



Fall Conference 2016

Managing Massachusetts Forests: Conservation, Stewardship, and Regulation

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Holyoke Community College, Kittredge Center, Holyoke, MA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Moderator: Scott Jackson, UMass Amherst		
8:30	Registration Coffee and Refreshments	
9:00	Welcome and Introductions	Eugene B. Benson, MACC
9:10	Opening Remarks	Leo Roy, DCR Commissioner
9:25	Keynote Address Wildlands and Woodlands: The Argument and Prospects for Forest Conservation in New England	David R. Foster, Director of Harvard Forest
10:05	Forestry: Managing the Woodlands	David B. Kittredge, UMass Amherst
10:35	Morning Break	
10:50	Massachusetts Forestry Regulations: History and Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands Protection Act Exemption and the MOU • Forest Cutting Practices Act and DCR Service Forestry Program 	Scott Jackson, UMass Amherst Jennifer Fish, DCR
11:15	Tree Harvesting: Rules and Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Regulatory Framework of the Wetlands Protection Act and Forest Cutting Practices Act • Forestry Best Management Practices 	David Cameron, DEP Jennifer Fish, DCR Tom Ryan, DCR
12:20	Lunch	
1:15	How to Read and Understand a Forest Cutting Plan	Sean Libbey, DCR Service Forester
1:45	Forestry Case Study From Explanation to Implementation Bearsden Conservation Area: Logging for Wildlife	Mike Mauri, Consulting Forester Dave Small, Athol Conservation Agent and Associate Commissioner
2:15	Afternoon Break	
2:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one to attend) Session A: Challenges of Managing Forest Pests Session B: Protecting Unprotected Open Space: Chapter 61 and Forest Land Session C: Forest Resiliency in an Uncertain Future	A: Ken Gooch, DCR B: Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust, and Tom Ryan C: Paul Catanzaro, UMass Amherst
3:40	Q&A and Wrap-Up	Scott Jackson
3:55	Closing	Eugene B. Benson
4:00	Conference Concludes	

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Eugene B. Benson

Eugene Benson is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, where he is responsible for fundraising and development, program planning and implementation, advocacy, and assuring that MACC is focused on its mission to protect Massachusetts natural resources through education, advocacy, and support of conservation commissions. Before his current position at MACC, he was Legal Counsel and Director of the Environmental Justice Legal Services Program at Alternatives for Community & Environment. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Boston University School of Public Health and Boston University Metropolitan College Graduate Program in City Planning and Urban Affairs.

David Cameron

David Cameron, PWS, is the Wetlands & Waterways Program Section Chief in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Western Regional Office in Springfield. He has nearly 25 years of professional applied experience in wetlands science, wildlife biology, ecological restoration, and natural resources policy analysis, having worked for a number of regional engineering firms prior to MassDEP.

Paul Catanzaro

Paul Catanzaro is Extension Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He teaches courses in the Forest Conservation and Ecology major, engages in research as a part of the Family Forest Research Center, a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and UMass, and informs the decisions of landowners through his outreach activities. He is the coordinator of the Keystone Project, primary author of the "Increasing Forest Resiliency" and "Your Land, Your Legacy" publications, and maintains www.MassWoods.net. He is a co-author of the 2013 edition of the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual; of Increasing Forest Resiliency for an Uncertain Future; and of Chapter 61 Programs: Understanding the Massachusetts Ch. 61 Current Use Tax Programs.

Jennifer Fish

Jennifer Fish is the Director of the Service Forestry Program at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Service Forestry Program is responsible for the administration of the Forest Cutting Practices Act (Ch. 132) and the Forestry Current Use Program (Ch. 61). In addition, she administers the Working Forest Initiative, which is a suite of outreach programs geared toward private landowners, including Estate Planning, Foresters for the Birds, and Forest Stewardship. Ms. Fish is a co-author of the 2013 edition of the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual. She has a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management/Forest Resources Management from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Natural Resources Management and Policy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

David R. Foster

David Foster has served as the Director of the Harvard Forest, Harvard University's 4,000-acre ecological laboratory and classroom, since 1990, and has been a faculty member in biology at Harvard since 1983. He leads the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, which engages more than 100 scientists investigating the dynamics of New England landscape as a consequence of climate change, human activity, and natural processes. In 2010, Dr. Foster and colleagues developed *Wildlands and Woodlands – A Vision for the New England Landscape*, which lays out an ambitious plan for the protection and conservation of forest and farmland across the region.

David Foster has a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. He has conducted studies in the boreal forests of Labrador, Sweden and Norway and the forests of Puerto Rico, the Yucatan, and Patagonia in addition to his primary research on landscape dynamics in New England. His interests focus on understanding the changes in forest ecosystems that result from human and natural disturbance and applying the results to the conservation and management of natural and cultural landscapes. He is the author of several books, including *Thoreau's Country: Journey through a Transformed Landscape*; *New England Forests Through Time*; *Forests in Time – The Environmental Consequences of 1000*

years of Change in New England; and *Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge*. His upcoming book, to be published in 2017, is *A Meeting of Land and Sea: Nature and the Future of Martha's Vineyard*.

Ken Gooch

Ken Gooch is the Forest Health Program Director at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Forest Health Program provides tree health care services for DCR's state forests, parks, and reservations; monitors and assesses factors that influence the health of Massachusetts' forests utilizing aerial survey, permanent sampling plots, and pheromone traps; and maintains historical defoliation data and implements Integrated Pest Management on state and municipal lands.

Cynthia Henshaw

Cynthia Henshaw is Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust, which is based in Hardwick and focuses on eight towns in central Massachusetts. She came to the role after working in land conservation and forestry positions at the New England Forestry Foundation, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. With a Master's Degree in Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Cynthia brought her passion about regional landscape conservation and good stewardship practices to the East Quabbin Land Trust. The track record of the East Quabbin Land Trust for the past decade under her leadership advanced important woodland and farmland conservation initiatives, actively manages the 1,000+ acres of conservation land, engages community members, and includes non-traditional land trust efforts, such as building 3 miles of rail trail and engaging the Petersham community to revitalize the heart of the community through purchase of The Country Store building.

Scott Jackson

Scott Jackson is Extension Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has taught courses and workshops on wetlands ecology and conservation, biodiversity conservation, the ecology and conservation of amphibians and reptiles, and general New England natural history. He has been involved in the use of underpass systems to facilitate wildlife movement across roads and development of methods for evaluating the effectiveness of animal passage structures. He has been involved in the development of standards for road-stream crossing structures, survey protocols for assessing crossing structures, and approaches for prioritizing structures for replacement. Research interests include: ecology and breeding biology of amphibians, vernal pool ecology, wetland assessment and monitoring, impacts of roads and highways on wildlife, and landscape-based ecological assessment. Significant integrated research/extension projects include the Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS), The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative, and the MA Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Program. As a private consultant he conducted wildlife habitat evaluations, natural resource inventories, rare species surveys, project reviews, and development of conservation plans. He is a member of the Whately Conservation Commission and serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

David B. Kittredge

David Kittredge is Professor and Extension Forester in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he leads the undergraduate program in forestry and teaches courses in timber harvesting, silviculture, and case studies in conservation. He also has an appointment at Harvard Forest where he contributes a social science perspective to their long term ecological research. His current research interests focus on private woodland owner attitudes towards their land and the concept of an ecosystem-based approach to management. He is a co-author of the 2013 edition of the Massachusetts Forestry Best Management Practices Manual. He is also a co-author of Chapter 61 Programs: Understanding the Massachusetts Ch. 61 Current Use Tax Programs.

Sean Libbey

Sean Libbey began his career as a private forester in Maine in 1996. He moved to Massachusetts in 2005 and has been working for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Service Forester since 2008. He has a Masters in Forest Science from University of Maine, Orono.

Michael Mauri

Michael Mauri is a Massachusetts Licensed Forester who has been working as an independent forestry consultant for landowners across Western Massachusetts since 1994. Mike's forestry work for the Town of Athol began in 1996. Since then, he has prepared three Forest Management Plans for a total 1,905 acres of town-owned conservation land, including the 910-acre Bearsden property, for which he helped the Town get a significant grant from the Forest Stewardship Program/DCR and for which he mapped 8 miles of stone walls. Mike has carried out 16 bid-sale timber harvests for the town, working directly for the DPW, the Conservation Commission, and the Selectboard, including a significant harvest to help create the Equestrian Park, and in 2016 working with naturalist Dave Small as part of a 22-acre early successional forest project team. Mike has helped bring in over \$200,000 in revenue to the Town and recently provided timber advice to the Underutilized Properties Committee. Importantly, Mike has advised the Town on sustainability and on appropriate scales of cutting and on when not to cut. Mike assists the town with public outreach on a volunteer basis and donates considerable time and advice to help forestry operations stay on a long-term and sustainable track that is designed to be acceptable to the public even as administrators and committees change.

Mike has prepared a set of narrated pictures of his work in pdf form (*A Desktop Tour of Forest Management* by M.M.), available upon request, and *A Woodlot Owner's Guide* (published in 2003 with over 11,000 copies sold to DCR). Mike says his specialty is in responding to unique forestry challenges and in spreading a love and respect for the forest to all his projects.

Leo Roy

Leo Roy is Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He returned to state service as Commissioner in 2015, after many years in the private sector, most recently as a Principal at VHB, an infrastructure planning, design, engineering, and environmental firm. Previously he had served as Massachusetts Undersecretary of Environmental Affairs from 1992 to 1997. Commissioner Roy has brought to the Department of Conservation and Recreation his experience in natural and cultural resource management, sustainability, ecological restoration, and agency management.

As an environmental consultant Mr. Roy worked for state and municipal governments, colleges and universities, airport and port authorities, and private corporations and developers. He was named a LEED Fellow by the US Green Building Council for over a decade's work in promoting sustainable building design, construction, and operation, and was certified as an Envision Sustainability Professional by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure in 2012. He has been an active supporter of numerous non-profit environmental organizations, serving on the Board of the Environmental Business Council of New England and as Chair of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

Tom Ryan

Tom Ryan has been a DCR Service Forester since 2003. He currently works in the DCR Service Forester district in southern Berkshire and western Hampden counties and administers the Massachusetts Timber Harvester Licensing Program. He is the former Secretary of the Massachusetts Forester Licensing Board. He began working as a BMP Monitoring Forester, evaluating timber harvesting sites across Massachusetts.

Dave Small

Dave Small is president of the 280 member Athol Bird and Nature Club and Director of the Millers River Environmental Center. Dave shares his passion for birds, butterflies, dragonflies and most recently moths through workshops, lectures and field trips around New England. Dave is an associate member of the Athol Conservation Commission, serving as a Conservation Agent. He has served on the boards of several non-profits, including Millers River Watershed Council, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (plus land stewardship committee), Mass Watershed Coalition, Mass Audubon's Important Bird Area Technical Advisory Committee, National Moth Week Science Advisory Board, and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Advisory Committee. Dave was DCR's Assistant Regional Director responsible for forest operations at the 85,000 acre DCR Quabbin/Ware River Watersheds in Central Massachusetts before retiring in 2013 after 35 years in state service.



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We at MACC thank the sponsors and exhibitors of Fall Conference 2016. Their support and participation is essential to the success of the conference and of our programs of environmental and regulatory education, support of conservation commissions, and advocacy for wetlands, open space, and biodiversity protection.

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