

# NORTHERN FOREST Connections

## *Northern Forest Leadership Exchange*

# Conference brings together researchers and community leaders

More than 180 community leaders, research scientists, business people, activists and public officials gathered in November for the second annual "Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange" and the first meeting of the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC).

Hosted jointly by the Center and the NSRC under the title "Partnerships for the Northern Forest," the conference served as a research symposium, a regional strategy session and a working conference on a host of issues.

"Partnerships for the Northern Forest" marked the first time that academic researchers and community leaders came together to explore strategies around economic, environmental, community and cultural issues in the Northern Forest.

The conference also marked the first time in 10 years that leaders from all four North-

ern Forest states sat down to advance a comprehensive regional development effort. Participants in the two-day work session focused on strategies for securing the funding needed to advance sustainable development in the Northern Forest.

"There is a clear recognition here that economic, social and community well-being is on a par with conservation," said one participant. "If we address the former, then support for the latter will come."

Other participants noted that "a real window of opportunity exists now to create some beneficial changes if we work together across the four states and across sectors," and that the proceedings "demonstrated a political pragmatism that has not existed in the past—a very positive indicator."

The Center is now working with a regional task force to

*"Exchange," page 6*



Kelly M. Short

*Participants in the Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange put their heads together about community development, research, regional funding and a host of other topics.*

## Center asked to coordinate regional funding effort

After nearly two days of discussing regional strategies for cooperation and funding for the Northern Forest, participants at the second annual Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange charged the Northern Forest Center with convening a regional working group to explore and build strategies for increasing federal investment in the region's community, economic, cultural and environmental well-being.

The Exchange revealed support—from a wide range of perspectives—for a coordinat-

ed approach to federal funding for the region. Participants also agreed that a regional strategy must directly address the complex economic and community challenges facing the region as well as ongoing conservation priorities. It also highlighted the complexities inherent in bringing together many diverse interests and initiatives to advance a coherent regional strategy.

The Center's work over the past several years to convene

*"Policy," page 6*

### *Inside This Issue*

- **Community Grants Program Announced**

Spring deadline planned for new grants program targeting Northern Forest, see page 3.

- **Partnership Awards Presented**

Leaders from each state honored for their contributions to the Northern Forest, page 8.

## Thank You donors! Major gifts increase 67% in 2003

In 2003, two major donor challenges helped the Center greatly increase support from individuals. We are thrilled to report that our donors met these challenges. Major donations—those of \$1,000 or more—increased by 67%, and many other contributors doubled their annual giving in 2003. With your support we exceeded our annual giving target. **THANK YOU!**

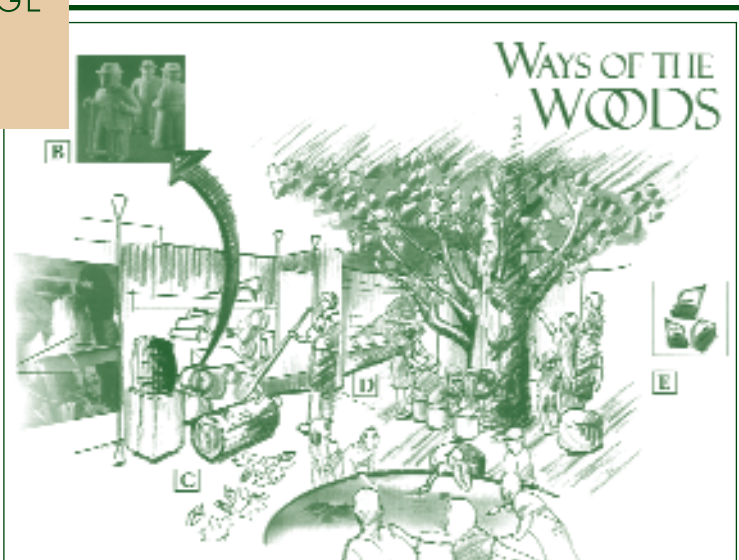
As part of our annual campaign, we offered a special drawing to renewing contributors. John Lanier of New Hampshire won a one-night stay for two at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH—one of the Historic Hotels of America. Special thanks to Eagle Mountain House for generously donating the one night get-away.

The Center sends a warm thank you to all of the individuals, foundations and corporations that supported our programs in 2003. Your generous support in 2004 will be critical to our continued success.

For information about contributing to the Center, please visit [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org) or contact Development Director

Doreen Arruda at 603-229-0679, ext. 3, or [darruda@northernforest.org](mailto:darruda@northernforest.org).

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The Center has completed the first design phase of "Ways of the Woods," its traveling exhibit about the history and culture of the Northern Forest. Designed for mobility inside an expandable 18-wheeler, the exhibit will tour the region to document and share the stories of the people who call the Northern Forest home. The traveling exhibit will be the centerpiece of a larger program that will include demonstrations and performances of traditional arts, community-based programming, and school programs. To learn more or about opportunities to help fund completion of the exhibition, please contact Doreen Arruda, director of development, at 603-229-0679 or by email at [darruda@northernforest.org](mailto:darruda@northernforest.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



### Community and conservation: Joined at the hip forever more

Anniversaries create great opportunities to take stock. This year brings us to the 10th anniversary of the Northern Forest Lands Council's final report, *Finding Common Ground*, with its 37 recommendations for addressing changes sweeping across the region's forest landscape. We've also reached another important milestone as well, having just passed the 15th anniversary of the infamous Diamond Land Sale.

Looking back is valuable for what it can tell you about the future: What have we accomplished, and what still lies ahead? Where have we made the most progress and which areas need the most work in the years ahead?

Last June, the Northern Forest Center teamed up with funders and partners to take a look at these questions. With colleagues from across the Northern Forest, we looked at our progress in land protection, economic development, community health, heritage, education and culture. Jenny Russell, executive director of the Merck Family Fund, summed it up well: "The three take-home messages are:

- We have made incredible progress in land protection;
- The effort to protect the landscape and communities of the Northern Forest is not over; and
- This unparalleled movement has shown us that conservation and community well-being must be joined at the hip forever more."

That last point is the one I want to stress. Yes, we have made tremendous progress in land conservation—this may be the largest private land conservation effort in history—but we have also changed the way the Northern Forest approaches the challenges it faces. We are making it the norm to improve the health of our landscape and the well-being of our communities simultaneously. Creating a vibrant society with thriving communities and healthy land depends on joining ecological, social and economic values. This has been the goal since the early days of the Governors' Task Force and the Northern Forest Lands Council. We're still working at it.

We'll all do a lot of progress checking in this 10th anniversary year, but the Center will also be focused on the future. What we all have started is remarkable—trying to integrate land conservation with sustainable forestry and the strengthening of our communities, culture and economy—and we're showing that it's a winning formula for the Northern Forest. I hope you'll be with us to see what we can do in the next 15 years.

—Steve Blackmer

# Research shows great market for HandMade in the Northern Forest

The Center has completed eight months of research that shows tremendous market opportunities for artisans and craftspeople in the Northern Forest.

For the past year and a half, the Center has worked with Businesses for the Northern Forest and other regional partners to build a social venture program—called HandMade in the Northern Forest—to advance long-term, responsible economic development for the handmade crafts and heritage tourism sectors in the Northern Forest. With our partners, we are producing a cultural heritage guidebook featuring handmade products, producers and related enterprises across the region.

As part of this effort, and with support from the Great Bay Foundation and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, we conducted detailed research during the summer and fall of 2003 into the market potential for the “HandMade” sector of the Northern Forest economy.

An estimated 4,000 to 6,000 craft producers live and work in the Northern Forest, while roughly 100 million people live within one day’s drive of

the region—north and south. Our research profile, based on data from the Travel Industry Association, US Census, Vermont and New Hampshire Departments of Tourism, indicates:

- The region’s tourist economy can be reasonably estimated at \$4.4 billion;
- Purchasing locally made products and shopping are leading tourist activities;
- Northern Forest tourist craft market potential is between \$200 and \$350 million annually; and
- The overall Northern Forest craft market potential, including residents and sales of products outside the region, approaches \$500 million.

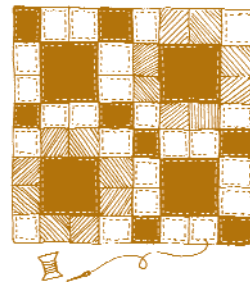
Our research shows that HandMade’s most attractive tourist market segment is the cultural heritage visitor who travels to experience the authentic people and stories of their destinations. These visitors tend to stay longer, spend more money, and 90% of them buy locally made products. An estimated 8.5 million cultural heritage tourist visits occur in the Northern Forest annually.

Most Northern Forest craft producers and artisans work in relative isolation and have limited business training, making it difficult for them to access the potential of this market. While there are some resources to support the craft sectors in the southern, more populated areas of each state, none exist specifically to unify

and promote the artisans and craft producers in the rural areas of the Northern Forest.

The HandMade program would coordinate marketing and provide business support services for small entrepreneurs who produce and sell handmade fine and folk arts in the region. It is envisioned as a self-sufficient social, non-profit venture, with the goal of creating long-term, sustainable and responsible growth that contributes to the Northern Forest’s community, cultural, economic and environmental well-being.

As a launching point for this venture, HandMade is developing a comprehensive guidebook that it will distribute and market to encourage visitors and residents to purchase



locally made crafts and learn about local craft traditions. By working closely with our regional partners, we hope to publish this guide to HandMade in the Northern Forest in 2005.

For more information, contact Mike Wilson (mwilson@northernforest.org) or Jill Harris (jill\_harris@alumni-gsb.stanford.edu).

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## Center creates searchable catalog of federal funding sources for Northern Forest

The Northern Forest Center has created a searchable online catalog of federal funding programs that should make it easier for organizations, businesses and government agencies to identify potential funding for their initiatives in the Northern Forest.

The Center created this site as part of our ongoing work to provide information and to support regional collaboration toward building a prosperous and sustainable future for the region. The goal of the catalog is to help non-profit organizations, businesses and state and local governments working in this region identify potential sources of financial support for their work. The catalog serves as a streamlined starting point for anyone looking for resources and support for community, cultural, economic, educational or environmental projects in the Northern Forest. Visit <http://www.northernforest.org> to search the catalog.



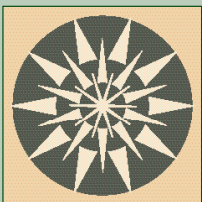
# NORTHERN FOREST CENTER

## 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: *Paul O. Bofinger*

# Re-finding Common Ground

Ten years ago in September, the Northern Forest Lands Council released its final report, Finding Common Ground. As a member of the Council and of the Governors' Task Force that preceded it, I was and still am proud of the work we did to draw attention to the forest and forest-based economy and communities of northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. With the help of thousands of people around the region who care deeply about these forests, the Council came up with 37 good recommendations to secure the future of this great land.

Some of the recommendations, especially those having to do with land conservation and sustainable forestry, have gotten attention. A lot of land—nearly 3 million acres—has been protected and forest practices have improved. There is much more to do, of course, but we have a great start.

Yet there is some serious unfinished business left over from the Council's work. After seven wonderful years of retirement—much of it spent fishing in the Northern Forest and on its waters—I find myself drawn back to help achieve the next critical step in

meeting the Council's vision.

I see two great needs remaining to be addressed. First, we seem finally to have recognized that the economic

**"... the economic and community needs of our region are as important as the land protection and forestry needs."**

and community needs of this region are as important as the land protection and forestry needs. It's time now to move beyond the lip service of the past and bring as much financial and policy support to these issues as we have mustered for conservation and forestry.

Second, the Council left a gaping hole when we shied away from proposing a successor regional entity to keep the effort going. The northern, forested parts of our four states, from Millinocket to Tupper Lake, still have more in common with each other than with more urban areas to the south. The Northern Forest Center fills some of this role, but the needs go beyond

what the Center, or any non-profit, can provide. It is time to create a public body—state-driven, non-regulatory, and federally funded—to keep the work going across the four states. This is hardly an auspicious time to propose any form of federal spending. But even a modest amount of new and redirected dollars can stimulate and enhance local initiative and programs.

At the Center's Northern Forest Leadership Exchange in November, I spent two days with leaders from all four states discussing the potential for a new policy initiative for the region, one that would bring regional focus and the federal support we need to advance healthy communities, healthy economies and healthy ecosystems in the Northern Forest. While there is work ahead to refine proposals and to develop a strategy, I believe the time has come for a coordinated policy push. This is the unfinished work, and it is what draws me back.

In the 15 years since the Diamond land sale, we have taken great strides. But we still have miles to go. I, for one, am along for the rest of the journey.

—Paul O. Bofinger

## Partner with the Center—Invest in the Northern Forest

The Northern Forest Center is committed to leading, inspiring and organizing people to work toward stewardship of both people and place of this magnificent region.

Our programs are growing and changing to keep up with the needs you have expressed, but we need your help on a very personal level.

Invest in the things you believe in and the place you care about. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Center, giving as generously as you can to support the landscape, people and communities of the Northern Forest.

Together, let's demonstrate that a healthy forest ecosystem and vibrant human communities can—and must—go hand-in-hand. To join us today, please visit our website—[www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org) or contact Director of Development Doreen Arruda at 603-229-0679 or [darruda@northernforest.org](mailto:darruda@northernforest.org).

Thank you for your support!

## June deadline

### **New grant program planned**

The Northern Forest Center, the North East State Foresters Association (NEFA) and the USDA Forest Service are teaming up to introduce a new small-grants program this spring. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to community-based or local projects that support diverse and sustainable economies built upon a well managed forested landscapes.

With support from Sen. Judd Gregg, the USDA Forest Service Economic Action Program has made \$80,000 avail-

able, which the Center and NEFA will distribute through a competitive grant application process. Full criteria and guidelines are still being developed, and will be available on the Center's website: [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org). The application deadline will likely be in June.

To receive more information, please send your name, organization, address, phone and email address to Heather Cowenhoven at [hcowenhoven@northernforest.org](mailto:hcowenhoven@northernforest.org).



## Maine

### **West Branch project conserves 329,000 acres**

At the end of December, the Forest Society of Maine and the state of Maine completed conservation of the largest contiguous tract of undeveloped forestland ever conserved in Maine. The West Branch project protects 329,000 acres at a cost of \$31.8 million. The Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Land, now owns 47,000 acres, which it will manage to enhance the area's outstanding recreation and ecological values. The Forest Society of Maine acquired a comprehensive conservation easement on the remaining 282,000 acres.

The West Branch region is widely recognized as one of the most important areas within Maine's North Woods and the greater Northern Forest region. Its importance is due to the significant forest products, ecological, recreational and cultural values found there. The acquisition of this land and conservation easement ensures that a huge expanse of Maine's Northern Forest will never be developed, will always be harvested in an environmentally sustainable manner and will continue to be accessible to the public for traditional recreational uses.

## Adirondacks

### **Wholesale crafts show builds marketing opportunities**

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will hold its annual Rustic and Nature Buyer Days wholesale crafts show March 31 and April 1 in Saratoga Springs, New York. Rustic and Nature Buyer Days is the only wholesale craft show on the East Coast dedicated to handmade, rustic and nature theme crafts.

The show began in 1985 to give small-scale businesses access to a larger income stream. Last year 123 retail shops came to see 74 vendors from northern New York and beyond, and they spent an estimated \$200,000 on orders from the exhibitors.

For more information about Rustic and Nature Buyer Days, contact Crafts Program Coordinator Nadia Korths at 10 Park Place, Saranac Lake, NY 12983, (518) 891-1632 or [korths@northnet.org](mailto:korths@northnet.org) or visit <http://www.adkncrafts.com/buyerdayslist.html>.

## Vermont

### **Essex Timber Company earns FSC green certification**

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)—an independent, third-party certifier of "green" timberlands, has granted certification to Essex Timber Company, LLC. The FSC has certified 86,104 acres owned by Essex Timber—the largest private forest holding in Vermont. The timber harvested as well as the opportunities for public recreation on these forestlands have played a significant role in supporting the local and regional economy. The Essex Timber Company forestlands also

include ecologically significant areas such as old growth forests, undisturbed wetlands, deer wintering areas and relatively remote ponds. The certification of these forestlands will considerably increase the amount of FSC certified forests in Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom, and increase the volume of locally certified logs available to mills and manufacturers interested in selling certified products.

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## 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](mailto:nfc@northernforest.org).

The Center will invite several articles for each issue.

Hope to hear from you soon!

*Regional funding initiative*

# Center convenes working group

*“Policy” from page 1*

discussion around regional issues has helped lay the groundwork for increased cooperation. Other factors also point to the coming year as a critical opportunity to advance a regional initiative.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the first Governor’s Task Force on Northern Forest Lands that was convened in response to the 1988 sale of lands across the four states by Diamond International. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the 1994 report of the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC), which presented a wide range of recommendations for addressing changes in the region’s traditional land ownership patterns.

As expressed during the Exchange,

there is renewed interest today among conservationists and community and economic leaders to engage state and federal officials in advancing a broad-based sustainable development effort in the Northern Forest.

In response to this challenge, the Center in January brought together a working group of 25 diverse regional leaders—including economic development, conservation, community, forest industry, cultural and state agency interests—to map out a preliminary process of research and dialogue to build the foundation for a regional funding initiative.

While it is not yet possible to predict the outcomes of this initiative, a number of basic principles emerged from the Exchange that will help guide the

process. These include:

- Integrate community and economic development issues;
- Ensure local determination and flexibility;
- Provide for regional coordination, cooperation and learning;
- Support existing structures and organizations; and
- Capture a bottoms-up approach.

With these characteristics in mind, in the coming months the Center will work with other organizations across the region to build both the content of a regional initiative and potential strategies and mechanisms for delivering new and increased funding to support sustainable regional development in the Northern Forest.

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## “Political pragmatism” bodes well for region

*“Exchange” from page 1*

build upon this process and explore specific strategies for increasing federal

investment in the Northern Forest. (See related story page 1; for more information, contact Andrea Colnes at [alc@sover.net](mailto:alc@sover.net) or 802-223-8474.)

Partnerships for the North-

ern Forest also featured presentations by more than 20 academic and scientific researchers, as well as theme-based discussion groups on topics including:

- Building Successful Community Collaborations
- Regional Branding & Green Certification of Forest Products
- Wilderness, Ecological Reserves and Working Forest Easements

**“There is a clear recognition here that economic, social and community well-being is on a par with conservation,” said one participant. “If we address the former, then support for the latter will come.”**

- Heritage Areas & Sustainable Ecotourism
- Low Grade Wood Markets
- Emerging Strategies for Conservation Financing
- The Creative Economy
- Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure

The NSRC is a competitive research grant program funding the study of ecological, economic, social and cultural challenges facing Northern Forest lands and communities. It is jointly directed by the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station Hubbard Brook Project, with

federal support from Senators Patrick Leahy (VT) and Judd Gregg (NH).

“We were thrilled with the opportunity to work with the University of Vermont and the Northeastern States Research Cooperative to organize and host this regional conference,” said Mike Wilson, the Center’s senior program director. “The strong turn-out for the event points to the real value of building relationships between researchers and community leaders across the region. We’re looking forward to working with NSRC to build on this event in the future.”

### Thank you Exchange supporters

The Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange was made possible in part by generous financial sponsorship from: International Paper, Lyme Timber Company, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, New England Foundation for the Arts, North Country Health Consortium, *Northern Woodlands Magazine*, Adirondack North Country Association, Businesses for the Northern Forest, Northern Forest Heritage Park, James W. Sewall Company, E. D. Bessey & Son, New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands, Powell Real Estate and Stratton Lumber, Inc.

March 25 - 27, 2004

## Conference explores the power of place-based education

Close to 200 supporters of place-based education gathered to sharpen their skills and build their network at this year's "Promise of Place" education conference.

### Thank You Supporters

The conference is made possible by the generous support of all the presenters and by Antioch New England Graduate School and Institute, A Forest for Every Classroom, Green Mountain National Forest, Mountain Counties Heritage, Inc., *Northern Woodlands Magazine*, National Wildlife Federation, the Rural School and Community Trust and the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the Upper Valley Community Foundation.

With more than 30 hands-on, content-rich sessions and an extra day of in-depth workshops, the conference appealed to novice and experienced practitioners, as well as program administrators and community members.

The Northern Forest Center presented "Promise of Place: Place-based Education in the Northern Forest Region," in partnership with the Center for Place-based Learning and Innovation (a project of Shelburne Farms, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and the National Park Service Conservation Study Institute) at the Bethel Inn in Bethel, Maine, March 25 - 27.

Place-based education is on the leading edge of educational practice today, providing an effective alternative to stan-

dardized education that is much more than learning about a place. Also called "community-based education" and "place-based learning," it is an approach to teaching and learning that immerses students in real-world experiences rooted in the culture, history, environment and economy of their own communities. When learning is grounded in this way, it leads to greater student achievement and life-long learning, and to citizens who are more engaged in promoting community vitality and environmental quality.

This year's conference helped attendees deepen their understanding of place-based education, network with fellow practitioners and build specific skills. The conference

built on the inaugural conference, held in November 2002 in Jackson, New Hampshire.

The goals of this year's conference were to:

- Link place-based educators and community members into a place-based education network for on-going collaboration and support;
- Strengthen the shared vision for the promotion of place-based education through the presentation of current work and philosophies;
- Build knowledge and skills through concrete ideas and experiences; and
- Develop ideas for collectively realizing the promise of place-based education in the Northern Forest region and beyond.

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## Northern Forest Community Partnership Awards

### Winners earn recognition and cash awards

*"Awards" from back cover*

staff in identifying appropriate riding opportunities in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Their initiative has grown to involve efforts in 24 towns across 10 of the Park's 12 counties and has emerged as a well organized planning and development initiative with growing economic development impact for involved communities.

#### David Houghton, New Hampshire

David Houghton, formerly of Montpelier, Vermont, was recognized for the major contribution he made to land conservation in New Hampshire, where he has helped

communities protect more than 200,000 acres during his tenure as regional director for The Trust for Public Land. Houghton brought vision and perseverance to his work, collaborating with landowners, residents, community leaders, state and federal agency staff, conservation groups and elected officials to define and structure projects that protect working forests, water quality, wildlife habitat, public access for recreation and the character of Northern Forest communities. His ability to build strong partnerships shines through his final project—conservation of 171,300 acres around the Connecticut Lakes.

#### Christine Krauss, Maine

Through two ventures—a business network and a retail gallery—Christine Krauss of Wilton, Maine, has led in creating new economic opportunities for craftsmen, artisans, loggers and small business owners who work with wood in Maine. As manager of Maine WoodNet, she helps bring together wood-based entrepreneurs to collaborate on ambitious projects, such as the custom wood conference table crafted for the governor's Cabinet Room. She helped found the Sugarwood Gallery in Farmington, Maine, as an artisans' cooperative that has greatly increased the marketing ability of more than 40 artists. Both cooperative



Lee & Judi Borland of New York accept their award.

ventures have built relationships and helped to demonstrate the importance of high-value wood products to the region's economy.

# Center presents Community Partnership Awards

Whether supporting small businesses, conserving a working forest, increasing public access for recreation or publishing honest information about the region, the winners of the first Northern Forest Community Partnership Awards are all working across boundaries to improve the well-being of the Northern Forest region.

Through their work in the Adirondacks, northern Vermont, New Hampshire and western Maine, the recipients of the Northern Forest Community Partnership Awards “have shown the spirit of collaboration that can be a model for others working to improve the lives of people and the health of the natural world in the Northern Forest,” said Stephen D. Blackmer, president of the Northern Forest Center, in announcing the awards.

Blackmer presented the awards to Lee and Judi Borland of Lake Placid, New York; Steve Long and Virginia Barlow of Corinth, Vermont; David Houghton formerly of Montpelier, Vermont; and Christine Krauss of East Wilton, Maine, at the second Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange in

November 2003.

The Partnership Awards, new last year, were presented by the Center to recognize and support individuals working in each state who exemplify the spirit of cross-boundary collaboration in advancing the well-being of the Northern Forest.

The idea for the awards sprang from recognition Blackmer received when he won the 2003 Conservation Partnership Award from International Paper and the Conservation Fund. “I was honored by the award, and felt the Center should inaugurate a similar award to recognize other people building strong, effective partnerships across the region,” Blackmer said.

**The Winners:  
Steve Long and Ginny Barlow, Vermont**

Steve Long and Ginny Barlow, both of Corinth, Vermont, are the founding pub-

The awards, which each carry a \$1,000 cash prize, were supported by First Colebrook Bank, Laconia Savings Bank, Connecticut River Bank, Woodsville Guaranty Savings and Community Guarantee Savings Bank—all of New Hampshire—and Community National Bank in Vermont.



Kelly M. Short

Steve Long and Ginny Barlow, founding publishers of *Northern Woodlands* magazine, accept their award from Center President Steve Blackmer.

lishers of *Northern Woodlands Magazine*. Through the magazine they have created a forum for people who care about the Northern Forest—one that serves a wide range of personal and political perspectives while maintaining a commitment to conservation based on sustainable economic and environmental principles. Their work has furthered constructive discussion on challenging issues related to forest management, the interdependence of the region’s economy and its forest resource, education and more. “They have created a respected and successful magazine that has genuine credibility among industry, government, and environmental leaders

and broad appeal to people interested in the Northern Forest region,” said Blackmer.

**Lee & Judi Borland, New York**

Lee and Judi Borland of Lake Placid, New York, helped form the Adirondack Park Mountain Biking Initiative to increase public enjoyment of the park while boosting economic development in surrounding towns. They brought together a diverse network of people to partner in the creation of mountain biking opportunities, with a focus on creating local groups able to sponsor trail system development on private land and assist the state agency

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**NORTHERN FOREST Connections**

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