

2010 Connecticut Forest Conservation & Research Forum

University of Connecticut West Hartford Branch

November 23, 2010

The sixth annual Connecticut Forest Conservation and Research Forum builds on the past five sessions. Each probed the causes of forest conservation problems in the state and possible solutions. In early 2010, a series of local forest roundtables led to a statewide Forest Roundtable in March that produced ten visions of Connecticut's forest future.

The ten visions are: *In the future,*

1. The fact that all forests provide important public benefits will guide all Connecticut forest policies.
2. Connecticut will increase the amount of forest protected from development, following priority criteria based on core forest areas, forest legacy potential, and vulnerability.
3. Connecticut's forests will contain healthy and sustainable populations of native plants and animals.
4. Public agencies will manage Connecticut's public forestlands to enhance public benefits.
5. Full support and encouragement will flow to private forest owners with environmentally, socially, and economically balanced stewardship.
6. The people of Connecticut will understand and value the urban forests in which they live as essential parts of healthy urban ecosystems.
7. Connecticut's forests will support a broad spectrum of appropriate recreational activities that attract users to Connecticut's forests.
8. Connecticut will use its forests to stimulate learning about nature and ecology and to demonstrate various sustainable management strategies.
9. Connecticut's forests will support a viable forest products industry that provides marketable products from renewable and diverse forest resources.
10. Management of Connecticut's forests with scientific information will emerge from a dialogue among scientists, forest owners and managers, and outreach specialists.

The morning session will review three general visions for New England forests, especially southern New England and Connecticut. One is the Wildlands and Woodlands ideas first developed in Massachusetts by the Harvard Forest staff. The second presentation is the recent Forest Assessment and Plan for Connecticut, which is an update of the 2004 statewide forest resource plan using GIS maps and the ten visions. The final presentation looks at a New England initiative sponsored by the Governors and state foresters in this region. The summary discussion will identify the common themes among these strands.

We will break in small groups over box lunches to discuss common themes, identify a few major new ideas, and set the next steps to achieving our visions. We will then reassemble as a whole and, with help from a professional facilitator, move *From Conversation to Conservation*.

Common elements of virtually all possible strategies are a focus on private owners and their values, funding to acquire conservation easements on working forestlands, and the needed public policy

changes to facilitate a collaborative effort to protect woodlands in Connecticut. The last session of Forum will be *Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Forest Conservation*.

We will finish the day with a reception to celebrate the plans for moving forward to a more secure forest future for Connecticut.

Sponsors for the 2010 Forum [Will print with logos]

Connecticut Forest & Park Association – lead sponsor and organizer

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CTDEP Division of Forestry

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Department of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Connecticut

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CT Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects

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Other sponsors and co-sponsors will be committing in the near future.

¹ CCAPA members may receive CM credits for the Forest Forum as self-reported credits.

Program

8:00 – 8:50	Registration, coffee & muffins
8:50 – 9:00	Welcome, housekeeping details
9 - 11	General Session – Steve Broderick, Moderator
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Wildlands & Woodlands – Application in New England</i> , David Foster, Director, Harvard Forest
9:30 – 10:00	<i>Forest Assessment and Strategic Plan</i> , Helene Hochholzer, CT Forest Planner
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Northeast Initiatives – Keeping Forests as Forest</i> , Alec Giffen, Maine State Forester
10:30 – 11	Break
11 – 11:20	<i>Common Themes between multiple State and Regional Visions</i> , Tom Worthley (UConn Extension)
11:20 – 12	Discussion/Q & A
12 – 1:45	Pick up box lunch/Move to small breakout discussions of common themes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-assign discussion leaders for each theme/initiative;• Leader would present 5 minute overview on topic and facilitate input, ideas, and questions;• Group would suggest 2-3 big ideas/key strategies for each theme that people would work on;• Group would propose first meeting(s) date for follow-up after the Forest Forum.
1:45 – 2	Break – move back to Auditorium
2 – 3:30	<i>From Conversation to Conservation</i> , Bill Logue will facilitate a discussion to spur implementation of Common Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of “ground rules” from facilitator;• Breakout session leaders present the 2-3 big ideas for each Common Theme;• Attendees encouraged by Facilitator to sign-up under each Theme as a Leader or Supporter;• All invited to join Forest ListServe (or some other mechanism) to stay plugged-in on Themes, opportunities to assist with implementation of Themes, key meetings, etc.
3:30 – 4:20	<i>Innovative Funding Mechanisms for Forest Conservation</i> -- Jim Levitt (Harvard Forest Center for Conservation Innovation) and Brad Gentry (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies)
4:20 – 4:30	Final Comments -- Jim Levitt

Speakers [preliminary bios]

David Foster, Director, Harvard Forest, is a graduate of Connecticut College. David earned his Ph.D. at Minnesota. He is Professor of Ecology at Harvard University and has been Director of the Harvard Forest since 1990. He is the leader of the Wildlands and Woodlands vision effort.

Helene Hochholzer, Connecticut Forest Planner, was lead author the *Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan - 2004-2013*, and led the recent *Connecticut Forest Assessment* team. She earned her BS in forestry at Virginia Tech and holds a master's degree from Rensselaer.

Alec Giffen is Director of the Maine Forest Service with over 35 years of experience in natural resource planning and program administration, including serving as Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and the Natural Resource Planning Division of the state planning office. He also was a private consultant, working with private and public parties to resolve disputes over land management and facility licensing. Alec's master's degree is from the University of California in forest ecology and his BS degree in Forest Science is from the University of Maine.

Steve Broderick is CFPA's Forester and Program Director at the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center in Hampton. He came to CFPA after a 30-year career as Extension Forester with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. Steve earned his BS in forestry at the University of Massachusetts and master's from Virginia Tech.

Thomas Worthley is Assistant Extension Professor, University of Connecticut. Tom's statewide responsibilities include forest stewardship, sustainable forest management, and silviculture on non-industrial private forestland.

William Logue is a West Hartford-based mediator and facilitator. He has helped creatively craft agreements that build relationships and promote practical solutions to difficult problems. Bill is a member of the Quinnipiac University School of Law's Center on Dispute Resolution.

James Levitt is the director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest and is a fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Jim is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale School of Management. He has edited two books on the subject of conservation finance: *From Walden to Wall Street* (2005), and *Conservation Capital in the Americas* (2010).

Bradford Gentry is Lecturer, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Brad serves as Co-Director of the Center for Business & the Environment at Yale and Director of the Research Program on Private Investment and the Environment.

Registration Form & Directions will be in the brochure, which will be posted in August.