



# Forest Stewardship

## *Information Exchange*

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### Note from Forest Stewardship Program Representative Roger Monthey

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As part of the USDA Forest Service's State & Private Forestry role of providing federal oversight and coordination among the states, a forum for information exchange on forest stewardship might be useful. Talking with Toni McLellan, Wildlife Biologist for State & Private Forestry, we felt that a forum emphasizing biodiversity issues would be especially interesting to landowners, many of whom are interested in such topics as wildlife, wildflowers, and recreation. The forum would include other stewardship information as well.

This issue is a sample of what this information exchange might include. This is really your forum to exchange ideas, but we can facilitate the effort. The intended audience is landowners and natural resource professionals, and other forest stewards. Please pass this newsletter on to interested landowners or include in stewardship information packets that you distribute. Here are some thoughts on frequency and content:

#### Frequency:

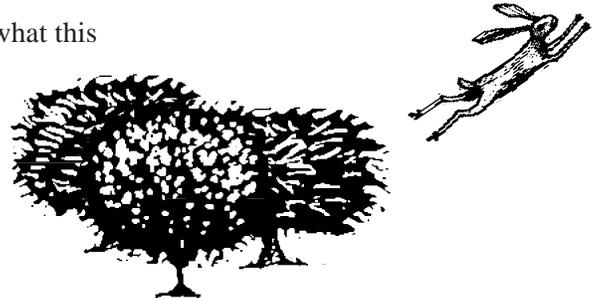
- \* Twice a year (Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer)

#### Content:

- \* Discussion of biodiversity issues important to nonindustrial private

forest landowners (wide-ranging) and resource managers.

- \* Information on stewardship program activities.
- \* Have you seen (interesting article, video, workshop)?
- \* Open forum (any other item of interest for discussion or recognition). This would provide an avenue to discuss and answer questions regarding biodiversity and learn more about the topic and related resources.



If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Roger Monthey as follows:

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#### Editors:

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*Forest Stewardship and  
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**Toni McLellan:**  
*Wildlife Biologist*

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## Stewardship Personnel



My name is Roger Monthey and I am a new employee with USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry. I am currently filling in for Neil Lamson, who is on a two year assignment with the State of Vermont working on the 1998 Ice Storm effects. My 20 year federal land management experience includes working as Wildlife and Fish Biologist, and Forest Ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Salem, Oregon. I also have worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and as a Naturalist with the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. I have graduate degrees in Forest Resources (Wildlife option) from the University of Maine-Orono (1978) and in Water Resources Management (1974) from the University of Wisconsin.

I am a nonindustrial private landowner myself, owning about 115 acres of woodland and farmland near Madison, Wisconsin. This land was entirely agricultural when purchased in 1953 by my father, Lawrence Monthey. Since that time, largely due to natural successional processes, the farm has reverted to about 35 acres of oak woodland, the remaining acreage still in farm cropland. My father, who worked in the Environmental Resources Unit for the Univ. of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, was an active steward of the land. Having taken Aldo Leopold's first (1939) "Wildlife Ecology" course offered in the United States at the Univ. of Wisconsin, Dad practiced Leopold's "Land Ethic" concept through voluntary conservation measures. Planting windbreaks of conifer species (red pine, black hills spruce, white spruce, and white pine) added greatly to the land's beauty and enhancement. Control of soil erosion and enhancement of wildlife habitat (e.g., brushpile construction) were other activities. All of these management practices have been cost/shared under the Forest Service's Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP). However, Congress has eliminated all SIP cost/share funds for FY98.

My current professional interests (in no particular order), in addition to forest stewardship program activities, include:

- (1) maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity on nonindustrial private forest land (e.g., native plant species including nonvascular species such as lichens, mosses, and fungi; unique plant habitats; wildlife; conservation biology);
- (2) silvicultural activities such as crop tree management and effects on biodiversity;
- (3) watershed and stream enhancement to benefit fish and wildlife.

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## Biodiversity

### *Biodiversity Management in Action*

Surveys of woodland owners have shown tremendous interest in biodiversity in the form of wildlife and plants. Many landowners would like to manage for a diversity of these species. As part of our forum, we want to showcase activities that do just that.

At a recent Coverts workshop put on by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension folks, a field trip was made to the Al Jaeger stewardship woodland near Bear Brook State Park. Al owns land between Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State parks and has donated his development rights in the form of a conservation easement. Al, in conjunction with fellow citizens and UNH Cooperative Extension, began looking at conservation biology options in the form of providing habitat corridors that help to connect the larger state parks. These corridors assist in the movement of wildlife between the larger blocks of habitat, such as Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State Parks. This grassroots group of citizens has already encouraged other landowners to donate their development rights, and great progress is being made in providing these crucial linkages in an



#### **Web Source**

<http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/IAD217/bidlinks.htm>

A resource list of biodiversity websites, biodiversity books, and biodiversity journals and periodicals.

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increasingly fragmented landscape. Crucial to this effort was the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to efficiently provide maps of such attributes as: wetlands; already protected lands such as state parks, town conservation lands, or conservation easements; ownership polygons; and existing contiguous blocks of habitat.

### ***Biodiversity Resources***

#### **(1) New Biodiversity Video**

Ellen Snyder, Wildlife Specialist for the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, has just helped produce a stunning new video, *Biodiversity of New Hampshire*. The video focuses on different ecosystems within New Hampshire, including woodlands, vernal pools, alpine communities, estuarine areas, and early successional stages. Those interested in viewing the video, may call Ellen at her office on the UNH campus in Durham, NH (phone 603-862-3594).

#### **(2) New Hampshire Living Legacy**

This is an excellent publication that is intended as a primer, "providing New Hampshire citizens with the information needed for thoughtful and informed debate about biodiversity conservation. The 1996 report

describes complex scientific concepts and presents examples of how these concepts manifest themselves in New Hampshire's biodiversity. Chapters cover topics such as: (1) Factors Affecting Biodiversity; (2) Natural Communities; (3) Species Diversity; and (4) Genetic Diversity. The publication is edited by James Taylor, Thomas D. Lee and Laura Falk McCarthy. It is published by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. The address for inquires is New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 2 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03301. ISBN 0-9652156-1-X,.

#### **(3) Wisconsin Biodiversity as a Management Issue**

This 1995 publication was written for Department of Natural Resources managers to provide them with a context for their work. According to the authors, "This report proposes that the best way to address biodiversity as a management issue is to apply the principles of ecosystem management to Department planning and programs. Ecosystem management is a system to assess, conserve, protect, and restore the composition, structure, and function of ecosystems, to ensure their sustainability across a range of temporal and spatial scales, and to provide desired ecological conditions, economic products, and social benefits." The report contains strategic

recommendations, and possible actions specific to each of seven biological community types:

- (1) northern forest communities,
- (2) southern forest communities,
- (3) oak savanna communities,
- (4) oak and pine barrens communities,
- (5) grassland communities,
- (6) wetland communities, and
- (7) aquatic communities.

Inquires regarding this publication should be addressed to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707.

**(4) For further assistance** on the forest stewardship program and biodiversity issues in your state, please contact the following State Program Coordinators in the Forest Stewardship Program:

#### **Connecticut**

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#### **Maine**

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(For further assistance, continued...)

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*Umbilicaria mammulata* - University of Maine, Orono

## Nonvascular Plants and Fungi

Did you know that nonvascular plants and fungi add tremendous natural diversity to most woodland ownerships? Nonvascular plants include lichens and mosses.

*Lichens* are associations of mostly fungi and smaller amounts of algae growing together in a symbiotic relationship (that is, they both benefit from the presence of each other). The fungus provides structure and protection for the algae which, in turn, produces food by photosynthesis. Besides providing inherent natural diversity, lichens are important for various reasons some of which include:

- 🌐 food, shelter, and camouflage for wildlife including many invertebrate species;
- 🌐 medicines, dyes, perfumes and many other uses;
- 🌐 nutrient enrichment of forest soils through leaching and desiccation;
- 🌐 indicators of air pollution, especially sulphur dioxide; and
- 🌐 indicators of old-growth forests.

An interesting lichen growing widespread on rock habitats throughout the Northeast is Rock Tripe (*Umbilicaria mammulata*). It is a large (3-25 cm broad), elephant-ear like lichen that Toni McLellan informs me is edible though survival food at best.

*Mosses* are also important agents of natural diversity. Mosses provide extremely important habitat for a variety of forest invertebrates, and assist greatly in the water retentive capabilities of forests. Many species of mosses carpet the forest floors and woody vegetation of the Northeast. More on these later.

*Fungi* are important organisms in the breakdown of organic material and recycling of forest nutrients; and are critical in the growth of herbaceous and woody species through the association of many mycorrhizal fungi species with the rootlets of these plants. In addition, they are fascinating to study from a

### Web Source

<http://www.fs.fed.us>

Web site for the US  
Forest Service

natural history standpoint. Some are edible including the chantarelle mushroom. I recently collected chantarelles near Portland, Maine, and added them to our mussel and clam chowder. Delicious! The University of Maine Cooperative Extension folks have published a brochure on the common edible mushrooms of Maine. (Some Common Edible Mushrooms Found in Maine. Bulletin 556). These species include: sapid pleurotus (*Pleurotus sapidus*), shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*), honey cap (*Armillaria mellea*), brick cap (*Naematoloma sublateritium*), painted bolete (*Boletinus pictus*), sulphur shelf (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), coral hydnum (*Hericium caputursi*), spreading hydnum (*Dentinum repandum*), and gempstudded puffball (*Lycoperdon perlatum*).

However, be cautious of mushrooms. As often stated by mushroom experts, "There are old mushroom pickers, and bold mushroom pickers, but there are no old, bold mushroom pickers." Be absolutely sure you know what you are picking. Joining local mushroom clubs is a great way to learn the mushrooms.

The New England Wildflower Foundation located in Framingham, MA (508-877-7630) is offering short courses on lichen identification. Contact them for the specifics on these classes.



## Naturalist's Corner



In each issue we would like to highlight aspects of natural history that may be interesting to you as a forest steward. This issue we would like to discuss edible weeds. Forest edges, openings, trails, and road edges typically produce plant growth in the form of weeds. Some of these weeds are edible and especially nutritious. Some of the delectable weeds include Amaranth (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Common Mallow (*Malva neglecta*), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Mustards (*Brassica nigra*, *B. kaber*, *B. juncea*), Winter Cress (*Barbarea vulgaris*), Purslane (*Portulaca olerace*), Clovers (e.g., red clover - *Trifolium pratense*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Wild Lettuces (*Lactuca scariola* and *L. canadensis*), Common Plantain (*Plantago major*), stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and Quickweed (*Galinsoga ciliata*). The "Big Eight" according to their abundance and universality are the first eight listed above. In general, these wild edibles are considerably higher in nutritional value than our cultivated truck crops, when consumed (uncooked) as salad components. The cardinal rule in all plant foraging is simply this: Be sure that you know exactly what you are collecting. Don't take any chance. This is especially important when you are trying any plant for the first time, or collecting from roadside areas. Try to collect plants from areas which have not been exposed to road salt, chemicals from road maintenance or spills, pesticides, or herbicides. Always take a small portion when you are eating any new plant material.



*Recipes for Amaranth* (Taken from the University of Wisconsin-Extension publication "Foraging For A Wild Lunch" by E. Felts and L. Monthey.)

Collect young leaves from plants that have not flowered. They can be found throughout the spring-to-fall growing season.

### Amaranth Greens with Bacon

2 quarts green amaranth leaves, washed and drained hot water as needed  
 2 slices bacon, cut into squares  
 4 tablespoons cider vinegar  
 1 tablespoon soy sauce  
 salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Boil greens in water to barely cover for 15 minutes. Drain off half of water. Return to heat and add bacon, vinegar, soy sauce, salt and pepper. Simmer until tender, about 10 minutes. Serve hot. Serves 8.

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## Biodiversity Conference in Orono, Maine

A biodiversity conference will be held at the University of Maine on November 20 at the Wells Conference Center from 8 A.M until 5 P.M.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an introduction to the concepts of biodiversity conservation and to discuss, along with other questions,

- (1) What is biodiversity and why is it important?;
- (2) What is the status of biodiversity in Maine?;
- (3) What proactive public and private efforts are currently underway to help us understand and conserve Maine's biodiversity?

Contact Phil Gerard at 207-594-2553. If you can not attend, we hope to summarize the results of this conference in the next issue.

