

June 2016



P.O. Box 1036
106 Sewall Street
Augusta, ME 04332
207-688-8195

THE TRUST TO CONSERVE NORTHEAST FORESTLANDS

The Cutting Edge

2016 Annual Meeting

BREWER, ME – The Trust To Conserve Northeast Forestlands (TCNEF) celebrated 15 successful years for the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program at its annual meeting Friday, April 29, with guests including U.S. Senator Angus King of Maine, who was reunited with the first class of Master Loggers.

The event also included the presentation of awards to outstanding supporters of the Master Logger

through the program with 98 loggers currently certified in seven Northeast states from Maine to New York.

When the first cohort of Master Loggers gathered to be recognized at the Maine State House 15 years ago, Angus King, then Maine's Governor, was there to do the honors. At the meeting, Senator King was reunited with many members of that first cohort and gathered with them for a group photograph.



New Master Loggers attending the meeting gather for a group photo. Those in the photo include, from left to right: Andrew Madden of AS Madden; Sam Lincoln of Lincoln Farm Timber Harvesting; Chuck Ames of SDR Logging; U.S. Senator Angus King; Wayne Tripp of W.C. Tripp Forest Products; David Gordon of David Gordon Logging; Corey Chaplin of Chaplin Logging; Greg Adams of GCA Logging; and Ted Wright. Absent from the photo were Andy Dillon of AD Forestry Specialist and Robert Foster of Jerimoth Forestry.

program, and recognition for the nine newest Master Loggers to be certified in the Northeast in the past year.

The Northeast Master Logger Certification Program is overseen by the TCNEF, and was established in 2001, with the 1st cohort of loggers being certified in the fall of that year. Since then 15 cohorts have gone

“I think it’s very fitting that Senator King is here with us tonight, because it was 15 years ago this summer that the first group of master loggers received their certification on the steps of the State House,” TCNEF Executive Director Ted Wright said, later adding, “We were honored that the Senator

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Hello Northeast Master Logger Companies!



Hello Everyone,

As the 6-month mark passes on my employment as your executive director I must say how enjoyable and challenging it has been. By now I have visited almost half of you and now have more respect than ever for the work you do. Each company that I have talked to is facing different challenges in these difficult times.

As the times and challenges change I am looking to see Master Logger evolve with the changes and

help your company be successful. I have been reaching out to your state associations to partner up with them and bring more opportunity to Master Loggers. I recently attended the Mass Forest Alliance in Holyoke, The Northeast Loggers Expo in Vermont, and made many connections to help strengthen the Master Logger cause.

On June 24 we will be putting on a field demonstration with Hull Forest Products in Connecticut on a Master Logger jobsite. For more info, check the website. If you are interested in hosting any workshop with Master Logger let me know.

This summer there will be 20 recertifications taking place. I will be contacting you with a letter on the recert process and steps and also making a phone call. Please check out the box below with tips for a successful recert. If you have any questions, contact me.

In closing, I look forward to meeting the rest of you this summer and fall and I hope your involvement in the program will bring you success.



Ted Wright, Executive Director
Northeast Master Logger Program
207-532-8721 executivedirector@tcnef.org

Some Important RECERT TIPS

- **Harvest Planning-** Please have current harvest plans and/or management plans ready for the verifier to look at in writing. This is an important part of the process and needs to be verified at the site.
- Be sure each machine is fitted with spill kits, first aid kits etc.
- Think about the ways you and your company have demonstrated "continuous improvement" through workshop attendance, professional memberships such as the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC) or the Forest Resources Association (FRA), participation in legislative efforts, or possibly advances in business and harvest technology.

Bill Green's Maine airs special on Master Logger

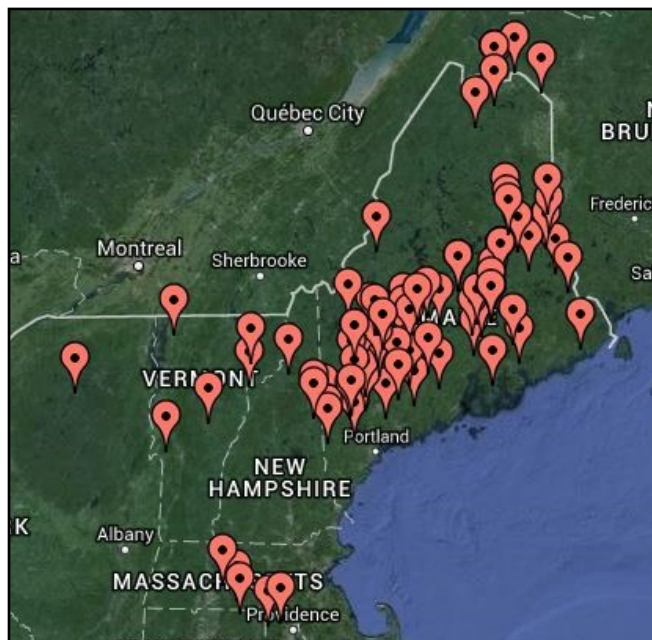


Bill Green's Maine aired a special story on what it means to be a Master Logger March 12 featuring Master Logger and PLC Member Trees LTD. of Sidney, ME, owned by brothers Don and Will Cole.

Feedback from the story has been very positive and the show was seen by a large number of people in Maine. Northeast Master Logger is now working on getting stories aired in other states on the program to achieve similar visibility for Master Loggers in those states.

Locator map added to site

The Northeast Master Logger website has added an easy-to-use locator map for the public to find Master Loggers in the region. Find it at: masterloggercertification.com



Master Logger Goal Two Reminder: Protecting Water Quality

Northeast Master Logger Goal Two protects water quality by using six harvest responsibilities:

Harvest Responsibility #1: Organize and plan road construction and access to harvest locations in a manner that prevents soil erosion and does not impede water flow.

Harvest Responsibility #2: Prepare skid trails in a manner that does not reduce soil absorbency.

Harvest Responsibility #3: Attend to stream management zones in a manner that does not divert or concentrate water flows.

Harvest Responsibility #4: Manage stream crossings during harvest and road building.

Harvest Responsibility #5: Establish logging yards at the proper distance from streams, ponds, lakes, marshes, steep slopes, and wetlands so as to maintain the benefits of vegetation next to water bodies.

Harvest Responsibility #6: Monitor all regulations and obtain necessary permits in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.



To better serve you we will be planning Best Management Workshops throughout the Northeast Master Logger area later this year that will involve placement of different types of water crossings and other helpful ways that water quality can be protected.

Stay tuned for more on the workshops in a future newsletter.

Annual Meeting, continued from p. 1 took the time out of his busy schedule to attend the event and reaffirm his support for the logging industry.”

Senator King later shared photos of the event and of himself with the first cohort of Master Loggers and with the newest cohort on his Facebook page, commenting, “A very good event focusing on the opportunities and challenges we face in maintaining and strengthening this inseparable part of Maine’s rural economy.”

The latest loggers to become Master Logger certified through the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program include: AD Forestry Specialist, Andy Dillon, Madison, ME; SDR Logging, Chuck Ames, Sebec, ME; Jerimoth Forestry, Robert Thurber Foster, RI; Lincoln Farm Timber Harvesting, Sam Lincoln, Randolph Center, VT; WC Tripp Forest Products, Wayne Tripp, Frankfort, ME; David Gordon Logging, David Gordon, Farmington, ME; Chaplin Logging, Caleb and Corey Chaplin, Naples, ME; GCA Logging, Greg Adams, Avon, ME; and AS Madden, Andrew Madden, Greenbush, ME.

Master Loggers Supporters Awards were presented to the following individuals: Jessica Leahy of the University of Maine’s School of Forest Resources; Rodney Wales, former President of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine and a retired logger from Fryeburg, ME; Doug Emmerthal of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Forestry Division, and Bud Blumenstock, Professor Emeritus of Forestry at the University of Maine.



Ted Wright at the podium.

DID YOU KNOW: Northeast Certified Master Loggers used foresters in their harvests 70 percent of the time in 2014?

Master Logger Spotlight - Sawyer Logging

UNION, CT – Perry Sawyer is currently the only certified Master Logger based in Connecticut, but he is used to being on his own.

His company, Sawyer Logging, owns two skidders, a loader/slasher/delimer, and a feller buncher, but Perry operates all of them himself as a one-man logging crew.

“It’s a bit challenging at times,” he said, “but I like them all, that’s why I’m still doing it myself.”



Perry got started in logging when he was a forestry student at the University of Maine, working weekends with his roommate cutting four-foot wood with a tractor and a small wagon. He loved working in the woods and after graduating in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in forestry he worked a series of forestry related jobs in Maine but said, “I always wanted to get back into the woods, that’s where the action was.”

In 2001 Perry was living in Denmark, Maine and bought a 640D John Deere cable skidder and started logging. He spent the next couple of years working in southwestern Maine. Then in 2003 during the down time of mud season he was looking for work and found three jobs in Connecticut, where he grew up.

“Three jobs led to four and four led to five and I realized there was a good hardwood saw log market here, a good firewood market, and the rest is history,” Perry said.

He relocated to Connecticut and built up a business and a reputation working in northeast Connecticut and in portions of Massachusetts primarily doing selective harvesting for private landowners, Yale University, and Hull Forest Products, Inc.

Over the years he added equipment – a John Deere 648 dual arch grapple skidder, a Prentice 384 slasher/loader/delimer, and a Timbco 445 feller buncher, of which the Prentice is probably his favorite since, “I enjoy slashing wood and running the loader, its where the action is, it’s where the money is made.”

Perry became a Master Logger about a decade ago when the program began to expand beyond its roots in Maine, and was one of the early Master Loggers in that push, hearing about the program when he was looking for additional certification options to increase his professionalism.

“It’s been more of a personal professional certification that I’ve been very proud of and that I’ve continued to maintain,” Perry said. “The third party inspection lends credibility to this program that no other program has, I

really think that’s the key, not only talking the talk but walking the walk in a state that doesn’t have many loggers.”

Perry has conducted sessions with Yale environmental science students educating them about professional logging and believes that sort of outreach can have a huge effect in the future as those students earn degrees and



end up in decision-making positions.

His company has remained a one-man operation in part due to the high cost of insurance in Connecticut and the difficulty of finding qualified workers for mechanized logging, though at some point he would like to expand if adding employees became financially feasible.

There are the usual challenges for loggers in Connecticut that loggers face everywhere; weather, equipment and repair costs, and changing markets. Events as far away as Maine have a ripple effect on his company, and he’s had to get creative to find markets for some lower-value wood such as establishing relationships with truckers delivering saw logs to Connecticut from states like New Hampshire who are happy to truck a load of low-grade hemlock back to New Hampshire to avoid traveling empty.

There are signs of emerging markets such as bark mulch production in his area, and although some markets such as paper production are declining he is optimistic about the future of logging, and of his own company, Perry said.

“I’m totally committed to the industry and it’s been a good industry to be part of,” Perry said. “I have a young son and he’s awfully interested in the woods – that’s a long time away but you never know.”

