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THE TRUST TO CONSERVE NORTHEAST FORESTLANDS

# The Cutting Edge

## New Website Launched

The Northeast Master Logger Certification Program launched a new and improved website in July to better meet the needs of Master Loggers and the public while providing an updated platform for wider distribution of news and information on the program.

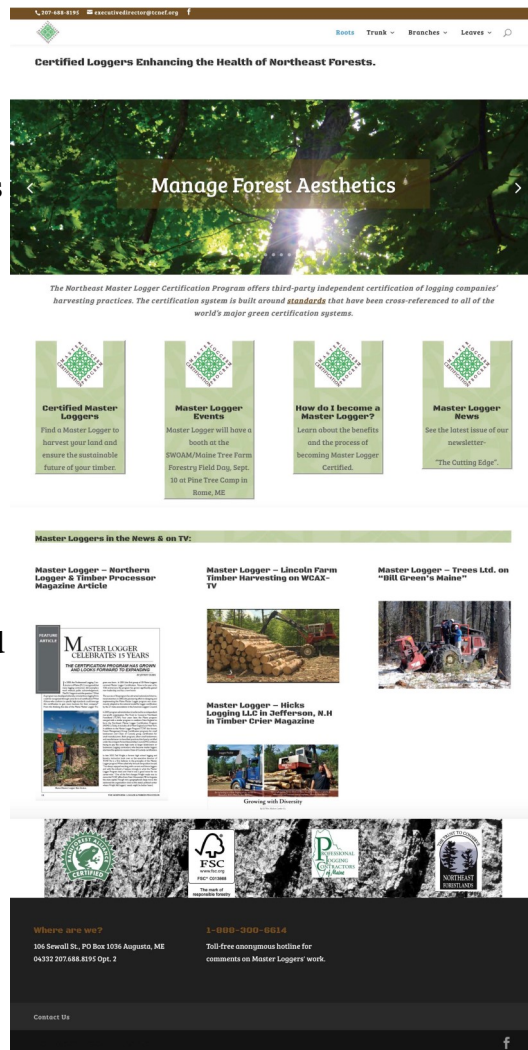
The site has not moved, it remains at: [masterloggercertification.com](http://masterloggercertification.com).

The previous Master Logger website served its purpose well for many years but was created before smartphones became common, and before users demanded more interactive features and media on sites.

Built on a common and modernized platform, the new site can be more easily manipulated by webmasters for the Master Logger program and should serve the needs of the program for some time.

The new site includes an interactive locator map for landowners seeking Master Loggers in their area.

The new site also features updated event listings, news, useful links, and information on how to become a Master Logger and why the program is important to the logging industry and the health of our forests.



Master Logger Bob Thurber of Jerimoth Forestry leading a "walk & talk" tour on the Master Logger program and its benefits held for loggers at a Connecticut Timber Producers meeting in Gloucester, RI this summer. The tour took place at a Jerimoth Forestry job site. Great day with great people!



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Master Logger  
Certification



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# Hello Northeast Master Logger Companies!



Hello everyone,

As summer winds down, loggers begin to look at the prospect of winter, and planning where they will be harvesting and the logistics of it all.

I want to let you know at the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program we are planning ahead as well. My plan is to continue to promote Master

Loggers to landowners, mills and the public. I believe the work you do is superior and should be an example to the industry that cannot only benefit your businesses, but the forest economy as a whole. We also plan on bringing more benefits to Master Loggers in the areas of Best Management Practices (BMP) and Safety Management. Stay tuned for more on that, and know we are working on bringing other benefits in the way of certification with other agencies.

Your companies continue to do great work in the woods. As we look down the road (or skid trail) to the future, my goal is bring your great work to the forefront and have your hard work recognized. I feel this will bring great strength to the Master Logger brand and to the

forest products industry as a whole.

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns or thoughts at 207-532- 8721. I look forward to hearing from you.



Ted Wright, Executive Director  
Northeast Master Logger Program  
207-532-8721 [executivedirector@tcnef.org](mailto:executivedirector@tcnef.org)

## IN THE NEWS

FEATURE  
ARTICLE

### MASTER LOGGER CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HAS GROWN  
AND LOOKS FORWARD TO EXPANDING

BY JEFFREY DUBIS

In 2000, the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC) recognized that many logging contractors did exemplary work without public acknowledgment. The PLC began to ask the question, "What if those who conform to specific high standards could leverage this certification to gain more business for their company?" From this thinking, the idea of the Maine Master Logger Program

was born. In 2001, the first group of 30 Maine Loggers received Master Logger Certification. Now in the year of its 15th anniversary, the program has grown significantly, gained new leadership, and has a new home.

The success of the program has attracted national and international attention. In 2002, this pioneering effort in designing and implementing the Maine Master Logger program was unanimously adopted as the national model for logger certification by the 27 state associations in the American Loggers Council.

In 2003, program administration transferred to an independent non-profit organization, The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestland (TCNEF). Four years later, the Maine program merged with a similar program in southern New England to form the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program (NEMLC). Today, it includes all of New England and New York. In addition to the Master Logger Program, TCNEF also houses Forest Management Group Certification programs for small landowners and Chain of Custody group certification for small manufacturers. Both programs allow small landowners and manufacturers to have their practices third party certified under the stringent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) without having to pay the same high costs as larger landowners or businesses. Logging contractors who become master loggers also have the option to receive Chain of Custody certification.

In late 2015, Ted Wright, a former high school logging and forestry instructor, took over as the executive director of TCNEF. He is a firm believer in the principles of the Master Logger program. When asked why he took the position he said, "I've always enjoyed working with current and future loggers and with the industry I believe strongly in what the Master Logger Program does and I feel it was a good move for me career-wise." One of the first changes Wright made was to move the TCNEF office from New Gloucester, ME to Augusta, the state capital. Though not a geographically large move, this statement of the organization close to the state's political center where Wright felt loggers' needs might be better heard.



Maine Master Logger Ben Vosine.

THE NORTHERN LOGGER & TIMBER PROCESSOR

The Master Logger program was featured in the August edition of the Northern Logger & Timber Processor Magazine. Find the full article on the Master Logger website.

## Important Dates

### ROAD BUILDING TOOL BOX

A one-day workshop co-sponsored by Master Logger Certification and The Professional Logging Contractors of Maine with support from EJ Prescott, Gardiner ME.

**Oct. 20, 2016 8:00am - 4:00pm, Hosted by Treeline Inc.- Lincoln, ME**

**Rain date Oct. 21st – you will be notified by e-mail of any change**

**8:00 am Starting Location:** Health Access Network, Conference Room 175 West Broadway, Lincoln, Maine 04457

**LINCOLN, ME** - This workshop combines indoor and outdoor discussion, presentation, materials, and technical assistance. The indoor morning session will focus on BMP rules and regulations, pending legislation, and other topics that relate to logging, road building, or water quality. In the afternoon program you will learn what Team E.J. Prescott can contribute to your business needs with innovations in erosion prevention, roadway stabilization, drainage systems and soil reinforcement.

Please pre-register – **FREE** for Master Loggers and Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC) Members. \$20 for all others. **REGISTER BY PHONE:** 207-688-8195 or **REGISTER BY EMAIL:** [executivedirector@tcnef.org](mailto:executivedirector@tcnef.org).



## Master Logger Safety Reminder

Preventing injuries is a top priority for any logging crew, but if an injury does occur, a fast response is critical.

To find out what helps emergency responders locate and aid an injured logger, we talked to Paul Stewart, a former logger who has spent the last 17 years as a paramedic and safety consultant and trainer in Houlton, ME.

These are a few steps he recommends any logging firm take before and during work at a new harvest site.



*Paul Stewart, at left, leads a training session this spring.*

#1. Contact the local fire department or the state's public safety department to find out which agency would respond if one or more members of your crew are injured.

#2. Referring to an atlas (Gazetteer is preferred) for the state you are in, provide detailed directions to the job site (include GPS coordinates if available) on an index card indicating where the yards are located, how many people are in your crew, type of operation, and what hours the crew typically works.

#3. Deliver the index card to the responder for your area. Why the index card? Verbal information may only reach one shift. The index card will be pinned to a response board where each shift will take down the information in case it is needed.

#4. Ask what the capabilities of your responder are. Do they transport patients? What level of treatment can they provide? This will give you an idea of how long you may need to wait for an injured member of your crew to be transported to a hospital, and what kind of treatment they may receive immediately.

#5. Let your responding agency know when you have finished at the job site.

## Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine encourages loggers to join

*By Bill Williams, Deputy Executive Director, SWOAM*

The Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine, or SWOAM as it is commonly called, was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1975 by a small group of private landowners. The primary purpose of the organization was to create a network of small landowners who were willing to share their experiences on managing woodland.

Since then SWOAM has grown to nearly 3,000 members, and though the organization continues to grow; the idea of landowners helping landowners is still effective today. SWOAM delivers over 50 educational events through its 10 regional chapters each year on topics including introduction to woodland ownership, forest management, invasive species, chainsaw safety training, harvesting equipment and more.

SWOAM employs Tom Doak, executive director, Bill Williams, deputy executive director, and Debbie Ladd, office administrator full-time with contracts as needed for event coordination, membership support and land trust activities.

In 1990, SWOAM created a land trust program that has acquired nearly 8,400 acres of

conserved woodlands, including 4,800 acres of fee ownership land. All of the properties SWOAM either owns or holds conservation easements on are sustainably managed. SWOAM's land trust employs numerous foresters and loggers on its fee ownership lands each year and welcomes those professionals who are interested in being part of SWOAM's forest management activities.

SWOAM has become a powerful landowner representative in the Maine Legislature. We have been responsible for defending the Tree Growth Tax Law Program, legislation to improve issues surrounding abandoned and discontinued roads, and defending the rights of woodland owners relating to privacy issues. The upcoming legislative session will likely see proposed legislation detrimental to Maine's Tree Growth Tax Law Program. SWOAM will always defend this important woodland owner program.

There is strength in numbers. If you are a Maine logger, please consider joining SWOAM to help protect programs important to forest professionals, and woodland owners alike.

**DID YOU KNOW: There are 98 Master Loggers? 4 in NH, 4 in VT, 2 in RI, 1 in CT, 2 in MA, 84 in ME.**

# Master Logger Spotlight - CTL Land Mgt. Services

**WASHINGTON, ME** - CTL Land Management Services was founded in 1998 by Kyle Overlock and Gavin McClain, and has been a Master Logger company since 2003.

As the name makes clear, CTL is a cut-to-length logging company, with five employees running two cut-to-length operations and a small kiln-dried firewood business, Hobby Hill Firewood.

Gavin and Kyle first met working for a landscaping company in the mid-1990s. At that time Kyle was cutting wood in the winters and landscaping in the summers, and following his example Gavin began cutting on his own land in the off-season to make additional money. By 1996 the two had

begun logging together, each with their own cable skidder, but it was in 1998 that they officially joined forces and went in a different direction.

Gavin recalls learning about cut-to-length logging first at a 1997 logging show, and then from brothers Don and Will Cole of the Trees LTD. logging company in Sidney, Maine. (Trees LTD. is a Master Logger company).

"They were very patient. I learned a lot from those guys, they're good people," Gavin said.

At the time, the cut-to-length method of logging was being encouraged by some of the larger buyers in the market and the quality of work it allowed was attractive to landowners. CTL Land Mgt. Services went into it and has never looked back.

Over the years the company has expanded to include the two cut-to-length operations, kiln-dried firewood with delivery, and a bulldozer and excavator for road building and Best Management Practices (BMP) tasks.

CTL subcontracts portions of some jobs out to logger Jeff Moran, who runs a traditional one-man

cable skidder operation, for difficult terrain and large diameter, high-value veneer timber where cutting by hand is the best way to ensure no damage to the wood.

These are difficult times in logging and CTL is dealing with the same poor markets, high

equipment costs, and competitive challenges facing most loggers today.

The mid-coast Maine area in which CTL is based has a great deal of untapped logging potential with many private landowners uncertain about whether to harvest their lands and wary of logging. This makes it a competitive area in which to operate, with a mix of independent logging companies vying with others organized and backed

by industry buyers. A logging firm has to remain adaptable and professional to succeed, and can be hurt by any bad experience a landowner has with another company - bad news travels faster than good when it comes to logging.

Being a Master Logger company definitely helps in this environment.

"I don't use it a lot as a marketing tool, but if I have a landowner who may be a bit skeptical or on the fence, I always refer them to Master Logger standards and the webpage, it offers peace of mind," Gavin said.

CTL sells much of its timber to Verso Paper and so CTL is in a

holding pattern for now in terms of future plans, waiting to see how Verso's emergence from bankruptcy affects its Maine operations.

In the meantime, Gavin and Kyle are loggers because they love the outdoors and the work, and CTL is busy and focusing on the professionalism and hard work Master Loggers are noted for, a solid business plan in any environment.



Gavin McClain, at right, leads a Master Logger walk for members of the public in Waldoboro in July.



Kyle Overlock at the controls of a Ponsse Scorpion King harvester.

