

# NORTHERN FOREST Connections

## EDA awards \$800,000 to fund regional economic strategy for Northern Forest

The Northern Forest Center and the North Country Council have received major funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to create an economic strategy for the Northern Forest region of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

“There is a growing consensus that the Northern Forest needs a region-wide economic strategy that builds on our conservation legacy,” explained Stephen Blackmer, president of the Northern Forest Center. “We need to build the Northern Forest’s economic future around our

most valuable assets—our forest landscape, our cultural heritage and our communities. This initiative will complement the tremendous success the region has had in land conservation and forest stewardship as a result of the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC) process.”

EDA has awarded \$800,000, which the Northern Forest Center and North Country Council are matching with private and in-kind contributions to fund the multi-state, \$1.6-million Northern Forest Regional Economic Assessment. Contributors include First Colebrook Bank, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Surdna Foundation.

Recent recommendations from the NFLC 10th Anniversary Forum called for investment in developing a regional economic strategy to reinvigorate the Northern Forest’s rural communities. “We’re excited to be able to act on the number-one recommendation from the NFLC’s 10th Anniversary Forum,” said Jeff Hayes, assistant executive director of the North Country Council.

“We need to understand our competitive niche in today’s global economy, and to identify sustainable growth  
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**“The North Country Council and the Northern Forest Center have a successful track record of convening broad and diverse partnerships to address the economic and community needs of the Northern Forest Region. The significant financing they have secured for the initiative reflects this effectiveness and I hope this plan becomes the catalyst for major economic development throughout the region.”**

—US Senator  
Judd Gregg

### *Northern Forest Partnership Grants*

## Program invests \$205,000 in locally driven projects

The Northern Forest Partnership small grants program has awarded \$205,000 in funding to innovative, community-generated projects that strengthen local forest-based economies, communities and the environment in the Northern Forest. The selected projects relate to the region’s history and culture, the forest-products industry, the emerging “creative economy,” and outreach and education about

the forestry.

Thirty-six organizations and agencies received grants in the program’s first two rounds of funding. The program was made possible by grants from the USDA Forest Service’s Economic Action Program and the support of U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire. The competitive grant program is a collaboration of the Northern Forest Center,

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## Merck awards Center special grant

We are pleased and honored to announce that the John Merck Fund chose the Center to receive a one-of-a-kind, unsolicited grant of \$50,000 in recognition of the Merck Family Fund's 50th anniversary.

Frank Hatch, chairman of the John Merck Fund said, "Almost since inception, the Merck Family Fund has been in the forefront of efforts to protect New England's Northern Forest and to encourage enlightened public policy for its use. The Northern Forest Center, a core Family Fund grantee, has emerged as a leader in this important endeavor."

Honored by this special recognition, the Center's board created its first board reserve fund and established the George M. Merck Internship to bring a graduate student intern to the Center

each year. This summer Chris Colocousis and Sarah Savage from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute conducted research and data collection to support a revision of the Northern Forest Wealth Index, first published by the Center in 2000.

"George Merck was dedicated to the enlightened use of woodland and the adjacent farmland as a source of income and jobs for local economies and pleasure for all those who seek to leave civilization behind and enjoy pristine open space. He would be honored to have an internship in his name at the Center," said Hatch.

Few families in this country have done more for conservation and sustainable living than the Merck family, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing support of the Center.



## Center seeks tour partners for *Ways of the Woods*

The Center is working with pilot communities from across the region to shape and refine the *Ways of the Woods* Community Exhibits Program. The community exhibits will be a key part of *Ways of the Woods*, a unique, mobile education program designed to engage people in exploring Northern Forest heritage.

*Ways of the Woods* will offer an interactive exhibit, community-based programming, and traditional arts—connecting people, communities, culture and the land. Exhibits will be mounted in a semi-trailer capable of reaching Northern Forest communities and beyond. Education programs for young people and adults accompany the exhibit. *Ways of the Woods* also will feature live performances, including storytelling and traditional music, as well as demonstrations and workshops of Northern Forest craft and folkways.

The Community Exhibits Program invites communities to explore and share their local heritage by creating their own community exhibit to be incorporated into *Ways of the Woods*. The Center works

closely with teachers, students and local organizations to craft a package of educational resources that best supports that community's project. Local exhibits from these pilot communities will be displayed during the inaugural tour next summer.

In addition to working with pilot communities, the Center is beginning to schedule tour visits in many other communities. We are working with educators, heritage organizations, chambers of commerce, and festival organizers to make each *Ways of the Woods* visit a valuable and beneficial experience for communities. The National Endowment for the Humanities has provided generous funding for *Ways of the Woods*.

If you are interested in bringing *Ways of the Woods* to your community, school or event, in participating in the Community Exhibits Program, or if you simply want to learn more, please contact Lidie Whittier Robbins at 802-291-9800 (lrobbins@northernforest.org) or Amy Scott at 207-824-8263 (ascott@northernforest.org).

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**"Almost since inception, the Merck Family Fund has been in the forefront of efforts to protect New England's Northern Forest and to encourage enlightened public policy for its use. The Northern Forest Center, a core Family Fund grantee, has emerged as a leader in this important endeavor."**

Frank Hatch,  
Chairman of the John Merck Fund

# Governors endorse Northern Forest Lands Council 10th Anniversary Forum recommendations

In late June, the governors of the Northern Forest states endorsed recommendations to conserve the Northern Forest and reinvigorate the rural communities' economies in the four-state region.

Governors John Baldacci of Maine, John Lynch of New Hampshire, Jim Douglas of Vermont and George Pataki of New York put their collective weight behind four recommendations made by the Northern Forest Lands Council 10th Anniversary Forum (see box at right).

"The four Governors stand ready to work with the Region's Congressional delegation to advance, as the report indicates, 'bold new strategies...to link economic and community opportunities to foster stewardship, conservation and industrial uses,'" reads the letter.

The NFLC 10th Anniversary Forum consisted of 23 members appointed by the administrations in each of the four states and was organized by the North East State Foresters

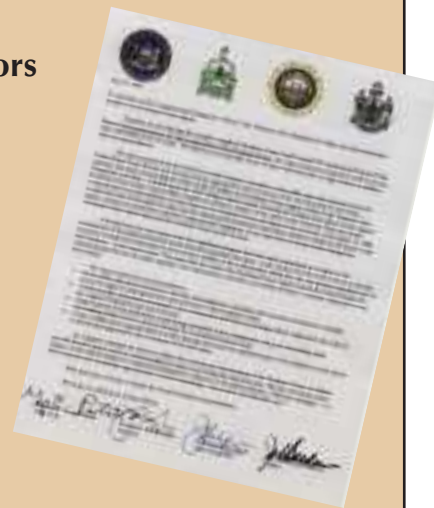
Association (NEFA). The group included representatives of diverse interests, from conservation, recreation, timber management and Northern Forest communities. The project was funded through the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry, the Baskhegan Company, Huber Resources Corp. and Land-Vest. The report and related material is online at [www.nefainfo.org](http://www.nefainfo.org).

The Forum report builds on *Finding Common Ground: Conserving the Northern Forest*, published by the Northern Forest Lands Council in 1994. It notes that significant progress has been made in the intervening decade, particularly in forest land conservation, and emphasizes the need to focus on broad economic strategies to improve the economic viability of the communities in the Northern Forest.

"...[T]he forest remains the central element that ties the region together. Our communities, economies, and culture all share a common connec-

**In an open letter to the region's Congressional delegation, the governors endorsed the following recommendations:**

- **Invest public and private resources to reinvigorate the rural forest economies of this region;**
- **Continue public and private land conservation efforts;**
- **Support private forest landowners in practicing sustainable forest management and good stewardship while encouraging public recreational access;**
- **Continue to collaborate with stakeholders and partners in the region to realize these recommendations.**



tion to our forest lands," reads the Forum report.

The final report of the 10th Anniversary Forum, as well as

the governors' endorsement, is available from NEFA's website ([www.nefainfo.org/nflc10\\_conference.htm](http://www.nefainfo.org/nflc10_conference.htm)).



*Share Your History!*

## **Center seeks photographs, film clips, and other materials for Ways of the Woods**

The Center seeks photographs, film clips and other materials from the Northern Forest for possible inclusion in Ways of the Woods. Items should relate to the exhibit's central theme, that the changing relationships between people and the land—past, present, and future—define the character and culture of the Northern Forest region.

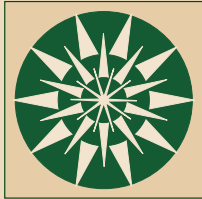
Please visit [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org) for more information, or contact Amy Scott at 207-824-8263, or by email a [ascott@northernforest.org](mailto:ascott@northernforest.org), to discuss your materials.

Ways of the Woods is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# NORTHERN FOREST CENTER

## Mission

To mobilize people to build healthy communities, economies and ecosystems by working together across the Northern Forest region.



## Board of Directors

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Amy Scott, Culture & Heritage Coord.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



# Putting it all together

A distinguishing feature of the Northern Forest is that we are a region blessed with both stunning ecological values and a deep commitment to personal enterprise and community. Unlike so many places where "jobs versus environment" is the daily debate, in the Northern Forest, we believe we can have both.

We aspire to be a place—unlike the tragic Gulf Coast—where conservation of precious ecosystems and prosperity for people and communities go hand-in-hand. Indeed, we believe they must. As we know from New Orleans, destruction of the environment leads to economic decline, and economic impoverishment leads to degradation of the environment. Either way, we lose.

But in the Northern Forest, we can win. Economic prosperity and conservation of our spectacular landscape can go together. We have made huge strides with land conservation and stewardship. Now it is time to complement that with a focus on conservation-friendly economic and community prosperity.

We are delighted with the recent final recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council 10th Anniversary Forum—a group convened by the North East State Foresters Association to review events and progress since the original Northern Forest Lands Council completed its work a decade ago.

The Forum called for exactly what the Center believes is needed: Investment of public and private funds for community and economic development, coupled with continued investment in conservation and forest stewardship of both private and public lands. In addition, the Forum called for collaborative regional efforts to follow through, led by the four governors. Notably, all four governors have endorsed these recommendations.

The Center's staff, board and partners worked very closely with the Forum and we heartily endorse its recommendations. Now, it is up to us all to implement them.

Hundreds or even thousands of people have contributed to shaping this vision and to the strategies for realizing it. From seemingly endless hours of discussion and countless meetings, a clear path of action is emerging. Thank you to everyone who has helped define the vision.

As you will read elsewhere, the Center is giving our all to following through. We need your help! Contact us to get involved—and thank you for your ongoing financial support.

Steve



Policy initiatives

# Northern Forest takes message to DC

In July, staff from the Center and other economic, community and conservation organizations traveled to Washington, D.C. to brief Northern Forest congressional staff on a variety of policy issues important to the region. Turn-out was very good, with congressional staff attending on behalf of Senators Snowe and Collins (Maine), Gregg and Sununu (New Hampshire), Leahy and Jeffords (Vermont), and Representatives Allen and Michaud (Maine), Bass (New Hampshire), Sanders (Vermont) and Boehlert (New York). Sen. Olympia Snowe hosted the event.

"This was our second trip to D.C. with a group representing such a wide array of interests, and it very well received by the delegation's staff," said Policy Director Andrea Colnes, "When we are able to talk to them simultaneously about the need for greater community and economic investment and conservation, that sends a very powerful message."

The briefing followed on the heels of the Center's third Northern Forest Community Exchange, held in May, at which about 100 participants from all four states and a wide range of interests worked to continue a regional effort to develop a package of policy recommendations to address the economic, community and conservation needs of the region as a whole.

In D.C., the Northern Forest group briefed the delegation staff on a range of issues, including:

- Recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council 10th Anniversary Forum (see related story, page 3);

- A package of funding requests totaling \$325 million in federal fiscal year 2006 for programs vital to the Northern Forest. The Center worked with numerous organizations to compile the funding request earlier this year, and it was endorsed by Governors Baldacci (Maine), Lynch (NH) and Pataki (NY), as well as 30 organizations, agencies and individuals. A PDF version of the FY06 appropriations request is available for downloading at [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org).

- Preliminary priorities for fiscal year 2007 federal funding;

- The Regional Economic Assessment initiative, spearheaded by the Center and the North Country Council of northern New Hampshire (see related story, page 1);

- Northeast Regional Development Commission bills; and

- Reauthorization of the '07 Farm Bill.

"We're working to shape an integrated package of proposals that serve the economic, community and conservation needs of the region," said Colnes. "The Exchange this spring was consistent in identifying needs across 10 themes that have emerged as consistent priorities over the past five years, and that was part of the message we delivered in Washington." Those themes include:

- Community & Economic Development
- Forest Enterprise

- Land Conservation
- Culture & Heritage
- Recreation & Tourism
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation
- Telecommunications
- Education & Research
- Regional Coordination

Another focus of the Center's policy work is to create new regional coordination and leadership capacity to mobilize people, ideas and resources for action. "Looking back, you could say that one

of the most powerful lessons of the original Northern Forest Land Council's process was the value of regional collaboration and capacity," said Colnes. "We must identify organizations and structures that have the potential to create new coordination and leadership capacity for the region."

Anyone interested in participating in these policy initiatives should contact Andrea Colnes at 802-224-9998, or [acolnes@northernforest.org](mailto:acolnes@northernforest.org).

## Northern Forest Center adds staff to support mission

The Center has been fortunate to add many new talented individuals to the staff. They include:

- **Shelly Angers**; PR & Marketing Coordinator; Concord office; [lbaines@northernforest.org](mailto:lbaines@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679 x109;
- **Linda Baines**; Executive Assistant and Office Manager; Concord office; [lbaines@northernforest.org](mailto:lbaines@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679 x100;
- **Jane Fink**; Program Coordinator; Concord office; [jfink@northernforest.org](mailto:jfink@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679 x103;
- **Rachel Kennedy**; Development Coordinator; Concord office; [rkennedy@northernforest.org](mailto:rkennedy@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679 x108;
- **Amy Scott**; Culture & Heritage Coordinator; Bethel, Maine office; [ascott@northernforest.org](mailto:ascott@northernforest.org); 207-824-8263;

In addition, **Joe Short** assumed the role of Network Stewardship Director in June. Joe can be reached in Concord at [jshort@northernforest.org](mailto:jshort@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679, ext. 104.

Other Center staff include:

- **Steve Blackmer**, President; Concord office, [sblackmer@northernforest.org](mailto:sblackmer@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679;
- **Doreen Arruda**, Development Director; Concord office, [darruda@northernforest.org](mailto:darruda@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679, ext. 102;
- **Andrea Colnes**, Policy Director; Montpelier office, [acolnes@northernforest.org](mailto:acolnes@northernforest.org); 802-224-9998;
- **Lidie Robbins**, Education Director; White River Junction, Vermont; [lrobbins@northernforest.org](mailto:lrobbins@northernforest.org), 802-291-9800;
- **Kelly Short**, Communications Director; Concord office, [kshort@northernforest.org](mailto:kshort@northernforest.org); 603-229-0679, ext. 105;
- **Mike Wilson**, Senior Program Director; Bethel, Maine office, 207-824-8263; [mwilson@northernforest.org](mailto:mwilson@northernforest.org).

Place-based education

# Promise of Place expects nearly 200

Building on the learning, networking and enthusiasm of the first two sold-out conferences, *Promise of Place: Place-based Education in the Northern Forest* will bring together educators, administrators, resource experts and policy makers in support of place-based education and to explore the future of this innovative learning model.

The conference is Nov. 17-19 at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH.

Place-based education is on the leading edge of educational practice today, providing an effective alternative to standardized 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 the real-world 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,” said Lidie Robbins, Northern Forest Center education director. Place-based education also engages citizens in promoting community vitality and environmental quality.

At the conference, participants from across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York can explore some of the following topics:

- The Lure of Nature: Why and How Artists Discover Places to Paint
- Healthy Neighborhoods/Healthy Kids
- Community Treasures: Places Worth Knowing, Sharing and Saving
- Start Where You Are: Networking Local Educators
- Global Warming in the Northern Forest
- Reading the Landscape
- Enhancing Place-based Learning with Technology

The conference kicks off Thursday night when author and regional personality

Willem Lange of Vermont Public Radio and Vermont and New Hampshire public TV presents stories from his book *Tales from the Edge of the Woods*.

Also that evening, Mary Jo Slattery and Andy Stewart, members of the New Hampshire State Arts Council, will perform traditional music of the Northern Forest. Slattery and Stewart play Cajun, New England and French Canadian styles, singing in both languages and playing guitar, triangle and fiddle.

The *Promise of Place Conference* is presented by the Northern Forest Center and the Center for Place-Based Learning and Community Engagement, a joint venture of the National Park Service Conservation Study Institute, the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park and Shelburne Farms National Historical Landmark.

More information about the 2005 Promise of Place Con-



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ference, including registration information, is available at [northernforest.org/tech\\_programs.htm](http://northernforest.org/tech_programs.htm).

## Annual Fund donations critical during capital campaign

The Northern Forest Center has met with great success throughout 2005, but there is much work ahead to ensure thriving and vibrant communities in the Northern Forest. To meet the ever-growing needs of the region, the Center has launched *The Campaign for People and Place* to raise \$5 million to support our programs. The early phase of this exciting fundraising venture has yielded very positive results. One of the Center’s most generous donors helped to secure early leadership gifts by offering his donation in the form of a challenge. We are extremely pleased to announce

that the Center secured its first-ever six-figure gifts and met the challenge, bringing total campaign funds raised to \$1.6 million!

The early success of this campaign is certainly something to be proud of, but the Center cannot rely on the campaign alone. Your ongoing support toward our annual fund is essential to our day-to-day operations. We need your continued generosity. Your support of our programs enables Northern Forest communities to flourish and secures a bright future for generations to come.

Our fall fundraising appeal will be in mailboxes soon, and we

hope you will be as generous as you possibly can. Donate \$100 or more to the Northern Forest Center, and we will thank you by sending an exquisite 2006 calendar from *Northern Woodlands* magazine. *Northern Woodlands* is a partner organization and we would be delighted to send this beautiful calendar featuring some of their best photog-

raphy of the Northern Forest.

Please support the Northern Forest Center with a tax-deductible contribution! Your

gift means so much to this organization and the people and communities it serves.



## Carsey Institute

### Key Northern Forest population data now available on Internet

The Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire has launched a new Website that offers instant access to the most up-to-date data on population, income and poverty, employment, families and children, education, housing, health, and crime and safety for the three Northern New England states: New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

The Web site, [www.nneindicators.unh.edu](http://www.nneindicators.unh.edu), is the first of its kind in Northern New Eng-

land. It is modeled on similar sites—including the Northwest Area Foundation's and Foundation for the Mid-South's indicators sites—that have proven to be extremely useful for decisionmakers in other regions of the United States. In addition to providing information by state, the site breaks down each state into county-level data. The site includes tables, charts and maps—including a "make-your-own map" function. Compar-

isons can be made over time and across different places.

Data presented on the Northern New England Indicators site come from a wide range of public sources. At the federal level, sources include the U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Labor, and Bureau of Economic Analysis. Some of the indicators—such as teen birth rates and mothers who receive late or no prenatal care—come from state sources.

## New York

### History museum to open in 2006

The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks is less than a year from its grand opening. Located on 31 acres in Tupper Lake, New York, the 38,000-square-foot facility is expected to draw more than 100,000 visitors each year.

The museum, set on a trail-filled campus that includes frontage on an unusual oxbow in the Raquette River, will feature live exhibits, including more than 100 animals, an

indoor waterfall and river, a towering glacial ice wall, high-definition interactive films, a wide screen theater and an indoor trail leading from an Adirondack Lean-to in the museum's Big Wolf Great Hall to the summit of a High Peak.

The museum also plans to feature a universally accessible panoramic observation tower that will let visitors explore bird life and see the forest from a different angle, as well

as a complex interactive media show that will let visitors ask live experts questions and watch giant-screen films that help answer those questions.

Total capital raised so far for the campaign exceeds \$22.5 million. The Museum has raised money from more than 4,500 individuals in addition to government, businesses and foundations.

## Maine

### Main Street program helps forest towns

The Maine Development Foundation will use a \$100,000 grant to provide technical assistance to the towns of Skowhegan and Van Buren to develop downtown revitalization programs following the Main Street™ model developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The three-year grant comes from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA)

Rural Community Development Initiative grant program to fund activities for the Maine Downtown Center.

The grant will also allow the Maine Downtown Center to assist Eastport and Norway's revitalization programs in developing creative economy initiatives. The grant from USDA will be matched by a \$100,000 grant from the Betterment Fund.

The Main Street Maine program uses the Main Street™ approach for revitalization developed by the National Trust in 1980. The six Main Street Maine communities of Saco, Norway, Bath, Gardiner, Waterville, and Eastport have raised more than \$17 million in new private and public downtown investments, creating 53 new downtown businesses and 191 new jobs.

## Vermont

### Artisan-owned gallery opens

In September, Center Street Artisans opened in Rutland, VT, to offer home furnishings. The gallery is cooperatively owned by 24 artisans from northern New England.

Center Street Artisans focuses on home furnishings by woodturners, woodcarvers, furniture makers, fiber artists, potters, basket makers, lamp makers and more, set up in home-like displays.

The shop was inspired by the SugarWood Gallery in Farmington, Maine, which was initiated by Maine WoodNet, a project of The Wilderness Society. A board member of the Rutland Land Trust encouraged Maine WoodNet to open a similar venture in a multi-use historic building that the land trust was renovating. With the help of the Downtown Rutland Partnership and the land trust, Center Street Artisans opened its doors just nine months later.

"Rutland has literally rolled out the red carpet for us!" said Chris Krauss, who helped found both the SugarWood Gallery and Center Street Artisans. "Nearly all of the shopkeepers have been by to thank us for choosing Downtown Rutland."

Krauss said artisans from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are involved and she is seeking artisans from New York's Northern Forest who would like an ownership position. The gallery plans a grand opening in November. Look for more information at [www.centerstreetartisans.com](http://www.centerstreetartisans.com).

# Grant program supports forest-based projects

*"Grants," Continued from page 1*

the North East State Foresters Association (NEFA) and the USDA Forest Service.

Total grants awarded increased from \$70,000 in the fall of 2004 to \$135,000 this September.

"This year's projects continue the tradition of exciting innovations set out by last year's winners," said Sen. Gregg. "Each one is making a connection between the forest and the local economy of our communities. They will help build understanding about the importance of developing sustainable economic uses of our forest."

One hundred applicants vied for the funding, which was available to non-profits, local government entities including schools, and to businesses from across the Northern Forest. Grants ranged from \$3,500 to \$20,000 each.

"With the additional funding available in the second year, we were able to broaden the program and offer a new category of larger awards to support the creation of living-wage jobs in the Northern Forest," said Charlie Levesque, executive director of

NEFA.

"The Partnership Program invests in projects that can have a very positive effect on communities and the economy of the Northern Forest. These relatively small awards can go a long way," said Steve Blackmer, president of the Northern Forest Center. "We're grateful to Senator Gregg for getting this program started and for his continued support."

Reviewers looked for projects that could strengthen the capacity of rural communities to develop or strengthen sustainable forest-based local economies; promote environmentally sensitive uses of the forest and other natural resources; promote local history, culture and working connections to the landscape; or be part of sustaining or helping to create new jobs in these areas.

Although Congress appropriated \$350,000 toward the program for next year, its funding is in jeopardy due to cutbacks in the federal budget. Further information will be available at [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org).

## Projects funded in first round of grant awards

The following projects were selected in the fall of 2004 to receive the inaugural round of grants. Winners of the 2005 grants will be announced in the next issue of *Connections* and are available at [www.northernforest.org](http://www.northernforest.org).

### New Hampshire

- The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, to create a brochure highlighting historic and heritage sites in the North Country and to draw attention to the area's historic significance;
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail, which will build two kiosks in Cos County along the regional water trail to promote recreation and economic development;
- The Center for Woodlands Education, which will use the grant to continue its natural resource education program that reaches schools in most Northern Forest counties and to prepare the annual teacher's

guide for its "Northern Woodlands Goes to School" program;

- Haverhill Heritage, Inc., which is redeveloping the 19th Century Grafton County Courthouse into an active cultural center for the community and visitors;

### Maine

- Threshold To Maine RC&D Area, Inc., to create a touring map that stimulates economic development by promoting connections between Maine's culture and forestry and bringing attention to multiple forest uses;
- Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, which will develop a three-town economic development plan for the communities that host the Mountain Division Multi-use Trail;
- Millinocket Area Growth & Investment Council, which will conduct a feasibility study for converting an industrial park in Medway into an ecological business park featuring a wood-

fired biomass cogeneration energy system;

- Maine TREE Foundation, which will sponsor five teachers from northern Maine to attend tours of Maine's forests, mills, and natural areas as part of Project Learning Tree certification;
- Québec-Labrador Foundation, which will develop an International cultural heritage route that celebrates traditions, cultural sites and landscapes of the St. John Valley of Maine and neighboring New Brunswick;

### Vermont

- Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association, which help 18 member companies assess their facilities and prepare to welcome tourists for a theme-based driving tour of factories, workshops, mills and forests;
- The Intervale Foundation, which will provide native plant material for watershed conservation as part of an effort to educate and involve the public to conserve and restore forested

riparian buffers in Vermont;

- The Nulhegan Gateway Association, which will promote successful entrepreneurship by introducing workshop participants to tools, resources and a support network for their enterprises;

### New York

- The Adirondack North Country Association, which will create a wood-products directory to provide local companies with a valuable marketing tool for targeting retailers throughout the Adirondacks;
- Greater Adirondack RC&D Council, to educate more than 100 forest landowners about the sustainable use of their forest resources with a forestry letter series and two field workshops;
- New York Folklore Society, which will create an "ethnographic marketing" program to develop marketing and promotional strategies for the Akwesasne Mohawk basket-makers.



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# Economic Strategy to focus on communities and sustainable growth

*“Economic Strategy,” Continued from page 1*

opportunities in the creative economy, the forest products sector, cultural and nature-based tourism and renewable energy, for starters.” Governors Baldacci (D-ME), Lynch (D-NH), Douglas (R-VT) and Pataki (R-NY) jointly endorsed the Forum’s recommendation in a letter to the region’s congressional delegation.

Senator Judd Gregg and other members of the Northern Forest congressional delegation were instrumental in helping EDA understand the importance of this four-state, regional approach to economic development. “The Center and North Country Council thank Senator Gregg for his a long-standing commitment to both the land and the people of the Northern Forest, and for his leadership in securing funding for this initiative,” said Blackmer.

The goal of the economic strategy is to refocus on Northern Forest communities and build a sustainable economic future based on balanced investment in both community and environment. The conservation-based strategy will be the product of a two-year, four-state effort to assess the region’s economy, identify its competitive economic advantages and use the information to guide sustainable growth that builds upon the extraordinary conservation successes of the past decade.

The Northern Forest Regional Economic Strategy will:

- Identify and analyze assets, competitive business advantages and conservation-based economic opportunities in the Northern Forest region;
- Engage business, government and civic leaders in developing strategies for sustainable economic growth to build communities and enhance the cultural and natural wealth of the region;
- Enhance collaboration and cooperation for sustainable economic activity across the four-state Northern Forest region; and
- Guide private and public investment toward sustainable economic opportunities to generate living wage jobs, build wealth, conserve the region’s landscape and revitalize its communities.

With the grant secured, the Center and NCC will hire staff to manage the project, as well as consultants with the necessary expertise to conduct the economic analyses. A regional steering committee and four-state advisory committees will help frame the project.

**“In order to achieve real progress, we must focus on galvanizing a collaborative regional effort with community, business, environmental and government involvement. This funding from the EDA will provide the financial support the region needs to develop and implement a successful economic strategy for the region.”**

**—Sen. Olympia Snowe, Maine**

**“The natural resources within the Northern Forest have been the lifeblood of our region’s economy for centuries. The future of these lands, and the people whose livelihoods are directly connected to them, depends on sound sustainable economic and environmental policies. The Northern Forest Center and the North Country Council will use these funds to find the best way to develop these policies.”**

**—Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vermont**

**“As a lifelong mill worker from East Millinocket, it is particularly important to me that we can find ways to grow our economy, strengthen our traditional forest products industry and create jobs in our rural communities. The Northern Forest Center and North Country Council are absolutely correct to take a regional look at economic development.”**

**—US Rep. Michael Michaud, Maine**

**“This federal investment provides the funds needed to take an important look at the economies of our North Country counties, and determine how our region might better capitalize on natural-resource-based industries.”**

**—US Rep. John M. McHugh, New York**

**“Ultimately, a successful Northern Forest results in a healthy environment, a strong sense of community and a great place to do business. We’re pleased to be part of this strategic initiative.”**

**—Gary Long, president and COO,  
Public Service Company of New Hampshire**

**“This will provide the framework to bring together the people and communities in the often forgotten areas of these states to build on their common strengths and raise the quality of life for those who work so hard just to survive.”**

**—Jim Tibbetts, president and CEO,  
First Colebrook Bank in New Hampshire**

*Hundreds of listings*

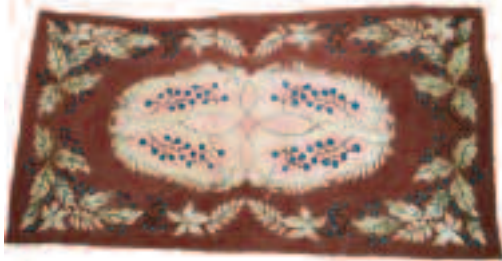
# Guidebook features craft-based businesses

Have you ever wondered what you might find if you stopped in at one of the artist's studios or craft galleries along the major routes and secondary roads that criss-cross the Northern Forest? Come spring, you'll be able to get a glimpse of what lies behind the front doors of those workshops, studios and collectives

when the Northern Forest Center and Businesses for the Northern Forest publish the first

*HandMade in the Northern Forest* guidebook.

Scheduled for publication in spring 2006, this new guidebook will feature more than 250 craftspeople, artists and retailers from across the region. The book will steer you toward furniture makers, boat builders, weavers, potters, sculptors, glass blowers, blacksmiths, painters and other fine artists who make their living producing handmade treasures in the



(Photo of rug above, left).

Northern Forest.

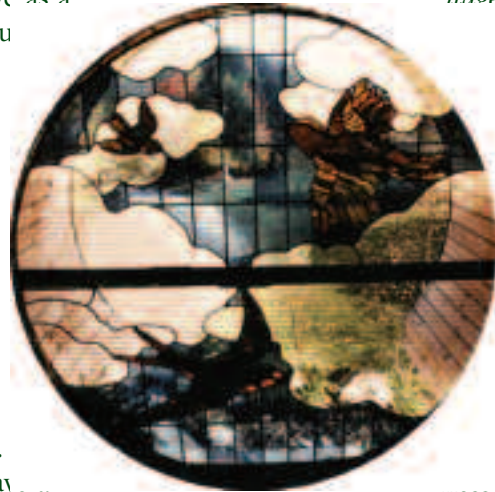
The guidebook also will serve as a marketing tool to help small businesses reach out to both local communities and to the more than 80 million people living within a one-day drive of the Northern Forest.

"This market has great potential," said the Center's Senior Program Director Mike Wilson.

"We know we have a strong regional tourist economy

of approximately \$4.4 billion, and that purchasing those special, locally made products as gifts or keepsakes is a leading tourist activity. The challenge is to connect these potential buyers with artists and crafts people who often live off the beaten path. The *HandMade* guidebook will help bring buyers to these businesses and have a positive impact on this segment of the region's economy."

The guidebook is modeled after the suc-



cessful *Craft Heritage Trails of Eastern North Carolina* produced by

HandMade in America. That guidebook is in its third edition and is credited with creating business at participat-

ing studios and gal-

leries by more than 25 percent.

*HandMade in the Northern Forest* is a collaborative project led by the Northern Forest Center, Businesses for the Northern Forest and a dozen partners from across the region. For more information about *HandMade in the Northern Forest*, contact Mike Wilson (mwilson@northernforest.org).

A few sample listings from the upcoming guidebook appear below.

## From weavers to blacksmiths to floral artists, talent abounds

**The Moosehead Hooker**  
203 Prithem Ave.  
Greenville, Maine  
(207) 695-2768

Janice King is the Moosehead Hooker and she makes and sells hooked rugs and ash baskets. Her rugs are traditional hooked rugs plus original artistic Maine landscapes suitable for wall hangings. The baskets are crafted from hand split ash. The ash starts out as a log in the shop out back and Janice will explain all parts of a production process that transitions the log into finely crafted, hand-made ash baskets.

**Jay Craft Center**  
Route 9N  
Jay, NY  
(518) 946-7824

Resident potters Cheri Cross and Lee Kazanas make functional porcelain and stoneware pottery. They are well known for their Adirondack and floral theme handpainted porcelain pots. Over the last 25 years, Cheri and Lee have combined an extensive collection of their own work with a beautiful assortment of handcrafted toys, wooden ware, jewelry, candles, photographs and prints in their craft gallery.

**Scott Brumenschenkel Cabinetmaker**  
41 Lincoln Ave.  
Lisbon, NH  
(603) 838-5300

Scott Brumenschenkel works in a custom woodworking shop where he builds a variety of projects from custom furniture to small boats. "My studio is a personal space in which I design and craft my work. My work combines the ease of modern milling with the centuries old techniques of handwork." Completed pieces are captured in a portfolio, and current items along with existing inventory are on display.

**Luminosity Studios**  
4276-4 Main St.  
The Old Church  
Waitsfield, VT  
(802) 496-2231

Barry Friedman's colorful workshop was born in 1975 in a former Victorian church. Luminosity Stained Glass Studios creates custom stained and leaded glass architectural windows and fine period lighting for homes, businesses and religious institutions nationwide.

(Photo of stained glass window, above right.)

*Board of Directors*

# Center welcomes six new board members

The Center is pleased to welcome six new members who have devoted their careers to furthering sustainable forestry and quality education in New England. "Each of these individuals has a deep knowledge of Northern Forest issues and a dedication to addressing those issues in ways that will really benefit the people of the region," said Center President Steve Blackmer. "I'm thrilled to have them providing direction to the Center."

## Steve Barba

Stephen P. Barba has worked at The BALSAMS since 1959 when, as a thirteen year old, he first went to Dixville Notch to attend caddy camp. He spent succeeding summer seasons there serving in jobs that ranged from greenskeeper to bellhop to bartender. From junior high through graduate school at Michigan State University, Steve returned to his favorite place high in the White Mountains whenever school was out. From 1971 until his retirement this year, Steve was part of the team of three managing partners that owned the operating company for the entire 15,000-acre resort and built the hotel's reputation for incomparable service. Steve currently serves as Innkeeper Emeritus and provides on-site counsel and continuity to the management.

## Tim Barnett

Timothy Barnett was a salesman desperate to move out of New York City when he landed a job in 1972 as the founding director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)'s newly-formed Adirondack chapter. The Adirondack Nature Conservancy (ANC) broke new ground for



Tim Barnett

TNC by pioneering landscape-scale conservation in the Adirondacks. At ANC, Tim led a science-based program to identify and protect the natural areas important to New York state's natural heritage as well as protect open space, forests, and the working landscape.

He created a partnership with the Adirondack Land Trust (ALT), merging the land protection skills of TNC with the open space, working landscape efforts of the land trust. He also oversaw administration and staff of the fledgling Lake George Basin Land Conservancy. Under his leadership, the ANC/ALT partnership grew from a staff of 1 in 1972 to 15 in 1998.

Working in partnership with the State of New York, private landowners, major timber companies and other organizations, Tim helped to protect over 240,000 acres of forests, lakes, mountains, and rivers, and...loved every minute of it! Currently, Tim is vice-president of The Nature Conservancy, Special Programs. He attended Middlebury College and received a BA in English from the University of Colorado.

## Paul Bofinger

Paul O. Bofinger came to New Hampshire on what he thought was a lark: fishing for land-locked salmon while awaiting his draft notice. The notice never came, the salmon were biting and, 49 years later, he's still here. After starting out in the lumber business, Paul joined the staff of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, where he served as president/forester for 30-plus years. During his career, Paul worked for regulation of septic systems and wetlands, was instrumental in the passage of Current



Paul O. Bofinger

Use assessment in the 1960s and in the campaign for the Trust for New Hampshire Lands, which protected more than 100,000 acres. He served on the Governors' Task Force of the Northern Forest Lands Study and the Northern Forest Lands Council.

## Warren Cook

Warren C. Cook is an independent consultant with more than 30 years of business and nonprofit experience in biomedical research, recreation industry management, manufacturing, education, health-care, conservation, social services and the arts. Warren serves on the boards of several organizations



Warren Cook

including Holder-ness School, Plymouth, NH; Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington, ME; Common Good Ventures, Waterville, ME; and Maine Community Foundation, Ellsworth, ME. Warren also co-chaired Governor John Baldacci's Transition Team after his election in 2002. Previously, Warren served as president of The Jackson Laboratory/JAX Research Systems, president and general manager of Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation and president and CEO of CHEMFAB Corporation in Merrimack NH.

Warren has also taught and served as a school administrator at Noble and Greenough School and Groton School, both in Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and has pursued graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts School of Education, and Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He is a long-time friend and advisor to the Northern Forest Center.

*Continued on page 12*

# Center welcomes six new board members

*“Directors,” continued from page 11*

## Jennifer Huntington

Jennifer Huntington, a professional educator and zealous outdoor enthusiast, is passionate about combining these life-long interests for herself and for young people.

Currently principal of Newton North High School in Newton, Mass., Jennifer has 40 years experience in education that include teaching preschool in Nigeria with the Peace Corps, tutoring in the prison system, working to reduce student dropout rates and school administration.

Her outdoor résumé is no less impressive: she’s climbed all 48 of the 4,000-foot mountains in New Hampshire, canoed and cross-country skied extensively. Jennifer is a past president and board member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and currently serves on the board of the Alaska Conservation Foundation. She occasionally takes her outdoor adventures to Alaska and Colorado, where her children and grandchildren live.



*Jennifer Huntington and grandson checking out a new tent.*

## Terry Kellogg

Terry Kellogg is executive director of One Percent for the Planet, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening ties between businesses and environmental groups.

Prior to joining One Percent in March, 2005, Terry was director of Environmental Stewardship at The



*Terry Kellogg*

Timberland Company. His responsibilities included leading the development and implementation of Timberland’s environmental goals and strategies. During Terry’s tenure, the Company reduced its carbon footprint by nearly 10% through improved efficiency and renewable sources of energy; adopted widespread use of water-based adhesives and launched programs in green building and organic cotton.

Prior to joining Timberland, Terry worked on a variety of projects for Green Mountain Energy, a renewable energy company. Before that, he worked on mining issues for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and forestry issues for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. He holds a BA in Economics from Middlebury College and an MBA and a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University.



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### NORTHERN FOREST **Connections**

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P.O. Box 210, Concord, NH 03302-0210