already built in. We reconnected in the 1970’s; his transformation was extraordinary: from the original “98-pounder” in grade school, to a physically sound, confident man. He told me his father had urged him to turn down Princeton in favor of Dartmouth. Dartmouth exposed Bill to the White Mountains where he became a “hut-man” in the Appalachian Mountain Club, climbing 4000-footers twice a day, with a large pack on his back.

Bill’s most impressive characteristic was his remarkable inner compass, and to stand up for his beliefs strongly, firmly, and in the face of all obstacles. Whether taking on the NH highway construction industry in Franconia Notch, undertaking the task of NEFF’s raising more than $33 million in less than 18 months, or becoming NEFF’s executive director when there was no one else to do the job: Bill assumed responsibility.

Bill’s breadth of interests was staggering, his several trips to so many parts of the former Soviet Union and his determination to press for mutual understanding with counterparts in the US is but one example. He also took time to smell the flowers, communicate with songbirds, and to cherish his family.

Merloyd Ludington Lawrence ~
Modesty and heroism don’t often go together. In Bill they did.

You’d never hear about how he’d fought to save the White Mountains from an invasive highway, or skillfully navigated the complexities of the largest land conservation easement in US history... unless someone else told you.
Bill King was a friend of the forest. He was also a friend of the foresters. He understood the intrinsic importance of people, particularly professionals, in the working forest landscape. He also understood that NEFF needed to change. When he brought his ideas forward in the early 1990’s, he was greeted with skepticism and objections, but continued to move forward. His was leadership by consensus and invitation; he made skeptics into participants. He gave us his trust, confidence, and support, but never micromanagement. His work brought both NEFF and NEFCo to a better place; more importantly, for the foresters, it made a difference in both our professional and personal lives.

Monty Lovejoy ~
Bill and I served on the Board together for over 16 years. We both assumed leadership roles during this tenure and we worked very closely together. I was the junior statesman and he the senior, as we played off each other to move NEFF forward through many important organizational and development gains. Bill was a very considerate and supportive leader. He provided me with valuable insights. We often would carpool to faraway Board meetings in New Hampshire, Vermont, or Maine, allowing lots of time for aligning NEFF’s path forward. The dedication of the William A King Education Center at Prouty Woods was such a special tribute to Bill, his tireless efforts over 20 plus years to evolve and improve the Foundation. Bill has left his mark.

Keith Ross ~
William A. King had a deep caring for people and their feelings combined with the ability to listen and understand a person’s interests and motivations. Bill was the man behind the curtain in many of the successful projects and programs of the New England Forestry Foundation during his many years of service on the Board and as the executive director. NEFF owes Bill a great deal of gratitude for his work on the “By ’98” planning process to chart and implement a vision for the organization that has led to its amazing successes over the last 20 years. He will be missed but never forgotten.
What do downtown Montpelier, Vermont, Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, and The Hotchkiss School all have in common? Answer: they are innovators utilizing clean, sustainable, renewable, modern wood heat energy.

As noted in New England Forestry Foundation’s recent publication, *New England Forests: The Path to Sustainability*, obtaining renewable energy to heat our buildings is one of the most difficult challenges in our quest for sustainable lifestyles. Currently only 4% of the region’s homes use wood as their primary heating source and another 10% use wood for supplemental heat. Sustainably managed New England forests, however, have the potential to replace oil or gas heat in 26% of the homes using those sources—some 666,000 properties—displacing $1.85 billion of fossil fuels annually.

Wood heat today is cleaner and more efficient than in the past. From high-efficiency central fireplaces, to state-of-the-art pellet stoves, to small-scale biomass systems for schools, businesses, and institutions, New Englanders have many clean-burning options if they wish to turn from fossil fuels to local, renewable wood energy. The benefits are plentiful. Heating with wood can reduce energy costs by 50% and reduce climate change over the long-term, particularly if it is replacing oil.

A 2010 study by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences found that wood heat provides carbon dioxide sequestration benefits compared to oil heat within only five years—as trees regrow to replace those harvested for firewood or pellets. By allowing lower dependence on foreign oil, it also strengthens our national security. And it provides a market for low grade wood, enabling landowners to manage their forests for higher quality timber that creates rural economic opportunity and employment.
“Forests can play a huge role in helping us achieve sustainability in our lifestyle,” explains Alec Giffen, Senior Advisor at New England Forestry Foundation. “They have so much unrealized potential—we can use the forest while improving it for wildlife and aesthetics.”

The modern wood heat movement began in the 1980s with the Calais Elementary School in Plainfield, Vermont. They installed a wood chip-fired heating system and became a model for innovations in heating, while saving thousands of dollars annually.

Today—in Vermont alone—more than one third of all K-12 students attend schools heated by wood fuel, including 54 schools heating with chips and pellets. Additionally, 25% of all college campus buildings are heated with central wood systems, including Norwich University and Middlebury College. The city of Montpelier, Vermont’s state capital, also established the country’s first wood chip-fired district heating system. “District Heat Montpelier” heats numerous buildings in the downtown area by delivering metered hot water from a central boiler.

Adam Sherman, a consultant and manager at Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC) who assists in modern wood heat installations, cited project after project throughout New England that embrace this growing trend. From Colby College in Waterville, Maine, to Marty Moore Greenhouse in Bennington, Vermont, Cooley-Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Massachusetts, and Ponegansett High School in North Scituate, Rhode Island—the list goes on and on. Each employs a modern wood heating system customized for their setting, whether wood chip-fired, wood pellet-fired, or a wood boiler installation.

Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, pictured above, is another wood energy success story. “We are proud of our wood chip plant and the benefits it provides on many levels—health for our staff and clients, cost savings, energy savings, and support of the local economy,” stated Donald L. Shumway, president and CEO of the center.

New England Forestry Foundation is beginning to collaborate with partners to advance the use of modern wood heat for enhanced sustainability in New England. Together, we can enrich our forests and quality of life, while strengthening our local economies. To view our full report, visit www.newenglandforestry.org/our-initiatives/forestry-report.
Instead of a white Christmas, consider “green” this holiday season—using renewable products from the forest for your decorations. Not only are they beautiful, vibrant, and naturally fragrant, they are eco-friendly and biodegradable, too. Traditional forest-based decorations such as Christmas trees, wreaths, and boughs of holly bring a touch of the woods to one’s home and office.

According to the U.S. EPA, approximately 33 million real Christmas trees are sold in North America each year, of which 93% are recycled into mulch for landscaping or chipped and used for playground material, hiking trails, paths, and walkways.

Choosing evergreens for your holiday is a resource made by nature—not fossil fuels and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) as with artificial greens.

Most Christmas trees are grown on tree farms, and growers employ sustainable farming techniques, planting 1-3 trees for each tree harvested. In its lifetime, a single Christmas tree absorbs more than 1 ton of carbon dioxide that would otherwise exacerbate global warming. According to Earth911, there are more than 350 million real Christmas trees growing in U.S. tree farms alone.

Purchasing a Christmas tree from a local tree farm also supports the livelihood of local farmers and landowners. As an added benefit, the land and tree farm provides wildlife habitat which further helps create a strong ecosystem. And they stabilize soil to protect water supplies.

Contrast this with artificial Christmas trees that are typically produced from fossil fuels. More than 90 percent are produced overseas and must be shipped in, further increasing carbon emissions.

Beyond Christmas trees, scraps from tree cuttings easily can be made into fresh wreaths and centerpieces. Birch branches, pine cones, and holly can be included for added texture, shape, and color. To make wreaths, simply wrap greens onto a form with spool wire. Be sure not to use brightly colored bittersweet berries and vines as these can spread invasive species when disposed of. For centerpieces, arrange an assortment of greens in a vase with fresh water—it will look stunning, classic, and timeless! A collection of pine cones in a wooden bowl also makes a terrific accent for your home.

Choosing evergreens for your holiday is a resource made by nature—not fossil fuels. Also check out the blog on NEFF’s website for green gift ideas: http://www.newenglandforestry.org/blog/into-the-woods
Flights of Fancy

The Journey of the Snowy Owl

The Snowy Owl is a magical symbol of winter. Dramatic and mysterious, it also is dependent on the early successional habitats that sustainable forestry helps create.

The Snowy Owl is majestic—the heaviest of the owl species and one of the largest. Its wing span of 52” is larger than that of a red-tailed hawk. While its typical home is the Arctic Circle, a few drift to southern Canada and the northern United States during an average winter, reflecting reduced availability of prey on the cold and snowy tundra.

Approximately every fourth year the number of Snowy Owls moving south increases noticeably, with as much as 24% of the population in migration. In the past few years, however, there has been a Snowy Owl “invasion” with significantly greater numbers and some traveling as far south as Bermuda and Tennessee! Because snowy owls are so striking, and because they hunt by daylight unlike most owl, they have startled and amazed motorists, hikers, and birders across the region.

Although it is not fully known why so many owls are migrating, the majority of invading owls are young birds in their first year, indicating a successful breeding season. The southern migration suggests there is not enough food to sustain them in the Arctic, so exceptional conditions in the Arctic such as unusual weather and the decline of sea ice could be a factor.

Snowy Owls are likely to be seen in open areas such as undisturbed beaches, rocky jetties, sand dunes, open marshes, extensive grasslands, and recently harvested areas of forests. The owls often perch at Boston’s Logan Airport which may resemble a grassland to them.

Despite the increase of Snowy Owl sightings in the United States during the past several years, the owls are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a species of greatest conservation need in New England. Additionally, the 2014 State of the Birds Report listed Snowy Owls as in steep decline. The United States-Canada Stewardship also rates this species at a concerning 12 out of 20 on the Partners in Flight Continental Concern Score because its population has declined by an astounding 50% during the last four decades.

“Shrubland habitats in the northeast have declined dramatically over the past century . . . [and] the availability of early-successional habitat on the landscape has diminished significantly. In many areas, young forest is as rare as old growth forest,” states the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s North Atlantic Shrublands Preliminary Project Report. Forest conservation and sustainable forest management make a critical difference. If forests are well-cared for and harvested sustainably, the benefits are two-fold—it creates habitat for some species in serious decline while providing local resources for lumber, paper, modern wood heat, and other renewable forest products.
New Staff Members at New England Forestry

New England Forestry Foundation is pleased to welcome three new staff members to assist the organization in achieving its mission of conservation and sustainable management of New England’s forests.

Lisa Hayden (left) is the new Landowner Outreach Coordinator for southern Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. Working in conjunction with the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, she will help landowners obtain resources for conservation and management of their land. She also will assist with outreach for land conservation throughout New England. Lisa brings extensive experience in marketing and public relations for conservation organizations. She holds a Master’s degree in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning from Tufts University and a Bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Connecticut.

Kasey Currier (center) is the new Executive Assistant at NEFF. Previously, she worked at The Osborne Association in Brooklyn, New York, focusing on social justice issues. She also has field experience with MassAudubon and studied wildlife biology at the School for International Training (SIT) in Tanzania. Kasey holds a Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies and Minor in Politics from Ithaca College.

Kearstin Bailey (right) is our new Social Media Marketing Intern. She will raise New England Forestry Foundation’s online profile, connecting more people to our conservation work. Kearstin recently received her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and minor in Religion from Heidelberg University, where she served as the Social Media Director for the Political Science department. Her internship is co-sponsored by the Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) Program of the United Church of Christ.

Harris Reynolds Society Receives Special Tour of Art and Nature Center at Peabody Essex Museum

Members of New England Forestry Foundation’s Harris Reynolds Society—donors who contribute $1000 or more per year to the organization—received a special personal tour of the Peabody Essex Museum’s Art and Nature Center’s new tree-oriented exhibit in October. Janey Winchell, Director of the Center and Curator of the Branching Out: Trees as Art exhibition, was our guide for the after-hours special viewing.

Members viewed more than 30 diverse pieces displayed in the exhibit, ranging from wooden vessels, sculptures, inlaid wooden artwork, musical instruments, and more—all made from or inspired by trees. The evening was filled with festivity and camaraderie, as guests enjoyed refreshments in the museum’s elegant Bartlett Gallery, hosted by one Harris Reynolds Society member. Executive Director Bob Perschel shared our vision of forest conservation and sustainability throughout New England. The tour is the first event of our new Harris Reynolds Society program series. Please consider joining the Society to participate in our upcoming programs! Branching Out is on display until September 20, 2015.
Our Donors

[ MAY 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 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.

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\text{American Forest Foundation} & \\
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\text{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.}
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Conservation Success Stories—New England Forestry Foundation’s Initiatives

Smokey House Center
Danby, Vermont, 245 Acres
Smokey House Center is a nonprofit educational institution in Danby, Vermont. Its primary mission is to manage conserved forest and farmland to maintain a working landscape that promotes sustainable agricultural and forestry practices while engaging people in meaningful ways. To further its mission, Smokey House Center donated a 245-acre conservation easement to New England Forestry Foundation in June. The gift is an addition to 3,758 acres of forest and agricultural easements the Center previously donated to NEFF, creating a total of 4,827 contiguous acres in permanent conservation. We are grateful to Smokey House Center for protecting the landscape of Vermont and preserving a way of life with sustainable land management.

Mixter-Nields Memorial Forest Addition
Hardwick, Massachusetts, 86 Acres
Patience prevails! After 17 years in the works, New England Forestry Foundation was able to conserve an 86-acre addition to its Mixter-Nields Memorial Forest in Hardwick, Massachusetts, thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. NEFF now owns 572 acres, all of them also protected by a conservation restriction conveyed to the Dept. of Fish and Game. The Mixter-Nields properties connect the Commonwealth’s Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area with the Quabbin Reservoir Reservation, extending the conservation corridor for wildlife habitat and the protection of many natural resources.

Tellman Addition to Augustus Hemenway Memorial Forest
Columbia, New Hampshire, 66 Acres
In September, David and Tanya Tellman donated 66 acres in Columbia, New Hampshire to New England Forestry Foundation. The land connects the Augustus Hemenway Memorial Forest with NEFF’s Robert and Geraldine Veraar Forest, creating a 692-acre block of well-managed forestland. The couple originally purchased the land in 2007 to prevent a potential housing development and is pleased the land now is conserved to retain the community’s scenic character. New England Forestry Foundation thanks the Tellmans for their thoughtful and generous gift.