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Mainers Vote to Change Current Forest Practices

*Pyrrhic Victory for Compact - \$6 Million Campaign Fails to Win Majority
Ban Clearcutting's Strong Surge in Last Ten Days Leaves Clearcutters in Disarray
Major Forestry Reforms Now Inevitable (see pages 6-9)*

- Are Vermont Enviros & Industry Cutting a Maine -Style Compact to Save Clearcutting? (see pages 10-14)
- Herbicide Project Appeals to NH Supreme Court (see pages 22-24)
- Virgin Forests Clearcut in New Brunswick (see pages 26-28)
- Environmental & Social Costs of Nova Siberia Natural Gas Plan (see pages 26-28)



"The Homeless and clearcuts are both creations of our own culture, and we're in denial not only about places that we've destroyed, but about lives that we've destroyed..."

— from Giving Voice to Place: A Conversation with Gulf of Maine Bioregional Poet Gary Lawless on pages 18-21.

Maine Clearcutting Campaign Marks Dawning of Era of Ecological Sanity

Industry's Pyrrhic Victory

Who won the Clearcutting Referendum in Maine on November 5? The Compact to save clearcutting (2B) spent over \$6 million to garner 47% of the votes, while the Ban Clearcutting (2A) crowd's \$500,000 pulled in a surprising 30% of the vote. On the surface, 2B appears to have won.

But, scratch beneath the surface and you find:

- 2B failed to secure over 50% of the vote and will have to endure a runoff election before it can be enacted into law.

- Industry views the election as a major defeat because it realizes its century-long stranglehold over Maine forest policy is ending. As Bill Butler reports on page 7, they are angry, confused, and blaming each other and the governor.

- Because 2B supporters spent \$6 million to deceive Maine voters about the Ban Clearcutting Referendum, forest policy is now center stage in Maine, as Mitch Lansky points out on pages 8-9. The public, which hitherto had been shut out of the process now sees there is a problem, and 77% of the Maine voters rejected current forestry practices in voting for either 2A or 2B.

- Governor King realizes he committed a political blunder of colossal proportions in handing over to the clearcutters, dioxin dumpers, and down-sizers his unprecedented popularity as Governor. King is polishing his tarnished image and focusing on other matters (like a budget shortfall in '97 and re-election in '98). If another Referendum on Clearcutting makes the '97 or '98 ballot, you can bet that Angus will not again serve as poster boy for the deforesters.

As another King, Pyrrhus, said after a Third Century B.C. battle: "Another such victory, and we are lost."

Compact - The Last Hurrah

The traditional method of making forest policy in Maine, controlled by industry and designed to disinform and disenfranchise the public, allowed the destruction of Maine's forests while Mainstream environmental groups acquiesced. The "Compact" is the last hurrah of this failed, discredited, anti-democratic, anti-ecological collaboration. Forest policy by organizations such as Maine Audubon Society that accept money from corporations that degrade forest integrity is a thing of the past.

Industry and its environmental Quislings and Chamberlains (Neville, not Joshua) can and will, no doubt, continue reactionary efforts to retain "power" over the process through fraudulent "Compacts". Like the Southern firebrands who threatened to—and ultimately did—secede from the Union over their right to secure liberty via slave ownership, forestry hardliners will fight to the bitter end against the needs of forested ecosystems and the will of the people. And, in the end, like the slaveholding South, these reactionary forces will ruin themselves fighting what is politically and ecologically inevitable.

Meanwhile, those elements of the timber industry and the Mainstream environmental community with a conscience and a sense of survival will join the efforts to restore ecosystem integrity, understanding that they can neither control, nor co-opt this movement.

Future forest policy will secure ecosystem integrity using a process that exemplifies democratic integrity.

A New Concept of Liberty

The Maine Clearcutting campaign and similar struggles worldwide mark

the dawning of an era of ecological sanity. Like Moses, today's actors may not make it all the way to the promised wild land, but, like Martin Luther King, we have glimpsed it.

In ecological terms, the struggle is about one species re-learning how to live within regional and planetary limits. In political terms, the struggle is over a new relationship between liberty and power.

In 1775 Samuel Johnson trenchantly identified the Achilles heel of the American Revolutionaries' concept of liberty: "How is it," he asked, "that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of Negroes?" On the eve of the Civil War, fought to eradicate that blight on American liberty, the *Richmond Enquirer* wrote with no apparent sense of irony: "Freedom is not possible without slavery."

Are we not hearing the same things today from defenders of clearcutting and property rights? We are told property rights—including the alleged right to destroy ecosystem integrity, wildlife habitat, and air, water, and soil quality—is sacred above all other rights and liberties. Pseudo-scientists assure us that clearcutting is a "valid silvicultural tool" and that without this "right" the liberty to practice forestry itself is not possible. (Defenders of clearcuts often cite the need to clearcut a once high-graded stand to "restore" it. Similar logic led the Pentagon to destroy Vietnam villages to "save" them.)

The concept of liberty articulated by slave drivers and clearcutters is a negative one—freedom from governmental regulation.

James McPherson, in a superb book of essays, *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution*, points out that Lincoln, by acting to "conserve" the Union by securing liberty for slaves, achieved a revolution in our

understanding of liberty. Lincoln used the positive power of the government to secure and protect liberty for those who had been denied it.

McPherson writes: "As Lincoln conceived it, power was the protector of liberty, not its enemy—except to the liberty of those who wished to do as they pleased with the product of other men's labor." A few lines later, he adds: "Negative liberty is vulnerable to power; positive liberty is a form of power." (page 137)

More than a century later, the United States is still warring with itself over these issues. While most people believe in a balance between negative liberty (government does not have the right to intrude on our rights) and positive liberty (government has the right and obligation to assure fair opportunities for all), there is a shrill minority that rejects any notion of positive liberty. These people exhibit a disturbing tendency to view all regulations as evil. By their logic, the "right" to pollute is sacred; the community—via governmental regulations—has no right to limit the polluters' "rights". They are silent on their responsibilities.

Overlooked in this historic debate over negative vs. positive liberties is a third "liberty"—the liberty of evolution and ecological integrity. Human liberties, whether of the positive or the negative variety, are limited by the laws of nature and physics. We don't have to like this state of affairs, but we are compelled to live accordingly, whether we're a tree hugger, a clearcutter, or a property rights extremist.

Paradoxically, when we accept the challenge to live within ecological limits and to respect the needs and rights of our non-human relatives, we are truly liberated, just as the slave holder's soul was liberated by the Emancipation of the slaves. As Gary Lawless observes in an interview in this issue (see pages 18-21), by speaking truth to power, by respecting and defending the land and the beings that inhabit the land, we are being true to ourselves. What greater liberty could we desire?

The Clearcutting campaign did not begin with the signature gathering a year ago. It did not end with the vote on November 5. The movement toward ecological sanity—which the Ban Clearcutting epitomizes—increasingly will dominate all future debates about liberty and power. The power of Nature dwarfs all forms of human power. Enduring liberty for humans is possible only when we embrace and abide by that reality.

That's when the fun begins.

—Jamie Sayen

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Hiking Fees & Below-Cost Trees on White Mountain National Forest

By David Carle

Over seven million people visited the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) last year. Many of these people walked, hiked, skied, and snowmobiled through this spectacular public reserve. Come next year, they may have to pay for the privilege.

During the past session, the U.S. Congress authorized a three-year pilot plan to charge user fees for hikers, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and other recreationists users at as many as

Before the Forest Service starts charging hikers, snowmobilers, and other recreational users to enjoy our public lands, they should end the expensive below-cost timber program. It seems ironic that the Forest Service is intent on subsidizing the destruction of our public lands while charging visitors to see them.

200 federal forests, parks, and other reserves across the country. The WMNF volunteered to be a pilot site.

According to WMNF recreation manager David Pratt, the 1996 budget for the forest is \$9.3 million and is expected to drop to \$7.6 million in 1997. If the fee program is implemented, the WMNF will be allowed to keep 80 percent of the revenues with the remaining 20 percent distributed among other pilot sites in the region.

While recreationists will be forced to pay to use our public lands, the Forest Service will continue to subsidize



Whole tree clearcut on the Livermore Timber Sale just south of the Kancamagus Highway, near the Sugar Church scenic vista pull-out in the White Mountain National Forest. Photo by David Carle.

logging—including clearcutting—in the White Mountain National Forest. A General Accounting Office (GAO) report, titled *Forest Service: Distribution of Timber Sales Receipts Fiscal Years 1992-94*, the WMNF lost an average of \$1,023,899.00 a year between 1992 and 1994 on its timber program. Nationally, the Forest Service timber program lost an average of \$330 million per year during the same time period. The Forest Service uses our tax money to pay for this subsidy to the logging industry.

Despite the erosion of the WMNF recreation budget, the Forest Service continues to propose and implement money losing timber sales. A prime example is the proposed Kearsarge

North Timber Sale.

Located in the towns of Bartlett, Chatham, and Jackson, New Hampshire, the Kearsarge North Timber Sale would log 6.8 million board feet of timber from approximately 1,700 acres, including 200 acres of clearcuts. Using the loss per board foot calculated by the GAO, the WMNF will lose over \$350,000 on this timber sale, money that is desperately needed to improve recreation facilities within the National Forest.

Before the Forest Service starts charging hikers, snowmobilers, and other recreational users to enjoy our public lands, they should end the expensive below-cost timber program. It

seems ironic that the Forest Service is intent on subsidizing the destruction of our public lands while charging visitors to see them.

What You Can Do

Write to Donna Hepp and urge her to halt the below-cost timber program before she institutes any recreation fee program:

Donna Hepp, Forest Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest
719 Main Street
Laconia, NH 03246,

David Carle is the Associate Executive Director of RESTORE: The North Woods.

US Forest Service Breaks Law Bulldozes Road into Wild Lamb Brook

If we are prosecuted for abusing children, others deserve to be prosecuted for maltreating the face of nature committed to their care.

—Henry David Thoreau (1857)

The 5,500-acre Lamb Brook area is located in the south-central part of the Green Mountain National Forest. This remote forest is one of the wildest areas in Vermont, and provides critical habitat to black bear, songbirds, and numerous species of native plants.

In 1992 the US Forest Service proposed the Lamb Brook Timber Sale which would log well over 1,000 acres—including clearcutting of over 300 acres—in the heart of this roadless wildland at a cost of over \$100,000 to American taxpayers. A coalition of conservation groups and Vermont citizens filed a lawsuit to stop this destructive project.

On December 13, 1995, Chief Judge J. Garvan Murtha ruled in favor of the conservation groups. He found that road construction, clearcutting, and illegal off-road vehicle use in the area could have major cumulative impacts on Lamb Brook's black bears and songbirds. He ordered the Forest Service not to initiate any road building or logging in the Lamb Brook area until the agency prepares an Environmental Impact Statement.

Despite Judge Murtha's ruling and a court injunction against any road-building activities in Lamb Brook, the Forest Service is building an industrial road

into the heart of this wild area. One local resident who surveyed the damage wrote: "Many trees had been cut along the northerly side of the right of way, and other trees had been bulldozed and uprooted. Dozens of large boulders had been displaced and moved over the embankment. Trenches had been dug to catch water runoff. Large amounts of earth had been moved to re-grade, expand, and fill the newly-widened right of way. There were lengths of culvert pipe laid out next to each stream crossing, including intermittent seasonal drainages. There were tracks of heavy equipment throughout the area..."

Help Save Lamb Brook:

Please write to Senators Patrick Leahy and James Jeffords (United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and Representative Bernie Sanders (US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and tell them that Lamb Brook must be protected from development. Specifically:

- The Forest Service must immediately stop the illegal road construction.
- The Forest Service must restore the disturbed area to its original natural character.
- The Forest Service must permanently protect the Lamb Brook area for this and future generations.

Based on an Action Alert sent out by RESTORE: The North Woods.

Letter to Editor

Maine Legislation to Call Incineration 'Recycling' Decried

Dear Editor:

Legislation in Maine to call incineration "recycling" demonstrates how our politicians' knack for perverting reality has gotten frightfully out of hand. Frustrated by the alarming reality that our environment is indeed in peril, anti-environmentalists hope to redefine reality itself. They believe, as Hitler did, that if you repeat a lie often enough, eventually people will believe it.

Incineration reduces materials to ashes, and volatile, often poisonous gases containing dioxin and other carcinogenic byproducts. Heat energy is recovered, hence, incineration is a form of resource recovery, not recycling.

The distinction between recycling and incineration is that recycling reduces the flow of raw materials through our consumer-driven society. By contrast, incineration increases the need for raw materials while it produces hazardous waste.

It is time for us to see through the deception, to announce that the emperor is buck naked. We must dismiss the politicians who dismiss the future of our children before they tell us that smoking will improve our IQ, that broccoli causes cancer, that UV radiation slows aging, and that the earth is too cold anyway, and could stand a bit of warming.

With Gratitude and respect,
Gustav W. Verderber
Montgomery Center, VT

A Homecoming for Wolves in the Northern Forest

by Kathleen H. Fitzgerald

Five hundred people convened in Albany, NY from 14-16 November 1996 for the Wolves of America conference sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. During the conference participants heard detailed presentations from biologists involved in reintroducing wolves in Yellowstone and Idaho, passionate pleas from activists lobbying for wolf reintroduction in Colorado, debates on de-listing the wolf from the Endangered Species list, descriptions of wolf behavior, and success stories of natural recolonization in Michigan and Wisconsin. The underlying theme of the entire gathering was the proposed reintroduction of wolves into the Adirondack State Park, and there was an overwhelming amount of support for the idea.

The Eastern Timber Wolf, a Gray Wolf subspecies, *Canis lupus lycaon*, once roamed the great Northern Forest to the banks of the Great Lakes, through southeastern Canada to the Hudson Bay. The first New World bounty set by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 initiated a devastating slaughter of wolves. For the next two and a half centuries wolves were shot, trapped, poisoned, blown up and burned. The last known wolf in New York was killed in 1897, and they disappeared from Maine by 1909. Today, *Canis lupus lycaon* survives in only three percent of its historic range in the United States in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Wolf Restoration in Adirondacks

Christine Schadler of the University of New Hampshire described the natural recolonization of wolves in Michigan. Presenters at the conference

generally agreed that wolves probably could not return to the Adirondacks on their own. One wolf may make its way across the St. Lawrence River, but the probability of a pack of wolves doing so is slim. Moreover, wolf populations in Canada are being depleted through habitat destruction and shooting, thus making natural recolonization of the Adirondacks even less probable.

The 1992 Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf identified a few of the prerequisites to bringing wolves back to the Northeast region and maintaining a viable population:

- Large tracts of wild land with low human population density, minimal accessibility and low road density;
- Abundant wild prey;
- Public support.

Presenters at the conference were confident that the Adirondacks provided enough wild land and prey for wolves. They stressed the need for education and outreach in order to increase awareness and acceptance of wolves.

Dennis A. Hosack of Defenders of Wildlife conducted a preliminary biological assessment of the Adirondacks and found that the road density within the park is approximately .45 km/km² and the area supports approximately 5.5 humans/km². It has been suggested that to maintain a viable population of wolves, an area needs to have less than .58 km/km² of maintained roads and fewer than 8 humans/km². Hosack argued that with a density of 3.25 white tail deer/km² and a Beaver population that has increased sharply in recent decades, there is a sufficient prey base for wolves. Using a known relationship between wolf density and prey biomass availability, Hosack predicted that the Adirondack State Park could support approximately 155 wolves.

Alan Hicks of the NYDEC disagreed with Hosack's conclusion that there is enough prey available in the Park. Hicks recalled numerous deer camps through the Park where hunters have been unsuccessful in killing any deer for years and said the DEC is not taking a position on the reintroduction proposal. An Environmental Impact Statement would resolve these questions.

Reintroduction in Yellowstone & Idaho

Biologists from the West clearly described the reintroduction procedures employed in Yellowstone and Idaho. For those conference participants who thought wolves were merely caught and let loose, this was quite a learning experience. Participants learned that wolves are heavily managed and that the entire process is "hands-on." After being darted, injected with sedatives, relocated, implanted with computer chips, and held captive for significant periods of time, the wolves we introduce today are a far cry from the wolves we recklessly obliterated years ago. Dr. John Theberge, a biologist studying Ontario's Algonquin wolves, challenged attendees to recognize the difference between a wild pack of wolves and a pack merely surviving. Theberge wrote:

Wolves currently are re-inhabiting various human settled places in the US and Europe. They may persist numerically, but if heavily persecuted may be forced to adapt both behaviorally and genetically. Maintaining them represents a different level of conservation success than the reintroduction and persistence of a truly wild population, where natural selection continues to shape gene pools and behavior. Do people want a made-by-humans wolf to persist, to just hang on in the Adirondacks, or one made by natural selection?

Challenges

Yellowstone and Idaho were referred to as successful restoration projects. This begs the question of how do we judge success, by quantity or quality of wolves? Because Yellowstone was a "success," we have reason to believe that reintroduction in the Adirondacks could be a success. Defenders of Wildlife's Hank Fisher said Yellowstone should not be used as a model because it cost too much, took too much time, and today there are still people with great antipathy for the wolf. We should learn from their mistakes.

Carnivore conservation is perhaps the greatest challenge facing wildlife advocates today. It is one we can meet successfully only with the cooperation of diverse organizations, biologists and the general public. It is one we must meet with humility, respect and sacrifice. It is time to bring the wolf back.

Mike DiNunzio of the Adirondack Council said, "Wolf reintroduction is right for the wolf, it's right for the Park and it's right for the people." Philip J. Hamel of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks said the Committee supports a feasibility study. With a supportive and energetic group attending the conference, it was easy to get caught up with the thrilling idea of hearing wolves in the Adirondacks. Before seeking a good reintroduction field crew, however, we must explore some difficult issues and questions.

The 1992 USFWS Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf identified the Adirondacks, eastern Maine, northwestern Maine and adjacent New Hampshire as sites for potential wolf recovery. Defenders of Wildlife announced at the conference their intent to contribute money in support of a feasibility study for the Adirondacks. RESTORE: The North Woods is petitioning for a USFWS Northern Forest wolf restoration EIS.

Wildlands proponents would remind us that we should not study the Adirondacks alone, nor just part of New Hampshire and Maine. Studies should extend through Vermont and southeastern Canada. Wolves will not stop at the Vermont border nor will they hurl themselves across the state into the study areas of New Hampshire; thus an EIS should be conducted for the entire Northern Forest region.

Mike Phillips, of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, cited a Russian proverb, "A wolf is kept fed by its feet." We must provide enough space for wolves to be kept fed by their feet. Wolves may be able to survive within the current landscape, but as Michael Kellett of RESTORE: The North Woods pointed out, humans can survive in slums. Just because a species can survive does not mean it is in the best available conditions. Whether or not



Three wolves in winter. This photo appears in an informative new 8-page tabloid on wolves produced by RESTORE: The North Woods. To get a copy of "Wolves in the Northern Forest?" contact RESTORE at: POB 1099, Concord, MA 01742. Photo © Jim Brandenburg

NY VOTERS PASS \$1.75 BILLION ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

On November 5 New York voters, by a margin of 55-45 percent, approved a \$1.75 billion spending package that will be carried out over the next 15 years. The focus of the projects is primarily clean air, clean water and open space.

Statewide & Adirondack Impacts of 1996 Bond Act include:

Clean Water: \$790 million will be set aside for improvements in surface-water quality. Communities in the Adirondacks and elsewhere that are now discharging inadequately treated sewage into rivers and lakes can qualify for grants to build new facilities or to upgrade old ones. It could also be used to protect watersheds by providing farmers with the means to keep manure from contaminating rivers, lakes, and streams.

Safe Drinking Water: \$355 million for a revolving loan fund (\$265 million) and grant program (\$90 million) to meet new federal standards for water filtration or drilled wells.

Solid Waste: \$175 million for the closure of Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island (\$75 million), the closure of Adirondack and other rural landfills (\$50 million), and capital investment in recycling centers (\$50 million).

Brownfields: \$200 million for the restoration of abandoned, contaminated industrial sites. The money would be used to clean the sites to Superfund standards and re-use them. This ultimately helps protect pristine, open space. The original polluters of the site continue to be liable for any illnesses/injuries caused by the pollution, but local governments do not assume liability for the pollution by agreeing to clean it up. The state must certify that the site is clean before it can



The \$1.75 billion bond issue comes as good news for Adirondack Park bullfrogs. Photo © John McKeith

be re-used.

Air Quality: \$230 million for electric bus fleets and facilities and to switch heating systems in New York City schools from coal to natural gas.

The bond act's major benefits to the Adirondacks are:

Lake Champlain: \$15 million of the \$790 million set aside for Clean Water projects will go to removing phosphorus from Lake Champlain. Phosphorus promotes weed growth, blocks sunlight, and depletes oxygen. Some bays of the lake are as polluted today as Lake Erie was in the 1970s when it was considered dead. The two

main contributors of phosphorus to the lake are municipal sewage treatment systems and erosion-related runoff from farm fields and developed areas (parking lots, roads, new construction, etc.).

Other Local Clean Water Projects: Hudson River and H.R. Estuary (\$25 million) to be spent according to the state's plan.

Open Space: The \$150 million set aside for land acquisition statewide is the only pot of money available this year for the purchase of conservation easements on timberland in the Adirondack Park (unlike the Environmental Protection Fund, which cannot be used

for easements in 1996 and early 1997 because the Legislature did not approve any easement purchases from the fund in July). It can also be used for the purchase of Forest Preserve. This is part of the Clean Water category also, and must be tied to watershed protection. Every square inch of the Adirondack Park would qualify.

Another \$100 million would go to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for statewide Parks projects.

Essex County Landfill: As part of a \$175 million solid waste program, Essex County will receive financial assistance in getting out from under its multi-million dollar debt at the county landfill without importing trash into the Park. Money spent solving Essex County's problem must help solve regional solid waste disposal difficulties, inside the borders of the Park.

Other Rural and Adirondack Landfills: Roughly \$50 million would be set aside to reinvigorate the 75 percent grant/25 percent zero-interest loan program set up under the Cuomo Administration to help rural towns close their old, unlined landfills. The money is ultimately aimed at protecting underground drinking water supplies and preventing the contamination of rivers and streams.

Safe Drinking Water: As part of the \$355 million Safe Drinking Water program, communities that are now required to treat and filter surface-waters used for drinking supplies (or to drill wells) can qualify for grants to meet the new standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The cost to New Yorkers for the bonds and the debt service is \$4 per person, per year.

Wolves

the current landscape provides suitable habitat, habitat integrity is not guaranteed. Wildlands in the East are being rapidly lost to development, logging, roading, and mining. In order to secure viable populations of wolves and other wide-ranging species and maintain evolutionary processes, large wild areas must be reconnected and permanently protected. By not addressing these long-term priorities, people are given the impression that wolves can co-exist with our habits of growth and consumption; over the long-term they can not.

Yellowstone and the Adirondacks share some vulnerabilities—they are both essentially islands of habitat. In fact, the Adirondack Park could be seen as an archipelago holding within its boundaries 16 Wilderness Areas and 16 Wild Forests. Wolves will inevitably leave the political boundaries of the Adirondacks as they have in Yellowstone. The short-term solution provided thus far in Yellowstone National Park is darting and drugging wolves and bringing them back into the park, or killing them if they have infringed on people's property. As prominent wolf biologist David Mech said, "We control bears, we control lots of species—we need to control wolves." Western biologists warned conference attendees that wolves would have to be

killed, and we need to "toughen up" and accept this reality.

Wolves Need Wildlands

Perhaps this will be the short-term reality, if we reintroduce wolves under the "experimental non-essential" designation; yet this must not be our perception of long-term reality. Biologists seem confident that wolves could survive within the Adirondack Park; but in order to support a wild, viable population of wolves over the long term more wild habitat in the Northern Forest will be needed. Again, wild areas must be connected for dispersal routes, migratory paths, genetic exchange and supplemental habitat. Connectivity should be reestablished between Five Ponds Wilderness and the High Peaks Wilderness, in particular, and between New York's Adirondack State Park and Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park.

The need for education was echoed throughout the conference. Wolf sentiment has changed in the past decade. I am confident that if there were to be a study conducted in New England and New York, a high percentage of residents would support wolves. However, those impervious to anything wild will still be opposed. The Farm Bureau has already stated its opposition to any study, calling wolves a threat to cows, horses and children. That there has

never been a documented case of serious injury to a human by an unprovoked, non-rabid wolf is one of the many facts conservationists need to bring to the fore. Conservationists must illustrate that wolf reintroduction will produce local economic benefits as it has in Yellowstone, Ontario and Minnesota. Defenders of Wildlife reports that John W. Duffield, an economics professor at the University of Montana, and Chris J. Neher, a private consultant, have estimated that wolf recovery in Yellowstone Park and surrounding national forests will yield local economic benefits of roughly \$23 million annually. Together, we must design a short-term and long-term education strategy.

The fundamental question is, *what is best for the wolf?* Dave Foreman, Chairman of The Wildlands Project asks, "do we have the greatness of heart and generosity of spirit to share the land with fellow large mammals like the wolf?" Are we able to transcend our own narrow self-interests, to allow what is best for the wolves?

Dr. John I. Green, formerly of St. Lawrence University, quoted E.O. Wilson, the pre-eminent conservation biologist at Harvard University, "Each species in the ecosystem occupies a precise niche and are locked symbiotically with other species. If the basic units of biodiversity are the species, then the Adirondack ecosystem is not complete."

Large carnivores, like the wolf, are key indicators of ecosystem function and productivity. The Northern Forest region cannot be restored and maintained as a healthy ecosystem without the return of the wolf.

Carnivore conservation is perhaps the greatest challenge facing wildlife advocates today. It is one we can meet successfully only with the cooperation of diverse organizations, biologists and the general public. It is one we must meet with humility, respect and sacrifice. It is time to bring the wolf back. Time for humans to give something back to the land—to allow wolves to come out of hiding and to repair the links that will sustain both wilderness and the spirit of future generations.

For Conference Proceedings and more information contact: Defenders of Wildlife, 1101 Fourteenth Street, NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005

For more information contact: RESTORE: The North Woods, POB 1099, Concord, MA 01742 or Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project.

Acknowledgments: This article was written with the help of John Davis, Editor Wild Earth

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Public Wants End to Destruction of Maine Woods

by Jym St. Pierre

After a year-long race the results of the semi-finals are in: Question 2A, the citizens' initiative to Ban Clearcutting scored 29.3%, Question 2B, the so-called Compact for Maine's Forest, pulled 47.4%; Question 2C the do-nothing choice got 23.3%. Since none received a majority, the Forest Compact will have to go to another statewide vote in 1997.

Polls showed that until two weeks before the election relentless advertising by Gov. Angus King, the forest industry and other Compact proponents had beaten down support for the original referendum to about 16%. It is widely agreed that imaginative broadcast and print advertising by 2A supporters in the last couple of weeks of the campaign doubled the votes for the Ban Clearcutting referendum. At the same time, 2C advocates came on strong in the final days of the campaign to hammer on the Compact as a nefarious backroom deal. The unlikely combination of 2A and 2C forces eroded support for and denied a clear victory to 2B. Gov. King staked all on a triangulation strategy that failed. The faulty political calculus left some 2B strategists reeling. The governor's press guy said before the traditional election night gathering, "If we don't get 50%, it'll be like Jonestown at the Holiday Inn. Everyone will be drinking Kool-Aid if we have to go through this again." Others could not resist wagging their tongues in an endless I-told-you-not-to-risk-it mantra.

What now? Actually much good has come of the most widespread public debate over the state and fate of the Maine Woods in a century. Just a year



Maine voters soundly rejected logging operations such as this clearcut south of First West Branch Pond. However, massive timber industry spending and an effective scare campaign confused voters enough to delay ultimate resolution of the clearcutting crisis in Maine. Photo by Barbara Shamblin.

ago few were aware of the threats facing our North Woods. Today the forest crisis has become one of the top public issues here. Finally, people understand that our forests are being cut down faster than they are growing. Finally, state government, from the governor and legislature on down, has acknowledged that clearcutting and other abusive logging practices are out of control. Finally, even the forest products industry has admitted that it has not been managing the forest in a sustainable manner.

Clearly the public wants the destruction of our forests and the loss of forest-dependent jobs to stop. That is

why more than three-quarters of voters (457,698) chose Questions 2A and 2B. Unfortunately those who supported 2B, the Compact for Maine's Forest, have been misled by the paper corporations and politicians who created it. In truth, 2B should be called the Contract on Maine's Forest because it would allow the paper companies to keep right on clearcutting, overcutting, and spraying toxic herbicides. The paper corporations spent a record breaking \$6 million to convince voters that the Forest Compact will protect our woodlands. It won't. If the second vote is early in the new year the Compact may pass; if it is not until autumn, support for the

Compact is likely to continue to erode.

Either way, all sides are gearing up for more big debates over forest issues in the 1997 legislative session and beyond. 2A supporters are forming a new organization and a comprehensive forest protection strategy. (Contact Ban Clearcutting, PO Box 2218, Augusta, ME 04338.) 2B proponents are contemplating another expensive effort to push the Compact. (Contact CHFE, PO Box 4690, Portland, ME 04112.) 2C advocates have promised to rattle cages so loudly they cannot be ignored. (Contact Stop the Backroom Deal, PO Box 111, Garland, ME 04939.)

Timber Industry Leader's Myths Clarified

On November 3, 1996 Maine Public TV aired a debate on the Clearcutting Referendum. Proponents of the so-called "Compact" (2B on the ballot) were Governor Angus King and Roger Milliken, president of Baskahegan Company which owns 108,000 acres in Maine. Milliken formerly served on the Board of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and now sits on the Board of The Nature Conservancy of Maine.

During the November 3 debate, Milliken made several statements that are either untrue, or fall apart under closer scrutiny. The Forum offers this reality check.

Milliken Myth #1

Roger Milliken (during November 3 TV debate): The statistics that are being used here are misleading. Basically, the harvest levels in Maine have remained fairly constant over time. What changes is the growth rate of the forest, so you have periods where it grows really well, it puts on a lot of growth as was happening in the '50s and '60. Then we had the spruce budworm come, and it had a dramatic impact on growth rates in the north of the state where the spruce-fir resource is. The harvest remained the same, and right now the harvest is exceeding the growth. Indications are that we have hit the bottom; the forest is beginning to grow out of that and soon again in the early years of the next century growth will be exceeding harvest again. So partly it's a question of the time frame that you look at.

Mitch Lansky Responds: After the heavy cutting and spruce budworm outbreak earlier this century, there was a decline in inventory. The inventory did bounce back. I doubt if today's managers want to depend on the same method of forest renewal that was used then. After 1919, the annual cut declined. Lumbermen moved west and south to exploit other states. Transportation networks made these resources more

available. Wood for fuel, construction, and leather tanning was replaced by fossil fuels, steel and concrete, and other processes. And then came the Great Depression, which collapsed demand for consumer goods for more than a decade.

The cut now is greater than it has ever been. In 1959, when the inventory was booming back, cut was 50% lower than now, but growth was 40% higher. The cut of spruce from 1982-1995 was triple the growth. Although fir appears to be bouncing back in smaller diameters (34% of all trees 1-3 inches in diameter are balsam fir), spruce is not (only 6% of all trees 1-3 inches are red spruce).

Is industry going to save the forest with another depression? Is the spruce budworm going to ignore all the young fir coming up from past heavy cuts? Does Milliken believe that we can sustain the current unprecedented overcutting?

Milliken Myth #2

Roger Milliken (on impact of 2A on Baskahegan lands): "Many of those sites don't reach the numerical threshold in their bill so basically we wouldn't be able to harvest them at all. . . . It would easily cut our harvest by 60%."

Mitch Lansky Responds: The referendum would have allowed removal of 33% of the volume of a forest in a 15-year period. If this 33% figure is 60% lower than current levels, that implies current levels of cutting are 83% of all volume in a 15 year period. Of course, not all stands will have sufficient stocking above referendum standards to be commercially cut during that 15-year period, especially where there had been heavy cutting or clearcutting in the past. This implies, therefore, that much of Baskahegan's land will be understocked

for years to come, which is nothing to brag about. Indeed, if this is the case, one wonders how Baskahegan can sustain its current level of cutting since most cutting occurs in stands that have trees on them.

Baskahegan has done many acres of shelterwood thinning cuts, leaving stands that barely meet referendum stocking standards. Using the $S + T = R$ formula, however, Baskahegan could still cut 1/3 of the overstory once advance regeneration gets to be one inch in diameter. The company could also do half-acre patch cuts. If compliance with the referendum caused a hardship, Baskahegan could apply for a variance to LURC. Since former Baskahegan forester, Chuck Gadzik, was also a former LURC commissioner (and chairman), I am sure that this agency would have plenty of sympathy for the company's problems.

Milliken Myth #3

Mary Adams (a property rights zealot promoting 2C during the November 3 debate): "Now look Roger, you've spent \$6 million on advertising." Roger Milliken: "I haven't spent a penny."

Forum Response: According to the Campaign Finance Reports filed at the Secretary of State's Office and the Ethics Committee by the Citizens for a Healthy Economy and Forest (CHEF), Roger Milliken contributed \$100 cash to CHEF on May 1, 1996. His company, Baskahegan, contributed \$5,000 in cash on April 23, 1996. In addition, Baskahegan contributed \$4,496.94 in "in-kind contributions" (staff time, office expenses, and related travel) to CHEF between January 1, 1996 and October 24, 1996. While Milliken's personal and corporate donations pale in comparison to the \$874,638 contributed by Bower, they are in excess on "a penny."

Hey, Angus, Is This How a Petard Is Supposed to Work?

by Willism Butler

Following the indecisive November 5th referendum against clearcutting, the questions are

- 1) Who won? and,
- 2) What next?

A rare chance to hear how the Governor and the paper industry assessed the vote was the American Pulpwood Association's forestry forum, two days after the election. What may have been planned as a victory rally emerged as a *post mortem* analysis with four speakers and pointed questions from the floor on what went wrong—spending six million dollars, how could we miss? Miss they did, failing to get more than 50% of the vote and sending their measure meant to thwart the Ban-Clearcutting initiative back to the voters at a time uncertain.

Rather than claiming to have accomplished their purpose, the discussion most certainly was of a defeat, with assignments of blame, recriminations, and repeated, but unanswered, demands as to what move was next.

That the first speaker, Matt Hancock of a family-owned sawmill business, is one who opposed the industry-governor-Natural Resource Council of Maine-Maine Audubon-and the like's Compact is the first sign of the weakness that led to a vote divided 30% for the citizen's initiative to Ban Clearcutting, 47% for the industry's competing measure—the so-called "Compact", and 23% for the "none-of-the-above" option required by Maine's constitution. Hancock admitted that the Forest Products Council supported the Compact (Question 2B on the ballot) 22-6. As we heard later in the evening, some of those 6 opposed were bigger players than most.

Describing the Compact as the work of a single segment of the industry which cut a deal with the Governor, Hancock concluded, "...as much or as little respect as you may have for the Governor." Proclaiming that the initiative was part of a national movement, not a one-time event, he considers that the clearcutting issue was really a surrogate for property rights. This remark tells us that Hancock and his brother, who appeared on TV debates, come from the quarter that believe they have

absolute sovereignty—the Question 2C people. He warned, "Never should our industry sit down with government without the full support of all."

Dick Schneider, who runs the front-group *Professional Logging Contractors of Maine* admitted right off that his group does not include most Maine woods contractors, and not even a majority of those present. Recognizing that most people want to see professional performance "at the stump," he plans to implement the American Forest and Paper Association "Sustainable Forest Initiative", and predicts a voluntary sustainability audit is under way, Question 2B or not. Strangely, he mourns that the national SFI convention drew four or five of his tame contractors, but there was no industry attendance.

Chuck Gadzik, Forest Commissioner, weighed in with his (and the King administration's) verdict; after an eight month, three-way race, he does not accept that the public forestry concern has been put to rest. "Industry has to announce practices not limited to the minimum standards." Asked if the Governor had a full appreciation of the position of the industry group, he responded, "No doubt, but he also has a feeling for those outside of industry." The governor, he said, understood the divisions as elements of the forest community broke away from the compact (2B), but when King sees 30% voting for the "extreme" proposals, he is now looking to a "broader audience, one that 2B did not recognize."

John Cashwell, manager of the Pingree Heir's million acres and previous forest commissioner, was out of sorts in protesting that I was taking note of the proceedings, but recovered so as to be the most forthright of the four. The vote tells John that the status quo is not acceptable, nor is economic disaster; the voters were innocent, misinformed, and unguided; especially, that, "People are just as confused as when we started, so we have done nothing but enrich radio, TV, and gas stations." Where next?—"The lights on attracted hundreds of thousands, if not millions—the forest community is divided on minutiae—I expect more funding for the opposition from away—we have the next few months to get to

every home ..."

John came up with a striking image in comparing the industry's squabbling to the pecking frenzy in a flock of turkeys when one is wounded. His words were, "We could stand belly-to-belly in a circle, not back-to-back." Considering John's stately profile, this picture would require a big canvas.

In the question interval, he continued to be responsive; asked how to get the 2B and 2C voters together, he invoked getting legal opinions from the Attorney General, or the Court, but acknowledged how hard it is to get a representative group to agree on reconciling 2B and 2C. Admitting that some legislators think they could rewrite the present forest practice law, he ventured that, "Question 2B is not likely to be alone on the November (1997) ballot."

While all the speakers were pressed to explain the fissures in the Maine Forest Product Council's engineering of the election, Cashwell picked the Governor's calling the special legislative session as the first fracture, the catalyst that precipitated not only the 2B alternative, but the unexpected 2C cam-

paign. Laying the blame for this strategic misfire, he said only one person can call a special session, and the Governor believed this was the right way. Cashwell wrapped it up with, "I personally was opposed to the special session—I'd rather stand in front of a freight train than go to the legislature. Now we have a new set of cards and a new thing on the table."

Malcolm French, a forester for Mary Adams and the 2C faction, put it this way, "We have the Governor to thank." Dan Levesque, son of a big sawmiller, cautioned, "The governor, yes, but we must be careful—we will need him."

As Henry Mencken wrote of American political oratory, this is the best stuff. I wrote of the earlier American Pulpwood forum where they stewed over the public's effrontery in proposing to set forest policy; this was even better. I note there was no allusion to what *The New York Times* called the "middle-of-the-road" environmentalists, NRCM and Maine Audubon. What you find in the middle of the road is run-over animals and a yellow stripe.

MAJOR LAND OWNERSHIP

IN THE STATE OF MAINE

November 1996

| Land Owner | Headquarters | Acres |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|
| Bowater Inc. (Great Northern Paper) | Greenville, SC | 2,032,972 |
| International Paper Company | Purchase, NY | 944,183 |
| Seven Islands Land Company (Pingree Heirs) | Bangor, ME | 941,288 |
| Sappi Ltd. (S.D. Warren Company) | Johannesburg, South Africa | 908,000 |
| Prentiss & Carlisle Management Company | Bangor, ME | 900,000 |
| State of Maine | Augusta, ME | 865,575 |
| Champion International Corporation | Stamford, CT | 769,879 |
| J.D. Irving Ltd. | St. John, NB Canada | 575,000 |
| The Mead Corporation | Dayton, OH | 550,199 |
| Georgia-Pacific Corporation | Atlanta, GA | 440,000 |
| Huber Resources Corporation | Edison, NJ | 438,040 |
| Hancock Timber Resource Group | Boston, MA | 255,688 |
| Noranda Forest (Fraser Paper) | Toronto, Ontario Canada | 236,000 |
| U.S. Government | Washington, DC | 213,546 |
| James River Corp. (Diamond Occidental) | Richmond, VA | 148,233 |
| Penobscot Nation | Old Town, ME | 123,000 |
| Passamaquoddy Tribe | Indian Twp., ME | 138,000 |
| Dunn Timberlands | ME | 109,625 |
| Baskahegan Company (Milliken Family) | Falmouth, ME | 108,000 |
| Stetson Timberlands | ME | 106,662 |

Major forest land ownership in Maine has been volatile in recent years. From 1976 to 1990 more than half of the lands in the Maine Woods changed hands. In the past few years the number of significant ownership changes has continued. For instance, in 1993-94 Hancock Timber Resources bought 138,000 acres from Diamond Occidental, 24,000 acres from International Paper, 41,000 from the Goodsoe Estate, and 55,000 acres from Bowater. In 1994 Scott Paper Company sold its S.D. Warren Division, including 908,000 acres in Maine, to South African Pulp & Paper Industries (Sappi). In 1996 Mead Corporation bought 550,000 acres from Boise Cascade. For those trying to keep score, here is an updated list of the top 20 landowners. Some major landowners are very secretive about how much they own. As a result, a few who own several tens of thousands to a few hundreds of thousands of acres are not included here.

—Jym St. Pierre

Ideal Gift for New England Wildlands Lover

Dean B. Bennett, a professor at the University of Maine at Farmington has just published *The Forgotten Nature of New England: The Search for Traces of the Original Wilderness*, (Down East Books, \$17.95 pap). In this handsome book, Bennett reports on his search for "traces of the original wilderness" of the six New England states. He compares accounts written by early visitors with his own experiences.

The Forgotten Nature of New England arrived only a couple of days before this issue went to press, thus making it impossible to review it properly, a situation that will be rectified in the next issue. However, I have had enough opportunity to peruse it to say with certainty that this is a very important and enjoyable book—the ideal gift for a New England wild lands lover.

Although this could be a depressing book because so little of the original wilderness remains, Bennett sees in these remaining pockets of wildness the seeds for hope. He concludes with these thoughts: "Hope is the human emotion behind the theme of this book. It was written with the hope that the nature of the New England wilderness will not be forgotten, that its remnants will be preserved and protected, and that all those who visit these remaining traces of wilderness, or simply know about them, will be more caring of this planet and the future of all species."

Dynamic Tension: An Analysis of What Happened with The Forestry Referendum and Where We Go from Here

by Mitch Lansky

A version of this article will appear in *Maine Policy Review* of the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Policy Studies of the University of Maine.

What Happened?

An issue: A 1986 poll conducted by the Forests for the Future Program asked Maine people what they considered the two most important problems they faced. Only 4/10 of 1% of the respondents "either explicitly used the word 'forests' or its synonyms or mentioned forest-associated industry in

their replies." The authors commented (in surprise), "Apparently, forest-related concerns are not foremost in people's minds..." The report also discovered that in this forest-dominated state, the public was "often poorly informed about the forest." The referendum has changed at least half of these problems. Forestry is now an issue in people's minds in Maine.

Forestry was not a major public issue before because conflicts were usually settled by key insiders. Industry could influence policy through: sending PAC money to legislators, getting former industry representatives appointed

to key government posts, flooding hearings with industry employees, or making sure committees had industry representation. With these tactics, conflicts could often lead to benefits, such as tax breaks.

The Ban Clearcut referendum bypassed industry's traditional strategies. Industry representatives could no longer simply negotiate with key individuals; they had to convince the majority of the public. Company officials decided to spend as much money as needed to accomplish the new task. And they did. But this massive expenditure in public relations meant that forestry has finally become a high-profile public issue.

A mandate: Despite the Ban Clearcut referendum's shortcomings of lack of money, expertise, or organizational support, early polls showed surprising support. Industry's first response was denial of any problems. This was followed by anger at the impudence of the Greens. After reading the polls, however, industry engaged in negotiations—not with the organizers of the Ban Clearcutting referendum, but with more traditional conservation groups. Ironically, these reactions mirror the first three stages that people go through as they deal with death. The last two, according to Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, are depression and then acceptance.

The forestry referendum can be interpreted as a public mandate for change. It was clearly not a Green Party vote. Although the Green Party only got 4% of the vote for their senate candidate, the 2A option got nearly 30%. This, despite more than \$6 million spent to whip up a frenzy of fear and loathing in the public over the "Drastic Green Forestry Ban." That so many people would vote for 2A, despite predictions of disaster by authorities, is quite a statement.

Votes for 2A clearly sent a message that major change is needed. Votes for 2B could also be interpreted as votes for change. Some who voted for 2B, however, did not really want change; they wanted to stop it or stall it and felt 2B would be more effective than 2C in reaching that goal. Votes for 2C cannot be completely interpreted as a vote for the status quo. Many voted for 2C because they wanted change, but not in the way mandated by the other options. If there is a mandate, the raw voting figures do not give a clear image of what that might be.

Confusion: Despite all the advertisements and debates, the public is still not well informed on forestry issues—but people are better informed than they were a year ago. At least they know that there has been a lot of clearcutting in the past. I would estimate that a tiny fraction of 1% of all voters have actually read, let alone understood, the Forest Practices Act, the Ban Clearcut Referendum, or the Compact. Much of the debate was in TV sound bites that were hardly more enlightening than a catalogue of "informal fallacies" ("attacking the person," "appeal to authority," "bandwagon," "irrelevant analogies," etc.) one might

find in an introductory logic textbook.

Some newspapers did make a major effort to present a series of articles that did go into more depth. An increased depth of coverage, however, does not always translate into an increased clarity of public understanding. Many people exposed to the complexities of the issue have felt an increased depth of confusion.

Distrust: One of the results of the campaign is residual anger and distrust. Because of the Compact, there are serious divisions not only amongst environmentalists, but also in the forest products industry. Indeed, one lumber company announced that different divisions within the company were going to support different referendum options.

Some members of groups that signed on to the Compact have bitter feelings towards their leadership who, they feel, did not represent them. This bitter feeling has also extended to Governor King. The governor was hardly constructive or statesman-like in the debate. He used the authority of his office to engage in gutter-level rhetoric. He claimed, for example, that the referendum was "a loaded gun to the head of the economy," and "they want to shut the woods down and turn it into a park."

Chaos: Industry expenditures on the Compact set records. There was an impressive line-up of organizations in support, including paper companies, major conservation groups, the Maine Forest Service, and every daily newspaper in the state. Yet the Compact still did not win a majority of the votes. Because of this, many issues are left hanging in the air.

If the vote is postponed until next November, it may become irrelevant. Some legislators have already announced that they will introduce forestry legislation. Many items of the Compact, such as the resource educator, the ecological reserves, or the study on liquidation cutting, could easily be enacted as separate legislation. Indeed, one wonders why they had to be in a Compact in the first place.

Large landowners have agreed to abide by the new clearcutting rules regardless of whether the Compact passes or not. The audit program is voluntary and will, supposedly be enacted regardless of legislative backing. Since the Compact refers to actions to be taken by certain dates, and since these dates will have passed by next November, and since it is possible that the wording of a referendum must not change, there may be legal obstacles to its passage.

Where Do We Go From Here?

We?: When Custer asked his Indian guide the same question, the response was "What do you mean 'we' White Man?" Not everyone wants changes in forest policy. It is clear that a certain element of the public will argue for the sacred right of property owners to do anything they want to their land, regardless of the impact these actions might have on the rights of other prop-



Thomas Urquhart, one of the architects of the Compact to save the clearcutters, has been executive director of Maine Audubon Society for the past decade. During that time his organization has opposed: wolf recovery, every large wildlands proposal, and the Ban Clearcutting Referendum. MAS has supported wind power development on the remote Boundary Mountains, the fraudulent Compact (2B), and the Northern Forest Stewardship Act (NFSA) authored by VT Senator Patrick Leahy. After the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) reneged on its support of the Leahy bill this fall, Steve Schley, president of MFPC justified this action by writing: "In personal statements to me, Thomas Urquhart, among others, has correctly stated that the NFSA 'doesn't really do anything.'" Perhaps that's why Maine Audubon Society supported it. Maine Audubon has long had a policy of accepting money from the timber industry, and there are usually industry representatives on its board.

erty owners or the rights of the community. Some of those making such an argument happen to be large contractors who rely on liquidation cutting for part of their income. The degree to which they defend the Forest Practices Act indicates the degree to which they think the FPA is the equivalent of no regulation.

Because of the level of distrust, it may be difficult to forge new alliances (or keep old ones). Although some of the signatories to the Compact may be tempted to opt out and connect to other options, this would be done at the risk of breeding greater distrust. If these organizations want to retain their membership, they can not bide their time until the next election. They must show some credible progress towards the Compact, or they will be attacked from many sides.

Steps: Assuming a genuine desire to come up with a better forestry policy, what steps should be taken?

1) **Assess the situation.** There are a number of recent documents concerning forest statistics, forest practices, and biodiversity that can give us a shared body of facts. Having a shared body of facts, however, does not guarantee a shared interpretation. Facts exist in contexts, which can be manipulated. This is called "spin control." Doubtless, we will have some lively debates on what the figures mean.

2) **Define the issues.** If the issue is "sustainable forest management," for example, we need to determine just *what* we are sustaining, *where*, *for how long*, and *for whose benefit*? If the issues are too narrowly defined, then comprehensive solutions that take into account silvicultural, ecological, and social issues will not result. Problems not dealt with will continue to fester.

3) **Define the problems.** My own reading of the available data shows that there are problems, either statewide or on a regional basis, in the following areas:

Silvicultural. This includes:

- overcutting (cut more than growth),
- clearcutting (where other options could be viable),
- understocking (overstories with insufficient stocking to make adequate use of the growing space)
- highgrading (shift from high-grade to low-grade species and trees), and
- stand damage (damage to soil and residual trees).

Ecological. This includes:

- simplification (loss of key species or structures in a stand),
- fragmentation (chopping up habitat so that it may not be adequate for viable populations, migration, or dispersal)
- conversion (drastic change in habitat

type),

- invasions (of exotic species),
- pollution (of air, soil, and water),
- instability (lowered resistance to disturbances—such as spruce budworm—or resilience from disturbances).

Social/Political. This includes:

- job loss (in the woods and in the mills)
- revenue loss (profits, jobs, and value-added going out of state),
- tax loss (lowered percentage of General Fund from corporate income tax or lower revenues from corporate property tax)
- ownership changes (lowered commitment to communities, more non-strategic lands spun off and liquidated),
- economic domination (artificially low purchase prices for wood and payments for woods labor due to oligopsony and vertical integration), and
- political domination (leverage over the state and local political processes due to economic domination).

4) **Define the goals.** Good definition of the problems is key to good definition of goals. For example, based on the silvicultural problems listed, the solutions would be to:

- cut less than growth,
- have a presumption against clearcutting,
- maintain adequate stocking (unless there is good reason not to),
- increase forest quality, and
- do less stand damage.

Supporters of the Compact may think that such goals are implicit in the Audit program. If so, these goals were buried in 27 pages and were not well communicated to the public. And the public was not reassured by the proposed process to reach these goals either.

5) **Set up a process to reach the goals.** In the past decade we have had a number of processes that have failed to adequately address the issues, let alone solve them. The Forests for the Future Program, the Northern Forest Lands Council, and the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management have all been appointed, "balanced" committees (i.e., with a strong industry presence) with limited agendas. They also had limited impact.

The Forest Practices Act promised to "promote a healthy and sustainable forest." Much of this bill was created by an Environmental/Industrial Forum—a group (similar to the Compact) with representatives from industry, environmental organizations, government, and academia. The bill did not get much enthusiastic support from those outside the inside groups. It created extremely complicated rules about the distribution of clearcuts, but it didn't even come close to addressing the most pressing

problems—which is why we are still struggling over them.

For a process to work, therefore, the public must feel represented—without industry domination—and pressing issues must really be dealt with head on. The success of any process will depend on the extent to which the public is interested and involved. If the public loses interest, the process will revert to an insider operation once again. I believe that the public would prefer to vote on legislation that offers clear goals and a believable process to reach those goals than another "overly complicated" set of pre-determined rules.

Conclusion

We now have more of what Charles Atlas used to call "dynamic tension" in the political process. More people from

more perspectives are paying attention to forest policy. It is possible to harness this tension as a source of power to improve our forests by striving to be broader in scope. Or, this tension can be used to further Balkanize forestry politics. Given the current levels of distrust in the state, the latter possibility would not be difficult to achieve.

Improving forest management could be a win/win situation for the public and industry. How could it hurt industry to improve the productivity and quality of its forests? Some debaters concluded that the referendum was not really about improved forest management; it was about power. Those who have power will not willingly relinquish it. There should be some interesting struggles in the coming months. Stay tuned.



Chuck Gadzik is director of the Maine Forest Service. Previously, he served as Roger Milliken's forester at Baskahegan Company. Although Gadzik has been around a long time, and there have been predictions of a serious shortfall of spruce and fir for the past decade from state studies, academia, and informed citizens, when the results of the 1995 US Forest Service Inventory of Maine showed that clearcutting had reduced the state's spruce-fir acreage from 7.7 million acres in 1982 to 6 million acres in 1995, he professed surprise. In a *Portland Press Herald* article on October 29, we read: "Gadzik said the loss of spruce and fir took him by surprise. 'It's potentially a number that could change long-term projections (about timber supplies,' he said. However, Gadzik suggested the spruce-fir forest could be brought back through herbicide spraying..."

Is Maine Nature Conservancy Now An Advocacy Group?

This fall, the national headquarters of The Nature Conservancy sent out a fund-raising appeal that contained the following assertions:

- "We are non-confrontational."
- "We don't go around stirring up trouble."

At about the same time, Kent Wommack, President of the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, was telling a workshop of TNC employees about his role in pulling off the Compact to Save Clearcutting and Defeat the Ban Clearcutting Referendum.

Is there a credibility problem here?

Vermont Enviro & Industry Seek Maine-Style Compact?

As we head to press, it appears that several Vermont environmental groups have been approached by four industry foresters to work out agreement on regulation of liquidation cutting. It is unclear whether this will be an attempt to forge a Maine-style compact or to reach accord on the broad outlines of an agreement for later legislative tinkering. The environmental groups involved include the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Sierra Club, and Vermont Audubon.

Landvest forester Richard Carbonetti, wood procurement foresters Peter Condaxis and Bill Samal, and Bell-Gates' Lumber's Jonathan Wood authored the proposed "heavy cutting legislation". It proposes to define forestry as activities in harmony with Current Use guidelines and US Forest Service Silvicultural guides. Under the agreement, "forestry" would be shielded from further review. Other activities would require further examination and regulation. At present, the proposal suggests 50 acre limits on clearcuts with buffers of roughly 100 feet between cuts.

"The key," says the latest draft of this plan, "is to minimize any new encumbrances on forestry while dramatically increasing the scrutiny placed on non-forestry actions implemented in Vermont's woodlands." One provision of the plan would enact a "Right to Practice Forestry" that would foreclose local zoning and "local or state regulations [that] would add...encumbrances on the management, harvesting and trucking activities associated with...



Miles Mountain. This is legal forestry in Vermont. Photo © Gustav W. Verderber

[definition] forestry."

While the Forum acknowledges the appetite for consensus among those who would dearly love to retire forest issues from the headlines, we must consider proposals to regulate on their merits, and whether they address long term fundamentals. We will be looking at this Vermont proposal and asking our own key questions. Would this proposal use legislation to codify the power of foresters to define forestry and avoid scrutiny of their own activities and

shield them from scientific input? What is the regulation on the liquidation/development side intended to accomplish? If the intention is establish minimal standards for forest conservation, are these standards adequate to the task?

Frankly, much of this proposal as now drafted does not pass either the laugh or sniff test. However, the basic structure of defining forestry and regulating activity outside the definition needs to be looked at on its merits.

To our readers who are interested

in these issues, we urge your involvement by lobbying your favored environmental group, and as a citizen, by staying abreast of Vermont's FRAC and the state legislature. The Vermont Citizens' Forest Roundtable will be gathering public commentary on the proposal; VCFR may be contacted through coordinators Andrew Whittaker at 802-748-8043 or Barbara Alexander at 802-586-2288.

—Andrew Whittaker

VT Citizens' Forest RoundTable Forum

Biological Integrity Should Be Context of Forest Practices

The evening of October 22 found the Pavilion Auditorium in Montpelier with a full house in attendance at a Vermont Citizens' Forest RoundTable forum on herbicides. Presentations included slides from a recently sprayed area of Champion International's Pittsburg holdings. Barbara and Richard Alexander of Craftsbury, Vermont spent several days touring the sprayed woods documenting problems with industry assertions about the precision and silvicultural rationale of aerial spraying.

Areas of drift and sprayed wetland and water are evident in the slides. So too are examples of how the broad brush stroke of herbicides is being applied to clearcuts with spotty regeneration. The photographic images also indicate a simplifying of forest vegetation post-cutting and spraying.

These latter images in fact echoed the earlier twenty minute keynote presentation by Dr. Stephen Trombulak of Middlebury College, in which the professor of biology asserted that biological integrity of the forest should be the goal and touchstone of forest policy. The question that should be used in evaluating a given forest practice is, does this practice diminish biological integrity of the forest?

Trombulak began his talk with a short history of the evolution of the concept of biological integrity. The Wilderness Act of 1964 gave a "troubling definition" of "untrammelled by man" to wilderness; with a resulting emphasis on recreational "rocks and ice" charismatic wilderness. As with the general conservation ideology of "sustained yield of goods and services," the ecosystem was overlooked.

The bigger issue of 3 1/2 billion years of evolution, and allowing the free play of organisms in the face of mounting human interference, has been subverted by what professor Trombulak terms a "stamp collection"

approach to biodiversity. A McDonalds' attracting "rats, cockroaches and English sparrows" may "increase biodiversity" but such stamp collecting—which could include today's wildlife management bias toward early successional stands—does not address ecosystem structure and function.

Since passage of the Clean Water Act, Trombulak told his audience, the concept of biological integrity has existed in at least nebulous terms—an assumption "that there is a natural order to things." In looking at a proposal such as aerial spraying of cuts and all forest practices, we must look at impacts on structures (such as age classes, missing species) and functions (food webs). The cascading effects of loss of key species lead inevitably away from biological integrity.

"We are at a point in time," said professor Trombulak, "when it is legitimate to ask whether extinction levels, such as 35% of [Vermont's] vascular plants, is an acceptable level." The good news of Vermont's resilient forest, which has re-established in the wake of 19th century agriculture, must be balanced with the bad news that existing acreage of old growth amounts to less than 3/100 of 1% of the overall forested landscape. "Any forest practice we engage in has to be evaluated against what we've already done."

Dr. Trombulak summarized his presentation with an exhortation to the public that "every citizen be involved" in the discussion of desired future conditions. Then, and only then, can science enter the discussion: science being neutral, it can only guide us where we want to go. Failure by the conservation community to articulate its goals, he warned, will result in a general perception of perennial nameless dissatisfaction of environmentalists.

The evening proceeded with a slate of speakers that included several appearing earlier on the

Interactive TV hearing (see) of Aug 10. John Potthast of Calais, Vermont picked up Steve Trombulak's rallying for involvement and noted several difficulties with public process. "Nature is intelligent. How can society be intelligent? What's best for Vermont? The legislature is lacking the sensibility that can inform society. We need to find public identity, nurture, and societal ways of caring."

—Andrew Whittaker

In Memoriam

Ian MacLeod Alexander

Vermont lost a very special person this October, a happy young boy who spent his three years within view of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and Green Mountains. Ian's world was comprised of mountains, sky and his own sense of wonder. Ian loved tractors, farming, hens, fields and gardens. His parents write, "At the time of Ian's death, the Autumn leaves were a vibrant array of colors. Ian's imagination, as it so often did, helped us see this beauty in his own way: 'The papa dragon turns the leaves red, mommy. The mama dragon turns the leaves yellow.'" Although Ian has gone, his memory and spirit live on with a circle of loving friends and family whose lives he will continue to enrich.



Alice in Wonderland Forest Politics in Vermont

by Andrew Whittaker

• A number of unchallenged statements about silviculture are being made in Vermont as elsewhere these days. "Sometimes you have to clearcut (or spray herbicides) and start over." This has become a basic recipe for restoring forest productivity. However, we have yet to prove the superiority of this approach to one that would work within existing stands, utilizing ongoing processes maintained by standing forest, such as nutrient flow and moisture conservation. In the interest of maintaining the gravy train, resourceists are demanding that America go for what is behind the curtain! (Skeptics inquire, what is at the bottom of a downward spiral that diminishes forest quality with each historic wave of cutting?)

• Recently a Vermont forestry consultant stated to the Forest Resource Advisory Council's assessment committee that Vermont has a lot of "garbage overstory" that must be cut and exported in order to restore productivity. No one present challenged his economically oriented prescription. No one asked him to explain his lament that the public is seeking political resolution to forest problems (perhaps he favors military approaches? or a banana republic subservience to the padrone?) Given his prognosis, however, one must ask what is political, what is economically motivated, and what, in fact, emerges from understanding of the forest.

• The observation that Vermont has a "garbage overstory" which must be "exported" is, in fact, an interesting development from the rationale that soothed fears in the 1980s that biomass plants and chipping would motivate premature harvest of sawlogs.

Chipping, we were assured, would provide a market for low grade wood and allow good wood to grow. Chipping would restore productivity to Vermont's forests. Today, skeptics may be found within the ranks of industry: potential logs are succumbing to economic expediency and being sold as garbage.

• We who believe that ultimately all is grounded in reality must remember, however, that humans have constructed their own reality—that is, statehouses— & to operate within such corridors requires an Alice in Wonderland logic. I recently quizzed a FRAC member on why he has repeatedly characterized the Maine Ban Clearcutting referendum as "extreme" when one could build the case that from an ecological perspective, with reference to the Northern Forest's pre-historic disturbance regime, the Compact rationalizes a more "extreme" approach to forest management. "I mean politically extreme", he replied.

• So what are the silvicultural rationales for clearcuts that exceed the size of gaps caused by natural disturbance—with which our forests have been evolving for some millennia? What are the justifications for going beyond the range of natural disturbance?

Restoring High-graded Stands to Quality Timber: Here the idea appears to be that by removing low grade wood, you can regenerate high quality stems. Note that the focus is on trees entirely, rather than the biotic and abiotic processes that contribute to tree growth—processes undermined by clearcuts.

Regenerating Shade Intolerant Species: Apparently poplar and paper birch are species so much in demand that market savvy foresters are busily

converting our landscape to those species, which cannot regenerate in shade. Here the absurdity is that, of course, these species were components of the pre-settlement forest that managed to thrive.

Creating Early Successional Stands for Wildlife: Strictly speaking, this is a political rationale for clearcuts, as acknowledged by biologists who speak of the hunting/early successional lobby. Silviculturally as well as biologically, a body of evidence emphasizes the critical need to restore old growth functions and structures for the long term viability of our forests.

In sum, we need only look at proposals to spray herbicides on clearcuts to see that the clearcut lobby gets snarled in its own logic. To regenerate spruce and fir, we would be patch cutting at most and selection cutting on wind firm sites. Since we have clearcut and promoted hardwoods, we now "need" to spray. This is what foresters term "working with ecology." It's what I term having to cover your ass.

• My brother recently made the observation of our own family woodlot that the site coming closest to the standards of the US Forest Service's stocking guides for "fully stocked" is a red pine plantation. Any subjective, and I daresay objective, assessment of the stand's biological richness relative to other sites with a tree composition closer to that pre-dating settlement would conclude that the plantation is more or less of a desert. Natural structures and functions that might contribute to its long term productivity are missing.

Our approach will be to cut and manage in such a way that native components can regain presence. We could take some of the understocked, "natur-

al" areas and "start over" with clearcuts, herbicides, and more plantation but collectively our humble intuition is that we are better off working with what's there—and maybe even forgoing a rotation of production for roadside markets altogether in the interests of building humus, seed stock and who knows what else (lichen? fungi?). But our own approaches and those of like-minded neighbors are irrelevant if the surrounding forest is subject to a cash-out mentality that could give a damn for anything other than money. (To give them their due, some of our industry protagonists are more interested in power.)

• It is not hard to find the science on which to base alternative approaches to restoring forest productivity. This is our challenge. A good question: how many Vermont foresters believe we have a landscape of adequately stocked stands? A further question: how can we sustain productivity by attempting to "start over" with every cut and forgo the opportunity to put growth on standing timber? There is a reluctance to concede that rebuilding forest productivity may mean cutting less wood, with smaller machines and more human labor. We are riding an economic juggernaut; political-economic reality varies with biologic; the favored solution is a squeezing of the eyes.

• It is not hard to find the science which calls into question the accepted, economically convenient arguments that justify whole tree harvesting, clearcutting and herbicides. If our intention is to support private forest practices which sustain forests, we need to have the honest, scientific, non-political dialogue that industry people demand. Its just that they too will have to park their emotions at the door—and shorn of greed, what justification can they offer for what is being done?

• But such a process would and will be meaningless, ultimately, unless all of society comes about and relieves itself of the notion that more perfect regulation of the natural resource sector will allow the rest of us to fulfill our yuppified consumerist desires. We may in this present day have to achieve political redress to ecologic assault. However, until all of society acknowledges its responsibility and role in a renewal of social contracts, our political solutions will be lopsided, perfect fuel for the kind of Serbo-Croatian resentments that sometimes justly simmer beneath the surface of rural America. In sum, until our culture binds human and natural, urban and rural, artisan and professional in newer and nimbler forms of democracy and justice, our piddling reforms—as necessary as they may be today—will be swept aside by greater forces of history.

• For now, the state of Vermont has the modest opportunity to come up with a process and forum for the ongoing integration of science and forest practices. The result should be Vermont Silvicultural Standards that will form the basis of public policy. How such standards should be implemented is a discussion for another day. Right now, it should be enough to say, let's face the facts.



VERMONT FOREST HARVEST: Low grade & Sawlog Components of Harvest 1945-1995: As Vermont begins to assess the impact of clearcutting on its forest economy, policy wonks and other analysts will also be looking at data such as that shown in the graph above. Cutting overall has been on the rise since the 1970s; low grade wood in the words of some loggers "is flooding the market." The key question, which results from the ongoing US Forest Service decennial survey may help answer, is, does the booming low grade wood market for chips and pulpwood fulfill its supposed silvicultural purpose of adding value to standing timber? As a long term trend, could these markets be "demanding" our forests into a degraded condition that invites further cutting for fiber?

A Conversation About Forestry Issues With Vermont Representative David Clarkson

Vermonters are fortunate to have had Representative David Clarkson of Newfane, in Vermont's southeast corner, serve as a legislative member of the Forest Resource Advisory Council. At the first meeting of FRAC, Clarkson introduced the Council to Noss and Cooperrider's work, *Saving Nature's Legacy*, and warned that the public would not be allowing the issue of biodiversity to go away. The representative has also put extra effort into the thorny task of lowering workmen's compensation rates for loggers. On the personal level, Clarkson has been active in forest conservation, working with neighboring landowners to protect a combined holding of 10,000 acres.

Clarkson's legislative service of three and a half terms caps a career in education teaching math and history; he is leaving to make room for someone else to carry on the Vermont tradition of an amateur, citizen assembly. The Northern Forest Forum sought an interview with him to gain a legislative perspective on forest policy. Our conversation began with the topic of current use and how the program, which establishes use value appraisal for enrolled farm and forest lands, became a political football. At the conclusion of last year's legislative session, the burden of funding the program was shifted to towns, a controversial move which has added to the uncertainty of Current Use's future, as the program is due to sunset in June 1997.

—Andrew Whittaker

David Clarkson (hereafter DC): I was interested in all issues from the very start that related to forest policy and management . . . [I] became an advocate for the current use program quite naturally over that seven year period.

At the beginning of that period the Democratic leadership in both the House and the Senate were looking for ways to find funds that could be applied to other areas, particularly the safety net and education. The governor was equally interested too in avoiding any tax increases.

Those of us who realized how important current use was as a long-term land management program for the future of the state were fighting an uphill battle. The [House and Senate] leadership was cool to any expansion of the program; it had become an expensive program, about \$14 million a year and people were looking at it and saying hey! like Willie Sutton that's where the money is, let's go get some money out of the current use program.

So they started to underfund it and it was a hard slog those first years that I had in the house convincing my colleagues that this was an important program and shouldn't be nibbled to death by ducks as I would say.

Andrew Whittaker (hereafter AW): What was your argument for current use?

DC: Well, first of all, tax equity. It was unfair to tax farm and forest land at its fair market value, at development prices, because that ran counter to other policies in the state to have reasonable growth but not to lose the main resources that draw people to Vermont; which is forest and farm land. If this place was New Jersey, they wouldn't come here in large numbers; they live in New Jersey because its close to where they work. But they vacation in other places.

The other main advantage of current use that doesn't get mentioned often enough is that it requires active management on the part of the forest landowners. It's assumed that farmers are going to actively manage their farms and do the best they can to raise crops in the most efficient manner and make a living, but in the case of forest land there are a lot of people that just sat on it, and there are others who over-managed it, cut it too heavily and damaged the long-term prospects for sustainable forestry, and they also occasionally did some damage to the ecosystems they were responsible for.

But all of a sudden you had a program that ended up involving a million acres of Vermont forestland—that's about a fourth—managed largely by small landholders—50, 100, 200 acres, very few parcels over a thousand acres, many of them owned by absentee landowners, people who had either inherited or bought a vacation home but wanted forest land or farmers'



Representative David Clarkson of Newfane in Windham County steps down from the Vermont legislature this session after 3 1/2 terms. Serving on the Forest Resource Advisory Council, Clarkson views the loss of large parcels of forested land as a key challenge facing all of Vermont.

widows who'd inherited the farm and couldn't go on farming but could go on growing timber—a wide variety of reasons why people own forest land in Vermont. But here were six or seven thousand suddenly involved in a program that required them to hire a consulting forester to draw up a ten year plan and keep it updated and to live up to it and be willing to have a lien worth up to 10% of the property placed on it and have a county forester go and visit their woodlots every five years and make sure they were being properly managed; so that was a big benefit of the program unique to Vermont. I think [the active management] aspect is extremely significant because it involves not only the present landowner but the land turns over and it means that new buyers without a close connection to the land inherit a stewardship ethic and a plan and a responsibility. It's considerably accelerated the process of acculturation.

There are a lot of arguments for current use and a lot of good arguments for improving it, but overall it still seems to me one of the best programs we have—that and the Housing Conservation and Trust Fund, to preserve open land and that part of the economy which best defines Vermont.

AW: Why would you say then that now we have the Current Use squabble?

DC: There's a lot of issues involved. There was the political issue of Republican control of the Senate in 1990—you had very experienced people like Senators Little and Gannett who'd been in the Senate for a long enough time to know how it ran, and they ran it on a pretty much non-partisan basis. The committee structure was very civilized, members of both parties talked and argued with each other; everyone felt they were a part of the process, they tried to get the most value out of the intelligence and energy they had and they solved problems.

But the situation changed very radically with the change in leadership—some tradition was lost. The choice of committee chairs was done on a partisan basis, there were substantial changes in the approach of the major committees. Some of the critical committees, including Natural Resources, became very partisan. The Republican majority would caucus outside of

Montpelier and the press would find out about it afterwards.

The most recent session of '95-'96, it got so bad that many of the Democratic minority got frustrated and were essentially shut out of the political process. The Republican majority on the committees would meet and decide which laws would pass and wouldn't inform the rest of the committee; there'd be a vote without discussion. That's not the way the legislature has functioned in the past and I hope it's not the way it will be in the future.

AW: This is the climate in which the cost shift occurred?

DC: [This was] the climate in which the Environmental Board was divested of some of its most experienced members in a series of hearings one summer that were draconian in their nature. I came up here at my own expense just to witness it. It was horrifying to see the lack of sensitivity in the way those hearings were conducted. It's certainly the case in recent sessions of the legislature there's been far too much successful effort to avoid hearings and public involvement by attaching major policy shifts to the budget bill at the last moment without adequate vetting.

There are two basic ways to produce bad legislation: one is to do it on the floor, without using the committee process at all, and the other is to slip it into major bills as an amendment, particularly at conference committee time. In the case of current use, that's what happened. They couldn't get what they wanted from the House, which wanted full funding of current use, so they went through the House-Senate Conference committee at the last minute.

AW: I'd say the Vermont environmental community has been extremely supportive of current use and the broader concept of use value appraisal. We have some landowners however asserting that use value appraisal in principle is their due and that it should come with no strings attached. Selectmen from one town in my area, Newark, have written to the Governor in opposition to the cost shift and the placing of cutover lands into the program: they don't see the level of management expected. Are there some challenges to the consensus you've referred to?

DC: Oh yes, very much so, there always was a firm alliance between the agriculture and forest communities to establish the program in the first place; they realized that they needed the support of the other. It's been a slightly rocky road because the agricultural community didn't like the lien and the various devices that were used to encourage long-term stability of the program, and I think the way the policy issues were formed over the '80s caused a substantial increase in the costs of the program. There were times when the ag community was so frustrated with the underfunding that a minority were proposing to split off the forest part of current use, and I think that will continue. But I think the majority opinion is that the program is strengthened by the presence of both components. It's like the Housing & Conservation Trust Fund; there you have two quite disparate goals combined in the same body and you have Vermont Land Trust types working together with downtown poor types, and it's great, it's a blending of our society that rarely gets in the same room together talking policy. It's very much what Vermont is about.

AW: As our understanding of biodiversity gains depth, there's definitely a rationale for assessing unmanaged lands at use value; should they be?

DC: I don't know. I think we need to keep looking at that issue, for pristine land that is allowed to grow back into old growth, although I think it should be on a limited basis. That's not the kind of forest we have in Vermont, it's been heavily cut over at least twice and likely to be again, given the economics of the situation. . . .

If everything were taxed at its use value we wouldn't have any problem. But we also wouldn't have a program that promotes active forest management and preserves the resource. In the mass, I'd like to see land that is forested and timbered feed an industry that employs 10,000 people and has a major economic function in the state. I certainly don't go along with some loophole in the program that allows people to highgrade their land.

AW: Can we economically include all land owners in the program?

DC: Absolutely. I'd like to see the program expand and cover all woodland owners to a point.

AW: If we drive for such an expansion, does there need to be more commitment to sustainable forest management practices as a state policy?

DC: I think so, I think it has to be tied to ecosystem management, to preservation of the resource and long term commitment to keeping land in its current use—I'm no supporter of the program as a tax shelter. For example, some of these big parcels of land in Windham County that have been sold recently—when IP [International Paper] sold 2,000 acres to van Buskirk it had been in current use and withdrawn in '89 so its appraisal value was at an '89 level so the lien in '94 was negligible, a minor carrying cost in a million dollar deal. The lien has not been a deterrent.

AW: If Vermont has the anvil of current use do we need the hammer of tighter forest practices regulation?

DC: Yes, probably, and I say that advisedly because I don't like regulations better than anybody else. But I see in the field the serious abuse and renegeing on that stewardship responsibility.

AW: Last session you did introduce a bill to establish licensing of foresters—

DC: Licensing of foresters and eventually certification of loggers is going to be needed in the state of Vermont, and I will urge my colleagues who take an interest in such matters to continue the effort. It takes a long time when you have opposition.

AW: What should licensing achieve?

DC: A stronger statement of ethical conduct for the foresters; and exclude loggers from practicing forestry.

AW: Can we work more biological understanding into forestry?

DC: Part of the licensing process should have a strong component on the state of the art of what we know about the forest so that the old-fashioned forester who's just marking trees for the timber market has to have a broader background. I think that's happening naturally as the profession shifts to younger people.

Break for lunch, conversation resumes:

DC: We're really putting our finger in the dike down in Windham County because of the tremendous amount of acreage that's coming on the market in large parcels—6,000 acres in various parcels from IP, most of it heavily cut over and therefore not purchasable by the industry and so it's being offered at development prices, over \$400/acre. Then we have private owners bringing land on the market, over 13,000 acres either on the market or already sold, putting a heavy strain on the foundations and the Vermont Land Trust and Housing and Conservation Trust trying to save some. I guess that's happening all over the state. It's scary.

AW: Well I was going to lead into the next body of questions by asking about that. In northern Vermont, we had the Northern Forest Lands Council and fragmentation and heavy cutting focusing attention on the forest. What do northern Vermont and southern Vermont face in common?

DC: We're losing large parcels—we're at risk of losing

large parcels to other uses for two basic reasons. The economic reason: you can get more for land that's developed. But industry itself, IP in particular, is overcutting their holdings, liquidating them, so in the process there's tremendous pressure in changing use of the land. The case study someone just did as a master's thesis [shows] the small private owners are selling for retirement money to a younger generation also interested in retirement and the land is being heavily converted to development.

AW: What is it the public expects from FRAC?

DC: Policy advice to the governor and legislature based on science, based on knowledge.

AW: What would you say have been the high points and low points of your involvement with FRAC?

DC: Highpoints: the dedication of the experts, the public servants who come to testify and the outspoken testimony of the citizens—we got good testimony from all over the state from different perspectives.

The low point for me is how slow the process is, how difficult it is to reach the point where you start making policies. I would hope that FRAC is able to bite the bullet and propose some things before they fold their tents and silently steal away.

AW: At the time I was invited to join one of FRAC's work groups [Rural Economic Development] you commented that you would be interested in how my criticisms of FRAC might change. After six months I must admit I'm a bit puzzled because we have some significant voices saying that even for the good of the industry we need a regulatory framework—but a lack of progress.

DC: Did you form the opinion early on that this was really going to happen, that industry and AIV (Associated Industries of Vermont) and so on was really going to make what you would call the serious give and take you need to solve problems when you're trying to develop policy?

AW: I see the consensus coming from other quarters—there are minorities within the industry organizations. . .

DC: Yes—I went so far as to state publicly that I didn't think the people representing their industry were representing all of the industry that well—[one such rep-

resentative] handled that by confronting me directly; we had a good knock-down-drag-out in the halls of the capitol where we agreed to disagree. I said the industry has really got to be pro-active to meet the public concern about what's happening in the forest. It's not enough to stand there and oppose and oppose.

AW: You co-sponsored a clearcutting bill with Carl Reidel last session.

DC: I felt it was a start. When you propose a bill like that, it goes through the mill. It's either refined and gains support or gets blocked in the pass or gets chucked. Reidel's bill never got developed because other issues took priority, but I think if I were to submit a bill it would not be focused on clearcuts, but liquidation, and would continue the issues of extensive clearcutting which can be extremely damaging to the ecosystems and long term health of forests and highgrading.

AW: FRAC has taken a cursory look at a severance tax that would encourage a residual stand that hit certain acceptable stocking levels—is that something we should look at?

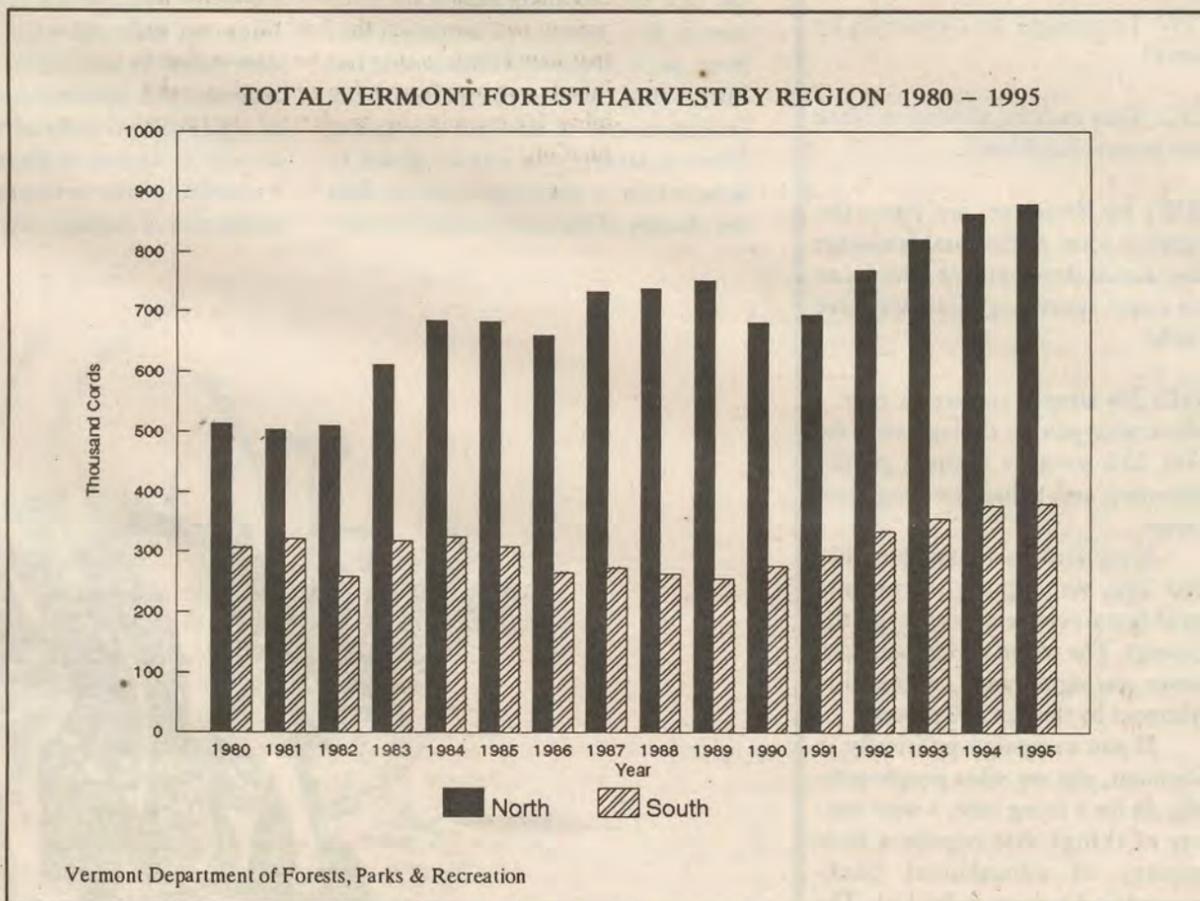
DC: Absolutely, absolutely. That and the issue of permit by rule and intent to cut where an owner is not ipso facto prevented from doing something, merely required to justify it, and go through a review so if what they are proposing makes sense they can expect according to precedents that have been set and rules in effect some may be denied and some accepted.

I take a very dim view of a person who buys a piece of property and then claims an absolute right to do whatever they want on it. That was never true from the earliest reaches of our society. Property was something you stole and held by force and then someone stronger came along, they knocked you out and got your property. A whole body of law grew up to protect property rights, and we reached a state where what you buy with property is a bundle of rights and a bundle of responsibilities. To say otherwise is garbage, it's not true.

AW: Should we take a look at using Act 250 to develop review criteria for logging?

DC: I would think it's too general, we need the expertise of the forest community.

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Observers of southern Vermont woodlands note the cutting over and liquidating of large forestry parcels, even at a relatively constant rate of cutting since 1980. The much more visually dramatic clearcutting occurring in northern Vermont is reflective of accelerating levels of harvest. What can we conclude about the condition of northern Vermont forestland if the productivity and quality of even southern Vermont timber stands is in question?

Using Lichens to Assess Ecological Continuity in Northeastern Forests

by Steven B. Selva

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from Chapter 3 of the important new book *Eastern Old Growth*, pages 35-48. Granted with permission from *Eastern Old-Growth Forests: Prospects for Rediscovery and Recovery*, Edited by Mary Byrd Davis, Copyright © Island Press, 1996. Published by Island Press, Washington, DC and Covelo, CA.

The intimate physiological relationship between lichen thalli and the environment, the perennial nature of lichens and their sensitivity to disturbance . . . means that lichens act as continuous monitors of the environment. An appreciation of their qualities as biological monitors, and the study of the parameters limiting the occurrence of particular species, has led to their use as indicators of a variety of environmental factors.

—Hawksworth and Hill (1984)

The term "ancient" forest is used here to describe those old-growth forests that have been around long enough to acquire the types of microhabitats that enable the rarer Caliciales and other indicator species to become established. Once established—and

because dispersal is limited—these ancient forest indicators require ecological continuity of mature trees and a constant supply of substrate in various stages of decomposition to persist. Goward (1994) prefers the word "antique" to describe these "old" old-growth forests, which he defines as a fourth category of forest succession following pioneer, seral, and young old-growth forests. An understanding of lichens and their colonization patterns will help put these observations into perspective.

Lichens in the Order Caliciales have been shown to be ideal bio-monitors of forest microhabitats. They and their macrolichen counterparts can serve as valuable evidence of great age or lack of it—particularly for forests where other documentary evidence of antiquity is not available—and demand the attention of all who wish to understand forest ecosystems.

Lichens can be described as a stable, self-supporting association of a fungus and an alga, or cyanobacterium, in which the resulting life form and behavior differ markedly from those of either of the partners growing alone (Hawksworth and Hill 1984). The lichen association is recognized as a "lifestyle"—equivalent to saprophytism or parasitism—by which a fungus can satisfy its need for carbohydrates required for respiration and growth. By thus relying on a photosynthetic symbiont, the lichenized fungus can even colonize bare rock or hitch a ride on the back of a tortoise. For, unlike its saprophytic or parasitic counterparts, the lichenized fungus takes nothing from the substrate upon which it grows; once established, it survives on nutrients that wash over it or are deposited daily upon it from the atmosphere.

The effectiveness of lichenization as a nutritional option is evidenced by the fact that approximately 13,500, or one in five, species of ascomycetous fungi are lichenized (Hawksworth and Hill 1984). Under the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the names given to lichens refer to the fungal partner while the identity of the algal partner is irrele-

vant for nomenclatural purposes. In the British Soldier lichen, for example, the scientific name *Cladonia cristatella* refers to a particular fungus known only in the lichenized state. The algal partner in this species (*Trebouxia erici*) may also exist in the free-living state or even be found in other lichens—thereby expanding even further its distribution into habitats not generally colonized by aquatic organisms.

Most of what one sees and calls a lichen is fungal. The algal partner is found just under the upper surface of

the lichen thallus, surrounded by the filamentous hyphal strands of the fungus. While the fungus often reproduces by sexual means, the lichen per se does not. New lichens arise from old only when a germinating fungal spore "captures" a compatible alga or, more typically, when an asexual propagule containing a few fungal strands and algal cells detaches from the thallus surface and is washed or blown to another location.

Plant communities dominated by lichens and mosses have been less well studied than those consisting mainly of seed plants. According to Canters et al. (1991), the distribution of lichens "is governed by microclimatic factors that influence higher plants in different ways or not at all." As discussed by Armstrong (1988), newly dispersed lichen propagules must attach themselves to an appropriate substrate, survive to maturity, and be able to reproduce successfully. In addition to competition, the development of lichen assemblages on bark and wood substrates is determined by such factors as age, corrugation, pH, moisture-holding capacity, and nutrient status of the substrate, as well as degree of illumination and humidity of the microenvironment, inclination of surfaces, aspect, air pollu-

tion, and stand continuity (e.g., Barkman 1958; Brodo 1973; James, Hawksworth, and Rose 1977).

According to Goward (1994)—describing his work with epiphytic macrolichens in British Columbia's intermontane old-growth forests—the most ubiquitous species tend to become established early on in forest succession, while most of the less common species do not begin to appear until the forest has attained old-growth status, usually at about 150 to 200 years. By then the forest, as a result of increasing structural heterogeneity, has presumably acquired a full complement of potential microsites suitable for colonization by lichens and has thereby become available for sporadic and random inoculation by lichen propagules originating from old-growth forests elsewhere. This suggests that the diversity of lichens on any given tree can be expected to increase over time (with certain limitations: see Goward 1994), with a disproportionate number of rare species being restricted to very old (i.e., ancient or "antique") stands.

While each lichen species is distributed according to its own microhabitat requirements, there is a tendency for gymnosperms (softwoods) and angiosperms (hardwoods) to host quite dissimilar epiphyte communities. This has led me to propose two indices of ecological continuity (IEC): one for sites dominated by gymnosperms (i.e., spruce-fir forest types) and the other for sites dominated by angiosperms (i.e., northern hardwoods forest types).

Selection of indicator species is based on the multiple, exclusive (and near exclusive) occurrence of the species in forests with a documented long continuity. These include the northern hardwoods stands at Big Reed Preserve, Musquacook, and Yankeetuladi in Maine and The Bowl in New Hampshire, and the spruce-fir stands at Big Reed Preserve and Dry Town in Maine and Nancy Brook and Gibbs Brook in New Hampshire. The lichen species selected appear to be faithful to the ancient forest conditions present at these sites and, though widely distributed in the Northeast, are not generally

Clarkson

Continued from page 13

AW: Consensus building is the catch phrase these days—

DC: I think most landowners are like me, they recognize the need for some regulation so long as it's fair and benign. The stonewallers in industry who will oppose anything on a doctrinaire basis are going to have to be shoved around a bit before they back down.

AW: [laughing] So consensus by force?

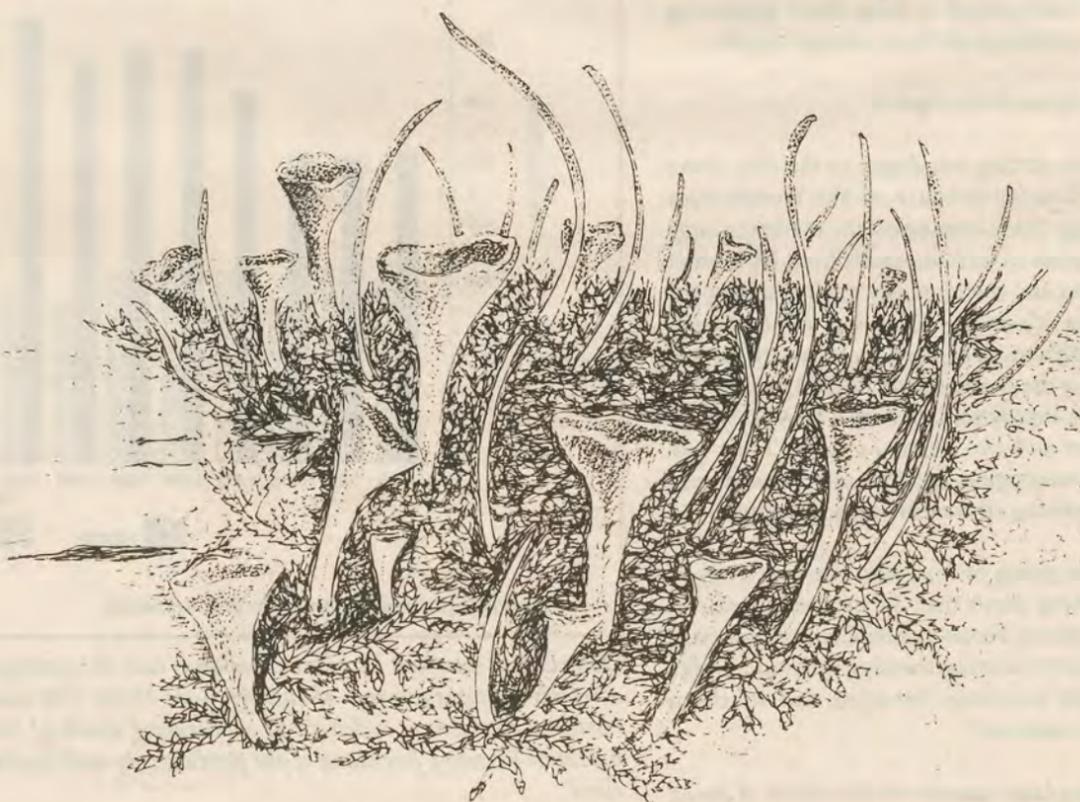
DC: They can't be allowed to block the process indefinitely.

AW: In Vermont, we have the agrarian ideal of the rural landscape and actual development which can be quite sprawling. Can we have both?

DC: No simple answer to that. I think what you go through with the Act 250 process focuses public attention and debate on long term issues.

If we don't have something like Act 250, we're going to run into problems seen elsewhere in the country. The recent savings and loan fiasco was significantly cushioned in Vermont by the Act 250 process.

If you campaign politically in Vermont, you see what people actually do for a living here, a wide variety of things that require a wide variety of educational backgrounds—it's quite individual. The small industries that employ 5, 10, 15 people are all over the place. They don't have overwhelming [development] impact on the community.



collected outside of undisturbed habitats (e.g., Gowan and Brodo 1988, Hale 1979, Harris 1977, Selva unpubl.).

Many epiphytic Caliciales species prefer microhabitats of high humidity and rather low light intensity (Tibell 1980), often sharing such niches with few other species. Though they may be found on all sides of older trees, they are more likely to be encountered near the base of the trunk on angiosperms—typically on the side opposite the more conspicuous lichen vegetation—and at breast height, rarely lower, on most gymnosperms. Interestingly, a close inspection of the trunks of many trees that appear to be without lichens at old-growth sites reveals that they are, in fact, colonized by one to several Caliciales species. That many of these species are able to tolerate the increasing acidity of bark during stand succession may be a decisive factor in competition with macrolichens for space (Hyvarinen, Halonen, and Kauppi 1992). Finally, except for the presence of *Sphinctrina* species, neither the upper trunk nor the branches of angiosperms or gymnosperms support a well-developed Caliciales flora.

In both the present study and that by Tibell (1992), lichens in the Order Caliciales have been shown to be ideal biomonitors of forest microhabitats. They and their macrolichen counterparts can serve as valuable evidence of

great age or lack of it—particularly for forests where other documentary evidence of antiquity is not available—and demand the attention of all who wish to understand forest ecosystems.

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The Paper Colony

A New Video on Clearcut Maine Woods

In his new 27-minute video *The Paper Colony*, Doug Hawes-Davis draws attention to the intimate connections between land ownership, industry and political power in Maine. Timber from lands owned by Champion International, International Paper, and Boise Cascade goes directly to fuel the mills of these same companies. Through combined ownership of land and industry, corporate timber interests play a powerful role in the Maine legislature—to the point that industry employees frequently serve as state representatives.

Not surprisingly, many of Maine's representatives fight hard to maintain the lax environmental regulations that permit decimation of the northern forest. State Representative Bob Cameron (a Boise-Cascade employee) puts it bluntly: "Open heart surgery is not pretty, but it's something we have to do in order to save people's lives. And sometimes we have to clearcut in order to protect the forest."

The ecological justification for such statements is dubious, at best. But it's clearly not ecological concerns that drive clearcutting in Maine. As Louis Oulette of Millinocket explains, "It's terrible to see the clearcutting because the beautiful state of Maine is being butchered by clearcutting, but you gotta have it to make the money. You gotta have it."

In their quest for money, large corporations have wrested control of Maine's forests from the people. However Mainers have a growing concern over clearcutting and its ecological consequences. This widely-shared concern stimulated the citizen initiative to ban clearcutting—an initiative that won 30% of the vote in the November election.

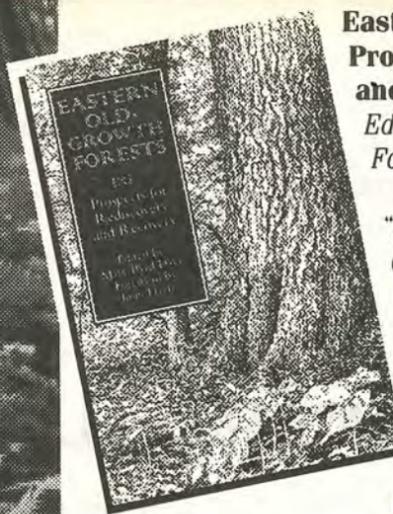
In a style characteristic of his earlier documentaries, *Southbound*, *Green Rolling Hills* and *The Element of Doom*, Hawes-Davis uses the voices of local people to tell the story of the clearcutting controversy in Maine. He skillfully weaves together the impressions of loggers, environmentalists, state land managers, industry representatives and others, illuminating a conflict which is shaping the future of Maine's northwoods.

Without drowning the viewer in a sea of despairing imagery, Hawes-Davis offers an honest and jarring look at the Maine landscape and the devastation that has occurred there. Excellent aerial footage along with creative cinematography carry the viewer full circle from clearcuts to paper production to human consumption. *The Paper Colony* illuminates both sides of the clearcutting debate and uncovers the driving motivations behind each perspective. Hawes-Davis successfully puts the issue in both local and national context, and the video should interest not only Mainers, but all those concerned with forest ecosystems and the need to liberate them from corporate domination.

VHS copies available for \$25 postpaid from Ecology Center Productions, 1519 Cooper Street, Missoula, Montana 59802 (406) 728-5733, dhd@wildrockies.org. Write/email for a catalog of other documentaries available from Ecology Center Productions.

—Film review by Marion Hourdequin

ISLAND PRESS



Eastern Old-Growth Forests Prospects for Rediscovery and Recovery

Edited by Mary Byrd Davis
Foreword by John Davis

"Anyone serious about acting to ensure the persistence of communities of eastern North America's leafy elders needs a copy of this book."
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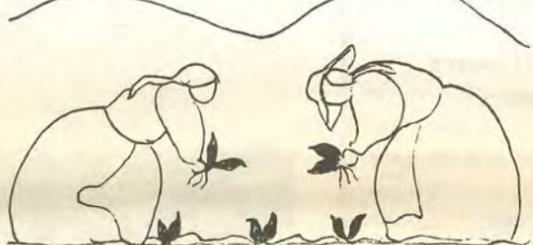
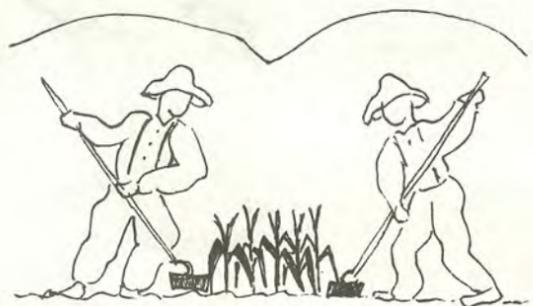
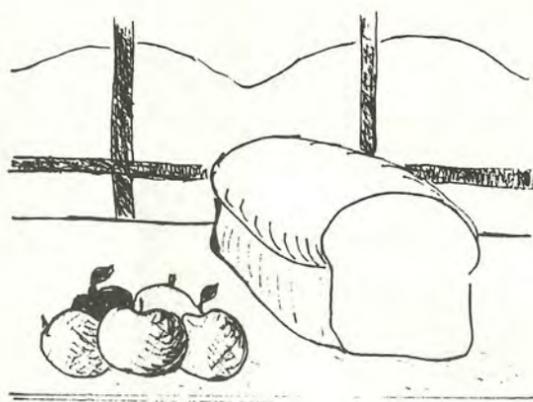
Peace & Happiness

by Michael Phillips

Dad always answered our holiday query of what he might want the same way. "Peace and happiness." That seemed evasive to two boys with a seemingly endless list of material desires. There were fleets of battleship models to buy, the Daniel Boone frontier set, shiny new bikes ... why a fellow could spend whole evenings going through the Sears catalog just trying to narrow down the possibilities.

That answer said a whole lot about my father that I couldn't understand at the time. Didn't we have peace whenever my brother and I weren't fighting and happiness when we got all the stuff we wanted? A child's sense of economy and values can be fairly basic. The reality of paying bills, earning an income, and making economic choices is beyond a child's ken. Choices like finding happiness through giving all you possibly can to your children, be they material or spiritual gifts.

There are gifts we can pass onto future generations and by so doing perhaps find that elusive *peace and happiness*. These gifts cannot be delivered by the global economy. Their value is not measured in mere dollars. You won't even find them in the Sears catalog. Yet their worth is



immeasurable in a human economy based upon meeting everyone's needs and living in a sustainable world.

The first is the gift of family and friends. Having time enough to share each day's simple pleasures

"There is enough for every man's need, but not enough for every man's greed."

—Gandhi

with one another is too often lost in the pursuit of the material *more*. Perhaps in embracing the material *less* we will find the spiritual *more*.

The second is the gift of good health. Both ours and the planet's. There should be no debate about clearcutting entire forests for corporate gain at the loss of local sustainability and cottage industry. There should be no debate about the risks of pumping dioxins into our environment so we can have white toilet paper. There should be no debate about spraying our foods with chemicals so that food can be cheap in every sense of the word. The gift of health definitely assumes a certain level of species intelligence.

The third and final gift is that of inner peace. Each one of us, whatever our economic and political beliefs, needs to sit back and reflect on all the good and joy inherent in this creation. We need to focus on the good we can do one another. We need to invest our very brief time on earth in acts of celebration and love.

All our talk here of local economy and good stewardship of the environment begins with such understanding.

Inspiring Local Economy

- Next vacation consider consulting with an *anti-travel agent* in planning a trip. The idea here is to travel locally and spend money on nearby recreation. How about a weekend getaway at an area inn complete with a hot tub out under the stars? The point of vacations is getting away, not necessarily far away.

- Last month we installed a gravity-fed waterline to our farmhouse. The cost was significantly greater than the option of replacing the pipe to the shallow well from which an electric pump had drawn water for decades. Yet now we'll save that portion of an electric bill and can have water through a prolonged power outage. It's one of those economic choices that in the long run is worth far more than any short term savings. Buying a quality item often achieves similar savings by lending itself to repair and a longer lifetime of use. Local producers more often than not deliver such quality. Though you spend more in the beginning—smaller-scale production simply has greater costs—you're

tapping into a gravity-fed economics that recirculates local dollars for the benefit of all.

- Whether you voted or not this last election, did you realize you cast an even more important vote locally each time you spend your hard-earned money? Our economic choices tie into our environmental vision. Don't eschew the pulping of our forests while at the same time participating in a throwaway society. Eat locally-grown foods in season—not strawberries in January—if you truly want to support small family farms in your environs. Walk more rather than burn unnecessary petroleum. All the little acts add up to a huge vote of how we want our world to be.

Note to our Readers: What are your ideas for inspiring local economy? Your suggestions, thoughts and outlandish opinions are what make this feature of the *Forum* work. Write us today! *Every Person's Need*, RFD 1 Box 275, Groveton, NH 03582.

Supporting Local Business

Does it really matter? Why should I go out of my way to eat at the Mom and Pop diner? Isn't the corporate canoe a better buy? Damn straight that imported furniture costs a whole lot less! What do my personal values and hopes have to do with how I spend my money?

We've been asked such questions before about the merit of supporting local economy. Now is the time to speak the truth of the matter. Your livelihood may appear to be independent of your neighbor's success but that's only an illusion of these corporate times. A deeper affluence exists for a society with the will to support its own and live within its means.

Here's the skinny on becoming a local economy advocate—

- Downtown character is preserved, enhanced and filled with life. The other option is either shopping strips outside of town or the mega mall, all of which look the same, smell the same and are depressingly unconnected to community vibrancy.

- Local business people are the folks you go to school, church, and see on Saturdays on the tennis courts. It's a sure bet your friends are going to give you better service and guarantee your satisfaction.

- Recirculation of local dollars is a must if a community is going to stay afloat. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours, if you like, just don't do any scratching at McDonald's.

- A local business person is more likely than not to return some of the profit to the community that supports them. This might mean sponsoring the school play, donating refreshments to the hospital fund-raiser, or doing advocacy for good stewardship of our forests. Corporate support of shared values never quite works the same.

- Wise use of area resources is more assured when the circle of use is local. Wood harvested, milled, and built into furniture (and the like) by a community comes from a forest a whole lot different than one owned by investors from away whose primary interest is increasing their personal coffers. A community wouldn't spray herbicide on itself but Boise Cascade would.

- We are far from having local food security. New England imports close to 90% of its food. Wouldn't it be nice to know local farmers could make a living and thus all of us could eat should weather or failed transport take that distant food supply away someday?

- Seventh generation thinking comes in a community that maintains a sense of its own destiny. Wall Street isn't going to provide for our children's future, but we can.

- Caring for one another is a central tenet of local economy. Enrichment of the human soul is more than just a financial transaction.

It doesn't take a whole lot of pondering to realize which businesses in your area contribute to such possibilities. The membership list of *Businesses for the Northern Forest* is another place to begin. These are locally-operated ventures that have pledged to support stewardship guidelines for our region's forests. This may mean utilizing native hardwoods harvested in a renewable manner. These businesses may sponsor education seminars aimed at raising public understanding of forest issues. They're all local folks deserving of local support in order to build a more sustainable tomorrow. Let us know if you have any more additions for the list.

Businesses for the Northern Forest

Maine

Acadia Mountain Guides, Inc., *Orono*
 Al's Sport Center, *Lewiston*
 Alcyon Woodworks, *Portland*
 All Seasons Sport, *Waterville*
 Alpenglow Adventure Sports, *Orono*
 Augusta Trading Post, *Augusta*
 Bath Cycle & Ski, *Woolwich*
 Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad Company, *Unity*
 Bookland Brunswick, *Brunswick*
 Borealis Yurts, *Dover-Foxcroft*
 Cadillac Mountain Sports, *Bar Harbor*
 Cahill's Sporting Goods, *Dover-Foxcroft*
 Cove-Side Wheel & Ski, *Newport*
 Devaney Doak & Garrett Booksellers, Inc., *Farmington*
 Down East Nature Tours, *Bar Harbor*
 Earthly Delights, *Hallowell*
 Eastern Mountain Sports, *South Portland*
 Ecology House, *Portland*
 Good Foods Store, *Bethel*
 Good Kind Pen Company, *Scarborough*
 Great American Bike & Ski, *Bethel*
 Gulf of Maine Books, *Brunswick*
 Harvest Time, *Augusta*
 Holden Cyclery, *Skowhegan*
 Hopkins Flowers & Gifts, *Manchester*
 Huff Forest Products, *Pittsfield*
 Jeff's Fly Shop, *West Paris*
 John McKeith Location Photography, *Bridgton*
 Johnson Sporting Goods, *Brunswick*
 Kennebec Books, *Augusta*
 Lippincott Books, *Bangor*
 Mahoosuc Guide Service, *Newry*
 Mahoosuc Mountain Sports, *Bethel*
 Maine Bound, *Orono*
 Maine Street Market Natural Foods Coop, *Unity*
 Merrill's Bookshop, *Hallowell*
 Moose America Antiques, *Rangeley*
 Morning Glory Natural Foods, *Brunswick*
 Natural Wonders, *South Portland*
 Nelson's Sport & Hobby Shop, *Dover-Foxcroft*
 Northern Lights Heath & Sport, *Farmington*
 Paper Kicks, *Hallowell*
 Plants Alive, Inc., *Waterville*
 Rangeley Lakes Antiques, *Rangeley*
 Rangeley Mountain Bike Touring Company, *Rangeley*
 Red Oak Sports, *Farmington*
 Rose Bicycle, *Orono*
 Seasons Cafe, *Lewiston*
 The Boat Doctor, *Dexter*
 The Body Shop, *South Portland*
 The Coffee Store, *South Portland*
 The Cooperative Hand, *Dover-Foxcroft*
 The Map Store, *Old Town*
 True North Adventures, *Bethel*
 Unity Pond Pottery, *Unity*
 Wooden Boat, *Brooklin*

New Hampshire

Applebrook Bed & Breakfast, *Jefferson*
 Eastern Mountain Sports, *Peterborough, North Conway, Newington, Nashua, Salem, Manchester*
 Healthy Rhino Natural Foods, *Lancaster*
 Independent Mountain, *North Conway*
 International Mountain Equipment, *North Conway*
 Jefferson Inn, *Jefferson*
 Lost Nation Cider Mill, *Lancaster*
 Lost Nation Natural Foods, *Lancaster*
 Midtown Washtub, *Lancaster*
 Moriah Sports, *Gorham*
 North Country Outfitters, *Littleton*
 Notchland Inn, *Hart's Location*
 Omar & Bob's, *Hanover*
 Ragged Mountain Equipment, *Intervale*
 Riverside Cycles, *Ashland*
 Stonyfield Farms, *Londonderry*

Summers Backcountry Outfitters, *Keene*
 Travel & Nature, *Exeter*
 Tuckerman's Outfitter, *North Conway*
 Umbagog Outfitters, *Errol*
 Wilderness Map Company, *Twin Mountain*

New York

Adirondack Alpine Adventures, *Keene*
 Adirondack Outfitters of Long Lake, *Long Lake*
 ADK Mountain & Stream Guide Service, *Olmstedville*
 All Season's Outfitters, *Saranac Lake*
 Barkeater Bikes, *Saranac Lake*
 Bashful Bear Bookstore & Natural Foods Store, *Keene Valley*
 Beaver Brook Outfitters, *Wevertown*
 Blue Mountain Boat Livery, *Blue Mountain Lake*
 Blue Mountain Outfitters, *Blue Mountain Lake*
 Carl Heilman Nature Photography, *Brant Lake*
 Eastern Mountain Sports, *Lake Placid, Syracuse, Albany, Rochester, Tonawanda, Buffalo, New York*
 High Peaks, *Lake Placid*
 Hornbeck Boats, *Olmsteadville*
 Hutt Enterprises, *Blue Mountain Lake*
 McDonnell's Adirondack Challenges Guide Service, *Lake Clear*
 Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company, *Inlet*
 Nori's Whole Foods, *Saranac Lake*
 North Country Co-op, *Plattsburg*
 St. Regis Canoe Outfitters, *Lake Clear*
 Syd & Dust'y Outfitters, *Lake George*
 Tickner's Boats, *Old Forge*
 WildWaters Outdoor Center, *Warrensburg*

Vermont

Action Outfitters, *Stowe*
 Barre Army & Navy, *Barre*
 Battenkill Canoe, *Arlington*
 Bear Pond Books, *Stowe*
 Belgian Woodworks, *Starksboro*
 Canoe Imports, *Shelburne*
 Caplan's Shoe, Apparel & Camping, *Morrisville*
 Catamount Family Center, *Williston*
 Catamount Trail Association, *Burlington*
 Clearwater Sports, *Waitsfield*
 Climb High, *Shelburne*
 Couching Lion Bookshop, *Waterbury*
 Downhill Edge, *Warren*
 Duke's Sport Shops, *Enosburg Falls*
 East Burke Sports, *East Burke*
 Eastern Mountain Sports, *South Burlington*
 Flyfish Vermont, *Stowe*
 Flyrod Shop, *Stowe*
 Foot of the Notch Bicycles, *Jeffersonville*
 Good Wood Computer Products, *South Strafford*
 Green Mountain Herbs, *Putney*
 Green River Canoe, *Jeffersonville*
 Mad River Bike Shop, *Waitsfield*
 Merrell Footwear, *South Burlington*
 Moretown Village Inn, *Moretown*
 Northern Lights Bookshop, *St. Johnsbury*
 Onion River Sports, *Montpelier*
 Outdoor Adventures of Vermont, *Montpelier*
 Outdoor Gear Exchange, *Burlington*
 Pine Ridge Adventure Center, *Williston*
 Shelburne Farms, *Shelburne*
 Simply Better, *Burlington*
 SkiRack, *Burlington*
 Slab City Bike & Sport, *Randolph*
 The Alpine Shop, *South Burlington*
 The Craftsbury Outdoor Center, *Craftsbury Common*
 The Mountain Bike Shop, *Stowe*
 Top of the World Books, *Williston*
 Tubbs Snowshoe Company, *Stowe*
 Umiak Outfitters, *Stowe*
 Vermont Vagabond, *Milton*
 Water 'N Woods, *Morrisville*
 West Burke General Store, *West Burke*

Giving Voice to Place: A Conversation with Gulf of Maine Poet Gary Lawless

Forum readers are familiar with the poetry of Gary Lawless, our poet laureate of the Gulf of Maine Bioregion. On November 6, the day after the election, I spoke with Gary about poetry, place, language, politics and cultural restoration.

—Jamie Sayen

Jamie Sayen (hereafter JS): When we met more than ten years ago you gave a workshop on an idea that struck me as rather remarkable and new, an idea you called "giving voice to place". Could you explain what you mean by that and how you came to view things from that perspective and why you find that a helpful way to look at the world?

Gary Lawless (hereafter GL): I think that idea was spurred by my connection with the bioregional movement. When I first started going to bioregional movement gatherings, everyone was reminded that when they spoke from the place they were representing—the place from which they came, from their bioregion, their biological home—whenever you spoke politically or culturally about that place, you weren't just speaking for, in my case a white, male, European, you were actually representing everything that lived and moved and occurred within the borders that you use to define your place.

When you try to speak for a place you have to include not only everything that lives there, but the sum of all the interactions that take place there, all of which have some connection with you whether or not you want to admit it. So most of our politicians and most business people in their actions don't really speak or act in a way that's based in a particular place because they're only keeping in mind a very small fraction of who and what happens there in that place.

When I say speaking as the place where I live, I almost mean it literally. I have an idea that if you listen closely enough in ways that aren't necessarily connected to human discourse, that you can pick up on the conversation of the place, and you can try to represent the voices of lichen or the wind or fish. There are lots of different ways to be sensitive to that conversation and to almost get to take part in it.

For three days we've been driving by a dead fox lying on a bridge, and it kept telling me it didn't want to be there. So, this morning I took a shovel, and I stopped, and people driving by were giving me really weird looks—what's he doing? There's no respect for those guys. There's just no respect.

So, I've been working a lot with disabled folks and homeless folks and seeing them as also part of my community, and that part of the healing process is healing within your own species. You can't be a great activist for the forest and be racist, or homophobic, or sexist, at the same time because it's about community-building and recognizing each other, recognizing everyone who lives within the community and having respect for everybody.

I think the other part of being a bioregionalist is that you're in for the long haul. You know that you'll never learn everything you can learn about where you live, but you make an attempt to learn as much as you can, given your own personal sets of capabilities. When I include something in one of my poems I just try to have the information be correct. If I write a poem about bears and have Jasper Carlton read it, and he says that that's right, then I feel like I can publish that poem because it's respectful toward the creature and the place within which the creature lives. So when I wrote a couple of bear poems, and Jasper said it was correct information, I felt like that was all right, and that I could try to speak that way about the bear because the information wasn't misleading, and it wasn't improper language, improper behavior.

I haven't yet written any poems about the desert, because even though we've been going there for a number of years, I don't yet feel like I know enough to really say anything about it. I go there, and I don't know what the plants are, and I don't know what the birds are. I have lots of emotional response and physical response to it, but I feel sort of like the appren-



Gary Lawless in the Gulf of Maine Bookstore he and Beth Leonard operate in Brunswick, Maine.

tice—I'm still learning, and I don't really want to say anything unless I feel it's the right thing to say.

So most of my poems are still in the north—they're still about wet and cold places (laughs) because I'm comfortable there, and I have some sense of belonging there, but when I go to the desert, it's so foreign. I could write a poem about it being foreign, but that isn't what I want to do. It's interesting to me—probably not anyone else—that I have lots of notes, but I don't yet publish anything about that because I really feel I'm not yet in the right place to talk about that. I'm kind of storing it up. It gives me an excuse to keep going back. (laughs) I need more research.

When you go to the desert, you learn a lot more about the importance of water, for example. And also when you go to the desert you learn about how Yaqui people live in North America and how different that is: how Navajo or Hopi people live, how other cultures deal with their relationship with the natural world, and how they find other ways of living with the place. It's really instructive, and unfortunately we've tried our best to cut off that line of information so that we can remain separate and lord and lady over the planet.

JS: And so the lifestyle in Phoenix, Arizona is the same as the lifestyle in suburban Boston.

GL: Ridiculous. Totally ridiculous. That's what I mean about water. You take your assumptions about water from New England and drop them into Phoenix or Tucson and you're causing a catastrophe that really is a huge sign of your lack of respect for that place, because you're just living in totally the wrong way. It also shows your lack of respect for the native plants because those guys have an incredible amount of intelligence in the

*When the animals come to us,
asking for our help,
will we know what they are saying?
When the plants speak to us
in their delicate, beautiful language,
will we be able to answer them?
When the planet herself
sings to us in our dreams,
will we be able to wake ourselves, and
act?*

—Gary Lawless

way that they live in that place. They can survive; you can't. And then you get rid of them and plant a lawn. Who's stupid? To me that's almost the same mentality as strip mining. It's not quite as visibly bad, but it's a sign of your lack of respect.

JS: How do you avoid the trap of presuming to speak for the land and the creatures dwelling on the land?

GL: Well, that sets yourself up as God. But I think that if you make the commitment to live in a particular place and educate yourself as much as you can about that place, that's a commitment of humility; you're choosing to be a part of, not having power over. I think that humility comes with respect for the place.

When I went to work with homeless people, I didn't know how to behave, necessarily. And when I went to work with disabled people, I had to allow myself to just be there and let them teach me how to behave, rather than assert myself and say "this is how it's going to be," because I was in a community that I was unfamiliar with, and I had to learn that community's language. I'm not talking necessarily about spoken language, but that kind of language of interaction.

If you want to speak for trees you have to learn the language of interaction because one of the ways the tree is going to speak to you is in the way that it interacts with everything else within the community. If you deny some of those interactions, then it's a lot easier to get rid of the trees because you're denying its interaction with soil microbes; you're denying its interactions with a lot of mycorrhizal things, or birds, or salamanders, or water. So you're not really understanding the language of the tree because you're not learning about the whole conversation. You're hearing a little part of the conversation. Part of the conversation is that tree makes good pulp, but there's a whole other community conversation going on.

In the work I've been doing with homeless people, I really feel there's a connection between how we behave toward the homeless and how we behave toward clearcuts. Both are seen as ugly and things we don't really want to see or we don't want to spend time with or in. And they're actually both creations of our own culture, and so we're in denial not only about places that we've destroyed, but about lives that we've destroyed...

I see a clearcut as disabled, not hopeless; it's still the same place it was. A lot of the homeless folks are homeless because of actions of the society. The condition of homelessness and the condition of a clearcut—like we don't have much respect for a polluted river or a clearcut or an open pit mine, tailings pond... We've lost respect for those places as places. And we've lost respect for a number of people as people, or did we ever have respect for them? I don't think you can heal one without the other in a broad sense. I think someone has to be working in both places and that some of us choose to spend our time in some places, and some of us choose to spend our time in other places.

I just, myself, am curious about a lot of different aspects of my community, and I'll never figure out all of it. I've developed this idea—this extends to other species—that a community is really a conversation, and if you aren't allowing all the voices to be present then the community is out of balance. It can't heal itself until all the voices are present, and no one voice is in control.

So I think the bioregional model of representing all the voices of a place is a really powerful model for a way to think about a community's future. You don't just think about where all the humans can live and where they can get their water from and where they can put their waste. You have to include all the impacts on other species in that place and everything downriver and downwind. The planet gets smaller and smaller and smaller without changing size, so there's less and less room for everybody and everything.

I think that there is a role as creative artists—there's a cultural role as well as a scientific role. I don't know what the difference is; I just hear a different kind of language from environmental activists and cultural



activists. Some of us speak with dances, and some of us speak with painting, and some of us speak with sculpture. And a lot of these so-called environmental advocacy groups ignore that language and don't use it.

I was initially interested in both the bioregional movement and the early Earth First! movement because they not only liked their activist-environmentalist speakers, they liked the musicians, and they liked the writers, and they gave them equal time on stage, and they understood that you can reach people's hearts in a lot of different ways.

I've come to the belief that if I can't reach the adults' hearts I can go into schools and read poems to their kids and make them think about trees and make them think about salamanders and make them think about where their water comes from.

Every semester I go to Chewonki Foundation and do a workshop for the high school juniors in their Maine Coast semester. And a number of them come back and say, "Oh, Mr. Lawless, Mr. Lawless, we heard you read poems at Chewonki. It was so good." And I do the same thing with the Audubon Expedition Institute. Every fall I do a thing with the bus, and I feel like some of those kids hear it—not that I'm directly changing their lives, but it may open up a different avenue for some who might start reading more poetry or might start writing poetry or might start painting or singing or something. It legitimizes a certain other way of speaking into the community as an activist. The creation of artwork doesn't have to be a solitary, passive thing.

I'm not saying that every poet has to be an advocate for the natural world; I'm just saying that if you are led that way then it's a viable option, and it should be pursued and you shouldn't be cowed by the fact that you're not speaking the scientific rational line, and you don't have the right facts about board footage in your poem. Maybe you're not trying to reach the brain directly; maybe you're going to the heart first and letting it seep back up; maybe it goes and sits in the subconscious for a while.

I think that my "Curse" is sitting in the subcon-

scious of a number of people—I know it is. I've seen some people whose subconscious it's sitting in. There are different ways of making people see another side of a situation, and maybe not the confrontational "my facts are better than your facts." For some people, that might not be the way to get them.

JS: I agree with you, and I don't see a conflict between someone who is a more politically or scientifically-oriented animal, or someone who's coming from dance or poetry. If we look at the environmental community as an ecosystem, it's going to be stronger if there's diversity and interactions rather than one voice dominating, whether it's the political or the scientific or even the poetic voice dominating.

GL: Well, I certainly wouldn't want the poetic voice to dominate (laughs). We'd be in trouble.

JS: Having heard some of the other voices, I might go for the poet.

GL: The poets learn from those other voices. I mean if we're listening to those other voices we're learning from them too.

JS: You said something earlier that is similar to what the ecologist F. Engler once said: "Ecosystems are not only more complex than we think, but more complex than we can think."

GL: It's unknowable. The dangerous part is that with creative arts you can romanticize that too much, you can mythologize that too much and sort of become a fake Indian. You can really romanticize your relationship to the planet and get overly poetic and get lost in the majesty of your words and twist the situation in a way. I think that's a dangerous tendency too.

JS: I'd like to look at this relationship between politics, science, economics, social theory, poetry, art. How can we all work together so that instead of protecting my credibility or my institution's endowment, we actually work in concert to protect long-term the ecological and evolutionary integrity of these forested systems?

GL: If a creative artist, a poet such as myself, is going to be true to their heart, then they have to speak truth to power and not be worried about gee, maybe I won't get asked to the ball, or I won't be on a particular committee, or Maine Audubon will never publish my poems, or I'll never get to be Attorney General...

It seems like if you're going to speak in the kind of voice I'm describing, then you have to be prepared to speak the truth as you see it and not be afraid of what other people are going to think. You're compelled to speak. But you have to be prepared to take the consequences because there are a lot of people who are just going to dismiss you. If you're really speaking the truth in the situation as you see it, and people want you to compromise that truth in order for some temporary political or economic gain, you have to resist that temptation. You're only going to be on the planet for a short time, and if you waste some of that time compromising yourself, what good has it done? Maybe it'll get you a better job, or they'll give you a new car, or a job in the King Administration.

I'm getting more and more to the point where I think that it's imperative to say what you really feel or

*Every stump is sacred.
Every stump a saint.
Every silted river a church to which
the pilgrim salmon return.
Every breath of wind a love song.
We worship in wetlands,
bow to the fern, the rock,
the holy salamander,
the blood of sweet water,
the body of moss.*

—Gary Lawless



rethink your position and not say anything for a while. To be untrue to yourself—everything is so fragile these days that if you decide to compromise, the planet loses. Every time people who are trying really hard to speak for the planet decide to compromise for some temporary goal, it's irreparable. The loss isn't for two years. The loss is forever. Places are gone. Species are gone.

JS: Opportunities are gone.

GL: Opportunities are certainly gone. People don't realize the shortness of their lives and the relative unimportance of their lives. If you take a position that's scoffed at by a number of other people, but it's a position that you feel is really speaking for the truth of the place where you are, you should take it. You shouldn't have someone else say, "15,000 waitresses aren't going to be able to sell donuts to loggers anymore, according to the state." The state is a temporary thing; the governor is a temporary thing; the paper companies have proven that they're only temporary. They're leaving pretty soon anyway.

JS: Several of them have left.

GL: Right. And things are overlooked. I was talking about Boise Cascade to a friend who had just taken a tour of Boise Cascade through Maine Audubon. I said Boise Cascade was clearcutting in Mexico, and this summer when peasants tried to protest the clearcut the Mexican army came out and shot them and killed 14 people and wounded another 30 or whatever it was. And that I believed if it was possible in Maine for Boise Cascade to call out the National Guard, they would. They would. They'd be out there in the street. There's a very fragile line of protection from that kind of overt violence toward people, but not any protection toward overt violence against any other species. We're backing off from that line right and left.

JS: Something else that is forgotten by the political calculators who aren't comfortable taking and defend-

ing a position from a matter of principle is that the power of truth would be on their side if they were to side with it.

GL: They're scared of the power of truth. Don't you think some people are more comfortable with a small amount of personal power accrued than with the power of the truth in their lives? They're confusing what power is all about. They're confusing the power of a good act with the power of some political muscle. And political muscle is so temporary. Just fleeting.

That's why they don't elect poets to run the state or to run the country. We're too dreamy, they think. I wouldn't mind voting for Robert Haas [US Poet Laureate]. I'd vote for Gary Snyder. I'd vote for Nanao [nomadic Japanese poet Nanao Sakaki] for governor. He'd always be gone.

JS: (laughs) Then he wouldn't be screwing up.

GL: But I wouldn't want any of those because I think they are doing much more important work on their own. We [poets] are perhaps some of the unacknowledged legislators.

JS: When you go into a school is it all grades?

GL: It's mostly high school and some college. A lot of them really want to be given access to certain ways of speaking, and they aren't really being given them in their traditional English classes. They aren't getting much creative writing, so they're listening to how people who've gone before them have talked, but they're not being encouraged to speak for themselves. God forbid that high schoolers should speak for themselves! A lot of them have really strong opinions about what's happening on the planet, and they're looking for ways to express that.

JS: My theory is that our society's education system tries to sever the connection to the natural world that all kids of our species are born with.

GL: But that's one particular kind of education, *this* society's education. Because on this continent there are other societies whose education system is different from ours and who bring their children up in a different way, although we've tried to squelch a lot of that. If you looked at people who got here before we Europeans brought our European system here, people were brought up with stories that taught them exactly where they lived and how it worked.

When you look at New England and you look at place names that native people had, before we got here and changed them, they're very descriptive of the biological goings on of those places. They'll tell you where to fish and where not to fish, and where you should get out and walk around instead of trying to canoe through. Or what the primary species was in this particular place—to hunt or to fish or something. We've developed a language that's devoid of that connection—and purposely so.

JS: Why do you say 'purposely so'?

GL: *So you can destroy it.* The farther away you are from that connection the easier it is to just wreck it, I think. So, as we find less and less reverence for a place, it's just much easier to trash it and move on and change the name of the next place and trash it and then rechange the name back to "Quail Run" or "Deer Hollow Lane" or something. You name it after the species that you've chased out with your own habitation.

I think the whole planet is trying to educate us. I think all the time there's this educational literature available if you would just stop and breathe and look around and shut up and get out of the way for a minute. Everything around you is trying to educate you about how to be in that place. So, if you stop to listen to the wind in the trees for a minute and look down to see what was happening under your feet, or just concentrated on a particular place, even on a sidewalk, there's stuff going on that can educate you about that place. We just have a pretty narrow idea of what education is.

*You are the last whale,
washed up on a far beach.
The waves are pushing against you.
Your brothers and sisters are gone.
The light is too bright for your eyes.
You cannot breathe.
Small children are throwing rocks and
laughing,
climbing onto your body.
You die alone, your ears full of wind.*

*You are the last buffalo.
The sun is setting over the plains.
You stand alone, enormous,
heavy with fur, lonely.
You are tired of running,
tired of running.
All of your friends have gone.
It seems even the earth has turned against you.
There is no one to say goodbye.
You rest, listening to the wind.*

*When the time is right,
the spirit of the wolf
returns.*

—Gary Lawless

JS: You've been talking about education and place names and naming. I'm interested in language itself. Where does our language come from, and what does our language tell us about the world we live in and ourselves?

GL: What do we know about our early language as Western Europeans? If you start with cave walls, and work up, then our language had a lot to do with being hunter-gatherers and having to be incredibly aware of the place where we live in order to live, in order to sur-

Which World

*There is a path
winding between Sitka spruce,
passing totem poles stolen
from their island homes,
emptied of ashes and bones,
placed along the trail.
In the distance, a volcano.
Raven flies
just above the
surface of things, bald
eagle watching through
layers of air and water
for the fish
passing through,
shining in the cold
river like light
from another world.
everything moving, everything
moving to
come together, come together and
fall apart, again.
the water rushing.
the heart beating.*

*I am waiting for you
at the mouth of the river.*

—Gary Lawless

vive. But also having an incredible creative attachment to that, because if you think that Neanderthals, or the Paleolithic people were stupid brutes who just killed everything they could see, and then you go into the caves of southern France and Northern Spain and see those incredibly drawn, beautifully rendered depictions of all the wildlife from those places—that's more than just wanting to kill those creatures. That's having some kind of connection.

There are speculations that not only did language come out of hunting and gathering, but the practice of meditation came out of hunting where you had to spend a long period of time quiet, by yourself—and also observing the way major species acted, in order to be able to get close enough to kill them without yourself getting killed. That incredible focusing of attention.

If language came out of that, then I believe we were taught language by the places where we were, and we've done our best ever since to get as far away from that as we can. We've completely taken the soul out of language, but we also use it so loosely these days. I think we're influenced a lot by no longer being an oral tradition culture that listens to its story tellers and singers and gets its news from that.

Part of the role [of a poet] in society these days is to bring back that sense of magic words, and that sense of language as a carrier of the news of the tribe. I think that language is probably our biggest obstacle to overcome in the educational process, that we have to be made aware again of how much power language has. If we use it right it really does have a huge amount of power, but we have to be careful not to wield it in an incorrect or improper, out of balance way.

JS: How does one begin to reclaim language?

GL: First of all, in political efforts, the environmental movement is all too willing to use the language of their opponents, of the aggressors. The Defense Department, for example, and certain politicians have been really good at making *their* way of speaking about things the general way the media speaks about things, and then everyone starts using those terms. A lot of that is to remove anxiety about the situation—if you start seeing it their way and using their language, then they've won without the vote even being taken. There has to be an individual effort and a group effort among people who are concerned with the health of the planet to develop their own way of speaking that is in tune with their own goals and beliefs.

If 55,000 people, 700 of whom might be registered Green Party people, sign a Referendum, but it's continually referred to as either the Jonathan Carter Referendum or the Green Party referendum, you've immediately altered the way somebody thinks about that. Just the use of two or three words and you've also succeeded in demonizing your opponents, and you can't let that happen.

Within the straight educational process you need people going into schools using a fresh sense of language because I think English teachers teach out of text books, and they teach books that are acceptable to these school committees, many of whom are Born-Again Right Wing Christians who don't want anything but "dominion over the land". And textbook creators now are so afraid that they'll get in trouble with the school board, and they will get banned and not used that they're really careful not to offend.

JS: In a way the school boards don't have to exercise the censorship, just their threat causes textbook writers to practice self-censorship.

GL: They've already scared the publishers enough.

JS: Which is exactly what I see happening with the mainstream environmental community: rather than be censured by the powers that be, they censor themselves.

GL: That's what I meant when I was talking about being afraid to say the truth. I think many people are afraid to say the truth for a number of reasons. My idea of going into the schools is that once in a while you try

*mind of the planet
moving,
the long thought, the
deep breath the
scratch in the
rock which
tells all the stories -
a traveling skin of feather, fur, wings and
fins, the old
map of the earth,
deep in ocean, rock,
tundra, air where
everything moves where
everything breathes we
learn how to walk,
learn how to fly, travel
together, singing
the song of life,
the hymn of planet*

—Gary Lawless

to give them some fresh language, some fresh way of seeing the situation that hasn't been allowed in the text books. And by the time you're in and out (laughs) it's too late to stop you, you've already been there. And if you do it right, you get invited back, because the kids like you.

I'm not saying that the teachers are bad; there's a lot of good teachers, but I can see just from the little forays I make how they can get beaten down or how they can get tired if they don't have a lot of outside support. It's a really lonely task. I think that the parents ought to be more helpful in some cases and not just send their kids off to school.

JS: A school, after all, should be helping to build skills and nurture the potential of young members of the community, so why shouldn't we be drawing on that community for that nurturing, instead of excluding it because you aren't on the faculty and don't have a certificate?

GL: That involves the school in the whole community, not just in the educational process of a number of children. It becomes the whole community's... uh oh, we're getting too close to Hillary Clinton. (laughs) But you know I think she's right, but she doesn't understand when she says "It takes a village," she thinks she just means the people. I think that in the African Community—wherever she got that quote—that they probably meant more than just the people, and I love that title if she means what I wish she meant.

And when Bob Dole says, "It's about the family," well, what's the family? Is it the biological family? Is it the family of Man? Is it the family of species within which it lives? There's that disconnect—you don't see the environmentalists running for the school board. There's all these different ways environmental activists could have an effect.

Maybe if people want to stop clearcutting they should find a way to go into schools and counteract what the foresters are going in and saying. Even if they're just concerned parents, if they could find a way of getting someone into the class that their child is in. Perhaps I try to do a little of that. And if a number of other people took what it is they did and tried to share it with younger people, it might have that sort of cumulative educational effect.

I like programs like Chewonki and Audubon Expedition Institute because they really have a wider sense of what education is, and a wider sense what the community is. It gets some young people excited. But I think that model of finding the people in the community who have information you'd like to have some part of is a really interesting way of carrying out your education.

That's what I did instead of going to graduate school, I chose a poet who had information I really wanted and went and lived as his apprentice. That

seems to me a much better choice even though I don't have a credential, a masters degree, so I can't really teach. But I think that's education; it's not necessarily seen as accredited education.

I'm educated more by putting myself in a situation that I'm unfamiliar with in my own community and listening to what's going on. It's not like going to school. You can't really learn about clearcuts without going to see one. The impact of actually seeing one is worth way more than whatever you can say to somebody about it. They never are going to get it until they have the experience.

There was a guy in front of me on the road this morning that had a bumper sticker that said "No Wolves" and had a picture of a wolf with lines through it. I think you can be really against something without ever having any contact with it, and that actual contact with things—the physical proximity of the situation, changes the way you perceive it.

Education has to be partly throwing yourself into situations that you're not comfortable with or that aren't in your experience. Environmentalists need to find ways to give some kind of experiential education, as well as book learning.

The books aren't taking any chances at all. In the regular education process—for the most part—the texts aren't going to take any chances. They're written by fiat from some large corporation that owns the publishing company, and they're not interested in the education of children. They're only interested in making money off the textbooks. They're not interested in having any controversy with any school board anywhere.

JS: How do we restore a culture to a respectful and healthy relationship with the land from which it springs?

GL: I think it's only in our heads that we're alienated; our bodies are still carrying on a conversation with the planet, but our heads are denying it. The conversation is when you sleep at night, sometimes it talks back to you. Or when your children talk to you sometimes you hear that conversation that you somehow haven't managed to give them the right words to deny.

I think one of the steps is to commit yourself to a place. When I was living at Gary Snyder's, when I was young and foolish, he told me that the most radical thing I could do was to stay at home.

And I think the second step is to accept your position as one of humility and ignorance and start educating yourself. Speak out of a state of beginning education, and your language will change right away. When you start acknowledging your connection to everything all of a sudden your language changes, because you have to find a new way of talking about who you are, and where you are, and what you're doing.

Once you acknowledge that connection you realize that a lot of what you're doing there isn't so good. And that's OK. You don't have to feel guilt about that, but you have to feel humility about that and start to make changes, and we can also help each other make changes. Mutual aid isn't such a bad idea, but it isn't just about humans.

I think sometimes political solutions have within them the right idea, but they're so species-oriented. Like the idea of "It Takes a Village"—Hillary's right, but her idea of village is just a little short of what the whole community is you live within, and the idea of mutual aid is a good idea, but it wasn't extended to all the other species and the natural elements of the place. Mutual aid also means that you're good to the river; the river's good to you. You're good to the air; the air is good to you.

So that your behavior within your place—nobody's here alone and recognizing that, I think at least for me, that's the beginning of the education process. The beginning of right livelihood process is that act of humility and saying we do exist within a particular place, but we don't know a whole lot about that place or the effects of our behavior within it. And the place where you live is a different place from where I live, so your answer will be different. The things that you have to learn are different from the things that I have to learn, not fundamentally, but in the specifics.

We try to recreate conditions that are inappropri-

the good news

Roads disappear, and the caribou wander through.

The beaver gets tired of it, reaches through the ice, grabs

the trapper's feet,

pulls him down.

Wolves come back on their own,

circle the state house, howl at the sportswriters,

piss on the ATVs.

Trees grow everywhere.

The machines stop,

and the air is full of birdsong.

—Gary Lawless

ate for the place where we are by referring back to the place we came from. So it's sort of a denial of the place where you are and the time that you live in.

Evolution has to do with language as well as the progression of any species or combination of species. We inform each other through the language of our voices and through the languages of our actions. If the language of our actions isn't the same as the language of our voices, then that's sort of a dysfunctional image that we're providing to anyone else who we're trying to communicate with. So, when your heart says one thing and your language compromises itself, it betrays your heart, and it betrays the place where your heart's living.

People who obviously really like a place, but then betray themselves by saying something or allowing something they said to be used by forces that are actually in opposition to that place, it just makes them look like they don't really know who they are, like they aren't at peace with themselves. And in some societies that would be called mental illness.

I think there are some people whose essential relationship to the place is good, but they put themselves into these political situations which aren't necessarily native to the place where they are. Political situations enforce a reality that's not specific to the place, and it causes people to act in ways that betray their connection.

JS: You've raised an important point—the idea of an imposed political structure, or system, basically a European political structure imposed on North American ecosystems.

GL: Right. The place names are mostly European. The ways of behaving are mostly European. And the continent is not. So it's misbehavior. It's oppression. It's occupation. The imposition of rule by aliens—that's the definition of occupation. If people are alien to the place where they are, and they're having to call it something else so that they feel more comfortable there, then it's under occupation. It's not a place governing itself. And Maine certainly isn't a place governing itself. (laughs) When paper companies can spend \$6 million to disrupt the democratic process...

Radio 'Active'

The Earth Day Every Day Radio Station Project that will establish an environmentally focused radio station in a metropolitan area in the United States is underway. The initial stage of the project will raise sufficient funds to make a sizable downpayment on an existing radio station and to staff the station with qualified, enthusiastic, ecologically-minded people. Financial contributions are 501(c)(3) tax deductible. For more information contact Traci Hickson or Dennis Hendricks: Project Coordinators, Earth Day Every Day Radio Station Project, POB 130, Bar Harbor, ME 04609; (207) 288-5061.

Herbicide Project Appeals Pesticide Control Board Decision to NH Supreme Court

by Daisy Goodman

In August, 1996, after a nine hour hearing and a one hour deliberation, the NH Pesticide Control Board upheld a Division of Pesticide Control permit for aerial application of herbicides on 2,000 acres-of forest industry land in Coos County.

The Board's decision to allow Boise Cascade to continue their aerial spray program was only the end of the first round in what promises to be a long drawn out fight to end aerial herbicide applications in northern New Hampshire. Neither the temporary moratorium on spraying set by Champion International after the embarrassing revelation of a ten-acre sized herbicide application "mistake" the previous year, nor the recent sale of Boise Cascade's northeastern assets to the Mead Corporation, are guarantees that this version of forest mis-management will disappear from Coos County.

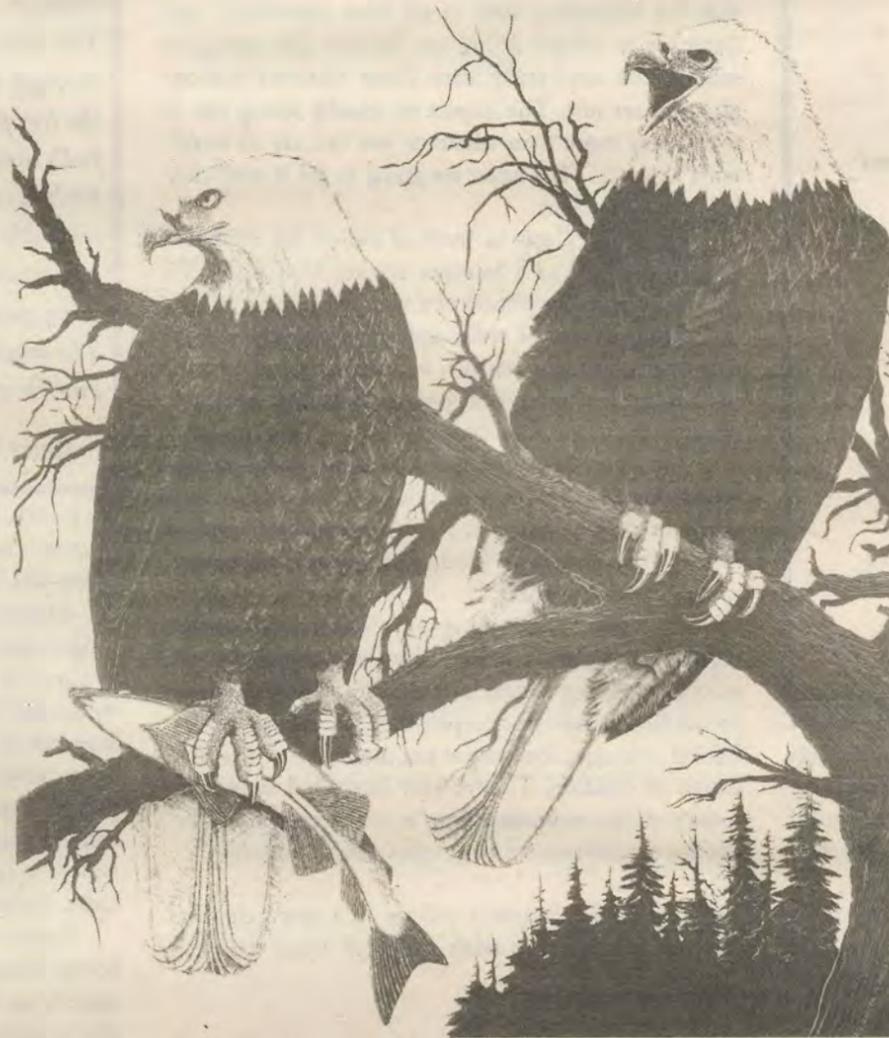
New Hampshire Pesticide law allows an aggrieved party to request a re-hearing after an unfavorable decision on an appeal. In September the Herbicide Project filed such a request, based on the Board's suppression of the Project's expert witness on toxicology; the Board's refusal to accept written testimony; and the application of strict courtroom rules of evidence at the August hearing despite administrative hearing procedures which specifically state that the rules of evidence accepted in litigation do not apply at administrative hearing.

Although the August hearing made it abundantly clear that attempts by local community groups to challenge Division of Pesticide Control decisions concerning pesticide applications would be met with a disregard bordering on contempt, it is crucial to both continue to challenge the permits themselves, and to challenge the lack of local input into the permitting process in general. Failure to challenge the decision on the August appeal would allow it to stand as a dangerous precedent, implying that local opposition to pesticide applications has no place in Division decisions.

In October the Pesticide Control Board denied our request for a re-hearing. Among the reasons given were that the written testimony of highly qualified expert witnesses opposing aerial applications of herbicides, *if allowed*, would have failed to alter the Board's decision on the appeal in any case. Since the written decision on the initial appeal, in excess of ten pages, was issued the day after the hearing, this statement seems more to be an admission of the pre-determination of the August hearing rather than a legitimate reason for ruling out a re-hearing.

Refusal to grant a re-hearing by the Board leaves only one avenue open; appeal to the NH Supreme Court. On November 26, Herbicide Project attorney Richard deSève filed a 50-page notice of appeal with the Supreme Court and the Division of Pesticide Control.

Among the crucial issues which must be addressed is the intention of the New Hampshire law which delin-



ates the role of the Division of Pesticide Control, i.e. to safeguard the public health and welfare and the public assets in the waters, soil, and forests of the state.... (PES 430:28). A logical interpretation of this legislation would seem to be that the Division is mandated to protect the public and the environment from misuse or inappropriate use of pesticides.

However, the Division position throughout has been that the EPA registration process ensures the safety of every registered product and that the NH Division of Pesticide Control's sole responsibility is to ensure that applications in-state fulfill registration and label requirements. The known carcinogens DDT, 2,4-D, and Agent Orange are well-known examples of chemicals that were registered and in use for years before their true human and environmental implications were understood.

The many shortcomings of the registration process are clearly explained in Caroline Cox's recent interview with the *Forum* ("The Best Management Strategy Avoids Causing Pest Problems", vol. 5 No. 1 pp 22-25; *back issues are available if you missed this one*). I will not repeat the points that she makes other than to remind readers that the EPA specifically prohibits use of the word "safe" in reference to any pesticide, and that EPA registration does not imply EPA approval of a pesticide for use.

Since our initial contact with the Pesticide Control Board and Division of Pesticide Control Director McKay, the Herbicide Project has repeatedly attempted to provide the Division with an extensive bibliography of peer reviewed, published research concerning the extent of ecosystem impacts and specific toxicology studies on the three herbicides and surfactant permitted for

aerial application in New Hampshire.

At our initial meeting with the Board, which took place in May, 1996, we were politely thanked for our efforts and assured that Board members would contact us during the permit review process. The only agency which did contact us was the Department of Health's Health Risk Assessment Division. Mr. McKay, although he is responsible for maintaining files on each pesticide approved for use in New Hampshire, showed no interest in furthering his knowledge of current research on glyphosate, sulfometuron methyl, imazapyr and POEA, although these chemicals are currently in use under permit by his division. To date, the only information contained in the relevant files in Mr. McKay's office is the pesticide manufacturer's label and material safety data sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer.

During the Appeal hearing in August, the Herbicide Project's attorney questioned Mr. McKay concerning his lack of interest in independent toxicology studies. In response, Mr. McKay stated that the EPA registration process was sufficient to ensure the safety of the products being used and that his responsibility to evaluate pesticide products ended there. The Pesticide Control Board clearly agreed with Mr. McKay's position because the Board initially challenged the Herbicide Project appeal on the grounds that it was only "a collateral attack on the EPA registration process", and as such, did not concern them. The suppression of Caroline Cox's testimony on the grounds that it was not relevant to the permits under question *because* it discussed the toxicology and environmental impacts of the chemicals proposed for use is another indication that the PCB and the Division of Pesticide Control have abdi-

cated their responsibilities as outlined in PES 430:28.

As Ms. Cox points out in her interview, many pesticide studies are done only after the introduction of a chemical has caused traceable environmental damage. The controversy surrounding the sulfonylurea herbicides, introduced to northern Coos County forests under the DuPont product name OUST by Boise Cascade in the 1980s and still in use is a case in point. It is a clear example of why a Division of Pesticide Control which was actually concerned for the environmental implications of pesticides must take a second look at the EPA registration process.

The sulfonylureas are a chemical family which includes drugs used for treatment of human diabetes and a potent group of herbicides of which sulfometuron methyl, the active ingredient in the DuPont product OUST, is one. The sulfonylurea herbicides are known for their extremely high potency, causing tree and brush mortality at a rate of less than an ounce *per acre* aerially applied, and causing damage to sensitive plants at unbelievably low concentrations of parts per billion.

These herbicides were registered in the early 1980s by the EPA and first came on the market in 1982. From the start these compounds have been extremely controversial. According to a 1994 memo from the Chief of the EPA's environmental effects branch, one of the EPA's research divisions recommended to the Registration division as early as 1981 that the sulfonylurea herbicides as a group not be registered "based on the determination that SU's are excessively persistent in the environment and that they cannot be detected at low levels in environmental samples".

Despite this warning, in 1982 the standard EPA requirement that the manufacturer submit data on non-target plant impacts and drift of the sulfonylureas was waived by EPA's registration division. With these crucial areas of concern left out of the registration process, the sulfonylurea products, under DuPont patents, were registered and subsequently marketed. In the U.S., these products are widely used to kill weeds in wheat production, in utility and road right-of-way brush control, and in forestry applications to promote softwood growth.

In 1986 the EPA began to accumulate reports of widespread plant injury as a result of sulfonylurea drift. Because these compounds are highly mobile in water, persistent, effective in extremely low doses *and* volatile, additional recommendations were made to the EPA's Registration division that aerial applications not be allowed. Successful litigation by farmers whose crops were damaged by drift from adjacent right of way applications followed.

Alarmed, the EPA's northwest region Corvallis laboratory conducted several studies on the effects of drift-concentration sulfonylurea exposure. The results were deeply disturbing. Although the concentration of herbicide was below even the most sophisticated detection methods, plant injury was still detectable. The most signifi-

cant finding was that the sulfonylureas tested, in minute quantities, *drastically* inhibited fruit production in exposed cherry and garden pea plants although no other plant injury was present and although the concentration of the herbicide was so low as to be completely undetectable!

In a recent study published in *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (vol. 15, no. 7), concentrations of 0.1%-0.8% of agricultural application rates were sufficient to reduce fruit production in soybeans by 99%, although there was no visible damage to the plants other than a temporary yellowing of the leaves. These concentrations, by the way, are lower than those associated with drift from aerial pesticide applications. Clearly the introduction of such compounds into a forest ecosystem is a recipe for ecological disaster.

As a result of the accumulating evidence, the EPA's Environmental Effects Branch made a series of recommendations to the Registration Division, including halting aerial sulfonylurea applications, placing a moratorium on registration of new SU products, initiating extensive review and new research on SU herbicide impacts, involving the Fish and Wildlife Service, and *limiting total use of SUs within a given watershed to reduce total ecosystem impact.*

The fact that the SU products are still registered, manufactured, and in use despite extreme reservations within the EPA itself should be ample evidence that the EPA registration process alone is not sufficient to amply protect northern Coos County from DuPont and Boise Cascade's forest management programs.

Unfortunately, the conduct of both the Division of Pesticide Control and the Pesticide Control Board during the past year has served to insulate the decision-making process from crucial information concerning product toxicity and environmental impact. Testimony from DuPont's witnesses was accepted at face value by the Division since testimony refuting it was ruled irrelevant or disallowed.

As the Division *could* have learned during the August hearing, DuPont has a well established reputation for misrep-

resentation and other abuses of the legal system. In fact, *Organic Gardening Magazine* (vol 43, no. 9) reports that among other recent sanctions, DuPont received an unprecedented \$115 million fine from a Georgia court because company representatives lied under oath. Because the N.H. Division of Pesticide Control seems committed to accepting manufacturer claims of product safety, the Herbicide Project must now rely on the State Supreme Court to open up the discussion and allow introduction of evidence which *must* somehow be made available both to the public and the Department of Agriculture as a whole.

As community activists, we know that placing faith in both administrative and legal processes is an unwise substitute for community action. During the first part of 1997 we plan to circulate an informational brochure on aerial herbicide applications as well as a petition in

opposition to the practice. Providing real information to the local community is crucial since we are living in the most immediately affected areas and because this information has been suppressed on the State level and never made accessible to us.

We hope to be able to attack the potential 1997 aerial spray permit applications initially at the agency review level, and then in another appeal if this becomes necessary. For example: the Fish and Game Department is one agency which reviews aerial herbicide permit applications, and has consistently approved them since the 1980s. However, an informed and angry public has the opportunity to influence this decision if the numbers are right and we effectively communicate our opposition to Department representatives.

Another example: several larger New Hampshire environmental organi-

zations are considering taking a position on aerial spraying. In particular, N.H. Audubon encourages its membership to contact the main office concerning the issue. The Northern Forest Alliance has taken a position in favor of increased regulation and increased public participation in the permitting process. Contact the Alliance to express your appreciation of this position and your support for an even stronger position in opposition to herbicide use in forestry.

Letters of opposition written directly to the Division of Pesticide Control will fall on unwilling ears unless copies are sent to a number of other parties. We recommend cc: Stephen Taylor, Commissioner of Agriculture; Governor-Elect Jeanne Sheehan; and the Herbicide Project. In addition, a copy to Mead Corporation at Rumford Mills, Rumford, Me. would be useful. Mead has not indicated yet whether it plans to continue Boise Cascade's herbicide program, although indications are that few changes will be made. Pressure on the corporation directly will be more effective if it carries an economic punch; for example that your school, business, etc would consider not purchasing Mead products unless Mead eliminates herbicide spraying from its forest management strategy.

In addition, *Organic Gardening* is calling on the EPA to initiate a special review of the sulfonylurea herbicides, based on their "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment". Letters in support of this review should include the phrase quoted above and be directed to Carol Browner, Administrator, US EPA, 401 M St., SW/1101 Washington, D.C. 20460.

Want more information? Would you like to help spread the word? Please contact us at PO Box 184, N. Stratford, N.H., 03590 (603)922-5544; or through the NARP office. Thanks again!

LUNNEY TUNE'S...

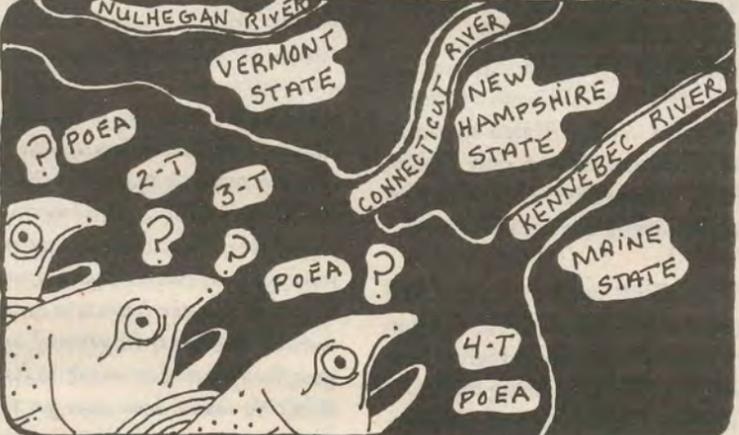
"GENOCIDAL REALITY" JUST A



PRETTY WORD FOR MURDER. AND THE NEW ENGLAND'S NORTHERN FORESTS



SOCIETY CALLS ABENAKIS "SAVAGES" "P!!"



LOOK AT REALITY. IT ISNT SO COMICAL.

THE END

salmon B. Deer 9-10-96

Native Forest Network Launches VT Forestry Practices Campaign

The Native Forest Network (NFN) has launched a campaign that not only calls for a permanent ban on aerial herbicide spraying, an end to clearcutting statewide, an end to raw log (and/or woodchip) export, and an end to commercial timber extraction on federal and state land. The NFN is also calling for a divestment campaign against Monsanto Chemical and the revoking of the corporate charter of Champion International.

For details on this campaign, contact: Native Forest Network, Eastern North American Resource Center, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402. Tel. (802) 863-0571; FAX (802) 863-2532. Email: nfnena@igc.apc.org

Monsanto Targeted in Divestment Campaign

The Native Forest Network is working with students at the University of Vermont (UVM) to persuade UVM to divest its funds from the chemical manufacturer Monsanto. Monsanto produces the herbicide Accord that Champion International wants to use to spray its corporate landholdings in Vermont.

Monsanto stock makes up the largest holding in UVM's \$130 million endowment portfolio. Students at UVM are urging groups from other campuses to look into their respective universities for Monsanto investments and join in this divestment campaign. Contact Jeff at (802) 864-2044 or Drew at (802) 860-7353 from UVM's Rainforest Action Group or Jake at (802) 865-2780 from UVM's Radical Student Union.

Monsanto's track record in safety is dismal. As the sole producer in the US of PCB's they have covered up the health hazards of this chemical, resulting in the death of workers and, they were one of the producers of Agent Orange.

Based on a press release from the Native Forest Network.

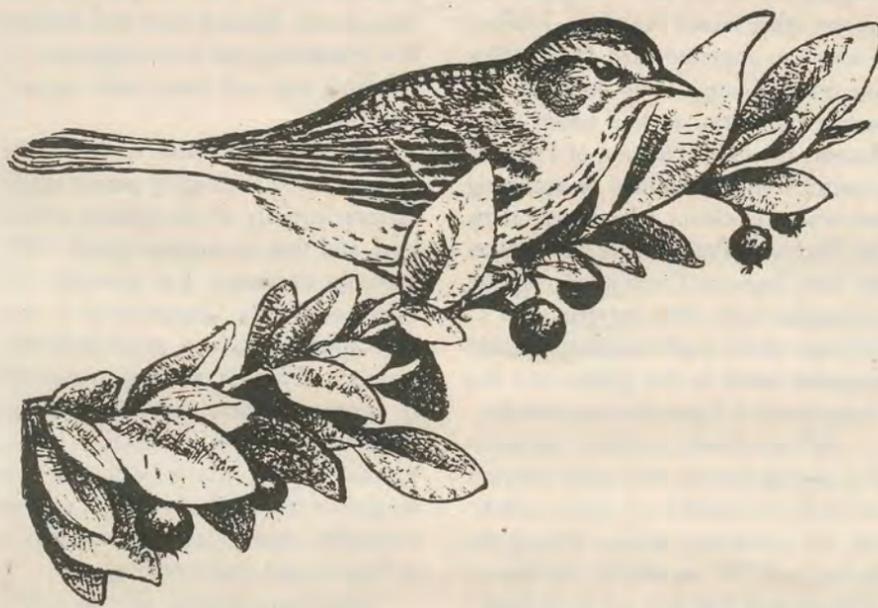
Court Rules EPA Must Disclose Secret Ingredients in Pesticides

On October 16 two pesticide reform organizations announced a historic ruling by the District of Columbia Federal District Court that significantly expands the public's right-to-know about secret chemicals in pesticide products. With limited exceptions, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must now provide information about the identity of so-called "inert" ingredients in pesticide products.

"Pesticides are poisons," says Norma Grier, Executive Director of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). "They are one of the few classes of toxic substances that are intentionally broadcast into the environment. This ruling puts a stop to pesticide industry secrets and gives all Americans the right to know the identity of pesticide product ingredients."

Using six pesticide formulations as the focus, NCAP and the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP), represented by the Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), in 1994 filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit arguing that EPA must publicly disclose the identities of these products' ingredients. The recent ruling upholds their claims.

"Americans are exposed to pesti-



Jim Luoma

cides in their food, water, homes, schools, workplaces, and parks," says Jay Feldman, NCAMP Executive Director. "This decision provides public access to critically important information about the 'inert' ingredients in these pesticides."

"Inert" ingredients are any of over 2,300 substances that are added to pesticides but are not named on product labels. Despite their name, they are neither biologically, chemically, or toxico-

logically inert. They often comprise most, even up to 99 percent, of a pesticide product. EPA has been routinely accepting manufacturers' claims that "inerts" are trade secrets.

The court agreed with NCAP and NCAMP that EPA improperly relied on unsubstantiated claims by manufacturers that the identity of the ingredients was "trade secret" or "confidential business information." The court ruled that EPA and the manufacturers had

failed to show that competitive harm would occur from release of the identity of the majority of chemicals in the pesticide products that were the subject of the lawsuit.

The opinion clarifies that these chemicals are not exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. "Federal agencies can no longer rubber-stamp chemical manufacturers' claims of confidentiality," said Deborah Mailander of WELC.

"The identity of the majority of ingredients in many pesticide products has been withheld in the past," says Michael Axline of WELC. "Now when people ask what is in the pesticides that they have been exposed to, EPA will have to tell them."

Based on a press release by NCAP. NCAP is a grassroots, regional organization that promotes sustainable resource management, prevention of pest problems, use of alternatives to pesticides, and the right to be free from pesticide exposure. If you desire information on how to file a freedom of information request to discover the identity of the inerts of your favorite pesticides, contact the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, POB 1393, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 344-5044

Maine Counties With Nuclear Plants or Paper Mills Show Highest Cancer Rates

Since the Maine Cancer Registry started reporting on cancer cases and cancer deaths in 1983, Lincoln County has been among those at the very top of the list. Aside from Lincoln and Knox counties, and sometimes Waldo (all downwind from Maine Yankee), the ones with occasional high incidence are those that are hosts to paper mills. Oxford County has occasionally had the highest incidence, but Lincoln and Knox (except for the year 1990) have always been listed among the top counties as to incidence of all cancers. The figures are based on statistical adjustments for age and population in each county. The latest figures are an average for the years 1988 through 1992.

Please understand that the work of our state cancer registry falls behind in the years about which it can report because of the need to receive and compile an enormous amount of information. We can be very proud of our Bureau of Health. It is exemplary among agencies nationwide in its diligence on behalf of the people of Maine, even though it has been seriously underfunded.

Here are some interesting figures from the most recent Maine Cancer Registry Report:

- Knox County shows the highest rate of all cancers. Oxford is next highest. This time around, Lincoln County is third highest. Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin follow. All but Knox and Lincoln host pulp and or paper mills. This is the trend we have seen since 1983. These counties have shown higher cancer incidence than the state



average, sometimes significantly higher.

- From 1988 to 1992, Lincoln, Knox, and Oxford Counties have had high rates of thyroid cancer, with only Kennebec County being higher.

- Although the latest state report does not differentiate among those leukemias that can be related to radiation and those that are not, only Waldo, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, and Penobscot counties above the state average.

- For central nervous system and brain cancers from 1988-1992, Lincoln County reports the second highest rate statewide, only Franklin being higher.

- Lincoln County reports considerably higher incidence of breast cancer than the rest of the state with Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington counties being only slightly higher than the state average for the five-year report. As for prostate cancer: Hancock, Oxford, and Piscataquis

counties lead the state in incidence with Lincoln and Knox next highest. All are above the state average.

Unusually high releases of radioactive gases during 1990 will cause careful scrutiny of future reports. Links to nuclear power and pulp/paper mills need greater attention by public health agencies.

This information was compiled by Maria Holt of the Midcoast Health Research Group (MHRG) and the Citizens' Monitoring Network from the latest Maine Cancer Registry Report.

The Maine Midcoast Health Research Group was founded in 1979 in response to concerns about health effects from releases of radioactivity into the air and water around Maine Yankee Atomic Power Plant. The core group comprises physicians and public health nurses. In 1979, the group began lobbying for funding of the Maine State Cancer Registry. In 1983, the Registry was able to issue its first report of incidence and deaths from cancer. The purpose of the citizen research group is to monitor trends in cancer incidence and deaths by reviewing the literature on environmental pollutants in general and, more specifically, on man-made radioactivity. While no causal links have yet been definitely demonstrated, the trends in Maine over the past decade suggest the need for further research into health effects in populations around both paper mills and the nuclear plant.

MHRG can be contacted at: 115 High Street, Bath, ME 04530; (207) 443-3588.

Abandon

west facing slope
cracked stones
chipped teeth
ruining the smile

graveyard under
a sumac canopy
profusion of weeds
inscriptions lost
in brush

families accounted for
by a wavering line
of broken slates-
remnants gone west

land once opened
by plow, grave
the scar closes
on itself

people come & gone
in a flicker
of the land's eye,
their presence lingers
in a new wilderness
growing in place of the
old

—Stephen Lewandowski

Christmas Mountains, Virgin Forest Being Clearcut in New Brunswick

by Tomas Obomsawin

For most First Nations people (Indians, aboriginals, Native Americans, etc.) the Northern Forests do not stop at the Canadian border. If we were to investigate the practices of large Timber/Paper/Oil companies and the Government of Canada and its Provinces we would find as much if not more destruction as within the borders of the US.

In the present case we have a situation where one of the only virgin old growth forests left in the east is in the process of being clearcut by a Canadian paper company. This clearcutting virgin forests situation has shocked and angered the First Nations people in the region as well as a great many non-natives in that province.

This old growth area is called the Christmas Mountains which aren't really mountains at all but a bunch of hills on top of a high plateau located in a very remote area of north-central New Brunswick. As a testament to their remoteness they were only named in 1964, after Santa and his tiny reindeer by a provincial government surveyor, A. F. Wightman.

Who owns the Christmas mountains? This area is on what Canada calls "Crown Land" which literally means that it belongs to the Queen of England. The Canadian government will tell you that "Crown Land" is only a term of respect for the English throne and that it was turned over to the Canadian Government in the mid-1800s when Canada gained its independence from English colonization. Be that as it may, the policies of clearcutting the forests for profits and the economy are still the same as when England officially ruled this part of the world, just as they are in the US.

A poll commissioned in 1995 by the World Wildlife Fund showed that 85% of New Brunswickers favored protecting all types of New Brunswick's forested landscapes. In New Brunswick's 1995 election, now Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Alan Graham and Premier (Governor) Frank McKenna promised to protect the Christmas Mountains area. The Province has only protected 1.6% of its land base. The Department of Heritage's Provincial Parks Master Plan advocated a wilderness area that would not only protect the Christmas Mountains area but would extend it to connect with the Appalachian Trail. After the elections, wouldn't you know it, they said that the Province has no plans "to designate or announce any large protected areas." This arrogant deceit has angered and frustrated New Brunswickers and the native population in that Province.

I would like to use this situation as an example of how non-natives and traditional native peoples can and have been working together to try to protect what is left of our northern forests.

The *Friends of Christmas Mountains*, a non-native group in New Brunswick, have been protesting the proposed clearcutting of 1,200 acres of virgin forest through the summer of 1996. The people of the Tobique (Maliseet) Indian community requested their *Warrior Society* give extra support

to the non-native group. The two groups coordinated their efforts and were successfully slowing the proposed clearcutting and bringing national and international attention to their struggle. Public support for their position was growing rapidly, but, as usual, corporate and government influences in the media started running negative suppositions primarily on the native group. In response to the negative media reports, the Christmas Mountain Coalition issued the following press release on August 26, 1996;

Dear Friends, We are writing you

unsafe now and the natural habitat of many wild life animals has been destroyed, not to mention the Earth's medicines that are contained in many of the plant species located there. This is the last virgin forest in New Brunswick and it must be preserved...

It is time that the public realizes that the methods used by these big corporations have decreased employment because it requires less manpower to harvest timber. It only takes one man to operate a machine that cuts the tree, limbs it, debarks it, and stacks it. ...

If the public has any fears about the



because of our concern over the recent media and newspaper coverage of the Christmas Mountains. We cannot understand why they are depicting the native warriors in a negative way. The ones on Christmas Mountains are peace keepers, not vigilantes. If the media ever took the time to really report the true facts accurately and undistorted, the general public would realize there is nothing to fear.

The native people on Christmas Mountains are peaceful, there are no drugs, no alcohol nor weapons. The reason they are there is because this area was where the Micmac and Maliseet people lived during the winter. Burial grounds are

They are not concerned with the ecological effects of their activity. They claim to be cutting blow down, but they are cutting everything. The water that supports wild life and fish has been contaminated by the petroleum derivatives that are used to operate their machinery. The water is

native presence in this area, why don't they just visit the camp and talk to the native people there. Then they will realize that the warrior society is a peace keeping society who have vowed to protect women, children, elders, Mother Earth and her creatures. Then maybe everyone could work together to save and preserve a very sacred and special place where generations yet to come will be able to enjoy the only untouched forest in New Brunswick.

Thank you, The Christmas Mountain Coalition.

On September 9, 1996 the (Canadian) Department of Natural Resources announced that clearcutting will not stop. The *Warrior Society* and the *Friends of Christmas Mountains* had coordinated their efforts to physically but non-violently slow the movement of heavy logging vehicles and equipment from entering the proposed cut area in

the summer of 1996. They maintained a peaceful encampment and temporarily slowed the proposed logging operations. When word of this coalition action reached REPAP New Brunswick, Inc., Woodland Division they immediately had their attorneys file an injunction order with the Court of the Queen's Bench of New Brunswick prohibiting this group from impeding the logging operations of the corporation citing their *Crown License No. 4*. The order authorized law enforcement to arrest and detain anyone interfering with the logging operation. This put everyone in the group at risk of being arrested or worse for participating in this non-violent protest.

The situation became very tense at that point and for a few weeks threats of violence from loggers and equipment operators working for REPAP caused many people to abandon the camp. On October 7, 1996 the *Warrior Society* at Tobique (Maliseet Reserve) issued this press release;

The issues surrounding Christmas Mountain have not been resolved as of this date. The matter is being pursued in the legal system (Provincial Court). The Defenders of Christmas Mountain have elected to temporarily stay the physical occupation of the Mountain as of September 20, 1996. Fundraising efforts for legal and logistical support are continuing. We are also encouraging letters/calls of support/assistance on logging/clearcutting issues and in particular any information on issues involving REPAP.

After this announcement Tobique's *Warrior Society* has been only monitoring the area and found that the company has stepped up its operations to clearcut the entire area before any more opposition surfaces. Seven new logging roads have been built. A hundred trucks a day. Twenty-four hours a day. REPAP has initiated a lawsuit against the *Warrior Society* for hundreds of thousands dollars of profit that was lost due to the slowing down of the operation. European countries have boycotted paper products from New Brunswick and the struggle goes on.

Although the situation is still not resolved and the logging continues it has been slowed down and provided more time to deal with the fate of one of the last virgin/primal forests in the Northern Forest area. Together we can make a difference. International pressure is a strong weapon against the corporate giants that are destroying what's left of our planet.

What You Can Do

• If you are concerned with this issue you can voice your opinion to; Alan Graham, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, PO Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B-5H1 Canada; Tel. 506-453-2510; FAX: 506-453-2930.

• For more information or to give support call or write to: Tina Francis and Tina Nicholas at the *Maliseet Nation Band Office*, RR #3, Perth, NB E0J-1V0 Tel: 506-273-5400; FAX: 506-273-3035; or Peggy Frith, *Friends of Christmas Mountains* at 506-536-0834; home 506-536-1211; E-mail: pdfrth@mailserv.mta.ca FAX: 506-536-4230.

The Case Against the Sable Island Natural Gas Proposal

by David Orton

Editor's Note: A recent proposal to drill for natural gas off Sable Island, east of Nova Scotia has profound implications for the Maritime Provinces and New England states. Proponents of the gas drilling propose to build a 350 mile pipeline through Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire that will terminate in the Boston area at a cost of \$583 million. The public is being told that natural gas is environmentally clean and that this project will be a great benefit to the regional economy. Critics note that the region has no coherent regional energy policy, that natural gas contributes to the Greenhouse Effect, that the pipeline will have enormous ecological consequences, and that the pipeline is being imposed on citizens of the region by corporations with no concern for local communities. The following article is based on a statement by David Orton of Nova Scotia on behalf of the North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group, to the final "Scoping Meeting" of the Joint Review Panel/Sable Gas Projects, held at the Citadel Inn, in Halifax N.S., on October 24, 1996.

For many conscious people, a sense of self includes family, community and one's own place. One's own place is part of what a person is. A gas pipeline which is imposed without consent into one's home space, violates this sense of self.

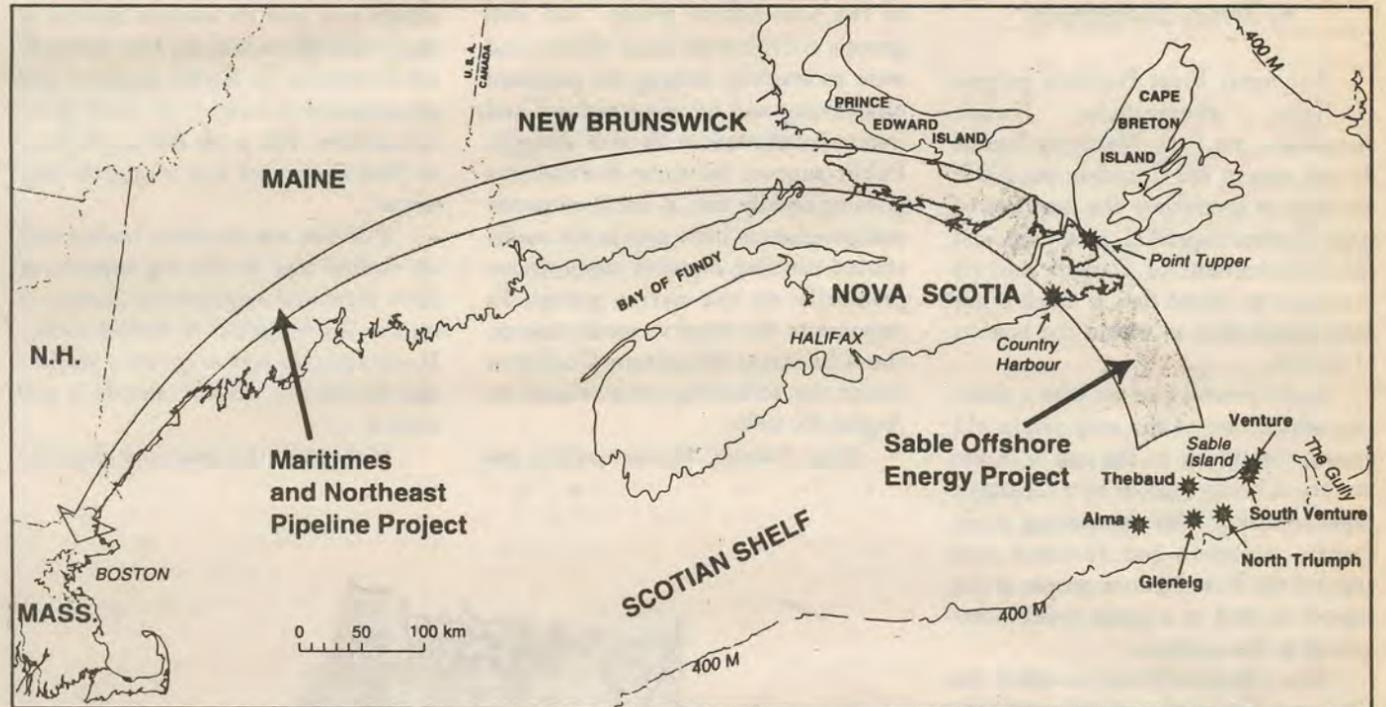
It was the above initial concern which helped motivate people to come together to form the North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group in July of 1996. By July 29, a press release was issued noting the circulation of a Petition opposing the gas pipeline. The Petition stated the following reasons for this opposition:

- 1) The destruction of precious little remaining wildlife, wetlands and forest habitat.
- 2) Concerns for human health and safety, including the loss of peace of mind that living near a gas pipeline will cause us.
- 3) The fact that this pipeline is being imposed upon us without our consent.

The Joint Public Review Panel for the Sable Island Gas Project has recently held a series of "information and scoping meetings" to allegedly identify "any deficiencies in the Offshore Project as proposed". The North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group which is totally against this project, sees

The panel seems to be orchestrating a show that has to be gone through, but for which the players know the outcome. Yet for many of us, there are fundamental ecological and social issues which this project raises. The North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group asks for the following changes.

- 1) All members of the Joint Public Review Panel need to have legitimacy for the people of Nova Scotia. This means members of the panel must have past records of defending the environment, speaking out for social justice, and defending the public's interests—including their economic interests. Members must demonstrate that they are not beholden to the oil and gas industry in any way.
- 2) The past environmental record of the major corporate proponents of this natural gas project must be part of the mandate of the Public Review. (Offshore: Mobil, Shell and Imperial



The Sable Gas Project proposes to drill for natural gas off Sable Island, and then transport it through Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire to the Boston area. Boosters of this massive project assert with a straight face that it will have "no adverse environmental effect."

Oil; and onshore: Westcoast Energy, Panenergy and Mobil). The project documents falsely claim that "no significant adverse environmental or adverse socio-economic impacts are likely to occur", in order to try and lull the public asleep.

Mobil and Shell are invoking past extractive activities in the North Sea and in the Gulf of Mexico as somehow proof that they can do the job in Nova Scotia. But what really are the past environmental and social justice records of these companies?

Remember the Newfoundland Ocean Ranger disaster? The then world's largest semisubmersible drill rig on the Grand Banks sank, with a loss of all 84 crew members. This rig was under contract to Mobil Oil Canada Ltd. Greenpeace in a 1992 document "Mobil Greenwash Snapshot #21", notes the following about the Gulf of Mexico:

In the Gulf, Mobil and other oil companies discharge daily 1.5 million barrels of 'toxic brine' tainted with chemicals and heavy metals that can concentrate in tissue of marine organisms. This drilling has generated millions of tons of muds and cuttings that can smother bottom-dwelling life. This degradation, plus that from rigs' air pollution, tanker traffic, and spills, affects not only ocean but coastal ecosystems. In Louisiana's coastal plain and barrier islands, for example, wetland loss is occurring at a rate of 50 square miles per year.

Shell Canada Limited has foreign ownership of 72% and the Netherlands/Britain is the major shareholder. Shell tried to dispose of the Brent Spar oil platform, when it was finished with it, by dumping it in the North Atlantic. Protests by Greenpeace and other environmental groups, consumer boycotts of Shell, and other oppositional tactics, forced this company to back down. Shell produces half of Nigeria's daily output of oil and has close links with the military who run the country. Ken Saro-Wiwa who continually articulated the environmental and social costs resulting from Shell's operations, was executed along with eight other activists by the Nigerian government. There had been 10 ruptures in gas pipelines over a 13-year period in Canada.

In British Columbia and Alberta,

through publications like the B.C. Environmental Report, and the Alberta Wilderness Association's Wild Lands Advocate, environmentalists have criticized the negative environmental record of the oil and gas industry, which have fragmented ecosystems and severely degraded wildlife habitats. Dr. Brian L. Horejsi, of the Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation, in an article "Shell Canada's Land Donation—Putting It In Perspective", (see Wild Lands Advocate, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1993), has said:

Shell is a company that has routinely destroyed unique environments and important wildlife habitats in the process of road building and drilling...It is a company that has taken legal action against Canadians who wanted an open, fair decision-making process about whether such destruction should be allowed to proceed...Shell is a company whose exploration and development activities have fragmented wildlife ecosystems and severely degraded wildlife habitat effectiveness throughout the foothills and mountains of Alberta, southeastern British Columbia... and the northeastern part of that province.

Environmentalists in the West familiar with the oil and gas industry, have also often noted the consistent bias of the National Energy Board toward this industry in public hearings, like those being undertaken in Nova Scotia. Thus Michael Sawyer of the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coalition, writing in the B.C. Environmental Report, June 1994, in an article called "The Rape Of The Northern Rockies" noted: *At a so-called public hearing in January 1994 the National Energy Board approved a total of 16 gas export licenses for a total of 33 billion m³, much of the gas coming from northeast B.C. In this hearing, the National Energy Board refused to hear evidence about the environmental effects of approving these gas exports.*

3) Eliminate the existing rules of procedure (see National Energy Board Information Bulletin IV, "How to Participate in a Public Hearing"), because these rules are intimidating, complex, and designed to exclude citizen participation in favor of lawyers and professional lobbyists for the oil and gas industry. I have participated in a number of hearings on various environmental issues, but I will not participate in

the formal Sable Gas Hearing as presently structured.

4) Artificial separation of the Hearings. The present terms of reference of the Review Panel, by artificially separating its hearings into two components, exclude consideration of the overland pipeline through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This is a non-wholistic viewpoint, and is also insulting to the hundreds of land owners who face the prospect of a gas pipeline in their backyards. The violation and destruction of peoples' home spaces and their dreams—and the destruction of onshore wildlands and wildlife—must be part of the evaluation of whether or not to go ahead with the marine component of the Sable Offshore Gas Project.

5) Project ethics, only a business viewpoint. The "Project Ethics" by the corporate proponents (Project Overview, Vol. 1, p. 19), are defined only from a business perspective: "We hold ourselves and our contractors to the highest standards of business ethics and professional performance." Apart from being self-serving, we believe that a deeper ecological and social perspective should be part of the Review Panel's mandate. This should include, but not be limited to, a discussion of:

a) How do we reduce our industrial impact upon the Earth? What are our vital needs as a society, taking into consideration ecological sustainability and social justice and, does this project undermine or contribute to such needs? Is this project really needed?

b) Why should more natural gas be extracted from the earth given the reality of global warming? The federal government, to which the National Energy Board reports, has shown no commitment to upholding the Framework Convention on Climate Change which was supposed to freeze our net emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels. The federal Energy Minister Anne McLellan, in a recent newspaper article ("Federal environmental measures no cause for alarm—minister", Chronicle Herald, September 26, 1996), stressed "voluntary" controls for greenhouse gas emissions and said these will not be "at the expense of Canadian industry". In

general, I find in their literature that the oil and gas industry plays up alleged scientific uncertainty regarding global warming, in order to avoid taking any real action. Kevin Jardine, who is the atmosphere and energy campaigner for Greenpeace, was quoted in a Fall 1996 B.C. Environmental Report article, "Oil and Gas Exploitation Threatens Northeastern B.C." (by Ben Parfitt) as saying, "Production of natural gas releases massive quantities of greenhouse gasses." The Petroleum Communication Foundation, an oil and gas industry organization, in their 1994 pamphlet *Natural Gas: A Backgrounder*, cites an estimate from Natural Resources Canada that in 1992, 31.3 percent of Canada's energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas, came from natural gas. Methane (CH₄), which makes up approximately ninety percent of the natural gas shipped to consumers, is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. There is "leakage" of methane from natural gas operations. The same pamphlet from the Petroleum Foundation, says that methane is a global warming gas more than 20 times as effective as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere in a 100-year period, and more than 60 times over a 20-year span. Natural gas extraction and use is therefore contributing to the greenhouse effect, that is planetary climate change and climate instability. This needs to be part of the Sable Gas Project discussion. We need to phase out fossil fuel use, so as to halt and then reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.

c) The construction disturbances for the wells and pipelines and onshore processing plants, the inevitable pipeline leaks, breakages, well blowouts, release of toxic drilling muds from the 30 wells promised, human errors, etc. will impact severely upon marine mammals, the fishery, sea birds, the aquaculture industry, eco-tourism, etc. and the overall quality of life on the Eastern Shore. Sable Island itself is a priceless ecological treasure as is The Gully, the submarine canyon close to proposed natural gas wells, which is a home for many marine mammals. The Gully is a

candidate for a Parks Canada 'Marine Natural Area' designation. Why should we risk all this? Is nothing sacred when market thinking is in command?

7) The fallacy of public involvement, or polling fictions and 'approval' for the Sable Gas Project. The Project proponents maintain a fiction that there is widespread solicitation of views and involvement of the public and that there is massive informed support for the Project. The reality is that the natural gas industry decided they, for profit reasons, wanted to extract gas from off Sable Island and sell it to the United States. Volumes of data, both for the offshore and onshore aspects of the project were collected over a period of years. Then the 'public' was asked to comment, i.e. give its approval. The discussion whether or not to go ahead with this Project, did not take place as a public discussion. Also, to have such a critical first discussion, means access to lots of information, including critical perspectives on the Sable Gas Project, and time to absorb it for the interested public. This has not occurred.

Two examples taken from the Sable Offshore Energy Project 1996 document, *Report on Activities and Implementation of Public Communications, Information & Consultation*, illustrate the manipulation of the public. The first example shown in a couple of places (no pagination), is marked by the title "Approval: Public Approval Level of the SOEP", and it is for August to December of 1995. It shows increasing approval (80 and 91 percent, for two different population areas) based on asking the following question:

Next I am going to tell you about a proposed energy project. It is called the Sable Offshore Energy Project and here are some details: —Natural gas is a gaseous, clean burning, clear substance—not a liquid. It is lighter than propane and is used as an energy source to heat thousands of homes in North America. —Natural gas will be extracted from sites near Sable Island, offshore Nova Scotia. —The natural gas will then be piped under the sea to Nova Scotia. —The natural gas then goes to a processing

Natural Gas - A Clean Fuel?

The corporate selling of the Sable Gas Project has emphasized that natural gas is a "clean" and "environmentally friendly" fuel. Some mainstream environmentalists emphasize how natural gas is much preferable to "dirty" coal and oil. Sometimes mainstreamers and the natural gas industry seem to be on the same team, when they both speak of this particular fossil fuel as a "bridging" fuel to a more environmentally friendly world. We have seen e-mail exchanges between members of the U. S. Sierra Club, cautioning each other not to become involved in opposing the extraction of Sable gas and the construction of a pipeline to U. S. markets.

Natural gas is not an environmentally friendly clean fuel. If we consider only combustion, then natural gas does contain less carbon than oil and coal and has fewer emissions of sulfur. (The carbon content by weight is approximately one-third for oil and one-half that of coal.) Yet natural gas is not replacing oil or coal but merely adding to fossil fuel consumption and an expanding industrial/consumer economy. Natural gas is contributing to a net increase in energy consumption and therefore to greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (from combustion) and methane leakage from methane which makes up about 90 percent of sales quality natural gas. Do we need sea level rise, an increase in hurricanes and other dramatic weather changes? The use of natural gas and its promotion is part of a fossil fuel, continuous industrial growth ideology. When we know that the International Panel On Climate Change, the scientific body on greenhouse gases, has called for a 60 to 80 percent reduction, merely to stabilize the concentrations of these gases, then any increase is truly criminal behavior. This is reason enough to oppose the Sable Island Gas Project.

Also, to talk of environmentally friendly natural gas, is to totally disregard the environmental degradation in the production of offshore natural gas from Sable Island and in its distribution by onshore gas pipeline across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and into Massachusetts.

—David Orton

plant, where it will be piped to markets in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and New England. —The project will require public and government approval before proceeding. Based on this information, would you say you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of the proposed project?

So what we see here is that there is no negative information given about the burning of natural gas or its extraction costs to the environment. Some of these costs I have indicated in my comments. We are not told, for example, that there is an increased risk of developing asthma for people who use natural gas for cooking and heating. That natural gas gives off nitrogen dioxide which can irritate people's lungs. So what kind of informed opinion is this, to be touted as giving massive support to this Project?

The second example of a polling

fiction and manipulation, is to be found on page 34 of the 1996 Report referred to above. It gives the impression that the environmental movement has already approved this Project:

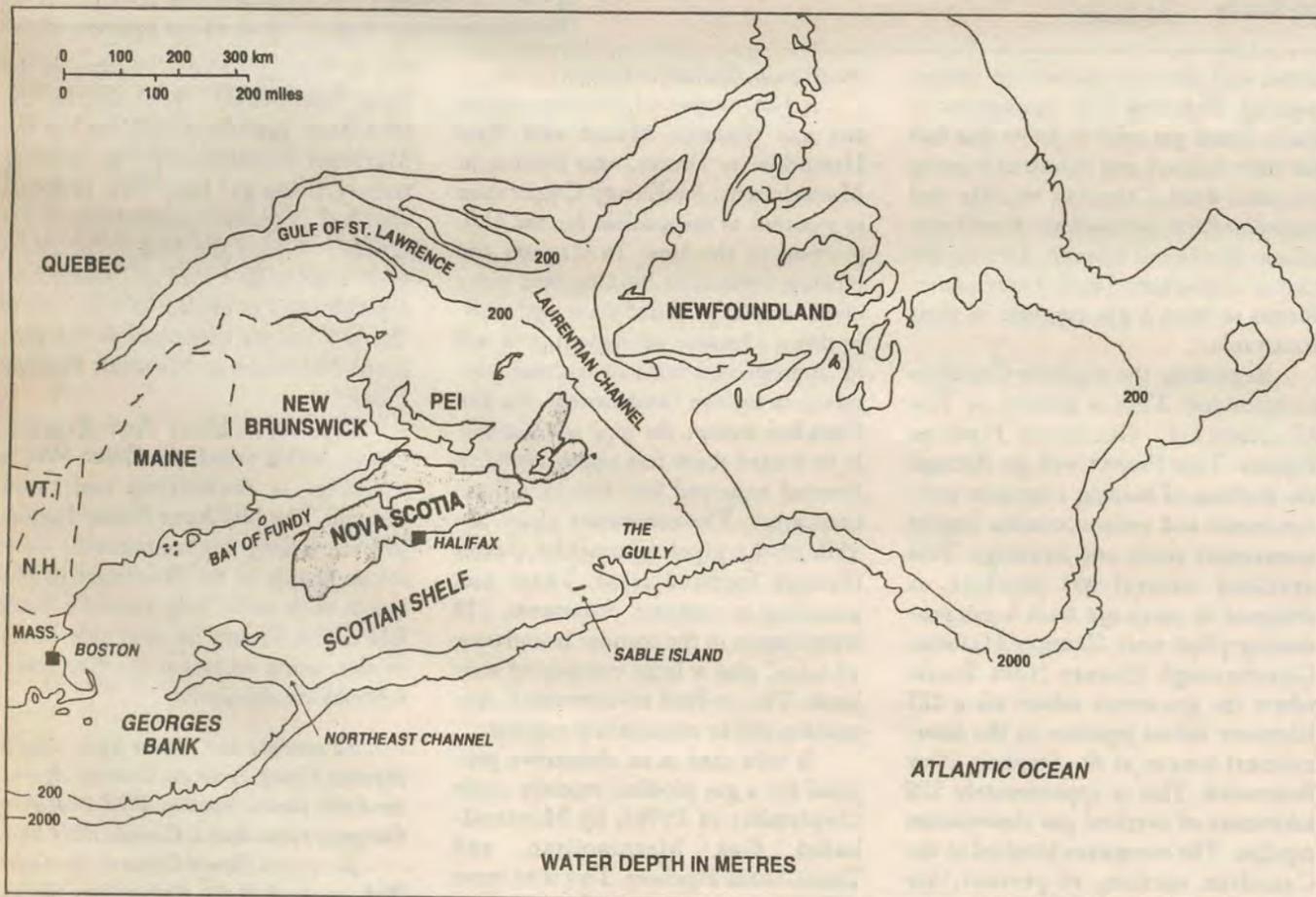
Environmental organizations such as the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation and various environmental groups who met with the proponents, indicated that the Sable Offshore Energy Project could be technically implemented in such a way as to meet government regulatory requirements for protecting the environment.

The above Foundation seems to specialize in beach cleanups. It receives government and corporate grants. It can only represent itself, not the independent critical voices of the environmental movement.

My final point concerns the federal funding of some of the groups and individuals participating in the formal review of this project and concerns the question "Who is the public?" One of the groups being funded is a trade organization for the fishing industry, the Seafood Producers of Nova Scotia. Another group is the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation. A grant is also going to an individual who runs a consulting firm, which according to past newspaper reports, gives advice to governments and industry on various projects.

Conclusion. If we want to bring about real positive climate change, we must phase out the use of fossil fuels and promote alternative energy. We need to reduce, not expand as will this Project, our industrial impact upon the Earth. There should be a drilling moratorium on oil and gas for the East Coast. The Sable Island Gas Project should be stopped in its tracks. The moratorium on oil and gas drilling imposed on the West Coast of Canada in the mid 1970s, shows us the way to go.

Postscript for The Northern Forest Forum readers. At the present time the corporate proponents in the off-shore component of the Sable Gas Project are Mobil Oil Canada Properties (59%), Shell Canada Limited (26%), Imperial Oil Resources Limited (9%), and Nova



The Scotian Shelf is a narrow (125 to 225 km wide) north-easterly trending continental margin which extends 800 kilometers from the Northeast Channel to the Laurentian Channel.

Energy Deregulation: More Acid Rain for Adirondacks?

As the United States rushes toward energy deregulation, environmental impacts appear to be getting short-shrift. It is unclear whether President Clinton's approach to deregulation of utilities will take environmental damage into effect. This is of particular concern in the Adirondacks where the problem of acid precipitation has not been resolved.

Environmental leaders fear that energy deregulation will make it profitable to re-open mothballed Midwestern coal-fired plants and to return plants to full operating capacity that are currently operating at reduced capacity. The resulting acidic emissions will have disastrous consequences not only for Adirondack ecosystems, but for drinking water quality and human health (see "Lead in Drinking Water: The Acid Rain Connection").

The Adirondack Council has been a leader in the fight against acid rain since the 1970s. The Council proposes to use the 1997 reauthorization of the federal Clean Air Act to curtail harmful smokestack emissions from coal-burning electric companies in the Ohio River Valley.

The New York Congressional delegation, led by House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, (R-Glens Falls), has sponsored legislation aimed at cutting Midwestern utility smokestack emissions by an additional 50 percent by the year 2000. This fall, Congressman Solomon noted that the Clinton Administration is expected to unveil new proposed legislation designed to restructure and deregulate the electric industry. "The Administration, so far, has yet to confront the probability that their proposal may indeed worsen the effects of acid rain on the Northeast," he stated. "I am curious to see how they plan to address this problem."

In October, Republican New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato announced he would join Solomon in a push for federal legislation designed to curb the harmful effects of acid rain in the Northeastern states.

"It is quite clear that the problem of acid rain has not been solved," said Senator D'Amato. "We cannot stand by and see New York's Adirondack Park destroyed and with it the lives and livelihoods of countless New Yorkers. I will work with Senator [Daniel Patrick] Moynihan [D-NY], Congressman Solomon and the New York House delegation to put an end to acid rain when the Clean Air Act is taken up by the Congress."

Roughly 500 of the 3,000 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park are too acidic to support most aquatic life. Despite recently added controls on sulfur-dioxide

and nitrogen-oxide emissions across the country, emissions from Midwest smokestacks are still too high to prevent acid rain damage in the Adirondacks.

A congressionally mandated EPA study revealed that, while changes enacted in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments will reduce acid deposition, the measures are not sufficient in the long-term to fully protect the sensitive lands and waters of the Adirondacks.

The EPA estimates that half of the Park's lakes and ponds and most of its 30,000 miles of rivers and streams will be critically acidified by the year 2040. Acid rain has also killed thousands of acres of spruce forests in the High Peaks region of the Adirondack Park. Both fish and trees are killed by the leeching of aluminum by acid rain from natural sources in soil and rock. Aluminum traces as low as one-part-per-million can cause plant damage. The roots of dead red spruce on Whiteface Mountain contain 4800 parts-per-million.



Energy deregulation spells trouble for Adirondack lakes, such as these in the High Peaks Region that are already stressed from acid precipitation. Photo © John McKeith

When aluminum attaches itself to the gills of fish, the fish suffocate.

Mercury is also being leached out of soil and rock and is accumulating in the flesh of certain sport and food fish that are able to withstand acidity better than the vanishing trout population. The NYS Health Department issued warnings this year to avoid eating smallmouth bass and yellow perch from acidified waters in the Adirondacks because mercury can cause nerve cell damage in humans. Mercury is also highly toxic to birds. The Adirondack Park is a year-round and seasonal home to more than 200 species of birds, many of which are migratory.

This article is based on press releases from the Adirondack Council and the office of Congressman Gerald Solomon. For further information, contact John Sheehan of the Adirondack Council, (518) 432-1770.

Lead in Drinking Water: The Acid Rain Connection

While we have known that acid precipitation harms plants and kills fish for some time, we are now learning that it can leech the lead from household plumbing and contaminate drinking water with heavy metals such as lead.

Several hundred water customers in Moreau, NY are being warned to take precautions to prevent the possibility of high levels of lead making it into the water they drink and use for cooking, the *Post-Star* of Glens Falls reported on November 27, 1996.

Random sampling done recently by the town showed that some tap sources had high levels of lead. Three of 20 homes tested had levels that exceed those allowed by the federal government, which insists that less than ten percent of the sample sites have acceptable levels.

Lead gets into the water from homes that have lead pipes, brass fittings, or lead solder to join copper pipes. It appears that acid rain may play a role in this problem. Acid rain is seeping into ground water and then leeching the lead from the household pipes when the water is drawn from wells.

In some cases copper is also leeching from pipes and entering septic systems where it kills anaerobic bacteria. That prevents the breakdown of waste and causes septic systems to fail. Overflowing septic systems can cause additional health risks and water pollution.

Sable Gas Project

Scotia Resources Limited (6%). The main players are subsidiaries of multinational oil and gas companies but the last named is a small provincial government-owned oil company, which over the last 15 years has poured about \$450 million of taxpayer funds into the off-shore oil and gas "play". It has been said that Sable gas is government subsidized gas! If everything goes according to the companies' game plan, the date for when natural gas will flow to the American market is November 1999. The gas flow is at present estimated to last for 25 years, although there is some talk that this could be extended, depending on further gas discoveries in the Sable Island area. At the present time, Canada is exporting about fifty percent of its annual natural gas production to the United States and this is reported to be over ten percent of U.S. gas demand.

Free trade and agreements like NAFTA have eroded Canada's sovereignty and locked the country into being an open energy faucet for another country. This also stops the U.S. from facing up to the non-sustainability of its own society and the necessity to scale

down and develop alternative energy sources. Potential U.S. consumers of Sable Island gas need to know that fuel for their furnaces and industries is going to mean dead Canadian wildlife and environmental destruction. It will also mean destroyed human dreams for those Canadians (and Americans), forced to have a gas pipeline in their back yards.

Regarding the onshore Canadian component. This is known as The Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Project. This Project will go through the motions of holding a separate environmental and socio-economic impact assessment study and hearings. This overland natural gas pipeline, is designed to carry gas from a gas processing plant near Country Harbour, Guysborough County Nova Scotia where the gas comes ashore via a 225 kilometer subsea pipeline, to the international border at St. Stephen, New Brunswick. This is approximately 558 kilometers of overland gas transmission pipeline. The companies involved in the Canadian section, at present, are Westcoast Energy Inc. (37.5%), PanEnergy (37.5%), and Mobil Oil Canada Properties (25%). Westcoast

seems to be the lead company.

A U.S. section of line then carries the gas through Maine and New Hampshire to Dracut, near Boston, in Massachusetts. PanEnergy Corporation is reported as responsible for the U.S. portion of the line. In Canada the pipeline companies have marked out a one kilometer preferred route and within this a 25-metre permanent path will be appropriated with or without permission by the landowners. In the Canadian section, the pipe will normally be buried three feet underground in forested areas and four feet in agricultural areas. The companies claim 90-95% of the pipeline corridor passes through forested areas. There are, according to company documents, 229 watercourses in the corridor boundaries, 10 lakes, plus a large number of wetlands. The on-land environmental destruction will be cumulatively massive.

A wild card is an alternative proposal for a gas pipeline recently made (September of 1996), by Montreal-based Gaz Metropolitan and TransCanada Pipelines. This is to move the Sable gas to the New England markets via Quebec City, crossing the border in Vermont. This proposal comes

late in the day but can be seen as the more "nationalistic". It would, for the first time, provide a link-up for the Maritime provinces with an existing trans-Canada gas line. This proposal also has economic inducements for Quebec. Given the lack of practical work done so far to sell and justify such a proposal, it is unclear at this time if this is a serious contender to the proposed Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Project.

The North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group, within which the Green Web is working, is requesting assistance through *The Northern Forest Forum*. We are asking environmentally conscious people in the Northeast to join hands with us to help stop the Sable Island Gas Project on your side of the border, using whatever creative interventions are appropriate.

To contact the North Shore Anti-Pipeline Group write to, Citizens Against the Sable Island Pipeline, POB 874, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada B2H 5K7.

To contact David Orton or the Green Web, write R.R.#3, Saltsprings, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, Canada BOK 1P0. E-mail address: greenweb@fox.nstn.ca

Hundreds Participate in Maine Low-Impact Forestry Demonstrations This Autumn

by Mitch Lansky

This fall in Maine, hundreds of people got to witness demonstrations of low-impact forestry equipment and techniques at the Common Ground Fair in Windsor and at the farm of consulting forester Barrie Brusila in Warren. For both events, the weather was cooperative, and interest was high.

At the Common Ground Fair, sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, visitors had the opportunity to view a slide show presentation by Mitch Lansky as well as a demonstration of Sam Brown's tracked Dion forwarder. Sam had no trouble attracting a crowd when he revved up the engine of his Dion and loaded logs on its tracked trailer. Another attraction was Sam's radio-controlled winch. By pushing a button on his belt, Sam could start and stop the winch, as he pulled logs to his forwarder. For those with more curiosity, Sam had a booth with a display of pictures and articles concerning low-impact forestry.

The next week Sam put on a working demonstration at the 80 acre farm of Barrie Brusila, her husband Mitch Kihn, and sister, Sara Lynne Brusila. This demonstration was co-sponsored by the Low-impact Forestry Project, the Small Woodlands Owners of Maine, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

In the previous century, much of Barrie's woodlot had been cleared as pasture, but now it is well stocked and on the way to recovering a more stately appearance. Cutting in recent years has been light, and yarding has been mostly done by horse. Some of the white pine were too large for Cindy, Sara's horse, to drag a short distance, let alone all the way to a yard. Barrie took advantage of Sam's felling abilities and yarding equipment to harvest some of these larger pines that were dying.

Although professor emeritus Dave Smith of Yale has stated that all logging is ugly and ought to be hidden from view, this was not an opinion shared by those observing the logging operation at Barrie's farm. There were no unsightly gashes in the soil, large slash piles, scarfed-up tree trunks, or deep tire ruts. Careful directional felling by Sam led to little damage of residual trees. Use of self-releasing snatch blocks avoided damage to residuals from winching and helped to keep woods-trails distribution at a minimum. The woods yard on most skidder operations is a huge muddy, ratty mess. Skidders must push tree-length logs onto large piles. With Sam's forwarder, the yard was a small, neat pile of sorted logs. No mud, no ruts.

Sam's forwarder shared the lime-light with Cindy, Sara's Belgian mare, and Mollie, a horse belonging to logger Del Ellis. Sam also brought his Radio Horse, a radio-controlled portable winch. The horse loggers were quite pleased to work in conjunction with Sam's forwarder. Since the horses only had to twitch out logs to the trail (rather than to a yard), their job was much more efficient and much less tiring. Del Ellis also brought a small horse-drawn trailer to demonstrate an even lower-impact forwarding system

for small (4-ft.) wood.

Horses helped make Sam's forwarder more efficient as well. Sam has rigged his forwarder with a radio-controlled winch to make his system a one-man operation. He did this primarily as a reaction to workers' compensation laws that make hiring others very expensive. Sam stated, however, that letting his forwarder stand idle while he cuts and limbs trees is hardly a cost-effective use of his machinery. With horse loggers pre-bunching logs at the trail, Sam is able to use his machinery for what it does best—forwarding.

The Radio Horse is a large winch on skids that is also used for pre-bunching logs at the trail. Sam gets the Radio Horse to location by hooking its cable to a distant tree and letting the machine winch itself along. Using self-releasing snatch blocks, Sam can keep the machine in one location and winch in logs from many locations, stopping and starting the winch by remote control. These winches (from Vermont) are no longer commercially manufactured; they were ahead of their time. With a new interest in low-impact forestry, however, perhaps some entrepreneur will manufacture an improved model.

The demonstration was featured in a full-page article in Central Maine Newspapers and on the news for Maine Public Radio. The reporters were evidently impressed by what they saw, because they both did an excellent job at summing up both the techniques and the philosophy behind low-impact forestry.

At all the demonstrations, Sam brought a sign-up sheet for those seriously interested in low-impact forestry. Our goal is to take this list of names and to help connect landowners with foresters and loggers who all share a commitment to a longer-term approach to forestry. We recognize that the economics are different for low-impact approaches compared to approaches geared to maximizing short-term profits. Loggers will have to be paid for the quality of what they leave behind, rather than just the quantity of what they remove.

Although we must move one step at a time, our minds are racing ahead to the possibility of having a series of loggers on a number of nearby lots using horses, radio horses, or small tractors with winches to pre-bunch logs for a forwarder. We can imagine woodlot owners combining small loads of high-quality logs to create efficiencies of scale for trucking to mills.

We can also imagine landowners with a commitment to low-impact forestry for not only this generation, but generations to come. One low-impact cut does not assure that such management will continue, though it does keep future options open. Landowners can use long-term stewardship contracts, provisions in deeds, or the creation of land trusts to codify longer-term commitments. We are open to new ideas, and would appreciate hearing from others.

Write to: Mitch Lansky, HC 60, Box 86, Wypitlock, ME 04497, or Sam Brown, RFD 1, Box 1940, Cambridge, ME 04923.



Sara Lynne Brusila yarding wood with her Belgian mare, Cindy. Photo by Mitch Kihn.



Loaded forwarder goes over low, wet spot that has been "corduroyed" with small logs. After the operation was completed, Sam picked up these logs and put them in the woodpile. Photo by Mitch Kihn.



Sam explains use of grapple to interested observer. Winching with a grapple avoids digging up soil and getting hung up on rocks and stumps. Photo by Mitch Kihn.

Industrial Foresters: Custodians or Merchants?

In his new autobiography, *Mean Business*, Chainsaw Al Dunlop, formerly of Diamond and Scott, boasts how he transformed his industrial foresters from stewards of the land to merchants of fiber:

"I promoted a man named Art Larsen to forest manager for Diamond, and he caught on to my tactics in a big way. Instead of just going through the motions, he sought out higher and better uses for land, including real estate sales and recreational leases, and turned his foresters from custodians into merchants."

Maine Woods Watch

by Jym St. Pierre



The Maine Woods is the greatest remaining wildland east of the Rockies. However, today this region is under siege. Maine Woods Watch is devoted to documenting the good, the bad, and the ugly affecting the Maine Woods, with an emphasis on opportunities for citizen action to protect and restore the essence of the region, its wildness.

They Mean Business: As predicted, forest industry profits continued the nose-dive this fall that started earlier in the year. Third quarter earnings for most companies were well below 1995 figures. Boise went from a \$119 million profit to a \$2 million loss; Bowater slipped 50%; Champion's earnings plunged 86%; Georgia-Pacific's take home skidded 69%; Sappi freefell 75%. In the pulp and paper sector, the price of the benchmark grade of softwood pulp, which peaked at close to \$1,000 a ton a year ago, tumbled to under \$500 as global demand shriveled in the face of a worldwide inventory glut. The lumber sector also was down as new housing starts stumbled. Investors liked the adjustment seeing it as a sign the national economy was slowing to "a more sustainable pace," but lumber dealers and home builders were ripped. In late November they asked the Clinton Administration to renegotiate an agreement signed with Canada just last spring. That pact limits softwood limber imports from our northern neighbor. The Office of the US Trade Representative said it had no intention of trying to change the Canadian deal.

The green Boise signs are coming down in Rumford and the blue-and-white Mead signs are going up. Following a 30-day federal review, on November 1 The Mead Corporation finalized its \$640 million purchase of Boise Cascade's northern New England holdings in record time. In addition to the Rumford mill, which produces coated paper for *National Geographic* and other magazines and catalogs, the acquisition includes 670,000 acres in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Boise sale got most of the publicity but several other plants changed hands this fall as well. The VPS recycling facility in Auburn was sold to Atmor Holdings, a subsidiary of AT&T Commercial Finance Corp. Two idle Babcock Ultrapower biomass plants in Enfield and Jonesboro were bought by Indeck Power Overseas Ltd.

Four hundred Georgia-Pacific employees in eastern Maine got an unplanned vacation in November. The company shut down its Woodland mill for a couple of weeks because it was losing too much money. Fourteen percent of the local salaried staff had been

permanently laid off a month earlier. When photographers showed up snapping pictures rumors started circulating that the mill was being put on the market. Workers fear a sale particularly to New Brunswick-based Irving Corp., but G-P managers say they are only preparing a new brochure.

S.D. Warren, a subsidiary of South African Pulp & Paper Industries, is giving permanent vacations to 200 employees at its American facilities. Almost four dozen workers were dumped at the company's Westbrook plant this fall and about 30 more were expected to be laid off from the specialty paper mill and research and development center there. An unspecified number of employees were summarily dismissed at the S.D. Warren mill in Skowhegan in December. Serious flooding in southern Maine during October closed down the mill and has required extensive repairs, however, Warren management says that has nothing to do with the work force reduction. More likely it is due to the heavy fiscal burden parent corporation Sappi has been carrying since it bought S.D. Warren in late 1994 largely with junk bond financing. Unions representing workers at the S.D. Warren mill in Skowhegan say there has been a major breakdown in trust between labor and management over contract negotiations, grievances and disciplinary actions. Scuttlebutt is that some or all of Warren's two mills and 908,000 acres in Maine might be sold to reduce Sappi's debt.

By the way, the guy who sold off S.D. Warren two years ago and the rest of Scott Paper Company last year, has been back in the news. "Chainsaw Al" Dunlap, who is best known for salvaging companies by dismembering them, announced in November his latest restructuring scheme. Dunlap, CEO of Sunbeam Corp. since last summer, said he was eliminating half of the 12,000 jobs at the home appliance manufacturer. Within hours 37 workers at a Sunbeam plant in Maine were axed and the entire subsidiary was put up for sale. Dunlap also has published a new book which has caused a big stir in business circles. *Mean Business: How I Save Bad Companies and Make Good Companies Great* (Times Business, 1996, \$25) details his breathless, no nonsense approach to corporate success. If you don't want to spend the twenty-five bucks for the long version, here are Dunlap's four simple rules to trim corporate excess: get the right management team; pinch pennies; know what business you're in; get a real strategy. As "Chainsaw Al" says at the end of *Mean Business*, "The process is painful. Sometimes, it's ugly. But in the end, it's

worth it." Are there no more prisons and poor houses for the unemployed? Bah, humbug.

International Paper is scoring one win after another. The United Paperworkers union has failed for the second time in as many years to get back into IP's Androscoggin Mill in Jay. The union was broken when it lost a big strike at the plant in 1988. The company is also poised to get a chance from the Environmental Protection Agency to police its own operations. Since 1991, IP has paid over \$3 million in federal and state fines for violations in Maine, but starting in 1997 the EPA is going to let the company audit itself as part of a program the agency wants to become a national model. Less regulatory oversight is not enough. IP also wants more tax breaks; in fact, it wants double its money back. It has asked the town of Jay to refund local taxes paid for mill upgrades. At the same time, the company is applying to the state for reimbursement of business equipment taxes for the same investments. Sounds like IP managers have been reading *Mean Business*.

Two years ago a large number of recycled paper mills coming on-line at once caused a spike in the price of waste paper. That price hiccup drove the Statler Tissue mill in Augusta out of business. In April 1996, a group of investors bought the facility and started Tree Free Fiber. Immediately the new company ran into trouble when the market for de-inked pulp nearly evaporated. Now management says it has a new plan to focus on wholesaling tissue for which demand is projected to grow faster than supply. The company wants more state-backed financing for a multi-million dollar upgrade that could add 50 to the work force.

Search & Destroy or Protect & Restore? The shouting match between those who want to exploit and those who want to conserve Maine's remnant wildlands is never ending.

A Superior Court ruling has upheld the wording of a referendum proposal to ban aerial pesticide spraying in Maine. However, the Maine Farm Bureau Association says it will appeal to the state supreme court. Nancy Oden, director of Citizens for a Livable Environment in Alliance with Nature, had intended to collect voter signatures on the citizens' initiative in November. However, she has decided to do more grassroots organizing first, then try probably in 1997 to get the more than 50,000 signatures to take the referendum to a statewide vote. (Contact CLEAN: Maine, PO Box 186, Jonesboro, ME 04648.) In a separate

ruling in federal district court in October, the EPA will no longer be able to conceal the identity of "inert" pesticide ingredients.

A logging operation adjacent to the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park has started despite heroic efforts to prevent it. The 1,600 acre cut was delayed last spring when the Friends of Acadia signed an agreement with the land manager. The landowners, who have not been identified publicly, decided unilaterally to end the moratorium in September. Three potential conservation buyers for the property had been lined up, but the mystery owners, who are cloaked behind a series of domestic and foreign business fronts, said from Italy they are not interested in selling. (Contact FOA, PO Box 725, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.)

Having Fun Yet? The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), another agency that is supposed to referee many of the shouting matches, itself continues to be the target of much loud protest. When almost half the LURC members were illegally lobbied by the paper industry last summer conservationists screamed foul. Then in September the commission held a kangaroo hearing on its draft revised plan for the wildlands that only worsened the situation. To try to rebuild some credibility LURC has now adopted new guidelines to help commission members know how and when to appropriately receive public input.

The new LURC guidelines will not stanch criticism from developers and landowners that the agency is too tough. Increasingly, however, LURC is seen as too lenient. A recent editorial in the usually meek *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, for instance, upbraided LURC for not imposing a heavier fine on a Mooselookmeguntic camp owner who illegally built a large second home with two car garage twice as close to the lake as allowed. The \$4,000 fine is just part of the cost of business for such a violator and not much of a deterrent to others. Watch for more illegal expensive houses going up in the Maine wildlands with a few thousand dollar fine figured into the construction budget.

One decision by LURC this autumn that has pleased a lot of conservationists and sports people was denial of a proposal by Gardner Land Company to develop more than 40 lots on a series of remote ponds near Baxter State Park and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Opponents claimed the conservation provisions Gardner offered did not outweigh the debits on the loss-of-wildness side of the ledger. Nor did the planned development meet the legal

tests for approval. Worst, Gardner paid too much for the lands, immediately heavily logged the area to recoup some of their costs, then tried to recover more of their investment by seeking permission to intensively develop some of the most valuable shorelands under the guise that they could only afford to do sustainable forestry if they could subdivide the high value areas. Although the mainstream news media never figured it out, the real story was that the public was being asked to bail out a landowner who got into financial difficulty with a speculative purchase of forestland.

Troubled Waters: In the effort to balance the public and private interests in use of one of Maine's most famous waters, the Penobscot West Branch, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a new 30-year license to Bowater/Great Northern for six dams on the river. Conservationists like the provisions for a protected shoreline buffer on more than 200 miles of waterfront within the flowage boundaries of the license. However, they are requesting a rehearing on the license condition that allows Bowater to dewater the six-mile back channel. They insist maintaining minimum flows in the publicly owned river would help fisheries and recreation and not hurt the company's power generation. (Contact Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108.)

With prices high and global demand outstripping supply, cranberry growers and wannabes are scrambling to expand production at breakneck pace. A new state plan calls for expanding the 70 acres currently in cranberry plantations in Maine to 1000 acres by the year 2000. Nor is the King Administration going to let wetland protection rules get in the way. Officials have said they will ask federal agencies to let them develop some wetlands into plantations. If that fails they intend to seek to have the Clean Water Act amended.

Fish Stories: When you cannot beat them with praise, threaten them. The King Administration is so nervous that federal agencies might list the imperiled Atlantic salmon under the Endangered Species Act it is rattling its penknives. In official comments sent to the US Fish & Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Services on October 10, Gov. Angus King panegyricized the agencies for being so cooperative so far while arguing against listing. But in case the feds still harbor any serious thoughts of finding the salmon worthy of ESA listing, the governor made it clear that "all cooperation...will cease, and we will pursue all available avenues, including litigation and legislative solutions." In other words, he will both sue and ask the state's congressional delegation to gut the law. Paul Nickerson of the USFWS has gone out of his way for years to give the state maximum cooperation and federal funding. Nickerson was a bit surprised by King's strong wording, but says "When people tell me they are going to sue the federal government, I tell them to get in line." (Contact USFWS, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.)

Maine puts very little money into salmon conservation now. Practically all of the funding comes from the federal

government. For example, Congress just appropriated \$4.8 million for expansion of the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in East Orland, the oldest salmon hatchery in the country, to allow five more river-specific bays for fish production. A new group, Friends of Craig Brook, is also starting an Atlantic salmon museum on the property, the only one of its kind south of Canada. (Contact Friends of Craig Brook, E. Orland, ME 04431.)

Maine's alternative to ESA listing for Atlantic salmon is a statewide "conservation plan" that some skeptics are pointing out is not very comprehensive. For instance, biologists have confirmed that sea-run salmon have successfully spawned in tributaries of the Kennebec River for at least the past three years. Yet the Kennebec salmon run is not even mentioned in the state's draft conservation plan. Neither are other critical rivers such as the Penobscot and St. Croix. The state plan hinges on the assumption that Maine can do a better job than the federal government at restoring Atlantic salmon in Maine, the last refuge for the species in the entire US. The problem with that assumption is that the state has a track record that proves otherwise and is facing a projected budget deficit of hundreds of millions of dollars. Not only is there no state money, but the state plan has no enforcement provisions. (Contact RESTORE, PO Box 1099, Concord, MA 01742.)

Nice Doggie: The weather may be cooling, but wolves remain a hot topic in Maine. A mysterious one, too. A 67-pound female canid shot north of Moosehead Lake in 1993 was DNA tested. Reportedly the forensic tests showed the critter was, in fact, a wolf linked to packs in Quebec, but the US Fish & Wildlife Service mysteriously will not release the actual results. Nor would the agency charge the hunter with an Endangered Species Act violation. Now this November an 81-pound wolf-like male canine has been killed by a Hancock County trapper. The carcass, which is twice as large as the average coyote, is being tested. Despite this physical evidence and numerous reports of wolf sightings across the state in recent years the official position of the Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife on wolves is...a mystery. Craig McLaughlin of MDIFW says the agency neither denies nor affirms that there are wolves in Maine. For the past three years state biologists have been looking for signs of wolves in winter furbearer census counts, but have found nothing conclusive. In a bold move they plan to continue to look. But they refuse to do any education other than a news release planned for sometime this winter to remind hunters they really ought not to kill the federally protected animals. To nudge the bureaucracy contact MDIFW, 41 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

Public interest in eastern timber wolf recovery in Maine and other northern states was languishing until RESTORE: The North Woods kicked off a petition drive in 1993 in support of a feasibility study on the restoration of the wolf to the Northern Forest region. More than 25,000 people have signed the petitions. The drive has also helped

spark the interest of other groups which have collected an additional 50,000 signatures. For a copy of the petition as well as a special newsletter on "Wolves in the Northern Forest?" with an updated recommended reading list contact RESTORE, 7 N. Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330.

Lack of official state support for wolf education is not dampening supporters of wolf recovery. The Maine Wolf Coalition, for instance, has met with local officials in several towns to gauge interest in development of a Northeast Wolf Center. Such a facility would be modeled after the enormously successful International Wolf Center in Ely, MN, which draws 50,000 visitors a year who learn to separate the truth about wolves from the mythology. It also generates an estimated 66 jobs and \$3 million in annual economic activity. Selectmen in Rangeley have endorsed the idea of having a wolf center there. That has started a bit of competition. Suddenly the Millinocket Economic Development Advisory Committee wants to hear more about the potential economic benefits of a wolf center. (Contact Maine Wolf Coalition, RR 2, Box 533, S. China, ME 04358.)

Interest in wolves in other Northern Forest states is intensifying as well. The New Hampshire Wolf Alliance is calling for a state study of wolf recovery. Defenders of Wildlife is supporting a study of the feasibility of reintroducing wolves in New York's Adirondack Park. In November that group convened a conference on "Wolves of America" in Albany that attracted hundreds. (Contact Defenders of Wildlife, 1101 Fourteenth Street, NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005.)

Where the Wild Things Are: Hunting wolves is not legal in Maine these days, but the thrill of the chase for plenty of other species is big business. With over 1,360 animals taken, better than four-fifths of them bulls, the hunter success ratio in the state's 16th annual modern moose hunt again exceeded 90 percent. Ten felony arrests were made including several for double kills. One hunter who was ticketed for

killing two moose with a single bullet faces up to a \$1000 fine and loss of his hunting license for as much as five years. The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine plans to lobby to increase the yearly limit to 2000. But a proposal to open a new moose hunting zone in western Maine has been met with a cool reception. As one Bethel innkeeper testified, "My business revolves around living animals."

While moose bagged in Maine come from the north, few deer do. Of the 27,400 deer shot last year 94% were taken in the southern half of the state. For years the paper companies have claimed that clearcutting benefits the deer herd. Most of the clearcuts are in the north, most of the deer are in the south. Do the geometry for yourself. One deer hunter this year proved that Oscar Cronk's Ruttin' Buck scent works—maybe too well. After Brian Weeks slapped some scent on he was charged by a big buck defending his territory. Weeks broke his rifle stock over the buck's head and got off two shots before the bambi bounded away apparently unharmed.

Maine has the largest population of black bears in the East. More than 20,000 bruins live here from suburban York County to the big woods of Aroostook. Yet they are so shy, few people see them. That has not kept them from being controversial. Maine is the only state in the lower forty-eight that permits bear trapping and one of the few states that allows hunting with dogs and over bait. Some folks insist these techniques are unsporting, but George Smith, director of the Sportsman's Alliance says Maine "would be overrun with bears" if bait hunting were stopped.

For many people, even more than the moose or bear, the loon represents the greatest wilderness icon of the North Woods. Now, according to an unreleased report by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Tufts University, researchers have found four times the normal amount of mercury in loons in Maine and northern New Hampshire. Even higher levels of the toxic element were discovered in loons from the Canadian Maritimes further downwind.

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