



New England Society of American Foresters
Co-sponsored by
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Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society
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Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine

PRESS RELEASE

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Manomet's John Hagan to Receive the New England Society of American Foresters' *Integrity in Conservation Award* for His Work to Conserve Natural Resources in the Northeast

(Portland, Maine) – The New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) will present six distinguished awards at a reception on March 19th during their 89th Annual Winter Meeting in Portland, Maine. “We are proud to carry on a tradition of recognizing those who have distinguished themselves as leaders in forestry and conservation,” says SAF President Bernard Hubbard. “These awards are a tribute to their outstanding contributions to both the Society of American Foresters and the forestry profession.”

The *Integrity in Conservation Award*, first given in 1998, recognizes an individual or organization in natural resources who demonstrates adherence to principles and high standards in the face of adversity. Receiving the 2009 *Integrity in Conservation Award* is Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences' President, John Hagan. Prior to becoming president, he was director of Manomet's Forest Conservation Program, based in Brunswick, Maine. According to Kenneth Laustsen, General Chairman of NESAF's 89th Annual Winter Meeting, “John has never been afraid to tackle the tough issues, do the needed research, and explain the results. A review of his Curriculum Vitae proves that he has succeeded as a scientist in a variety of venues – biodiversity, Late Successional/Old-Growth sustainability indicators, and now climate change. What the CV cannot detail is the respect and willingness of all stakeholders to listen when John has a point to make; his integrity is never suspect.”

In 2000, Dr. Hagan created the semi-annual forum: “The Forest Ecosystem Information Exchange.” Its purpose was to provide an open forum which provided stakeholders the latest science-based information on critical forest issues, and to foster conversations among diverse stakeholders. In April 2005,

Manomet, The National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, and the New England Forestry Foundation co-sponsored “The LSOG (Late Successional/Old Growth) Dialogue,” a two-day forum attended by over 70 northeast forest policy leaders, decision makers, environmental groups, and scientists to discuss and evaluate the latest science on this sensitive topic and move forward the conservation of old growth forests.

Over the past year, Dr. Hagan has worked with Maine Forest Service and Environmental Northeast to draft guidelines for forest management activities that would be acceptable, accountable, and verifiable in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) cap and trade program. If accepted by RGGI, utilities would pay forest landowners for successfully sequestering carbon dioxide in lieu of their making short-term emission reductions. The net reduction in greenhouse gas levels would be a factor in mitigating climate change.

NESAF will also present the *Distinguished Service Award*, to give official recognition to professional achievement in forestry; the *James W. Toumey Award* for outstanding achievement in service to the New England Society of American Foresters; the *Austin Carey Practicing Professional Award* for outstanding achievement as a practicing forester; the *Ernest M. Gould, Jr. Technology Transfer Award*, and the *Molly Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award*.

Speaking at the reception will be Roger Milliken, Jr., President and CEO of the Baskahegan Company, and a recognized leader in Maine’s forest products industry. Mr. Milliken is a former recipient of the Integrity in Conservation Award and currently serves as chairman of the Nature Conservancy’s Board of Directors. Having strong leaders like Roger present at the conference adds to the development of future leaders, and shows how strongly NESAF feels about investing in the growth of those who manage our forests throughout New England.

The Awards reception will take place during the 89th Annual Winter Meeting of the New England Society of American Foresters. Nearly 300 scientists and forest managers are expected to attend the 4 day conference to converse on issues ranging from the growing importance of biomass to the energy sector, to the need to protect biodiversity in the face of increased demand for bioproducts. Panelists at the conference include Michael LeVert, Economist in the Maine State Planning Office; Jonathan Wood, Secretary of the Vermont Natural Resources Agency; Jim DiMaio, Chief Forester, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Karin Tilberg, Senior Policy Advisor, Maine Governor’s Office; and 45 other notable specialists and managers in their respective fields.

The reception will be held on March 19th from 12-2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay. See the full program agenda at www.nesaf.org. Members of the media are encouraged to attend. Contact Peter Greeno, Public Information Chair, 89th Annual Winter Meeting of the New England Society of American Foresters, (413) 320-6541 or peter.greeno@maine.edu

The Society of American Foresters (www.safnet.org) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

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