

# ews

SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION OF MAINE INC.

153 Hospital Street

P.O. Box 926

Augusta, Maine 04332

(207) 626-0005

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Volume 16 Number 9

## **SWOAM LAND TRUST PROGRAM**

SWOAM is pleased to announce that the Land Trust Program is ready to accept applications. With the advent of its land trust, SWOAM can assist Maine's woodland owners in meeting their forest management and tax planning objectives.

The primary goal of the SWOAM Land Trust is to foster and protect productive woodland in Maine. In so doing, SWOAM relieves landowners and heirs of the burden of managing woodlands while maintaining the integrity of the forest.

Because of the SWOAM Land Trust emphasis on forest management, it may accept gifts of lands or conservation easements that other land trusts with primarily recreational or scenic objectives do not. SWOAM intends to fill this niche and share the educational benefits to Maine's public via field days, school tours and providing research opportunities.

Land Trust brochures are available from the SWOAM office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Abbott Ladd at 626-0005 or Jack Erler, chair of SWOAM's Land Trust Committee at 773-3511.

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## **WHERE DOES SWOAM STAND?**

**On the Northern Forest Lands Council?**

**On the Northern Forest Lands Act of 1991?**

by Judith Berg, President of SWOAM

In April, along with representatives of Maine Audubon, Sportsmens Alliance, Maine Forest Products Council and Natural Resources Council, I signed a letter to our Congressional delegation recommending authorization of the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC).

Following a U. S. Forest Service study on the northern forests of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine (1989) and a report by the task force comprising the governors of the four states, the NFLC was established as a nonprofit Corporation (1990). The Council was to carry out the follow-on study (recommended by the task force) to address conservation of the forests and the general way of life and economic well-being of the region's inhabitants. Funded by the U. S. Forest Service for one year, the NFLC now needs Congressional authorization to receive funding over the next four years.

Recognizing the desirability of the follow-on study, our Board agreed that SWOAM should support the authorization of the NFLC.

(continued)

On June 4, I received a copy of the proposed legislation, "Discussion Draft S\_\_\_ of the Northern Forest Lands Act of 1991," which I circulated to our Executive Committee. Most comments received were unfavorable. Individual members found that the enabling legislation, Draft S\_\_\_, authorized the NFLC both directly and by implication to pursue objectives well beyond the goals of the follow-on study. Draft S\_\_\_ emphasized a natural resources inventory. At the same time, it was silent on the human environment and its economic base, a thorough understanding of which is crucial to conserving forest land.

Two weeks later, I received a call from Senator Cohen's aide requesting that I testify on Draft S\_\_\_ on July 15 and informing me that a written invitation would be forthcoming from Senator Wyche Fowler, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. I explained to the aide, Linda Decoster, that since I did not live or work in the study area (which is 2/3 of Maine), I felt it would be preferable to ask one of our northern chapter members to testify. Ron Locke, a well-respected forester from Dover-Foxcroft, with his wife a former Maine Tree Farmer of the year, and president of SWOAM's FPM&MA chapter in Piscataquis county agreed to testify.

When the invitation did not arrive, I called Senator Cohen's and then Senator Mitchell's office to learn the details of the hearing. Steve Hart, Senator Mitchell's aide, explained how the various invited panels of speakers would give their testimony. When I asked what was expected of us, he told me that Senator Mitchell was not looking for a revision of Draft S\_\_\_ but for the "big picture." Was the legislation "pablum, a threat, or good for forestry and private landowners"? I passed this on to Ron Locke. He told me that he could not support Draft S\_\_\_. Our Executive Committee reviewed his testimony, agreed to support it and faxed it to Washington.

On June 19, the NFLC met and came up with its own complete revision of Draft S\_\_\_. Since I did not learn of this revision until a few days before the hearing and the letter of invitation from Senator Fowler (received July 11) asked that we respond to Draft S\_\_\_, Ron Locke's testimony addressed that draft, not the revision.

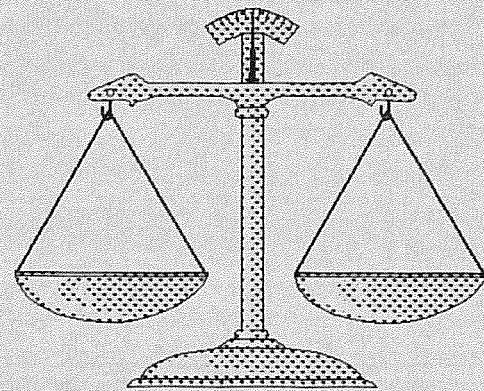
The NFLC revision makes substantive changes in the original bill (Draft S\_\_\_). Those who testified in favor of the legislation referred to the revised version, although several endorsed even the revised version with reservations.

I feel that our Board will find much greater agreement with this revised draft than with Draft S\_\_\_ when we meet on August 15.

There is a good side to this confusion. Another hearing will be held in September (as we go to press the date hasn't been set). The July 15 hearing sparked enough controversy that newspapers in the area covered the story. This has helped inform many persons who live in the study area about the NFLC and its proposed work.

Fortunately, the 1989 study regards Maine's northern forests as not being under an immediate threat. If we take a little longer to get the legislation right and try for maximum public participation, particularly in the affected areas, we can shape the Council and its charge to serve the best interests of the northern and western two thirds of Maine and those of the entire state. Everyone could benefit!

SWOAM members are urged to let the Executive Committee and Board know how they feel regarding the revised legislation. Copies are available from Charles A. Levesque, Executive Director, Northern Forest Lands Council, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301, telephone (603)224-6590.



## **CERTIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

by Joe Blair, Jr., logger

Once upon a time, about twenty years ago, a person who needed to make a few bucks could buy or borrow a chainsaw and start cutting trees on his land or buy stumpage from a neighbor. He would also need a tractor, pick-up truck, or something similar to get wood from the stump to the roadside landing or yard. Many trucks were available for hire to haul the roadside wood to the numerous available markets. What was once a common scenario is fast becoming a fairy tale! My wife really enjoys the children's fairy tale where the woodsman cuts trees and makes a lot of money!

Being a logger who is concerned about the safety and future of the woods industry, I jumped at the chance to be on the certification board of the Certified Logging Professional program (CLP). When Judy Berg asked me to represent SWOAM, I happily accepted.

The CLP program is trying to deal with many issues, some old and some new. Many loggers have trouble communicating with foresters and landowners because of a lack of understanding of what their goals really are. A particular land use or certain forestry terms and practices may confuse them.

State and federal agencies have trouble administering all the new rules and regulations, and many loggers and land owners are totally baffled by them. High insurance rates are affecting the industry. Since logging is dangerous and has a high rate of injuries and fatalities, it is being targeted for change by organizations like OSHA. Environmental groups are also trying to effect changes.

An on-going issue that recently came to light is the training of loggers to make the industry safer. It was suggested by OSHA that the landowner be responsible for training loggers. One big drawback to this idea is that the Internal Revenue Service would consider the landowner to be the employer and the logger to be an employee. Would landowners be willing to be responsible for workers compensation insurance and state and federal withholding of income tax and

social security? As an employee, the logger would lose his independent status. A reasonable solution would be for a third party to train loggers. This is how the CLP program began.

In 1990, varied logging industry groups came together to start the Certified Logging Professional program. The CLP program is co-sponsored by the Maine Forest Products Council, the Maine Tree Foundation and the American Pulpwood Association. The program's curriculum and materials have been developed by certification and advisory boards working with the James W. Sewall Company of Old Town, safety consultant Mike St. Peter of Jackman and Max Media of Orono. The two CLP boards also include loggers, foresters, and representatives of organizations such as SWOAM, Maine Forest Service, and the Maine Audubon Society.

The CLP program got underway in April. So far 140 loggers have taken the course.

In future articles, I'll detail how the program is being administered. I will explain what a logger/candidate is exposed to during the four-day CLP course, and how the program is taught using the study circle method instead of the more traditional lecture format. I'll also touch on some of the past and current issues being dealt with by the CLP boards.

We are now doing field interviews and evaluations of CLP candidates who have taken courses this spring.

As your representative on the CLP certification board, I would enjoy hearing from SWOAM members with ideas, concerns, and questions about this exciting program. Please feel free to contact me at (207)549-3094, Box 371, Windsor, ME 04363.

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## **NATIONAL WETLANDS REGULATIONS**

Proposed revisions to the Clean Water Act would affect the definition of wooded wetlands. Contact: Mitch Dubensky, National Forest Products Association - (202)463-2434.

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## SWOAM DEDICATES LAND TRUST

SWOAM has moved into a new era of forest stewardship with the July 13 dedication of the **Patty Eastman Carroll Memorial Forest** in Sweden.



**Jack Erler, Peter Lawrence, Abbott Ladd  
Judy Berg, Ruth Forbes, Duncan Howlett**

SWOAM's acquisition of the 65-acre predominantly pine forest atop Evans Hill in southern Oxford County moves the fledgling Land Trust Committee from the concept and idea stage to the land management phase.

"Today we celebrate the end of the idea and the beginning of the application," said John Paul Erler, chairman of the committee. Erler said SWOAM faces many challenges in the coming months, including implementing the property's management plan and establishing education programs.

"We are literally as well as figuratively standing at the crossroads of this program," Erler said.

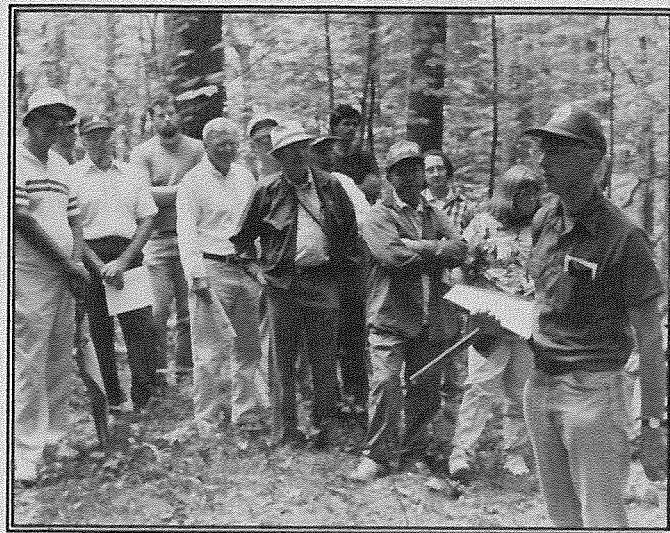
Founder Duncan Howlett called the acquisition a "crucial step" in the growth of the association.

"I think it's a major point in the development of this association for which I feel so deeply," said Howlett of Lovell. "Our goal is to further good forestry on privately owned land." Howlett, the group's first president in 1975, is the prime mover behind obtaining the Carroll land for SWOAM.

In addition to Erler and Howlett, dedication speakers included SWOAM President Judith Berg and Ruth Forbes, Mrs. Carroll's longtime business manager who gave the land to SWOAM as a memorial to Patty Eastman Carroll.

Following the brief formal ceremony, foresters Tim Sawyer from the P. H. Chadbourne Co., Fred Huntress Jr. of the New England Forestry Foundation and Abbott Ladd, a retired Boise Cascade forester who is now Executive Director of SWOAM, led a tour through the land.

Huntress has completed a written management plan for the land. The cost of the management plan was partially met through the Forest Stewardship Assistance program of the Maine Forest Service.



**Fred Huntress Explains Management Plan**

The land was originally bequeathed to the Nature Conservancy by Mrs. Carroll, who died December 29, 1989 at age 84. But Conservancy officials declined the gift because the land contained no endangered plants, animals or birds. This left the land in limbo because of the will's wording.

"Unfortunately, Mrs. Carroll did not make any provisions for the land to go to someone else if the Conservancy didn't accept it," Forbes said. Legal authorities said the land could not be sold, conveyed or leased to some other group or organization that would carry out Mrs. Carroll's wishes for "scientific research, field study or recreation."

With the Nature Conservancy unwilling to accept the land for its intended use and then deed it over to SWOAM, the woodlot reverted to the estate and its 17 heirs. But as Forbes pointed out, most of the 17 beneficiaries, mainly in-laws, had never seen Mrs. Carroll or the land in Sweden.

Forbes said she felt 17 people would never agree to donate the land, so she decided to buy it for the appraised \$54,000 value and give it to SWOAM.

"I feel very strongly about the preservation of woodlots like that," Forbes said, noting that while she lived in Chicago most of her adult life, she was born and raised on the upper Peninsula of Michigan in a small lumbering town.

The Sweden land was part of a 600-acre estate started in 1832 by Patty Eastman Carroll's grandfather, Phineas Eastman. The family homestead in Lovell, known as the Eastman Hill Stock Farm, was acquired in 1912 by her father, Robert M. Eastman, who ran a large printing company in Chicago. Eastman bought the Sweden land for his daughter in 1924.

SWOAM President Judy Berg said her goal is to make the Sweden woodlot a demonstration forest open to the public.

"SWOAM believes that a productive, self-sustaining forest is an alternative to development," Berg said. The SWOAM president hopes that the non-profit group will receive more such gifts in the future.

Howlett emphasized that SWOAM's philosophy is to encourage people to purchase, own and manage forests for production. "A well managed forest is a beautiful forest," he said, adding "It's important to keep Maine's productive forest base."

Ruth Forbes recalled that Mrs. Carroll gave \$1,000 to SWOAM when it was getting started because she believed so deeply in the group's purposes.

"So, I thought it was very appropriate that the land go to SWOAM," Forbes said, stressing that she feels it important that there should be "these oases amidst all the development."

## FOREST FIRES INCREASE

The first week of August this year there were 800 forest fires in Maine -- 150 more than in all of 1990. Approximately 2,200 acres of woods have burned.

Because of the prolonged drought in the late spring and summer, the Maine Forest Service, Division of Forest Fire Control came close to placing a ban on all fire permits, according to Tom Parent, State Supervisor. Early August rains relieved the situation, but a close watch is being kept.

The largest fire swept over 250 acres in Eastbrook. The longest lasting fire burned for about 12 days in Garfield, near Ashland, and covered 150 acres.

Fires across the border in Canada were also extensive. Smoke from a large fire in Quebec drifted into central and northern Maine and at times made local fires in Maine difficult to detect. Maine Forest Service equipment and personnel were loaned to fight a fire in New Brunswick.

All days off in the Fire Control Division were cancelled for eight weeks and expenditures were running high, Parent said.

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## CAUTION IN DRY WOODS



After a long dry spell the soil in the woods will be like dust an inch below the surface, even after some rain. It is wise to check the daily fire hazard rating shown in the newspaper or on Forest Service signs. Call your local ranger or fire warden if you have questions, or call 1-800-367-0223.

In dry weather:

- \* Do not smoke in the woods.
- \* Do not light camp fires or burn slash. Get a permit for any outside fire.
- \* No power equipment shall be operated in the woods unless it has an approved spark arrester.

## MIXED STANDS From Our Readers

Portland

I can understand some of Paul Niehaus's fear (expressed in the August *SWOAM News*) that the Northern Forest Lands program is a Trojan horse designed to create a federally controlled "playground" for the urban hordes. However, a lack of any idea or vision, on the part of Maine people, as to the future of the lands in Maine will leave them vulnerable to any number of outside forces. The views of the residents of the area should be given especially strong weight in developing that vision. This is why I was in sympathy with Ron Locke's testimony from SWOAM's Dover-Foxcroft chapter, adopted as SWOAM's position, in opposition to the original draft of the Northern Forest Lands Act.

Now let us see if we can get something constructive out of the process. Paul is quite correct that the primary causes of forest fragmentation are unrealistic and inequitable taxes and inappropriate kinds of regulation (to take some of the sizzle out of his language!). The Northern Forest Lands Council's revision of the bill proposes, among other things, research on "barriers to forest land investment opportunities." This could, for the first time, carefully document those barriers and lead to improvements in the tax and regulatory laws.

In addition, there may be certain lands that do need special protection. Obviously, the Council and the state and federal governments have to be held to tight standards and precise definitions. That is why clear accountability and strong watchdogging are important.

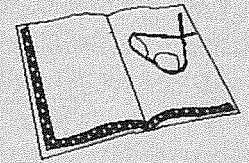
There are ways to accomplish some worthwhile objectives through this program, in accordance with SWOAM's long-range purposes and Maine's traditions, while at the same time keeping the Trojan horse outside the gate. The Council's very substantial revisions are a great improvement over the original bill.

Peter Lawrence

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## NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

*How to Improve Logging Profits* by Benjamin F. Hoffman is a new book available from the Northeastern Loggers' Association (NELA), Old Forge, NY.



The 60-page, soft cover book is packed with tips and techniques on how to run a logging business like a business. Sections deal with preparing a business plan, keeping business records and analyzing costs. Other parts of the book cover wood measurement, environmental laws, timber trespass, people management and training.

Twenty nine individual sections are designed to give independent logging contractors the skills they need to prosper in an industry that is constantly changing.

The book is based on a series of articles written by Hoffman over a period of years. The material has been edited and updated for this book.

Hoffman is professor emeritus retiring from the College of Forest Resources, University of Maine in 1990. In his 33 years as a professional forester, 12 of them were in government, eight with industry and 13 in teaching and timber harvesting research. His work with industry was in timber harvesting, including two years as an independent contractor. *How to Improve Logging Profits* reflects two of his major concerns - safety and professionalism.

Eric A. Johnson, assistant executive director, NELA, edited the book and supervised its production. He said, "*This book fills a real need. Not every logging contractor has a natural gift for managing a business. This book helps fill in the gaps for everyone from the beginner to the veteran logging contractor.*"

Copies are available from the association at \$12.95 for NELA members and \$14.95 for non-members. Quantity discounts are available for orders of ten or more. The prices include postage and handling. Mail orders should be sent to P. O. Box 69, Old Forge, NY 13420 or by FAX: (315)369-3736.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### TV SHOWING - "WETLANDS"

"Wetlands," a 30-minute television documentary will air at 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, September 8** on all of the Maine Public Broadcasting stations. The documentary was produced by the Maine Public Broadcasting Network with Bud Blumenstock of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service providing technical consulting support. It features interviews with large, medium and small landowners from Virginia and New Hampshire.

### WOODSMEN'S DAY

The **Farmington** Fair will hold its first Woodsmen's Day on **Monday, September 16**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Twelve different events are scheduled. For additional information, call David E. Dunn, 645-4469 after 5:00 p.m.

### COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR

The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association's (MOFGA) 15th Common Ground Country Fair offers something for everyone on **September 20, 21, and 22** at the **Windsor** Fairgrounds on Route 32. SWOAM will have a display and demonstrations in the agricultural demonstrations area. Mark Miller will conduct a woodlot management walk and talk leaving the demonstration area at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Ben Welch, 645-4558, **needs** volunteers to staff the SWOAM booth. **Upper Kennebec Valley Chapter members, consider this your September meeting event.** It is a good place to capture new members!

### ACCESS ROADS WORKSHOPS

The York County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring three separate woodland access roads workshops:

1. **Wednesday, Sept. 25**, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
2. **Thursday, Oct. 10**, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
3. **Saturday, Oct. 19**, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon -- in conjunction with the SWOAM meeting

Location: USDA Building on Route 202 in **Sanford**.

Professional foresters will discuss planning considerations, road layout, choosing erosion control practices and types of water crossings, permitting, and costs versus benefits. The workshops will also introduce and demonstrate Maine's Best management Practices (BMP's) for Erosion Control in Timber Harvesting Operations. Each workshop will conclude with a trip to the Sid Emery Forest where an access road has recently been constructed demonstrating some of the erosion control practices.

Sessions are free and refreshments are provided. Call 324-7015 for information or to register.

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### PAID ADVERTISING

**PREVENT TIMBER TRESPASS** -- by having your legal boundaries located and blazed by professional Registered Land Surveyors. Please call or write: **DELTA SURVEY**, a division of Delta Engineering, Inc., 16 U. S. Route One, Yarmouth, ME 04096 or call (207)846-5544.

**FOREST TREES OF MAINE POSTER** -- Maine's forest trees reproduced on 24"x36" glossy, high-quality paper. Educational and Beautiful, Accurate and in **Full Color!** A wonderful gift -- or for your own home or office. Sold at SWOAM office for \$10.60 or mailed for \$12.60. For laminated posters, please include an extra \$5.30. Make your check payable to SWOAM.

**SWOAM MEMBER SIGN** -- 18"x24" aluminum, green-on-white; SWOAM logo on both sides \$16.96, members only. SWOAM, P. O. Box 926, Augusta, Maine 04332.

**SWOAM CRUISING ROD** -- Estimates diameter, height, board feet in standing trees. Instruction booklet included. Send \$10.60 to SWOAM, P. O. Box 926, Augusta, Maine 04332.

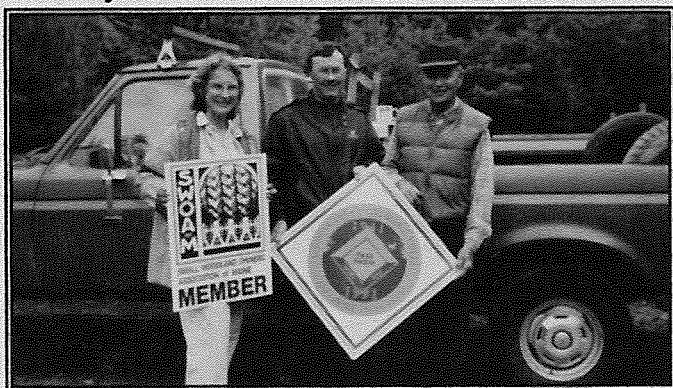
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## ROOTS AND BRANCHES News From Area Chapters

### NORTHERN MAINE by Robert Thomas

There will be a "changing of the guard" for northern Maine officers at a get-together of out-going and new chapter officers at the home of Bob Thomas in **Caribou on Friday, September 6**. Meeting plans for the upcoming year will be discussed. All northern Maine SWOAM members are urged to contact Bob Thomas, 498-6155 or one of the new officers with suggestions for future meetings.

New officers are: president, Fred J. Gregory, 896-3050; vice president, Ken Fongemie, 868-5745; and secretary/treasurer, Bruce Wilkins, 764-4728.



Judy Berg, Ken Fongemie, and Fred Gregory

### SOUTHERN MAINE by Paul Niehaus

The Southern Maine Chapter will host a Legislators' Education tour on **Saturday, September 14**, at 9 a.m. All members are urged to invite and accompany state senators and state representatives from your respective areas. It is imperative that lawmakers appreciate realities of small ownerships since legislation always has an impact, good or bad, on the viability of woodland ownership and productivity. The tour will focus on comparison of managed vs. unmanaged lands. **PLEASE BRING YOUR DISTRICT LEGISLATORS.**

**DIRECTIONS:** From the intersections of Routes 114 and 35 in **Sebago Lake Village**, go 3.0 miles north on Route 114. We will meet in the small unmowed field 150 yards beyond Hawkes Lumber Co. (on left).

### MIDCOAST

by Barrie Brusila

This meeting will feature several timber stand improvement (TSI) practices. It will be at Alford Lake Camp in **Hope on Saturday, September 14**, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Mark Miller, consulting forester for the camp will lead the tour. Trudy Soucy of ASCS will explain federal cost-sharing practices and how they were applied to this woodlot. **DIRECTIONS:** Take Alford Lake Road north from Route 17 in South Hope. Watch for the signs.

### DOWN EAST

by Douglas Coleman

A "Silviculture Field Day" is scheduled at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in **Bradley on Saturday, September 21**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Forest management and silvicultural methods can improve quality and quantity of forest products as well as improve the health of your forest. All SWOAM members are urged to attend. Not only will it be an exceptional learning experience, it will give members a chance to discuss current issues and to revitalize the Down East Chapter.

Beginning in the early 1950's, the experimental forest's research program was designed to develop silvicultural prescriptions and forest management strategies for accelerating growth and yield of spruce-fir and associated forest types. The forest is located just off Route 178, halfway between Brewer and Milford.

A bean-hole-bean lunch will be provided at Leonard's Mills at \$5.00/person (or bring your own). Leonard's Mills is an authentically reconstructed 1790's lumbering community. Call the RC&D office in Cherryfield (546-2368) to reserve lunch.

### WESTERN MAINE

by Bill Detert

Boundary line maintenance is the topic of the **Saturday, September 21**, 9:00 a.m. meeting at the Walter Lang tree farm in **Oxford**. Panelists will include a forester, surveyor and landowner.

**DIRECTIONS:** From South Paris on Route 119, take a right on East Oxford Road, follow signs. From Oxford at Junction of Route 26 and 121, follow signs. For information and directions, call 539-2563.



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Dues are deductible for income tax purposes.  
Sales items include sales tax, postage and handling.

The Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine was incorporated in 1975 as a not-for-profit organization by a group of private non-industrial woodland owners. Their primary purpose was to design a program to assist each other in learning how to manage their own woodland.

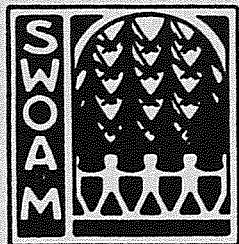
SWOAM grew and broadened its membership to include not only small landowners, but anyone who had an interest in Maine woodlands. SWOAM has members in all of Maine's sixteen counties and in some twenty other states. Regional chapters have been established in various parts of the state, each with officers and a program of its own. Other chapters are in the development stage.

Now, in addition to assisting its members, SWOAM is concerned with public awareness. Owners are encouraged to hold their woodlands for the long periods of time which good management practices require. SWOAM stresses the cumulative importance to Maine's economy and ecology of a large number of managed forest units, particularly in areas experiencing development pressures. SWOAM is now entering an expansion phase which will increase its education and outreach capabilities. Its IRS 501(c)(3) classification permits tax deductibility of dues, contributions, gifts of land and other property, bequests, etc.



"... SEEK THE ADVICE OF  
AN EXPERIENCED FORESTER..."

## A Better Tomorrow for Maine Woodland



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