



NORTHERN FOREST Connections

Northern Forest Leadership Exchange

Building Partnerships, Sustaining Communities

Judging by the collaborative spirit displayed during the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange, people across the Northern Forest are ready to work together toward a shared vision for the region.

In November 2002, the Center convened more than 100 leaders from across the region to begin building cross-boundary partnerships and leveraging resources around an emerging vision for the Northern Forest as a place that supports healthy forest ecosystems, vibrant cultures, caring, effective communities, and diversified, sustainable economies.

Exchange participants included economic development professionals, large and small landowners, foresters, mill-workers, educators, business owners, environmentalists, health and human service providers, cultural specialists, and others.

By working in teams and as



Work team reports results during the Leadership Exchange.

a whole, Exchange participants began to explore and develop the core elements of a new strategic framework that can guide the work of people and organizations across the Northern Forest as we respond to the economic, environmental, and social changes sweeping the region. This framework is built around eight interrelated core strategies ("Regional Strategy"

on page 3).

"We believe people and organizations can make great strides toward improving the Northern Forest region's overall well-being by continuing to develop and build agreement around a set of guiding values and principles [see page 3], and building cross-boundary partnerships to advance these strategies," said Mike Wilson, senior program director.

The Center organized and hosted the Exchange in partnership with Genesis Consulting and Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business, All-win Initiative for Corporate Citizenship, and Environmental Studies Program. Dartmouth College hosted the event Nov. 15-16, 2002.

"Promise of Place"

Conference heralds growing focus on place-based education

In late November, more than 180 practitioners and supporters of place-based education from across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York gathered for the "Promise of Place—Community-Based Education in the Northern Forest Region," a conference to network, learn, and share ideas and energy to help realize the promise of place-based education in the region. The Northern Forest Center hosted the conference with Shelburne Farms at the historic Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, New Hampshire.

This event brought together a new and diverse group of people, including classroom teachers, cultural historians, geographers, folklorists, state and federal agency staff, nonformal educators, and many others. Hands-on workshops included oral history, geology, GPS, ethno-botany, journaling, treasure hunts, service learning, and lots more.

"The turnout was double

See "Education" page 6

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Fundraising**Center revenues increase in 2002**

Despite the economic downturn and the instability brought by world events in 2002, the Center significantly increased its revenues and kept its finances in the black.

The highlights of the year's fundraising included a 84% increase in major gifts, spurred by a challenge created by several of the Center's most generous supporters, and a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Center thanks all of its donors and partners for helping make 2002 such a banner year. Our forthcoming annual report will summarize the Center's finances and include full acknowledgment of our donors.

We look forward to working with you in 2003 to advance and implement our shared vision for the Northern Forest region. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

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2**Welcome to Board member Pat Palmiotto**

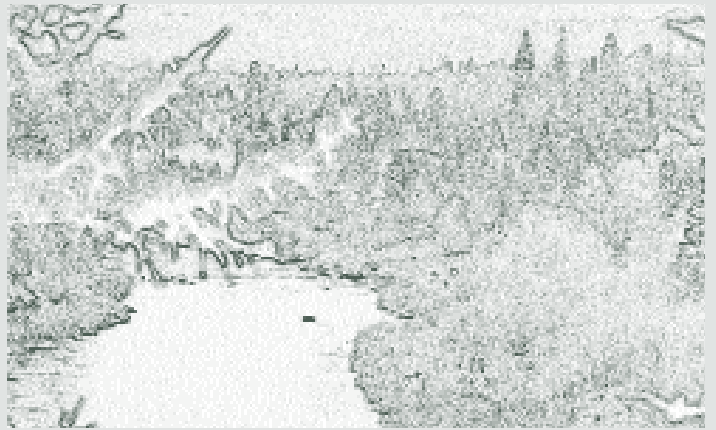
The Center is delighted to welcome Patricia Palmiotto as the most recent addition to the Board of Directors. Pat, director of the Allwin Initiative for Corporate Citizenship at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, played a key part in the Leadership Exchange. Now we look forward to her clear thinking and enthusiasm as a member of our board.

Staff News**Center staff grows**

We welcome Heather Cowenhoven to our staff. Heather joined the Center as an intern in fall 2002 to help organize the Leadership Exchange and the Promise of Place conference. In January, Heather accepted a full-time position as Partnerships Coordinator to follow up on the Exchange and to help maintain the partnerships

growing from our work.

And the Center is pleased to announce that Doreen Arruda has accepted a new position as the Center's director of development. Doreen has been a critical part of the Center's team for three years, and also brings many years of experience in the non-profit sector.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER**Momentum is with us**

From emerging woodworkers alliances to local interpretive centers, downtown revitalization, and land conservation, community leaders in the Northern Forest are coming together in new ways to capitalize on the region's rich natural and human resources.

The successes and ideas presented in this newsletter are signs of momentum. Momentum for the Northern Forest Center and our programs certainly, but more importantly momentum for the broad-based efforts to enhance social, economic, and environmental well-being in the Northern Forest.

When we began organizing the Promise of Place conference, we hoped to attract 100 participants. Nearly 200 signed up before we were forced to close registration. A new network of educators is emerging from that event and building momentum for educational programs that truly reflect the character, assets, and needs of the Northern Forest.

The week before, we worked with partners to bring 120 regional leaders together for the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange. From that event has emerged a new Strategic Framework of shared vision, values, and strategies for sustainable regional development. This emerging framework provides a foundation for a powerful movement to secure a sustainable and prosperous future for the Northern Forest.

The success of these efforts reflects the growing energy of local and state-based initiatives across the region. Even as we face historic changes in land ownership and economic patterns, and world events threaten to bring even greater change and uncertainty, we have an opportunity to combine our collective abilities to secure a bright future for the Northern Forest. Momentum is with us. Thanks for being a part of it.

—Steve Blackmer

Leadership Exchange yields strategic framework

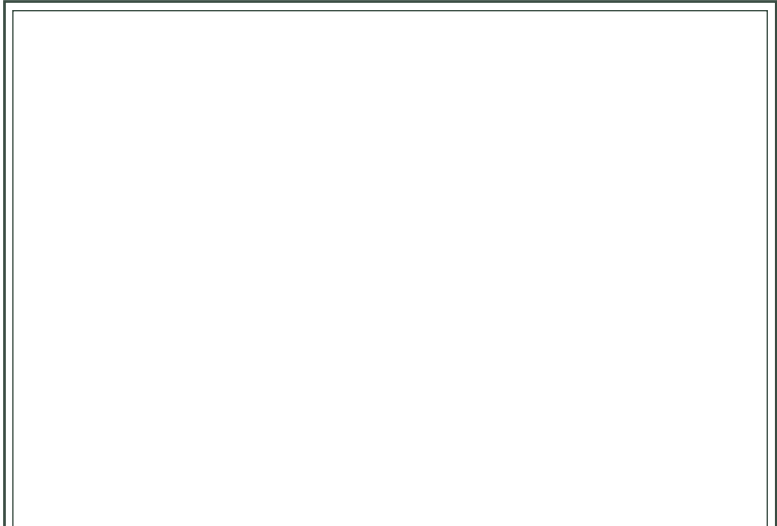
Participants in the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange developed the core elements of a new strategic framework for responding to the economic, environmental, and social changes sweeping the region. This framework is built around eight interrelated core strategies:

- Culture & Regional Identity;
- Place-Based Education & Lifelong Learning;
- Integrity of the Forest Ecosystem;
- Value-Added Forest Products;
- Tourism & Recreation Development & Marketing;
- Small Business Development;
- Telecommunication and Transportation Infrastructure;
- Health & Healthy Communities.

Each of these core strategies reaches across political, geographical, and sectoral boundaries and is an integral part of a comprehensive strategy for the Northern Forest.

To advance this work the Center is committed to supporting an emerging regional network of organizations, individuals, and businesses dedicated to advancing these strategies for enhancing the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the Northern Forest.

For more information about the Exchange and the strategic framework and partnerships evolving from it, contact Mike Wilson at the Center's office in Bethel, ME: 207-824-8263, mwilson@northernforest.org.



Many thanks to Genesis Consulting Group for coming from around the world to help the Center plan and carry out the Exchange. Front row, left to right: Kees Bultink, Netherlands; Michael Manolson, Canada; Marie Louise Zollinger, Switzerland. Back row, left to right: Teun Heijnen, Netherlands; Paul Dudley Hart, Oregon; Till Stoll, Switzerland; Alex Spinelli, Argentina, and founding partner Tom Gross New Hampshire. Genesis Consulting helps organizations mobilize people toward shared, sustainable visions.

How to Get Involved

- Request a copy of the Exchange summary
 - Join the Regional Partnership
- Endorse the draft Strategic Framework

All at our website: www.northernforest.org

Draft Guiding Values & Principles for Sustainable Development

The following draft guiding values and principles grew directly from the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange. We offer them here as a foundation for sustainable development in the Northern Forest. We look forward to your comments and an ongoing process of refining and building consensus around this draft.

Our work in the Northern Forest should be guided by the time-honored human values of honesty, integrity, compassion, respect, courage, discipline, hard work, tolerance, inclusiveness, fairness, and humility. In our work toward a more prosperous and sustainable future in the region, we should:

- Accept moral responsibility for our place in the world, for living sustainably, and for our connections to people and cultures world-wide.
- Respect and work for the

healthy development of every person and community.

- Respect and work for the health and well-being of the earth's natural systems.

Our work regionally in the Northern Forest should be based on maintaining and enhancing the health and well-being of our rural, forested landscape, which is the underpinning of the region's shared character, culture, and economy. We must embrace the knowledge that our actions are affected by what has gone before and that we are

responsible to future generations for the integrity of the planet and the community of life we bequeath to them.

We must respect the diversity that exists in communities across the Northern Forest, and acknowledge that this diversity is a key strength of our region.

In order to live responsibly, respectfully, and successfully in a global culture and economy, we must strive for a regional culture and economy that is strong and self-reliant, and that is able to support local communities through a sustainable balance of large- and small-scale forest product manufacturing, tourism and recreation, and other activities.

In working to promote healthy, vibrant, self-reliant communities in

the Northern Forest, we should:

- Maintain and enhance the health and well-being of our rural, forested landscape;
- Encourage civic responsibility and citizen participation in matters that affect them;
- Take action at the smallest scale appropriate;
- Support local identities—locally determined—and traditional lifestyles;
- Communicate openly and freely, with full flow of information;
- Build inclusive partnerships that cross sectors, institutions, boundaries, and perspectives;
- Seek economic opportunities that lie within the carrying capacities of local communities and local ecology, and are respectful of local culture.

NORTHERN FOREST CENTER

Mission

To build a public consensus to conserve and enhance the cultural, civic, economic, and ecological wealth of the Northern Forest.

Toward this mission we strive to:

- Build Regional Identity
- Increase Citizen Capacity
- Promote Stewardship



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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Guest Essay: Roger Milliken, Jr.

A region at a cross-roads

.... Nearly ten years after the Northern Forest Lands Council issued its final report, *Finding Common Ground: Conserving the Northern Forest*, the region again stands at a cross-roads. Global financial forces press on our landscapes, our people, our traditions. Life in the rural areas continues to be difficult, at times even desperate. And more land is changing hands each month. What future will we choose?

Despite our desire to catch up with our fellow citizens to the south, let us commit to resist the siren song of unplanned development and instead create a future that keeps these landscapes intact, as economic as well as recreational bases for our lives.

Let us commit to go beyond our narrowly defined self-interests and work together in the service to a larger vision. If The Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy can re-finance a century old paper mill, why can't a similar combination of interests come together to build the best for the 21st century: a modern, closed-loop paper mill that will provide a dependable outlet for the trees we need to thin if we are to continue to grow high quality saw timber in the region? I'd like to think that we can build on the shared desire for healthy human and natural communities and do just this.

Let us commit to abandon the victimology of the "places progress left behind." Let us instead turn from what we lack to what we still have, and remember what has been and is being lost to our south.

Let us commit, like the peo-

ple of Grand Lake Stream, to identify the landscapes that are integral to our way of life and sense of self. Like them, let us commit to take the steps to own them as communities—



a northern forest version of the old New England common. A place for our souls to roam, not just our sheep.

Let us commit to continue to buy the development rights from the land, and write easements that require permanent public access and truly sustainable forestry, protecting forever these lands as the lifeblood of the human communities scattered among them.

Let us commit to setting aside land where nature can

live untrammelled by economic pressures. Reserves that are refuges from the hurly burly as well as research libraries where we can learn better how to manage our working woodlands with the grain of nature.

Let us commit, in so doing, to preserve what is of value in our northern forest communities: the honesty, the humility, the sanity that comes from knowing interdependence with the natural world.

Let us commit to keep strong this connection to the natural world, as we pick and choose from the best of what the more developed world to our south has to offer. Let us commit to not surrender wholesale the quiet, the rich diversity, the expansive landscapes that now sustain us.

Let us commit to treasure these special qualities and use them to support a new economic fusion that increases opportunities for our fellow residents without sacrificing our way of life.

Let us commit to this. And let us collectively listen and think together, and like the Northern Forest Lands Council did 10 years ago, affirm a healthy vision for our lands and our selves, and define how we, working together, can achieve it.

Excerpted from Roger Milliken, Jr.'s keynote address at the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange in November 2002. Mr. Milliken is president of the Baskahegan Company. For the complete text of his remarks, contact the Center at nfc@northernforest.org.

Northern Forest Research

Grants available

The USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station and the George D. Aiken School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont are seeking proposals for research activities associated with the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC).

This annual competition supports two broad areas of Northern Forest research within the congressional mandate of the Northeastern States Research Cooperative. The first thematic area, coordinated through UVM, is finding sustainable solutions to the socioeconomic and ecological challenges of the watersheds, communities, and working landscapes of the Northern Forest. For a list of last years' awards, see www.uvm.edu/snr/nsrc.

The second research area, coordinated by the Hubbard Brook Research Station, focuses on the health and productivity of forests and associated aquatic ecosystems in the region. For a list of previously funded projects, visit www.ecostudies.org/nerc/.

Preproposals are due April 4, 2003, and may be submitted for projects up to 3 years in duration with budget requests ranging from small seed grants to a maximum total award of \$250,000. Notification of acceptance or rejection of preproposals will be made by April 21, 2003, with full proposals due May 23.

For more information, contact Dr. Chris Eagar, USDA Forest Service, at ceagar@fs.fed.us, or 603-868-7636.

Resources

Community involvement in environmental protection

Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place is a new publication available from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The guide explores the concepts of community and culture and provides tools for identifying, assessing, and working cooperatively with in the social dynamics and local values connected to environmental protection. These tools are designed to help people and organizations define their community, identify stakeholders, enhance education and outreach, build partnerships and consensus, identify resources, plan and set goals, and integrate local realities with ecological issues. The Guide is designed for people involved in community-based initiatives, including those affiliated with community and watershed-based organizations, universities, and federal, state, tribal, and local agencies.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/index.htm> to order the Guide, or go to <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf> to view additional information. For more information about the guide or Community Culture and the Environment trainings, send an email to CCEinfo@tetrattech-ffx.com or call 410/356-8993.



Education

Teacher forest tours set

The Maine TREE Foundation and Maine Project Learning Tree have announced the 2003 Forests of Maine Teachers Tours as part of the LEAF (Long-Term Education About Forests) Project.

Each of the three scheduled tours includes a three-day tour of the Maine forests; talks and walks with resource specialists in sustainable forestry, ecology, recreation, wildlife and wood products; a PLT pre-K through 12 environmental education workshop; and visits to an Outdoor Classroom and learning stations. These tours offer educational insights into forest related concerns and issues and are designed to correlate with Maine State Learning Results. Each participant will be certified as a Project Learning Tree Teacher and eligible for certification of contact hours plus a minimum of 2.8 CEUs.

The 2003 Tour areas and weeks are set for:

- Western Mountains—July 15-18;
- Sunrise County—July 29-August 1;
- Baxter and Beyond—August 5-8.

Call 207-621-9872 or email mtf@ghi.net for your registration/info packet. Space is limited so call soon. Visit www.maintreefoundation.org for photos and resource contacts of the 2002 Teachers Tours. All tour related expenses are provided by the Maine TREE Foundation.

Spread your news

The Northern Forest News section of our newsletter promotes the work of other organizations. If you have projects or news about the culture, heritage, economy and ecosystems of the Northern Forest, please send us a brief description at nfc@northernforest.org.

The Center will invite several articles for each issue.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Movement grows for place-based education

"Education" from page 1

what we had hoped for, and the wealth of ideas, enthusiasm and support was extraordinary," said Lidie Whittier Robbins, education director for the Center.

A major highlight of the conference was the "Open Space" session, in which participants were invited to create the discussion agenda for an entire morning. They suggested about 20 topics ranging from assessment to social justice, from "How do we make local-global connections in place-based ed?" to "How do we make place-based education a national mandate like

'No child left behind?'" The conversations were fascinating and lively as participants searched for answers to issues that concerned them.

Many said the gathering restored their hope for the future (see comments in box at right).

Promise of Place attendees left with new activities, resources and networks to build the presence of place in their work, and a powerful sense that there is much more to come.



More than 180 people participated in the "Promise of Place" education conference.

New list-serve available about place-based education

If you are interested in place-based education, you can join a new listserve to share ideas with others across the region. Go to www.topica.com/lists/promiseofplace for more information and to join. Please contact Lidie Whittier Robbins at lrobbins@northern-forest.org or (802) 291-9800 for more information

"A movement is emerging for an alternative to standardized education," said Robbins. "Sharing our energy and ideas across the region will strengthen our voice as we strive to provide meaningful and effective education that is rooted within local communities."

"The Promise of Place" conference was made possible by the generous support of the Conservation Study Institute of the National Park Service, Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park, the North American Association of Environmental Education, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Vermont Rural Partnership. Additional supporters include Antioch New England Institute and the National Wildlife Federation's Northeast Natural Resource Center, and many others.

The next Promise of Place conference is being planned for the spring of 2004.

"It created passion and invigoration about place-based education."

—Sandra Fary, *Camel's Hump Middle School*

"It was a great way to link people who are driving to change our world both globally and locally by focusing on our existing resources."

—Kara Lenorovitz, *Center for Lake Champlain*

"[The most useful part was] feeling the collective energy of this community and getting an overwhelming sense that this works and will only get stronger and more prevalent."

—Joshua Potter, *college student*

"I feel inspired, refreshed, and ready to go out and do my work with more passion and direction than I had 2 days ago."

—Jen Baer, *National Wildlife Federation*

"Great opportunity to shine and offer hope for our schools and communities through connections and collaboration."

—Pat Maloney, *Maine Project Learning Tree*

"I know now that there is a strong network of people doing amazing things and the movement is on!"

—Bridie McGreavy, *Lakes Environmental Association*

Where do you stand?

The Northern Forest Center is grateful to all our donors.

If you are not yet a supporter, we hope you will be inspired to make a donation soon.

To make the best use of our resources, we soon will be sending **Connections** to our members and supporters only.

Please stay involved by making a contribution now!

Thank You

Local projects yield great success

Even as we respond to the challenges facing the Northern Forest, it's important to step back from time to time and recognize the many successes and accomplishments across the region. There is much to be proud of, ranging from forest protection to community-building.

In the past few years, ground-breaking conservation projects have helped to protect the integrity of the region's forest landscape. In the face of sweeping changes in land ownership and economic conditions, people and organizations across the Northern Forest have applied a creative mix of conservation easements and full-fee acquisition to protect hundreds of thousands of acres of working forests and ecological reserves.

Just a few examples of these successful initiatives include: the 300,000 acre "Champion Lands" deal brokered by the Conser-

vation Fund in Vermont and New York; the 171,000 acre International Paper deal led by the Trust for Public Land in northern New Hampshire; the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy's purchase of 185,000 acres along the headwaters of the St. John River in Maine; and the New England Forestry Foundation's purchase of a conservation easement on 750,000 acres of Pingree Family land in Maine— the largest conservation easement in the world.

While these projects have garnered headlines, countless quieter successes have taken hold. Following are just a few of these innovative local projects aimed at economic development and community-building. If you have a success story to share, please contact Heather Cowenhoven at hcowenhoven@northernforest.org.

Community supports girls' softball team

The 14-and-under girls softball team in Colebrook, NH had a great year in 2001, winning first the state tournament and then the regional tournament for their league. By winning the regional tournament they became eligible to attend the National Softball Invitational in Pennsylvania, but they had only a few weeks to raise almost \$12,000 dollars to pay the entry fee and all the other expenses for the team to make the trip.

A group of volunteers began contacting businesses and individuals in Colebrook and the surrounding communities, and in just a few short weeks they raised more than \$20,000 dollars to support the team.

The community rallied around the girls by setting up phone relays to update the town of their progress in the tournament, as well as by organizing send off and welcome home celebrations.



"Main Street" program thrives in Littleton

The New Hampshire Main Street Center's work with local communities to revitalize downtown commercial districts has been particularly successful in the town of Littleton, NH. Since Littleton's Main Street revitalization began in 1997, \$15,939,316 has been invested in downtown. Fifty-two new businesses have located in Littleton's downtown, helping to create a total of 92 new jobs. This concentration on downtown has helped to limit sprawl and retain the community's historic character. Perhaps one of the most important achievements of the revitalization is peoples' renewed commitment and

engagement in their downtown community. Main Street programs like this are active across the Northern Forest.

Woodworkers form Maine WoodNet

In order to increase the efficiency of their wood use, a group of small woodworkers came together in Maine a few years ago to create a flexible manufacturing network called Maine WoodNet. In November of 2001, fifteen Maine WoodNet members incorporated and opened a retail gallery in Farmington, ME called SugarWood. The gallery attracts new woodworkers to the network, educates consumers about the importance of supporting the local forest products industry, and demonstrates the feasibility of selling local products to other area businesses. Despite the challenging economy, SugarWood has been so successful that it is planning to nearly double its size to accommodate the stock needed to meet the demand for its products.

Furniture makers form Company

When Ethan Allen closed its furniture plant in Island Pond Vermont in August of 2001, a group of woodworkers banded together to create their own company, Island Pond Woodworkers, Inc. The company currently employs 12 people and is organized as an employee-owned cooperative. The woodworkers are now housed in a 15,000-square-foot facility in Island Pond Vermont. The company recently received a contract with Middlebury College for more than \$500,000 to create custom designed furniture for the college's library.



Guidebook accepting applications



The Northern Forest Center, Businesses for the Northern Forest and a dozen other organizations across the region invite people, businesses, and organizations to be a part of *HandMade in the Northern Forest*—a guidebook to studios, workshops, galleries, museums, stores, and other attractions featuring handmade products from the Northern Forest.

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The Northern Forest region is home to scores of small-scale entrepreneurs and traditional artists who make at least part of their living working from their homes

and workshops and selling handmade products in general stores, galleries, museums, and other venues. The region's rural character, however, often makes it difficult for crafts people and traditional artists to reach markets, and many visitors never learn about the region's rich handmade traditions.

The full-color *HandMade in the Northern Forest* guide will provide detailed listings and area maps to help visitors discover the region's creativity, beauty, and traditions, while also helping create new markets for people and businesses involved with handmade products.

A similar publication by HandMade in America, *Craft Heritage Trails of Western North Carolina*, is in its third edition and has sold 14,000 copies—resulting in a 23% increase in annual revenue for participating artist studios, and a 28% increase for participating shops and galleries over the past five years.

The *HandMade in the Northern Forest* guidebook is

scheduled for publication in 2004, and applications for inclusion are being accepted online at www.handmade-northernforest.com.

For more information, or to receive a printed copy of the HandMade application form, contact Sarah Carrier of Businesses for the Northern Forest at 617-523-0638 ext. 383, or via e-mail at scarrier@bnfinfo.org.



Maime Woodner

The Sugarwood Galley features locally made, hand-crafted products from the Northern Forest. See page 7 to learn more about the gallery and other recent successes in the region.

Apply on-line at

www.handmadenorthernforest.com



NORTHERN FOREST Connections

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