

THE CUTTING EDGE:
News From Around the Woods for the Progressive Logger
A publication of the Maine Master Logger Certification Program
Katherine Albert, Editor

September Events

- ❖ **September 11, 2005** – Outstanding Tree Farmer Field Day (Nutkin Knoll Farm, Newburgh) Contact: Izzy McKay (207)722-3430. Come and see an actively managed sugarbush and sugaring operation, vernal pools, extensive recreational trail system, Christmas tree plantations and the results of commercial and precommercial thinnings and more.
- ❖ **September 21, 2005** - Maine Forest Service Workshop: The Maine Co-Operative Business Development Conference (Bangor Motor Inn, Bangor) Contact: Valarie Flanders (207)990-9168. Continuous Improvement in your business practices!!! Co-Operative enterprises meet communities' needs for food, housing, health and home care and other basics. They enable farmers, loggers, artists, tradespeople, and other independent entrepreneurs to own successful businesses. Co-Ops recycle capital locally and generate quality stable jobs. Learn about the Co-Op model as a Business model and learn how to get a Co-Op started.
- ❖ **September 21, 2005** – Maine Forest Service Workshop: Designing Land Management Road Crossings that are Friendly for Aquatic Species (Airline Diner, Beddington) Contact: Steven Koenig, Project SHARE (207)853-0931. 8am-3pm

Thank You!!

During the week of August 15, several Master Loggers generously provided their time and input about the program as we toured the state with representatives of the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program. The SmartWood program is accredited by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) to conduct 3rd party audits to FSC standards. The Maine MLC program is working with SmartWood to secure FSC chain-of-custody and forest management certification for Maine MLC. The auditors were not only impressed with the MLC program, but had glowing praise for the Maine Master Loggers they met on their first set of visits in Maine. A second round of site visits will take place between September 6 and September 9. Special thanks to: Alvin Wasson (ABC Logging), Erik Carlson (C & L Logging), Wes Dube (of West Enfield), Marc Greaney (Western Maine Timberlands), Steve Hanington (Hanington Bros., Inc.), and Andy Shultz (A Forestry), and Tom Cushman (Maine Custom Woodlands).

U.S. Chief Forester Bosworth Visits Maine

On August 23, Maine foresters and other stakeholders in Maine's forestlands had a rare opportunity to meet with the newly appointed U.S. Chief Forester Bosworth during his visit to Maine. Kate Albert and John Gunn were in attendance representing the Maine Master Logger Certification Program and the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands. All attendees had an opportunity to introduce Chief Bosworth to issues of importance in Maine by discussing one advantage and one challenge to the future of the forest products industry, forest professions, and forest lands in Maine. Chief Bosworth also outlined his 4 priority issues at the national level: 1) The accumulation of fuel and resulting forest fires, 2) invasive species, 3) preservation of open space, and 4) the consequences of unmanaged recreation, particularly in relation to off-highway motor vehicles.

Skidder Bridges Anyone??

As we've mentioned in earlier editions of *The Cutting Edge*, using temporary bridges to cross water bodies is top on the Maine MLC Certification Board's list of Maine Master Logger continuous improvement issues. We are working continually to help you find new, affordable sources of skidder bridges and we will keep on updating our information both on the Maine MLC web site (www.masterloggercertification.com) and in future issues of *The Cutting Edge*. Keep your eye out in the next few weeks for a new addition to the website – construction plans for building your own bridges. In the meantime, you might get in touch with one of the following bridge suppliers from the Maine Forest Service's database:

Nick Sirois
Nick's Bridges
2006 Augusta Road
Bowdoin, ME 04287
(207)837-9404

Ceylon Putnam
Dimensions Lumber
432 Valley Road
Peru, ME 04290
(207)897-9973

Tyler McIntosh
3848 Mariahville Rd.
Amherst, ME 04605
(207)584-3888

Contact Kate Albert (masterloggercertification@msn.com or (207)436-0400) if you have any additional information regarding sources of temporary bridges.

Spotlight on 'Ecosystems Services'

Remember when Maine's first Master Loggers were asking, "Can't we get paid for all of our work in the woods, beyond just the trees we harvest"? They were talking about things like protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, providing support for Maine's large recreation sector through road building and woods safety programs, and all the various benefits loggers provide to their communities. Well, they were thinking ahead of their time, and they were already talking about 'ecosystem services' – a buzzword that's

quickly gaining ground in regulatory and industry circles. At a larger scale, ecosystem services refer to potential new, alternative markets for loggers – from biodiversity protection to alternative energy to open space protection through conservation easements and alternative energy markets. This issue of *The Cutting Edge* focuses on forests and energy, something many countries are beginning to think very seriously about as older warnings that we need to research alternative ways of powering our world begin to seem more and more on the mark. Below, you will find news from around the world on forests as a solution for emissions reduction.

“Nine States Break with Bush on Greenhouse Gases” (from ALC online news wires)

President Bush’s refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol, a greenhouse gas reduction program that has already been ratified by 150 countries around the world, is well-known. However, individual states are beginning to work together to ensure that the U.S. is involved in this global project to undo the harm done by decades of unregulated industrial and automobile emissions. These alliances among states could put pressure on the federal government to adopt a national law, and could also encourage further development of a domestic carbon trading market. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont are developing a plan to cap carbon dioxide emissions at 150 million tons per year – an easily attainable goal judging by average emissions since 2000. In 2015, the cap would be lowered and emissions would be cut by 10 percent in 2020. California, Washington, and Oregon are working on a similar proposal for the U.S. northwest region.

“Weyerhaeuser Joins Alliance to Conserve Forests Using Carbon Markets” (from Forest Certification Watch)

Weyerhaeuser is teaming with The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International, and with other corporations, in an alliance to conserve forests using carbon markets. The primary purpose of the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) is to create a set of standards for evaluating projects that will help mitigate climate change, while benefiting local communities and protecting or restoring biodiversity.

Growing public concern about climate change has sparked recognition of forests as carbon “sinks” – places that absorb and store carbon dioxide drawn from the atmosphere. But for governments, corporations, and non-profit organizations to be willing to invest time and money in projects that protect forests as carbon sinks, the social and climate benefits need to be more readily quantifiable. Standards are needed to judge whether a project is environmentally sound and beneficial to the local community. Potential project investors need a reliable method to compare one project against another. The CCBA was formed in 2003 to meet these needs. It has developed a set of standards to identify the best carbon sink projects in which to invest.

Weyerhaeuser believes the international effort to understand and address the climate change issue creates a need to explore options, such as sequestering carbon in forests, which the CCBA standards address.

“Government of Canada Moves to Create a Market for Emission Reductions” (from Forest Certification Watch)

On August 11, the Government of Canada proposed a set of rules for a domestic offset credit system, which will reward innovation and provide incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Following consultations with provinces, territories, industry and Aboriginal groups, the system will begin operating in 2006.

“Enacting the system is a major step forward for our climate change plan,” said the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment. “Consultations will maximize its effectiveness in directing innovation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for cleaner air, a healthier environment, and a strong, sustainable, competitive economy.”

The proposed system will encourage innovative Canadian projects that use new practices and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Companies, governments, organizations or citizens undertaking such projects - provided they meet the criteria to be finalized following consultations – will be awarded credits. In turns, these credits may be sold to: Canadian companies in the Large Final Emitters category to put towards their emission reduction targets; the Climate Fund, a new institution established by Budget 2005 to purchase credits on behalf of the Government of Canada; or another interested individual or organization.

News From North America

Federal Judge Blocks Move to Ease Northwest Logging Rules

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman ruled against a move by the Bush administration to ease logging restrictions in the Northwest, saying the government failed to consider the effect on rare plants and animals and by citing federal law obliging authorities to show why the logging restrictions should be changed.

The rule change, which be effective in the spring of 2004, said forest managers no longer had to look for rare species before logging and was written in response to complaints by the timber industry, claiming that the rules were overly intrusive and could take years to complete. Under the modified rule, which affects 5.5 million acres of old-growth and other forests in the Northwest, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management could use information provided by state officials in Washington, Oregon and California in determining whether to allow logging, prescribe burns, and trail or campground building.

Opponents of the rule change said it would double the logging on federal land in the region and have disastrous consequences for rare species. The U.S. Forest Service hopes to salvage the Bush initiative by addressing the inadequacies pointed out by the judge.

Development Threatens American Public Forests

Two articles in early August, one entitled “American Forests Getting ‘loved to death’” and another entitled “America’s public forests ‘landlocked by sea of development’” addressed Volker Radeloff’s recent presentation at the 90th annual Ecological Society of America meeting in Montréal. Radeloff, a professor of forestry at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, analyzed government census data on housing increasing in or near national forests between 1950 and 2000. He found that a widening circle of development around national forests is blocking natural corridors, or wild “highways” that enable plants and animals to move easily between nearby forests.

“In an isolated state, a forest cannot function as well for biodiversity”, he points out. He also found a dramatic increase in housing developments *within* the boundaries of national forests – from 500,000 to 1.5 million in 50 years. As more and more people desire to live with wilderness in their back yard, wilderness itself becomes more difficult to experience.

Housing in and around forests not only affects biodiversity, it impacts hydrology cycles and accelerates the spread of invasive species. Wildfires and human-animal conflicts are other increased risks. “It is possible that the national forests may not suffice for some endangered species,” Radeloff said. He concluded, “We need to decide on areas for growth and areas where we do not want growth to occur”.

‘Green’ Wood Goes Prime Time

In December 2005 and January 2006, three segments on Bob Vila’s popular renovation show, *Home Again*, will feature key messages about wood. The segments, focused on decking, treated lumber, and hardwood floors, discuss wood’s natural place in green building in addition to forest sustainability and abundance.

Food for Thought: Sensible Environmentalism

Dr. Patrick Moore co-founded Greenpeace in the 1970s, but eventually became disillusioned by the group’s extremist tendencies, and has since advocated a common-sense approach that he believes has a strong public appeal. “The environmental movement has lost its way,” he said, “Too many groups are promoting political ideologies that in the end have little to do with the environment – and they’re disregarding science in the process”. In order to spread his message, he is working on a book, tentatively titled *From Greenpeace to Greenspirit: The Making of a Sensible Environmentalist*, due to be finished later this year. For Moore, sensible environmentalism is based on: sustainable development, renewability, and decision-making based on sound scientific evidence.

Around the World Now

Certification Battles Rage On... (From Forest Certification Watch)

A coalition of leading environmental NGOs [WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, and FERN] attacked the UK Government's decision to water down its standards for sustainable timber, by allowing government departments to buy wood from forest certification schemes that approve destructive logging practices.

The Government has decided to allow timber produced under the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) schemes to qualify for sustainable timber procurement. Evidence shows the two schemes allow large-scale, unsustainable logging in ancient forest areas, the destruction of endangered species habitat and the abuse of indigenous peoples' rights.

Previously, only certification by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) was considered as proof of legal and sustainable sourcing by the UK Government. The only scheme that is generally accepted by all stakeholders, including environmental groups, as ensuring environmentally and socially responsible timber sourcing is the Forestry Stewardship Council.