

# INTO THE WOODS

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION | ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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**FORESTRY**  
FOUNDATION

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## Dear Members and Friends,

How far can you see? The answer may depend on how complex the landscape is in front of you. Generally we can see less far when standing in a forest than in an open field. The question of how to mitigate climate change requires looking ahead through a very complex landscape. And part of that complexity stems from the need to incorporate the role of forests—how will they grow, how much mortality will they experience, what types and volumes of wood will they yield?

For the past three years, NEFF has been exploring how New England forests can help mitigate climate change within the critical 20-30 year window in front of us. NEFF and its partners will soon have some definitive answers to share with our members and regional decision-makers, and I can give you a preview of how we approached the problem and what the initial results appear to be.

The bottom line is that the world's forests can provide a major part of the solution to climate change, if we adjust our thinking to take a systems approach to forests and forest products. Currently, much of the thinking about forests and climate change has been too narrow, restricted mostly to the amount of carbon that can be stored in living trees and soil in the forest. NEFF expanded that thinking and the results are stunning. Any carbon that is stored in the forests is not in the atmosphere and that helps reduce climate change. But in-forest carbon is not the only variable that needs to be considered. Wood is an historic renewable material used throughout our society in paper, furniture, buildings and many other products including food and clothing. The carbon in those materials is also not in the atmosphere, so we need to understand how much of it is directed there through forestry and harvesting practices and how long it stays in the product. That is variable number two in our equation.

The third variable—and the one NEFF determined can have the biggest impact on climate change—is the amount of pollution averted when we use wood instead of other materials that deposit a lot of carbon in the atmosphere during their manufacture. Wood is created naturally through trees and solar power, but materials like cement and steel create a great deal of carbon pollution when they are made. If we start to use engineered wood in large buildings, we can avert a great deal of carbon pollution, which is why NEFF launched its Build It With Wood program a few years ago.

NEFF's analysis is taking these three critical variables and putting them together in an equation that will tell us how New England forests can play a major role in mitigating climate change: Help the 215,000 private forest landowners in New England apply Exemplary Forestry practices, thereby increasing productivity and the amount of carbon stored in the forest. Then take some of the harvested wood products and engineer them into cross-laminated timbers or glulam beams. Use these engineered products to build tall urban buildings to lock up carbon in the very structure of the building and to reduce concrete and steel emissions. Then sit back and total up the carbon savings; NEFF thinks the result will show that wood and forests can provide a major climate mitigation solution, one that helps to protect the region's natural landscapes while delivering multiple related benefits such as wildlife habitat and clean water.

How big is this climate wedge? Stay tuned: we are working on the exact answer.

Robert Perschel  
Executive Director

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Lauren Owens Lambert



## Visual Tour of Reynolds Family Forest

Except for the images in the *NEFF Initiatives* article, every photo in this newsletter was taken by Lauren Owens Lambert at NEFF's Reynolds Family Forest and in nearby wilderness areas in Downeast Maine. Enjoy a visual tour of this beautiful corner of New England!

Lauren Owens Lambert

## NEFF 2019 Awardees

At this summer's Annual Meeting, NEFF presented the long-running Forest Champion Award and Forest Steward Award, as well as two awards that were only unveiled last year: The Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes staff and Board of Directors members who have made exceptional contributions to NEFF for 10 or more years, and Board Service Recognition, which honors outgoing Board members for their dedication to NEFF.

Congratulations to this year's awardees!

**FOREST CHAMPION AWARD**  
**New England Forestry Consultants, Inc.**  
In recognition of exemplary efforts in forest conservation

**FOREST STEWARD AWARD**  
**Mary Devaney**  
In recognition of faithful volunteer service at Norton Memorial Forest

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**  
**Penny Flynn**  
**Rick Weyerhaeuser**

**BOARD SERVICE RECOGNITION**  
**Chip Collins**  
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**Pierrette Kelly**  
**Jonathan Keyes**  
**Mary Ann Norris**  
**Ruth Kennedy Sudduth**  
**Byron Stutzman**

# DOWNEAST CONSERVATION SUCCESS MARKS BEGINNING OF NEW ERA

WRITING BY Tinsley Hunsdorfer  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Lauren Owens Lambert

## Summer 2018: An Early Look at a Remarkable Forest

In the pre-dawn light of a quiet July morning, a group of NEFF staff members drove 25 miles inland from East Machias, a small town on Maine's fog-drenched coast, to a remote forest parcel that borders the Dennys River.

NEFF had just taken possession of the 1,160-acre property in June, and we were excited to explore and photograph what would become NEFF's first Downeast Maine Community Forest.

The property's bumpy forest road took us through a stand of mixed softwoods that showed signs of a harvest conducted by previous owners; some trees towered overhead to catch the rising light, while spring-green, post-harvest saplings remained in the shadows.

We eventually came to a stop at Dead Stream, part of the aquatic habitat that

makes the forest so valuable to wild animals, and were immediately greeted by birdsong and the thrum of insect and amphibian life. Well armed with long sleeves and bug spray, we walked the banks of the sun-dappled stream—which is significantly more attractive than its name suggests—and then made our way to a beaver-made pond.

While we weren't able to access the Dennys River itself during our visit, the water at our feet in these moments connected us to it nonetheless: Dead Stream and the forest parcel's network of ponds and wetlands send water

into the Dennys River, and because it passes through forestland, the water comes out clean and cool. This type of water is exactly the habitat Maine's endangered Atlantic Salmon need, and that morning, it was remarkable to look down at these small NEFF waterways and know they have a part to play in supporting imperiled wildlife.

After taking a last look at the pond's sturdy beaver dam, we walked into the woods, which consist primarily of spruce and fir, with lesser amounts of hemlock, cedar, pine and a variety of hardwoods. We wandered through



Beaver dam at Reynolds Family Forest

## New England Forestry Foundation is pleased to announce the protection of Reynolds Family Forest, the first of two properties featured in our ongoing Downeast Woods and Wildlife project.

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regrowth and older trees alike, admired rock and root formations, searched out mushrooms and moss, noted available timber types, and generally enjoyed being in the woods.

When it came time to pack up for the day, what was our final impression? This was a forest full of potential, and the beginning of a new era at NEFF.

### Reynolds Family Forest Joins Network of NEFF Community Forests

After a year of planning and outreach work, NEFF is ready to unveil this remarkable Downeast Maine forestland, now called the Reynolds Family Forest.

The new forest's name was chosen to honor NEFF founder Harris Reynolds as we celebrate NEFF's 75th anniversary, and in recognition of a generous gift from the Reynolds family to the Downeast Woods and Wildlife project.

Bob Reynolds, Harris Reynolds' grandson, feels the project is a good fit for his family.

"While my grandfather passed away before I was born, as a kid I saw the respect my father and uncle had for his work and for the woodlands he cared so much about," said Bob. "Keeping Harris Reynolds' legacy of conservation and quality forestry alive is important to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Helping NEFF take Exemplary Forestry to Downeast Maine feels like the perfect way to expand on what he started."

By purchasing Reynolds Family Forest, NEFF has taken the exciting first step in implementing our new conservation strategy: pursuing large and select properties to protect through ownership, largely in New England's northern forests. This strategy allows NEFF to help conserve high-priority landscapes and ramp up our practice of Exemplary Forestry.

As a productive forestland and NEFF's first large property in the Acadian Forest region, Reynolds will prove to be a powerful tool for demonstrating Exemplary Forestry at scale. NEFF recently published Exemplary Forestry standards specific to northern New England's Acadian Forest, and we're looking forward to seeing them in action at Reynolds.

Improving and protecting wildlife habitat is a key feature of Exemplary Forestry, and at Reynolds, NEFF is not only contracting with a local forester to prepare a forest management plan that meets all Exemplary Forestry standards, but is also taking additional steps to safeguard critical habitat through conservation easements.

NEFF and Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) have been discussing ways to collaborate on the conservation of Downeast salmon watersheds, and have agreed to place a two-fold conservation easement on Reynolds that DSF will hold. The property's

forested uplands will be subject to a sustainable forestry easement that will allow for Exemplary Forestry, while a riparian buffer easement on the property's freshwater resources will provide special protection to habitat for cold-water fish like salmon and trout. DSF has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to secure funding for the easement through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

This cooperation and watershed-wide approach to conservation exemplify the importance of connections—between people, and between natural areas—to our Downeast work. For example, NEFF is joining with The Conservation Fund, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and DSF to protect a suite of forest properties across the region. In turn, Reynolds Family Forest and these properties will link to lands conserved by NEFF and partners through the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership to create a network of protected, forested waterways that provide safe passage for migrating fish to journey far inland from the sea.

Our thanks to everyone who has joined in this collaborative effort to protect Reynolds Family Forest, and to all who will work to create thriving Downeast watersheds in the months and years to come. 🌱

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If you would like to speak with NEFF staff about our Downeast Woods and Wildlife land protection effort and how you can help achieve its conservation goals, please contact Penny Flynn at [pflynn@newenglandforestry.org](mailto:pflynn@newenglandforestry.org) or 978-952-6856 x101.

# FINANCIAL PROFILE

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, regional and national foundations, and government agency partners, New England Forestry Foundation closed Fiscal Year 2019 with an increase in both total assets (including our conserved land) and financial assets that provide long-term financial stability to the organization.

NEFF's net assets at the end of the year totaled \$37.6 million, including \$28.2 million of land and buildings. The total net assets number represents an increase of \$240,000 over the previous year. NEFF used financial support to achieve its conservation mission, acquiring seven new forested properties, and thus most of the gain now shows in increases in land value. Expenses increased by 3 percent from prior year, due primarily to added staff to enhance our land protection efforts and stewardship of NEFF's lands. The moderate increase in expenses reflects leadership efforts to manage expenses and maintain efficiency, for example through using a leased hybrid vehicle in place of rental cars for staff travel. 🌿



Lauren Owens Lambert

## FY18 & FY19 Consolidated Results

| Sources of Revenue            | AUDITED            | PRELIMINARY         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                               | FYE April 30, 2018 | FYE April 30, 2019* |
| Contributions                 | \$854,330          | \$1,034,157         |
| Grants                        | 467,724            | 744,939             |
| Timber Sales                  | 523,287            | 520,030             |
| Land Contributions (Net)      | 132,400            | 233,704             |
| Investment Income             | 216,538            | 224,021             |
| Other Income                  | 7,953              | 13,970              |
| Sale of Conservation Easement | 945,000            | –                   |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>          | <b>\$3,147,232</b> | <b>\$2,770,821</b>  |

### Expenses

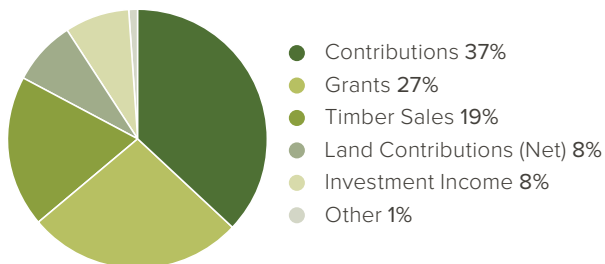
|                            |                    |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Conservation and Education | \$1,929,218        | \$2,075,629        |
| Fundraising                | 493,414            | 448,742            |
| Management and General     | 307,039            | 286,916            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>      | <b>\$2,729,671</b> | <b>\$2,811,287</b> |

### Gains (Losses)

|   |                 |                |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain(loss) on Investments | 746,899         | 297,317        |
| Gain on insurance claim                               | 6,201           | 6,250          |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain(loss) on land sale   | –               | (24,000)       |
| Impairment due to conservation easements              | (770,000)       | –              |
| <b>Total Gains (Losses)</b>                           | <b>(16,900)</b> | <b>279,567</b> |

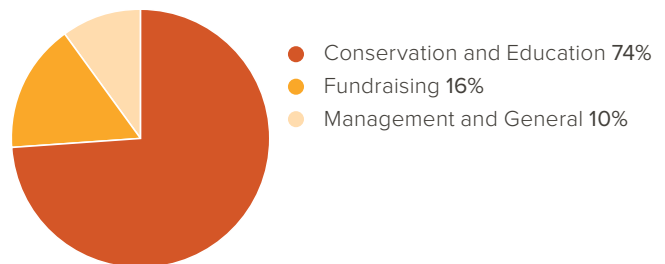
## Revenue FY19

May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019



## Expenses FY19

May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019



### TOTAL NET ASSETS

**\$37,376,752**

**\$37,615,853\***

\*Total Net Assets includes Fixed Assets of \$28,204,702, \$23.7K of which is unrestricted.

At the time of printing, FY 2019 numbers were preliminary pending audit completion. Audited numbers are available upon request.

# CONSERVATION REPORT

## Completed Projects

May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019

| Project Name                                      | Location           | Type  | Acres | Date             |
|---|--------------------|---|-------|------------------|
| Reynolds Family Forest                            | Cooper, ME         |  Community Forest        | 1160  | June 14, 2018    |
| Jack's Brook Forest                               | Erving, MA         |  Community Forest        | 85    | June 1, 2018     |
| Conley Addition to Deland Memorial Forest         | New Boston, NH     |  Community Forest        | 20    | December 1, 2018 |
| Iadarola Addition to Mixer Nields Memorial Forest | Hardwick, MA       |  Community Forest       | 24    | December 1, 2018 |
| True Farm Living Forest Addition                  | Mechanic Falls, ME |  Community Forest      | 25    | January 1, 2019  |
| Poitras I, II & IV                                | Holliston, MA      |  Conservation Easement | 185   | April 22, 2019   |
| Millford Town Forests                             | Milford, NH        |  Conservation Easement | 646   | April 23, 2019   |
| Richard Williams Memorial Forest                  | Hancock, NH        |  Community Forest      | 272   | April 30, 2019   |
| Christian Stroop Memorial Forest                  | Grafton, NH        |  Community Forest      | 75    | June 4, 2019     |

## Project Highlights

### REYNOLDS FAMILY FOREST

Acquisition of this 1,160-acre tract protects high-quality, productive forestland and valuable wildlife habitat along the Dennys River, one of seven rivers used by Atlantic Salmon in Maine and a long-standing focus area for conservation. There is approximately one mile of frontage on the main stream of the Dennys River, and approximately four miles of the tributary Dead Stream flows through the forest. The property also has

an open bog and a significant deer wintering area in a part of Maine where deer are scarce. Previously owned and managed by a timber company, Reynolds' most recent harvest occurred in 2014–2015. The forest shows good regeneration of white pine and other valuable species, and NEFF will not conduct harvests for a number of years to allow these trees to mature. See pages 3–4 for more information on how the Reynolds Family Forest is the beginning of a new era for NEFF.

### JACK'S BROOK FOREST

This 85-acre hillside woodlot in Erving, MA, contains exceptional-quality timber. Its last harvest occurred 20–25 years prior to NEFF's purchase, and the forest is comprised mainly of red oak, white pine and hemlock in mixed sizes and age classes. There is no road frontage, but NEFF holds a right of way for forest management and future public access. Jack's Brook forms the eastern property boundary, and flows into the Millers River about a mile downstream.





Dead Stream at Reynolds Family Forest. Photo by Lauren Owens Lambert

### **CONLEY ADDITION TO DELAND MEMORIAL FOREST**

Patrick Conley, the owner of a 20-acre woodlot that abuts NEFF's Deland Memorial Forest, contacted the New Boston conservation commission about donating the property to the town. The conservation commission subsequently contacted NEFF to ask about the steps required to make such a gift. The ensuing discussion led to a suggestion that since NEFF's forest virtually surrounded the Conley tract, perhaps a donation to NEFF would make more sense since the land would be protected and the town would not have to spend resources on managing it. Both the commission and Mr. Conley agreed with the suggestion, and Deland Memorial Forest has now grown from 883 to 903 acres.

### **IADAROLA ADDITION TO MIXTER NIELDS MEMORIAL FOREST**

NEFF purchased a 24-acre inholding within our Mixter Nields Memorial Forest from Mr. Iadarola to streamline forest management and harvesting practices.

### **TRUE FARM LIVING FOREST ADDITION**

NEFF staff was contacted by one of our contract foresters regarding a lot adjacent to NEFF's True Farm Living Forest; the lot's owner was interested in selling, and NEFF proceeded with the purchase to expand the existing 150-acre True Farm Forest, which has been managed by NEFF since 1971 and supports a well-stocked white pine forest, with lesser amounts of hardwood.

### **POITRAS I, II & IV**

NEFF now holds conservation restrictions on three land parcels owned by Jim and Pat Poitras; the couple plans to donate this land to Mass Audubon through their estates, and NEFF will continue to hold the restrictions when Mass Audubon turns the parcels into a public sanctuary that promotes native wildlife habitat. The properties form a protected and largely forested corridor of land in a heavily suburban town, are adjacent to additional town conservation lands, and are located near Mass Audubon's Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **MILFORD TOWN FORESTS**

The Town of Milford has chosen to permanently protect two of its existing town forests by donating a conservation easement to NEFF. The Hitchiner Town Forest is 194 acres and the Mile Slip Town Forest is 452 acres. Both properties are managed primarily for recreation, timber, and educational programs. The Hitchiner Town Forest is currently managed under a 2008 Forest Management Plan completed by New England Forestry Consultants, and the Mile Slip Town Forest is currently managed under a 2014 Forest Management Plan completed by Bay State Forestry. Both properties are completely forested with the exception of 12 acres of fields on the Hitchiner Town Forest. The town has recently conducted harvests, including harvests to generate early successional habitats.

### **RICHARD WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FOREST**

This 272-acre woodlot came to NEFF through a gift annuity from longtime NEFF supporter Barbara Campbell. Twenty-five years before making this gift, Mrs. Campbell donated conservation easements on the land to NEFF. Ultimately, she wished for NEFF to own the property outright in order to continue the legacy of Exemplary Forest management she established over more than 40 years of ownership. The woodlots have high-quality forest soils that are growing fine stands of red oak and white pine, and include a substantial sugarbush leased to an abutter.

### **CHRISTIAN STROOP MEMORIAL FOREST**

Christian Stroop generously bequeathed the historic Peter Bullock House and its surrounding forestlands to NEFF upon his death. In keeping with Christian's wishes, the sale of the house will fund further conservation, while NEFF will retain the land as a Community Forest and "manage and preserve it consistent with NEFF's organizational objectives and mission," as Christian put it in a letter explaining his wishes for the land. The forest has a mix of white pine, hemlock, and hardwoods, and the trees display good growth and are generally straight and fairly tall. The property provides beautiful views of Mount Cardigan. In spring 2020, NEFF will install and dedicate a hand-crafted bench to Christian's memory in a setting that offers visitors an opportunity to take in that view. 🌿

# NEFF INITIATIVES

## 1 ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILY'S LAND

NEFF Landowner Outreach Coordinator Lisa Hayden reflects on the challenges and rewards of protecting family land, and the progress NEFF has made in helping landowners.

**WRITING BY** Lisa Hayden



NEFF Landowner Outreach Coordinator Lisa Hayden explores land once owned by her family that is now protected by a land trust. Photo by Ken Heidel

From the brow of the hill, when the leaves are off the trees, you can see the silver glint of the brook twisting S-like through bogs and a small grove of white cedars. It courses through the swamp and the mill pond before tumbling over rocks in a break of the earthen levee at the old saw mill site—no longer standing—where my great grandfather hauled timber with a team of horses from the woodlot across the road.

Walking down the gently sloping hill to the fallow field that was my dad's vegetable garden for five decades, you might spot a Mallard with a half dozen ducklings floating down the stream in spring, or a row of turtles sunning themselves on a downed log at the edge of the pond in summer. Moths, butterflies and dragonflies alight on the little

bluestem grasses that grow in sandy soil. Bluebirds visit, Turkey Vulture nest in a big pine snag and owls hoot at night.

This is the place where I was lucky enough to grow up: a 50-acre former sheep and poultry farm owned for generations of my family in East Putnam, Connecticut. The conservation of 30 forested acres of this land in 2014 was the realization of a goal held passionately by my family, and the result of a deep love we all had for this place.

But it wasn't simple. My parents had left everything equally to their five children—including the land. This was fair, but without a plan for disposition of the property that would allow the whole to be valued as more than the sum of five parts. Even though we didn't all have the

same vision, luckily, there was a willingness among my siblings to communicate. It took more than two years for us to come up with a plan to split the old farm property into multiple uses, keeping some land in the family for those who wanted it, but selling the old home and barn. The compromise left enough forest to set aside a permanently protected wildlife corridor owned by the Wyndham Land Trust, thanks to the altruism of my sister and her partner, who were able to buy out the other siblings and then donate about 30 acres for conservation.

My family's experience has made my work on landowner outreach for New England Forestry Foundation all the more meaningful. Since joining NEFF's staff five years ago, I've shared my family's story with other landowners who nod knowingly because their family faces similar challenges.

Collaborating with the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership and

The conservation of 30 forested acres of this land in 2014 was the realization of a goal held passionately by my family, and the result of a deep love we all had for this place.

American Forest Foundation, NEFF conducted a multi-year project in the MassConn Woods—38 towns straddling the northeastern Connecticut and central Massachusetts border—to test a variety of tactics for reaching and engaging with woodland owners in decisions about their land.

In addition to outreach about conservation, forestry and estate planning, since 2016 the project has incorporated visits by foresters trained in climate change adaptation. With support from two grants, NEFF and partners have so far conducted 90 visits to private owners of more than 5,500 acres to provide climate-informed forestry advice to help woodlands remain resilient in the face of changing conditions. We've also connected owners to funding opportunities to make conservation more feasible.

NEFF will soon share a report on outreach learnings from our MassConn Woods experience and is now focused

on expanding communications about climate-informed forest management to the Berkshires and The Last Green Valley further into Connecticut.

Forestry offers rich opportunity for conservation, but we need to do more to help landowners take action sooner. If you and your family are thinking about your land's future, great resources are available at [newenglandforestry.org/learn/resources/landowners](https://newenglandforestry.org/learn/resources/landowners) such as MassWoods, the guide "Protecting the Land You Love," and My Land Plan, a website where owners can connect with professionals and begin planning to meet the needs of their families while also protecting the land that they love.

I'm grateful to have met so many landowners who are passionate about their land. It's incredibly rewarding to help other owners understand their options and ultimately realize their goals.



RIGHT: A portion of Lisa's family lands are now set aside as a permanently protected wildlife corridor owned by Wyndham Land Trust.  
ABOVE: A stump in Hayden Preserve.  
Photos by Lisa Hayden



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### POOLED TIMBER INCOME FUND

NEFF is poised to break new ground in land conservation with the launch of the Pooled Timber Income Fund (PTIF), which took place in early 2019. Both The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and NEFF have leased land to the fund; this participation shows support for the PTIF from trusted nonprofit organizations and helps give it recognition as a viable conservation tool. Making a pool of TNC and NEFF lands available from the start will also help ensure income to participating landowners even in the PTIF's early stages.

#### The PTIF launched in 2019

Currently, two individual landowners are in the process of joining the PTIF and due diligence to bring their properties into the fund is underway. With the back-office systems in place for the PTIF, the program is ready to grow and assist landowners who would like to conserve their land with the benefit of a steady annual lifetime income. Other land trusts have expressed interest in participating in the PTIF, and NEFF has partnered with the Oregon Community Foundation to create a bi-coastal effort in spreading this new conservation tool across the nation.

In the coming year, NEFF will continue its public outreach efforts in order to bring more land donors into the PTIF. An informative PTIF brochure is now in production for mailings to landowners, and staff members will continue making landowner visits and giving presentations across New England. Their efforts will include the 2019 Land Trust Alliance Rally, where the PTIF will be a part of a workshop about new conservation finance ideas.



Pollux Chung

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## BUILD IT WITH WOOD

NEFF's Build It With Wood program seeks to advance mass timber construction in New England, and to ensure that new wood buildings use sustainably produced New England wood products. Tall wood buildings are under construction or in use around the world, using new approaches that allow lumber to be assembled into large and stunningly strong panels. These "plyscrapers" have much lower carbon footprints than comparable steel and concrete buildings, and are easier to construct in dense urban areas as they require less material, produce less noise, and contribute less to traffic congestion due to their smaller staging area.

NEFF's Exemplary Forestry approach lies at the heart of the Build It With Wood program, aiming to ensure that wood for tall wood buildings is drawn from forests managed to maintain wildlife habitat and maximize storage of carbon in the trees of the working forest. This ties our historic expertise in forestry to the needs of 21st century society. In partnership with the University of Massachusetts and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, NEFF is currently documenting how the climate benefits of mass timber construction are affected by the source of the timber and how it is harvested. In the months to come, we will use the

results of this work to estimate the potential climate benefits of both widespread application of Exemplary Forestry and eventually the benefits of expanded mass timber construction relying on wood from forests managed to those standards.

This fall, NEFF will launch its Forest-to-Cities Climate Challenge to build a community of partners working to bring mass timber construction to our cities and to ensure it is sourced from local, sustainable wood. The challenge will seek to create informal linkages among forest landowners, manufacturers, architects, engineers, developers and investors to create a carbon value chain linking our cities back to the rural forests of the region, thereby helping connect urban audiences to the vital roles that our forests play in regional sustainability.

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## WESTERN MAINE BID PROCESS

In Western Maine, NEFF is launching an innovative approach to Exemplary Forest management in the Mountains of the Dawn. NEFF and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be implementing a \$1.5 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to provide private landowners in the Western Maine Mountains with partial funding to start using Exemplary Forestry techniques.

Over the past fiscal year, NEFF developed the work plan that lays out the tasks and schedule for NEFF to deliver habitat improvements to landowners, and refined the NRCS scenarios and practices to use to achieve the goals. As an example, one scenario a landowner could adopt is thinning for wildlife habitat, which has the dual purpose of increasing complexity of the structure of the forest and increasing the variety of habitats across the landscape. The technical application of the RCPP project will be overseen by NEFF Ecologist Carla Fenner, who will also serve as the NRCS liaison for the project. Fenner and NEFF Western Maine Project Coordinator Christine Parrish, who will initiate and implement Exemplary Forestry outreach and communication efforts across Western Maine's Mountains of the Dawn, joined the NEFF team in May 2019. Both will also be responsible for additional projects outside of Maine, including working on the Build It With Wood initiative.

NEFF also completed its Habitat Analysis for Western Maine, which identifies 14 high-priority habitat needs in the Mountains of the Dawn, including identifying species affected and the forest management response necessary to repair the problem. This work represents the first-ever landscape scale assessment of habitat needs combined with specific prescriptions for forestry practices to close identified gaps. The Habitat Analysis will be used to inform the RCPP effort.

One of the high-priority needs identified in the analysis, for example, is the lack of large, old trees and late successional forests in the region—old trees make up just 3 percent of northern hardwood stands and 2 percent of softwood stands, yet are key to achieving a complex stand structure and associated wildlife habitat benefits. 🌿

# OUR DONORS

MAY 1, 2018–APRIL 30, 2019

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. While we have listed gifts and grants of \$100 or more, we want you to know that every gift is important to us and helps us fulfill our mission.

## Harris Reynolds Society

### \$25,000 OR MORE

Anonymous (3)  
Mr. Robert W. Ackerman  
Mr. Philip Y. DeNormandie  
Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Foundation  
Mr. Timothy A. Ingraham  
Mr. Jonathan Keyes  
Lennox Foundation  
Lookout Foundation  
Maine Community Foundation – NEFF Conservation Easement Monitoring Fund  
Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust  
Tracy Moskowitz and Bambi Jones  
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Summer Hill Foundation  
The Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment  
The Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation  
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