

INTO THE WOODS

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION | SUMMER 2019

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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32 Foster Street | P.O. Box 1346

Littleton, MA 01460

978.952.6856 | newenglandforestry.org

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Dear Members and Friends,

Anniversaries are a time for celebration as well as a chance to look back in preparation for future success. As we celebrate our 75th year, we take some time in this issue to reflect on NEFF's historic timeline in the context of our current strategic direction.

A review of NEFF's historic documents reveals it has always been an innovative leader that adapted to major broad-scale societal changes to break new ground. NEFF has historically introduced creative approaches to conservation—even as it faced fierce opposition. This trend started 75 years ago when a group of well-known conservationists decided it was necessary to create an organization that could bring professional forestry services to the private landowners of New England. When they asked for feedback they received a raft of negative responses from other prominent conservationists. They moved forward anyway. Seventy-five years later their legacy shines bright in NEFF's accomplishments: 146 Community Forests, more than 1.1 million acres protected under easements, the gold standard of Exemplary Forestry, and a strategic plan for New England's forests to help combat climate change.

It is interesting to think about the major changes in American society since NEFF's founding in 1944. At that time, the forests of New England were still expanding and the GIs were yet to return from WW II to flood college programs, create homes and kick off the baby boom. Automobiles were not plentiful and there was no interstate highway system. Large paper and timber companies were stable and owned the northern portions of the region for generations. The environmental movement was limited. Foresters were usually the only land-use professionals out on the land—which made them leaders by default.

Years later when the vast forest holdings on northern New England went up for sale, NEFF reconstituted itself to play a major role in setting a future vision for the region. It had to make an important decision: whether to join the Northern Forest Alliance, which included environmental groups not particularly friendly to forestry. NEFF was advised strongly not to enter this discussion. It moved forward anyway. The result was a vision of balanced sustainable forestry with wildlands protection—a path forward that lives on today in the Wildlands and Woodlands vision.

NEFF didn't stop with the vision—it showed the way forward by protecting Maine's Pingree lands with the country's largest forestland easement, 765,000 acres. Of course, once again there were voices of opposition. We either wouldn't be able to raise the money or were paying too much or too little, and we were requiring too much or too little sustainable forestry. We moved forward anyway. Today, the regional map is dotted with large easements, visual testament to NEFF and the supporters who proved what was possible.

As we move into our second 75 years, we have big plans. We can see how applying our Exemplary Forestry Standards across the landscape can result in vast improvements for wildlife, water, timber production and climate change. We believe that tying Exemplary Forestry to the use of engineered wood in urban buildings will result in a major climate wedge. We think we can convince wealthy investors and foundations that putting their money in an Exemplary Forestry Investment Fund to purchase and manage New England forests will provide an acceptable rate of return while delivering enormous environmental benefits. We expect to hear opposition to these ideas. At that point, we will follow in the footsteps of our founders—with your support we will move forward anyway, always with the goal of creating a better and more sustainable future for forests and New England communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Perschel'.

Robert Perschel
Executive Director

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HAWK'S HILL DEMONSTRATION FOREST



Lauren Owens Lambert

The properties included in NEFF's Downeast Woods and Wildlife project are located along the Dennys River, which provides ideal habitat for Maine's endangered Atlantic Salmon. Young salmon need cool, clean rivers to thrive, and forests help purify and filter river water as well as provide shade that keeps water temperatures down. See page 8 for more on this project.



JOURNEY THROUGH NEFF'S HISTORY

Explore the highlights
from 75 years of
conservation and
Exemplary Forestry,
and then see what's
next for NEFF



1860–1940

A PERIOD OF RAPID CHANGE FOR FORESTS AND CONSERVATION

At the time of European settlement, forests covered 90 percent or more of New England. By the mid 1880s, however, vast stretches of this landscape-defining feature had been harvested and then cleared for agriculture; Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island were hardest hit, and lost up to 70 percent of their forests. While forests began to regenerate when farming moved west, little stood between vulnerable young forests and unchecked exploitation of natural resources.

In the face of increasing pressure from concerned citizens and scientists, the United States government began to take action to protect forests in the late 1800s. Congress passed the first law establishing a park on federal forestland in 1864, and in 1911 passed the Weeks Act, which allowed the federal government to acquire forestland and create national forests like the White Mountain National Forest of 1918. The executive branch also took positive steps: The U.S. Department of Agriculture established a Division of Forestry in 1881, the first federal forest reserve was set aside in 1891, and Gifford Pinchot as head of the Division of Forestry worked with President Teddy Roosevelt to establish the U.S. Forest Service in 1905.

While these actions proved effective at protecting certain high-priority forestlands and providing forestry expertise and services to large-scale corporate and public landowners, the federal government did little to improve the management of private, individually owned forestlands until 1937, when Congress passed the Norris-Doxey Cooperative Farm Forestry Act. It funded state foresters tasked with providing management and harvesting advice to landowners; it was also deemed inadequate by experts like New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) founder Harris Reynolds, who felt that in place of piecemeal advice, landowners needed hands-on management services and long-term support that promoted forest health.

LEFT: In the early 1900s, inventive new technology like the pictured Lombard logging vehicle allowed for an increase in exploitative harvesting at a time when forests were already vulnerable. NEFF's founders would go on to advocate for the responsible use of technology in forestry.



LEFT: NEFF Directors meeting in New Hampshire (1945). Back row, left to right: Unknown, Hugh P. Baker, William P. Wharton, J. Milton Attridge, Nathan Tufts, James L. Madden. Front row, left to right: Farnham W. Smith, Ralph C. Hawley, Harris A. Reynolds.

1944

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION STEPS ONTO THE STAGE

Reynolds and an eclectic cohort of foresters and outdoor enthusiasts had long been concerned about clear-cutting and destructive management on private forestlands in New England, where parcel owners often acted with an eye to quick profit or simply lacked an understanding of how to care for a forest. In response to the absence of effective government services, they decided to form a region-wide charitable organization devoted to the practice, teaching and promotion of sustainable forest management, and so New England Forestry Foundation was born July 12, 1944 to help private forests thrive.

Reynolds and partners at the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association designed a system of forest management centers for NEFF, in which trained consulting foresters would take responsibility for specific geographic regions and build relationships with local landowners.



NEFF forester Milt Attridge (left) and NEFF founder Harris Reynolds start a log down a log chute to the valley below.

1945

NEFF OPENS ITS FIRST FOREST

When NEFF's Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest opened to the public in 1945, it not only offered local residents an easily accessible place to enjoy woodland recreation—something of a novelty at the time, as the concept of town forests was quite new in the United States—but it also served as the first step in NEFF's Exemplary Forestry work. As a demonstration forest, it allowed NEFF foresters to practice and start developing the in-house management style that has grown into NEFF's current Exemplary Forestry standards. **Learn more about Lincoln Davis on page 13.**

MILT ATTRIDGE JOINS NEFF AND HELPS SHAPE ITS FORESTRY PROGRAM

NEFF's system of forest management centers really started to take shape when NEFF hired Milt Attridge, the organization's first full-time forester and eventual Chief Forester. Attridge played a crucial role in NEFF's early forestry work, and was well respected for his expertise and commitment to sustainability by fellow foresters

and the communities in which he worked. Given his experience, Attridge was able to provide unique insight into the development of NEFF's forestry program and its impact when interviewed for *New England Forestry Foundation: A History*.

Attridge on the initial pushback to New England Forestry Foundation's approach:

"In the early years, the resistance to forest management under the Foundation came from the timber buyers, who did not understand selective cutting and were perfectly content to cut down ten small, healthy trees to get at one which they wanted to sell to the sawmill. They understand better now, and they understand our methods, and by and large accept them. It has become clear to them that they actually lose money by cutting smaller trees."

Attridge on New England Forestry Foundation's long-term impact:

"In more than 30 years, many lumber companies and mill operators that in 1944 would have done ruinous clear-cutting are now following conservation practices. With the equipment available today, had the bad practices of those early years continued, the very existence of our forests could well have been threatened. But thinking has kept pace with the improved equipment, with the result that the forests of today are actually in better shape than they were when the Foundation was started; and I think the Foundation should be given a good deal of the actual credit for this."

If NEFF as a whole should be given credit for this, so too should Attridge and the teams of foresters he helped train. **Learn more about Attridge on page 9.**

NEFF foresters visit Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. Foreground, right: J.T. Hemenway. Front row, from left: C.B. Croft, H.T. Putnam, Sherman H. Perkins, J.M. Attridge, C.C. Richardson. Second row, from left: S. J. Rastallis, D.R. Poppema, C.M. Stewart, G.C. Knickerbocker. Third row, from left: F.A. Huntress, R.C. Boulanger, G.B. Bush. Fourth row, from left: K.E. Jones, W.A. Bean, S.B. Coville, J.C. MacMillan.



easements expanded rapidly as a favored tool for land conservation throughout the 1980s. This followed on several revisions to the federal tax code in 1976, 1977, and 1980 that established a reliable framework for tax deductions for donations of conservation easements. Progress accelerated after 1982, when the development of the Uniform Conservation Easement Act by the national Uniform Laws Commission allowed for the adoption of consistent state authorizing laws.

While NEFF accepted one easement in 1977 and another in 1980, its full program launched in 1989 when NEFF acquired a 98-acre easement in Shirley, MA. It was followed by 37 easements in the subsequent decade, and NEFF now holds 152 easements that provide protection to 1.1 million acres of forestland.

1953 NEFF PUBLISHES A “REVIEW OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS”

As NEFF approached its 10th anniversary, its Committee on Finance distributed a progress report in the form of an open letter to the wider NEFF community. Its charmingly forthright opening paragraph is included below, and the entire letter can be found at newenglandforestry.org/about/75th-anniversary.

“In 1943 the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association appointed a committee of woodland owners, representatives of leading forest industries and foresters to study the problems of small woodland owners. The New England Forestry Foundation is the result of that study. Started in 1944 with no money, no experience and as just an idea, it has developed in nine years into an organization with fourteen foresters in ten Management Centers, and has done work on 321,000 acres for over 1,000 owners, and has supervised the cutting of nearly 60,000,000 board feet of timber. There still remain on the lands of these clients 400,000,000 feet, worth over \$7,000,000 at the average price of \$17.65 obtained last year.”

The letter concludes that NEFF’s “experimental stage has been passed,” and the Committee on Finance declares the organization ready to train new foresters and expand its number of management centers. In total, NEFF would go on to hire and train 150 foresters to practice and teach sustainable management across New England.

1974 TOWNES MEMORIAL FOREST OPENS

As NEFF’s forestry program continued to grow, so too did its network of Community Forests. The opening date of Townes Memorial Forest marks a time of transition for NEFF’s efforts to protect land through ownership—NEFF acquired about 10 forests per decade in the 1950s and 1960s, but that rate picked up significantly in the early 1970s and held through the 1980s and 1990s. NEFF took on 24 new properties in the 1970s alone, for example.

Located in New Boston, NH, the 551-acre Townes Memorial Forest is an interesting place to study glacial geology—NEFF history and the history of planet Earth, all in one spot. The property has a glacial kettle hole that was created when a large block of ice broke free of the retreating ice sheet and was later covered on all sides by outwash sands and gravels. Learn more at newenglandforestry.org/explore/forest-stories.



NEFFCo representatives were presented with the Forest Champion Award at NEFF’s 2019 Annual Meeting. Left to right: Fred Huntress, Dennis McKenney, Peter Farrell, Shaun Lagueux, Dave Kent, NEFF Director of Forest Stewardship Chris Pryor, Sherm Small, Ryan Gumbart, Hunter Payeur.

1989 NEFF LAUNCHES CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

As earlier portions of this timeline show, land conservation in the United States was initially conducted through ownership, either in the form of public parks and forests or private property owned by charitable organizations like NEFF. Beyond NEFF’s own work, conservation

1994 THE FOUNDING OF NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, INC.

By the early 1990s, the hard work of NEFF’s founders and foresters had paid off: the profession of consulting forestry was accepted and well-established in New England. This meant it was not clear that a non-profit organization needed to continue providing forestry services



directly to landowners. NEFF leadership restructured the organization, and NEFF's consulting foresters became a new for-profit corporation that's still hard at work in the region: New England Forestry Consultants, or NEFCo.

NEFCo and NEFF have remained close since this time of transition. NEFCo foresters manage most of NEFF's lands, maintain NEFF's forestry certification through the Forest Stewardship Council, and help NEFF with the design and implementation of new forestry initiatives. At this summer's Annual Meeting, NEFCo was presented with the Forest Champion Award for exemplary efforts in forest conservation.

2001 PINGREE FOREST PARTNERSHIP COMPLETES RECORD-BREAKING EASEMENT

In March 2001, NEFF and the Pingree family completed the largest forestland conservation easement in the history of the United States. The project permanently protects 762,192 acres from development.

Three and a half times the size of Baxter State Park and larger than the state of Rhode Island, the Pingree easement conserves some of the most spectacular natural resources in Maine, including the Allagash Lakes and 16 miles along

The Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership and NEFF's Downeast Woods and Wildlife project ensure recreational opportunities in addition to conserving land and supporting economic activity.

the St. John River. The forests support numerous active Bald Eagle nests, 24,800 acres of managed deeryards, 72,000 acres of wetland habitat, Maine's most productive Peregrine Falcon nesting area, and at least 67 rare and endangered plant sites. The forests were—and are—healthy and productive thanks to decades of careful stewardship by the Pingree family.

NEFF and the Pingree family's transaction set the stage for an explosion of so-called landscape-scale conservation projects. Many of these projects pair a forest management investor with a land trust that owns a conservation easement on the property, which results in a final arrangement similar to the Pingree project.

2004 DOWNEAST LAKES FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS CRUCIAL LANDSCAPE

Just a few years later, NEFF undertook a second ambitious easement project through the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership. This joint effort between NEFF and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) protected 339,000 acres in Maine's easternmost county, and was designed to address both far-reaching

conservation goals and the social and economic needs of the region.

Through this partnership, DLLT purchased and is managing 27,080 acres as the Farm Cove Community Forest, and NEFF purchased a 312,000-acre sustainable-forestry easement on the surrounding lands. Strategically situated between 600,000 acres of conservation land in New Brunswick and 200,000 acres of state, federal, and Native American lands in Maine, the project contributes to the protection of more than 1 million acres across an international boundary. Public access is granted throughout the 339,000 acres, which include more than 1,500 miles of river and stream shoreline, 445 miles of shoreline on all or portions of 60 lakes, and 54,000 acres of productive wetlands.

From local loggers to boat builders, a variety of people depend upon this largely undeveloped landscape for their livelihoods and lifestyles, and seasonal residents and visitors turn to the area for recreation and rejuvenation—all while strengthening the local economy. The area is equally important for wildlife: It's one of the most critical Neotropical bird breeding habitats in the northern area of the Atlantic flyway, and it is home to Pine Marten, Canada Lynx, and five percent of the state's Common Loons.

2007

HERSEY MOUNTAIN FOREST DECLARED FOREVER WILD

Hersey Mountain Forest is unique three times over. It's home to NEFF's first carbon offset project, it's NEFF's largest owned forest at 3,200 acres, and it's NEFF's first property to have a large number of acres designated as "forever wild" rather than as managed forestland. A rigorous ecological assessment of the property recommended approximately 2,100 acres for protection under a wilderness conservation easement, which was recorded in 2007 to Northeast Wilderness Trust. The assessment found more than 20 natural communities, 42 vernal pools, 68 acres of old growth forest, and 513 acres of Significant Ecological Areas. These diverse habitat types make Hersey Mountain a true haven for wildlife.



UMass Amherst's Olver Design Building serves as a demonstration of new and innovative wood construction technologies. The building integrates a structural system consisting of exposed heavy engineered timber and cross-laminated timber decking and shear walls.

Photo courtesy of University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2010

REGIONAL WILDLANDS AND WOODLANDS VISION DEVELOPED

Harvard Forest began developing its Wildlands and Woodlands vision in 2005, with an assessment of forest loss and the pace of conservation in Massachusetts. In 2010, the vision went region-wide, and clearly identified the need to ramp up the pace of conservation to protect forests' benefits to New England residents. The NEFF Board of Directors formally endorsed the Wildlands and Woodlands vision in 2012, and then that same year hired a visionary forest leader to help the organization meet that mandate.

2013

NEFF ADVANCES MISSION WITH NEW INITIATIVES

Under the leadership of its new Executive Director, Bob Perschel, NEFF began to focus on innovative outreach, education and conservation initiatives in 2013. These initiatives furthered NEFF's mission in new ways. First, NEFF launched its landowner outreach initiative in the MassConn Woods region to test how best to communicate with private landowners about sustainable forestry and keeping land healthy. Today, staff has sharpened messaging, improved response rates from 3 to up to 15 percent, learned how to talk with owners about climate change—and the program has now expanded to new regions. Most importantly, hundreds of previously unengaged owners have taken steps toward conservation or more active stewardship of their land.

The Build It With Wood initiative followed in 2016. This groundbreaking program promotes the construction of tall wood buildings with engineered cross-laminated timber, a sustainable material that can safely replace emissions-heavy steel and concrete. Cross-laminated timber was central to the construction of the John W. Olver

Design Building at UMass Amherst, the Common Ground Charter School in New Haven, and a new dormitory at the Rhode Island School of Design. Additional mass timber buildings are planned or underway in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. Meanwhile, NEFF continues to promote development of a cross-laminated timber mill in New England and to document the climate benefits of building with wood. Learn about NEFF's other initiatives at newenglandforestry.org/learn/initiatives.

2014

NEFF STARTS PREPARING EXEMPLARY FORESTRY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION

NEFF has long practiced the gold standard of sustainable forestry on its own lands, and in 2014, began to codify this management style and place it into a landscape context so other landowners could make use of it. In addition to protecting forests and their ecosystem services, Exemplary Forestry is designed to accomplish three goals: improve wildlife habitat, grow more and better-quality wood, and enhance the role forests can play to mitigate climate change.

Exemplary Forestry also balances a parcel's management with that of other nearby lands both to maximize the property's impact and in the hopes of creating an entire landscape that meets Exemplary Forestry goals. This landscape-scale approach sets Exemplary Forestry apart from other forestry methods, just as its standards are the first to articulate the kind of forestry practices that assure climate mitigation.

NEFF has now published Exemplary Forestry standards for northern New England's Acadian Forest region, as well as an accompanying 27-page report, "Exemplary Forestry for the 21st Century: Managing the Acadian Forest for Bird's Feet and Board Feet at a Landscape Scale."

NEFF conservation staff members tour
Downeast Woods and Wildlife forest parcels.
Photo by Lauren Owens Lambert.



2018

NEFF HEADS NORTH FOR DOWNEAST WOODS AND WILDLIFE PROJECT

In 2018, NEFF undertook an exciting shift in conservation strategy: pursuing large and select properties to protect through ownership, mostly in the region's northern forests. Purchasing larger forestlands will allow NEFF to both address New England's ongoing loss of forest cover and show just what Exemplary Forestry can do when practiced at scale.

NEFF's ongoing Downeast Woods and Wildlife project is the first to follow this pattern, and it seeks to permanently protect 3,200 acres of ecologically important forestland in the wilds of Downeast Maine. The project's impact will carry far beyond property lines, as its parcels connect to the same conserved landscape as the forests protected by the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership.

2019 and Beyond

WHAT'S NEXT FOR NEFF

New England Forestry Foundation has experienced a successful and eventful 75 years, and with the support of its members and partners, looks forward to an even brighter future.

In the coming years, NEFF plans to:

- * Advocate for the Wildlands and Woodlands vision of protecting 30 million total acres in New England.
- * Conserve working forests in high-priority landscapes through easements and ownership of larger parcels.
- * Help shape an economic system where cross-laminated timber made with local wood supports affordable urban housing and rural jobs in New England.
- * Fight back against climate change by promoting and practicing methods to sequester carbon, build with wood, and prepare forests for the impacts of a warming world.
- * Research and implement innovative ways to help private landowners protect and care for their woodlands.
- * Demonstrate the value of Exemplary Forestry on NEFF's own lands and help other landowners put its practices to work.

Join NEFF in creating a future where New England's forests and people thrive side by side. 🌿

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR NEFF'S FUTURE

In the past 75 years, NEFF has placed more than 1.1 million acres of forestland into conservation, opened 146 Community Forests to the public, helped establish the field of consulting forestry, and developed a suite of initiatives to keep forests productive and support rural economies.

Your gift now will launch the next 75 years of successful land conservation and Exemplary Forestry initiatives. Every gift of \$75 or more* received by August 15 will be matched by a generous donor.

Please make your gift using the reply card enclosed with this newsletter or via our secure website at support.newenglandforestry.org/donate.

*Up to a total of \$7,500

Harris Reynolds,
William Wharton,
Milt Attridge and
John Hemenway
played foundational
roles in NEFF's
early days.

WRITING BY Frank Lowenstein



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Harris A. Reynolds,
John Hemenway, William Wharton, Milt Attridge



FOUR FOUNDATIONS



Groton History Center

There are times when concern for the environment seems to move in leaps and bounds. After 10 percent of all Americans participated in demonstrations on the first Earth Day, a tidal wave of environmental laws like the Clean Water Act flowed through Congress to President Nixon's desk, and then swept into effect.

As this newsletter's earlier timeline shows, the late 1800s and early 1900s were a time of similar rapid development for American forestry. George Perkins Marsh helped kick off this period when in 1864 he wrote *Man and Nature*, which called for a more active approach to stewarding forests, while one of the culminating moments of this era of environmental progress came when Congress passed the 1911

Weeks Act, which allowed the federal government to acquire forest land.

Out of this intense energy and focus on forest management stepped a young man, Harris Reynolds, newly graduated from Harvard University with an advanced degree in landscape architecture. Reynolds assumed leadership of the staff of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, later renamed the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association (MFPA). He would lead the organization for decades, campaigning to halt Dutch Elm disease and—with much greater success—to protect the public forests and parks of New England from over-exploitation and to set aside community forests across New England. Known as the Father of Town

Forests, Reynolds transplanted this European idea to the United States, and by his death in 1953, there were 127 town forests in Massachusetts alone.

Reynolds was good friends with one of the wealthiest men in New England—William Wharton, known as Billy to his friends, a scion of a privileged Boston family, and nephew by marriage to the writer Edith Wharton. Billy Wharton's fortune in 1913 was estimated at \$23 million, the equivalent of about half a billion dollars today. Wharton joined the board of the MFPA the same year Harris Reynolds took on its leadership. Wharton later chaired the board from 1936 to 1960. A dynamic duo, these

two young men stayed friends and drove forest conservation in Massachusetts and around New England for more than 40 years.

The closeness between the two men is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that Wharton actually accompanied Reynolds and his new wife Alice Hecker Reynolds on their honeymoon. The trio toured the forests of Europe in August 1913, apparently getting soaked a fair number of days. Wharton's

throughout his long career and on into his retirement years. Attridge first worked in NEFF's southwestern New Hampshire center, and then served as Chief Forester from 1954–1967. He is credited with building up the team of expert foresters that both defined NEFF's early years and helped establish the current profession of consulting forestry.

Attridge's long tenure meant he witnessed many changes within the organization, including NEFF's first shift

it for income and forest health while keeping meticulous records of growth and harvest that he eventually published.

In 1977, near the end of his long NEFF career, Hemenway hired another forester named Dennis McKenney. Unlike Huntress' chilly introduction to NEFF, McKenney arrived on a day that approached 100 degrees, so he chose not to wear a sport coat to his interview. Hemenway lent him one so they could go to lunch at the Harvard Club, and

OF THE FOUNDATION

diaries are full of details about the weather, the food, the costs of a hot bath and a room, and the trees they saw. Reynolds made detailed notes of ideas for forest management he wanted to bring back to New England. Neither man's writings address how Alice may have felt about the endeavor.

In the 1940s, Reynolds began to seek opinions of other forest leaders as to the wisdom of establishing a private foundation to provide forestry services to private landowners as a means to directly promote improved forestry. The idea met with mixed reactions, but Reynolds, Wharton, and others pushed forward, founding New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in July 1944. Harris Reynolds promptly added the hat of Executive Secretary of NEFF to his role at the MFPA.

Reynolds and partners at the MFPA had designed a system of forest management centers for NEFF that were to be staffed by trained consulting foresters. Reynolds oversaw the launch of this program in 1945 when the organization hired Milt Attridge, NEFF's first full-time forester and a champion of forest conservation who taught landowners and community members about sustainable forestry

in leadership. Reynolds continued to lead NEFF until 1953, when he died while walking into a bank with his young friend, John T. Hemenway. John Hemenway promptly took the reins at NEFF, a role he then held for nearly 30 years.

Hemenway had a personal hand in much of NEFF's work and development. Fred Huntress, who ultimately served as NEFF's first forester in Maine, recalls coming to Boston for a personal interview with Hemenway in 1958.

"The next morning—at 10 below zero—I was out pruning pine trees," recalls Huntress. "The pay wasn't fantastic, but looking back it was the perfect job for me. I wouldn't have done anything else."

From stories of his tenure at NEFF, it seems Hemenway led with an unerring instinct for how to make people feel rewarded and appreciated in ways not connected to money. Hemenway saw through the original idea of building out NEFF's network of foresters who provided advice to landowners, and also oversaw much of the early growth in NEFF's own land base.

Meanwhile, he also bought forest land himself in the Taylor Valley of Vermont, the vast majority of which he placed under conservation easements, and managed

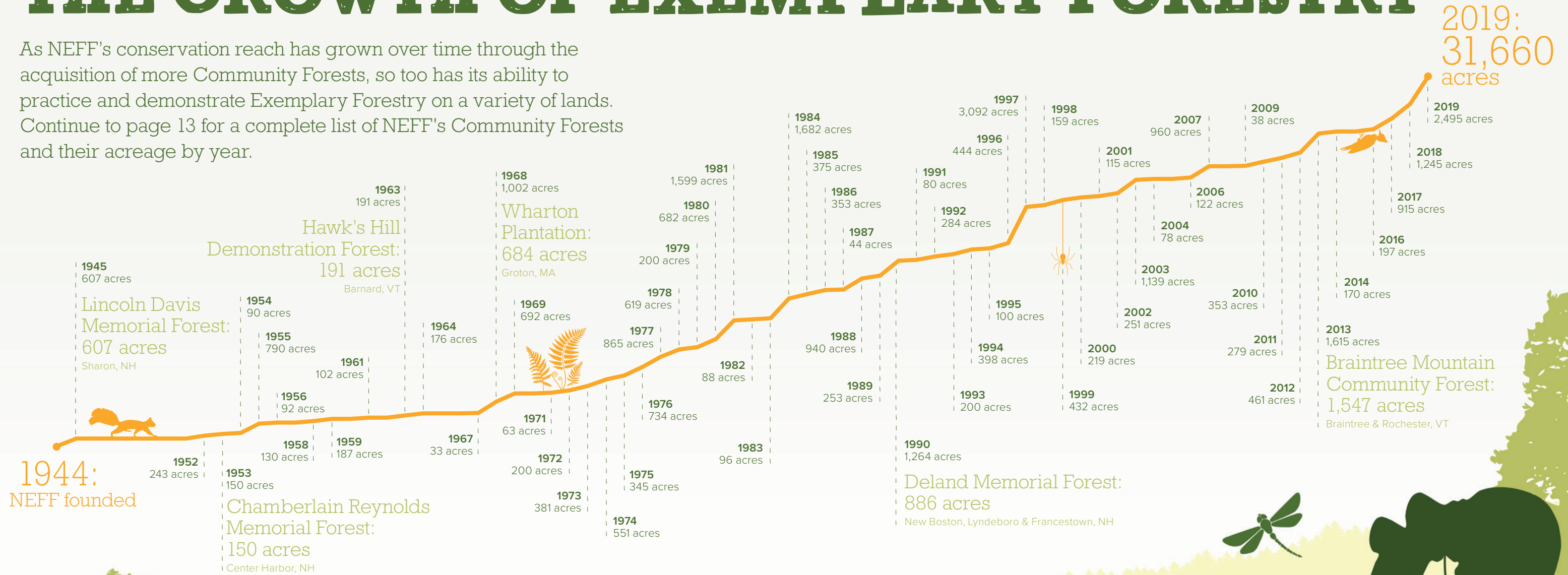
afterwards McKenney was hired on a temporary basis. Forty-two years later he's still working a very similar role—for New England Forestry Consultants, Inc., the forestry company that NEFF spun off as a private enterprise in 1994.

McKenney ended up working Attridge's first forest beat, and while Attridge had retired as Chief Forester in 1967, he didn't fully step down from NEFF until McKenney moved to southwestern New Hampshire in 1978 to take over. Attridge established many of the early plans for forest management that still guide the forest today, a hallmark of forestry as a discipline that relates to the long lives of our primary partners—New England's trees.

No matter how fast society changes, no matter how busy the typical day becomes, trees grow at their own slow pace, and NEFF still works to ensure they can do just that. 🌿

THE GROWTH OF EXEMPLARY FORESTRY

As NEFF's conservation reach has grown over time through the acquisition of more Community Forests, so too has its ability to practice and demonstrate Exemplary Forestry on a variety of lands. Continue to page 13 for a complete list of NEFF's Community Forests and their acreage by year.



1945

Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest: 607 acres

Sharon, NH

NEFF's first forest is now known as the Lincoln Davis-Cabot-Morse Memorial Forest in recognition of later land donations. Dr. Lincoln Davis deeded the property's first 607 acres to NEFF in 1945, Thomas Cabot and Virginia Wellington Cabot gave an adjoining 176 acres in 1964, and Clarissa Morse gave an additional 146 acres in 1985. This has been a busy forest for NEFF over the years thanks to regular harvests conducted to Exemplary Forestry standards, management activities that have improved wildlife habitat, and frequent trail use. The forest offers hikers a view of Mount Monadnock and a place to connect with the popular Wapack Trail.



1952

Rich: 95 acres
Sandwich, NH

Hartnett Manhan: 148 acres
Easthampton, Southampton & Westhampton, MA

1953

Chamberlain Reynolds Memorial Forest: 150 acres

Center Harbor, NH

Located in the Squam Lakes Region, this forest was donated to NEFF by John Wister and named for his two friends, Allen Chamberlain and Harris Reynolds. Chamberlain was a founder of the Massachusetts Forest and Parks Association and preceded Harris Reynolds—NEFF's founder—as the organization's Executive Secretary. The property's nearly mile-long shoreline is a critical nesting area for loons, and provides dramatic views of the lake and mountains. NEFF has worked in partnership with the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) for decades at Chamberlain Reynolds; SLA maintains the forest's hiking trails and manages its popular campsites. New England Forestry Consultants (NEFCo) has also played an important role at Chamberlain Reynolds, where NEFCo forester Peter Farrell has managed forestry activities on behalf of NEFF since 1994.

1954

Harris Reynolds: 90 acres
Bethlehem, NH

1955

Sortwell: 90 acres
Wiscasset, ME

Allen-Whitney: 700 acres
Manchester, ME

1956

Thacher: 92 acres
Hancock, NH

1958

Nelson: 130 acres
Marshfield, MA

1959

Hosmer Woods: 187 acres
Orange, MA

1961

General Bartlett: 65 acres
Nottingham, NH

Lincoln Davis-Greenfield: 37 acres
Greenfield, NH

1963

Hawk's Hill
Demonstration: 191 acres
Barnard, VT

NEFF's first forest in Vermont. See page 16 for more information.

1964

Cabot: 176 acres
Sharon & Temple, NH

1967

Goodale: 33 acres
Hudson, MA



1968

Moors: 75 acres
Wilton, NH

Robinson: 269 acres
Washington, NH

Wharton Plantation: 684 acres

Groton, MA

NEFF incorporator William Wharton began purchasing the lands that now compose Wharton Plantation as early as 1905, and then donated the entire property to NEFF later in his life. These initial parcels were composed of abandoned farmland that Wharton replanted over the years. The forest now features an extensive trail system and offers views of beaver-created wetlands and Baddacook Pond.

1969

Hemenway: 692 acres
Columbia & Stratford, NH

1971

Monadnock: 63 acres
Jaffrey, NH

1972

Arms Acres: 100 acres
Blandford, MA

Weld: 100 acres
Dublin, NH

1973

Holden-Rice: 40 acres
Granville, MA

Wells: 65 acres
Shelburne, MA

Rice Sanctuary: 276 acres
Peru, MA

1974

Townes: 551 acres
New Boston, NH

1975

Groton Place: 54 acres
Groton, MA

Norton: 141 acres
Gloucester, MA

Hodgdon Pasture: 150 acres; Deering, NH

1976

Thayer: 100 acres
Lancaster, MA

Scott: 498 acres
Sandgate, VT

Little Sunapee Associates Forest: 136 acres
New London, NH

1977

Sabine Woods: 146 acres
Groton, MA

Bearcamp Woodlands: 244 acres
Ossipee, NH

Dundee: 475 acres
Jackson, NH

1978

Confarm: 56 acres
Lancaster, MA

Bennie Eaton Hill: 100 acres
Hudson & Pelham, NH

Chase: 114 acres
S. Royalston, MA

Morrison: 140 acres
Stowe, VT

Winslow Warren: 32 acres
Walpole, MA

Stevens: 177 acres
Ashland & Holderness, NH

1979

Carlstrom: 74 acres
Shrewsbury, MA

Ehrich: 126 acres
Royalston, MA

1980

Dennett: 42 acres
Sebago, ME

Battle Dorrance: 55 acres
Orange, MA

Powers: 87 acres
Charlton Depot, MA

Rocky Pond: 206 acres
Boylston, MA

Mowry: 292 acres
Elmore & Morristown, VT

1981

Foss Woodlot: 44 acres
Greenfield, NH

Jesse Barton: 114 acres
Goshen, NH

Welz Roberts: 114 acres
Windsor, MA

Nichols: 426 acres
Dorset & Mount Tabor, VT

Mountain Pond: 309 acres
New Ipswich, NH

Mixer Fields: 592 acres
Hardwick, MA

1982

Mumford: 33 acres
Natick, MA

Newsom: 55 acres
Ashland &
Holderness, NH

1983

Carlstrom II: 32 acres
Northboro, MA

Leslie Reeves: 64 acres
Reading, VT

1984

Brookfield Farm: 82 acres
Danby, VT

Farwell: 168 acres
Leicester & Salisbury, VT

Horace Clark Woods:
432 acres
E. Hartland, CT

Phelon: 1,000 acres
Granville, MA

1985

Goodell Morse:
123 acres
Southbridge, MA
& Woodstock, CT

P.S. Weld: 60 acres
Wareham, MA

Morse: 146 acres
Sharon, NH

Scott-Moors & Donald
Scott: 46 acres
Wilton, NH

1986

Royster-Liebowitz:
13 acres
Reading, VT

Stokes: 45 acres
Hebron, NH

Parker: 60 acres
Lancaster, MA

Wile: 87 acres
Grafton & Westboro, MA

Prichard: 148 acres
Middleton, MA

1987

M-N-Ocie: 44 acres
Montville, ME

1988

Kemp: 85 acres
Groton, MA

Smith: 128 acres
Heath, MA

Wellington Wells:
177 acres
Harrisville, NH

Thurston: 400 acres
Montville & Knox, ME

True Farm: 150 acres
Mechanic Falls, ME

1989

Hagar Woods: 39 acres
Marshfield, MA

Webb: 49 acres
Orange, MA

Thissell Smith: 165 acres
Ossipee, NH

1990

Wesbrook Woods: 27 acres
Barnard & Pomfret, VT

Isham: 81 acres
Manchester Village, VT

Herrick: 96 acres
Boxford, MA

Keyes: 56 acres
Groton, MA

Gorton: 118 acres
Dalton, NH

Deland: 886 acres

New Boston, Lyndeboro
& Frankestown, NH

Mrs. F. Stanton Deland
donated 700 acres of
well-managed white
pine forest along the
Piscataquog River to
NEFF in memory
of her husband.

The property
was one of the
largest singly
owned parcels
to become part of
the river valley's protection plan, and its conservation
impact has grown over time thanks to Mrs. Deland
and the cooperative efforts of NEFF, the Society for
the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF),
New Hampshire Audubon, and the Piscataquog River
Watershed Association. In 1995, NEFF purchased two
abutting parcels with major fundraising assistance
from Mrs. Deland and this network of conservation
organizations. SPNHF also holds a conservation
easement on the forest—gifted to them by Mrs.
Deland—and New Hampshire Audubon has built a
nature trail through part of Deland Memorial Forest.

1991

Luce: 80 acres
Readfield, ME

1992

Bradley-Draper: 113 acres
Jaffrey, NH

Andrew Weeks: 171 acres
Guilford, VT

1993

Park of Two Georges: 24 acres
Harvard, MA

Donald Hagar Forest: 28 acres
Marshfield, MA

Edgecomb: 66 acres
Hiram, ME

Edminster: 82 acres
Freetown, MA

1994

Fox Chair Mountain: 53 acres
Springfield & Chester, VT

Hurd: 165 acres
Berwick, ME

Savage: 180 acres
Reading, VT

1995

Harriett Carpenter Read: 100 acres
Heath & Rowe, MA

1996

Gordon: 76 acres
Lisbon, NH

Keene-Whitman: 120 acres
Turner & Hebron, ME

Chase Kimball: 167 acres
Pomfret, CT

Maxson Pederson: 81 acres
Alford, MA

1997–8

Hersey: 3,092 acres
New Hampton & Sanbornton, NH

1998

Myers: 11 acres
Lenox, MA

Burr & Burton: 14 acres
Manchester, VT

Patten: 48 acres
Walpole, MA

Wallace: 86 acres
Warwick, MA

1999

Baddacook: 15 acres
Groton, MA

Katz: 40 acres
Peru, MA

Bliss: 84 acres
Freeport, ME

Speigel: 173 acres
Pomfret, VT

Stetson Phelps: 120 acres
Hawley, MA

2000

Tabak: 58 acres
South Deerfield, MA

Howland: 67 acres
Heath, MA

Grossman: 94 acres
Warren, VT

2001

Fittz Family: 115 acres
Orange, MA

2002

Arnold Family: 93 acres
Freeport, ME

Pine Nook: 70 acres
Deerfield, MA

Storer: 88 acres
Meredith, NH

2003

Jonathan: 52 acres
Wilton, NH

Prouty: 117 acres
Littleton, MA

Wright: 970 acres
Chester, MA

2004

Nadeau: 78 acres
Mont Vernon, NH

2006

Martin: 125 acres
Winchendon, MA

2007

Page Family: 631 acres
Oxford, ME

Lucky Dog: 329 acres
Conway & Buckland, MA

2009

Demers: 3 acres
Weare, NH

Dennison Pond: 35 acres
Francestown, NH

2010

Rowley: 132 acres
Enfield & Canaan, NH

Bragdon Hill: 221 acres
Poland, ME

2011

Cooper Hill: 331 acres
Marlborough, NH

2012

Harold A. McLain: 74 acres
Weare, NH

Carye: 387 acres
Gilford, NH

2013

Cherry Valley: 28 acres
Gilford, NH

Rock: 40 acres
Troy, ME

Braintree Mountain Community Forest: 1,547 acres

Braintree & Rochester, VT

The Braintree Mountain Community Forest represents the largest donation of land to NEFF in the organization's history. Paul Kendall and Sharon Rives of the Todhah Hill Foundation gifted the forest to NEFF after the couple spent decades assembling it from smaller parcels of adjacent lands. They undertook this personal land conservation project to protect the headwaters of the Riford Brook watershed from development and to ensure opportunities for outdoor recreation and sustainable forestry. The forest offers 360-degree mountain views, and has an excellent trail system for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

2014

Littleton Marsh: 22 acres
Littleton, MA

Peirce Family: 236 acres
Sanbornton, NH

2016

Sumner Mack Peace: 76 acres
Topsham, VT

Cate: 158 acres
Alton, NH

2017

Glass: 82 acres
Westhampton, MA

Carey: 90 acres
Rowe, MA

Niantic River Headwaters: 166 acres
East Lyme, CT

Whitten Woods: 577 acres
Ashland, NH

2018

Jack's Brook Forest: 85 acres
Erving, MA

Reynolds: 1,160 acres
Cooper, ME

2019

Richard Williams: 295 acres
Hancock, NH

Venture Brook: 2,200 acres
Edmunds Twp, ME

Venture Brook is one of two properties that make up NEFF's ongoing Downeast Woods and Wildlife conservation project. We do not currently own Venture Brook, but are on track to complete fundraising for it by the end of 2019.



LOCATION

 Barnard, VT

SIZE

 187 acres*

AMENITIES

 Trails
 Feature of Interest

OPENING YEAR

 1963

FEATURED COMMUNITY FOREST

HAWK'S HILL DEMONSTRATION FOREST

THE HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS
OF NEFF'S FIRST VERMONT FOREST

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Tinsley Hundsdorfer

NEFF's earliest records for Hawk's Hill date to 1810, when the Boydon family purchased 110 acres at its current location. As part of the first wave of colonial settlers in Vermont, the Boydons proceeded to clear the land for crops and sheep pasture. They and other Vermont landowners eventually cleared at least 60 percent of the state to meet growing local demand for Merino wool driven by a tax on English woolens and other goods, but the soil could not sustain this intense grazing. By the 1850s, the Boydons and others found themselves with near-useless farmland.

Nearly 200 years later, what makes this NEFF property a "demonstration" forest? The name stems from Richard M. Brett, the landowner who followed the Boydons. He purchased the land in 1940 specifically to build up the parcel's once

Tucked high in the hills of central Vermont, Hawk's Hill Demonstration Forest is cut through with cold, clear brooks that feed the property's ponds and wetland areas, as well as steep ridges that provide a little extra challenge to hikers.

The story behind its rolling woodlands mirrors in miniature the history of New England's forests after European settlement. As NEFF's first forest in Vermont and as a longtime cornerstone of our forestry and outreach work, Hawk's Hill is also part of important moments specific to NEFF's past.

* Hawk's Hill is listed as having 191 acres in previous pages, but in 1996, NEFF sold a house and four-acre house lot that were part of the original property. This sale is reflected in the yearly and total acreage counts on pages 11–12.

1810

Luther Boydon purchases 110 acres from James Byram at Hawk’s Hill’s current location

rundown farmland into forest, and then later donated it to NEFF. He wrote a pamphlet in 1958 about his goals for Hawk’s Hill that explained he wanted to go a step beyond just using sustainable forestry practices—he also wanted to provide proof of concept via demonstration to other Vermont landowners.

“This Woodlot has two principle aims: to show that Vermont farm woodlots can produce three times the present quantity of wood of higher quality than at present; and to show that recreational uses and wildlife habitat improvement are not inconsistent with the production of wood. Indeed, with some exceptions, a balanced wildlife is beneficial to wood production.”

During his time as the owner of Hawk’s Hill, Brett singlehandedly conducted almost all management activities, from cutting trees to returning beavers to the area. He recognized he wouldn’t

1810–1842

Boydon family clears the land and uses it for crops and pasture

be able to keep this up indefinitely, and needed a way to ensure his long-term plans for the property came to fruition. He concluded, “I couldn’t see myself working at the age of 90, climbing around in the top of trees and things, so I looked around for someone who could take charge, and I found the New England Forestry Foundation.”

He donated his property to NEFF in 1963, making it the organization’s first Vermont forest. NEFF has followed in Brett’s footsteps by continuing to use the property as a demonstration forest and teaching tool, and by managing it to Exemplary Forestry standards, which more than account for Brett’s concerns about protecting wildlife and opportunities for recreation in working forests.

Since Hawk’s Hill Demonstration Forest became a NEFF property, it has experienced frequent and varied activity, including Exemplary Forestry

1842

Luther Boydon dies, younger brother Adin Boydon returns to the family farm

timber harvesting, tree and shrub planting, wildlife habitat improvement, trail improvement, archaeological documentation, and management of a sugarbush, a mature stand of Sugar Maple. For a number of years, an on-site house also served as home base for a NEFF forester.

The most recent harvest at Hawk’s Hill was completed in 2010, and produced 484,000 board feet of timber along with firewood and pulp. The forest’s management plan recommends no additional harvests through at least 2021, which will give the forest time to grow and fill in spaces left from a 2010 thinning. Sugarbush management is ongoing, and the stand is tapped regularly by a neighboring family that runs a maple syrup operation.

While NEFF has conducted many long-term activities over the past decades at Hawk’s Hill, the forest and its five miles of trails have

A Quick Look at Richard M. Brett

Excerpt from *New England Forestry Foundation: A History*

Mr. Richard M. Brett was born in 1903 in Darien, Connecticut. A 1926 graduate of Williams, he was a successful banker, and with his father, publisher, when he went into the Army Air Corps in 1942. After the war, not wishing to return to business, he was associated with the New York Public Library until, at the age of 50, he went to Yale for two years, taking what he called “wild courses”—forestry, land use, limnology, geomorphology (shaping of land by natural forces). He was graduated in 1955, a Master of Science in Forest Ecology. “I didn’t actually invite my grandchildren to the graduation,” he said later, “but I almost did.”



1866

Adin Boydon builds the house that still stands at the Hawk's Hill trailhead

1940

Richard and Elizabeth Brett acquire the property and begin forest restoration efforts

1963

The Bretts donate Hawk's Hill to NEFF

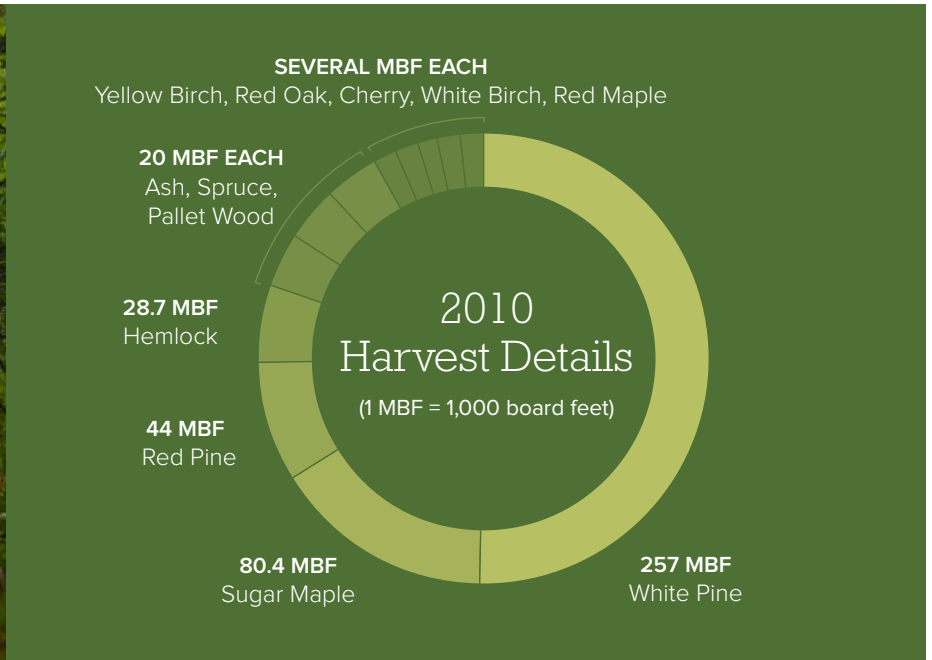
consistently been open to the public, and it continues to be a rewarding destination for outdoor recreation. The forest is a gorgeous setting for warm-weather hiking and bird watching, and its rolling woodlands offer spectacular foliage colors in the fall—as does the scenic drive to Hawk's Hill. The forest is, however, particularly well-suited to wintertime activities like cross country skiing and snowshoeing thanks to its geography and well laid out trail network, which includes wide woods roads that don't have too steep a grade.

If you'd like to visit Hawk's Hill Demonstration Forest or other NEFF properties that have played an important role in our history, be sure to use our online Forest Finder Tool. Go to newenglandforestry.org/explore/explore-our-forests, and then click on the forest you want to explore to access driving directions, a property map, and an overview of the forest's features. 🌿



Archaeology and Cultural Resources at Hawk's Hill

Hawk's Hill is located within the traditional territory of the Abenaki, part of the Wabanaki Confederacy, but NEFF does not have any records indicating Abenaki artifacts have been found at the site. Stone walls left from intensive sheep pasturing and farming still crisscross the forest, and are accompanied by stone cellar foundations from old cabins, a shallow-dug well, and an old town road with a stone culvert. Apple trees that once grew across open fields are still found in the woods, and the 1866 Boydon family home has also endured.





NEW ENGLAND
FORESTRY
FOUNDATION

32 Foster Street | P.O. Box 1346 | Littleton, MA 01460
T 978.952.6856 | F 978.952.6356 | newenglandforestry.org

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The view from Hersey Mountain Forest. Photo by Kari Post.