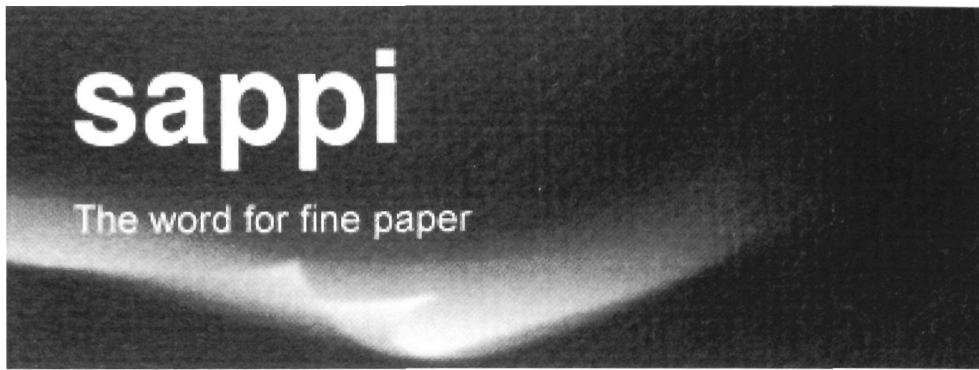


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2004-2005



# **The Maine Forester**

expresses our deepest gratitude to

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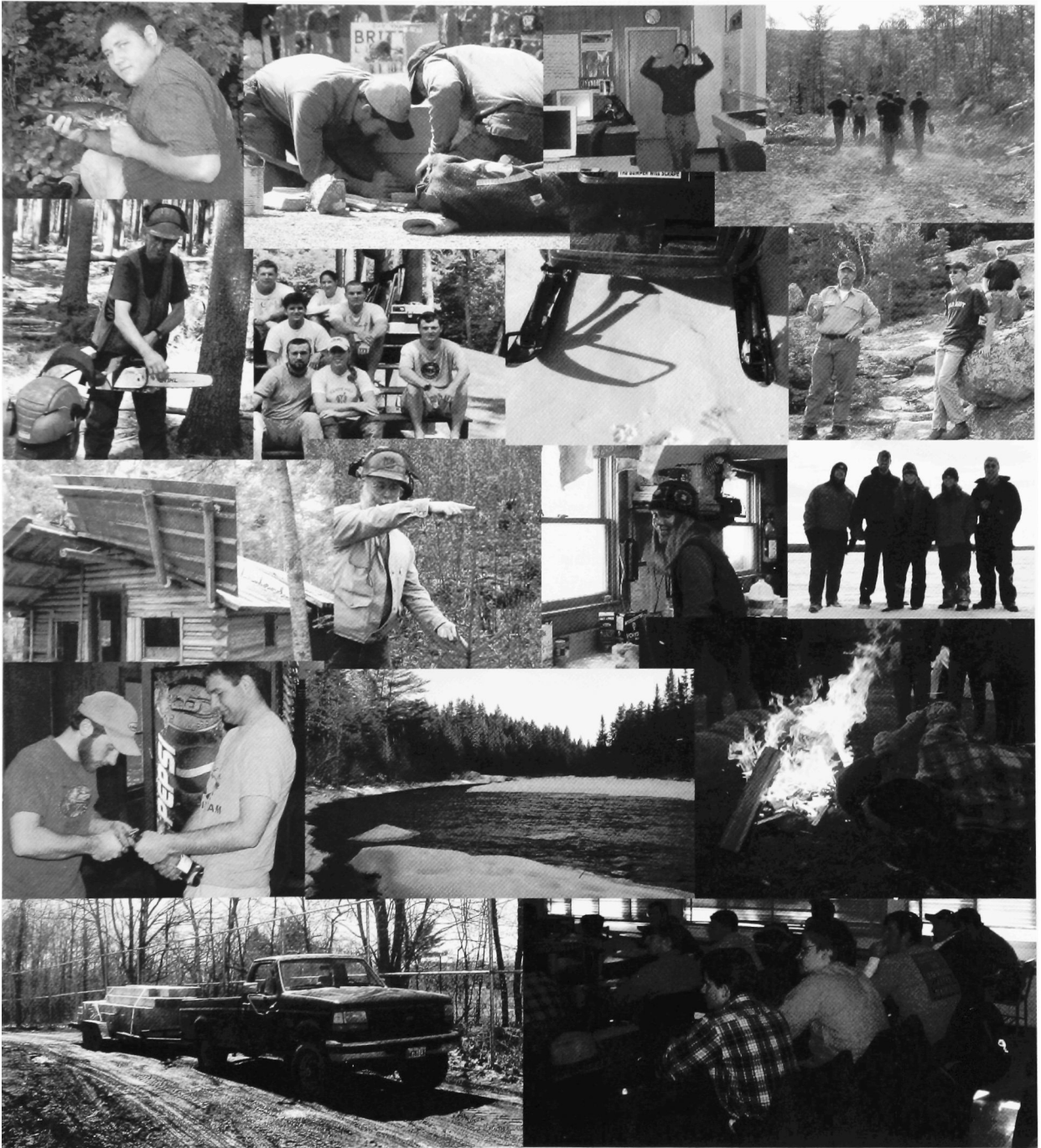
**Somerset Mill  
Skowhegan, Maine**

for the generous contribution of the paper



# The Maine Forester

2004-2005





# Dedication

2004-2005

Each year of publication, *The Maine Forester* is dedicated to an individual or two that have influenced the Forest Resource Programs here at the University of Maine, or just in the everyday life that happens in Nutting Hall. In the past, *The Maine Forester* has been dedicated to many people, most recently to everyone who has made the last 100 years of UMaine forestry possible. This year there are no two people that deserve this dedication more than the two professors who will be retiring this year, Dr. Robert Shepard and Dr. Wilbur LaPage.

Dr. Shepard started off his long and productive academic career at no other place than at the University of Maine in 1959. He transferred to the University of Michigan, where he graduated with a B.S. in Forestry. He went on to earn an M.F. in Forest Entomology from Duke University, and in 1970 he completed a PhD. at the University of Michigan.

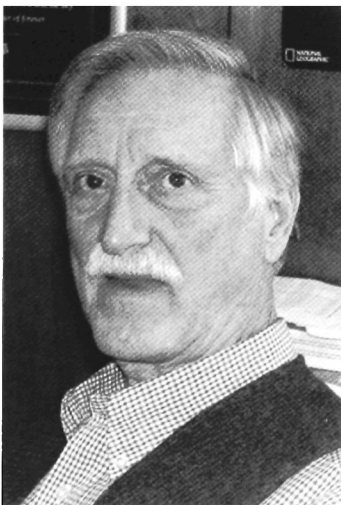
Dr. Shepard began his teaching career with an Assistant Professorship at Louisiana State University from 1970 to 1974. Next he made a move to the University of Maine in 1975, also as an Assistant Professor. While being a major part of the forestry program, Dr. Shepard moved up through the ranks of academia, becoming an Associate Professor in 1981, and a full tenured Professor in 1993.

Dr. LaPage started his successful career with a B.S. in Forestry from the University of New Hampshire in

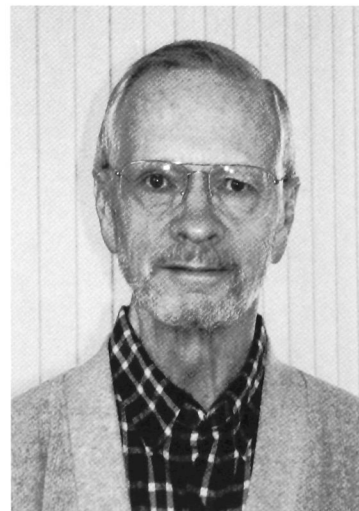
1960. He continued his academic career at UNH and earned his M.S. in Forest Recreation. In 1975, he earned his PhD. in Public Administration and Natural Resource Policy from Syracuse University & N.Y. State College of Forestry.

Between 1983 and 1984, Dr. LaPage was an Associate Professor at UNH in Tourism, Park Management, and Commercial Recreation. Dr. LaPage then worked as the Director of the New Hampshire State Park Administration from 1984 to 1994. From 1994 to 1997, Dr. LaPage was an Assistant Professor and Guest Lecturer at the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University. In 1998, Dr. LaPage came to the University of Maine to teach tourism and environmental interpretation in UMaine's Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Program.

Both Dr. LaPage and Dr. Shepard have been cornerstones in the Nutting Hall community for many years. Countless students have passed through their classes, been their advisees, and most importantly guided by their wisdom. The entire Nutting community owes a great deal of thanks to these men, both having helped develop students into professionals in the forestry and parks, recreation, and tourism fields. On behalf of all the students, faculty and alumni, *The Maine Forester* would like to officially thank Dr. Robert Shepard and Dr. Wilbur LaPage for their many years of service.



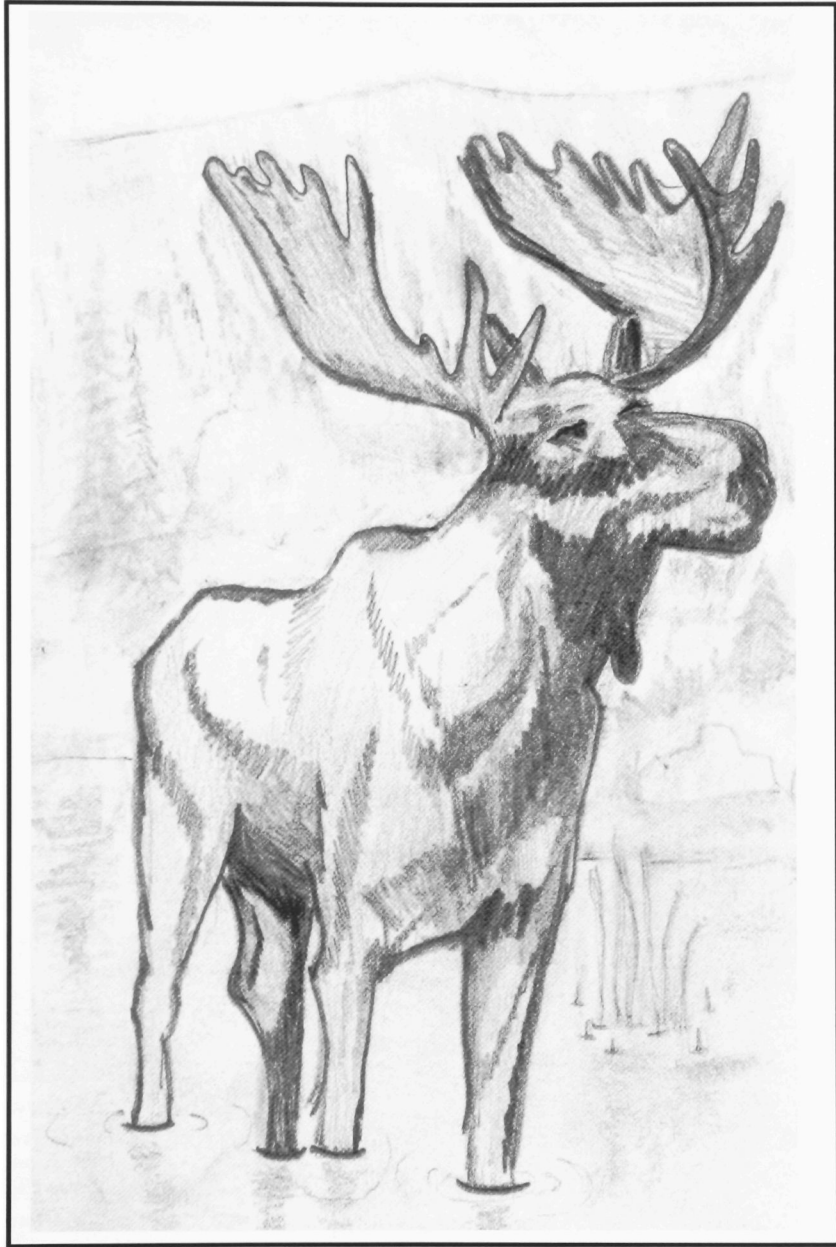
Dr. Wilbur LaPage



Dr. Robert Shepard



# Faculty & Staff

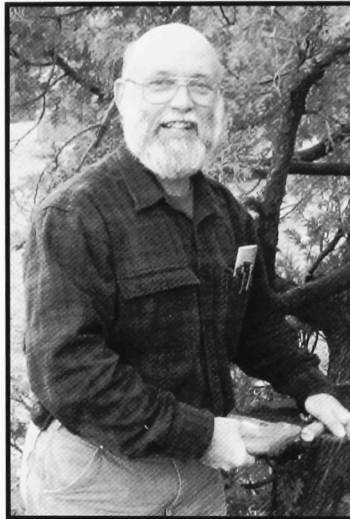


# Forest Management Faculty



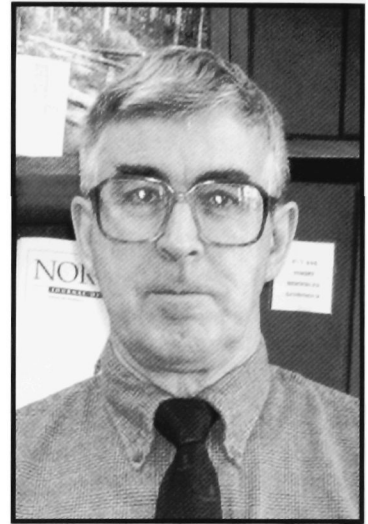
**Thomas B. Brann**

**Professor of Forest Resources**  
*B.S. University of New Hampshire, 1969, Forest Management*  
*M.S. University of New Hampshire, 1974, Forest Management*  
*Ph.D. Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State University, 1979, Forest Resources*



**Alan J. Kimball**

**Associate Professor of Forest Resources**  
*B.S., University of Maine, 1972, Wildlife Management*  
*M.S., University of Maine, 1978, Forestry*



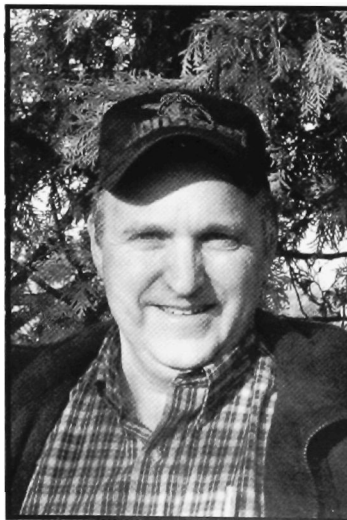
**David B. Field**

**E.L. Giddings Professor of Forest Policy & Professor of Forest Resources**  
**Department of Forest Management Chair**  
*B.S. University of Maine, 1963, Forestry*  
*M.S. University of Maine, 1968, Forest Economics*  
*Ph. D. Purdue University, 1974, Forest Economics*



**Katherine K. Carter**

**Associate Professor of Forest Resources**  
*B.S. Central Missouri State University, 1974*  
*M.A.T. Duke University, 1976*  
*M.F. Duke University, 1978*  
*Ph. D. West Virginia University, 1980*



**J. Louis Morin**

**Instructor of Forest Resources**  
*B.S., University of Maine, 1976, Forestry*  
*M.S., University of Maine, 1978, Forestry*



**Jeremy S. Wilson**

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**Irving Chair for Forest Ecosystem Management**  
*A.B. Bowdoin College, 1987, Economics*  
*M.F. Yale University, 1993, Forest Management*  
*Ph.D. University of Washington, 1998, Silviculture*

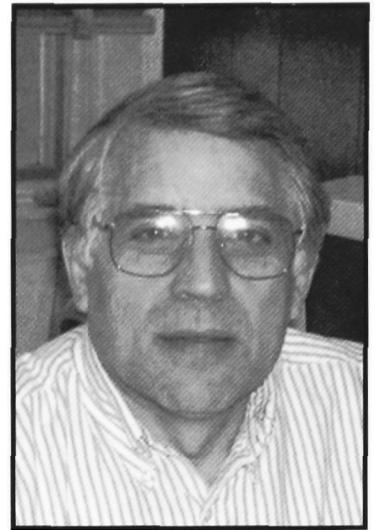
# Forest Management Faculty



**Warren E. Hedstrom**

**Associate Professor of Forest  
Management**

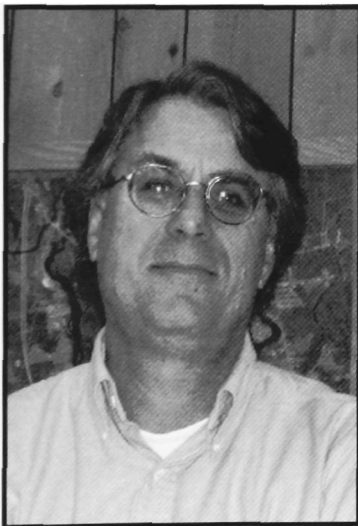
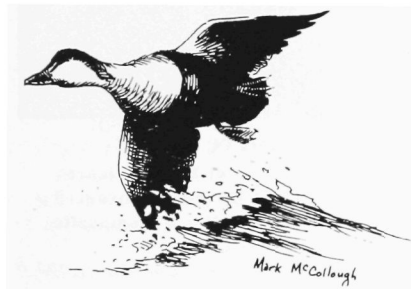
*B.S. University of Maine, 1961,  
Agricultural Engineering  
M.S. Cornell University, 1969,  
Agricultural Engineering  
PhD Colorado State University, 1970,  
Agricultural Engineering*



**William D. Ostrofsky**

**Henry Saunders Assistant  
Professor of Forest Resources  
Director; Professional  
Development Office**

*A.A.S. University of New Hampshire,  
1970, Forestry  
B.S. University of New Hampshire,  
1973, Forestry  
M.S. Oregon State University, 1975  
Botany and Plant Pathology  
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**Steven A. Sader**

**Professor of Forest Resources  
Graduate Coordinator;**

**Department of Forest Management**

*B.S., No. Arizona University, 1973,  
Forest Management  
M.S., Mississippi State University,  
1976, Forest Management  
Ph.D., University of Idaho, 1981,  
Forest Management*



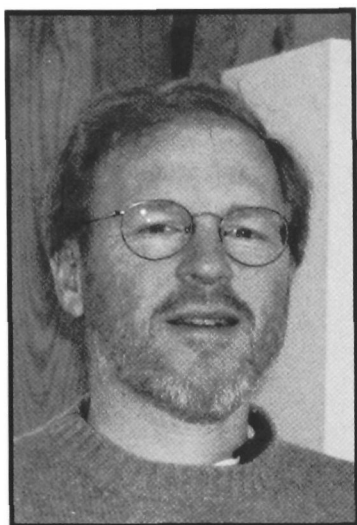
**Robert K. Shepard**

**Professor of Forest Resources**

*B.S., University of Michigan, 1963  
M.F., Duke University, 1964  
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1970*



# Wood Science Faculty



**Douglas J. Gardner**

**Associate Professor of Wood  
Science**

*B.S. University of Maine, 1980,  
Forestry*

*M.S. University of Maine, 1981, Pulp  
& Paper Management*

*Ph. D. Mississippi State University,  
1985, Wood Science & Technology  
(minor, Chemistry)*



**Steve Shaler**

**Professor of Wood Science  
Assistant Director , Advanced  
Engineered Wood Composite  
Center**

*B.S. Colorado State University, 1979,  
Wood Science & Technology*

*M.S. Colorado State University, 1982,  
Wood Engineering*

*Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University,  
1986, Forest Resources*



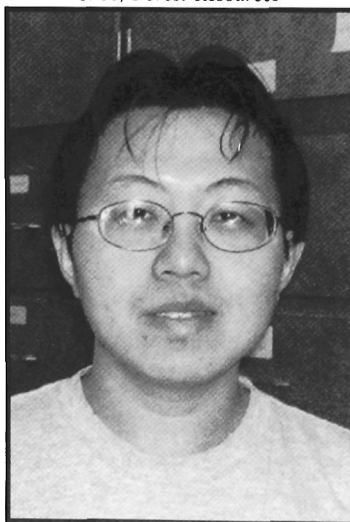
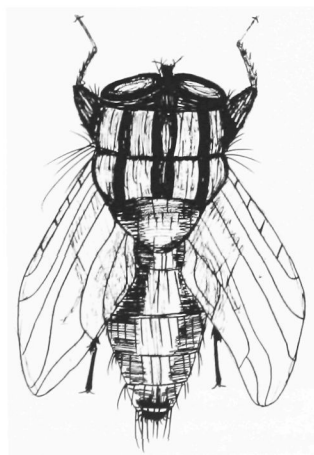
**Barry Goodell**

**Professor of Wood Science &  
Technology**

*B.S. University of New Hampshire,  
1976*

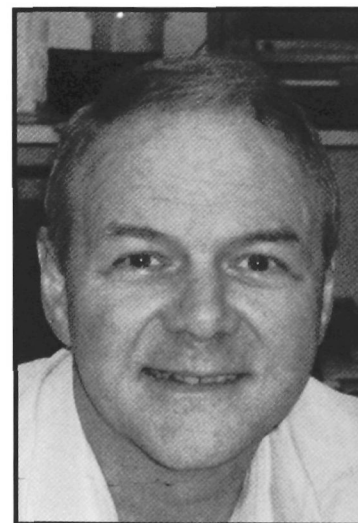
*M.S. Oregon State University, 1980,  
Forest Products*

*Ph. D. Oregon State University, Forest  
Products (minor, Biochemistry/  
Biophysics & Plant Pathology)*



**Yuhui Qian**

**Research Assistant**



**Robert W. Rice**

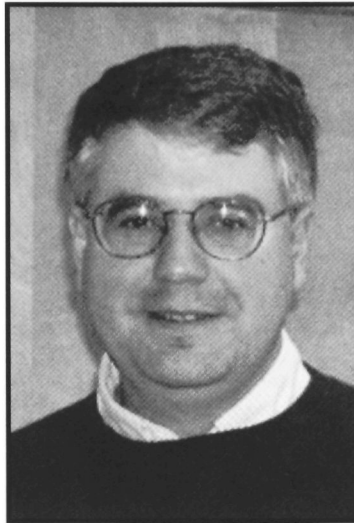
**Professor of Wood Science and  
Forest Engineering**

*B.S., University of New Haven, 1974,  
Physics*

*M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Inst. &  
State University., 1985, Forest  
Products*

*Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Inst. &  
State University., 1988, Forest  
Products*

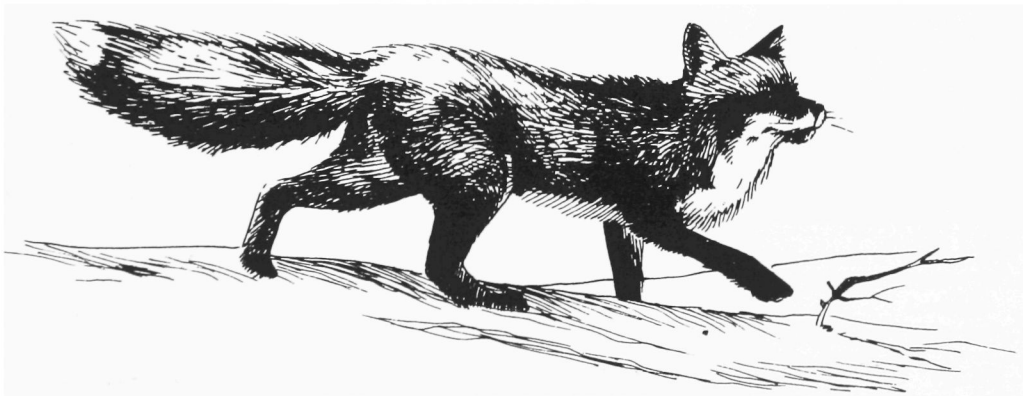
# Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

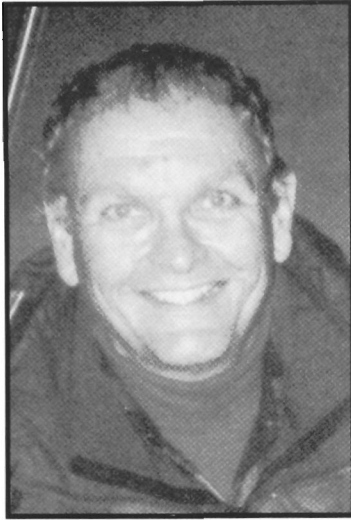


**John J. Daigle**

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Recreation Management  
Program Leader; Parks,  
Recreation & Tourism**

*B.S. University of Maine, 1986,  
Recreation & Park Management  
M.S. Colorado State University, 1990,  
Recreation Resources & Landscape  
Architecture  
Ph. D. University of Massachusetts,  
1997, Forestry*

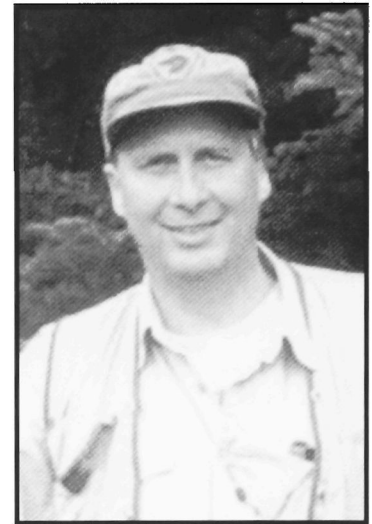
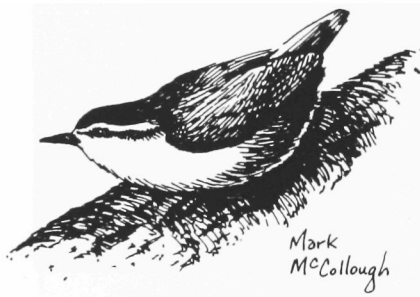




**William B. Krohn**

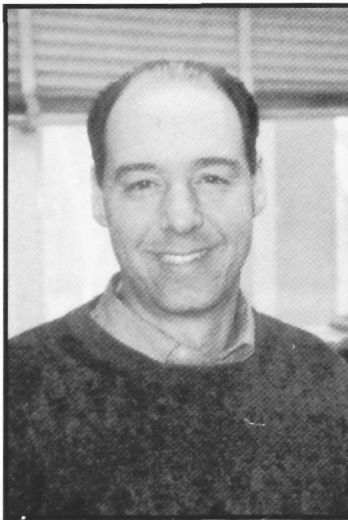
**Professor of Wildlife Ecology**  
**Leader of Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit**  
*B.S. University of Alaska, 1968, Wildlife Management*  
*M.S. University of Maine, 1969, Wildlife Management*  
*Ph. D. University of Idaho, 1977, Wildlife Science*

# Wildlife Ecology Faculty



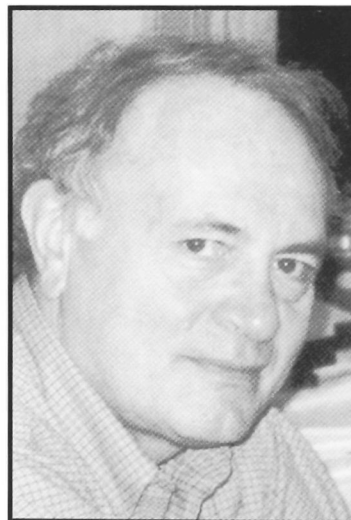
**Daniel J. Harrison**

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*B.S. University of Wyoming, 1980, Wildlife Management*  
*M.S. University of Maine, 1983, Wildlife Management*  
*Ph.D. University of Maine, 1986, Wildlife*



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*B.S. SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, 1979, Forest Biology*  
*M.S. Virginian Polytechnic Institute & State University, 1981, Wildlife Management*  
*Ph. D. Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 1985, Wildlife Management*



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*B.S. Colorado State University, 1968, Wildlife Biology*  
*M.S. University of Minnesota, 1970, Ecology*  
*Ph. D. University of Idaho, 1974, Wildlife Science*



**Judith M. Rhymer**

**Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology**  
*B.S. University of Manitoba, 1979, Zoology*  
*M.S. University of Manitoba, 1983, Zoology*  
*PhD. Florida State University, 1988, Biological Sciences*

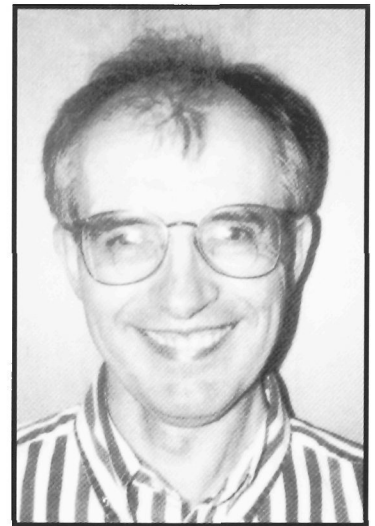




**Malcolm L. Hunter**

**Professor of Wildlife Ecology**  
*B.S. University of Maine, 1974, Wildlife  
 Science*  
*D. Phil. Oxford University, 1978,  
 Wildlife Ecology*

# Wildlife Ecology Faculty



**Raymond J. O'Connor**

**Professor of Wildlife Ecology**  
*B.S. University College, Physics &  
 Mathematics*  
*Ph. D. Edward Grey Institute for Field  
 Ornithology at Oxford, Growth &  
 Development of Nestling Birds*



**Lindsay Seward**

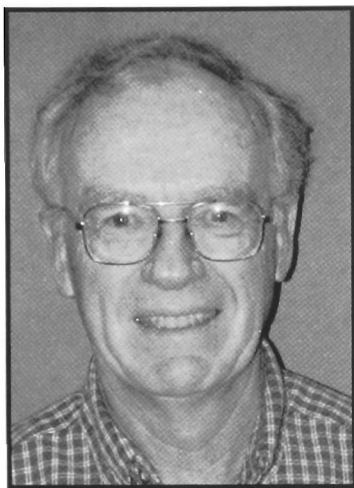
**Instructor of Wildlife Ecology**  
*B.S. University of Rhode Island, 1998,  
 Wildlife Biology & Management*  
*M.S. University of Maine, 2002,  
 Zoology*



**Cynthia Loftin**

**Assistant Professor of Wildlife  
 Ecology**  
**Assistant Unit Leader-Maine  
 Cooperative Fish and Wildlife  
 Research Unit**  
*B.A. University of Virginia, 1984,  
 Biology*  
*M.S. Auburn University, 1987,  
 Wildlife Management*  
*Ph.D. University of Florida, 1998,  
 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation*

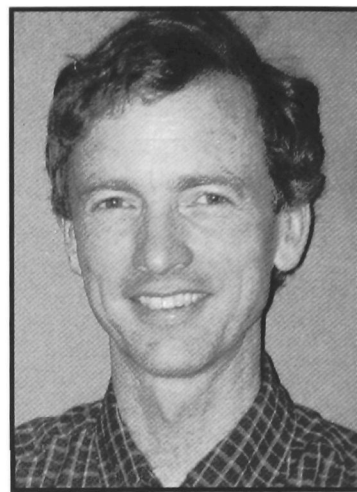
# Forest Ecosystem Science Faculty



**Michael S. Greenwood**

**Ruth Hutchins Professor of Tree  
Physiology**

*B.A. Brown University, 1963, Botany  
M.F.; M.S. Yale University, 1965, 1966  
Ph.D. Yale University, 1969*

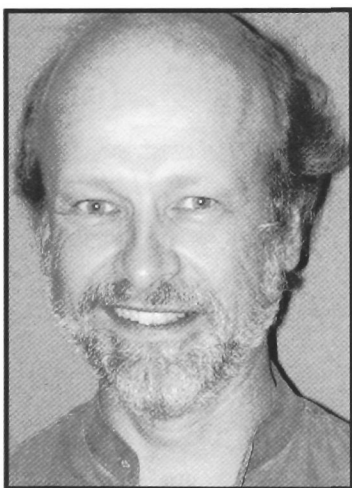


**William H. Livingston**

**Associate Professor of Forest  
Resources**

**Chair of Forest Ecosystem Science**

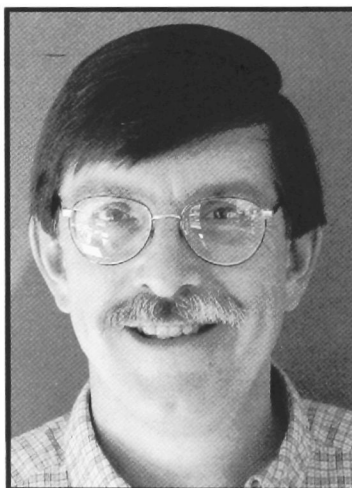
*B.S. Michigan Technological Univ.,  
1976, Forestry  
M.S. Univ. of Idaho, 1978, Forest  
Science  
Ph.D. Univ. of Minnesota, 1985, Plant  
Pathology*



**Robert S. Seymour**

**Curtis Hutchins Professor of Forest  
Resources (Quantitative  
Silviculture)**

*B.S. Ohio State University, 1974,  
Natural Resources  
M.F. Yale University, 1976, Forest  
Management  
Ph.D. Yale University, 1980, Silviculture*

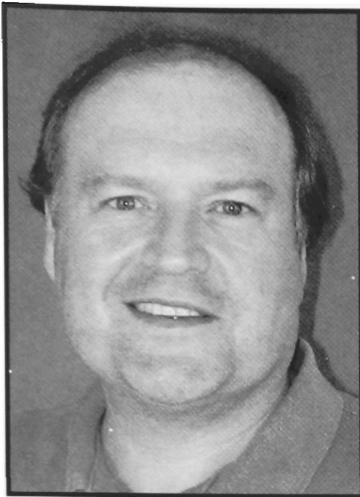


**Alan S. White**

**Professor of Forest Ecology &  
Silviculture**

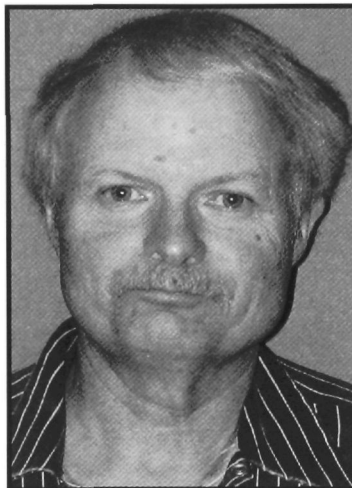
*B.A. Williams College, 1973, Biology  
M.S. University of Montana, 1976,  
Forest Ecology  
Ph.D. University of Minnesota, 1981,  
Forest Ecology*

# Forest Ecosystem Science Faculty



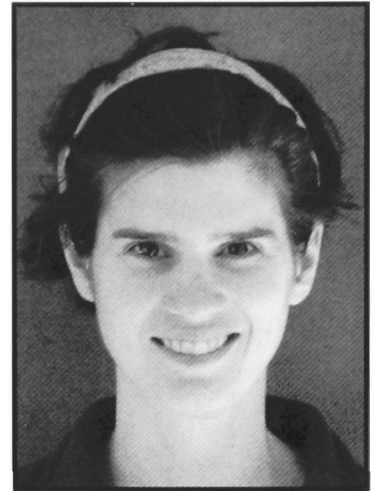
**Robert G. Wagner**

Professor of Forest Ecosystem  
Science  
Director, Cooperative Forestry  
Research Unit  
Leader, Forest Ecosystem Research  
Program  
Cooperating Scientist, U.S. Forest  
Service, Northeastern Station  
*Ph.D., Oregon State University,  
Silviculture, 1989.*  
*M.S., University of Washington, Forest  
Ecology, 1980.*  
*B.S., Utah State University, Forest  
Management, 1977.*



**Richard Jagels**

Professor of Forest Biology  
*B.S. SUNY, Syracuse, 1962, Wood  
Anatomy*  
*M.S. SUNY, Syracuse, 1965, Forest  
Pathology*  
*Ph.D. University of Illinois, 1968,  
Structural Botany*

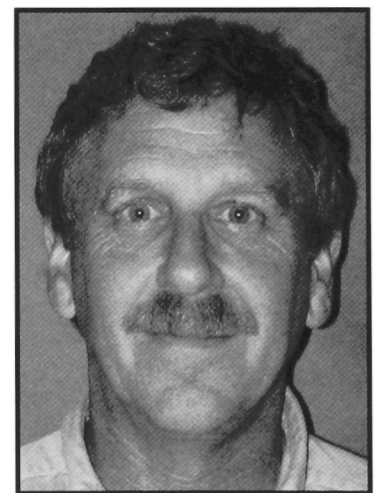
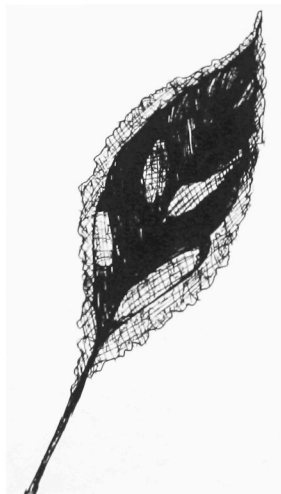


**Laura S. Kenefic**

Assistant Research Professor;  
Research Forester,  
USDA Forest Service,  
Northeastern Research Station  
NE-4155 Ecology & Management of  
Northern Forest Ecosystems  
*B.A. State Univ. of NY at Binghamton,  
1992, Envir. Studies*  
*M.S. State Univ. of NY College of  
Environ.Science & Forestry, 1995,  
Forest Resource Management*  
*Ph.D. The University of Maine, 2000,  
Forest Resources*



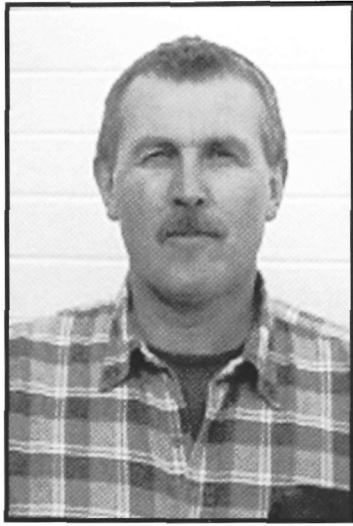
**Alejandra Equiza**  
Research Associate



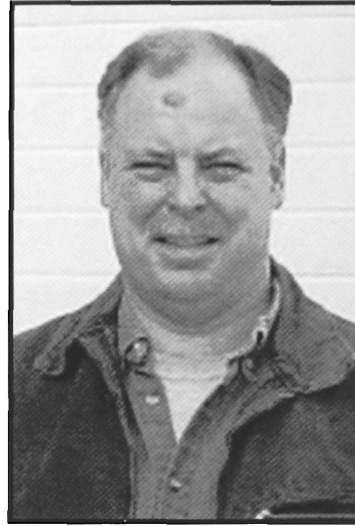
**Mike Day**  
Research Scientist



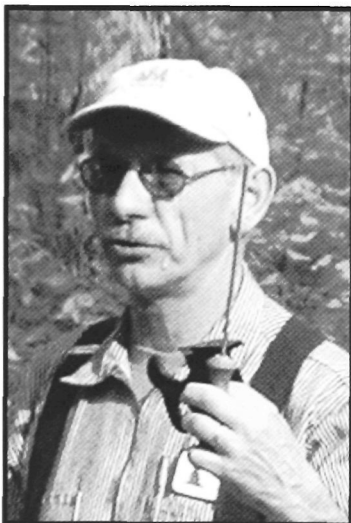
# University Forest Staff



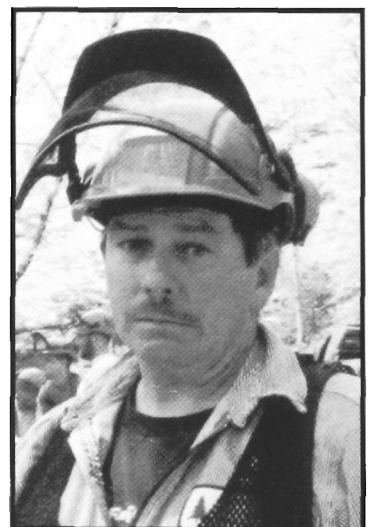
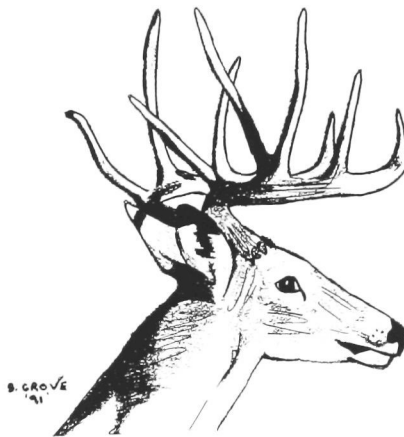
**Chuck Simpson**  
Forest Superintendent



**Chick Crockett**  
Information Systems Specialist



**Francis Avery**  
Scientific Forestry Technician II



**Robin Avery**  
Operations Manager



# Administrative Staff



**Dolores Stone**  
Forest Management



**Cindy Paschal**  
Forest Management



**Nora Ackley**  
Wildlife Ecology

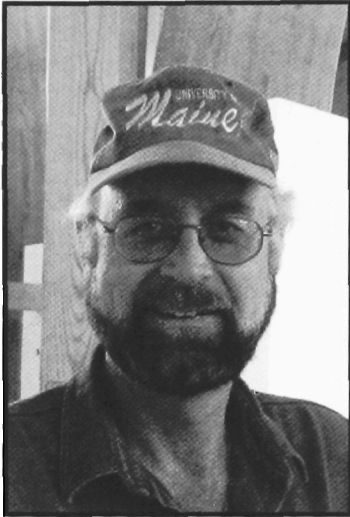


**Theresa Libby**  
Wildlife Ecology

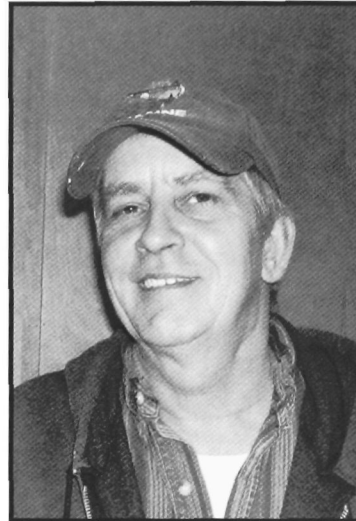


**Gail Belanger**  
Forest Ecosystem Science

## Technical Staff

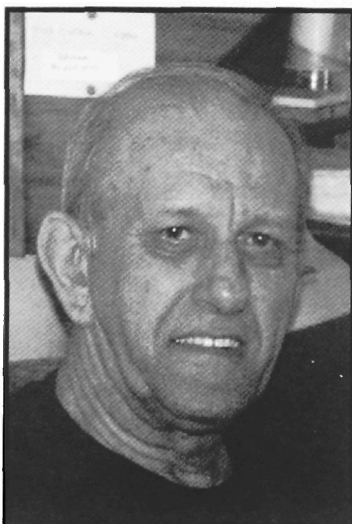


**Ben Dresser**

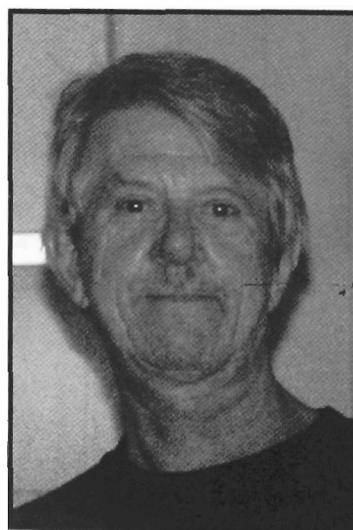


**Cal Severence**

## Support Staff



**Paul Bertland**



**Dave Mackin**



# THE PAST AS A GUIDE FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT



BY JEREMY WILSON  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FOREST RESOURCES  
IRVING CHAIR FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

“Natural variability”, “natural disturbance regimes”, “historic range of variation”, and “pre-European-settlement vegetation patterns” all refer to the development of goals for forest management based on vegetative patterns that existed prior to European settlement. During the last decade the concept has gained widespread support and been extensively proposed as a template for future forest management throughout North America. The appeal of this approach lies in the theory that if pre-European settlement conditions supported native flora and fauna in the past, forest management that promotes development and maintenance of those same conditions should allow native species to persist into the future.

While the “natural variability” concept is alluring on a theoretical level, there are many obstacles that make practical implementation difficult and potentially flawed. Examples of obstacles to implementation include: Disagreement or uncertainty about what vegetative conditions existed prior to pre-European settlement; The influence of aboriginal societies on past conditions; Climate dynamics or dramatic one-time disturbance events that make past variation an obsolete target for the future; Large-scale disturbance patterns that would be impossible or counter productive to mimic; and high costs for human

communities and species that have benefited from current post-European settlement dynamics.



These types of obstacles arise when considering how to manage the forests of Maine based on “natural variability”. The southern portion of the Maine was

extensively cleared for agriculture and the rest of the state has experienced multiple harvests of varying intensity over the last two centuries, leaving few examples of pre-



European settlement forest. The very persistence of remnant patches in an extensively modified landscape suggests they may not be broadly representative of past conditions in the region. Further complicating this effort, historical records are prone to sometimes conflicting and always subjective interpretation. Longer-term records from paleoecology studies suggest that spruce only became a dominant tree species across Maine during the last



millennium. The success of spruce coincides with the “little ice age”, a period of cooling recorded in the northern hemisphere that ended in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Does the spruce dominance recorded in early accounts of Maine forests represent “natural variation” or is it just an archaic reflection of vegetation dynamics driven by a relatively colder climatic period? Natural disturbances, such as

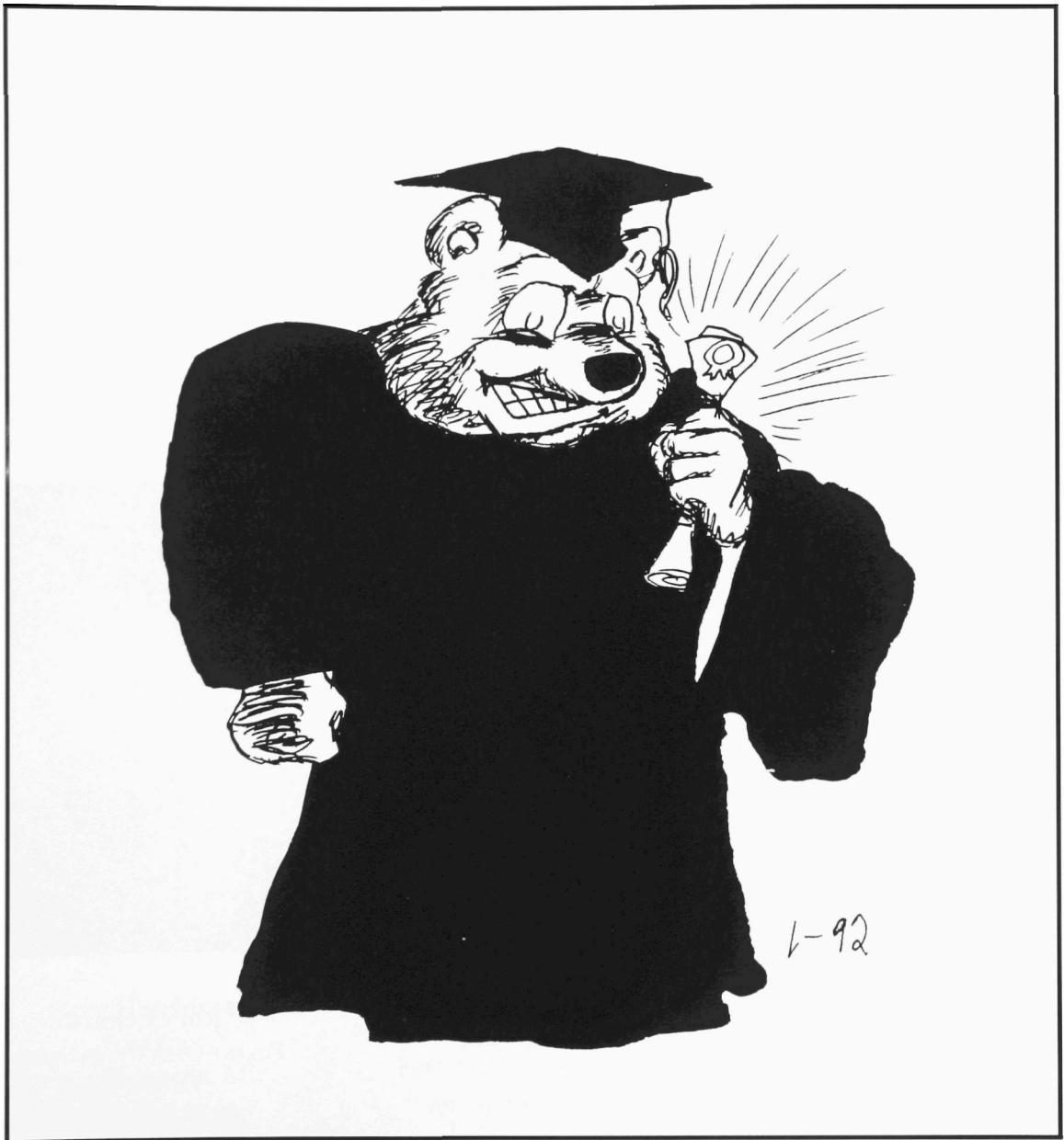


spruce budworm infestations can impact enormous areas of forest simultaneously. Attempting to match these large-scale forest patterns would be difficult and counter productive in an increasing fragmented forest area. In Maine, as in every region, humans and other species respond to changes in vegetative pattern. Some species have benefited from past human manipulations and others have not. Adjusting management to fall within an “historic range” will negatively impact certain human communities and species while benefiting others. How do we weigh the importance or value of one group of species or human communities compared to another?



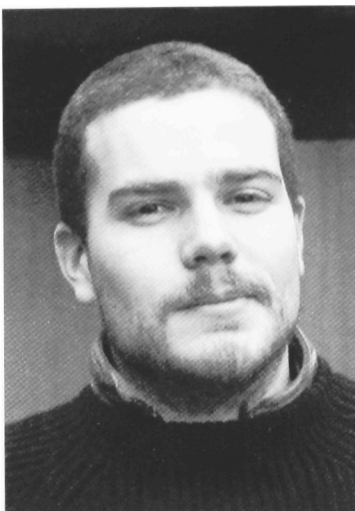
The obstacles associated with the practical implementation of the “natural variability” approach to management do not make understanding past patterns of vegetative dynamics any less important. In fact, increasing our knowledge about past trends and responses is essential to understanding implications of historic manipulations and predicting responses to future actions. We should use this knowledge to make forest management decisions that purposefully cultivate desired attributes across forests and regions rather than aimlessly attempt to mimic accepted interpretations of past conditions.

# Graduating Seniors

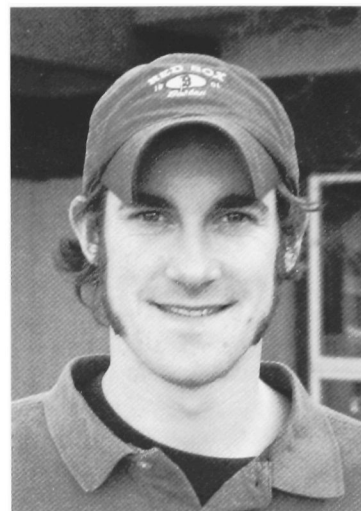




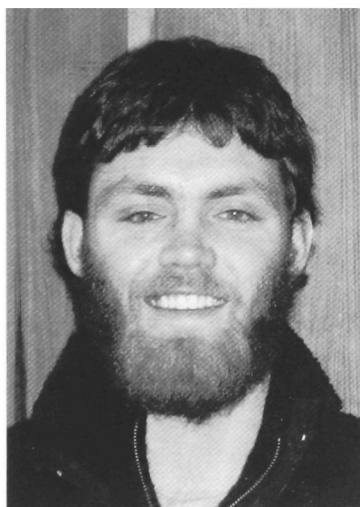
**Audie Arbo**  
WILDLIFE ECOLOGY  
Dixmont, ME  
*Xi Sigma Pi,*  
*Wildlife Society*



**Ross Congo**  
FORESTRY  
Brighton, MA  
*SAF*



**James Conway**  
PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM  
Hull, MA  
*NAI President*



**Brenden Cronin**  
PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM  
Saugus, MA  
*Maine Outing Club*



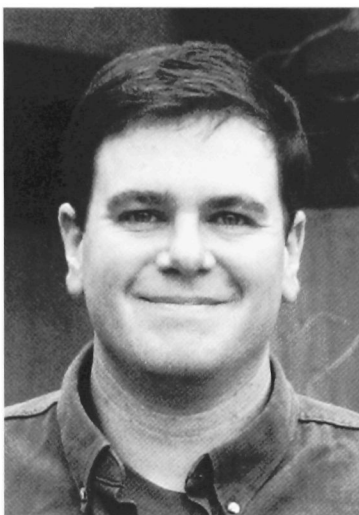
**Will Devore**  
FORESTRY  
Shermans Dale, PA



**Rory Eckardt**  
FOREST OPERATIONS SCIENCE  
Orono, ME  
*SAF, Xi Sigma Pi,*  
*The Maine Forester*



**Lindsey Fenderson**  
WILDLIFE ECOLOGY  
Glenburn, ME  
*Wildlife Society*



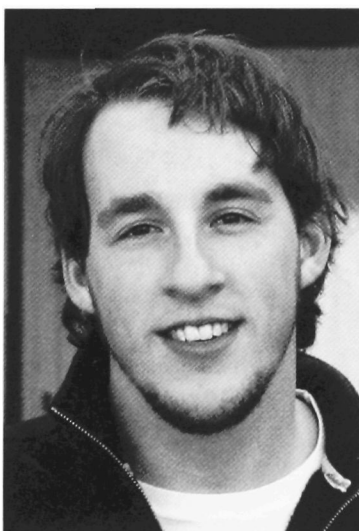
**John Fogarty**  
FOREST OPERATIONS SCIENCE  
Old Town, ME  
*Trap & Skeet Club*



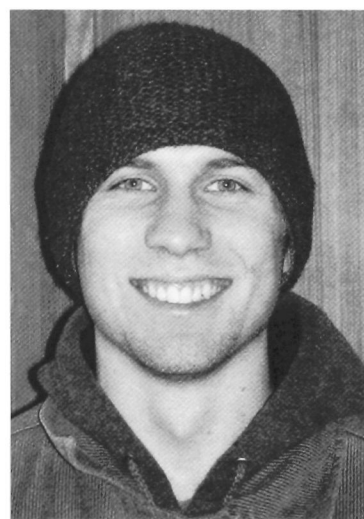
**Keith Gilmore**  
PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM  
North Smithfield, RI  
*Alpha Gamma Rho*



**Greg Hutchinson**  
FORESTRY  
Cape Elizabeth, ME



**Matt Kasson**  
FOREST ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE  
Milford, ME  
*Xi Sigma Pi, SAF*



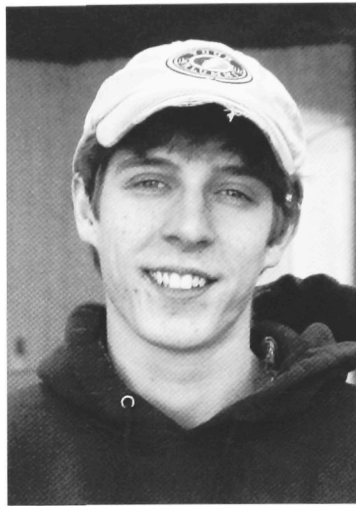
**Jared Koelker**  
PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM  
North Berwick, ME





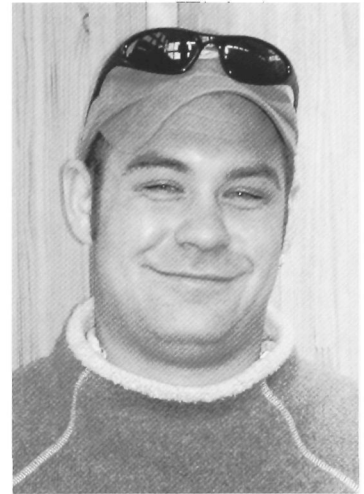
**Ben Nottermann**

FORESTRY  
Hardwick, VT  
*The Maine Forester, SAF,  
Woodsmen Team, Xi Sigma Pi*



**Jacob Oberlander**

FORESTRY  
Bernstable, MA



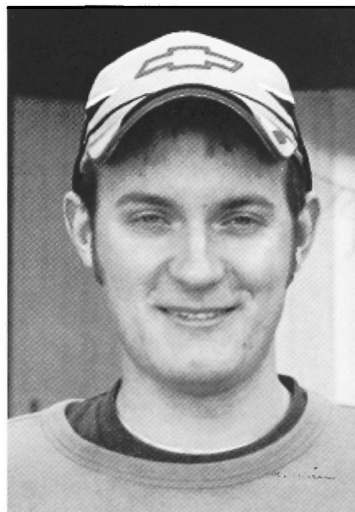
**Michael J. Peterson**

FORESTRY  
Cumberland, ME



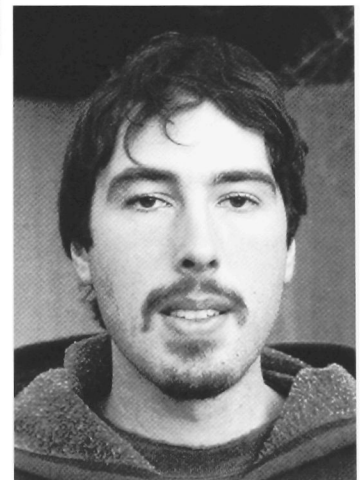
**Samuel Roy**

FORESTRY  
Turner, ME  
*Woodsmen Team*



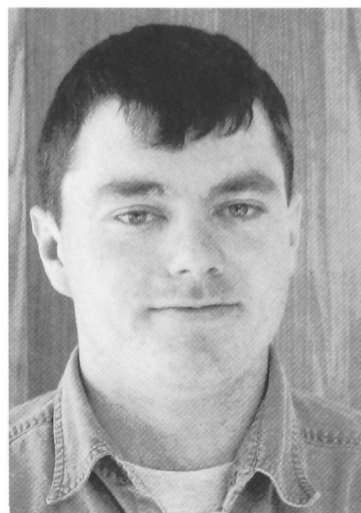
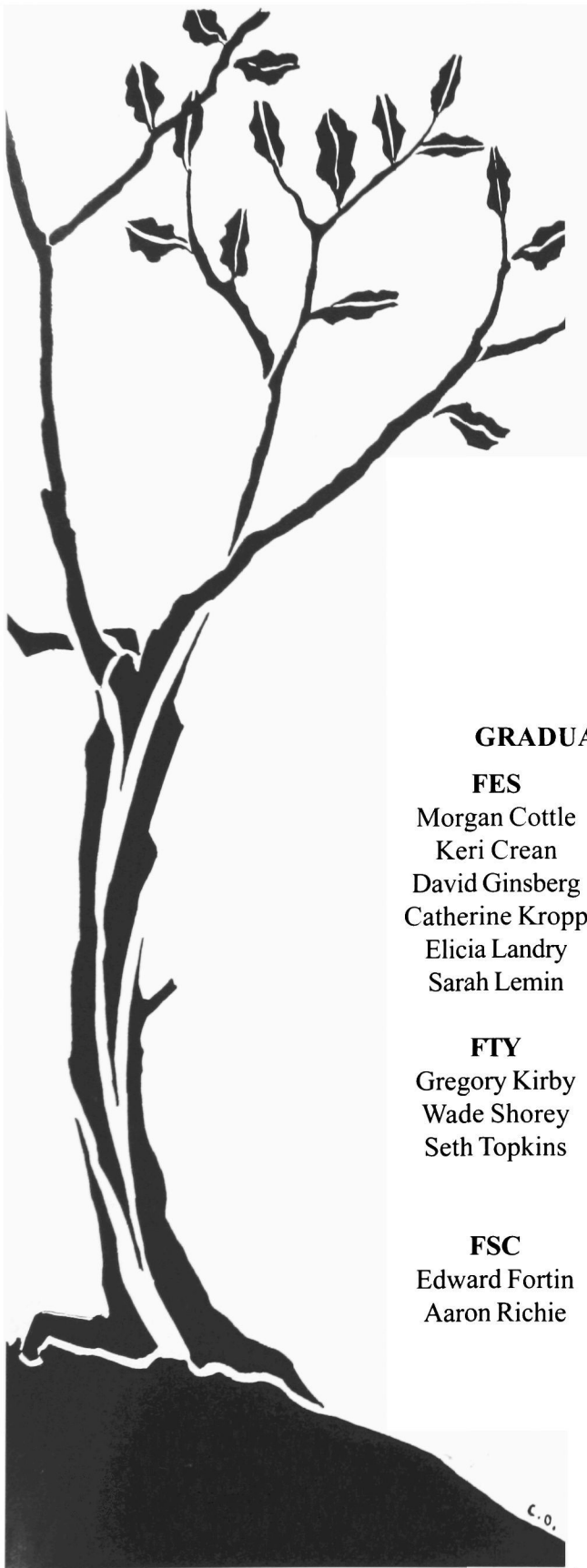
**John Pinette**

FORESTRY  
Fort Kent, ME



**Seth Rifkin**

FOREST ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE  
Woodstock, CT  
*Xi Sigma Pi*



### **Hugh Violette**

FOREST OPERATIONS SCIENCE

Orrington, ME

*The Maine Forester,*

*Xi Sigma Pi, SAF*

### **GRADUATING SENIORS NOT PICTURED**

#### **FES**

Morgan Cottle  
Keri Crean  
David Ginsberg  
Catherine Kropp  
Elicia Landry  
Sarah Lemin

#### **FTY**

Gregory Kirby  
Wade Shorey  
Seth Topkins

#### **FSC**

Edward Fortin  
Aaron Richie

#### **WLE**

David Ginsberg  
Catherine Kropp  
Sarah Lemin  
Jaclyn Comeau  
Shannon Fitzpatrick  
Nicholas Fortin  
Sally Gilbert  
Rose Graves  
Curtis Johnson  
Erin Kennedy  
Kevin Lachapelle  
Keri Lewis  
Kristopher MacCabe  
Keith McCullough  
Caleb McNaughton  
Rebecca Norris  
Sarah Roberge  
Allan Roberts  
Beth Royce

Cory Stearns  
Dave Veverka  
Jeremiah Wood  
Andrew Shaffer  
Elizabeth Wright

#### **PRT**

William Beeaker  
Devin Foley  
Betsey Janik  
Michael Morin  
Jessica Small  
Hannah Stanley  
Joshua Swierk  
Michael Thibault  
Ross Timeberlake  
Jennifer Wachtl  
Nicholas Walters  
Benjamin Watson



## STORY TIME WITH SWAMPDONKEY

BY DAVE PERT

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY CLASS OF 2004

For those who don't believe it, yes there are wildlife jobs available after graduation! Perhaps you'd like to hear about what Ol' Swampdonkey Dave did. . . . just follow what that little voice inside says. Not sure whether 'twas merely the wildlife gods smiling upon me or my rather fullish red beard that got me the jobs . . . well just give a listen.

I spent a month and a half trapping black bears for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the brand new Downeast study area in Beddington under Randy Cross. Payment was grub and a warm, dry place to lay my head at night. Well, the grub was good . . . if you could stomach it after a day of shoveling bait, which basically consisted of some combination of skinned beaver carcasses that had been sitting in Rubbermaid tubs for days on end in the back of a pickup, road kill moose, past due shellfish, fat and meat scraps green from decay, chicken and/or fryalator grease, stale granoli bars, and the Cadillac of bear baits, doughnuts. Yup, if you only knew the half of it. . . . believe me when I tell you it was maggot central at the bait sites. As for sleeping arrangements, "bed" was a University-donated mattress (can't imagine why they'd get rid of those sweet mattresses) on the floor of a camp that must have been run by an overzealous landlady because our room was double-booked all through May and June with half the mosquito population of Washington County. But as Randy put it, "Ain't nothin' better'n slingin' bait and hookin' up bears. That's the life." Enough said. Learning the tricks to the placement and setting of foothold snares was challenging but rewarding. If walking up to the edge of the rototilled circle with an eight-foot syringe pole in your sweaty hands and an angry, scared bear staring back at you doesn't get your blood pumping then you must be dead. Nothing like a barrel-chested bruin coming across the ring running "flat out, like a lizard drinking" with a look in its eye of wanting to pick its teeth with your ulna and scratch its back with your femur. All bears look twice as big standing up as they do lying on the ground under anesthesia. If ya try hard enough you may begin to imagine the adrenaline high. If none of this appeals to

you, perhaps you'd enjoy the lighter side of bear trapping: group sing-along to Gretchen Wilson's *Redneck Woman* interspersed with frequent quoting of *Super Troopers*, *Dead River Rough Cut*, and *Larry the Cable Guy* while trying to get six folks up a hillside on a wheeler, eating an oatmeal cream pie, and catching buckets full of alewives with bare hands for stink bait.

If those first couple months after graduation weren't enough of a whirlwind, the following three months were even more of a blur. Before I get into it, try to picture deep, mysterious emerald pools filled with salmon who are waiting for the next rain to get upstream to spawn, black bears moseying up and down river banks looking for spawned-out salmon carcasses, wading river after river in Carhartts and sandals hell-bent on catching just one more fish before bedtime, trail running in the shadow of a glacier, cool air billowing off of it, passing acres of blossoming fireweed, ancient moss-covered trees, the aroma of decomposing fish wafting to your nostrils. This is Alaska pure and simple. Wild. Just three days after finishing trapping bears I was Alaska-bound. I had an appointment with the Juneau Forestry Sciences Lab (USFS). I got to skip most of the formal training because I had been through all of that hoo-hah at the King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office (USFWS) the previous summer. After being introduced to the Mendenhall Glacier and some local fishing holes I got to watch a safety video on how not to get your head chopped off by helicopter rotors. And just like that our small four-man crew was whisked off to Trap Bay on Tenakee Inlet, Chichagof Island. There we were. Aaron, our large crew leader from Montana; Scotty B., a 32-year-old fairly newlywed who loved coffee; Michaela, a hippyish girl from California, who managed to become more attractive as the field season waned; and me, a greenhorn fresh off the proverbial farm that we know as UMaine. Our mission: sample fish (coho salmon were the primary concern) with minnow traps that had taken residence in select streams and survey pre-established 100m stretches in said streams. The ultimate goal of the work was to create a protocol to use coho salmon as an indicator species to test the effectiveness of forest

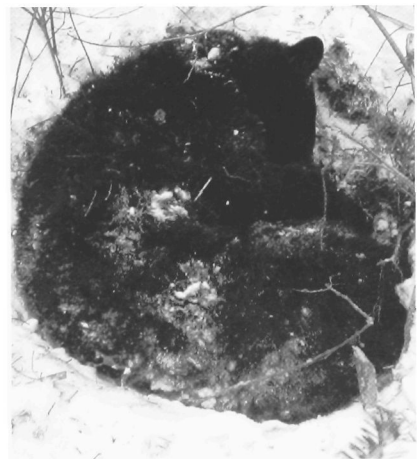
management practices in southeast Alaska at maintaining anadromous salmon habitat as required by the Tongass Land Management Plan. Sampling followed on Kuiu, Kupreanof, and Prince of Wales Islands. The swath of land known as Tongass National Forest and the Inside Passage is a magical place that pushes the limits of the imagination. It is home to jagged, snowy peaks, retreating glaciers, Sitka spruce and Western hemlock with outlandish DBH, black and brown bears, mountain goats, Sitka deer, gray wolf, moose, sea otters, Stellar sea lions, orcas, humpback whales, Dungeness and king crab, bald eagles, and ravens that are smarter than you're younger brother, salmonberries, nagoonberries, cloudberryes, thimbleberries, huckleberries, blueberries, all five species of Pacific salmon, slugs the size of bananas, hella thick clouds of mosquitoes and whitesocks, and the dreaded DEVIL'S CLUB. Take my advice and stick to marked trails if you ever venture to southeast Alaska. 'Twas a summer of cribbage between minnow trap soakings, drinking beer at 6:45AM while cleaning up the bunk house because you didn't have room for it on the plane, sleeping in the back of an old rusty Forest Service Chevy Suburban with evening temperatures hovering in the 30s, and traveling

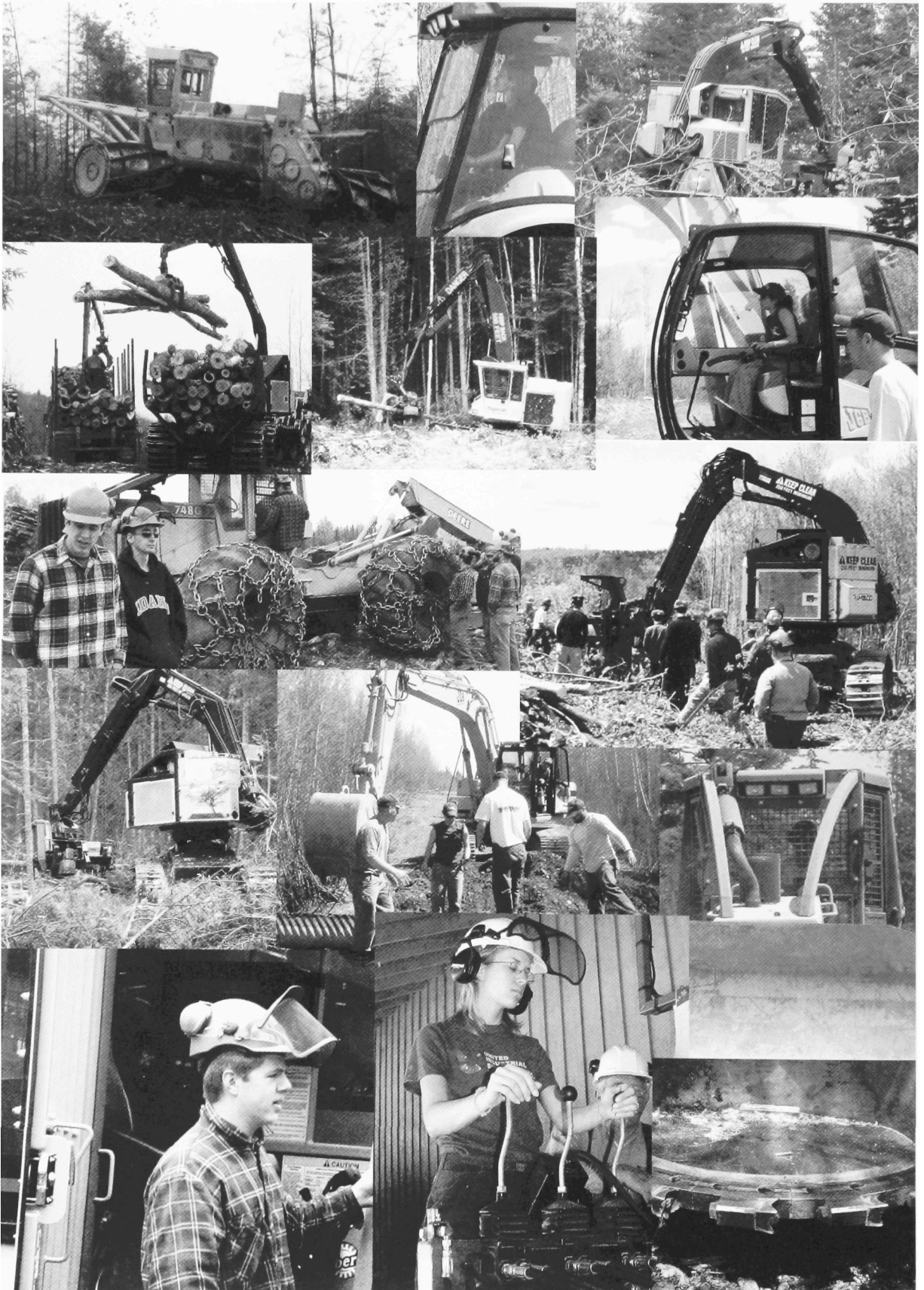


to coastal communities who shared the same motto "A quaint little drinking village with a fishing problem." Most often this was an accurate depiction of local character.

And here it is February of the new year and I am back in Maine doing black bear den work with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Being the smallest member on the crew, I fill the position of the mole. My job consists of crawling into the den, head first and upside-down if necessary, to anesthetize and pull out the bears. I'm also the box man. I work the telemetry gear to put the wingmen, the ones carrying dart rifles, onto the den. Even get my very own snow machine. It's name is Phat Boy. Feels some special to be a part of this on-going 30-year monitoring project.

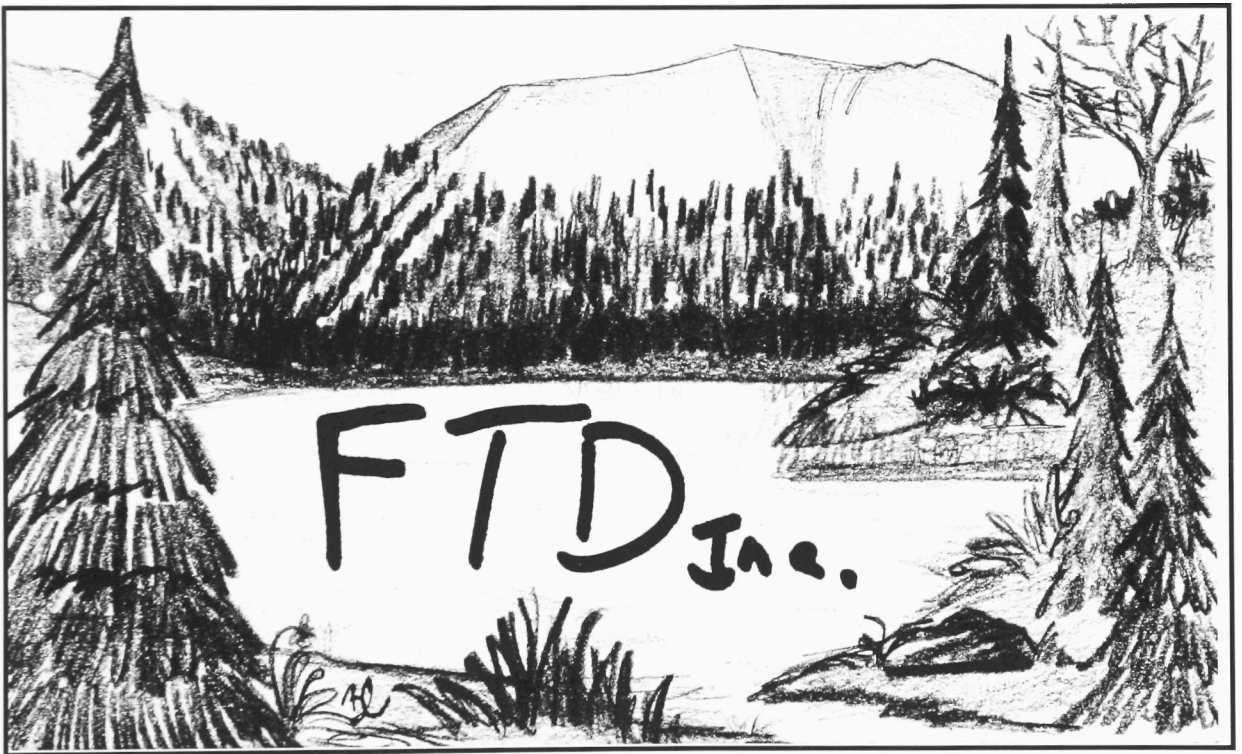
I'll be trapping bears again this spring for Randy. Haven't signed up for summer work yet, but Alaska may be a possibility. Grad school is on tap for the future.



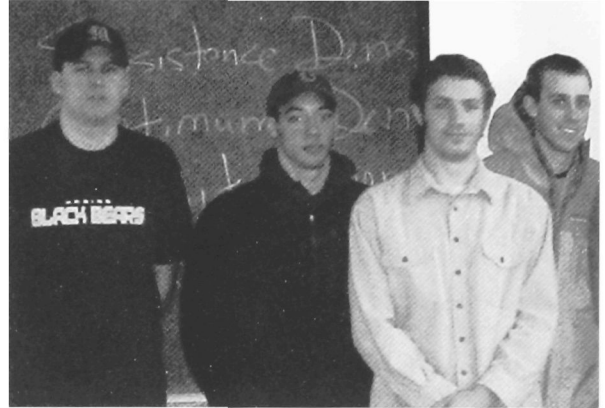




# Undergraduates



# Wildlife Ecology (WLE)



# SECOND YEAR WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

BY COLBY BRUCHS  
WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Experience is everything. As a sophomore majoring in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Maine, one has the opportunity to advance their undergraduate education in a program that is all about experience. From the courses, to the faculty, and the relationships developed between fellow students, the second year of enrollment in Wildlife Ecology gives students the experience needed to progress in the wildlife field.

Second year courses in the Wildlife Ecology program further increase interest and offer greater knowledge in the subject. For example, Ecology Lecture introduced and covered a wide range of facts and concepts of many organisms in all environments. Moreover, Ecology

Lab expanded and applied the concepts learned in lecture through hands-on experience in the field. However, gaining more knowledge in subject matter is not the only plus of the second year, one also interacts and gets to know the faculty in the department much more.

The faculty of the Wildlife Ecology Department are some of the best the University of Maine has to offer. A primary reason for this is their willingness to interact with students in and out of the classroom. Faculty always have an open door and are easily approachable. One of the best experiences of the second year is knowing that someone is always there to help, whether it is coursework, employment advice, or just someone to talk to.

