Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you saw our op-ed in The New York Times in October. It was titled, “Let’s Fill Our Cities With Taller Wooden Buildings.” A team from NEFF, Harvard Forest, Highstead Foundation and Brandeis University prepared the article, building off years of research led by NEFF’s creative forestry guru and Senior Advisor, Alec Giffen. Getting national attention was a coup for our Build It With Wood campaign. It will surely help us with our ongoing effort to describe how Exemplary Forestry can help fight climate change. With new analyses from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) showing that we must reach carbon neutrality within 20 years to have much chance of restraining climate change, NEFF is working hard to make sure that the critical roles of forests and forest products are recognized. Warming to date is exacerbating problems, like the recent fires in California and Australia, and it has already increased mortality in mature trees in many ecosystems around the world. Though New England has been spared major problems so far, science tells us that is only a temporary reprieve. We need to move swiftly to avert damaging changes.

The op-ed was developed after several years of analysis in which we modeled Exemplary Forestry practices compared to actual forest conditions in western Maine, estimated the future development and growth of similar stands across the region, and predicted the timber and carbon yields. The ultimate effect was astounding: our regional forests could sequester and offset carbon equivalent to the carbon emitted by all the vehicles in New England for 20 years.

While the analysis was complex, our message is simple. To achieve a major climate mitigation wedge we need to protect our forests from development, apply Exemplary Forestry practices, and move as much of the harvested wood as possible into long-lived wood products such as engineered wood panels in tall wood buildings. As we advocate for better climate-smart forestry, we’ll also continue to support the establishment of forest reserves like our Hersey Mountain Forest, which is covered in this issue.

Your support and the hard work of NEFF’s staff made this milestone possible. NEFF analyzed forestry’s climate-mitigation potential with actual on-the-ground forestry practices suited to a specific regional forest type. That is what climate policy makers need in order to evaluate, develop trust and certainty, and hopefully establish incentive programs that will bring the 215,000 forest landowners in New England into the climate battle. We expect other regions to follow our lead and establish similar climate-smart practices for their timber types, and we already have inquiries for our guidance. The op-ed was an announcement of our approach, and we will back it up with a report that details our methods.

Where NEFF goes from here will be very important—perhaps to the future of the planet. Our analysis only covered the carbon changes in the type of forest found in the Acadian subregion of New England. We need to extend our standards and analysis to other Northeast forest types and then augment the forest carbon effects with the additional carbon savings of switching from concrete and steel to engineered wood in tall buildings. And we need to expand our land holdings to demonstrate these practices at scale. More than 2 billion additional people worldwide will need housing and places of business in the next several decades. If we continue to make those structures from concrete and steel, we will be cooked. The world must protect forests, shift to climate-smart forest management, and link forest and urban development policy.

Although we are a little stunned to be ground zero for such an important change, we are not surprised. NEFF has been doing remarkable things for 75 years. You’ve been by our side all the way. Thank you.

Bob Perschel
Executive Director
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COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION
How cooperative efforts to protect contiguous forestlands have shaped two cornerstone NEFF properties over the years

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Tinsley Hunsdorfer

When New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) was founded in 1944, the practice of private organizations protecting land through ownership was largely untried in the United States. In this final Into the Woods issue of NEFF’s 75th anniversary year, it seems appropriate to take an in-depth look at NEFF’s first forest, the Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest of 1945, and then see how our conservation processes have changed over time by comparing it to a more recent cornerstone NEFF property, Hersey Mountain Forest.

While NEFF acquired these two beautiful, mountainous New Hampshire forestlands in different ways, they have both come to exemplify the outsize ecosystem impact protected land can have when it’s conserved collaboratively and with an eye to the wider landscape. Both NEFF properties are partially surrounded by a series of contiguous protected forestlands, with additional conserved land nearby.

Much of New England’s remaining private forestland—particularly in the southern portion of the region—has been carved into parcels that are too small to singlehandedly support the full suite of native wildlife. Roads and house lots that proliferate in this fragmented landscape can cut animals off from reproductive partners and force them into degraded habitat as they seek food and shelter. By strategically protecting contiguous land parcels that connect to important habitat, New Englanders can give wild animals safe passage to the resources they need to thrive—and, for species more prone to wandering, simply provide them with enough space.

“It’s been wonderful to look at the map of my area over time and see new green squares lining up like puzzle pieces,” said Camilla Lockwood, one of four landowners who have NEFF conservation easements on parcels around Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest. “There’s a lot of land around here, but that doesn’t do big critters any good if they can’t get from one place to another. They need large, unrestricted areas to roam, and I’m excited that my land is helping to fill in some gaps.”

Not only do contiguous pieces of well-managed forestland give wild animals stretches of uninterrupted habitat, but they also do a better job of protecting headwaters for clean water downstream. And more opportunities for long-distance hiking trails don’t hurt, either.
RVATION

tlands have shaped

The Steady Growth of NEFF’s First Forest and Temple Mountain Easements

One such trail currently crosses Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest and its surrounding NEFF conservation easements in the Temple Mountain area of south-central New Hampshire; called the Wapack Trail, this popular hikers’ route opened in 1923 and runs north-south for 21 miles from Mount Watatic in Ashburnham, MA, to North Pack Monadnock in Greenfield, NH.

NEFF first established a presence on Temple Mountain in 1945 when Dr. Lincoln Davis deeded a 607-acre parcel to NEFF that became the Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest. Dr. Davis was a surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital, and in the 1920s and 1930s, often traveled to this well-loved woodland to enjoy time with his family and take a break from his busy professional life. His granddaughter, Emily Lewis, has stayed involved with NEFF and is a longtime donor.

Thomas Cabot and Virginia Wellington Cabot then gave NEFF an adjoining 176 acres in 1964 that include the crest of Temple Mountain. Tom Cabot was a dedicated conservationist who served as a member of the NEFF corporation and as president of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and who had a long-running attachment to Temple Mountain. He and his wife were outdoor enthusiasts who summered there for years, and a two-mile section of the Wapack Trail is now known as the Cabot Skyline in honor of his donation of a trail easement and to recognize him as “a lifelong friend of the Wapack Trail.”

Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest’s final expansion occurred in 1985 when Clarissa Morse gave 146 acres in memory of her husband, Lovett Morse; the property’s full name was thereafter changed to Lincoln Davis-Cabot-Morse Memorial Forest, though “Lincoln Davis” is still used as shorthand.

As NEFF’s oldest forest, Lincoln Davis has proven to be a key testing ground for Exemplary Forestry, NEFF’s in-house, gold-standard approach to sustainable management. NEFF’s 1998 Foundation Forests report summarizes the property’s status at the time:

“A great deal of marketable timber has been cut from the Lincoln Davis property on a sustainable basis and today the forest has more standing timber, in far better health, than on the day Dr. Davis deeded it to NEFF. A variety of forest management activities has improved habitat for many species of wildlife.”

WALKING THE WAPACK

Want to go on a dramatic, rewarding hike and see some key locations from NEFF’s history? Head up—and then up some more—the Wapack from the Temple Road Trailhead (or Sharon Ledges Trailhead in Google Maps) in Sharon, NH, to Lockwood Conservation Easement II, and include a side trip down Berry Pasture Trail so you can visit the first parcel of NEFF’s first forest. All photos in this article were taken along this stretch of the Wapack in October 2019.
Lincoln Davis-Cabot-Morse Memorial Forest and Surrounding Easements
Sharon & Temple, NH  929 Total NEFF Community Forest Acres  568 Total NEFF Conservation Easement Acres

Note: All NEFF conservation easements on this map are private property, and the Wapack Trail is the only area on these lands that is open to the public. If you choose to visit, please stay on the trail.

Credits: ESRI 'Terrain Base' map service
This progress was made possible by the hard work of NEFF foresters assigned to the Monadnock Region, starting with Milt Attridge, NEFF’s first full-time forester and later chief forester. Lincoln Davis-Cabot-Morse Memorial Forest continues to thrive thanks to NEFF’s current land stewardship staff and New England Forestry Consultants (NEFCo) foresters Dan Reed and Dennis McKenney.

The number of NEFF-protected acres on Temple Mountain began to grow once more in the late 1990s when some of the landowners near Lincoln Davis looked into ways to protect their forestland without selling it. After speaking with a NEFF land protection staff member about her options, Camilla Lockwood became the first neighbor to take the conservation easement plunge.

She decided to place easements on two parcels in 1998 and turned to NEFF as the best organization to hold them, and says she has since turned her attention to “managing my fields and forest to benefit wildlife and with a view to keeping some of the predations of climate change at bay.”

As she goes about transitioning fields to native habitat for pollinators and setting up new bat boxes, she says, “I think about how my land crosses the Wapack Trail and connects to other protected parcels on the other side of the mountain and of the many species that can now freely travel in adequate territory.”

The wildlife corridor formed by Camilla’s easements and the Lincoln Davis-Cabot-Morse Memorial Forest expanded in 2000 and 2001, when the Karl family, PJ and Tina O’Rourke, and the Cabot New Hampshire Land Trust each completed adjacent NEFF easements. This brought the total number of contiguous Temple Mountain acres protected by NEFF to 1,497, and the total length of Wapack Trail on NEFF-protected lands to well over a mile—not a bad legacy for NEFF’s first forest, and a collective conservation achievement to be proud of.

Assembling Hersey Mountain Forest

Just a year before NEFF began work on Hersey Mountain Forest, the organization had spun off its forestry services program to create the standalone New England Forestry Consultants corporation, and redirected NEFF’s resources toward forest conservation and outreach.

NEFF was then positioned to start proactively seeking out and purchasing properties for protection, rather than exclusively relying on donations from members of the public to expand its network of Community Forests. As always, donated land was—and still is—a welcome and celebrated component of NEFF’s conservation program, but NEFF’s expert land protection team could now move quickly to acquire high-priority forestlands.

The proposed Hersey Mountain Forest was an ambitious project for NEFF—to this day, it remains our largest Community Forest—but it was also an exciting and unique opportunity that was supported by a number of people and organizations working in close collaboration.

Note: The Wapack Trail is maintained and preserved by the nonprofit, all-volunteer Friends of the Wapack organization. They also work with conservation organizations and government agencies to secure legal public access to all portions of the trail. Learn more at wapack.org
NEFF had recently purchased one large parcel—the Mike Burke Memorial Forest—that would eventually be folded into the larger forest, and longtime NEFF supporters Julie and Bayard Henry planned to donate their sizeable Knox Mountain Tree Farm to drive the Hersey Mountain project forward. Funding from Sweet Water Trust helped secure the seven other parcels that ultimately filled in the rest of the forest.

Details about what made Hersey Mountain such a special conservation opportunity were not fully known until 2003, when Rick Van de Poll, Ph.D., conducted an ecological survey that found more than 20 natural communities and 42 vernal pools. The diverse habitats include 68 acres of old growth forest and 513 acres of Significant Ecological Areas, and support an incredible array of wildlife: 13 species of amphibians, five species of reptiles, five species of fish, 31 species of mammals, 105 species of birds, and 126 taxa of insects.

As of 2007 and 2012 respectively, and with additional assistance from Sweet Water Trust, Northeast Wilderness Trust holds a forever-wild easement on the 2,100 acres of Hersey that are home to this remarkable habitat and wildlife, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests holds a conservation easement that allows for sustainable forestry on Hersey Mountain’s remaining 1,100 acres. NEFF retains ownership of the full 3,200 acres. Both forest reserves and forests managed to Exemplary Forestry standards have a part to play in addressing the climate crisis, and Hersey is showing how these two approaches can coexist and complement each other.

“It’s not common for one organization to work to protect land as forever wild and as working forest at the same time. NEFF responded to the unique biology of Hersey Mountain with a land protection effort that applied forever-wild protection to the portions of the landscape that needed it, while applying our core expertise in productive high-quality forestry on the remainder,” explains Frank Lowenstein, NEFF’s deputy director and chief conservation officer.

Like Lincoln Davis Memorial Forest, Hersey Mountain’s conservation impact is magnified by its proximity to other protected lands. It shares a border with the George Duncan State Forest, and is bracketed by two parcels with NEFF conservation easements—one granted from Julie and Bayard Henry to the south and another from John and Nancy Conkling to the northwest.

As NEFF embarks on its next 75 years, we will continue to build on this track record by pursuing ambitious new partnerships and projects that help stitch together forested landscapes—landscapes that give New England’s wildlife plenty of room to roam.

Our particular thanks to Walker Buckner of Sweet Water Trust and to Hersey Mountain’s dedicated NEFCo forester, Peter Farrell. NEFF staff and Board of Directors members would also like to recognize NEFCo forester Mike Burke; the Mike Burke Memorial Forest was named in his honor after he died abruptly from leukemia in 1995.

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George Duncan State Forest acquired by State of New Hampshire

June: NEFF acquires Mike Burke Memorial Forest

July: Easement for Mike Burke Memorial Forest conveyed to Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Julie and Bayard Henry easement completed

June: Gagne & Meyer parcel added to Hersey Mountain

September: Knox Mountain Tree Farm parcel added to Hersey Mountain

December: Peter DeJager parcel, Ellen Gallup parcel, and Arthur Stitzinger parcel added to Hersey Mountain

May: Judy Ness parcel added to Hersey Mountain

July: First Tom Beal parcel added to Hersey Mountain

Second Tom Beal parcel added to Hersey Mountain

John and Nancy Conkling easement completed, Hersey’s forever-wild easement conveyed to Northeast Wilderness Trust

Easement for Hersey land not designated forever-wild conveyed to Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Hersey Mountain Forest and Surrounding Easements

New Hampton and Sanbornton, NH
3,247 Total NEFF Community Forest Acres
762 Total NEFF Conservation Easement Acres

Credits: ESRI 'Terrain Base' map service
MEET THE RED SPRUCE

WRITING BY Chris Pryor, Director of Forest Stewardship

The Red Spruce (Picea rubens) is an important tree species in New England; together with Balsam Fir, it is the dominant tree used for lumber and pulp across much of Maine. There’s more to the species, however, than its growth pattern that makes for high-quality dimensional boards. One of the Red Spruce’s most interesting features is its wood’s unique resonance quality, which makes it highly valued for sounding boards in pianos, guitars, and other stringed instruments.

In New England, it is most commonly found from Downeast Maine across northern New Hampshire and Vermont, and then south along the Berkshire and Taconic ranges into northwestern Connecticut. More broadly, it can be found from the Maritime Provinces of Canada west to southern Ontario and south to the highlands of northern New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania. Farther south along the Appalachian Mountains, it can also be found at higher elevations in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

AGE AND SIZE

- Long-lived species that can live 350+ years
- Average height: 60-75’
- Diameter: 1-2’

A Red Spruce can grow larger under the right circumstances. It is very tolerant of shade, and so can survive underneath the forest canopy waiting to exploit an opening above.

NEEDLES

This coniferous tree retains its needles year-round. The very shiny, dark yellow-green needles are four-sided with pointy tips as opposed to the flat, rounded needles of fir (spiny spruce, friendly fir). They grow individually all around the twig as opposed to pines, whose needles grow in groups of two to five.

BARK

The bark of mature trees can be described as grayish-brown flakes covering a reddish-brown layer beneath. The bark’s appearance reminds some of burned corn flakes.
Long-lived species that can live

A Red Spruce can grow larger under the right circumstances. It is very tolerant of shade, and so can survive underneath the forest canopy waiting to exploit an opening above.

**AGE AND SIZE**

60-75’

1-2’

**WILDLIFE HABITAT**

American Red Squirrels, voles, Spruce Grouse, and White-winged Crossbills rely on Red Spruce for a significant part of their diets. Red Spruce and spruce-fir forest types are used by many iconic wildlife species of the north woods, including American Marten, Snowshoe Hare, and Canada Lynx. Dense, mature spruce-fir stands also provide critical winter habitat for White-tailed Deer in the northern extent of its range.

Spruce Budworm is a major pest of the tree. Despite its name, the Spruce Budworm prefers to feed on Balsam Fir. However, it can cause severe defoliation and death of Red Spruce, especially when found in stands with a high percentage of Balsam Fir. The insect is native to New England and eastern Canada with periodic outbreaks every few decades. There is currently a major outbreak in Canada that threatens to move south into northern New England in the coming years.

**GROWING CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

Red Spruce grows in a variety of ecosystems but the common theme is relatively poor or thin soils where it can survive and out compete other tree species. Common examples are the thin soils of coastal Downeast Maine and higher elevations of mountains throughout western Maine, the White Mountains, and Green Mountains. It can also be found growing in poorly drained, lower elevation flats throughout northern New England.

Red Spruce is managed throughout its range using a variety of techniques, from single-tree selection to clearcutting. Methods can vary depending on stand age, composition, density, and levels of regeneration. Harvested Red Spruce is valued for its lumber, given its light weight, strength, and straight grain. It is also pulped and used to make a variety of papers.

*Fun Fact: Massive Gum Provider*

Red Spruce provided the critical raw material to a booming spruce gum industry in Maine during the latter part of the 19th century. Sap that flowed from wounds in the trunk was collected after it had hardened. About 20 companies commercially sold spruce gum in Maine during that time period.
WOODLAND NARRATIVES

Keeping Land in the NEFF Family

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Tinsley Hunsdorfer

On a sunny afternoon this August in Keene, NH, a few NEFF staffers met up with Barbara Campbell to hear the stories behind her family’s forestland, located down the road in Hancock. Just a few months before, Barbara had passed ownership of the land to NEFF through a gift annuity—the final step in her long journey to protect well-loved woodlands, which she had first placed under NEFF conservation easements in 1994.

As we spoke over tea and cookies, it became clear that the land’s best stories and the decisions that shaped it all come back to family. Barbara even requested that NEFF name the land the Richard Williams Memorial Forest in honor of her late husband.

Richard Williams assembled the family’s eventual 382-acre woodland from multiple parcels he purchased from 1963 to 1973. The end result was a quiet family retreat and working forest that featured rolling hills, a few steep rocky ledges, and winding streams.

At first, Barbara, Richard and their children used the New Hampshire woodland as a weekend getaway, but the parents in the family had been thinking about moving away from their home in Cambridge, MA, to give the kids a better environment in which to grow and learn—an environment like Barbara’s own childhood in the countryside. Barbara said she and Richard reached a turning point quite suddenly in the late 1960s: “We came up one weekend to spend time in the woods with the children, then simply took a look at each other and said, ‘let’s move here.’”

The transition initially proved challenging for all of them—in Barbara’s case, she missed her Cambridge-based friends and the perks of living in a city—but the kids had the hardest time of it. Barbara laughingly explained their first reaction to Hancock was, “There’s nothing
here but cows.” After joining the local 4-H program and making some new friends, the kids began to feel at home.

Having lived in the country as a child, Barbara soon settled into her new life in Hancock and “loved being in the woods full-time.” She came to relish heading into the forest with her art supplies to paint whatever caught her eye, cooling off in the property’s largest brook on blisteringly hot summer days, and exploring the trails with friends and family.

“I would take guests who liked walking right out onto the property as soon as they arrived,” Barbara said. “I always enjoyed sharing this special place with others.”

In 1981, Richard turned his attention to coming up with a formal plan for the forestland. Richard’s extended family had long worked with New England Forestry Foundation, and so he hired Dennis McKenney, a NEFF resident forester who was based in nearby Antrim, to create the property’s management plan. Richard would also later hire NEFF foresters to carry out management on the land.

McKenney’s document makes clear that Richard believed in NEFF’s approach to forestry; in addition to mapping out future sustainable harvests and other management activities, the plan highlights ways to protect and improve wildlife habitat. For example, the plan prioritizes habitat for Snowshoe Hare in certain locations:


Change came to the family and their woodland when Richard passed away in 1994.

“Richard had made it clear he wanted the land to be protected, and so I started looking into conservation easements,” Barbara said. “By that point, I had gotten to know NEFF’s history and thought both the company and the people who worked there were great. I knew they were the right group to work with.”

Barbara and Richard’s conservation efforts began in 1992 when they donated 28 acres of their property to New Hampshire Fish and Game’s adjacent Eva’s Marsh Wildlife Management Area. With Richard’s wishes in mind, Barbara then donated two conservation easements to NEFF in December 1994 that protected 280 acres of their forest. The easements allowed Barbara to continue owning the land with NEFF serving as the family’s partner in conservation; Dennis McKenney also continued managing the forest and its sustainable timber harvests, the most recent of which took place in 2008. NEFF staff enjoyed annual visits with Barbara to inspect the easements and observe signs of wildlife like moose, bobcat, and nesting warblers.

Almost 25 years after placing easements on her land, Barbara decided it was time to sell her home in the country and move to a retirement facility. Caring for the family woodland was also coming to take more time and energy than she liked, but Barbara didn’t want to sell it to just anyone.

“I wanted the land to go to people I trust, which made NEFF the right option again,” Barbara said. “This was my family’s property, and NEFF is an organization that feels like family.”

Barbara ultimately transferred the land to NEFF in return for a charitable annuity that will pay her an annual income for 10 years. Barbara requested the annuity be based on only a portion of the land’s value, while leaving the rest of the value as a generous gift to NEFF. In spring 2019, NEFF took ownership of the 280 acres of land that had originally been placed under easement, plus 15 additional acres that Barbara also wanted to protect. The Richard Williams Memorial Forest is now open to the public—and everyone in the NEFF family.

Legacy Gifts

Donations of land, bequests, and planned giving offer flexible and simple options to support New England Forestry Foundation’s conservation efforts. Each option differs in the way it supports conservation and in its tax and other benefits to you and your family. If you would like to explore the possibility of making a legacy gift to NEFF, please contact Frank Lowenstein at flowenstein@newenglandforestry.org or 978-952-6856.
In our 75th year, NEFF’s mission is more relevant than ever.

Please make a donation to the Year-End Appeal by going online to our secure website at support.newenglandforestry.org or by completing the reply envelope enclosed in your copy of the newsletter.

SUPPORT NEFF’S CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

In the midst of recent attention to climate change and its dire implications, New England Forestry Foundation led articles in two major publications—*The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*—both pointing the way towards climate solutions, and showing that NEFF’s focus on forest conservation and Exemplary Forestry fills critical societal needs today.

NEFF has discovered a powerful solution that can help avert climate disaster. But we need to get the word out to a broader audience. And we need to continue to build a coalition of individuals and organizations that can put our forests to work for the climate. You can help.

We need your financial support—and we hope you will make a donation today—but we also need you to talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about Exemplary Forestry and building with mass timber. If you believe in NEFF’s mission, please share your enthusiasm for our work with others. We need people to understand that conserving land is not enough. By putting forests to work and building with wood, we can do so much more to help the earth. And in the process, we can revive rural economies and provide improved habitat for wildlife. 🌿
“Meeting the Paris Agreement requires immediate and all-inclusive action encompassing deep decarbonisation complemented by ambitious policy measures, protection and enhancement of carbon sinks and biodiversity, and effort to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere.”

United in Science, High-level synthesis report of the latest climate science information convened by the Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019