

**Green Mountain Division, Society of American Foresters
2012 Winter Meeting**

January 27th, 2012

**Lake Morey Resort
Fairlee, Vermont**

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

8:30 - 9:00 Registration and coffee

9:00 - 9:45 Business meeting (GMDSAF Members)

PROGRAM

9:45-10:30 Policy Update

Introduction; Bill Samal, GMDSAF Policy Chair

Invited:

- FPR Commissioner: Michael Snyder
- Biomass Committee update: Chris Recchia
- Current Use Tax Coalition update: John Meyer
- Governor Shumlin
- Lt. Governor Phil Scott
- ANR Secretary: Deb Markowitz

10:30-10:45 Break

**10:45-12:00 Presentation One: A Critique of Silviculture: *Managing for Complexity*
Christian Messier, *University of Quebec, Montreal***

Christian Messier will present on the work he co-authored with Klaus Puttmann and David Coates, *A Critique of Silviculture; Managing for Complexity*. The work details the history of the discipline, which has evolved to drive the past management of forests in a certain way, an overview of important ecological concepts, an appreciation for the differences and similarities between silviculture and ecology, and a road map to a new philosophical and practical approach to silviculture, managing forests as complex adaptive systems. The work advocates that silviculture would benefit greatly by adopting some of the key characteristics of the science of complexity at varying scales to enhance the resilience and adaptability of managed forests in the context of future climate change, as forests will likely be exposed to a new and different set of disturbances. The work also provides a list of steps that silviculturalists can implement to move silviculture toward managing forests as complex adaptive systems.

12:30 - 1:15 Lunch

**1:30 – 2:30 Presentation Two: Natural Disturbance Based Silviculture
Robert Seymour, *University of Maine***

Robert Seymour will present on the advancement of an ecological, natural disturbance paradigm for management, but apparent lack specific guidance on how to design systems in ways that are in harmony with natural patterns. To provide such guidance, Robert and his colleagues conducted a comprehensive literature survey of northeastern disturbances (later augmented by Bill Keeton and Malcolm North), emphasizing papers that studied late-successional, undisturbed, or pre-settlement forests. Evidence

demonstrates convincingly that such forests were dominated by relatively frequent, partial disturbances that produced a finely patterned, diverse mosaic dominated by late-successional species and structures. In contrast, large-scale, catastrophic stand-replacing disturbances were rare, returning at intervals of at least one order of magnitude longer than gap-producing events. Graphing the contiguous areas disturbed against their corresponding return intervals shows that these important disturbance parameters are positively related; area disturbed increases exponentially as the return interval lengthens. This graph provides a convenient metric, termed the natural disturbance comparability index, against which to evaluate both single and multi-cohort silvicultural systems based on their rotations or cutting-cycles and stand or gap sizes. Robert will illustrate these principles with 16-year research results from the Acadian Forest Ecosystem Research Program, where two gap-based silvicultural systems (an irregular group shelterwood with reserves, and a group selection with reserves), including numerous advantages (both economic and ecological) over more traditional multi-aged systems regulated by reverse-J diameter distributions.

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:30 Presentation Three: Silviculture with Birds in Mind
Nancy Patch, *Franklin-Grand Isle County Forester* and
Steve Hagenbuch *Conservation Biologist Audubon Vermont*

Nancy Patch and Steve Hagenbuch will present on the *Foresters for the Birds Initiative*, a partnership between Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (funded through a federal Forest Service Re-design grant) to develop tools and trainings for foresters who want to help landowners manage their forests with birds in mind. Currently, over 100 foresters from across New England are participating in the project. A series of tools have been developed through the project, including a guide to forest bird habitat assessment, and a silvicultural guide to assess forest bird habitat and choose silvicultural treatments that protect and/or enhance song bird habitat while managing for timber.

CFE Credits: The program is approved for 3.5 Category 1 SAF CFEs, 3.75 MA CFEs, and 4 NH Forester Licensing credits. Certificates of Attendance will be available at the meeting.

Parking Advice/Directions: Free parking is available in the hotel lot. Overflow parking is available in the lot across the street. For directions to Lake Morey refer to website: www.lakemoreyresort.com

About the Speakers

Christian Messier, *University of Quebec, Montreal*

Christian is a professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) since June 1991. Christian received both a Bachelor's degree in forest engineering and Master's in forest sciences from Université Laval, and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. He also served a postdoctoral fellowship in forest ecology at the University of Helsinki. Christian's research focuses on the ecological and silvicultural factors that influence temperate and boreal forest ecosystem dynamics. Christian holds the NSERC/Hydro-Quebec Chair on tree growth control. He was a member (and a co-leader from 1996 to 1999) of the Sustainable Forest Management network (SFMn) from 1995 to 2010. He is also the cofounder and an executive member of the Integrated Quebec Intensive Silviculture Network, a major project aimed at maximizing timber production on small areas. Finally, Christian participated in the creation of the Centre for Forest Research (CFR) and was its director from its inception in 2006 to June 2010.

Robert Seymour, *Curtis Hutchins Professor of Forest Resources (Quantitative Silviculture), University of Maine*

Bob has had a life-long passion for trees and forests, ranging from inspirational old-growth to intensively managed production forests. Bob received his Bachelor's degree from Ohio State, and both a Masters and Ph.D. from Yale University. For over two decades, his research has focused on the production ecology of Maine's conifers, including ways to predict tree leaf area and growth efficiency. Bob has been a career-long advocate and researcher of ecologically based silvicultural systems, and has a growing interest in disturbance ecology and tree-ring analysis. Bob integrates his research experience into his graduate courses, including Forest Stand Dynamics and The Spruce-fir Industrial Ecosystem, and teaches the core undergraduate Silviculture course that emphasizes advanced, contemporary treatments for complex, mixed-species, natural forests. Since 1994, Bob has been active in forest certification, mainly as a team member/leader of large FSC projects in the eastern U.S. He takes full advantage of Maine as a year-round outdoor paradise, where he fishes, cross-country skis, paddles whitewater, or hikes whenever time permits.

Nancy Patch, *Franklin-Grand Isle County Forester*

Nancy works with the public in a variety of roles as County Forester. Her primary task is to monitor and administer the Use value Appraisal Program. She also works on several projects with a variety of conservation organizations, schools, and municipalities. For the past year, Nancy has been the agency point person to work with Audubon Vermont with the Foresters for the Birds Project, imitated through a Forest Service re-design grant. Nancy received her Bachelor's degree in Forestry from UVM in 1985, a Master's in Education from UVM in 1991, and a Masters' in Plant and Soil Science from Texas A&M-Kingsville in 1996. Nancy also served in the Peace Corps from 1992-1994 working in native forest management in Formosa, Argentina. Prior to state employment, and interspersed between the Peace Corps and school Nancy worked as a Consulting Forester for 15 years and owned a successful private consulting business.

Steve Hagenbuch, *Conservation Biologist Audubon Vermont*

Steve has worked with Audubon in a variety of roles since 1998. Currently he is a conservation biologist with Audubon Vermont's Forest Bird Initiative. In this position Steve works with private landowners, municipalities, foresters, and land managers to promote management activities that will enhance the habitat value of forestland for priority bird species. In 2009 Steve obtained his master's degree in conservation biology from Antioch University New England. His graduate research investigated the implications of maple sugarbush management for Neotropical migrant songbirds. When not in the woods on business Steve can still be found there - hiking, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, exploring with his son Grady and daughter Willa, or whatever else seems like fun. Steve, his wife Dana, Grady and Willa live on an 1850's farm in Waterbury Center VT.

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REGISTRATION

Name	_____
	<i>last</i> <i>first</i>
Affiliation	_____
	<i>for name tag</i>
Address	_____

E-mail	_____
Phone	_____
Fax	_____

Join us for the morning Vermont Policy Update and lunch, or just come for the afternoon session. Pre-registration is recommended.

Registration Fees:

Full Day. Includes morning policy update, lunch, & afternoon sessions.

- \$ 25 Member GMDSAF
- \$ 35 Non-Member
- \$ 10 Students
- FREE Retired GMDSAF members

Afternoon Only. Join us at 1:00 pm for the afternoon sessions.

- FREE Member GMDSAF
- \$ 15 Non-Member
- FREE Students
- FREE Retired GMDSAF members

Please make checks payable to GMDSAF

Send this registration form with payment by JANUARY 21st 2012 to:

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