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PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS**

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A Future for Forests

Good foresters do their best to see well into the future. Instead of a crystal ball, we peer into the forest to see not just the mature trees that exist on a woodlot today, but the regeneration potential emerging from the duff—the trees that some future landowner, forester, and logger will manage and may choose to harvest.

Land protection requires similar clairvoyance. As landowners, conservationists, and foresters, we must ask ourselves this question—in 50 or 100 years or longer, what do we want our landscape to look like? Do we want it to still provide us with renewable energy, lumber, and food? How much of our forests will we want to provide recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat? How much clean water will we want and need, and how much of our existing forest must we conserve in order to have that water available a century—or a millennium—from today?

As most Forest Society members know, "New Hampshire Everlasting" is our vision, set forth in 2001 on our 100th anniversary. Among other goals, it suggests conserving up to 25 percent of the land in each town to protect working forest, farmland, water resources, and wildlife habitat.

In a similar vein, earlier this year Harvard Forest put forth a conservation vision called "Wildlands and Woodlands," in which they urge the protection of at least

70 percent of New England's forests. At the national level, the America's Great Outdoors initiative hopes to build on successes at the local level to start a national dialogue about conservation.

Turning these visions into reality, however, requires willing landowners.

In our last fiscal year, the Forest Society completed 29 land protection transactions that protected some 5,500 acres. Often it is the larger acquisitions, such as the 1,750 acres of the Ashuelot Headwaters in Lempster, that grab the headlines. But most of our work—19 of those projects—resulted from the generosity of individuals who want their lands to be part of something bigger than themselves, more enduring than one generation. The real power to protect our landscape comes from people who share that vision and are willing to take action. We salute them.

Jane Difley is the president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.



Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is \$35 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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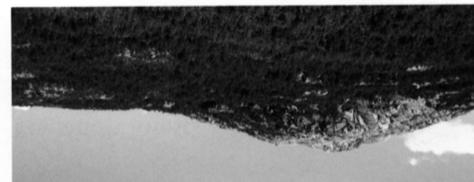


Photo by Joyce El Kouarti.

50 years ago in Forest Notes

In the Summer 1960 issue of Forest Notes, a story by Elmer Munson Hunt called "A Man Who Found a Way" recounts one aspect of Philip Ayres' diligent work to conserve Mount Monadnock. Hunt wrote that it was "...only recently revealed by a careful study of [Ayres] correspondence that these operations involved one of the most interesting and historical and genealogical researches ever attempted..."

Hunt was referring to the realization that in the early 1900s, title to much of the Mount Monadnock land was still legally connected to descendants of original colonial-era Proprietors who had resided in Portsmouth. Ayres' undertaking was to contact "...sixty or more of the individuals ... and deduced their land to the Society. Thus was insured the Monadnock Reservation as it exists today."

Fifty years later, you can read Midge Eliassen's article in this issue about the Forest Society's involvement in Monadnock and other state parks.

During Monadnock Trail Week, Forest Society volunteers and staff remove a boulder from a failed culvert to restore a stream near Mount Monadnock's Hinkley Trail.



Photo by Denise Vaillancourt.

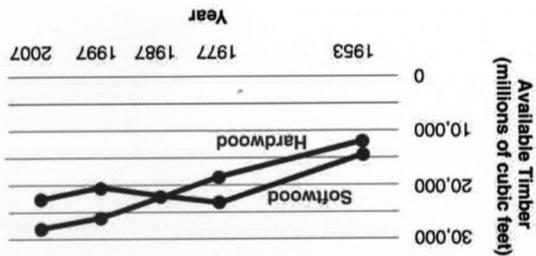
Refreshed Conservation Center

On your next visit to Concord, be sure to stop by the Conservation Center to see the new interpretive exhibit in the lobby. Thanks to the generosity of Forest members and The French Foundation, Bruss Conservation, Harold Janeway, Normanseau Associates, Environmental Consultants, and Orr & Reno Professional Association, the lobby now welcomes visitors with bright photos and text explaining the Forest Society's mission. A touch-screen monitor features a rotating slideshow of our forest reservations, along with an interactive map showing their locations. A second panel interprets the "green building" energy-efficient features of the three wings of the Conservation Center and describes how New Hampshire's forests help combat climate change.



Photo by Jack Savage.

CHANGES IN NEW ENGLAND TIMBER VOLUME



Speaking Volumes

There continues to be much discussion about Harvard Forest's recently released *Wildlands & Woodlands—A Vision for the New England Landscape*. Among the facts and observations cited is this: "The simplistic inclination to increase prohibitions on local management in order to protect nature, rather than keeping our forest tree from development and using much of it in a prudent manner for a broad array of resources, is rightly called 'the illusion of preservation.'" As the adjacent chart (reprinted from research compiled by W. Brad Smith, et al, of the U.S. Forest Service) shows, the net volume of timber growing in New England forests has increased. Growth has kept pace with harvesting for softwood species while hardwood species have grown more rapidly than the rate of harvest.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

David Foster, Harvard Forest

Thoreau's Country: Conserving the New England Landscape

David Foster is director of Harvard Forest and author of multiple books about the history of the forested landscape in New England. Harvard Forest comprises 3,000 acres of land, research facilities, and the Fisher Museum. Here scientists, students, and collaborators explore topic ranging from conservation and environmental change to land use history and the ways in which physical, biological, and human systems interact to change the earth. Harvard Forest recently released a New England-wide conservation vision called *Wildlands and Woodlands*.

Left: Lake Massabesic provides drinking water to 159,000 people.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Space is limited, so please register early! Early bird registration deadline is August 31st.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City/Town _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Evening Phone _____
 Daytime Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____

I (We) plan to attend (Check one or both):

- Annual Meeting & Dinner Early Bird (Register by August 31st) Number in your party: _____ x \$40 = \$ _____
- Annual Meeting & Dinner (Register AFTER August 31st) Number in your party: _____ x \$45 = \$ _____
- Check enclosed (payable to Forest Society) Visa MasterCard

Print Cardholder's Name _____
 Card # _____
 Exp. Date: _____
 Signature: _____

Yes, I would like a vegetarian option for my meal.

Field Trips (Availability is limited, please register early!):

Our 1st Choice is trip # _____ Our 2nd Choice is trip # _____
 Number in your party _____
 Field Trip Fees enclosed \$ _____

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

BY MAIL:

Return this form by September 3rd to:

Tina Ripley, Forest Society, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

BY PHONE: Call (603) 224-9945 ext. 313

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