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Editorial views expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other contributors or other NARP projects. We welcome diverse submissions on the Northern forest and related topics. Please send all material to the address above. Please address letters for publication specifically to the editor.
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Editorial

Misinformation in Service to Industry

In an opinion piece that ran in several Vermont papers this August, politico John McClaughry attacked national environmental groups which, in his ridiculing quote, seek to 'save the Northern Forest.'

Other than a preliminary mention of the Diamond land sale of 1988 ("the prospect that those 90,000 acres might be put to some useful purpose terrified the nation's environmental groups"), McClaughry fails to acknowledge that others are doing their best to liquidate the Northern Forest.

The focus of McClaughry's attack is the Northern Forest Stewardship Act, the perceived first step in a wave of creeping environmentalism that aims to greenline the 26 million acres of the Northern Forest, focus federal dollars on land purchase, and eventually drive freedom loving inhabitants off their land. Utilizing a Beltway strategy, the national environmental groups will enact stricter and stricter land use regulations that control even the remaining private lands of the region, creating " 'wildlands' 'to provide solitude for rekindling the spirit' " (McClaughry's quote from literature of the Northern Forest Alliance).

Purchase of land by states under the Act will also remove land from town tax rolls (townspeople of the state of Maine may wonder exactly where that tax money he alludes to is going now). McClaughry concludes: "As the suffering people of the Adirondacks and the Pacific Northwest have testified, that solitude will be created by the forced exodus of the pesky human inhabitants."

McClaughry concludes his piece with a stirring call to man the ramparts of freedom: "Gov. George Aiken, a revered figure in Vermont history, refused to cooperate [with what McClaughry calls a 1934 version of the Stewardship Act which would have bought up marginal farms]. The feds wondered why those silly Vermonters persisted in living back in the hills. Because, Gov. Aiken explained before sending the feds packing, some folks 'just naturally love the mountains, and like to live up among them, where freedom of thought and action is logical and inherent.' It would be a sad thing," McClaughry goes on, "if the grandchildren of those freedom-loving Vermonters were now to be driven out of the 'Northern Forest,' by an environmentalist-driven federal government whose appetite for gobbling up private lands, on whatever pretext, knows no bounds."

Before we let McClaughry's version of history stand, however, we might do well to recall Governor Aiken's career (he was in the U.S. Senate until 1974), in which he found himself on the unpopular side of the federalist/environmental coin on at least two occasions: once in advocating a skyline drive along the spine of the Green Mountains, and later in initially supporting the damming of Victory bog. On the other hand, Aiken was responsible for funding numerous additions to the Green Mountain National Forest—without translocating inhabitants—and has a wilderness area named for him. (He was also a nurseryman who wrote a book, **Pioneering With Wildflowers,** about native wildflower propagation.) Whatever Aiken's read on the will of the people of Vermont was, he recognized their conservation ethic—probably because he had one himself.

As to McClaughry's efforts to propagandize on the basis of incomplete information, this is probably the only card a strict property rights analysis of the paper company lands has to play. Making no mention of forest practices, declining (or shifting) resource-based employment, or the instability of land ownerships (3 million acres today)—things that are of vital concern to landowners, loggers, working people as well as 'environmentalists' of the region— McClaughry's argument lobotimizes local discussion of conservation options by which a forest-based culture and economy could be secured.

McClaughry's portrayal of the Pacific Northwest (and the Adirondacks) as regions de-populated by enviros in the name of spotted owls (and 'forever wild' preserves) is a gloss on the depravations that drive conservation efforts there and the economics that such measures can provide (see the Adirondack Park Report, pp 8-9 for a report on the twisting of facts there) .

By scapegoating enviros who take the Beltway approach, McClaughry relieves himself and his intended readership of any obligation to read the landscape around them and respond to the challenges of the present day.

With a powerful segment of industry demonstrating it has every intention of wringing all the fiber it can from the region, with only half-hearted regulation or outright cheerleading from government (see page 31 for a report on the Maine Forest Service),the inherent freedom of the hills is indeed under attack. Are enviros really the problem?—A.W.

Concord's Other Naturalist

Two photographs attributed to William Brewster—they may have been the work of his man servant R.A. Gilbert—appear in this issue of the **Forum,** on pages 18 and 20.

The Dictionary of American Biography relates of Brewster (1851-1919), "Descended on both sides from old Massachusetts families he inherited all of the characteristics of a New England gentleman, and reared in Cambridge, with Longfellow and other notable men of letters as family and neighbors, he absorbed all of the spirit and tradition of the community."

Opting out of a banking career, Brewster instead pursued his childhood hobby of ornithology and taxidermy, becoming one of the country's foremost experts on birds. The **Dictionary** says, "His influence upon the development of American ornithology, extending, as it did, far beyond his printed papers, cannot well be measured.".

In addition to a farm and nature reserve in Concord, Brewster maintained a camp on the Maine side of Lake Umbagog. Unfinished at his death was a work on **Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region, Maine.**

Report Predicts Destruction of Adirondack Aquatic Ecosystems

Press release of the Adirondack Council

In a long over-due federal report on acid rain, the Clinton administration told Congress in August that the Adirondack Park will continue to suffer worsening damage without deep, new cuts in the air pollution that causes it.

The report—prepared by the multi-agency National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program—added that acid rain damage is expanding in the Appalachians, Rockies, Sierra Nevadas and in northern New England.

"We are pleased that the Clinton Administration has finally released this information to Congress," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Timothy J. Burke. "It shows that the nation's top scientists are certain that even more lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks will die as a result of acid rain in the decades to come, and that forests from Maine to Georgia are being damaged as well. It also shows that high-elevation forest damage is worsening in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

"The report documents that the federal acid rain program created in 1990 is inadequate to stop the destruction of the Adirondack Park," Burke said. "It doesn't say that recovery from acidification will take longer than they thought. It says that it will not happen at all. A quarter of our 3,000 lakes and ponds are already too acidic to support life. Within 40 years, that figure will double under the current program, according to a 1995 EPA report cited as reliable in the new, multi-agency report.

"While the report claims that the allowance trading program is a financial success, it makes no specific recommendations for additional cuts to the utility plant emissions that cause most of our acid rain problem. Congress demanded that information when it called for the study.

"On the other hand, Congress already knows what it must do," Burke explained. "This report is so late, the major findings have been reported elsewhere. It's the first time that the Clinton Administration has confirmed the information, but members of Congress have known for a year or more that deep, new cuts in sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen-oxides were needed from the nation's utility companies. We believe the Moynihan/D'Amato acid rain bill, introduced this year, is the best tool we have to prevent the destruction of the Adirondacks and other sensitive areas."

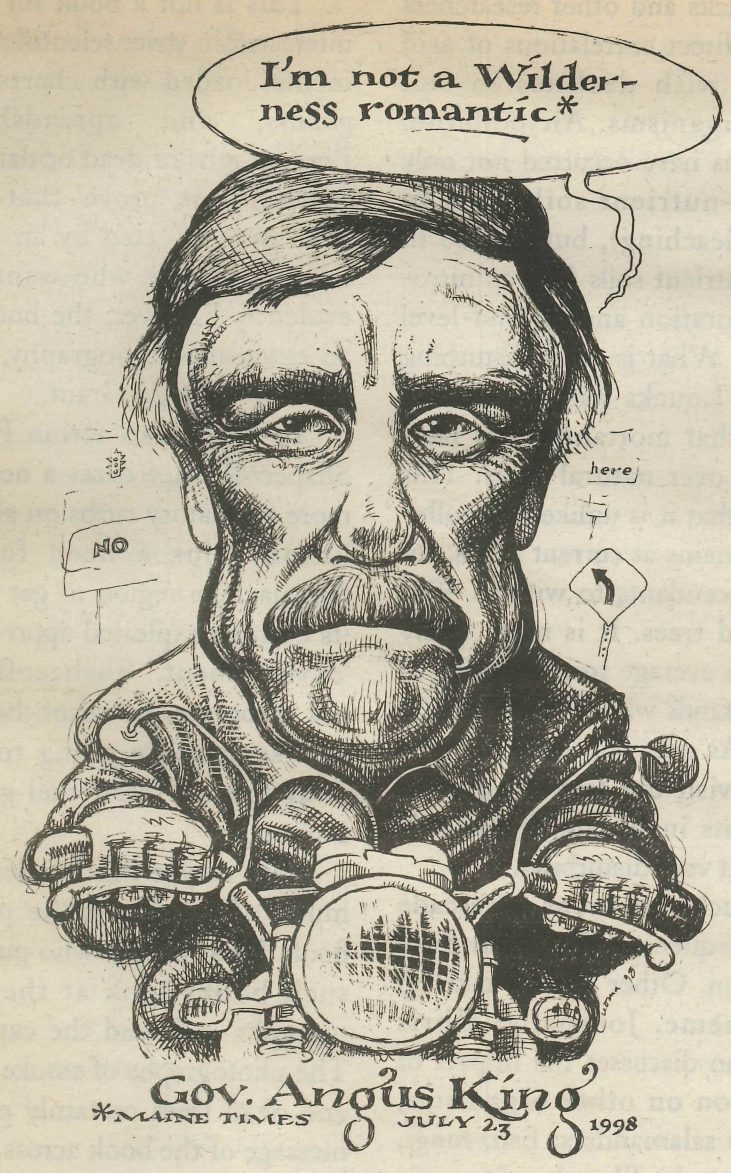
The National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program Report was delivered to Congress on the morning of August 3, as Congress's summer recess was beginning. It was due in 1996, as a follow-up to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. It was completed by the National Science and Technology Council, chaired by President Clinton. The Council is composed of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. In July, New York's U.S. Senators, Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, called for the report to be released. At the same time, NY Attorney General Dennis Vacco sent the agencies a letter warning that he would sue if the report was not released soon.

The report was required as part of the Clean Air Act Amendments. It was supposed to contain three elements: a report on the latest scientific research on acid rain; a cost analysis of the current program; and, an explanation of what pollution reductions were needed to prevent ecosystem damage.

"NAPAP did a great job on the first two requirements, but didn't even pretend to answer the third," Burke said. "It puzzles us. The Adirondack Council was able to take the work of the same university and government scientists that prepared the data for NAPAP and create a document that illustrates the problem and proposes an affordable solution. We did it in less than six months—without an order from Congress. NAPAP is suggesting that we wait another two years, while NAPAP produces yet another report, before we discuss a solution. That is just irresponsible."

"We cannot afford to fiddle while the Adirondacks burn;" Burke said. "The Moynihan/D'Amato Acid Deposition Control Act is the right bill. The time to act is now."

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000 member, privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy, and legal action.



How Moynihan/D'Amato Would Reduce Acid Rain

The Moynihan/D'Amato Acid Deposition Control Act (S.1097/HR2365) proposes and would require:

- A further 50% reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions from the nation's utilities, amounting to a 75% reduction from levels existing prior to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. Such a reduction would allow the Adirondacks, in particular, to begin recovery.
- A 70% cut in nitrogen oxide emissions from utilities, through a trading program of pollution rights such as has successfully reduced sulfur emissions at a far smaller cost than that predicted by industry in 1990 ($715 million/year versus a predicted $6 billion).
- Continuous monitoring of Adirondack lakes and ponds and nationwide research to determine program effectiveness.
- Authority for the EPA to order deeper emissions if needed.

The Adirondack Council feels the time is ripe for the New York delegation to move this legislation, before it becomes embroiled in presidential politicking for Midwestern votes in the 2000 election. Cutting emissions will cost Midwest utilities money.

Book Review

An Appalachian Tragedy: Air Pollution & Tree Death in the Eastern Forests of North America

Edited by Harvard Ayers, Jenny Hager, and Charles Little. Photographs by Jenny Hager. Published by Sierra Club
Review by Mitch Lansky

When I started writing **Beyond the Beauty Strip,** I did not know much about the impact of air pollution on forests. I had read a few articles about 'acid rain' in the Appalachians and *Waldsterben* (or 'tree death') in Europe. I knew that paper companies were major air polluters in Maine. But I did not know to what extent, if any, air pollution was actually affecting forest health.

Certainly there has been strong evidence of harm to forests from local sources, such as copper refineries. Some refineries in Ontario and Tennessee had 'zones of death' that extended miles away. In response to regulations to clean up the local area, these known sources put up tall smokestacks, allowing the pollution to be transported long distances. A Reagan administration study, NAPAP (National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program), concluded that the impact on forest health from these remote sources was not as bad as some people had alleged. And while I was writing my book, Congress passed a Clean Air Act. So, presumably, air pollution was not a serious problem.

Because I was writing about environmental impacts to the forest, I felt I ought to at least report on the evidence that air pollution might be a problem. I reasoned that it is unlikely that air pollution is a major benefit.

What I learned was that there are potential problems connected with acid precipitation, ozone, excess nitrogen, heavy metals, and ultraviolet rays. The extent that they become serious problems has to do with many factors besides pollution, including climate, underlying bedrock, soils, and stresses, such as drought, cold, insects, and diseases. It is also influenced by the vigor of individual trees—i.e., are they dominant (and vigorous) or suppressed (and less resilient). This means that problems are more intense in some areas, and at some times, and with some trees than others.

I encountered some research on acid precipitation that suggested that base cations, such as calcium and magnesium, were being leached from the soil while aluminum, which can be toxic to plants and animals, was becoming mobilized. Once a certain aluminum/calcium balance occurs, trees can start experiencing calcium deficiencies, leading to susceptibility to other stresses.

Some of the worst impacts from air pollution were being seen in the Appalachians and Adirondacks—mountains that were intercepting the substantial pollution and smog, often generated in the Midwest. The symptoms were not only in the forests, but in sensitive, higher-altitude lakes. Some researchers were complaining that the Clean Air Act was insufficient at reducing sulfur dioxide and severely deficient at reducing nitrogen oxides.

A Forester's (G)eremiad

I got very little response to the section in *Beyond the Beauty Strip* that dealt with air pollution. Did this mean that NAPAP was right—air pollution impacts to the forest are a minor issue? I did, however, occasionally reports from the Adirondacks and other regions that seemed to confirm that air pollution is still a problem that needs to be addressed.

A year or so ago, I got a letter responding to an article I had written on Low-Impact Forestry. In my article, I had mentioned the Radio Horse—an ingenious radio-controlled portable logging winch that used to be manufactured in Vermont. The letter was from Gerry Hawkes, the designer of the Radio Horse.

When I wrote to him asking if he still made them, he replied that he had stopped working on forestry issues. What is the point of managing forests if they are going to deteriorate from air pollution? He was working on systems, such as bicycle pathways, that would encourage people to use less fossil fuels.

More recently Gerry sent me a book and asked me to review it. The book, published by the Sierra Club, is **An Appalachian Tragedy: Air Pollution and Tree Death in the Eastern Forests of North America.** This large-format picture book is not a scientific tome. Instead it is an attempt to spell out the air-pollution impacts to both forests and regional cultures that depend on the forests. The book is designed to create sadness for the loss of such an essential part of the regional experience, outrage that this has been allowed to happen, and action to protect what is left.

Cascading Consequences

The book starts with an introduction, by the prolific T.H. Watkins (former editor of *Wilderness* and *American Heritage* magazines and writer of many books), to the Appalachians as a region tracing both its geological and human histories. Ecologist Orrie Loucks wrote the key essay that discusses the various types of damage that air pollution is causing to trees and soils. Loucks gives evidence that different trees are susceptible to different types of pollution. White oaks, for example, are susceptible to acid precipitation, while red oaks are more susceptible to ozone damage.

Loucks and other researchers found direct correlations of acid inputs with declines in soil microorganisms. Air pollution problems have occurred not only in low-nutrient soils (due to cation leaching), but in also in high-nutrient soils (due to nitrogen saturation and ground-level ozone). What is most disturbing is that Loucks has strong evidence that mortality rates have tripled over natural rates. This means that it is unlikely, if pollution remains at current levels, for our descendants to witness 400-year old trees. It is more likely that the average tree mortality in uncut stands will be closer to 100 years. As one who has been trying to visit our last old-growth remnants in Maine, I find this prospect very disturbing.

Loucks mentions a 'cascade of consequences' that stem from pollution. Other writers take up this theme. Journalist Chris Bogliano discusses the impact of pollution on other organisms, such as salamanders, fish, fungi, and bacteria. She also cites evidence of such impacts as reduced leaf decomposition and thinning of eggshells (due to reduced calcium) in some areas. Ozone may have been causing even more widespread impacts on plant health, and the health of animals that depend on the plants.

Folklorist Mary Hufford discusses the impact to local human cultures dependent on the forests and the trees. Appalachian people use forest products for crafts, herbs, food, and game. Some of these uses are threatened as tree-diebacks increase and coal-mining exploitation wipes out natural forests.

Former *New York Times* writer, Phillip Shabecoff ends the book with a call to action to sharply reduce pollution—especially that heading towards the Appalachians. Shabecoff points out the sad irony that the Appalachians are being damaged by open-pit coal mines, then damaged again as the coal is burned and the pollution rains down on the forests and streams of the region. Throughout the book are large, color pictures, by Jenny Hager, illustrating the text or illustrating mini essays by the editors.

This is not a book for those interested in strict scientific arguments, loaded with charts, diagrams, and spreadsheets. Photographs of dead or damaged trees do not 'prove' that these trees were affected by air pollution. For those who want such evidence, however, the book has an extensive bibliography, compiled by William Grant.

In his call to action Phillip Shabecoff emphasizes a need for more regulatory curbs on air pollution, plus a need for the Appalachian region to get out of its current, exploited approach to 'development.' Shabecoff does not elaborate, however, how we as a society are going to shift away from a fossil-fuel growth economy.

But maybe this is asking too much of a coffee-table picture book. Most people who purchase such books look at the photographs and read the captions. The photographs of smoke stacks and dead trees certainly get the message of the book across.

One More Bug:
A New Infestation in Black Spruce Plantations

In the 1980s, coming off of a major spruce budworm outbreak, some industrial landowners started planting white and black spruce in their clearcuts. They called the plantations 'high-yield' silviculture. The seven to ten thousand acres of such plantations a year statewide were sometimes cited as justification for the tens of thousands of acres of clearcuts. Future high yields were supposed to justify current high cutting. Landowners claimed that the plantations would help alleviate a predicted spruce-fir shortfall, even though the trees were due to mature long after the shortfall was due to begin.

Landowners also claimed that their plantations would be spruce budworm resistant. Even before they started planting white spruce, there was already published evidence that white spruce plantations actually had a bad record with regard to budworms. One of the most prolonged spruce budworm outbreaks in the 1960s centered on a white spruce plantation in Quebec. When confronted with this evidence some industrial managers argued that black spruce, in contrast, *is* 'budworm resistant.'

Both white and black spruce are boreal species, found in the vast taiga of Canada. They have, historically, been minor species in the Acadian forest of Maine and the Maritimes, where red spruce and northern hardwoods tend to predominate. Black and white spruce can out-compete these other species, however, on poor sites or wet sites. They are, therefore, off-site in the richer uplands where they are often planted. In the poor, wet sites, the timing of black spruce budding is not favorable to the budworm. When it is planted in richer uplands, it has a different phenology (i.e., it buds at a different time) and loses some of its resistance.

Potential Pests of Spruce

"Pests"	Anticipated Trends for 1998
Aphids	variable
Budmoth	local
Budscale	locally high
Dwarf mistletoe	locally high
Gall aphids (adelgids)	locally high
Hemlock looper	low
Mites	variable
needle miners	locally high
Pine leaf adelgid	on pine
Rizosphaera needlecase	low
Spruce beetle	high coastal
Spruce budworm	low
Twig midge	low
White pine weevil	high
Winter browning	low-moderate
Yellow-headed spruce sawfly	locally high

Cybernetic Law of Entomology, The

There are other problems that are, at this moment, more immediate than the vulnerability of black spruce to budworm. The Cybernetic Law of Entomology states that: "There is always one more bug." Plantations create a concentrated food supply for insects or diseases. Their simpler stand structure, however, offers less habitat for potential predators or parasites of pests or for alternative hosts for predators or parasites. Since there are closely-related trees in the surrounding forest that may harbor pest species, the potential for some problems at some point in the plantation rotation is higher than in more diverse forests.

The Insect and Disease Management Division (IDM) of the Maine Forest Service has discovered another bug in the industrial forest program: the yellow-headed spruce sawfly (YHSS). The IDM found over 3,500 acres of YHSS damage from this insect to black spruce plantations in Maine— mostly in Franklin and Somerset Counties, but also including central Penobscot and Southern Aroostook. In 1997, companies sprayed around 1,100 acres with the broad-spectrum chemical pesticide, carbaryl—the same chemical that was used over millions of acres during budworm outbreaks. Twenty five acres were sprayed with experimental botanicals, based on neem. In 1998, landowners sprayed around 300 acres.

Entomologists at the IDM informed me that, based on their observations, plantations most susceptible to YHSS outbreaks are 3-16 year old stands with more open canopies (due to herbicides and thinning). The most severe damage seems to be associated with heavy soil disturbance and conversions of hardwood to softwood.

While the degree of mortality has been uneven—in some cases prevented by spraying—there certainly has been reduction in productivity in stands that have been heavily hit. This, of course, messes up computer projections of future high yields that are used to justify heavy current cutting.

Carbaryl demonstrated its ability, during budworm spraying, to kill not only budworms, but also spiders, wasps, pollinating bees, moths, butterflies, may flies, stoneflies, amphipods, and many other invertebrates. It is, after all, broad spectrum. In 1985, use of carbamate insecticides for budworm spraying was abandoned after a Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal India exploded, leading to the most disastrous industrial accident in the World. Thousands of victims died and many thousands more were impaired with blindness and other debilitating diseases.

The IDM entomologists believed that the spray programs were successful. The YHSS is not very mobile and are less likely than budworms to reinfest a previously sprayed area with massive inflights. The entomologists do not think there will be a need for multiple sprayings that could, potentially, lead to resistant strains of bugs. But the YHSS is only one of many potential 'pests' of spruce. The object should not be to just find an effective chemical to kill the current pest on plantations. It should, rather, be to manage for stands that do not need to be sprayed and are not as susceptible to major economic losses.—*Mitch Lansky*

Are Tree Diebacks in Maine Caused by Air Pollution?
A State Agency Weighs In

Since reading the book, I have been noticing more imperfections in leaves (could it be ozone?), and have been concerned over the apparent decline of spruce in old-growth stands that I have visited (usually connected with bark beetles—but why now?). How to sort out what extent air pollution may be a factor, I do not know. The Insect and Disease Division (IDM) of the Maine Forest Service has been dealing with a white pine decline in southern Maine this year. Clark Granger, quoted in an article in *SWOAM News,* points out that for declines there are 'predisposing factors' such as poor stocking or poor sites, and there are more severe stresses, such as introduced pests and severe weather, that are considered 'inciting factors.' The 'inciting factors' can initiate tree declines.

For white pines, Granger suggests that the drought of 1995 seems to be the inciting factor, and that suppressed trees on drier sites seem to be the predisposing factors in most cases. But white pine is also sensitive to certain types of air pollution, such as ozone. Is air pollution predisposing or inciting? I doubt that it helps, in either case.

The IDM, in its summary of 1997 had this to say about acid rain:

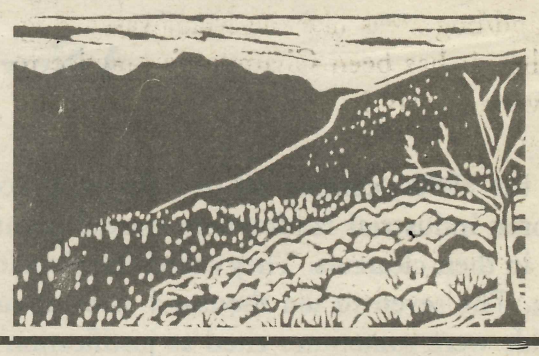
> "This subject has received much play in the popular media over the years but most reports of damage are unfounded and easily attributable to other causes. But the perception persists that acid rain is significantly destructive to forest vegetation. Each year we receive calls expressing concern about the effect of acid rain on Maine forests."

More recent research has concluded there is no evidence of general, widespread decline of forest species due to acidic deposition, though there may be local effects due to acid fog at certain coastal or high elevation sites in the northeast. There may also be subtle effects of acid deposition such as increased nutrient leaching from plants and soils which may negatively impact tree growth or winter hardiness. And there is the possibility that effects of acidic precipitation may increase the susceptibility of trees and other plants to certain disease. Studies are ongoing to elucidate these possible effects.

> "When acid rain first commanded national attention in the 1970s and 80s, it was common for weather forecasters to announce the acidity of precipitation events as part of local weather broadcasts. This practice has now largely ceased, but we recently asked our state Department of Environmental Protection about trends in acid precipitation in recent years. We were interested to note there were no trends. The mean pH of precipitation statewide has held steady at about 4.6 since 1982."—*M.L.*

ADIRONDACK PARK REPORT

BY PETER BAUER



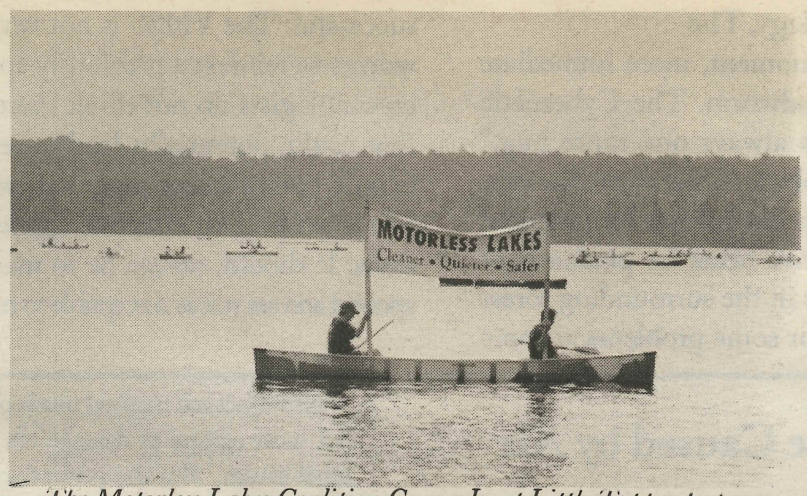
The Adirondack Park is a model for people living amidst wild areas in a way that's usually mutually beneficial to both. At six-million acres in size—bigger than the State of Vermont—the Adirondack Park contains a checkerboard of publicly owned Forest Preserve lands (2.5 million acres), which is managed as wilderness, and 3.5 million acres of private lands, 2.5 million of which is commercially managed forests. The Forest Preserve is protected as lands "to be forever kept as wild forest" in the state constitution. This is the tightest wilderness protection in the U.S.; no timber harvesting, strictly limited use of motor vehicles. Created in 1885, lands in the Forest Preserve represent 85 percent of the total wilderness lands east of the Mississippi River. 130,000 people make their homes and livelihoods in the Adirondacks spread throughout better than 100 communities. All land uses in the Adirondack Park are managed jointly by the State of New York through various agencies and departments and local governments. While there are many complaints all around, the Adirondack Park works extremely well and is not only a place where people and wilderness systems coexist, but represents a successful model for large-scale landscape protection. Each issue the 'Adirondack Park Report' details the most pressing recent issues facing the Adirondack Park.

Distortion and Disinformation in the Adirondacks

A property rights front, the New York Blue Line Council, a group representing timber companies and development interests of all sorts, is leading a distortion and disinformation campaign against protection by the State of New York of the 144,000 acres offered for sale by Champion International Corporation. The Blue Line Council makes all sorts of false accusations and predictions about the impact of state protection. Nevertheless, they have garnered some support from some local governments across the Adirondacks who, similar to the unthinking, stonewall support among southern politicians for segregation in the South in the 1950s, have passed resolutions urging Governor Pataki not to protect these lands.

The Blue Line Council is led by Pieter V.C. Litchfield, millionaire owner of the 14,000-acre estate surrounding Litchfield Castle in the central Adirondacks, a neo-gothic castle built by his grandfather. The castle sports some 25 rooms. In the early 1990s, Pieter V.C. Litchfield became a property rights advocate and helped form the Blue Line Council in an effort to bring respectability and credibility to the property rights movement in the Adirondacks prone to violence and vandalism.

Pieter V.C. Litchfield engaged the use of Behan Communications, a public relations firm specializing in clients like Finch, Pruyn and Company and General Electric. Since taking the leadership of the Blue Line Council, Pieter V.C. Litchfield has generally focused on bashing the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and since the election of George Pataki has ardently, but unsuccessfully campaigned for appointment as an APA Commissioner. In the first months after the election of George Pataki, Litchfield, sponsored by the timber companies who have good Republican bona fides, was actually under consideration for an APA appointment, but the recklessness of the Blue Line Council's propaganda against the APA undermined his viability. Apparently convinced Litchfield no longer has any chance for appointment by Pataki, the Blue Line Council disparaged Governor Pataki's purchase of the 15,000-acre Little Tupper Lake as 'communism.'



The Motorless Lakes Coalition Canoe-In at Little Tupper Lake on August 15 drew 300 supporters of quiet boating.

The Blue Line Council's Department of Distortion, Disinformation and Deception overheated when it put together a recent 'Fact Sheet' about the impacts on the local economy of a possible state purchase of the Champion lands. Chief among the Blue Line Council deceptions is its statement that 35 jobs were lost due to the acquisition by the State of New York of the 14,780-acre Whitney tract in Long Lake in June 1998. A bogus claim. After repeated requests, the Blue Line Council has refused to name the 35 people who supposedly lost jobs because of the state purchase of the Whitney lands or even name their former places of employment. Why? Because these people don't exist! They are imaginary. They are fiction. Seems they were last seen when Litchfield was stargazing from one of the turreted towers of the Litchfield Castle.

The Whitney family has not laid off any employees and no one else has lost their job. The Department of Environmental Conservation has hired three new employees to help manage the property. Further, after considerable press attention throughout the Adirondacks, not one person has come forward and said they lost their job because of the state purchase of the Whitney lands. Any statement about the loss of 35 jobs due to the Whitney sale is false. This reckless, completely unsubstantiated charge undermines the credibility of all other Blue Line Council predictions of job loss associated with state protection of the Champion lands.

The Blue Line Council goes further in its fear-mongering campaign to derail state purchase of the Champion lands. They claim that between 320 and 640 jobs will be lost if the State of New York purchases the 144,000 acres of lands offered for sale by Champion International Corporation.

Similar to the imaginary Whitney numbers, this prediction is false. To calculate job loss, the Blue Line Council uses both 'direct' jobs—loggers, drivers, foresters—and 'indirect' jobs—gas station attendants, waiters, cooks, mechanics, etc. associated with the Champion lands. The direct jobs are based upon folks who actually work in the woods on the Champion lands, roughly 50 such folks. The indirect jobs are based on a regional multiplier from these 50 positions. The Blue Line Council's first deception is that they claim the multiplier ranges upwards of 12 to get to 640 jobs. One economics professor cited in the Blue Line Council's literature stated he recommended a multiplier of just 2, hence 100 positions. How did the Blue Line Council come up with 640?

The other big lie is the Blue Line Council's baseless assertion that the state is interested in buying the entire 144,000 acres for the Forest Preserve, thus removing the entire tract from timber production. This is untrue. The state has no interest in purchasing the entire Champion lands for the Forest Preserve. In reality, the state has stated it is interested in purchasing about 40,000 acres for the Forest Preserve. These are the least valuable of timber lands. They are wetlands, bogs, steep mountain slopes, and river corridors and are cut lightly or not at all under current forestry practice. Champion owns

over 50 miles of river corridors and huge wetland/bog areas like the Madawaska Bog. Further, it has been Champion's practice to cut very lightly in the river corridors and wetlands.

On the remaining 104,000 acres the state is interested in purchasing conservation easements, which allows these lands to remain in commercial forestry. Because only the marginal, unproductive lands will be removed from forestry production and the best, most productive lands will remain in forestry production the Blue Line Council's claim of job loss of 320 to 640 positions is completely false and cannot possibly be substantiated. Given the state's commitment to conservation easements and the limited harvesting on lands identified for the Forest Preserve, job dislocation is not a reality.

Environmental Extremists outnumbered Motorheads at dueling demos this August—see page 10

The Blue Line Council presents its job loss claims against the backdrop of an Adirondack region that has been losing jobs steadily for many years. What numbers is the Blue Line Council using? When actual information is researched, we find that the Adirondack Park economy is growing. A 1994 report by the New York State Department of Labor and Rockefeller Institute of Government found: a) "From 1985 to 1992 employment rose by 25 percent in the Park compared with a drop of 0.4 in the state and a gain of 12 percent in the nation." b) "Employment and payrolls rose faster in the Park during the recession years (from 1985 to 1992) than in the state and the nation."

Further, the New York State Department of Labor has followed job growth/decline in Adirondack Counties since 1973. Please find a summary of this information below.
As you can see the total number of jobs in Northern New York, which includes the major portion of the Adirondack Park, has been increasing. These numbers are especially important for Hamilton and Essex counties, which are completely within the Adirondack Park. During the same years as this job growth, the State of New York has purchased over 200,000 acres for the Forest Preserve and conservation easements on nearly 100,000 acres.

ADIRONDACK JOB GROWTH SINCE 1973

COUNTY	1973	1980	1990	1997	Increase from '73
Clinton	18,600	24,500	33,200	33,100	+77%
Essex	10,200	12,000	14,600	14,500	+42
Franklin	10,100	11,900	16,300	17,100	+69
Hamilton	1,200	1,500	1,900	1,800	+50
Jefferson	27,000	29,000	41,000	38,800	+43.7
Lewis	4,800	5,600	6,600	6,700	+39.5
St. Lawrence	31,100	32,900	38,700	40,100	+28.9

There is absolutely no correlation between the amount of Forest Preserve lands in a town and job loss or economic performance. Look at this. The Town of North Elba, home of Lake Placid, is often held up as one of the shining examples of economic prosperity in the Adirondacks. Yet, nearly 80 percent of the land in North Elba is in the Forest Preserve. The Town of Altamont, home of Tupper Lake, is often held up as one of the shining examples of economic depression in the Adirondacks. Yet, just 10 percent of the land in Altamont is Forest Preserve.

The Blue Line Council claims that the state's interest in the Champion lands violates state policy. The state's interest is perfectly consistent with the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. This plan, which was signed by Governor Pataki last spring, has been through three revisions and three sets of public hearings. In all three revisions both 'Working Forest Lands' and 'Northern River Corridors' were listed as priority projects. This list has been confirmed by Regional Advisory Committees, which are made up of local government officials and interested parties.

The state's action to protect the Champion river corridors as Forest Preserve and the productive timber lands through Working Forest conservation easements is perfectly consistent with the state's open space plan. Further, during the last Open Space Plan public hearings in December 1997, the Champion lands were the second most mentioned lands, after Whitney, across the state. The public hearings held in Glens Falls, Ray Brook and Lowville were overwhelmingly dominated by those supporting land protection generally and protection of the Champion lands specifically.

Is the Blue Line Council Killing Jobs?

One Blue Line Council member, International Paper Company, has sold over 40,000 acres to the State of New York since the mid-1980s. Using Blue Line Council numbers, International Paper has eliminated between 90 and 180 jobs. Is the Blue Line Council killing jobs? Why is it that a timber company that is a member of the Blue Line Council can sell land to the state, but others cannot?

IP's land sales have not killed any jobs. The tough fact for the Blue Line Council is that state land acquisition in the Adirondacks is responsible and appropriate and that only the most marginal of forest lands are added to the Forest Preserve and the most productive lands are protected by conservation easement if the landowner so desires. In fact, International Paper created the model for the Champion land sale when it gave 2,710 acres to the state in 1992. In this gift 12 miles of the Raquette River corridor was given as Forest Preserve.

The Blue Line Council also talks about declining Adirondack communities and a bleak future of ghost towns because the state is buying up too much land. Based on information from the U.S. Department of Commerce and Clinton and Warren County Planning offices, the North Country has a growing population:

ADIRONDACK POPULATION CHANGE

COUNTY	+/- %	1969	1993
Essex	+8.9	34,700	37,800
Franklin	+11.1	44,100	49,000
Hamilton	+12.7	4,700	5,300
Herkimer	-1.3	67,600	66,700
Lewis	+15.6	23,700	27,400
St. Lawrence	+2.8	112,200	115,400

COUNTY	+/- %	1970	1990
Clinton	+17.8	72,934	85,969
Warren	+39.6	42,402	59,209

Once again, it's important to look at both Essex and Hamilton counties, which are both completely within the Adirondack Park boundary. Further, it's important to note that New York State's population was 18,241,391 in 1970 and in 1990 it was 17,990,778 a drop of 1.3%. As of July, 1997 the state's population was estimated to be 18,137,226, still down from the 1970 level. From these figures it's quite evident that the northern New York and Adirondack counties have been growing at rates far better than the State of New York overall.

The Bottom Line: Responsible, Appropriate, Beneficial State Land Protection

The Champion land sale represents a great opportunity to provide new public recreational opportunities, protect sensitive habitat, and maintain important commercial forest lands. These are all important goals for those of us concerned about the future of the Adirondack Park. Plain and simple, the state purchase through Forest Preserve and conservation easements is an investment in the Adirondack Park, its economy, environment and rural quality of life.

Continued on Page 10

Interview

Living with Leviathan:

Crees Seek Nationhood in (Hydro) Quebec

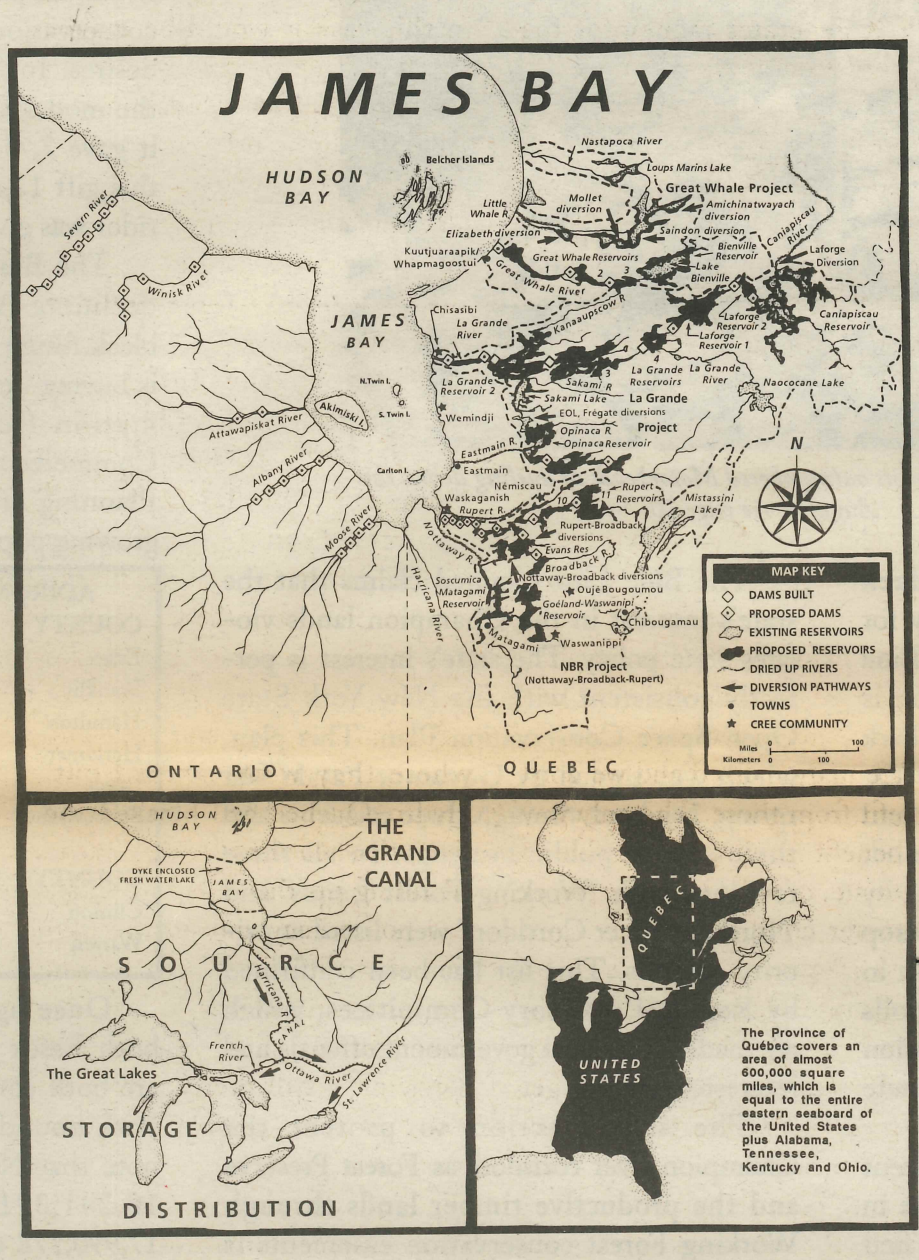
In this third and concluding installment of an interview with Bill Namagoose and others (see ***Forums*** *v. 6, # 5 & 6* ***Flooding a Nation to Feed a Market & Quebec's Crees & Trees Under Siege****) of Quebec's Cree nation, Pamela Prodan and Namagoose discuss the politics of Quebec and energy de-regulation on all sides of the border. They also discuss those borders and the question of sovereignty . . . Bill Namagoose has been Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Cree since 1988. He advocates for aboriginal rights and environmental protection of the Cree homeland of Eeyou Astchee.*

Pamela Prodan (PP): A lot of people I know think that Hydro–Quebec is being kept at bay and it is hard to convince them that this is not the case.

Bill Namagoose (BN): Hydro–Quebec gets its greatest motivation from the hunger of the Americans for more energy. The projects they're promoting – they're not saying they need them for Quebec. They say they are needed to sell to the Americans. The American people, especially in New England states, need to be aware that they are pawns for Hydro–Quebec. "Deregulation is coming and we can sell to any American utility or customer in the states" and "they are really, really power hungry." That's the image being portrayed in Canada.

PP: I think Maine people are particularly gullible. The economy has been very bad in Maine. In parts it never made a real recovery. So when Premier Bouchard came to Maine in March, and made it sound as if there would be all sorts of new economic links and opportunities between Maine and Quebec, that sounded very attractive to politicians. But I don't know that they were necessarily talking about buying energy from Quebec. Instead, they might like to think of Quebec as a new market for Maine products. So if there was a friendly reception in Maine, I think it was based on misconceptions about what Quebec really intends to use Maine for.

BN: In Canada, Bouchard's trip was seen, especially in the French media, as successful. And that Maine people and New England people were open to the possibility of Quebec separating from



Canada – they were sympathetic to Bouchard's plan, not to economic development. I think Bouchard will use his connections to sell more electricity and Maine people have to be aware that their thirst for energy is being used as the rationale for building more dams in indigenous lands in Canada.

PP: What is the Quebec government's position on indigenous people's rights, or should I ask is there a position? And can you tell whether Jean Charest would have any different position if he were to be elected premier?

BN: The present government in Quebec is a separatist government. Their raison d'etre is to separate from Canada and we have intervened to participate in that debate. We brought the issues up. What does separation really mean? What does it mean to a nation? What is a nation? Who is a nation? What is a province? Who are Quebecers? And do they constitute a nation? Who has the right to self determination? The separatists say they have the right to self–determination, and that right to self–determination only belongs to them. It doesn't belong to the Cree, the Mohawk people, the Algonquin people or the Micmac people. They claim that right for themselves, yet then deny it to the Crees. So it's a self–proclaimed right for themselves that they deny to others.

PP: Do you think that the future of the Crees turns on who is in power at the provincial and the federal level?

BN: Either we've got Hydro among us or separatists in government, that's the cycle we've had for the past thirty years now. Jean Charest is now going to be the new leader? He made some statements that French Quebecers have the right to self–determination. We agree that there is some kind of nation there and they have a right to self–determination. But they can't dictate where their borders should be. They can't dictate to other nations who they should be politically associated with. It's not up to them. It's other nations that will decide whether they have the right to self–determination. Jean Charest said that Cree and other nations have the right to self–determination.

PP: Well, that's a little encouraging.

BN: But Charest is not a separatist, he is a nationalist, and he will become more nationalist. In order to become premier of Quebec, you have to become a nationalist. And you have to fight federalists, even if you're a federalist yourself.

PP: He changed hats?

BN: He has to.

PP: Do you think you will become involved in the campaign in any way?

BN: No, we don't get involved in election campaigns, but we get involved in referendum campaigns.

PP: In New England we like to think we have a fair amount of local control because every small town has an annual town meeting when we vote on the budget and planning issues and ordinances. But in most of our towns, there is always a contingency of people who want to cut back on what government does, so we really don't get a lot accomplished on the local level if is going to cost money.

BN: Do you call these people republicans?

PP: Most of them are Republicans, although in Maine there can be more unenrolled people than in either party, and they think of themselves as being independent of either party.

BN: We have Cree local control

also, or national self–determination. In fact, the Crees are now into this stage whereby we are trying to set up a Cree national government. We have nine local communities where we have a political union through the Grand Council. But we don't have a national government and that's what the Crees would like to get organized. It's only a few decades that we actually have administered communities. This raises a new concept for us. We used to be nomadic people and the only type of administrative control we had was family lands or family hunting grounds. It was one person who was usually the best hunter or best leader who was the leader of a group of traplines, they were the bosses. The Cree communities sprang from the fur trade. If you look at all the community sites, they used to be where the Hudson Bay posts were, located at the biggest gathering spot of the Crees.

PP: In the United states, there are property rights people, and they are very individualistic and they don't want to share in the community structure or government. They may be happy to take care of their own families, but the property rights people would see any kind of greater government involvement in the affairs of the community as a really bad thing. They're quite vocal.

BN: We have some of those people too! This would be a territorial government that would govern the Cree traditional territory, that's our ultimate goal. And of course the biggest obstacle will be some of our own people and of course the Quebec government and the federal government. But it has to be done if the Crees are to protect themselves from the political revolution going on in Quebec and elsewhere. They cannot stay on the reserves. If we stay on the reserves we don't have very much of an economic future.

PP: There's not much of a resource base?

BN: No, there isn't much. All the resources are on the traditional territories. The reserves are actually two percent of our traditional lands. We have hunting rights around the reserves, called Category II lands, but we don't have any economic rights on that. Our traditional lands generate in terms of hydro sales, three and a half billion dollars a year. And forestry and mining operations generate about two billion a year. So that's five and a half billion a year from our traditional lands. But yet we are portrayed in Quebec and Canada as a burden on government. You know – the funding that we do receive from them is a burden on them. They remind us every day. But yet our land generates so much money.

PP: It generates money for the Quebec economy?

BN: Oh yes. And just on the tax called the GST, goods and services tax, it's applied on every resident's hydro bill and goes to the federal government. The federal government generates over 300 million dollars, just having the computer generate the seven percent tax on the hydro bill. They don't have to do anything, they don't have to provide services, just the computer calculation and they get the revenue when Hydro–Quebec sends them the check. So, our land is so rich in environment and resources, yet we are marginalized and we don't benefit from those. The only way we benefit is what we are able to negotiate, or what we fight for, or whatever compensation we get. We don't want to be compensated. Compensation implies that something terrible has happened to you, therefore you should get compensation. It's true, something has happened to our lands and our people have been displaced, therefore they get compensation. It's not honorable to get compensation, there's no honor or dignity in that. The word compensation is demeaning, it's degrading.

PP: So you would rather have more control over what development does occur and how it occurs?

BN: Yes, we would like to control it and at our own pace, because we know the hunting and fishing way of life may not sustain us forever, because of development impact. As our population increases, there has to be alternatives to that economy.

PP: What about the Innu? Are you working at all with the Innu? They've really been hit hard lately with Hydro–Quebec's plans for Lower Churchill.

BN: Yes, I've had several meetings with Daniel Ashini and I know Peter Panash. But we haven't met with Katie Rich, the Innu's chief. Daniel Ashini is the land claims negotiator and I met some of his people in Ottawa. They wanted some pointers on the Great Whale campaign and how it was done, and what they should concentrate on.

Basically the advice we gave them was go after the consumers, in this case it would be maybe the Americans. Try to get an environmental impact assessment done. It can be used as a tool to derail these projects. Churchill is a second phase. There's already been damage done, there's already a project there, built in the 1960s.

Some of the Innu were telling me that when the project was being built, nobody told them, didn't bother consulting them or even compensating them. One year they went back onto their land in the fall to start up their winter lodges as they did for thousands of years. And all of a sudden the river started rising where they were camped out. Hydro–Quebec had blocked the river, finished the dam and started filling up the reservoir. They had no decency and no compassion about it, didn't even inform the Innu and just started flooding them out of their land. That behavior is still pretty strong in some of these people who run these utilities.

PP: You've mentioned going directly to consumers in the U.S. to get their support? I agree that is probably the route that has to be taken now with deregulation. For example in Maine, there is never again going to be a proceeding that is going to look at a Hydro–Quebec contract. It's all going to be done through private companies that are going to supply consumers directly. It's no longer going to be possible to ask government to intervene and it's going to take a different type of strategy.

BN: For us, deregulation is a double–edged sword. It would be positive in that Hydro–Quebec is a giant monopoly, a state monopoly and could crush any of your small utilities down here if they wanted to. They would have market domination. We made these presentations to FERC in Washington,that Hydro–Quebec should not be allowed into the New England market because of their sheer size. And now there's a discussion of maybe breaking up Hydro–Quebec. It's just at the discussion stage, nothing formal. So that's one aspect of it—that Hydro–Quebec may not be able to compete because of their size, and because consumers will have lots of choices. I don't know what kind of choices they will have, but consumers must inform themselves.

Then the downside is that there will be no more of these big targets, the Maine contract, the Vermont contract or New York contract. We are lucky we had these huge targets, the Vermont and New York contracts. Of course, Maine canceled their contract before the Crees became active. It became sort of an example, it inspired a lot of people. It could be done. What you did in the No Thank Q Hydro–Quebec group inspired a lot of our work in Vermont and New York. We still have to go after the public for them to be educated about the source of electricity.

PP: Do you think that the Crees will become more active and again build up a presence in the U.S.?

BN: When we were fighting Great Whale, it took a six year battle. It was very intense. A lot of people paid high personal costs as did the Cree nation as a whole. About nine million dollars was spent on that campaign. And that was just the Crees' expenditures. It's a high cost, and that is what we told the Innu: it's a very high cost campaign to undertake, just to be in the public when you are a small group. Because we were under threat, that's why there was high visibility. But we'll remain active in the states, not at as high level as we were when there was an immediate threat to Cree lands. And hopefully we will be able to take part in the public debates and become a participant in the debates.

More Hydro Quebec News

Supreme Court of Canada Confirms Cree Position on Unilateral Secession

[August 20,1998, Ottawa]

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come provided this morning an initial reaction to the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada on the Reference re. Secession of Quebec. "We are pleased that the Court has confirmed what the James Bay Crees have always argued, namely, that Quebec authorities have no right under Canadian or international law to effect the secession of Quebec unilaterally," the Grand Chief explained.

The Grand Council of the Crees intervened in the Supreme Court Reference case to prevent the forcible inclusion of the Cree people and Eeyou Istchee, the Cree territory, into any future sovereign Quebec. The Crees seek to participate in all aspects of the secession debate.

Today's judgment highlights the importance of our rights and concerns. The Court emphasizes the importance of the submissions made by the Crees and other aboriginal intervenors. In particular, the Court notes that this includes "defining the boundaries of a seceding Quebec with particular regard to the northern lands occupied largely by aboriginal peoples."

We have been asked to comment on the Court's choice not to address in detail Aboriginal peoples' status and rights at this time. In this regard, we accept the Court's explanation that such elaboration is not presently required since the judgment notes that our concern is precipitated by unilateral secession, which the Court firmly rejects.

"The Crees have always said, and I say again today, that the Cree people cannot be forcibly removed from Canada without our consent," Grand Chief Coon Come reiterated when he spoke to the gathered press in the foyer of the Supreme Court in Ottawa.

In any future negotiations, the Supreme Court underlined that they must be 'principled' and that the protection of our fundamental Aboriginal and treaty rights 'reflects an important underlying constitutional value which must be respected."

"In any future negotiations on Quebec secession," Grand Chief Coon Come emphasized, "the Crees will have to be at the table."

God Situated Vermont to Transmit Power

According to an Associated Press article that appeared August 28, there is intense interest on the part of the energy industry in upgrading power transmission capacity between Quebec and southern New England through Vermont. An upgrade would require $200 million, says Vermont Electric Power Company chair Richard Chapman.

Curiously enough, an Oklahoma-based gas pipeline builder and energy wholesaler, The Williams Companies, says it could foot the bill. Its vice president of energy resources, Phillip Scalzo, made the tantalizing suggestion that Vermont utilities might be given a break by Hydro-Quebec under such a scenario—although Chapman reportedly downplayed that one.

For Scalzo, Vermont is situated between demand and supply: "It's where God placed Vermont. There's value there. You have to make a decision whether you want to extract it or not."

Energy Quiz No. 5

Question 1: What percentage of the United State's electrical power was generated by fossil fuels in 1996?

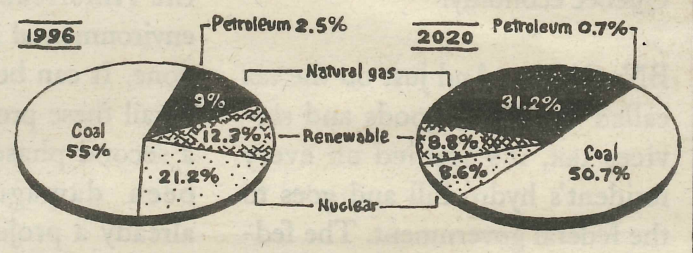
Question 2: What percentage is predicted will be generated by fossil fuels in 2020?

Answers:

1. 66.5%

2. 82.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Energy.



Editorial Comments: The U.S. Department of Energy also predicts that renewable energy generation in the U.S. will drop from 22.3% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2020. Something is terribly wrong with this picture, painted by our own government. Just consider the pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Why isn't the government recommending that everyone who can afford it install solar water heating systems and photovoltaic arrays on homes and businesses? Could it be that our government expects fossil fuels will continue to receive the hidden subsidies that they have been receiving all along? Subsidies including wars fought for so–called 'strategic reasons;' public subsidies for construction of ports, highways and other fossil fuel transportation infrastructure; eminent domain for pipe lines and electric lines; and last but not least, the externalize costs of fossil fuel pollution to human health and the environment. How about some assistance for people instead of the fossil fuel corporations? (If you don't think fossil fuels are subsidized, please explain why gasoline is cheaper than bottled water.)
—Pamela Prodan

Adirondack Park Report
continued from page 7

Canoe-In for Wilderness

A new coalition of environmental groups, Adirondack outfitters, boat builders, and guides formed the Motorless Lakes Coalition. The first action of this coalition was the Canoe-In for Wilderness on the newly acquired Little Tupper Lake on August 15th. The Canoe-In was designed to focus attention on the wide support for motorless recreation and a motorless designation of Little Tupper Lake by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Over 300 people in over 170 canoes, guide-boats, rowboats and kayaks participated. This event dwarfed a rally held on the same site two weeks later attended by just 80 people advocating for motorized use of the property.

At the Canoe-In DEC representatives distributed a flier stating it would recommend either a Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe designation for Little Tupper and the surrounding lakes and ponds. All three designations prohibit motorized use of the property. All lands in the Forest Preserve receive a recommendation from the DEC to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for a land classification. Roughly half the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park is zoned as Wilderness and the other half is Wild Forest.

Generally, though not always, Wilderness lands have no roads, less trails and fewer fixed structures, such as lean-tos. Wild Forest areas have roads available for motorized use and a more extensive trail network. There is one significant Canoe Area, the St. Regis Canoe Area, and other lands zoned as primitive, which is a less stringent classification than Wilderness, but tighter than Wild Forest. Less than 1 percent of the total Forest Preserve is zoned for campgrounds and other state facilities.

Once land has been classified by the DEC a Unit Management Plan (UMP) is written detailing how the area will be managed. The APA must approve all classifications and UMPs. The DEC is expected to make a formal recommendation to the APA at some point this fall.

Tales of the True North

Book Review
True North
by Elliott Merrick
University of Nebraska (reprint 1989)

The Long Crossing and Other Labrador Stories
by Elliott Merrick
University of Maine Press 1992

by Alexis Lathem

In the year 1929, Elliott Merrick quit his advertising job in New York City and went to Labrador. At that time, Labrador was more remote than Alaska, before its first road, mine or hydro-electric dam, and was inhabited only by the indigenous people and the tiny scattered fishing and trapping communities along the coast. Merrick volunteered at the Grenfell Mission in North West River and then traveled up the Grand River with his wife, Kay, and a Labrador trapper. His account of this journey, *True North* , is a record of a vanished way of life and a vanishing landscape, which, if it weren't for Merrick's books, might have disappeared without a trace.

The Grand River, renamed Churchill by its developers, was harnessed in the late 1960s, and much of the land traversed by Merrick now lies submerged beneath an immense, sprawling reservoir. The Grand Falls, described in Merrick's book, was one of the world's great cataracts, taller than Niagara, whose 316 foot plunge created a booming thunder that echoed for miles around, and whose perpetual spray enveloped the area, creating a kind of luxuriant arctic rainforest. Merrick was one of the few white people to ever see the falls; that so stunning a geological phenomenon could have been harnessed with so few to witness (let alone oppose) its disappearance, is a testament to Labrador as a *terra incognita*. While Niagara and other spectacular cascades have become icons of the sublime, the Grand Falls was being measured for its potential horsepower. North America's largest hydro-electric project, Churchill Falls, transfigured the landscape beyond recognition, and erased a history and culture we find so vividly recorded in Merrick's books.

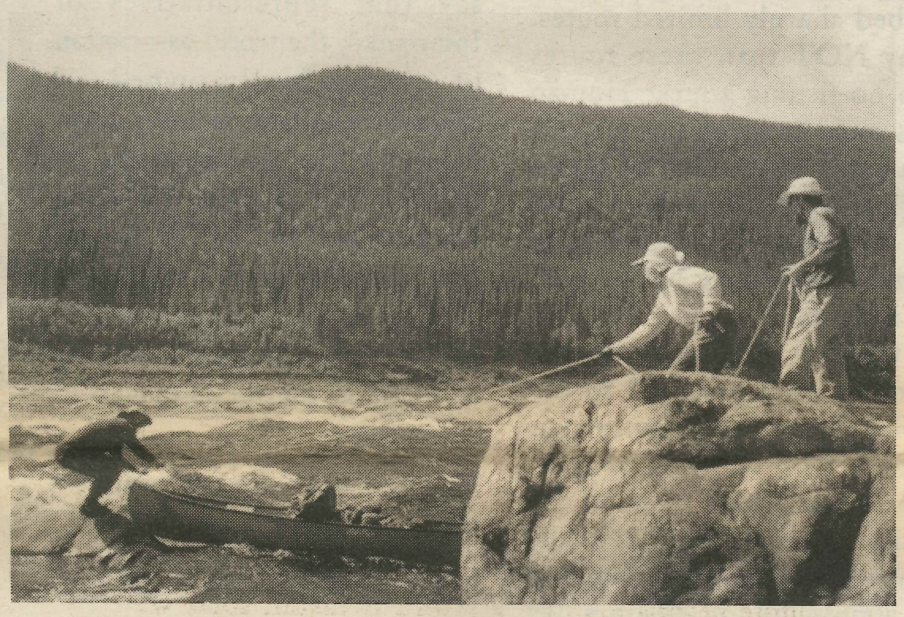
The opening passages of *True North,* in which the author expresses the sentiments that led him to turn his back on the so-called civilized world, represent a classic expression of the spirit that lead Thoreau to Walden Pond—a rejection of urban and suburban culture and their associated economics of alienation.

> Who wants a little box of a house in a suburb, a little wife, a little car with a little garage to put it in, and little hope? Shall I live enmeshed in such a hopelessly organized society that I am dependent upon and helpless before a butcher, a baker, a politician, a judge, a president, an industrial boom, an international trade arrangement, a European imperialist, and a wobbly foreign exchange? All this is not so much to me as the fall of one autumn leaf.

The comparison with Thoreau falls away after the first several pages of *True North*: What we find is the spirit of Thoreau but set in a far more powerful landscape, where the individual's spiritual and intellectual groping for a renewed ethical relationship to the natural world disappears in a natural drama of blizzards and white-outs, of raging rivers and endless spruce-covered valleys. The life of the Labrador trapper makes the life of the New England 'rugged individualist' look soft.

Instead, the comparison with Jack London comes to mind: Merrick is Thoreau without his cranky moralism and London without the cruelty of his Social Darwinist ideology. Merrick, unlike London, writes about the landscape like one in love, in a rapture of natural description.

> How can we be anything but happy, breathing the icy air, skimming down the river feeling strong as steel, watching the sunrise come. The sky is bright, penetrating blue, growing in intensity. The tops of the valley catch alight with gold and mauve. Slowly the color and light steal down the slopes, painting the miles of treetops and cliffs and snowbanks till only the surface of the river lies somber. Suddenly, the sun like a searchlight stands on a mountain and the river is a carpet of gleaming gold dust, rippled with purple hollows. We cast long violet shadows and we feel like dancing and yelling.



Churchill River , formerly the Grand, Summer 1998

Merrick once said about his stories that throughout his narratives "weaves the thread that 'man is great but nature is greater'." And that the function of a highly developed civilization should be to lead men closer to the heart of the world, not further away."

In the whirl of drifting snow, in the intense physical strain and ache, in the keen concentration required to maneuver a rapid, the human spirit achieves a kind of purity, burnished clean like the snow-covered hills by the sun. This is the reality Thoreau craved but only glimpsed from his pastoral garden. It is what Buddhists call Truth, but Merrick, impatient with philosophy, refers to in a rapture of landscape description.

I wonder, however, if Merrick in his later years found some confirmation of his views in the school of deep ecology. Merrick's characters are the disciplined, intrepid Labrador trappers, but they are not the central characters to his stories; they diminish into tiny black dots on a vast snowy landscape, overwhelmed by the drama of the river freezing and thawing, sunsets painting the white hills in brilliant mauves and crimsons, or the northern lights wisping across the sky and softly exploding like an over-ripe rose.

True North was Merrick's first book, and it is, after all, a travel diary. It is his later stories collected in the recently published *The Long Crossing and other Labrador Stories*, that Merrick achieves a mastery of his craft. *Without Words*, one of his most widely printed stories, is a story of a white trapper who, angered at an Indian who has allegedly taken a precious bag of flour from his tilt, hunts him down intending to slay him. Through the story, the Indian is a silent presence in the landscape, as he is throughout Merrick's writings. The trapper's blood-thirsty anger is finally quenched by the Indian's silent act of kindness; the Indian, in the end, turns out to be superior in ethical maturity as well as in his keenness as a hunter, who always senses his pursuer with eyes in the back of his head. The story contrasts the Indian's ethic of sharing with the trapper's clumsy incomprehension, a difference that underscores the tensions between Indian and trappers.

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Coastal Waters

OCEAN WILDERNESS ONSHORE

While efforts to designate offshore marine reserves in the Gulf of Maine continue apace, Coastal Waters Project has been reviewing alternatives for creating marine wilderness areas in inshore waters along the Maine coast.

Top priority for potential sites are those areas where fishing is already prohibited or sharply restricted. Such areas include commercial shipping navigation lanes that extend from offshore shipping routes through state waters and into port, port zones themselves (Parts of Portland's inner harbor have some of the highest complexity of living underwater habitat of the entire Maine coast).

Both Casco Bay and Penobscot Bay have recognized shipping lanes, within which oil tankers and other commercial ships stay during their transits of state waters. Fishers have learned that setting nets or traps within these areas puts their gear at risk, and already generally keep their equipment out of these areas.

Penobscot Bay's vessel route may soon be formally recognized by the US Coast Guard and entered onto official navigational charts; Casco Bay's already is. While the state has so far been loath to protect any of its submerged public resources from commercial and recreational exploitation, the areas identified as navigational lanes will make an important first step - one that can be seen as a safety precaution as well. The 'Cat'—the hydroplaning high speed catamaran cum gambling casino rushing from Maine to Nova Scotia has already run down and killed at least one Canadian fisherman. The CAT and other shipping vessels follow prescribed sharply limited routes. Why NOT turn these routes into no fishing zones? Human lives could be saved, not to mention a part of the Gulf of Maine marine ecosystem at least gaining a respite from centuries of relentless pounding by the fishing industry.

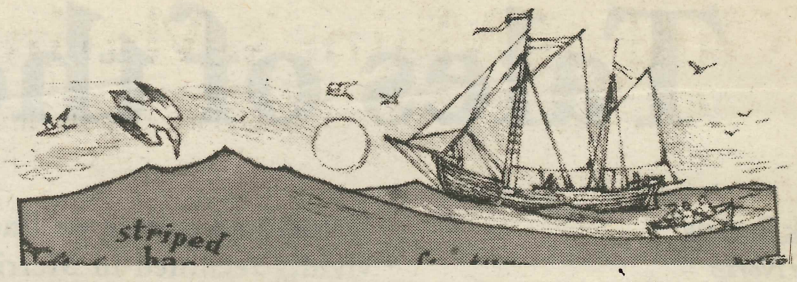
Coastal Waters Project is working on a proposal to the Coast Guard, the agency that creates such shipping regulations, to designate areas off the Maine coast, including inside Casco Bay, Penobscot Bay, and the approaches to Cobscook Bay for this liberating designation. Stay tuned.

PICKLED BAY

The Coastal Waters Project brought dangerous pollution conditions at the General Alum and Chemical Corp aluminum processing plant on the shore of Penobscot Bay's Stockton Harbor to the attention of the Maine DEP earlier this year. Under pressure from the Project, the state has required the company to removed thousands of gallons of oily poisonous waste from a crumbling holding tank perched precariously above the bay.

Numerous other problems plague the bayfront industrial site, however: thousands of tons of acidic aluminum ore waste still line the shore and are leaching into the water column and seafloor; roofing material has blown from the site' s oldest buildings onto the shoreline tidal flats, effectively clam-proofing them with a subsurface impermeable layer; the company continues to spew illegally high levels of acids from its 'stormwater' drainages. Maine environmental regulators have a to-do list for the company to deal with these and other problems. The company wants nothing to do with the list, which only recommends, not requires, that these cleanups take place.

To bring persistent scrutiny and pressure on this company, evidently the worst polluter of Penobscot Bay, the Coastal Waters Project has stimulated the creation of a local citizens Group 'F.I.S.H.' Friends In Stockton Harbor. At the group's first meeting, concerned local residents got to know each other, saw a disconcerting video of conditions at the General Alum site, and voted to organize themselves to exert enlightened stewardship over their small, but important part of Penobscot Bay. More meeting will follow; General Alum' s days of casually poisoning the coast are numbered.



Maine Oil Tanker War to Continue into Third Year?

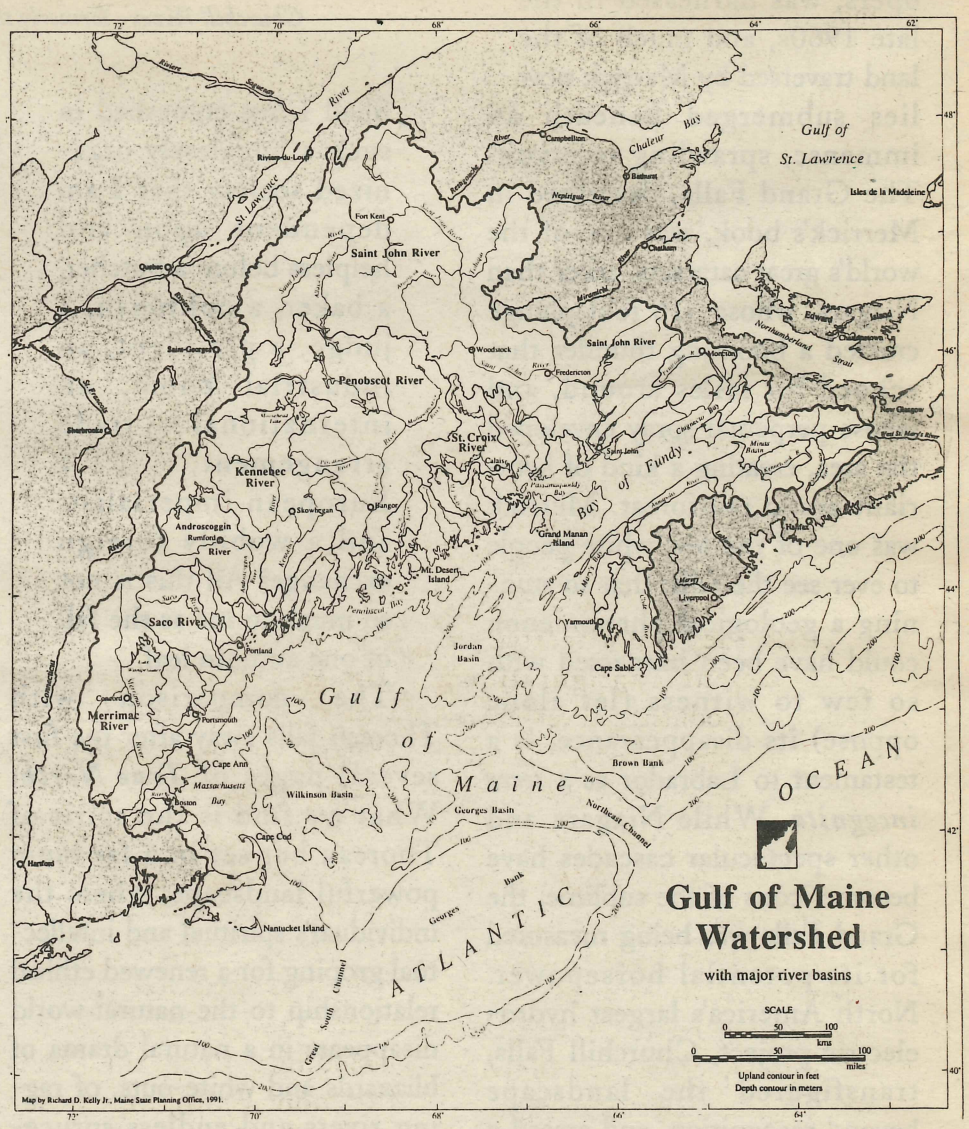
By Ron Huber

Neither the specter of a mass lobster-kill on the scale of Rhode Island's 1996 disaster, nor the urgings of his own Department of Environmental Protection, seem to have moved Maine's Governor Angus King into giving the nod to that department's efforts to enact pollution prevention regulations for the greasy purveyors of our present-day civilization' s lifeblood: the global oil tanker fleet.

Sources in the Maine DEP say that representatives of Intertanko, the world association of independently owned oil tankers, have been bearing down hard on the commander of Maine's ship of state. Mr. King has been told by Big Oil that far from enacting regulations to prevent mishaps in state waters, Maine must surrender its lawful authority to control oil tankers in state waters.

The fact that King has personally told MDEP not to submit its proposed rules until he gives an okay has raised a warning flag among worried anti-pollution bureaucrats and members of the coastal conservation community, who fear that King's one experience with an oil spill, the Julie N. bridge strike in the Fore River in Portland, has given him the illusion that oil spills have only minor impacts and are readily cleaned up . . . thus why pester industry with requirements to have workable safety gear?

Coastal Waters Project director Ron Huber caught up with the governor at the Maine lobster festival in late summer, and gave him color photos of the Rhode Island lobster kill. Let us hope the images sink in and he tempers his enthusiasm for unbridled industry with the needs of the people of his adopted state. Where does your allegiance lie, Mr. King?



Gulf of Maine's Marine Wilderness Areas Short List

by Ron Huber

A wide ranging network of scientists, advocates and enlightened commercial and recreational fishing interests, and increasingly, members of the public are now promoting the first series of marine parks and wilderness areas in the gulf of Maine and on the various submerged seamounts and banks that make up its borders.

GOMMPAP[Gulf of Maine Marine Protected Areas Project] has recently developed two interesting research products; a GIS database of existing coastal and marine protected areas, and other areas that provide protection for natural biota based on conservation or fishery restrictions, and a list of top candidate sites for marine protected area designation in the Gulf. The data is *not yet available to the public*, though a narrative summary of much of the data can be seen. Consult the Gulf of Maine Council's website, www.gulfofmaine.org for details.

In union with other data compilations that have been finalized or are underway, including the various fish assemblages making up the marine fish communities of the Gulf and geological seafloor mapping that reveals the principal types and arrays of seafloor habitat throughout the Gulf, the GOMMPAP GIS of existing protected regimes will move the designation process forward, by allowing for an evaluation of these existing protected areas and a determination of whether they are effective or their present configurations should be modified or even abandoned as inappropriate. The GIS data will eventually be available on the Gulf Council's website, as noted above, and available as well as paper maps.

NEW SITES

In addition to what protected areas already exist, GOMMPAP has zeroed in on the following sites for potential marine protected area designation in the Gulf of Maine, including the major candidate areas proposed by scientists, conservation organizations, fishers organizations and government agencies. Sites have been officially nominated through government channels, or have grown out of informal discussions or scientific analyses. Each has its own partisans and likely, its detractors. The next two years should be very interesting indeed, as the struggle to free some of the Gulf from exploitation moves into high gear.

The Clam Digger. Photo courtesy of Maine Department of Marine Resources.

TOP CANDIDATE AREAS

(Note: varying amount of information available about each proposal at press time). Contact the Coastal Waters Project at (207)594-5717 or by email <coastwatch@acadia.net> or by postal mail at CWP, 418 Main Street, Rockland ME 04841 for additional information.

#1 Hague Line Marine Protected area. Nominated by Martin Willison and Richard McGarvey, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia.
Location—five kilometers on each side of the ICJ boundary (the Hague Line) separating United States and Canadian Waters. Approximately 2,000 square kilometers in size.

2. Fundy Maine Biosphere Reserve. Nominated in 1986 by the United States and Canadian Biosphere reserve selection panel, under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (MAB). Location: Entire mouth of the Bay of Fundy, from Campobello Island NB to Brier Island, NS, and south to include Grand Manan Island, Machias Seal Island, and portion of Jeffrey's Bank and Mount Desert Island. Size: approximately 700 square nautical miles.

3. Cape and Banks Biosphere Reserve. Nominated by the US and Canadian Biosphere Reserve Selection panel, this gigantic reserve would encompass roughly 180,000 square miles of the Scotian Shelf, portions of the Cape Cod, Georges Bank ecosystem, protecting a wide variety of marine inhabitants. Stellwagen Bank and include both human use and non-human use regions.

4. Mary's Point/Shephardy Point, Shignecto Minas Basin. Nominated by the World Wildlife Fund Canada, pursuant to the RAMSAR convention in September of 1997. Extensive seabird breeding areas.

5. Browns Bank/Baccaro Bank. Nominated in 1995 by the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas of the IUCN in cooperation with the Great Barrier Reef marine Park and the World Bank. Location: two large submerged banks in the Northern gulf of Maine. An area of upwelling nutrient, rich deep water. Specially important area for northern right whales, a major breeding population of gray and harbor seals, also residents there.

6. Deer Island. Nominated by the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas of the IUCN in 1995. Would Protect marine biodiversity within the Acadian biogeographic zone. No further information available.

7. Midcoast Maine. An IUCN site based on the following US National Marine Sanctuary Site.

8. Midcoastal Marine National Marine Sanctuary. Nominated by the NOAA Resource Evaluation Team in 1989. Extending along the Maine coast from the southwestern edge of Penobscot Bay to the eastern edge of Casco Bay. Would support and protect more than 100 bird, fish, shellfish and marine mammal species.

9. Sea Urchin Research Conservation Zones. Nominated by a Maine Sea Urchin Zone Council in the spring of 1998. Location: midcoastal Maine region. (Specific locations to be announced) Purpose: to determine the behavior of unfished sea urchin populations.

10. Port Joli. Nominated by the Port Joli Conservation Society, pursuant to the Canadian Oceans Act in 1996. Location: South shore of Nova Scotia between Shelburne and Liverpool in Queens' county. Size undetermined. Subject to local and municipal decision.

11. Grand Manan Basin. Nominated by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), in 1996. Location: in the water of the Gulf of Maine east of Grand Manan Island Purpose: Protect humpback, Fin and Right whale habitat, feeding grounds for a variety of birds and fish. NOTE: location is presently designated as a northern Right whale sanctuary by DFO as a focus of Atlantic Canada's right whale recovery Program.

12. Cape Sable and Off Shore Upwelling National Area of Canadian Significance. Also known as Roseway Basin. Nominated by Parks Canada in 1992 under the National Parks Act. Would protect a persistent

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For People or Planet?

Forest conservation is an area where blue bloods, blue collars, rural people and city people have traditionally made common cause. Not to put too much of a gloss on history however—preservation efforts have also run counter to popular will and economic interests, too.

From our own region's perspective, where paper company ownerships have been destabilized by over-cutting on millions of acres and are available for public purchase, the question of what is best on public land elsewhere has some relevance here. For many, however, what happens on public land elsewhere may influence how they feel about supporting public purchase of paper company lands.

The argument for preservation has admittedly cosmopolitan roots, in the sense that the Canada goose is cosmopolitan, a world traveler. The world is in a spasm of extinctions, driven by deforestation and economic devaluation of Nature. Conservation biology as well as values and ethics argue for core areas of undisturbed forest to restore species and natural communities.

We have frequently made the argument in these pages for a conservation strategy based on both wilderness and a low impact forestry—and a sustainable economics that works for local communities. In the long run, this ought to be a more viable approach, economically and ecologically, than scraps of wildlands in a sea of even-aged forest.

The next few pages offer a look at several different inititiatives in public land management, as well as a cautionary view from the president of the Vermont Land Trust.

Ultimately, we have to ask our readers—where do you stand? Should all logging end on National Forests? Should public land be acquired for non-commercial purposes only? What model of conservation would work best in the Northern Forest? Please let us know what you think!

Zero-Cut: Campaign to End Logging on National Forests

by Mick Petrie
Native Forest Network Northeast
Forest Campaign Coordinator

In the last ten years, over 100,000 acres of publicly-owned roadless wildlands have been lost to industrial logging in Idaho alone. Vermont, with one of the most heavily roaded National Forests in the nation, has seen continued incursion of logging roads in spite of the Forest Service's promise "to give the lowest priority to building roads which are solely needed to accommodate vegetative management practices."

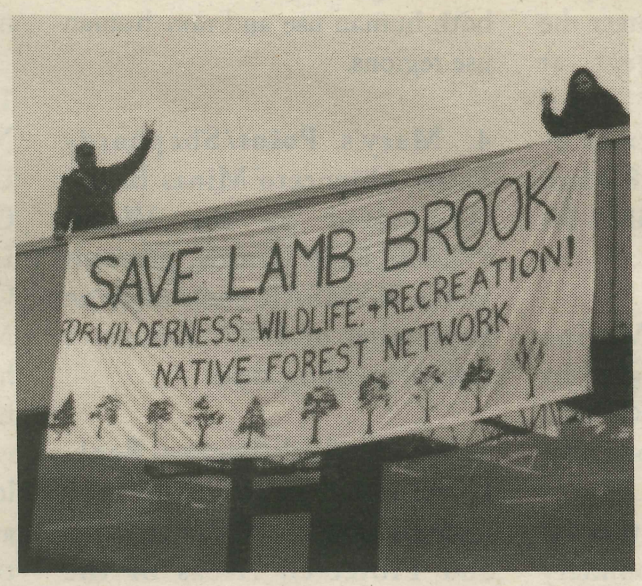
Widespread outcry over wholesale liquidation of public forests through clearcutting has prompted the Forest Service to do little more than use substitute terms such as 'shelterwood', or 'overstory removal'. Sincere efforts by the Forest Service at reform are often thwarted by members of Congress who receive large campaign contributions from rapacious corporations.

How have we allowed our National Forests to be plundered by the timber industry, and how can we save the last remaining forests from exploitation?

Protection of the Forest Reserves

The late 19th century saw a growing movement of conservationists seeking to retain some lands in public ownership. This was prompted by a reaction to severe environmental deterioration and economic instability caused by migratory industries exploiting and abandoning whole regions in their westward drive. In 1891, Congress endorsed the idea of maintaining some land in public ownership, and managing it in the public's interest, although most of these forests were on inaccessible land which was only marginally productive. Protection of federal forests was established, and no cutting of timber, grazing of animals, or removal of any other natural product was allowed.

Industry interests quickly put pressure on Congress, and by 1897, an appropriations rider opened the forest reserves to resource extraction. Significant logging on public lands didn't occur until after World War II when capitalist ideology demanded maximum conversion of resources as a moral imperative. Clearcutting replaced selection cutting, and a massive road-building program was begun. The Forest Service developed the bureaucratic structure wherein "getting the cut out" was a requirement for promotion, and conservation and restoration were ignored. The National Forests are still required to meet the needs of wilderness, wildlife, recreation, and clean water, while satisfying the demands of extractive industry. When conflicts arise, however, they are often resolved in favor of industry.



Legislative efforts to curb destruction of forests and wildlife have included the Wilderness Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Endangered Species Act, but these haven't stopped continued roadbuilding and unsustainable harvests on our National Forests. And the 'salvage rider', passed by the 104th Congress, opened formerly protected areas to logging in defiance of all environmental laws. This has given rise to Zero-Cut, the campaign to end logging on public lands.

The Economics of Subsidized Timber

Only 3.9% of our nation's timber production comes from federally owned forests. In Vermont, the figure is even lower, with only 1.1% of the harvest coming from National Forest. Nearly half of the wood cut is used for single-use shipping pallets which are then land-filled, and about 1/3 is used for pulp. This relatively small percentage of annual wood use still adds up to 3.7 billion board-feet per year cut on our National Forests. When compared to the 6bbf annually used in packaging, use of National Forest wood could be eliminated by combining alternative materials, improved recycling, and demand reduction.

The federal timber program operates at a net loss. In 1996, the most recent year for which figures are available, the timber sale program cost $791 million, and returned $0 to the treasury. This pays for roadbuilding, timber-sale planning and administration, and restoration. Industry apologists often say that timber-sales would be profitable except for environmental litigation, but this accounts for only about 6% of the budget. Not included in this accounting are environmental damages, diminished or deteriorated water supplies, and loss of recreational opportunities which all result in greater societal costs.

Roadbuilding and maintenance accounts for a significant portion of the annual budget, with the Forest Service now listing about 430,000 miles of roads, having newly discovered 70,000 miles of roads which they had not previously reported.

Even as the Forest Service creates new roads, they fall further and further behind on maintaining existing roads. Congress has failed to approve $500 million in funds to repair inventoried roads. This can happen because restoration funds are approved separately from funds for timber sales. Deteriorating roads with washed-out culverts can have a negative impact on water quality, and alter patterns of water flow. Roads also lead to habitat fragmentation, and loss of interior-dependent species.

By subsidizing the harvest of National Forest timber, the government forces private landowners to overcut their land to compete. Ending logging on public lands will encourage better management of private timber lands as we seek to achieve sustainable timber production.

Jobs are often cited as a reason to continue timber-sales on federal land, but because of mechanization, jobs continue to

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Conservationists Call for a White Mountain National Park

(Press Release of the New Hampshire Sierra Club and the Conservation Action Project)
September 9, Concord, NH—

Two conservation organizations today announced the kick-off of a campaign for the creation of a White Mountain National Park (WMNP). This would be done by transferring the management of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) to the National Park Service.

The primary management emphasis of the National Park Service is the preservation of natural values. Presently, the Forest Service management allows logging, including clearcutting, road construction, and development within the boundaries of the WMNF.

"We believe that making this area a national park is the best insurance for protecting its values, including clean water, wildlife, and wildness," said David Carle, executive director of the Conservation Action Project. "While the Forest Service has done a good job restoring the forests of the White Mountains, we are now ready to go to the next level—that of preserving the area for our children and children's children."

Until the mid 1860s, the region known as the White Mountains was owned by the State of New Hampshire. The State sold its land holdings to private logging interests for pennies an acre. By 1903, intensive logging and forest fires were causing floods and droughts that were impacting the towns and cities along the Androscoggin, Saco, Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. Citizens started calling for the area to be protected, possibly as a national park or forest reserve.

In 1911, legislation known as the Weeks Act—authored by John Weeks, a U.S. Congressman representing the Massachusetts 12th District—authorized the Federal Government the right to purchase land for the protection of the headwaters of navigable streams and rivers. The result was the creation of the White Mountain National Forest.

The purpose of a National Park is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations. The Forest Service is governed by a multiple-use doctrine that allows the agency to log, build roads, and graze national forest lands while also offering some recreation opportunities. To protect and preserve this nation's most outstanding areas, many national forests were re-designated as national parks including Grand Canyon, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton, Kings Canyon, and North Cascades.

"For more than 100 years, the White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine have been one of the primary recreation areas in the United States. In 1893, more than 250,000 people visited the area; 1939 the Whites saw more than 3 million visitors. Today more than 7 million visitors enjoy the natural glory of the White Mountain region," said Carle. "The primary purpose of the area is not resource extraction but recreation and opportunities to better the quality of life through clean water, clean air, and a natural landscape. The National Park Service has extensive expertise implementing comprehensive visitor-oriented management. The Forest Service's primary function is logging."

The Forest Service's management of the White Mountains has been under attack for a number of years. According to the agency's own documents, the public has criticized the amount of clearcutting, the continued loss of tax money on the logging program, and the failure to provide adequate recreational facilities. The Forest Service claims it lost more than $88 million in 1997 on its logging program nationally, while the General Accounting Office places the amount closer to $300 million per year.

"While the Forest Service has worked to bring back the forest to the White Mountains, its logging, road construction, and wildlife management programs are now mimicking the very destructive activities of the past that resulted in the creation of the WMNF," said Ellenberger. "There are now more than 500 miles of roads on the forest—equal to driving from Concord, NH to Washington, DC. The landscape of much of the region is littered with ugly clearcuts, looking like a battered checker board. The Forest Service has gone beyond restoration and is now using destructive practices."

"The National Parks are, under our existing system of laws, almost the only large areas that are by law required to be permanently kept in a natural condition and protected from exploitation," said Carle. "We need to look at the needs and requirements of today's society. By making the White Mountains a national park, we will be providing a solution that promotes and complements the priorities of the communities, the National Park Service, and society together."

The process of transferring the White Mountain National Forest to the National Park Service will be a multi-year campaign and will require an act of the U.S. Congress.

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club is one of the 63 national chapters of the Sierra Club. Contact David Ellenberger, 603-244-8222

The Conservation Action Project is a non-profit membership organization, dedicated to restoring, preserving, and protecting the natural heritage of New England through education, advocacy, and grassroots empowerment. Contact David Carle, 978-448-9395.

Public Lands Policy

Local Forum on National Park Options

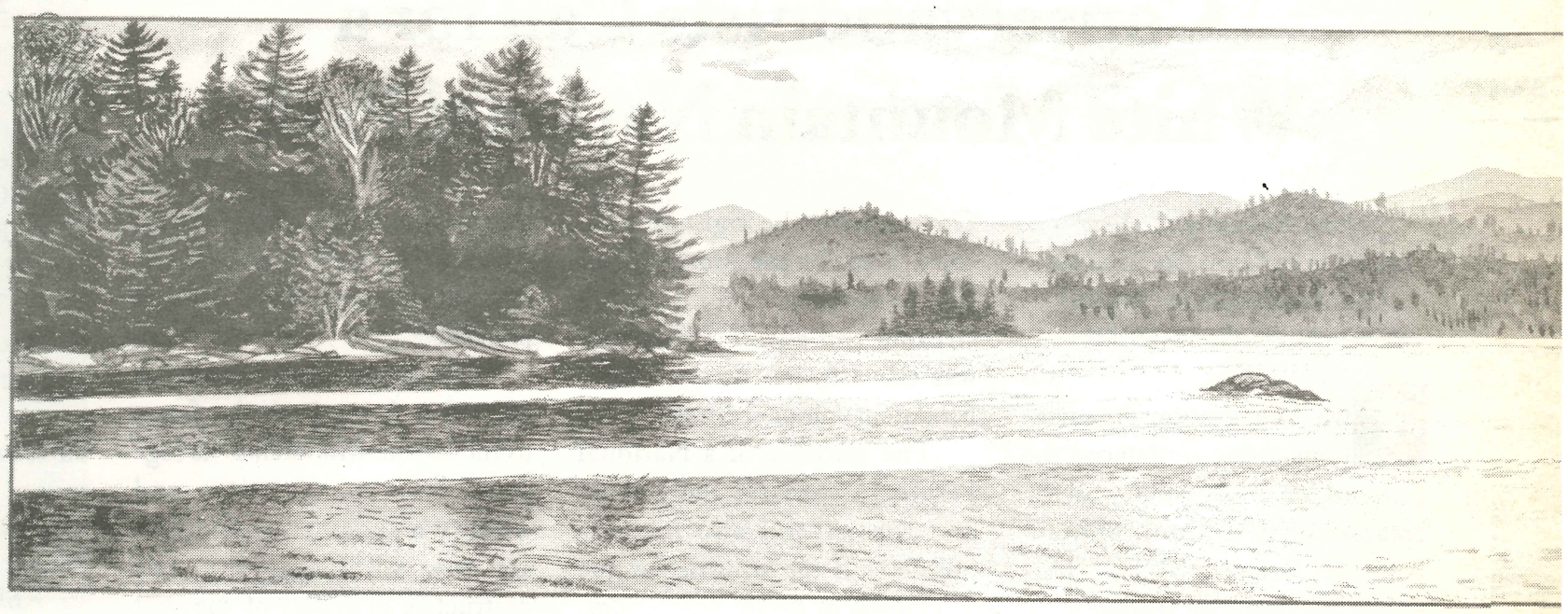
New Hampshire's Congressional delegation has unanimously dismissed the proposition that the White Mountain National Forest become a National Park. At least one local conservationist, however, says that "this is too important an issue to be summarily dismissed by those elected officials who should be promoting public discourse."

Robert Crowley of Plymouth, New Hampshire, working with a citizens' group monitoring the Algonquin Brook Project in Sandwich, NH anticipates pulling together a panel soon to offer the interested public the opportunity to learn the pros and cons of national park or national recreation area designations for the Whites.

The Algonquin Brook Project is currently stalled by virtue of its proximity to a roadless area covered by the Clinton administration's moratorium on roadbuilding. Sandwich Notch was added to the Whites in the late 1970s. At that time, according to Crowley, there was public support—and US Forest Service agreement—for registering the Notch area as a Natural Historic Site. Its current designation permits timber operations. The Forest Service stated in a letter to Crowley that it wishes to conduct a 75 acre clearcut to increase diversity and create early successional habitat "for species like the chestnutsided warbler, snowshoe hare, and rufous-sided towhee."

Referring to the wider issue of Park designation for the White Mountain National Forest, Crowley remarked "we ought not lock up the Forest so you can't cut a tree," but stated his concern over clearcuts and even-aged management and a lack of scientific study of managed areas. He also stated his support of democratic involvement and resolution in the matter: "We are a small state and ought to be able to control our own destiny."

For information about the planned forum and panel discussion of White Mountain National Forest designation options, please contact Robert Crowley at 603-536-1363.



Allagash Wilderness Update

by David Hubley of the Allagash Alliance

After 32 years, the management plan for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway is nearing its final stages. The process began in the March of 1996 and has been two years in the making after much debate both on the part of the Allagash Advisory Committee and the Bureau of Parks and Lands, and also by the public in three meetings held during May of 1998 in various locations around the state.

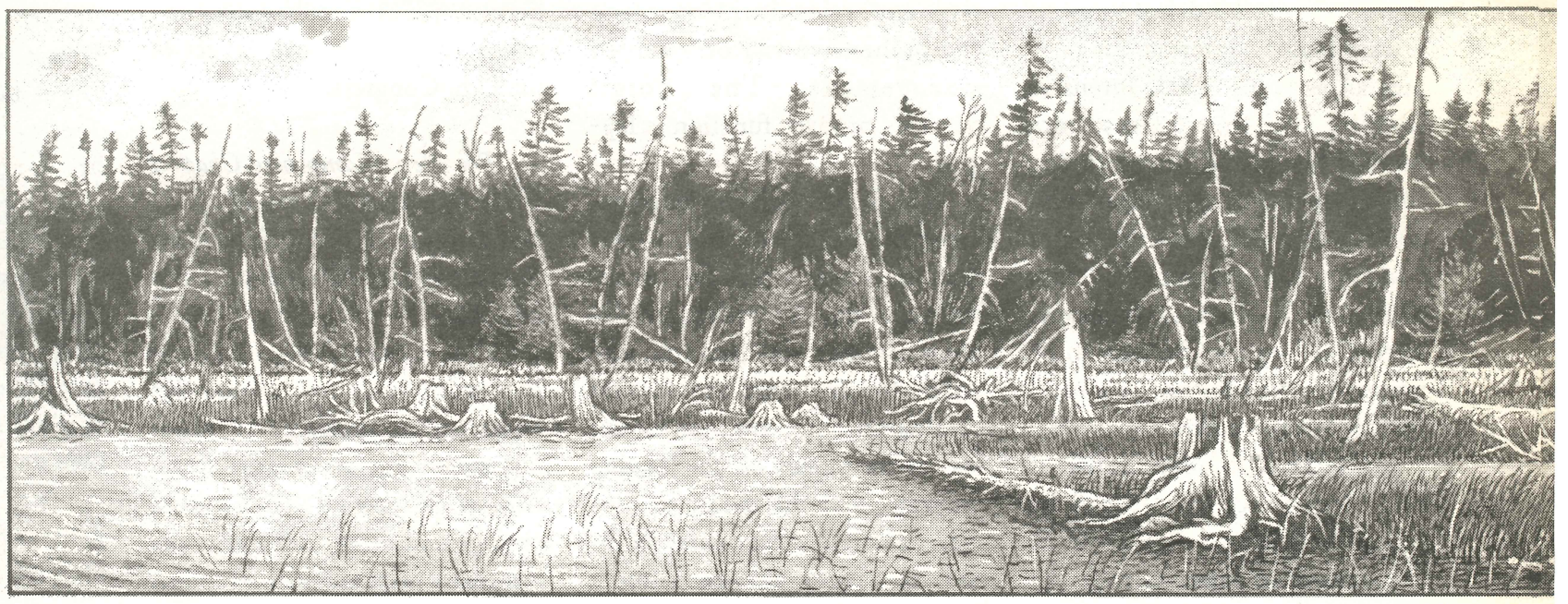
By far the most controversial subject has been the desire by some for easy vehicular access to this area that is mandated by law to be managed for maximum wilderness character. The spot of contention is John's Bridge located at the north end of Eagle Lake (AWW). It has never been an authorized access point in the Waterway's 32 year history. In the early 1980s, the gate on the road leading to it was removed due to increased logging traffic and people started using it as an access point because it was there and convenient.

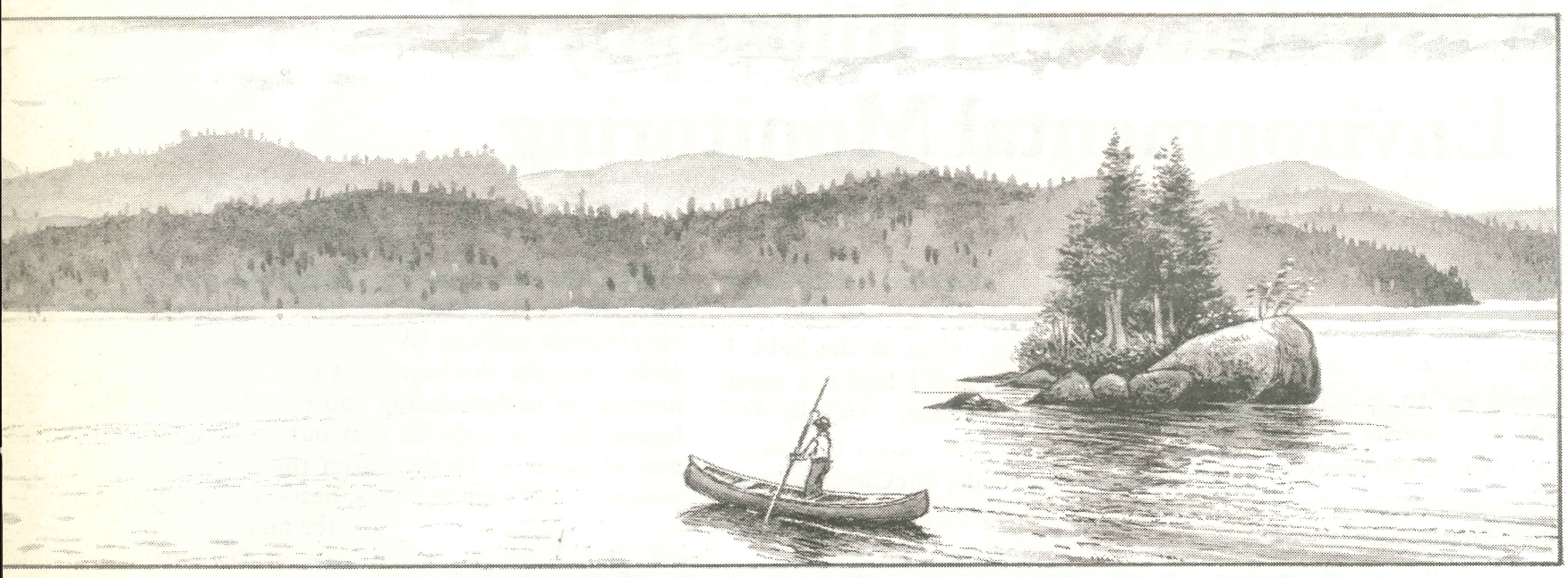
In the mid 1980s, the then Bureau of Parks and Recreation 'closed' it or rather proclaimed it was not a legal access point due to numerous complaints about upwards of 40-50 vehicles being parked on it, creating a traffic hazard. People traveling long distances for the fabled Allagash wilderness canoe trip encountered, in the middle of their trip, a veritable bee hive of modern mechanized activity.

Another area of concern is the bridge over Allagash Stream near Little Allagash Falls. The Bureau of Parks and Lands has, thus far, wisely stuck to their guns on keeping John's Bridge closed, but they are under extreme pressure by a few individuals who have business interests in the immediate area and by the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, whose philosophy, stated by George Smith is that 'it's all about access.'

During the management plan process the Bureau of Parks and Lands received approximately 225 different letters regarding the plan. Of these, 17 specifically requested John's Bridge be opened compared with 185 that stated the desire for no new vehicle access to the Allagash. The general tone of these letters was that the Allagash was supposed to be the exception rather than the rule. The balance was somewhat general or from folks in the Allagash Village area wanting to preserve their accustomed spots along the north end of the river and continued use of motors. Oddly enough, the use of up to 10 hp motors from Lock Dam north was never really seriously questioned by the Advisory Committee even though rumors were started to the contrary.

In 1973, the original Advisory Committee created a document known as the 'Concept Plan.' This Concept Plan had an introduction and policies section that stated emphatically that "Management of the natural resources and of the users of the (Allagash) Waterway shall be in accordance with wilderness policy. Management shall create the optimum wilderness experience





possible by controlling or regulating the user so as to not unduly disturb or upset the natural environment of the Waterway."

This plan still had a firm grasp of what the original intent was in the creation of the Allagash. Coupled with the removal of existing camps and burning down of buildings along the waterway, the direction of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was clear at that time. After being created, this plan was effectively shelved and ignored. The current AWW manager, Tim Caverly, (hired in 1981) was never told of its existence. He found out about it in 1983 by accident from a Bureau engineer. The contrast between the current plan and the 'Concept Plan' is immense. The final form of the current plan will effectively reflect the attitude of the current Bureau of Parks and Lands.

In another development, Tim Caverly, AWW Supervisor waited until the end of the last public meeting after everyone from the public had finished in order to avoid influencing the opinion of others. He then gave his idea as to what the AWW is intended to be. After 18 years of service and talking directly with countless AWW travelers, it would seem that a person in his position would have some grasp of why a majority of people come to the Allagash. For this simple act he received a written reprimand. Given to Caverly by Bureau Director Tom Morrison in May, the reprimand prompted a Maine member of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), based in Washington, D.C., to write and complain about the Bureau's actions. PEER has investigated and prepared a legal challenge if the reprimand is not rescinded internally.

Having served on the advisory committee, I heard a few people say that perhaps a compromise could be reached. In the case of the AWW, a comparison between the original intent with actions taken to achieve it, and the current Bureau management attitude ('it's just another state park') and the unfinished plan, indicate that the AWW probably can't take any more 'compromises.'

Maine has one of only two intact 'wilderness water' corridors left in the entire country. It is a proven economic fact that this type of experience is one people will travel to get. It is acknowledged as a significant economic factor in Minnesota where they take a serious attitude about economic diversity of natural resources. In addition to the mandate of law, it makes sense to take the wilderness character of the AWW seriously when we already have thousands of other places that offer the more conventional forms of modern recreation. Most people who want to go north must enter from the south, spending money as they go. We should offer them as many reasons to do that as possible. Maine is a large state where these different kinds of recreation can coexist and serve as a solid foundation for a strong economy. We can have both. Is the State of Maine up to the challenge?

The Allagash Alliance may be contacted at: R.R. #1 35 Tall Pines West Buxton Maine 04093.

A Practitioner's Philosophy of Environmental Monitoring

by Stephen Lewandowski

'TO MONITOR,' from the Latin *monere* ('to warn') is defined as "to watch, observe or check, especially for a special purpose . . ." (Webster's **New Collegiate Dictionary**). All these definitions imply the use of our perceiving faculties. Some questions of perception are as old as philosophy itself: can we trust our perceptions, and is there more or less than we perceive?

For some purposes, monitoring need be nothing more than close observation of our surroundings or ourselves. We have many tools to aid us in making a clearer or closer view of what we perceive: eyeglasses, micro-or tele-scopes, cameras and spectrometers, but the process of attention and observation is the same throughout. We have developed ever more powerful tools to help us observe and store, analyze and interpret our observations.

We make a mistake, however, if we allow our tools to dictate the process of observation, or mistake the new perspectives they add for something other than the fruits of observation. Observation itself can be powerful without the addition of tools. After all, the domestication of animals and selection of major food crops was accomplished by people with very few tools but with a high capacity for observation (Carl Sauer, **Seeds, Spades, Hearths and Herds**, 1952). Though we don't fully understand the process they followed, we live in a world of their making.

In our times, a major scientific discovery resulted from close observation. Barbara McClintlock received a Nobel Prize more than forty years after her discovery of transposable or 'jumping genes' in corn plants. McClintlock, whose era dictated that she would be trained as a botanist rather than a geneticist, used her powers of observation and a few basic tools to unravel a genetic mystery. She says a scientist must have the patience to "hear what the material has to say to you," the openness to "let it come to you," and especially, "a feeling for the organism" (Evelyn Fox Keller, **A Feeling for the Organism: The Life and Work of Barbara McClintlock**, 1983).

Refraining from using most available technology in favor of close, long-term and *caring* observation of 'the other,' McClintlock says her scrutiny yielded a response from the other—in her case, corn plants—and the plants became her teachers. She says, "No two plants are exactly alike. They're all different, and as a consequence, you have to know that difference. I start with the seedling, and I don't want to leave it. I don't feel I really know the story if I don't watch the plant all the way along. So I know every plant in the field. I know them intimately, and I find it a great pleasure to know them" (Keller). Initially dismissed by the scientific community because of her unorthodox methods, McClintlock was eventually recognized for her contribution to the field of genetics.

Camp, Lake Umbagog, Maine. September 27, 1896. Photo by William Brewster.

What does this example have to teach those of us who are considering an organized program of environmental monitoring (or who are seeking to modify an existing program)? First, we are advised to check our means, our faculties and our perceptions, then to set goals and select tools appropriate to the goals. Second, we are taught that if we are sufficiently perceptive, humble and lucky, we may hope that 'the other'—watershed, forest, mountain or creature—will come forward to teach us. McClintlock suggests that we cannot compel the other's approach but we can cultivate our readiness and receptivity. Further, she affirms that the relationship between knower and known will translate into feelings of concern and attachment.

Her testimony is a powerful answer to the question: 'Why monitor?' We pay attention in order to learn and to form these attachments. We are taught, and we define a place as our home on the basis of such attachments, though they may be so familiar as to have become totally transparent to us.

Monitoring allows us to take a fresh look at our home, the earth. Tools change our perspective, freshen our view, and invite our reconsideration of what is known, but it is critical that we keep the horse before the cart—stay in touch with the basic elements of observation even as we employ an array of tools. Without the important goal (and connection) of understanding and protecting our home, there is a threat that our technology may alienate us further from that teaching presence. By bringing hands, heads and hearts to the task, we may arrive at the combination of humility, knowledge and wisdom required to protect and restore our home.

If monitoring is so fulfilling and important, why isn't it done both more often and effectively? A hint of a problem with environmental monitoring appears in the Latin root *monere*, 'to warn.' Warnings are often unpopular and appear in the context of situations well-advanced in controversy (Aplet, ms.).

Environmental monitoring thus becomes linked with disagreement, and attitudes toward monitoring may be colored by the emotions attending conflicts. Often, we presume the news will be bad, and sometimes there is a tendency to shy away from any news at all. In so far as environmental monitoring carries the potential of delivering bad news ('your well is polluted'), there is a powerful disincentive working against monitoring programs. Even if we could overcome the fear of bad news, cost restraints, new demands on personnel, concerns about privacy would remain.

Many have regarded monitoring as an onerous form of environmental work. Clearly, it lacks the appeal of the broadside or manifesto. Equally certainly, it forces the accountability for actions and inaction on public officials (Aplet, ms). Monitoring can have different meanings for different people in different contexts. It seems unlikely that the apparent conflicts of the admonitory and contemplative functions of monitoring will ever be neatly resolved. Probably tensions will rise and fall as one side or the other gains ascendancy, and it may be that each requires the tension provided by the other for completeness.

Stephen Lewandowski lives in Canandaigua, New York.

Wisconsin Citizens Propose Brule Forest Restoration Plan

A model for citizen action in the Northern Forest

Friends of the Brule River and Forest in northern Wisconsin have written a restoration plan for a river valley rich in natural and human history.

The 40,000 acre Forest stretches along the Brule River from its upland scrub, bog and barren origins to boreal forest along Lake Superior. It was a natural canoe route utilized by early voyageurs and fur traders presumably introduced to it by Ojibwa taking advantage of a convenient portage to St. Croix River drainage.

Subsequent human activity, principally an 1890s logging boom removing hundreds of millions of board feet, and renewed clearcutting today, have done much to degrade the forest.

To be fair, a 4,000 acre gift from a Mr. Frederick K. Weyerhauser helped establish the state Forest for posterity. The Brule's early reputation for 'millions' of large 'mountain' brook trout also led to the establishment of a fishing lodge tradition that helped lay the basis for later conservation efforts.

Restoration efforts date from at least a 1906 article calling for bringing "back to its original conditions the fairest river of the northwest, the Bois Brule." Weyerhauser's gift was originally intended to ultimately reflect pre-settlement forest but both it and subsequent additions to the state forest have been managed on a silvicultural basis despite occasional calls for focusing on the valley's aesthetics and recreational assets. The silviculture subsequent to the last forest plan is based on even-aged management with strict rotation cutting applied across the forest. Thus, the old growth component of the forest has been eliminated, and as yet no provision made for its re-establishment.

The Friends of the Brule propose that the Forest be managed as: "a unique and much-treasured sanctuary which, although it will be managed by several use categories, must still be considered as an integral whole. In the new Master Plan, the ecology of the Brule Forest should be restored, to every extent possible, to its original pre-settlement tree cover for the protection of the watershed and for the continuing improvement of the biodiversity of species within the area. This Forest, which has unique and previously unrecognized ecological features, rare historical significance, and a fragile trout stream, needs the very special management that is now available with the new master planning regulations."

Among its specific recommendations, which are further detailed in sections relating to the seven management areas of the Forest, the Friends have called for restoration of native plant communities to a "position of predominance throughout the entire Brule Valley," that logging be limited to restoration efforts, particularly in plantations that could be restored to natural, mixed stands. The Friends propose management on the basis of regarding the Forest as an integral whole with the goal of restoring old growth functions and processes.

Predicting a minimal impact on local timber production by withdrawing the Brule's 40,000 acres from such management, the Friends also see the restoration of the Brule's natural beauty and resources as a valuable addition to the area's regional tourist economy and an extension of the area's "solitude, tranquillity and closeness to pristine nature."

For citizens of the Northern Forest seeking to influence the course of public land management in the direction of a network of ecological reserves, the Friends of the Brule restoration plan for 40,000 acres provides an excellent model.

For more information or to request a copy of 'The Historic Brule Forest—A Plan for Restoration,' please write Friends of the Brule River and Forest, POB 146, Brule, WI 54820.

Zero Cut

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fall even as the timber harvest increases. Recreation, hunting, and fishing have a far greater economic contribution than logging. The Forest Service has predicted that by the year 2000, recreation, hunting, and fishing will contribute 31.4 times the income, and create 38.1 times more jobs than logging on national forests. Previously timber-dependent communities in the Pacific Northwest found that jobs and income increased as environmental protections improved.

National Strategy

The goal of Zero-Cut on public lands can only be achieved by a wide range of strategies. Coalition building is the most important, finding strength in the common concern for our forests, and believing that we can succeed in this campaign. We have conducted canvasses and petition drives, and coordinate speaking tours and slide shows to continue education about logging on national forests. .

At the core of this campaign is the McKinney-Leach Bill, H.R.2789, The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act introduced in Congress last year. This bill continues to gain co-sponsors, and we maintain a strong presence in Washington to support the bill. Features of the bill include an immediate end to the timber sale program, an ecological restoration program, redirection of logging subsidies to local governments, and provisions for worker retraining. The bill promises to save at least $300 million annually.

The campaign is also litigating every timber sale nationwide. Federal law requires that public lands be managed for the highest net public benefit, and our current logging program fails to meet this requirement. Zero-Cut is also attempting to reform the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management by participating in all planning processes for these agencies. Ultimately any attempt at democratic reform will be enhanced by removing corporate influence from the decision-making process. The campaign is working with USPIRG on this goal.

Finally, less waste and better efforts at recycling could easily replace the wood products that come from our national forests. Demand reduction is an important part of this campaign, and we are working with Wood Use Reduction Clearing House and ReThink Paper.

Local Campaign

The Northeast doesn't have the same awareness of National Forest logging as the West, and we often find people who are unaware that most of our forests are unprotected. Education and high visibility campaigns that receive media attention will help to change this picture.

Local emphasis is to continue to gather support within the environmental community. Vermont Sierra Club for example, now opposes any commercial logging on the Green Mountain National Forest. Involvement in social activism often provides opportunities to introduce new people to forest issues, and to see the similarities between struggles for social justice and environmental defense.

Native Forest Network holds a **Forest Activist Training Week** each June where we work on direct-action skills and provide a forum to discuss the philosophy behind forest protection. Native Forest Network continues to oppose all local timber sales, with Kearsage and Lamb Brook getting most of the media attention. We recently organized *A Day for Lamb Brook* where over 50 activists met local community members for a series of workshops on neo-tropical songbirds, black bears, old-growth, and forest history. Everyone who attended gained new wisdom and the determination to preserve this area.

At the Forest Reform Rally held recently in New Hampshire, most speakers gave support to zero-cut, recognizing the necessity of this policy, and realizing that it can happen with everyone's support. We welcome you to join our campaign.

For more information:
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Two Roads Converge in the Woods: Forest Industry & Conservationists Have Common Interests

By Darby Bradley

There has been a troubling air of polarization in Vermont in recent months, often with little listening or appreciation for another point of view. This has been the atmosphere surrounding forestry issues of late.

Representatives of the national 'Wise Use' movement were in Vermont in June, whipping up passions against perceived 'no use' environmentalists. Public listening sessions on Vermont's Forest Resources Plan degenerated into opposing points of view, usually stated in the extreme. A number of environmental organizations have advocated a halt to all timber harvesting in the Green Mountain National Forest. Associated Industries of Vermont (AIV), which represents many large forestland owners, has been on the warpath against the National Forest Stewardship Act, which would provide money to purchase conservation easements to keep land as working forests.

The Forest Resources Advisory Council (FRAC) and others have made efforts in recent years to foster more dialog between different interest groups. For a time, there was success. AIV, many of its member companies, and moderates within the environmental community hammered out an agreement to address the problem of large-scale liquidation harvests, which threaten, in the long run, not only the forest resource but the forest products industry. That compromise was the foundation for the 'heavy cutting' legislation adopted last year. But since the conclusion of FRAC's work, old patterns have reappeared.

Causes for Concern

There is some basis for industry's concern about public land acquisition. Many people in the wood products industry believe that the principal purpose for creating a national forest in Vermont was to provide a timber reserve to stabilize the wood supply, and that that purpose has now been forgotten. They see the U.S. Forest Service's reductions in the 'allowable cut' on federal lands, and calls by some groups to limit or stop harvesting in state and national forests, as further evidence of an effort to lock up all public lands. Is it any wonder that some industry groups oppose further additions to public lands, especially if the land is good for growing timber?

Their concern is underscored by the knowledge that the forest products industry is a very important component of Vermont's economy, especially in rural communities. It employs over 8,000 people, three-quarters of whom are in secondary manufacturing. Most work in small companies doing skilled jobs. If our goal is sustainable communities, we cannot afford to ignore this sector of Vermontís economy.

Jim McLeod and his big buck on September 30, 1897. Lake Umbagog, Maine. Photo by William Brewster.

ARVID BAKER'S NIGHT IN THE HECTOR WOODS

Because, at 90, he was no longer charged
for a hunting license, he took it free
as a gift from the state. In fact,
he carried a gun along on the hunt
though his cane was of more use.
They sat him at a corner of the woods,
below a gully, where a deer might run,
and at least he was out of their way.
Stone deaf, other hunters' shots didn't
bother him a bit; he sat and dozed through
an overcast day. What got him up and moving
they don't know—maybe he was coming
back to the truck for coffee. But
he wandered off and when the boys—
his grandnephews and grandsons—
came back, Arvid was gone.
"No use hollering, he can't hear."
He wandered some, dropping the gun,
then lost his cane in a gully slide
and was crawling when he saw
the late November dusk come on fast.
In the dark he finally gave himself up,
lay down and pulled a pile of leaves over.
Slept on and off beneath the pile, waking
watched stars turn and when he slept
dreaming, he told them next morning,
of "a bunch of fat bucks."

—Stephen Lewandowski

The Impacts of Changing Ownership

It is easy to say that government and land trusts should stay out of the woods, and let private land ownership continue as it has in the past. But the patterns of ownership are changing, and changing rapidly.

It used to be that a forest products company owned forest land as a hedge against supply. When one industrial owner sold a large block of land, it was usually purchased by another industrial owner, and there was little change in use. Now, with land values higher, stockholders demanding greater dividends, and Wall Street demanding a higher return on investment than the forest can productively sustain, these rules no longer apply. Many of the large industrial owners have already left Vermont, and most of the remaining are in the process of leaving.

Who will replace these owners? Will the new owners be interested in long-term forest management, or is conversion to other uses somewhere in the picture? Will they continue the tradition of open public access for hunting or snowmobiling, or will these activities be seen as a potential 'profit center' to be available to the highest bidder?

There is no assurance that things will remain the same. We cannot expect investors to pay development-value prices, and keep the land in timber production over the long term, if they canít generate a fair return.

The Case for Listening

Conservation easements, which clearly state timber production as a goal, can insure that the land will not be subsequently developed. They can also include access rights for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and other forms of public recreation. And, if the land trust is purchasing the easement, a forest land investment will be more attractive to the person or company who is interested in long-term, sustainable timber production.

The people and communities who depend upon the forests for their livelihoods and well-being have a great deal at stake in what the land conservation movement does, and whether it succeeds. The conservation community has an equally large stake in the success of the forest products and tourism industries, as well as in the manner they operate their businesses. We will not achieve our respective goals by arguing extreme positions and not listening to the real concerns of others. We need moderation, tolerance, and dialogue. Without understanding and compromise, Vermont's forests will see few winners.

Darby Bradley is president of the Vermont Land Trust, a statewide organization which recently partnered with the Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy in purchasing the Atlas timber holdings (see Northern Forest Forum v. 6 #3). He has also served as the chair of the Forest Resource Advisory Council, which is periodically activated by the Vermont legislature to develop forest policy.

National Forests for Wildlands Protection

by Jim Northup

A few days ago, a friend asked me if I thought the United States Forest Service was likely to substantially down-size or eliminate the timber programs on the Green and White Mountain National Forests. She had read about the proposals to eliminate all commercial logging on the National Forests and to convert the White Mountain National Forest into a National Park and thought they were interesting, but far-fetched.

Without hesitation, I answered that change is inevitable and it is bound to happen soon. If the agency does not substantially and voluntarily reform its timber program then it could be forced to eliminate it completely. It seems much more far-fetched to think that the Forest Service would be allowed to continue a timber program that hemorrhages red ink year after year while destroying deepwoods wildlife habitats, backcountry recreation opportunities and outstanding wild lands—public assets that the agency acknowledges as being scarce and precious. If the USFS timber program were a publicly held corporation, the stockholders would have fired all the top executives years ago. Reform is overdue.

Individuals and groups calling to limit or stop logging on public lands do so with good reasons.

National Forest timber programs are losing money—lots of money. The USFS timber program lost about 200 million dollars nationwide in Fiscal Year 1995 according to official government calculations. The WMNF timber program lost about $1.6 million ($763/acre cut) and the smaller GMNF program lost about $685,000 ($576/acre cut) after all payments and expenses were paid in Fiscal Year 1995 according to agency data. The money the Forest Service is now losing could be used to: make higher payments in lieu of taxes to local communities; pay for programs that demonstrate small-scale, low-impact, sustainable forestry to private landowners; promote the development of non-wood paper products, value-added manufacturing, and marketing of environmentally sound wood products; and restore forest ecosystems.

Public land should be managed to provide benefits that private land does not. This is simply good public policy, especially in the relatively densely settled Northern Forest states—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York—where public forest land amounts to about 12 percent of total forest land, and there is about 300 acres of public forest land per 1,000 residents. Across the nation, public forestland amounts to about 32 percent of total forestland and there is about 700 acres of public forest per 1,000 residents. The GMNF Plan states that "increased timber volumes can be removed from private land, while large, remote areas can only be provided by the Green Mountain National Forest . . . Private lands are more numerous, better able and better suited to meet timber demands."

There is no shortage of wood. If all timber cutting on public land ceased tomorrow then private land could easily meet New England's demand for wood. For example, in Vermont the timber cut from the GMNF is less than 1.5 percent of the annual volume cut statewide, and the annual statewide cut is about 60 percent of the net annual growth on suitable timberland.
If the National Forests have a timber cutting role to play, it is to invent and demonstrate ecological forestry—a forestry that mimics nature—to small, private forest landowners. Industrial-scale forestry has no place on our National Forests.

There is a shortage of wild forests, deepwoods habitats an backcountry recreation opportunities. According to the Forest Service, "(p)rivate lands are unlikely to provide (wildland) conditions in the future. The population will continue to grow and greater pressures will be placed on all lands to meet society's needs. Private lands are best suited to meet the demands for housing, lumber, minerals and roaded, natural appearing areas . . . Public lands in Vermont are best suited to provide large tracts of unroaded (wildlands)."

The Northern Forest states have a higher percentage of industry timberland (24 percent) than any other region of the nation—almost twice the national average (14 percent). And, because most industry timberland has been intensively logged in recent decades it does not provide the wildlands, deepwoods habitats and recreation opportunities that we need and want.

Some people have said that promoting reform of the USFS timber program is an 'extreme' position that polarizes dialogue among the stakeholders and results in warranted opposition to future public land acquisition. They would like the reformists to be more 'moderate'— i.e., quiet.

I believe that continuation of the current Forest Service timber and roadbuilding program and condoning the agency's behavior through silence represent the more extreme—i.e., untenable—positions. There are plenty of reasons to acquire more public land, but let's be loud and clear when we say that money-losing industrial-scale public logging programs should not be among them.

Jim Northup is the new director of Forest Watch, *formerly* Green Mountain Forest Watch, *which has most notably fought to protect the Lamb Brook area of the Green Mountain National Forest.* Forest Watch *may be reached at 10 Langdon St., Montpelier, VT 05602 tel.*

Interview

Logging in Baxter

Mitch Lansky interviewed Jensen Bissell, forest manager of the Baxter Scientific Management Area in the last issue of the **Forum** *(v.6 #6). Jensen talked then about some of the silvicultural philosophies and approaches being used in the SFMA—the 30,000 acre section of Baxter State Park dedicated to exemplary forest management. In this second part of the interview, Jensen talks about logging practices.*

Not all of the land in the SFMA is slated to be cut. Jensen has been setting some stands aside as 'controls' to the cutting. And then there is the Boody Brook Natural Area, which consists of hundreds of acres of old-growth spruce and hardwoods.

ML: What are you doing different with your logging in terms of machinery and labor and your relationship to the labor?

JB: Our plan talks about what we think labor really means to the forest operation. [W]hat actually happens, what's happening today when we do this interview, is based on the intent and professionalism of the people who are out there doing that work.

So, for us, our primary approach is to organize and culture a good attitude in the people that actually do the work in the woods, because they're going to determine if the SFMA becomes a great, beautiful forest.

So we've engendered kind of an argument that we would like our labor to stay a long time. Although we try to employ them as much of the time through the year as we can, there are distinct periods when we can't.

We began this work employing two skidder crews. At least in my tenure, from 1989-91, we had mainly cable skidder wood, limbed in the woods, tree-length logging to the roadside. I had a lot of dissatisfaction with that.

Eventually we settled on a single-grip system. By 1994 we had two single-grips and no skidders.

We don't have enough production to hold up two single-grips working a steady full season. We've had a continual, perennial problem: the single-grips are machines built for small wood, which fits us ninety percent of the way. But we do have some oversize wood. We do have large hardwood that occasionally needs to be harvested. And we didn't have any real capacity to do that within the mechanized system we were using.

Two years ago, we started employing a two-person crew—one running a forwarder, one a chainsaw. They do all our specialty work. So if we had odd stands, or stands that really fall as much in the realm of stand treatment as they do harvesting, we put that crew to work.

They're not as profitable to us as the single-grip, but we have them in a lot of stands where we think they do a lot of good silvicultural work. They'll pick up all our windthrow. They'll cut all the oversize. They'll work in selection hardwood stands where that first entry is somewhat difficult, because we're trying to take low-grade material in a low-level entry. They'll do that work for us.

ML: Do you pay them the same way that . . .

JB: No we pay them on a per diem. A day rate. On the single-grip we began folding over the traditional rate of payment that was based on products—a weight-based payment based on product so the contractor got a different amount for different products. Much less, generally, for hardwood pulpwood products than, for instance, softwood log products. It was somewhat reflective of the overall value of the products in the market place. It creates that perennial tension in the woods with Maine woods workers, that "What kind of wood are you going to put me in? What kind of chance am I going to have?" And that tension was always bothering me because our attitude and our approach isn't what you're cutting; it's how good a job you do. What you're cutting should be our problem, because the value of the wood is really our responsibility.

ML: You sell the wood?

JB: We sell all the wood. We market all our wood. So, we kept working with the contractor, who for understandable reasons, didn't want to leave the security of at least knowing when he was in softwood that he would be generating some harvesting money. But as we began to move forward and enter into old burn types that had aspen overstory that we were intent on removing to some degree, with very little softwood harvest, it became easier for the contractor to be able to talk seriously about a rate payment per thousand pounds, and that's currently what we're doing. We have a single rate payment per thousand pounds for all of our wood produced. We did that last year and we're doing it now. So what they cut is not an issue to them. Only how they cut.

ML: And the quality of what's left behind. . .

JB: And the quality of what's left behind is our business—really our primary focus. Regarding residual stand damage—that's never been a problem with our crews. Even when we were on a traditional-based payment, we had very little damage in our residual stand. I never had a problem with that, but this way there's no tension whatsoever.

ML: To what extent does the expense of the equipment—and those single-grip harvesters and forwarders are quite expensive—dictate a certain level of harvesting to pay for the machinery?

JB: We've never done cost analysis on anything that we've done. We look at the forest the way we want to manage it. . .I mean, when we first brought the single-grips in, we actually crunched some numbers. Nobody wanted to go into the hole and not have that work out. So we understood that we had to provide more support to the contractor to be able to pay for more expensive equipment.

ML: You pay more money?

JB: We pay more money. We don't harvest more wood. That's the deal. So you look at whether you're going to go under and begin to lose money every year. If we're going to have a reasonable amount of profit, we're willing to narrow that increment of profit if it means a better operation over the long term. But we don't look at it in terms of productivity. Our volumes are only looked at based on growth and yield and what we think is appropriate to remove. We don't alter our harvest plans to pay for equipment. That's not in the equation.

ML: Why are they contractors instead of employees? You're an employee.

JB: I'm an employee. The Park has seen that we could have excellent work done on a contracting basis, clearly without carrying the overhead that a contractor carries in the Park. Our expenses if we were to do the same thing would be much, much higher, because we would have much less efficiency than a contractor has. The machines that are used in the Park aren't unique to the Park, they can be used elsewhere and are. We are not going to operate a full contract year. The contractor, as the Park would do, will have a need to try to employ those machines year round. The Park would have the same need if we had the same payments. The contractor has the ability to

take those machines elsewhere and employ them. We wouldn't have that as a company employee.

ML: Is there a problem with the amount of time you spend supervising and directing [the workers]-trying to keep the separation between employee and contractor?

JB: No. Our attitude, and the way we structured our approach, is not built on the fact that we are going to supervise you. When I worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon it was the other way around. We captured contracts based on a low bid, and so the stage was set. Let's say I was a contractor and I bid less money than I could afford to bid in order to make any profit. So it's your job to make sure that I don't cut any corners on this contract. I worked as a contract administrator, and it was an extremely intensive administrative effort to try to make sure the contracts were just being followed. Our approach on the SFMA is the other way round.

Marketing

ML: What are you doing that's different in terms of marketing?

JB: Probably not much. The facts of marketing. . . that's a different world and not controlled in any way by us. The SFMA arguably is probably in one of the worst places in Maine for markets. We're not close enough to the Canadian border to make the argument that we should be able to utilize the Canadian markets, which is another issue for us anyway.

We're far enough north to be away from the specialty markets or hardwood markets. Our trucking costs are high because we have to truck our wood across a private landowner, who maintains many, many miles of road that we would not have otherwise, and allows us to get that wood out. But it's a cost to us. On our low-value products we have a toll right-of-way that makes it very difficult.

ML: This brings up an interesting issue. If marketing is really difficult for you, and you are at a disadvantage to other landowners, and if you are paying more money, essentially, for your logging, and if you are actually doing well in terms of breaking even if not making money, perhaps, perhaps you do have a message to send out to some other landowners. [both laugh] You're an extreme case and you are showing that, perhaps, it can be done?

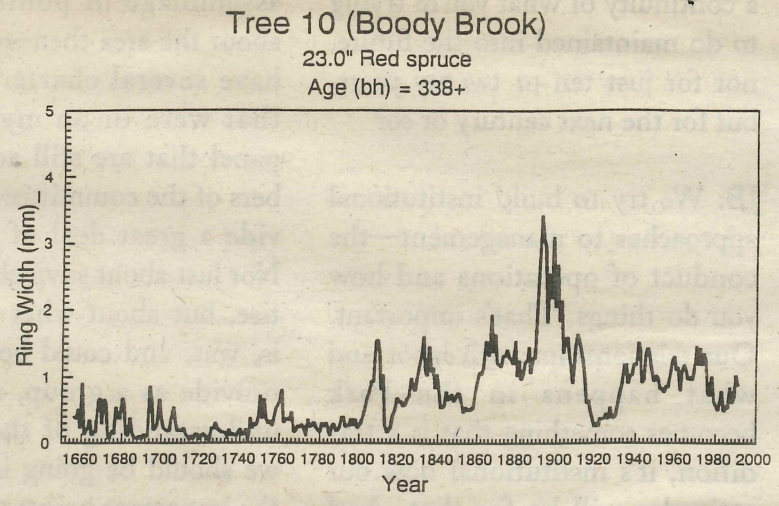
JB: Other landowners would make an argument about our size, perhaps, they might make a valid argument that we are not paying taxes on any of our land . . . The large distinction between us and our neighbors and other landowners in our area is that we're not connected to a processing facility. What we need to try to focus on is what might yield us the most revenue over the long term as far as size and quality. So size and quality become important. We may hold more inventory on our landbase more comfortably than someone who is not oriented the same way. Someone who has a mill with specific needs with specific timber types to fill. They may not be all comfortable with holding the type of inventory on their land base that we hold. [Comparisons to other ownerships are] not going to be made by us. We're going to try to meet the mandates of Baxter's Trust Deeds. And others are going to have to judge, in the long run, about whether we are meeting those Trust Deeds and whether there's a message in that.

Roads

ML: In talking about a showplace, one of the first things people see are roads. Your rights-of-way are fifty-five feet wide. You've told me before that you expect them to grow in. In Europe, how wide did the woods roads seem to be and is that a model to be followed?

JB: It's a model that could be followed, but I came away from Europe not sure that I would want to follow it. A lot of the parts of Switzerland and southwestern Germany we saw, especially Switzerland, had climates that reminded me very much of coastal Oregon: lots of rainfall, fairly primitive soils, just a few species, fairly simple sylvical mixes, very tall trees. And they were taking a lot of the stuff nearly tree length. They had these articulated trucks to drive down these narrow, winding roads. They'd really gone into this.

But I found what disturbed me was that, yes, they were narrow by-ways, a very unintrusive road access into the woods, but I could generally stand on one road and see the next one. Their spacing was very close together. And there was a very tight organization of forest area into growing area and the by-lanes that separated them, but they were not far apart. I feel that on a percentage basis, we have a great deal less, actually, in permanent roads.



ML: Roads would be about two point five percent of the SFMA land base.

JB: Yeah, that's what we're looking at. We spend a lot of time trying to keep our roads quite far apart. We can always make them closer together if we've discovered we'd made a mistake in twenty or thirty years in places we can't reach.

ML: Will the species or the quality of the trees that grow in the areas where the soil has been scraped bare be different?

JB: In areas that we scraped bare to make a ditch to provide material to actually build the road will probably never grow a lot of tree species. But off on the far side of the road where we have done very little ditching, we'll probably have a great deal of encroachment of probably pretty natural tree species. We don't see any difference now in trees that are beginning to creep in.

Trails

ML: The proper approach being, to have permanent trails, stay on the trails, and use a forwarder rather than whole-tree harvesters . . .?

JB: Basically. The trails, whether they're permanent or not is another long-standing issue. It depends on how you're going to manage the stand, and whether it's going to be more even-aged—where they'll be a long period where nothing happens—or whether it's uneven-age and there's constant entries. That makes for a more permanent system.

We still could stand work on making the machinery smaller. But for our size, the acres that we cover, and the size of the operations, we're somewhat unique—we're not huge, but we're not small. There aren't many acreages in Maine that are around thirty thousand acres for an operation. So, it's an odd size from that standpoint.

It's funny now. We're looking at the opportunities to work with a smaller single-grip that would really work on a lot of our stands. It couldn't really cover all the material we cut because as I mentioned, we cut through the diameter classes, so it makes it harder for us to use the Swedish equipment that's built for homogenous application to a certain size of wood. That's another reason we end up with the machinery we have, because we do cut large wood and the very small wood at the same entry. And we'll especially do that now.

ML: How far apart are your trails?

JB: Fifty five feet, sixty feet.

ML: So at fifty five or sixty feet, perhaps twenty percent of your land is in trails?

JB: Yeah. Something like that. Fifteen or twenty percent.

ML: I think one of the standards of the Swedes is to try to keep the percentage of land in trails and roads down to less than twenty percent.

JB: I'd say we're right around there. The key to it is, of course, does the forest utilize the site above the trail?

ML: In other words, can there be crown closure above the trails?

JB: Right. And then you talk about average tree spacing, and how much you reduce it by opening up a trail. Average tree spacing of twenty feet isn't bad if you want to grow large wood. But it's what happens on the trail. If you have

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Bissell

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enough root damage, you begin to really move the growing zone back away from the trail. Other landowners, using 'ghost trails' and careful layouts of forwarding and processing have stretched the trail widths to eighty feet or better. Our somewhat broken terrain has made that hard for us to attempt.

ML: How wide are your trails?

JB: The trails are about twelve feet. The damage with these systems isn't with the processor. It's all with the forwarder. So the layout of the trails has to consider the amount of wood that's coming over the trails. That's really what we've been struggling with. We're not always successful at eliminating that damage. It's something you have to be careful with.

Our season now is structured so that we start as soon as the soils are ready. This year it's really early. Everybody understands that we're likely to have a period in the fall when you don't work. That's really the other mud season in Maine. So, depending on the kind of weather we have in the fall, there could be three or four weeks when we don't do anything during that period. And that's primarily a forwarder limitation. The processor could work for the whole period.

ML: The forwarder has a lot more weight.

JB: It's all the weight.

ML: Do the branches . . .[laying slash on the trails as a mat for equipment to roll over]

JB: The mat helps a lot, but if there's enough travel on a trail, in a saturated condition there's still damage.

Pesticides

ML: What is the policy of the Park on pesticides, specifically, herbicides? Would Baxter have cared one way or another if you had a system that relied on herbicides? I noted that you just don't use it, but you don't have a real policy.

JB: I would disagree. We have a policy that says, basically, we don't know what will happen in the future, and there might be something we have to evaluate regarding the use of herbicides or pesticides or pest control in the future, but right now it's not our intent to use it on anything we do. We don't think that our forest management ever puts us in a situation where we need to use it. Natural processes generally are better. The Park as a whole, if you look at the wilderness areas of the Park, clearly it's our intent at all times to let natural processes occur uninterrupted by anything we do. We do have areas within that—campgrounds and specific areas we've exempted from the wilderness—because we recognize we have a human impact there. And there may be discussion in those cases about the use of outside agents. But I would doubt that would happen. Generally I think that we would live with whatever nature brought us.

But we do want to make the statement that we don't want to organize a type of silviculture or forest management that becomes reliant on these [pesticides] in order to complete our objectives. But we do know the future will bring other things.

Building continuity

ML: Where do you foresee things going? You're not going to be there forever. How do you see a continuity of what you're trying to do maintained into the future, not for just ten or twenty years, but for the next century or so?

JB: We try to build institutional approaches to management—the conduct of operations and how you do things. That's important. Our relationships with labor and what happens in the Park becomes something that is a tradition, it's institutional how our attitudes will be for that. And hopefully the labor progresses in the same way, and we have people with long-term commitments and we begin to engender that kind of feeling.

We also know that we have a long way to go. But, we have some roads to build—probably in another ten years we'll be finished constructing our roads. We'll also be finished trying to put together most of the things we've directed ourselves to do in this management plan, this management period.

At that point in time, there's going to be a very critical juncture for the SFMA, because most of the area will be accessed, and covered once, and we'll have created our existing mosaic. And we're going to turn around and begin to look at stands that were harvested once—stands that were harvested the first time through—and we're going to begin to really, then, settle into a type of approach that should be able to be continued for a long time.

There's going to be a period where we will change our criteria, or, I should say, institutionalize our criteria for stand evaluation and approach to silviculture on the SFMA. And that will be in about ten years. And then after that, the idea should be we just incrementally move closer to this really classic forest that Governor Baxter had in mind.

ML: To what extent does the advisory committee influence what you're doing, and over time, do you think that's a good structure for assuring continuity and oversight?

JB: Well, the committee serves at the pleasure of the Authority. If the Authority feels that the committee is not providing me a service, they would not be there tomorrow. In the sense that the committee was there when I was interviewed, providing some assemblage of points of views about the area then—and we still have several charter members, that were in on my interview panel that are still active members of the committee—they provide a great deal of continuity. Not just about silvicultural expertise, but about what the SFMA is, was, and could be. And they provide as a group, a continual understanding of the direction we should be going in and what the important points are.

The challenge for us is to keep a level of commitment, and a level of expertise, broad and strong over time. That may not be that easy.

ML: Do you feel the record keeping that you're doing, in terms of inventories and in terms of documentation of your activities is going to be useable by future foresters? [both laugh]

JB: Well I hope so. We talked earlier about putting our CFI [continuous forest inventory] plots in place. We've been working at that for a couple of years. We have a couple of more years to do and it probably won't be completed until right around the turn of the century, and we have enough road in place to make our costs reasonable. The CFI is really important for us. It's one of the most important things the SFMA could do, because the whole nature of the idea is to be over the long term. So you have to get in place a way to measure changes in the forest over a long period.

We've been really excited about it, but it's also important to realize that it's not simply going out and measuring diameters of trees, species of trees, and heights of trees within a fixed radius plot, and then doing it one hundred and twenty five times over the SFMA. It's more than that. We'd like to build the CFI into a whole resource monitoring effort, so that we look at invertebrates, and amphibians, and we look at water quality, and soil qualities, and foliage densities covers, and a whole series of resource-based monitoring measurements that we take at a specific point and a specific time so that we can get a fuller picture—not just tree structure, but everything that's out there.

Old Growth

ML: How much can we learn from the old growth [at Boody Brook], and what are your plans for that old growth?

JB: Well, the ten-year plan for the old growth would be to do nothing. We need to try to structure a more organized approach for determining what it is, where it stops and starts, and what's happening in there.

I just gave a series of classes to seventh graders today. I had a picture from the Boody Brook natural area that I put up there. What I found flows to me with this slide as I put it up in these different presentations and I say, "There. That's a picture of our ideal. That's what we'd like to manage toward." We still think you can build that kind of forest with management. I like to put that picture on the wall and say, "There. That's where we want to be. That's what we'd like." That's one thing I think we can learn from it right now.

RESTORE: the Lynx to the Maine Woods

Remarks by RESTORE: the North Woods' Jym St. Pierre at the September 15th US Fish & Wildlife Service hearing in Old Town on the proposed listing of Lynx canadensis under the Endangered Species Act.

Before getting into my formal remarks on the proposal, I want to address the comments tonight by Lee Perry, Commissioner of Inland Fish & Wildlife. It is very disappointing that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW) has chosen to oppose the proposed listing of the lynx under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Recent remarks in the news media by biologists from the Department had suggested that the agency was heading in a different direction. Indeed, a recent document prepared by MDIFW said that "it is premature and conterproductive to oppose the proposal to list lynx." It looks as though once again politics might displace science.

The story of the failure of the US Fish & Wildlife Service to list the Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis) under the federal Endangered Species Act is a tragic tale. At the highest levels, the agency has stonewalled listing for political reasons for years. Despite the findings of the agency's own biologists, despite the clear dictates of the law, despite court decisions directing otherwise, the Fish & Wildlife Service has refused to list the lynx under the ESA. Nearly three years ago our organization had to join more than a dozen other plaintiffs in yet another lynx lawsuit to get the Fish & Wildlife Service to comply with the law.

Maybe we are finally on the right track. This hearing and public comment process should result in listing the Canada lynx throughout its range in the lower 48 states. While the issue has dragged on for years, we believe the next steps are clear:

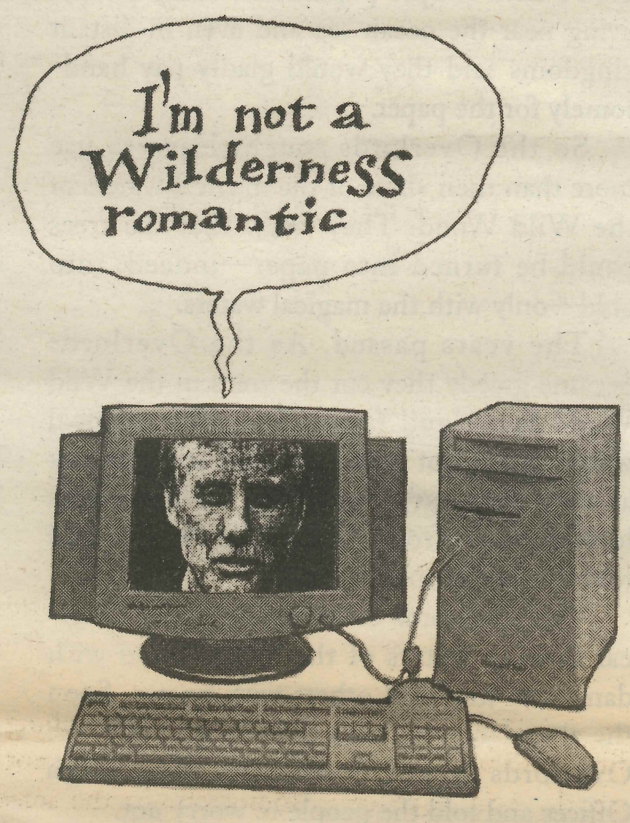
1. The Canada lynx should be listed as Endangered under the ESA. While the proposal is for Threatened listing, it is clear that the species should be listed as Endangered. The USFWS' own status review concluded in 1994 that there was substantial scientific evidence to warrant listing lynx populations in the Northeast as Endangered. The case for Endangered listing has become even more compelling since then.

2. The listing of the lynx should be completed as quickly as possible. The actions of the USFWS to drag out this decision for years are indefensible. If the Fish & Wildlife Service continues to prolong the listing for another nine and a half months, the agency's credibility will continue to fall.

3. ESA listing of the lynx should lead to stronger protection for the species on our national lands, including in the Northeast the Green and White Mountain National Forests. Management of our national lands should be exemplary, especially for imperiled species.

Some critics of listing the lynx under the ESA have said it could lead to new hunting and trapping restrictions here. That is unlikely. The lynx is already listed as a species of special concern under the Maine endangered species law and has been protected from hunting and trapping in this state for more than 30 years.

Some critics of listing the lynx under the ESA have said it could have major impacts on forest practices in Maine. That is unlikely. On private lands the goal of the Endangered Species Act is to encourage, educate and assist landowners to protect imperiled species. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has said that habitat is not limiting for lynx in Maine and that land management roads do not fragment lynx habitat. So ESA listing could benefit lynx by focusing more attention on the precarious status of the species and by nudging our state wildlife agency to do more educational outreach about lynx to private landowners.



Some critics of listing the lynx under the ESA have said it could drain funding away from other wildlife species. That is unlikely. Rather listing the lynx could help bring new federal funding to Maine for more research and management of the species. Everyone agrees we need better information about lynx in Maine to achieve the goal of preventing the species from disappearing from the state.

The Endangered Species Act is an important tool to allow us to help prevent the loss of imperiled species in the United States. We need to move ahead as quickly as possible to rescue Canada lynx by helping them prosper in the few places where they have the last, best chance of survival in the Northeast. It is not only a good idea, it is not only biologically the right thing to do, it is not only morally the right thing to do, but it is also the law.

And Now for Something Completely Different . . .

By Edith Tucker
Re-printed by permission from the *Coos County Democrat,*
August 5,1998

RANDOLPH—Three men who were hitchhiking in the nude on Friday afternoon near the Appalachian Trailhead on Route 2 were apprehended by Police Chief Alan Lowe of Randolph and State Police Sgt. John Scarinza, then let go with a scolding.

The trio, ranging in ages from 20 to 24, told Chief Lowe that they were on days off from their seasonal jobs as hut crew members at Madison Spring Hut, one of the eight high-elevation camps run by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Impatient after their trek down the Valley Way trail and wait for a prearranged ride from a girlfriend of one of the young men, the trio decided to gain the attention of passing motorists by removing all their clothes. The two law enforcement officers decided not to arrest the men, but to give them, in effect, a year's probation, dependent upon their good behavior, Sgt. Scarinza said.

The presence of the three cheeky gentlemen only two miles east of Lowe's Gas Station and Cabins was first brought to the attention of the local chief by a female motorist who stopped to fill up her car with gas, according to Susie Lowe Santos, who at the time was working at the family enterprise. Within moments of the first report, a second woman stopped to report the matter. "You would have thought a house was on fire, she was so hysterical," Mrs. Santos said. "She was very, very upset, saying that her little girl had seen 'everything.' "

Sgt. Scarinza thought that the young men's judgement had been adversely affected by their high-altitude jobs working up at a rustic backcountry camp at treeline, below the rocky cones of Mt. Madison and Mt. Adams. "I told them they had been in the woods too long, and that this was inappropriate behavior," he said. One of the young men took the French beret that he was wearing on his head and used it as a fig leaf while he was talking to him, Sgt. Scarinza said.

An Unfinished Tale *of a* Northern Land

by the Brothers Grin

nce upon a time in a great northern land, there was a vast Wild Wood that reached farther than the eye could see, even from the highest mountain. Magical waters, flowing and still, made the Wild Wood verdant and lush. A magnificent variety of trees and birds and beasts lived in the Wild Wood.

Small tribes of native peoples also lived the Wild Wood. They would use a few beasts and birds and trees for their sustenance and warmth and shelter. Yet, always did they give thanks and never did they take more than the Wild Wood could regrow.

One day, after sailing for many a fortnight on the ocean sea, some people from away discovered islands they had never before seen. Beyond the islands was a new Maine Land where a vast Wild Wood reached farther than the eye could see. The people petitioned their King to make them Overlords of the Wild Wood. Then they put special marks upon the largest of the trees. The Overlords wanted those trees for masts on the ships they sailed upon the ocean sea.

When all the giant mast trees near the ocean sea had been cut down, the Overlords searched even farther north into the Wild Wood. The abundance they found there astounded them. "Never will we be able to use up these all the birds and beasts and trees here," they said to one another. And so it seemed for many, many years.

The Overlords cut more and more trees in the Wild Wood. They put the trees on ships which took them to kingdoms near and far across the ocean sea. But the magical waters of the Wild Wood made the trees grow back, so the Overlords became very wealthy and powerful.

At the same time, more and more of the people who had settled down to live near the ocean sea came to the Wild Wood to partake of its solitude and to make sport with some of the birds and beasts and fishes. The Overlords did not mind for the visitors did not stay in the wilderness. All the people of the kingdom were happy.

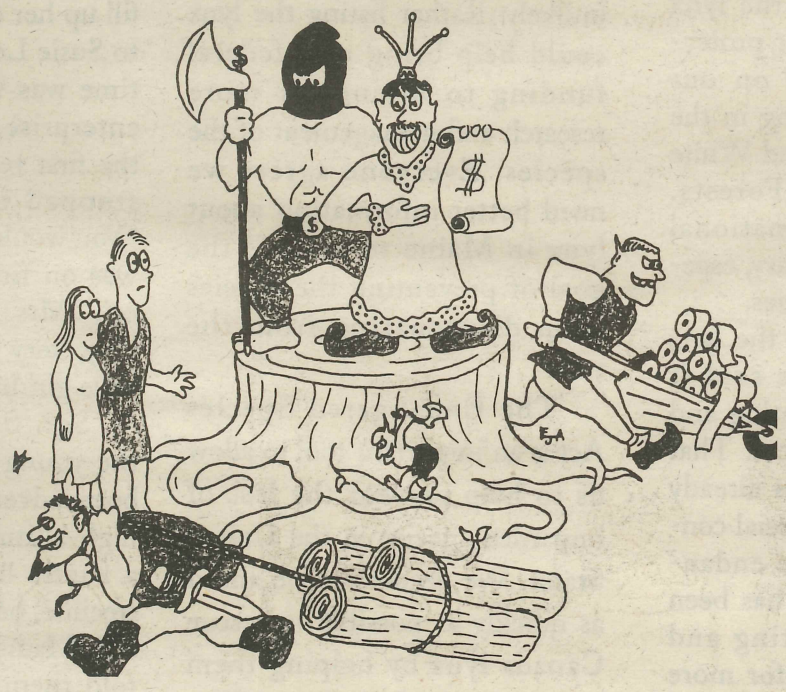
Then one day, word of an extraordinary way to transform trees reached the Overlords. At once they realized that they could become even more powerful and wealthy by using the new alchemy to turn the trees of the Wild Wood into simple paper! For many people living near the ocean sea and even in distant kingdoms said they would gladly pay handsomely for the paper.

So the Overlords sought leave to use more than their share of the magical waters of the Wild Wood. They knew that the trees could be turned into paper—indeed, into gold—only with the magical waters.

The years passed. As the Overlords became greedy they cut the trees in the Wild Wood faster and faster. Soon the magical waters could not make the trees grow as fast as they were cut down. Still, the Overlords looked down from their High Offices and told the people to worry not.

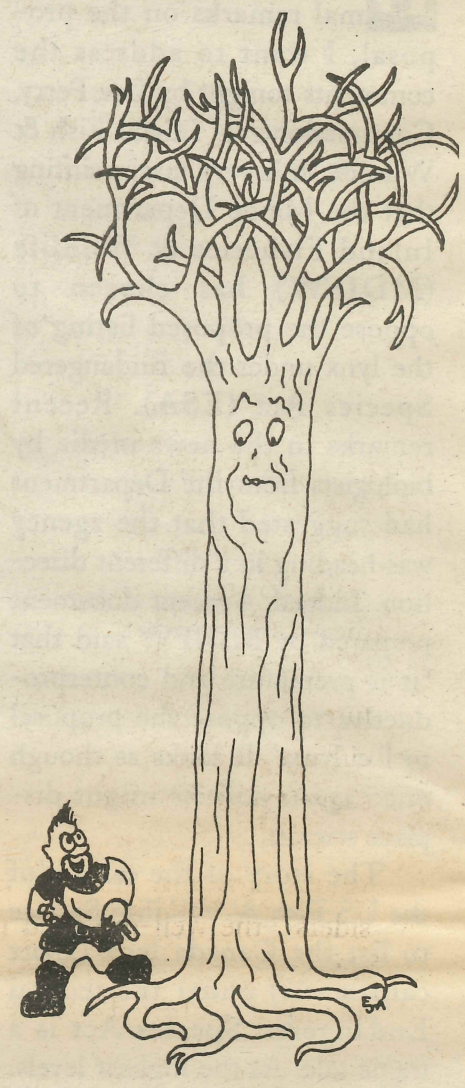
The Overlords stilled many of the magical flowing waters of the Wild Wood with dams and muddied others with wastes. Soon the abundance of fishes diminished. Still, the Overlords looked down from their High Offices and told the people to worry not.

The Overlords made more and longer and wider ways to speed the removal of the trees. Soon there were thousands of miles of roads and ways fragmenting the Wild Wood. Still, the Overlords looked down from their High Offices and told the people to worry not.



The Overlords caused harm to the places where many of the birds and beasts lived in the Wild Wood. Soon some of the different kinds of birds and beasts died off or to fled to even more northern lands. Still, the Overlords looked down from their High Offices and told the people to worry not.

One day a mercenary named James came from a distant land and slew the Diamond Overlord of the Wild Wood. For his bravery his queen made him a knight. But Sir James soon disposed of the Diamond lands in the Wild Wood so that he could make conquests in other distant places. The Caretakers of the kingdom fretted and studied the situation and gave much advice to the King, but nothing was done to save the wilderness of the Wild Wood. The people cried "For shame!"



Not long after, another mercenary, named G-P, came and slew the Great Northern Overlord of the Wild Wood. But, like Sir James, G-P quickly disposed of his new Great Northern lands by selling them to the Bowater. As before, the Caretakers of the kingdom fretted and studied the situation and gave much advice to the King, but nothing was done to save the wilderness of the Wild Wood. Again the people cried "For shame!"

Not long after, the Scott Overlord of the Wild Wood became ill. In a feverish fit he sold his lands to mercenary called Sappi. As before, the Caretakers of the kingdom fretted and studied the situation and gave much advice to the King, but nothing was done to save the wilderness of the Wild Wood. Again the people cried "For shame!"

Not long after, the Boise Overlord of the Wild Wood became ill. In a feverish fit he sold his lands to a mercenary called Mead. As before, the Caretakers of the kingdom fretted and studied the situation and gave much advice to the King, but nothing was done to save the wilderness of the Wild Wood. Again the people cried "For shame!"

Finally, it came to pass in the waning days

True North cont. from page 11

The Indian's gesture may have seemed like an act of gratuitous kindness, but for an Indian, was obligatory under an ethic of sharing that was indispensable to survival in a harsh land.

What's missing from Merrick's accounts is a comprehension of the conflict between white trappers and Indians—the social injustices of the socio-economic landscape.

We will not learn from Merrick' s books that in North West River at the time Merrick lived there, the Innu had to request permission from the Hudson Bay Co. post to pitch their tents. Or that white trappers were trapping the animals nearly to extinction.

Although this reality of racial tensions may be missing, the writer reveals a deep appreciation for the indigenous culture and its superiority over our culture of alienation. Merrick suggests that the Indian *lives* in the heart of the world, in a marvelous harmony that the outsiders—the well-intended missionaries and adventurers, the author included—clumsily attempt to glimpse, scratching at the glass they can only dimly see through. The Innu, however, lives on the other side of it.

Merrick admires qualities of indigenous peoples that are often maligned by racist stereotypes: The Indian' s alleged impracticality and inability to save for tomorrow is viewed by Merrick as a kind of bravery, as the acceptance of a kind of challenge:

> And yet, how fine it is of the unspoiled Eskimos away North to put in the grave the precious knives and spears of their kinsmen. We sniff and say that an Eskimo who dies for lack of a knife that sleeps beside a skeleton is a fool, never supposing that his custom may be the acceptance of a challenge, a wail of grief and a battle cry of defiance to life, to death, to Nature kind and Nature cruel, to the shadowy future and all the engulfing incomprehensible. He doesn't care for his own future when he stands beside a grave. But we, we think always of the future; that is the root of civilization. In this respect primitive races are certainly finer than we; that they can ignore the certain sufferings of tomorrow. It enables them to live today, which is more than civilized men can do. It is inexpedient, it costs life, but it is brave.

In the preface to his newest collection, Merrick wrote,

> Returning in later years, I found, of course, that the old days are no more. Conditions and traditions changed little in past centuries, but ways of life in the north have altered almost beyond recognition in the relatively short period since World War II. Snowmobiles take the place of snowshoes and toboggans. Dog teams are rare or nonexistent. Indians no longer fashion canoes by hand. The upper flow of the Naskaupi river has been diverted. The Grand Falls have been harnessed, and the Smallwood and Ossokmanuan reservoirs now cover land where many of the events recounted here took place. However much of that vast wilderness remains lonely and untouched.

Until his death last year in his nineties, Merrick continued to be an advocate for the protection of this threatened landscape, for the parts of it that still remain lonely and untouched. His death came before the formal announcement of the Churchill II mega-project, which would complete the job of disfiguring the map of his 1931 journey up the Grand River. Muskrat and Gull Island Falls are described in *True North*—sites of the propósed development, which has revived interest in his narrative.

We are grateful, therefore, for his record—so intimate, vivid and descriptive—of this vanishing world. Merrick' s books are a reminder of how much the natural world has changed in so little a time, but also how much we have changed—and of so much that is worth fighting for.

Fairy Tale

of the millennium that both the Bowater and Sappi Overlords, having cut down most of their trees, wanted to dispose of their lands in the Wild Wood. This threw the kingdom into chaos. Some of the people hoped a benevolent Knight would arrive on a White Horse to rescue the day. They tried hard to ignore the darkness creeping across the land.

Some of the people pointed fingers at the Overlords and yelled "For shame!" They petitioned King Angus to save the Wild Wood. He offered a few pieces of gold for beauty strips along some of the lakeshores, but he dared not risk his reputation as a miser. Nor did he want to be known as a romantic. Nor did he want to anger the Overlords. He believed it better to let the last of the wildness be driven from the Wild Wood so that the people's pleas for wilderness would become silent.

Finally, some of the people realized that they had the power to save the wilderness of the Wild Wood all along. They called upon their brethren among the Highest Caretakers of the land to restore the heart of the Wild Wood to the domain of the people. "Imagine a wondrous people's park," they beseeched, "where the birds and the beasts and the trees are safe from the greed of the Overlords. Imagine a park where the people can enjoy the wilderness and not have to fear loss of access. Imagine a park where the people can preserve the right to make sport as has been their tradition in the Wild Wood. Imagine a park where the sources of the magical waters are protected forever more."

Here, gentle reader, we must admit this tale cannot yet be fully told. Will another Overlord take control of the lands the Bowater and Sappi Overlords no longer covet? Will King Angus find it in his heart to save any of the Wild Wood as true wilderness? Will the Highest Caretakers have the courage to restore the best of the Bowater and Sappi lands to the people as a new park for the new millennium?

Only time will tell whether the tale has a happy ending. But time is the thing in shortest supply. As the wilderness slips away, hope for the Wild Wood of the Maine Land is running out like the sands of the hour clock. Shed your fears, not your tears. Speak your piece before it is too late.

Every Person's Need

Cherishing the Land

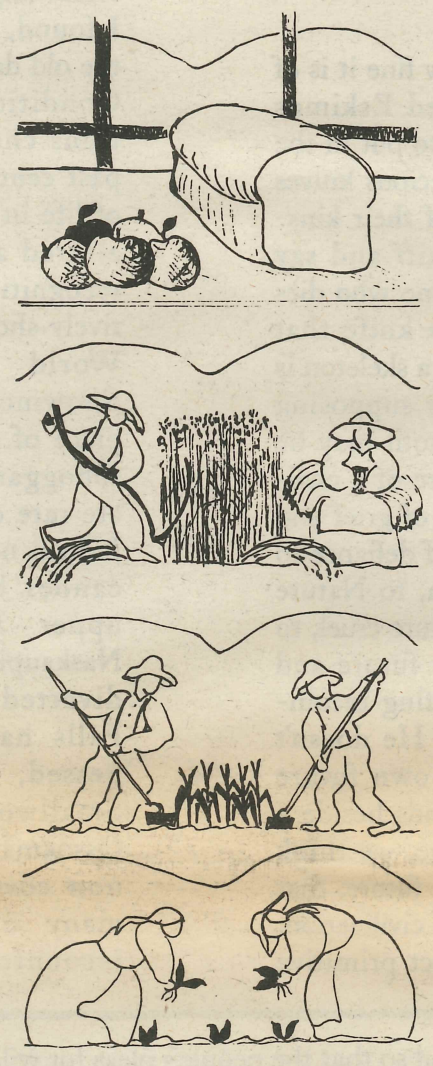
by Michael Phillips

Have you tried envisioning how we humans should be living on this precious planet? In order to achieve a sustainable balance with earth's limited resources, our fellow creatures, and our inner selves? Taken on the grand scale of everybody, it's an impossible vision to perhaps see. Greed, pollution, violence, and meaningless consumption are rampant. Yet viewing the mire has never led to solutions. A far better approach is to accentuate the positive and heed the guiding spirit within. Recognizing our bond with the earth that feeds us and actually doing something to experience that bond is a good beginning point.

Wendell Berry states in The Unsettling of America, Culture & Agriculture that "the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope."

We are a people that have forgotten how to live with the land. Generations have passed with the distinct goal of 'getting off the farm.' Yet being on the farm —or out back in the garden or walking deep into the forest —is where we meet the land and the land embraces us. You will never experience the earth in a mall. You will never know the inner harmony of rich soil crumbling through your fingers standing on paved ground. The experience of community happens best out in the hayfield or shucking peas on a hot summer's night on the back porch.

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



Changes are afoot on this planet as decades of environmental abuse catch up to us. The coming of the next millennium tends to provoke some folks into worrying about our current lifestyle disintegrating. Wall Street will follow the maxim that what goes up and up and up must come down. Where will all this leave us?

Frankly I don't give it all too much heed. It's far easier to create a lifestyle on the land that's richer than any on the open market. No lottery winnings could replace the satisfaction of digging potatoes with my daughter. The surety of 'hay in the barn, wood in the shed' supplants any worry about social security. And out of all this is born a realization of how we're meant to live on this wonderful planet.

I used to think we had to come up with specialized answers to our earth-shattering problems. Now I trust what is best will come about as more of us return to a lifestyle that cherishes the land. Nor is it my place to urge others onward by exhortation or restriction. An upheaval of the modern life is going to come. We'll be prepared here on our piece of ground because herein lies the beauty. The simple life is first and foremost a celebration of living good on the land because it's good for the soul.

The Three Year Old Ecologist

by Grace Elena Phillips

Potato Grabbing

Me and my Dad hunt potatoes in our gardens. Daddy tells me not many people know how to do this anymore. Down on the ground you'd never be able to tell potatoes are hiding. Daddy sticks the garden fork into the earth, flips up the ground, and then we shout 'bonanza' together as the potato family lies uncovered. Only sometimes I shout 'bananas' instead which makes us both laugh. My job is to then grab the potatoes and put them in the wheelbarrow. I try to keep the families together, as baby potatoes like to stay with their sisters and brothers and mamas and papas. Then we sift through the soil to make sure we grabbed 'em all. I always find big earthworms that I like to stretch between my hands. Daddy asks me how would I like to be stretched like that, and then I put the earthworm back beneath the ground with a friendly pat. Daddy says worms are like the shepherds of our gardens, tending flocks of micro-orgo-somethings that make the compost we spread each spring on the potato patch.

Bobbing for Apples at Lost Nation Orchard

We harvest red potatoes and gold potatoes and even red gold potatoes. I love eating them all. We sort the potatoes of each type and store bushel boxes in our farmhouse cellar. All winter long there's plenty of potatoes to eat, along with all the other garden goodies. Daddy says it's a good feeling to grow our own food, knowing it's raised organically, knowing that we'll always have enough. Daddy says lots of folks don't realize the full worth of good food. Gracie sure does. I think I'll always grab potatoes.

The Land That Feeds Us

Live Free or Pasteurize!

by Michael Phillips
Lost Nation Orchard,
Lancaster, New Hampshire

The FDA is granting local orchards an 'exemption' this year to continue making that wonderful fresh nectar of the apple we all call sweet cider without requiring mandatory pasteurization. Awful nice, eh?

Hundreds of years of safe drinking pleasure precede this governmental directive aimed at eliminating any risk of microbial contamination in our lives. Not that we as cidermakers aren't concerned about the threat posed by E. coli bacteria . . . apples picked up off ground, where animal manure might lie, and subsequently squeezed for fresh juice can and do make people sick. It's just that a damned appreciable amount of common sense lies between safely making real cider and leaving no choice for folks but to drink blander, pasteurized versions of what was once our national beverage. Taken in perspective, it might not be a bad idea to host another Boston tea party, only this time it'll be barrels of cider thrown into Boston Harbor in protest of a government once again overstepping its bounds.

Real cider has effervescent qualities that pasteurized apple juice can never offer. And while it's true good apple juice can be made from a proper blend of apple varieties if it's not overcooked or overfiltered, let's call a spade a spade. Cider lovers won't be fooled. Real cider has tang. Real cider provides most of the delicious nutrients of the fresh apple. Real cider made our great grandparents happy. And by jiminy, we should hold to that very same right.

We're whole hog about proper cider sanitation at our Lost Nation Cider Mill. Our cider apples are individually picked from the trees. The apples get inspected after 'sweating' (cider apples continues to respire in storage thus concentrating the fruit sugars) to assure quality. The meticulous clean-up procedure each press day takes my partners hours: the racks get scrubbed with bleach water, all lines rinsed with bleach water, the presscloths cycle through the washing machine with bleach water. But we do have a wooden press which is no longer acceptable to the sanitation zealots. We don't apply bleach water to the apples themselves. And we don't —nor will we—pasteurize this noble drink we're pleased to make for our own families and you.

We'll likely no longer have the option to make real cider for public sale in 1999, and pasteurization will be required of all producers by the year 2000. The investment costs of 'improving' our cider mill to meet federal regulations cannot be justified for such a modest apple business. Like the local dairies and slaughterhouses of yesteryear, the Lost Nation Cider Mill is not big enough to matter to the powers that be. A neighborly economy cannot exist when the means of local production are removed, making us all that much more dependent on a centralized food distribution system.

Yet perhaps there's enough of us to whom local choice does matter. Local economy begins with local agriculture—we all need food, and food is what the productive soil beneath our feet can offer given proper stewardship and care. Issues of food security enter in here as well, for when the gas runs out and industrial agriculture declares bankruptcy, we're all going to wish the 'Farmer Browns' of this world had continued making a viable living growing food for our families and communities. Concerns about how our food is grown and the care put into its making are best answered locally. By you and me. By us.

Which brings us back to our wee organic orchard and the sad realities brought about by unwarranted government regulation and media hype. (Fact: more cases of E. coli contamination have been documented on

> *"The keystone of local economy is agriculture"*

'industrial lettuce' than on fresh juice, but do you hear anyone insisting we pasteurize salad?) This year you can still enjoy Lost Nation real apple cider provided you purchase your jugs right at the mill. Next year you might want to consider joining a new private country club we'll be forming on the orchard grounds. People in more urban areas are used to the conversion of farmland to condominiums and golf courses. We're intending not to pull a tree if enough of you respond to this inkling of an idea . . .

The Lost Nation Apple Club

A private club—whatever the sport or recreation—offers its members specified benefits in exchange for member-determined dues that cover club expenses. A private club is like a family in a regulatory sense. Down on the farm, families can drink raw milk, butcher cherished animals for their meat, and still press real cider. FDA regulations aside, the home front is sanctified foremost by individual choice.

Picture a Saturday 'tee time' with some of your favorite friends. Perhaps twice a summer you set aside two hours on such a morning. Only instead of carrying a nine iron, you've a hoe in hand or a bag for thinning an overset orchard. Together you join in community to grow your own apples under the guidance of expert organic farmers. Come fall, you join together to harvest the fruit of your labors and press a freshly-squeezed drink once known as —shhh, this is a secret! — cider. You get to take jugs of that ambrosic nectar home. Along with a predetermined quantity of apples, the cider is simply a club benefit for which all members accept mutual responsibility. But you've helped make it. You know it's good. You know its safe. And you have a right to it.

Frankly, we cannot do all the hand-intensive work required in seven acres of organic orchard and earn a justifiable economic return. The majority of consumers have been too long swayed by the cheap lure of industrial agriculture —despite the outrageous costs of groundwater contamination, pesticide residues within our bodies, and the loss of a neighborly economy —to grasp the nourishing value of locally-grown, fresh food. Price currently determines everything. The hand labor of growing apples organically tree-by-tree can't begin to compare to the lesser costs of applying chemical sprays to a hundred acres of orchard. The cider safety issue also looms ominously over our once future hopes for a sustainable farm business. But together —as an inspired community — we can continue to make our local organic apple vision a sustainable reality. The Lost Nation Apple Club may be a blessing in the end provided enough families in our immediate area respond positively to the parameters imposed on local food production. Farms and communities elsewhere should consider the possibilities.

The root meaning of the word agriculture implies working the land together. One hundred club members paying an annual dues of $50 is a feasible start on keeping this local apple farm afloat. Expenses will be kept to a minimum. Formerly unlimited partner hours will be drastically reduced by collective effort, yet the skilled tasks of pruning, spraying, mowing, and pressing will be provided for members. We'll have four fall press days when club members can delight in the amber gold of freshly-squeezed apple cider, take it

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Organics in the Orchard

We're happy to report that Chelsea Green and Acres USA have recently published Michael Phillips' **The Apple Grower,** ***A Guide for the Organic Orchardist.***

Regular readers of Michael's **Every Person's Need** column will recognize and appreciate his blending of technical organic apple orcharding advice with the background philosophy necessary for the small-scale commercial aspirant—or the home orchardist—to make a go of it.

The Apple Grower is a handsome volume that you will most definitely want to tuck under the Christmas tree for the family's orchardist. You can look for this book in your local, independent bookstore or order directly from Michael.

Send $35 to Michael Phillips, RFD 1 Box 275, Groveton, NH 03582. Shipping is included.

"An orchard is much more than the sum of the fruit trees growing therein. A rich soil underfoot teems with microbial life on which healthy trees depend for both nutrient breakdown and absorption. Herbs and wildflowers provide home for hundreds of species of insects, some of which directly balance balance pest populations. Birds fill the air with song and also play a role in this pest/predator balance. Woodpeckers are the percussion section, drumming out borers and moth pupae beneath the bark. The soil, air, sun, and rain perfect the background harmony in which a tiny cell grows to become a bud to become a blossom to become a pollinated ovary to become the beautiful apple in your hand."

"The practice of the Western mind has always been to logically and rationally break apart the whole into its constituent parts. Given this way of thinking, it's no surprise that the litany of pest management reads this way: here's damage on the fruit, here's the pest that did it, here's a spray that kills the pest. Organic growers for the most part have attended the same service as growers of a chemical persuasion. The only real difference is that the botanical insecticides we've been using haven't proven nearly as effective as synthetic organophosphates in producing profits."

"University researchers look at organic methods and materials on a component basis, rarely integrating such trials into a holistic orchard setting. Thus, for example, the sole use of garlic spray (with no soil-building, no unmowed diversity, no mating disruption, no foliar enhancement) can be 'conclusively demonstrated' by harvest assessments to stack up nowhere near the standards of chemical dependency."

"Choice of cultivar is akin to religion, choice of rootstock is a political stance: no grower tells another grower what to plant. What we can do here is to allude to some of the better varieties and establish the parameters any orchardist dealing with a fickle public needs to consider."

"Fruit are picked with the slightest lift-and-twist motion. Reach for the apple so it rests in the curve of your palm. Lift its weight slightly upward and turn your wrist so the stem pivots off the branch. If the fruit hangs onto the branch, use your thumb as a fulcrum point against a woody stem. A straightaway pull often strips off next year's budwood contained in the fruiting spur or rips the stem out of the fruit."

TURBULENCE

First thrashing machines were made
of wood with metal teeth & riddle—
grain sheaves fed in whole
were scutched, grain
falling to bins below and
chaff & straw blowing out the top.

Soldier peasants returning to
England from the Napoleonic Wars
found they'd been displaced
by machines.
In the harvest season of 1830
many of these men gathered
and marched from farm to farm
burning the thrashers
wherever encountered and setting fire,
for good measure, to the owners' hay-ricks.
In two seasons of violence
workers against owners
400 thrashing machines were burned.

Everyone paid the cost.
Not wanting riots,
farmers were more cautious
about buying the machines.
Some dismantled their thrashers,
hiding parts around the barnyard,
and returned to flail crews
beating out grain on the winnowing floor.

Of the rioters, thousands were arrested,
481 transported in chains to Australia
(note: more than the # of machines burned)
and 19 executed by hanging.

To speed the harvest—

For burning machines—

—Stephen Lewandowski

The Land That Feeds Us

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home, and drink it as they please.

Property Rights in the Organic Orchard

I've long believed that our political differences don't continue to diverge along a linear spectrum, but rather 'come back around' in a circular fashion. Left meets right, right meets left more often than we might think when we recognize our shared humanity. A sustainable economy must coexist within and around the boundaries of a sustainable wilderness. The sacredness of environment must hold value as does the right to gainful human employment. Unfortunately, despite our creator's noblest intentions and hopes, we do an awful job of screwing up the beautiful possibilities of this awesome planet. And that's all of us, whether we're on the 'right' or the 'left' or 'centered' in an apathetic muddle.

Talk of cider provides an interesting example of this. Here we have a 'guv'mint' bent on denying my property rights as an orchard owner to grow apple trees and make a fair profit from squeezing my crop into organic apple cider. I can't do with the fruits of my land as I see fit in order to make a living. My value system places said 'guv'mint' out of bounds, that more natural worth lies in local economy and food grown without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Property rights are often construed exactly opposite: herbicide use is a 'right' in order to grow a monocrop forest that will more quickly turn it's owner a profit.

Wisdom says we all have a bit of the truth. Sometimes that's hard to see when we have a 'fat cat' bound and determined to strip the land of it's living ecosystem for corporate gain. Here we have the case of a 'fat organic orchardist' seeking to override the wishes of nice people seeking an extremely safe existence. Words can be mighty twisty things. Our job is to listen with attuned hearts and find a proper balance.

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upwelling point with high plankton and fish abundance, fish and lobster spawning areas. Seabird colonies, including the largest breeding population of the endangered piping Plover, and an important area for the northern Right whale.

13. Fundy West Island National Marine Park. Nominated by Parks Canada in 1985, and then again in 1991. Location on central New Brunswick coast adjacent to Deer Island and Campobello Island. Area of high biodiversity and productivity for all forms of life, critical feeding and breeding areas for sea birds, whales, resident harbor porpoises, open sea habitat for herring populations.

14. Passamaquoddy Bay. Nominated in 1997 by the International Marine Mammal Association and supported by the Gulf of Maine Council. Would protect herring and whales, as well as preserving fish habitat, marine mammal habitat endangered marine species, unique habitats, areas of high productivity. and of high diversity.

15. Scallop Fishing Area # 291. Nominated in 1995 by Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Invertebrate Working Group under the Canada Fisheries Act. Location: Western Nova Scotia at approaches to the Bay of Fundy, German Banks/Lurcher Shoal/Brier Island System. Purpose: Protect and conserve important commercial fisheries, particularly scallop breeding areas.

16. Lower Minas Basin. Nominated in 1994 by the Canadian Wildlife Service under the Canada Wildlife Act. Located at the southern end of Mains Bay and the waters immediately north of the town of Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Purpose: Protection of critical bird habitat, including the largest number of mixed species of shoreline birds during fall migration in all of North America

Marine Reserves Information Resources

Additional information on marine reserve sites is also available from the following persons:

Inka Milewsky, World Wildlife Fund, Canada.
RR2 Chatham, NB E1N 2A2
Tel (506)622-2460
Fax (506)622-2438
email <imilewsky@nbnet.nb.ca>

Martin Willison
Biology Department
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, NS B3H 4J1
Tel (902)494-3515
Fax (902)494-3736

MAINE
Seth Barker, Marine Scientist
Dept. of Marine Resources
Bureau of Resource Management
West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575
Tel (207)633-3735
Fax: (207)633-9579
e-mail: <seth.barker@state.me.us>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Brad Barr NOAA
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
14 Union Street
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tel (508)747-1691
fax: (508)747-1949
e-mail: <bbarr@ocean.nos.noaa.gov>

MASSACHUSETTS
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Tel - (617)727-3193 ext 336
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Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
20 Somerset Street Third Floor
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tel (617)727-3180 ext 663

Champion to Intensify Harvest Practices in Maine

As we were heading to press, the Maine newspapers reported on the release of the Maine Forest Survey and the accompanying news that Champion International wants to quadruple its 'intensive forestry' regime .

This announcement came on the heels of industry opposition and hostility to recovery for the Canadian lynx at the US Fish and Wildlife's hearing at Old Town on the 15th of September, and the **Manchester Union Leader** coverage of industry organized anti-wolf demonstrations. An anti-wolf petition is also circulating in the region.

Add to that the merely RUMORED impending purchase of SAPPI's western Maine holdings by Montana outfit Plum Creek. Plum Creek has shared with Champion the reputation for shoddy logging and overcutting in that western State and is known as a 'bottom feeder'—the apparent aspiration of Champion.

The Portland Press Herald's September 27th account of Champion's plans, written by Dieter Bradbury, is a straightforward account of Champion and Maine Forest Service doublethink and circular logic. The MFS's prescription for projected shortfalls of fiber is intenser management. Curiouserly enough, this is exactly what Champion has in mind—more clearcutting and herbicide spraying to kill puckerbrush and establish softwoods in plantations.

"We'd have to re-think everything if we can't grow trees the best way we know how," said Champion forester Joel Swanton.

"It's far more conservative—and far more aggressive, if you will—than anything I'm aware of in the country," said Champion chief biologist Gary Donovan.

Champion's planned doubling of clearcutting, spraying and planting will, says the Press Herald story, "triple or quadruple the average wood yield per acre in Maine."

Bradbury also opined that "In the long run, the situation may force Mainers to decide whether they want an unfettered forest that produces wood on its own terms - or a highly manipulated one that works harder for society but lacks a natural feel."

[Members of the public may wonder exactly how increasing cutting is the best way to deal with projected wood shortage. Elizabeth May's book At the Cutting Edge (Sierra Club books), reviewed in the last **Forum** describes how Canadian provinces are applying this logic and accelerating annual allowable cuts on public lands at the behest of industry. This shell game is, for the forest industry-government complex, the only alternative to 'having to re-think everything.']—A.W.

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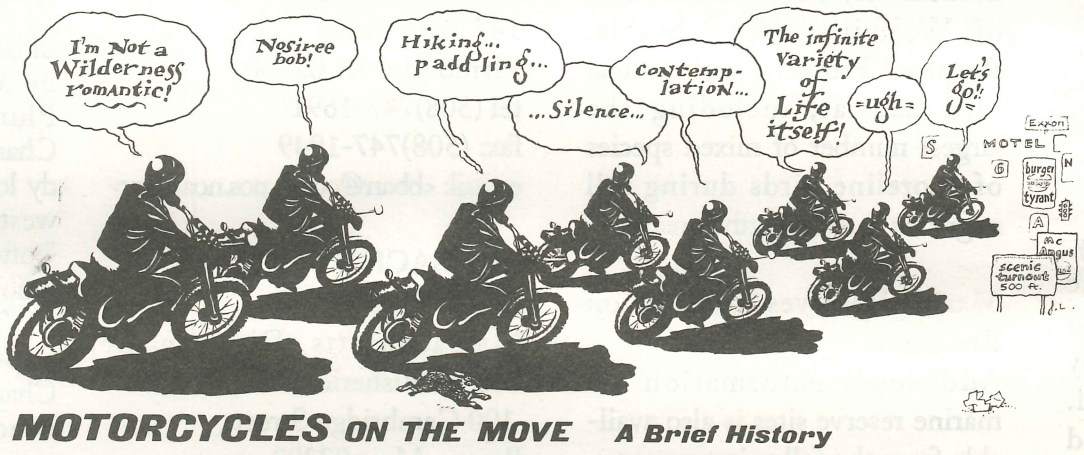
elderberry youngman, compiler



MOTORCYCLES ON THE MOVE ***A Brief History***