

**WILLIAM B. LEAK**  
*David M. Smith Award*

*The David M. Smith award recognizes a New England SAF member engaged in research, teaching, or the field application of silviculture, whose work reflects Dave's advice that "we should observe and analyze the patterns of stand development first, and devise silvicultural treatments to fit or modify them afterwards."*

Bill is the inaugural recipient of the "David M. Smith" Award. The nomination letter notes that throughout his 54-year career as a research forester with the USDA Forest Service, Bill has contributed more to the science of silviculture than anyone else in the Northeast. To date, he has published 167 scientific articles on a wide range of silvicultural subjects, becoming references for field foresters throughout New England and conducted over 170 workshops either in the field or classroom.

It is a good thing that Bill promoted the application of silviculture, since his nomination package required the conversion of several trees into paper in order to accommodate the multiple letters of endorsement and kudos.

"David Smith "Taught" me silviculture as a student. Bill Leak taught me silviculture as a practicing professional. I expect this is true of many other foresters." Bill, along with his colleague Mariko Yamasaki explored using silviculture to achieve wildlife habitat objectives. Bill taught us the importance of soil-site relations serving for the qualifying basis to "observe and analyze the patterns of stand development first..."

A now retired Forest Soil Scientist remarked about the 25 years of cooperation he and Bill shared in the application of northern hardwood silvicultural practices, how it was Bill's enduring effort to measure, analyze, and understand the nature and complexity of this ecosystem.

"His body of published work is astonishing in its volume, and it shines with the quiet wisdom of one who has spent countless hours thoughtfully observing the forest. Bill is characteristically unpretentious and approaches everything with simple decency."

"He is notably generous with his time, making hundreds of on-site visits and consultations with field foresters – any excuse to get out in the woods!"

"One of my mentors, and a delightful man to spend time in the woods with, his careful listening followed by questions led you to the answer you were looking for based on his experience. This interaction always provoked a sense of respect and awe from me and others."

Bill received a BS in 1953 and a MS in 1956 from the State University of New York. In 1992, NESAF presented Bill the Ernest M. Gould Jr. Technology Transfer Award; elected him as a SAF Fellow in 1996; in 1998 he then received the NESAF Distinguished Service Award; and now in 2011, Bill becomes a SAF "Golden" member recognizing his 50 years of SAF membership. He is also the recipient of several merit and technology transfer awards within the USDA Forest Service and served as Associate Editor on silviculture for SAF's Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, and continues today to be an affiliate full professor in the Department of Natural Resources at UNH.

"Finally, there is no one more committed to quiet public service than Bill. I do not know anyone who shares the knowledge and wisdom he has accumulated over time as unconditionally or generously as Bill."



**NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY  
OF AMERICAN FORESTERS**

**2011 AWARDS**



*Karen P. Bennett*

*John A. O'Brien*

*Pete Howland*

*Carol L. Redelsheimer*

*Christopher F. Modisette*

*Brad W. Simpkins*

*William B. Leak*

## KAREN P. BENNETT

### *Integrity in Conservation Award*

*The Integrity in Conservation Award recognizes an individual or organization working with natural resources who demonstrates adherence to principles and high standards in the face of adversity.*

For over the last two years, Karen has served as the project manager for revisions to the original 1990 era publication “Good Forestry in the Granite State.” As one letter of endorsement noted, “One would think developing a non regulatory voluntary guide to forestry would not stir up much controversy. After all, it is voluntary.”

Karen became the focal point for which much of this controversy was directed, since she provided the majority of outreach and actively solicited feedback from stakeholders. The underlying fear and concern was that these voluntary practices would be misused or misinterpreted and made a regulatory requirement by towns and communities. She was stalwart throughout, committed equally to the people and the goal; to understanding the concerns of those who own, manage, use, and care about New Hampshire natural resources; and to the creation of a high quality tool that would advance sustainable forestry practices in meaningful ways. Karen’s commitment and integrity throughout the process was admirable and bringing the project to its recent publication release in December 2010 is the final capstone of her ability to resolve the conflicts and satisfy all parties.

Since 1979, Karen has worked in UNH Cooperative Extension in a variety of roles, including Hillsborough and Merrimack County Forester and since 1996 as the Extension Specialist where her focus is on the management of private forestlands; providing education to landowners, land managers, conservation volunteers, and public decision makers, and an emphasis of professional development for foresters. For these program specialty areas, an endorsement noted that she has been a strong supporter of working forests and that her educational workshops are always informative and provided landowners and those in the industry with thoughtful and balanced information on all aspects of forest management.

Karen received a BS in Forest Management from UNH in 1979 and then a MS in Forestry from the same university in 1992. She is the author of an extensive listing of select publications including proceedings, handbooks, and educator guides; recognized by NESAF in awarding Karen the 2003 Ernest M. Gould Jr. Technology Transfer Award. Karen is a Certified Forester (CF) and a 37 year SAF member.

“I have never seen someone so passionate about getting it right and seeing it through. While the award is not for winning or losing, I would say in Karen’s case, we all won.”

#### **Integrity in Conservation Award Recipients**

1998 – Max McCormack, Jr.    1999 – Roger Milliken, Jr.    2000 –  
2001 –                            2002 – George Darey            2003 – Leo C. Laferriere  
2004 – David Houghton    2005 – Edward Griffith    2006 – *Northern Woodlands*  
2007 – Richard Carbonetti, Peter Condaxis, William Samal, and Jonathan Wood  
2008 – Maine Department of Conservation, Baxter State Park Authority, and Trust for Public Land, Maine Office  
2009 – John M. Hagan, III    2010 – Employees of the White Mountain National Forrest

## BRAD W. SIMPKINS

### *Mollie H. Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award*

*The Mollie H. Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award is presented to a member of NESAF less than 40 years old who has shown leadership in a program or project benefiting the practice of forestry. Beattie was Vermont Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, and ultimately became Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Beattie was active in SAF. She co-authored **Working with Your Woodland**; she is remembered for her tireless devotion to conservation, integrity, and quiet courage.*

An endorsement stated it quite succinctly, “To achieve responsibility for a state’s forestry agency before the age of 40 is no small thing. It shows courage. And while leadership of any organization is a challenge, the leadership of a state agency is all the more so because of the complications and contradictions of operating within a state’s political system. Brad brings hard work, enthusiasm, and enjoyment in working with others to whatever task he takes on. He has a good sense of what’s important, which is essential in leading an organization, is honest in his intentions, and is a pleasure to work with.”

Brad came to NH in the 1990’s and began a career as a Forest Ranger in the NH Division of Forests and Lands. This job is a combination of working with locals to prevent and fight wildfires and working with forest landowners enforcing harvesting regulations. The job requires an interesting combination of talents, sensitivity, and judgment. I have never seen a ranger more capable in all these areas than Brad. Early in our acquaintance I remember thinking, “How does he know how to do all of this so well?” I think the answer lay in just not his technical competence and his ability to communicate, but also in his leadership abilities. “Brad is likable, a listener, decisive, responsive, competent, intelligent, patient, fair, open, and honest---in short, Brad is a leader and also young.

Brad is a Penn State graduate, and before his current 12-year career in NH, his previous work experience includes time with the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, and the National Park System

“Brad would be a leader anywhere he went. We (NH) are fortunate to have him in the profession of forestry. It gives me all the more confidence in our future.”

#### **Mollie H. Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award Recipients**

1989 – Charles Levesque	1990 – David Kittredge, Jr.	1991 – Charles Niebling
1992 – Anne Marie Loud	1993 – Alan Calfee	1994 – Carrie Tripp
1995 – Carol Redelsheimer	1996 – Robert Ricard	1997 – Patrick D. Hackley
1998 –	1999 – Kevin Evans	2000 – Sara Packer
2001 – Cynthia S. Wood	2002 – Tom O’Shea	2003 – David Irvin
2004 –	2005 – Amanda Farrar	2006 – Laura Kenefic
2007 – Ben Machin	2008 –	2009 – Margaret Machinist
2010 – Jacob W. Metzler & Spencer R. Meyer		



## CHRISTOPHER F. MODISETTE

### *Ernest M. Gould Jr. Technology Transfer Award*

*The Ernest M. Gould Jr. Technology Transfer Award is given for outstanding contributions to natural resource science and management through education, extension, or youth service.*

*Gould achieved wide acclaim for his expertise in analyzing and resolving forest resource policy issues while on the faculty of Harvard University. He was a graduate of the University of New Hampshire.*

Chris has a broad range of experience and skills gained from working in several positions in this region over the course of his career. His ability to work with people of different backgrounds and ages is especially valuable in explaining and promoting the continued relevance of forestry in Rhode Island and southern New England. In this largely urbanized state (RI) where conservation efforts are often focused on other ecosystems, Chris steps up and shows people the many ways in which forests and open space are connected to their lives and why they should care. His nominator noted that, “Chris is the de facto extension forester in a state without one.”

A letter of endorsement noted that in his current role as the RI Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator and a community resident of Scituate, RI; Chris took the lead in instructing students in the local high school’s Environmental Science class on how to develop a Tree Farm Stewardship Plan. His passion is contagious in the forest community and beyond, and this project alone educated so many people in our community. An outcome of this involvement for Chris was his selection as the Northern RI Conservation District’s 2010 Educator of the Year.

Another endorsement noted Chris’s work in the 1990’s with the Southern New England Forest Consortium (SNEFCI) and specifically two programs; Family Legacy – which brought family estate planning to landowners through workshops and speakers; and the Cost of Community Study – which characterized the added value and reduced taxes that forestland and open space provide relative to new development.

Chris received a BS degree in Forestry from UNH. His work experience includes 15+ years with Providence Water (a public water utility), 10+ years as Executive Director for SNEFCI, and since 2005 he has served as the USDA NRCS RI Resource Conservation & Development Director. As a SAF member, Chris has had continuous involvement and leadership service within the RI Chapter, Yankee Division, and NESAF State Society. Chris is a Certified Forester (CF) and a 29 year SAF member. He is a former chair and still involved with the RI Tree Farm Committee.

“Honoring Chris with this award would be fitting tribute to his mentor, Hans T. Bergey. Chris has been a tireless promoter of good forestry throughout his career, which has led to a broader public appreciation for forest management here in RI.”

#### **Ernest M. Gould Jr. Award Recipients**

1989 – Stephen Broderick  
1992 – William B. Leak  
1995 – Ancyl Thurston  
1998 – Phil Auger  
2001 – Marc J. Tremblay  
2004 – Jeffrey S. Ward  
2007 – Mariko Yamasaki  
2010 – Susan M. Aygar

1990 – Stanley Knowles  
1993 – Christopher Murdock  
1996 – Virginia Barlow  
1999 – David Kittredge, Jr.  
2002 – Richard Weyrick  
2005 – Phil Auger (1998)  
2008 –

1991 – Christina Petersen  
1994 – Thomas J. McEvoy  
1997 – Donald W. Quigley  
2000 – Elizabeth Postlewaite  
2003 – Karen P. Bennett  
2006 – Michael C. Snyder  
2009 – Northam (Nory) Parr

## JOHN A. O’BRIEN

### *Distinguished Service Award*

*The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award given by the New England SAF, recognizing professional achievement in forestry, irrespective of age or tenure, by a New England SAF member.*

John has been a recipient of many citations and awards throughout his 40-year career as a land manager, consulting forester, forest engineer, and volunteer leader; including the NESAF 2010 Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award, the 2007 SAF Presidential Field Forester Award, and in 1998 the Wes Meier Award - National Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector. John served as the forester for two NH Outstanding Tree Farms (1994 and 2004). His personal dedication and commitment to forest stewardship has set notably high standards for integrity, honest effort, and professionalism, and has inspired and motivated professional colleagues and clients alike. A well known and widely admired forester both in New Hampshire and Vermont, he has certainly enhanced the public image of our profession and makes a compelling case for long-term, multi-use forest management on land whether owned by institutions, public, or private or woodlands large or small.

In an endorsement letter, John was noted as being one of those individuals you can always go to for just one more thing. That one could be his long-term involvement with the NH Tree Farm program as an inspector and past chair, helping his local community of Orford reconstruct the local ball field where he serves as a Little League coach, or involvement with conservation groups in the Upper Connecticut Valley. John is very attentive to other ideas and is not judgmental or narrow minded in his approach to life or the practice of forestry.

His professional background began with an AS at the Thompson School of Applied Science in 1963, with a BS in Forest Management from UNH in 1966. Then a four year tour of active duty with the U.S. Army, which continued with a 28 year stint in the NH Air National Guard (Reserves) where John retired as a Commander/Lt. Colonel in 1990. After his active duty tour John returned to UNH and was awarded a MS degree in Forestry and Wildlife in 1973. John worked 10 years for Wagner Woodlands, and then in 1982 went into private consulting forestry DBA O’Brien Forestry Service. John has been a SAF member for 38 years. Today his business is responsible for forest resource management on 30,000 acres in NH and VT, where he provides a wide range of services.

#### **Distinguished Service Award Recipients**

1966 – Phillip Coolidge  
1969 – David M. Smith  
1972 – Albert Nutting  
1975 – Herschel Abbott  
1978 – James Wilkinson  
1981 – Raymond Foulds  
1984 – Michael Sikora  
1987 – Clifford Swenson  
1990 – Robert B. Fiske  
1993 – David M. Smith (1969)  
1996 – Edgar P. Wyman  
1999 – Richard F. Watt  
2002 –  
2005 – Hans Bergey  
2008 –

1967 – George Garratt  
1970 – Austin Wilkins  
1973 – Robert Dinneen  
1976 – Morris Wing  
1979 – Ernest Gould  
1982 – Howard Mason  
1985 – Gibb Dodge  
1988 – Peter Hannah  
1991 – Fred B. Knight  
1994 – Robert S. Bond  
1997 – Lloyd C. Irland  
2000 – George R. Stephens  
2003 – Ernest B. Harvey, III  
2006 – David B. Field  
2009 – Robert Lee Edmonds

1968 – Gerald S. Wheeler  
1971 – John Noyes  
1974 – Arthur Heitman  
1977 – Theodore Natti  
1980 – Max McCormack, Jr.  
1983 – Philip Rich  
1986 –  
1989 – Lester A. DeCoster  
1992 – Thomas F. Quink  
1995 – John E. Hibbard  
1998 – William B. Leak  
2001 – Leo C. Laferriere  
2004 – Jane Difley  
2007 – Robert J. Berti  
2010 –

## PETE HOWLAND

### *James W. Toumey Outstanding Service Award*

*The James W. Toumey Award is given for outstanding achievement in service to the New England Society of American Foresters. Toumey was one of the founding fathers of the New England Section in 1920, author of **Seeding and Planting** and **Foundations of Silviculture**, one of the first two regular staff members at the Yale School of Forestry. Henry S. Graves noted in a memoriam “**Almost at once he took a prominent place in the forestry movement and throughout his career was in the foremost ranks of the leaders of the profession.**”*

The Granite State Division of SAF is thankful and grateful for the representation that Pete Howland has provided in his long interaction with the NESAF Executive Committee. Since 2004, Pete has served a total of four consecutive 2-year terms as the state representative of NH. He serves well in this capacity, keeping the Granite State Division Executive Committee informed of regional issues, and then carrying their concerns up to the NESAF EC. The endorser continued to note, “Pete has been the one I can always rely on. His presence, his advice, and perspective have always been appreciated.”

Pete has also provided yeoman assistance to GSD when they served as the host for the NESAF Annual Meeting in 2006 and 2010, serving on the program committee, as a facilitator, or any other duties as assigned.

The other endorsement recognizes Pete’s involvement as the NESAF Policy Chair and his careful shepherding and final acceptance of new position statements on climate change and high grading, hot topics that continue to this day to be contentious in terms of our professional response and action; and noted that “Drafting policy strategies requires someone of Pete’s calming nature and thoughtful countenance.” Pete has always gone the extra step in volunteering as a leader within NESAF, and this recognition is but a small reward for the large commitment and effort Pete has dedicated to and expended on behalf of NESAF.

Pete received a BS in Forestry from UNH in 1975 and began his forestry career with 6+ years as a Forester for the Kennett Corp. In 1981 he transitioned and started a longer term career with Saunders Brothers in Fryeburg, ME serving as Forester and Woodlands Manager. Since 2003, Pete has been a Procurement Forester for Cersosimo Lumber, acquiring 2 MMBF of logs per year, while supervising or contracting a variety of other logging services. Pete served as board member (2000 – 2010) and chair (2009 – 2010) of the Maine Hardwood Association; a 30+ year career in NH Fire protection, retiring as the Conway Deputy Chief; has 20+ years with the Ski Patrol at the Wildcat Ski Area, and is a 23 year SAF member.

As one endorsement quaintly noted, “During my tenure on the NESAF Executive Committee, Pete has been the “granite rock” that represents New Hampshire and its members.

#### **James W. Toumey Award Recipients**

1989 – James Wilkinson, Jr.	1990 – Fred B. Knight	1991 – A. Bradford Wyman
1992 –	1993 – David B. Kittredge	1994 – Max McCormack, Jr.
1995 – Russell S. Reay	1996 – Gary F. Salmon	1997 – James B. Cullen
1998 – Joseph C. Mawson	1999 – Philip Bryce	2000 –
2001 –	2002 – Fred Borman III	2003 – Robert M. Ricard
2004 – Ingeborg V. Seaboyer	2005 – Kenneth M. Laustsen	2006 –
2007 – Raymond J. Toolan	2008 – Ronald C. Lemin, Jr.	2009 – George F. Frame
2010 – Lawrence Rousseau		

## CAROL L. REDELSHEIMER

### *Austin Cary Practicing Professional Award*

*The Austin Cary Award recognizes New England SAF members who have shown exceptional achievement as practicing forest managers. Austin Cary (1865–1936) graduated from Bowdoin College and introduced northern landowners to forest sampling, growth estimation, and simple silvicultural techniques. Cary’s *Woodsmen’s Manual*, written in 1909, continued to be used as a textbook until the 1960’s.*

A former professor at the University of Maine advocated that a “real” forester should practice in three venues during their career: forest industry, consulting forestry, and government. Effectively developing a broad and deep skill set; providing service to an array of groups with different interests, i.e. stockholders, clients, and the public. Carol probably has not intentionally followed this advice and career track, but her biographical sketch details her more than adequate coverage over her career.

It is her 4-year stint as Resource Manager for the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) of Baxter State Park that Carol’s skills as a practicing forester, facilitator, and communicator have shined. The overarching guidance in this grand experiment is found in this statement by Percival P. Baxter, “This area will be available for both recreation and for scientific forestry management and can be made to produce a continuing crop of timber to be harvested and sold as potatoes or any other product of the soil.” Within the nearly 30,000 acres of the SFMA, Carol has practiced excellent forestry with oversight from a 14-member Advisory Committee, maintained FSC and Forest Guild Model Forest certification, while helping to administer park policies and regulations.

An endorsement also noted that Carol’s service on the Maine Board of Licensure for Foresters and the SAF Certification Review Board allowed her to shape the direction and standards of the profession and also to understand the ethical dilemmas facing foresters. Carol sets very high ethical and performance standards for herself.

Another endorsement noted that in the last year, Carol made a bold move to leave her field responsibilities for the first time and begin to serve the forestry profession at the national level. She is now the Director of Science and Education for SAF, where she is transferring her wealth of field experiences and knowledge to issues that matter at the national level for the forestry profession.

Her professional background began with a BS degree in Forest Management from the University of Maine in 1983. Her work experience includes 17 years with forest industry; 9 years as a consulting forester with a wide range of clients; 4 years as Resource Manager of the Baxter Park SFMA; and since July 2010 the Director of Science and Education at SAF. Carol is a Certified Forester (CF) and a 28-year SAF member; her professional recognitions include NESAF Young Forester Award (1995), SAF Fellow (2008); and most recently the Univ. of Maine, School of Forest Resources Distinguished Alumna (2010).

#### **Austin Cary Award Recipients**

1989 – Lynn Levine	1990 – Stephen Orach	1991 – William H. Rivers
1992 – Paul Memmer	1993 – Charles Gadzik	1994 – Don & Nina Huffer
1995 – John McNulty	1996 – Bruce Spencer	1997 – D. Jensen Bissell
1998 – Charles Moreno	1999 – Fred A. Huntress	2000 – Michael Bartlett
2001 – Anne Marie Kittredge	2002 – Joel B. Bronson	2003 – Glenn Freden
2004 – Leland H. Sanders	2005 – Anthony Filairo	2006 – Geoffrey T. Jones
2007 – George F. Ritz	2008 – Si Balch	2009 – Kevin Evans
2010 – John A. O’Brien		