

INTO THE WOODS

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION | WINTER 2018

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**NEW ENGLAND
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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,

Forest time. It takes some effort to understand and put our lives and needs in the context of the age of trees and the cycles of a forest. That's what foresters learn to do.

"Stand still...

No two trees are the same to Raven.

No two branches are the same to Wren.

If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,

You are surely lost."

—David Wagoner

We are pressed to pay attention to every small thing in the forest, what it does, what it may do and how it is hooked to everything else.

Then we need to stand back... way back... and consider everything, small and large, within a sweep of time that runs beyond our lives, beyond our generation into the lives of trees and evolving forests and the generations that will follow us. NEFF's new Exemplary Forestry standards, the topic of this issue's lead article, takes this same long-term, holistic view of forests and applies it to forest management.

NEFF has managed forests for 75 years, and I marked my first stand of trees as a young forester 40 years ago. A lot has changed since those beginnings, a time when we were unaware of the threat posed by a changing climate and did not envision the large-scale change of ownership facing New England's forests. What NEFF did have was a set of scientific principles that allowed us to practice a kind of forestry that produced exemplary results and prioritized the long-term health of forests. For decades, NEFF has repeatedly used these principles on its Community Forests and now, as they say, the "proof is in the pudding."

We're proud of what we have accomplished over the years and recognize the accomplishments of other landowners who have applied the same practices. Yet, there are many approaches to forestry that claim to be sustainable and their results are very, very different. How will the public know NEFF's work in the woods is sufficient to stem climate change and protect wildlife habitat while still producing material for tall engineered wood buildings?

We recently decided it was time to distinguish the kind of forestry NEFF practices from others. We coined the term Exemplary Forestry and distilled a set of measurable outcomes down to one page. This approach has, over time, produced stocking of 33 cords per acre across our properties—double the average level in the state of Maine, as one comparison point. In an era of climate change it has become increasingly important to keep a high stocking of carbon in the form of forests' trees and soil while producing green products that can replace carbon-intensive materials like concrete, steel and plastic. Exemplary Forestry accomplishes these twin goals and its standards provide the assurance that the public needs to trust our management.

We are now using these clear standards as a foundation for the management of our Community Forests and the forestry practiced as part of NEFF programs like Build It With Wood and the Pooled Timber Income Fund. We also encourage other landowners to join with us to keep the standards of New England forestry high and give the public assurance that forestry is key to adapting to and mitigating climate change.

Robert Perschel
Executive Director

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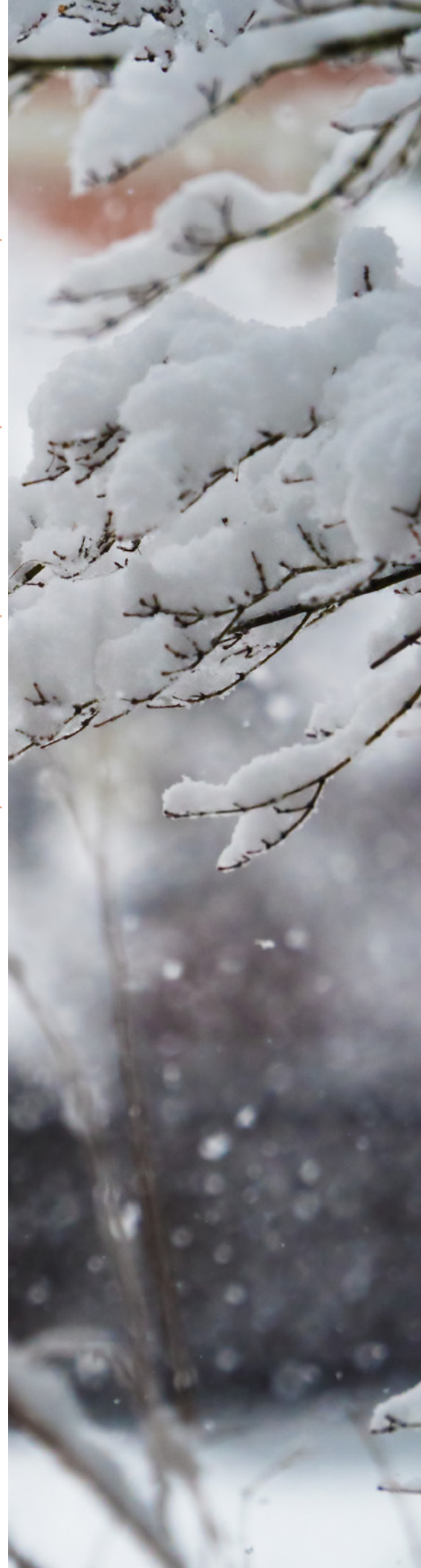
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SECURING SQUAM LAKES' FOREST JEWEL

Thank you for your
continued support!

We hope you will consider NEFF in your year-end giving.
Every donation is important to New England's forests.



WHAT IS EXEMPLARY FORESTRY AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

An introduction
to NEFF's
high-standards
approach to
sustainable
forest
management



Since NEFF was founded nearly 75 years ago, it has had a twin focus—land conservation and improving forest management. The results of our perspective on forest management are clear: after decades of management and multiple harvests, NEFF's more than 145 Community Forests have extensive regeneration, large mature trees, and large amounts of wood per acre. NEFF's forests, in other words, are a living example of what New England forests can do for society—produce products, ecosystem services, and scenic beauty all at the same time.

Over the last few years, NEFF has codified our style of management. The results, called Exemplary Forestry, place the principles that have guided NEFF's management into a landscape context. The standards call for management that optimizes the productivity of the forest by maintaining high levels of wood growing on the property, and that provides habitat for certain carefully selected species at a landscape scale.

When we fill the habitat needs for these particular animals we know we are also providing habitat for most other species. These target species are called umbrella species. In northern Maine, for example, lynx and marten are the targeted umbrella species, and when we satisfy their habitat needs, we also preserve habitat for 75 percent of the other species in this landscape. In terms of the amount of wood growing on a property, an Exemplary Forestry approach in northern Maine would maintain about 25 cords of wood per acre. Current levels in northwestern Maine average only about 15 cords per acre, and this reduces the amount of carbon stored in the living forest and the productivity of the forest.

Over time, NEFF aims to demonstrate the value of Exemplary Forestry on our own lands and to help other landowners implement these practices. We hope this article helps clarify the benefits and principles of the practice.

Key Goals

In addition to protecting forests and the many ecosystem services they generally provide, 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 lays out specific and measurable practices to achieve these goals simultaneously, and documents the scientific basis for the approach and the results we expect to achieve.

Exemplary Forestry in the Acadian Forest

New England has more distinct climate zones than most of western Europe, which means Exemplary Forestry practices need to be tailored to the conditions of particular forest regions. NEFF's work to date aims to document two sets of management practices, one that is still under development for southern New England and one that is complete for the Acadian Forest region.

NEFF chose to start with the Acadian Forest—a broad band of forestlands that receives steady rainfall and sweeps across northern New England and then up into Canada—both because of the

depth of experience NEFF staff has there and because it is home to some of the most extensive commercial forest harvesting in the northeastern U.S.

Alec Giffin, NEFF's Maine Representative and Senior Advisor and a past director of the Maine Forest Service, has led the project. Alec started with known habitat needs for two wide-ranging species of the Acadian Forest—the American Marten and Canada Lynx. Working with leading forest scientists, Alec led a comparison of those habitats with the needs of other vertebrates native to the region, and then worked with NEFF employee Mike Pouch to analyze the actual habitats that currently exist. The Exemplary Forestry standards are intended to correct the imbalance between needed and existing habitats, and then to maintain the needed habitats into the future. This analysis revealed existing conditions do not match well with the recommendations of forest science. For example, existing stand size-class distributions are deficient in larger diameter stands (see the report mentioned below for details).

Alec and NEFF Executive Director Bob Perschel recently coauthored the project's final 27-page report, "Exemplary Forestry for the 21st Century: Managing the Acadian Forest for Bird's



Feet and Board Feet at a Landscape Scale.” This was the culmination of a two-year process of research and analysis. The full report is available at newenglandforestry.org/connect/publications/forestry-guides.

Landscape-scale Management

Region-specific standards aren't the only way Exemplary Forestry ties individual properties to the wider world. It's designed to balance 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. We view these goals in the context of at least a township in settled portions of New England and several townships in areas of big woods.

This landscape-scale approach to management is part of what sets Exemplary Forestry apart from other forestry methods, and is a particularly important part of protecting ecosystem services and improving wildlife

habitat—forests and wild animals are unconcerned with property lines, after all.

Next Steps

The Acadian Forest region encompasses the Downeast Maine forestlands NEFF is currently working to protect, and we are committed to managing them to the high standards set by Exemplary Forestry. These parcels will be among the largest NEFF owns, which means they provide an exciting opportunity to demonstrate Exemplary Forestry at scale to other forest owners. 🌱

GLOSSARY

If you're unfamiliar with the technical aspects of forestry, this glossary may prove useful when reading the following one-page Exemplary Forestry overview.

B-line stocking: *The number of trees per acre for any given mean diameter that results in trees having no crown competition, but also no wasted space.*

Best Management Practices: *Guidelines for how to conduct an activity in an environmentally responsible manner, such as installing drainage control on a forest road. Best management practices are typically defined by state agencies in each state.*

Board foot: The surface measure of a cubic volume of lumber that is equivalent to a rough sawn board one inch thick and one square foot in surface area.

Cord: *The volume of wood equivalent to that found in firewood stacked 4'x4'x8', or 128 cubic feet of wood.*

Even-aged management: A timber management method that produces a forest or stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. The difference in age between trees forming the main canopy level of a stand usually does not exceed 20 percent of the age of the stand at rotation age.

Forest stand: A community of trees occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age, arrangement, and condition as to be distinguishable from the forest on adjacent areas.

Pole timer: A Dbh* size class representing trees that are usually more than four inches Dbh but less than ten.

Saplings: A user-defined term that generally refers to a tree at least six feet tall but with a Dbh less than five inches.

Sawtimber: Trees that have obtained a minimum Dbh that can be felled and processed into sawlogs.

Seedlings: A user-defined term that generally refers to trees less than 4.5 feet tall.

Silviculture: The art and science of growing forest timber and other values.

Stocking: *Amount of wood growing on a given area of land, calculated based on the number of trees per unit area and their combined basal area. Stocking is typically measured as volume per unit of area, for example cords per acre, and is typically used to compare current levels of growing timber on a property to a management goal.*

Third-party certification: *An official review of management practices on a particular property by an independent body for adherence to standards for sustainability.*

Uneven-aged or all-aged management: A timber management method that produces a stand composed of a wide range of ages and sizes.

Wood quality: *Higher-quality timber includes logs suitable for veneer and sawlogs without significant defects like knots. Lower-quality timber includes pulpwood and, at the extreme end, wood suitable only to be used as fuel or ground for mulch.*

NEFF staff provided the italicized definitions, and non-italicized definitions were taken from Thom J. McEvoy's *Introduction to Forest Ecology and Silviculture-Third Edition*. *Note: Dbh is an abbreviation for "diameter at breast height," or 4.5 feet above ground.

If you'd like to get a feel for the technical details of Exemplary Forestry, NEFF's forestry experts have distilled the Acadian Forest practices into an overview that describes how they should be implemented and lists landscape-specific standards and metrics. Most of this overview is included below, but the complete document and its citations are available at newenglandforestry.org/connect/publications/forestry-guides.



DEFINING EXEMPLARY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE ACADIAN REGION

These guidelines are intended to be implemented in the context of the landscapes where NEFF's lands occur. Thus, for example, one kind of habitat may be missing in a particular landscape and quite a different habitat in another landscape. Likewise, maintaining connectivity between habitats across the landscape is also important and will influence implementation on any given parcel. In addition to implementing these standards, NEFF intends to maintain dual third-party certification of its lands. With these understandings, Exemplary Forestry includes:

IMPLEMENTING ADVANCED SILVICULTURE

Practicing forestry which results in:

- a. Continuously improving forest stands over time in terms of both quality and quantity.
- b. Conditions which are well suited to the umbrella wildlife species known to be representative of the habitat needs of more than 75% of native species.

Umbrella Wildlife Species	Percent of Landscape	Forest Stand Condition Described
American Marten	16%	Blocks of at least 640 acres that are at least 80% stocked at over 80 ft ² of basal area per acre (approximately 16 cords/acre)
Canada Lynx	27%	Even aged blocks ≥15 acres in size, which are regenerated to spruce and fir on a revolving schedule.

- c. A diverse size class distribution of 5-15% of stands in seedlings, 30-40% in saplings and poles, 40-50% sawtimber (including 10% of the total area in large diameter multi-storied stands—note 9% of NEFF's existing lands are, or will become, such stands over time).
- d. Growing tree species well suited to each site, e.g., matched to soil and physiographic conditions as well as expected changes in climatic conditions.
- e. Stocking that fully occupies the sites; this is an average at least "B" line stocking for stands not currently being regenerated. For example, in 8-10" diameter stands of mixed wood this would be approximately 20 cords/acre.
- f. Growing and harvesting quality timber at an average of 0.5 cords/acre/year, and targeting increasing the stocking of high-quality products.

IMPLEMENTING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Employing accepted "Best Management Practices" to protect soils, riparian and aquatic habitat, special habitats, wildlife trees, and more.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Addressing climate change as the knowledge base becomes available, and increasing the resilience to, adaptation for, and mitigation of, climate change. This includes but is not limited to using forests and forest products to sequester more carbon, and substituting forest products for steel and concrete, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

DIVERSIFYING MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

To the extent that site conditions and the landscape context allow, NEFF intends to manage significant portions of its properties using both the even- and uneven-aged management approaches.

AESTHETICS

Public support for forest management depends in part on how forests look. In this regard, NEFF intends to manage its lands to maximize aesthetic benefits particularly in key areas—like attractive roadsides, trails and shorelines—and minimize adverse effects like careless-looking harvests.

Note: These standards are intended to be refined as scientific knowledge improves.



WOODLAND NARRATIVES

NEFF uses conservation easements to protect a diverse array of private lands. Learn what sets a particular Massachusetts property apart.

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY Tinsley Hunsdorfer

Four generations of Alan Field's family have explored and nurtured their 200-acre Valley Farm woodland in Shirley, Massachusetts. For the past 10 years, another multi-generational family has joined them—a family of industrious beavers.

On a recent crisp October afternoon, Alan Field met a few NEFF staff members at a historic house that sits near the wilder stretches of Valley Farm forest. Once everyone had strapped on their boots, he led the way into the trees.

The group trekked up a ravine carpeted in fallen yellow leaves, dropped into drainages to explore beaver dams topped by prickly greenery, and walked

along trails shaded by well-managed woods. All the while, Alan told stories about the land and explained how welcoming a beaver population was in keeping with long-held family values.

While Alan, his two siblings, and their respective families now share property ownership and management, these stories and values have their beginnings in the previous generation.

"Our father, Hermann Field, bought the then 110-acre property in 1932 for \$3,000, which his uncle considered a foolish and reckless expenditure," said Alan. "It was a bargain in retrospect, and our father's love of the wildlife and the land nurtured him throughout his long life."

Over the years, Hermann purchased abutting land threatened by development or degradation to build up Valley Farm to 200 acres, and in 1980, he established its first forest management plan.

"Our primary interests have been to maintain the health of the forest, maintain it as a wildlife area, and sequester carbon in the trees," said Alan. "We also realize the carbon-sequestering value of producing local lumber for local use, and have held a number of limited wood harvests."



Great Blue Herons reuse the nests in Valley Farm's rookery each breeding season



Beaver lodge

New England Forestry Foundation entered the picture in 1989, when the family put Valley Farm's first parcel of land under a conservation easement with NEFF; they went on to place two more parcels under NEFF easements in 1995 and 1998.

Around 2008, the story of Valley Farm became a little less human-centric—the beavers had moved in, and immediately began to leave their mark. Over the subsequent 10 years, they transformed a winding stream and its nearby forestland into a vibrant wetland complex by constructing a series of more than 10 sturdy dams—some of them dozens of feet in length—and a tiered pool system that now supports multiple beaver lodges.

This activity posed a potential conflict between the family's dual management goals of wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration—carbon-storing trees were lost to the wetlands—but the Fields have found a balance by focusing on sequestration in the still heavily forested portions of their land while leaving the waterways to the beavers.

Balance has been found in other ways, too. Many of the trees claimed by expanding waters still stand tall over the wetlands, where they also continue to store some carbon, and their bare trunks and branches have been repurposed by stately Great Blue Herons as a rookery, a communal nesting site they return to year after year.

"The beavers have benefited the area in many ways, including providing heron habitat, slowing runoff, retaining ground water and creating ponds rich with wildlife from frogs to waterfowl," Alan explained.

The Fields plan to continue providing habitat and haven to native wildlife while enjoying the property as a family. Alan particularly enjoyed a recent kid-centric gathering.

"I am so happy when I see young members of our family exploring and enjoying the place," said Alan. "Given the environmental challenges we face now and in the future, I think it is super important that young people experience nature and form a bond with it so they reach adulthood as advocates for the environment—and places like Valley Farm." 🌿

NEFF AND THE POWER OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WRITING BY Andrew Bentley

Land conservation is popularly associated with well-known parks owned by government agencies or non-profit land trusts, and NEFF itself owns more than 145 Community Forests that total more than 27,000 acres. However, we can also effectively protect vital forestland without owning the property through the use of conservation easements.

At their core, conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a conservation organization that provide permanent land protection, while allowing the original owner to keep their land and pass it on via sale or inheritance. They typically limit or prohibit future development in favor of preserving the natural resources and conservation attributes of the property. Land protection organizations have conserved more acreage nationwide through easements than ownership, and NEFF is in line with this trend. Through the 147 easements we hold, NEFF is providing protection to 1.1 million acres of forestland.

NEFF views conservation easements as an essential tool that results in inspiring partnerships with private landowners. These relationships advance a shared vision of healthy and protected New England forests, and our easement terms are uniquely designed to meet the needs of each landowner and enable sustainable forestry. Staff members visit each property annually to track changes on the land and learn about recent management activities and the owners' goals for the forest. In turn, NEFF staff members are available throughout the year to answer landowners' questions and provide advice.

Learn more at newenglandforestry.org/learn/land-conservation.



CONSERVING ATLANTIC SALMON

WRITING BY Will Brune PHOTOGRAPHY BY Lauren Owens Lambert

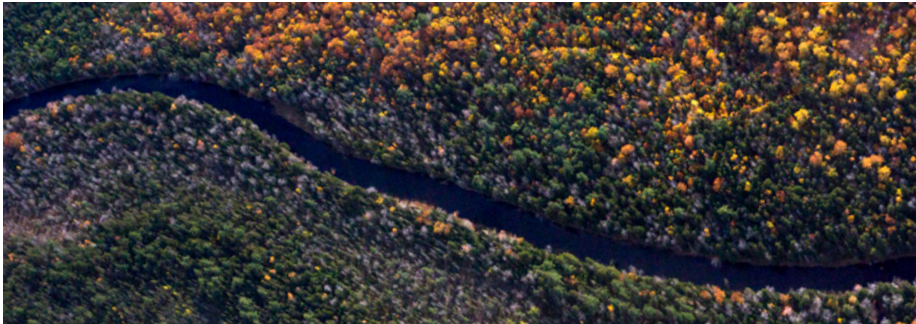
Atlantic Salmon swimming up a Downeast Maine river in fall 2018

Learn about
the imperiled
salmon at the
heart of NEFF's
Downeast
Woods and
Wildlife Project

As the summer 2018 issue of *Into the Woods* reported, NEFF is currently working to protect more than 3,200 acres of Downeast Maine forestland that provide critical cold-water habitat to Atlantic Salmon along the Dennys River. Learn more about the species' conservation history in Maine and its dependence on healthy forests in this piece from Will Brune, a serious and sustainable fishing aficionado as well as NEFF's Director of Land Protection.

As described in Ed Baum's book, *Atlantic Salmon: A National Treasure*, the first rod and reel catch of an Atlantic Salmon was on the Dennys River in 1832. For the next 160 years, Downeast Maine's picturesque rivers—such as the Narraguagus, Pleasant, Machias, East Machias and Dennys—provided easy access for fisherman eager to catch salmon of 10 pounds or more.

The salmon in these small coastal rivers only numbered 300-1,500 adults per season, but they were an important part of the local social fabric and certainly were an indicator of a healthy forested watershed. The good times and tight lines continued until the early 1990s, when the runs collapsed due to declining marine survival—the number of salmon that survive their time at sea to return inland and spawn—and other inland issues that degraded crucial river, stream and forest habitat. Today, the region's few returning salmon are close to extinction.



Life Cycle of Downeast Salmon

Wild adult Atlantic Salmon begin entering freshwater in the spring, with their numbers usually peaking in June, though in some of the smaller Downeast rivers, the salmon wait for the fall rains before migrating upstream to spawn in early November. They prefer small cobble substrate usually found in the cooler waters high up in the watersheds. The eggs hatch the following April as fry and then grow to the parr and smolt stage over the next several years before they head out to the Gulf of Maine and eventually to Greenland before returning to their natal river to complete their life cycle.

Endangered Species Listing

In 2000, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment of Atlantic Salmon as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The two agencies are jointly responsible for the recovery of this population of Atlantic Salmon. The Maine Department of Marine Resources also manages the species.

One hundred years of experience and many mistakes have proven that restoring Atlantic Salmon will not be as simple as restoring Bald Eagles. A single Maine Atlantic Salmon utilizes habitat that stretches from far inland Maine to the coast of Greenland in a period of just four years. Of Maine's 12 species of migratory fish, only the American Eel can claim to have as long a journey—and they're not doing so well either.

Maine's salmon are still hanging on, however. The largely forested landscape of Downeast Maine still

supports dozens of coolwater tributaries to rivers like the Dennys, Machias and Narraguagus, where salmon spawning redds—or nests—are still counted in the fall by fisheries technicians. Organizations like the Downeast Salmon Federation are working to bring salmon numbers up, and NEFF is joining in by helping to protect and restore forest habitat along the Dennys River.

Over time, experts have come to realize that where there are healthy salmon populations, there are healthy forests. Certainly, work to protect the forested salmon watersheds is paying dividends for smelt, shad, and river herring, and with an improvement in marine survival for salmon and continued restoration of inland habitat, conservationists are hopeful their abundance will return to Downeast Maine as well.

Healthy forests provide filtered, clean, cool water to rivers as well as nutrients in the form of leaves and wood of various sizes. In return, the resident and sea-run fish that come in droves in the spring bring fresh nutrients far inland for the benefit of all wildlife along river corridors.

In short, healthy forests and intact watersheds are key to protecting salmon and the health of the Downeast watersheds. Only a continued, proactive approach to forest and salmon protection can halt the decline of salmon and all the benefits this species provides. 🌿



SECURING SQUAM LAKE

NEFF and partners recently celebrated 65 years of conservation success in the

WRITING BY Frank Lowenstein **PHOTOGRAPHY BY** Tinsley Hunsdorfer

The Squam Lakes sit just south of the rugged southern ramparts of the White Mountain National Forest. Reflections of the forested slopes of Mounts Whiteface, Osceola, and Passaconaway shimmer off the lake's waters, which draw visitors from around the world. Famously, the 1981 blockbuster *On Golden Pond* was filmed here, starring Katherine Hepburn, Henry Fonda, and his daughter Jane Fonda, who played the role of their fictional daughter. Like Jane Fonda, Squam Lake pretty much played itself—appearing as a beautiful and beloved New England pond.

New England Forestry Foundation has had a role in conservation of the lake and its watershed since 1953, when John Wister donated the Chamberlain Reynolds Memorial Forest to NEFF—the first conservation land along the lake

and indeed in the entire watershed. The property encompasses a peninsula that reaches out into the lake, giving it nearly a mile of shoreline. Coves along its shore give a feeling of seclusion, and the forest tends to tall pines, oaks and hemlocks that provide a shady and peaceful context. All summer long campers occupy tent sites managed by Squam Lakes Association (SLA), part of a decades long partnership with NEFF. Swimmers and boaters flock to the publicly accessible beaches on the lake along the property's southwest edge. Many forms of wildlife make their homes there, including loons that regularly nest in Heron Cove.

On October 20, 2018, the Squam Lakes community joined NEFF staff and Board of Directors members to celebrate the Chamberlain Reynolds Memorial

Forest as another step was taken to safeguard the land. John Wister's 1953 deed to NEFF was vague and at times contradictory as to his intent. In September, NEFF voluntarily registered a Declaration of Trust with the State of New Hampshire, committing NEFF to never develop the property and pledging to keep the property in its natural state, just as the organization has done for the past 65 years.

"NEFF has once again proven they are conservation leaders and terrific partners," said Roger Larochelle, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS). "This Declaration of Trust settles any lingering question of limited development, and ensures this property will remain an iconic and invaluable natural treasure for all."



KES' FOREST JEWEL

Squam Lakes Region.

Today, thanks to private conservation efforts led by groups such as SLCS, land conservation in the watershed has blossomed. Fully 30 percent of Squam's land is now permanently conserved. Many of those conserved lands offer breathtaking views of the lake and its mountainous backdrop. West Rattlesnake Mountain, for example, provides a near view of the lake from ledges a few hundred feet above the water—attracting hikers and photographers year-round. NEFF's lands in the watershed are also heavily visited. These four NEFF forests and their vistas are well worth exploring: Whitten Woods Community Forest high on the watershed's western edge, the Newsome and Stevens Community Forests that front on Little Squam Lake, and Chamberlain Reynolds Community Forest—considered by many to be



Left: NEFF President Philip DeNormandie and Roger Laroche shake hands to commemorate Chamberlain Reynolds Declaration of Trust. **Below:** Descendants of NEFF founder Harris Reynolds joined the celebration.



the crown jewel of the watershed's conservation lands.

NEFF's properties also show just what Exemplary Forestry can do. For example, NEFF has conducted 10 harvests at Chamberlain Reynolds since 1953, extracting 1.1 million board feet of lumber, an amount that could build 22 single-family homes. Yet the property today has a third more standing timber on it than when it was donated, and looks nearly undisturbed. When one walks the property, magnificent pines and oaks shadow the trails leading to the beaches. Hemlocks that germinated before the American Revolution cling to boulders and wait their own turns in the canopy. Pines that reached the end of their natural life span and died in place now provide homes for woodpeckers, owls and other birds that nest in cavities. Here and there, interpretive signs identify the sites of previous

harvests where the growth of the next generation of trees is already underway. A boardwalk crosses a pristine and rare shrub swamp, full of plants that one doesn't find in most nurseries, such as leatherleaf and maleberry. And along the property's beaches in fall one can read the history of the wind and the trees, as leaves of different species wash up in distinct bands, reflecting different winds and waves when each species' leaves fell into the water.

Across the watershed at its western edge, Whitten Woods is NEFF's

largest property in the Squam region, encompassing 577 acres. Again, partnership was key to conservation. NEFF joined with Squam Lakes Conservation Society to protect the property, and SLCS holds and monitors conservation easements on NEFF's lands at the site. From the access point on Highland Street not far from the Ashland exit off Interstate 93, trails maintained by SLA lead quickly to a high vista looking northeast to the Squam Lakes and the mountains beyond. Here the forest is young, and heavy to regenerating birch and maple;

In the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, NEFF protects 10 Community Forests totaling 5,045 acres, and another 1,989 acres of conservation easements, a great example of the success of private conservation.



Today, 30 percent of Squam's land is now permanently conserved, offering breathtaking views of the lake and its mountainous backdrop.

NEFF's management will aim to restore the productive capacity of a landscape heavily harvested by previous owners. The trails offer more rigor than the relatively flat, needle-covered paths that lead one through Chamberlain Reynolds Community Forest. A lumpy and rocky ridge extends north-south through the center of the property, rising 700 feet from the valley of the Pemigewasset River west of the property. Plans are underway to include an accessible trail to the view sites.

In the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, where the Squam Lakes and Lake Winnepesaukee are merely the largest among many, NEFF protects 10 Community Forests totaling 5,045 acres, and another 1,989 acres of conservation easements, a great example of the success of private conservation. Although the White Mountain National Forest to the north was protected through public action, nearly all the protection in the Squam watershed was accomplished by private non-profit organizations like NEFF that depend on donor generosity for their success. SLCS, SLA, NEFF, New Hampshire Audubon Society, the Forest Society and other groups have created a conservation mosaic that protects the lake and its watershed, preserving water quality and providing access to some of the most breathtaking views in New England. NEFF is proud to be a partner in this effort. 🌿



photo by Ken Macgray

Create a Forest Legacy With New England Forestry Foundation

Your support has helped NEFF to conserve 1.1 million acres of forestland and to continue its innovative work to advance conservation and Exemplary Forestry throughout New England. NEFF supporters include people who have given every year for more than 50 years. Legacy giving can allow your support to extend even further, while providing tax or other benefits to you or your loved ones. There are many giving options available and NEFF staff can help you identify the option that will best assist you in meeting your financial goals while helping to conserve forestland for future generations.

Our newest legacy giving opportunity is the Pooled Timber Income Fund (PTIF), which enables New England landowners to conserve their woodland while receiving lifetime income, as well as tax benefits. Participation in the PTIF guarantees a donor's woodlands would be protected and managed to NEFF's Exemplary Forestry standards. Pages 7–8 of this issue of *Into the Woods* highlight another option for landowners—donating a conservation easement that ensures permanent protection of their woods.

NEFF's staff is happy to talk through your options for planned giving and land management, and to answer any questions. Get in touch today to start the discussion and create a legacy.

Please contact Penny Flynn for more information:
pfflynn@newenglandforestry.org
978.952.6856 ext. 101



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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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