

As the 2015 Chairman of the New Hampshire Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee (NH SIC), I am pleased to report that 2015 was another successful year for our organization and the work we do promoting sustainable forestry. This success is due in large part to the generosity of our member companies and volunteers.

In 2015 the NH SIC continued its tradition of providing financial support for the New Hampshire Professional Loggers Program (NH PLP). This program trained more than 568 individuals. Thanks to the New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council, University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension, and UNH Thompson School of Applied Sciences for their support of the program and to the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association program director Steve Patten for his dedication and excellent stewardship of the NH PLP.

2015 also saw the NH SIC making investments in outreach and education as we provided financial support to New Hampshire Project Learning Tree (NH PLT), UNH Cooperative Extension's Black Fly and Mud Season breakfasts, and Forest Laws for Municipal Officials workshops.

The NH SIC continued to work with the state of NH as it reviews the feasibility of certification for state lands. In 2015 we funded a gap analysis between current practice and the SFI standard on two large parcels of state forest land. As a result, it's possible the state will move toward SFI certification, if funding can be secured.

New for the NH SIC in 2015 was our financial support for the good work Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity is doing in the Colebrook area. We look forward to working more with this excellent organization in the future.

Forestry research remains another area of investment for the NH SIC. In 2015, NH SIC supported regional forestry research by funding a stipend for a student intern doing work at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in Woodstock and Thornton, N.H., and an invasive species/forest health research project being done at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH.

And for the third year in a row, the NH SIC hosted another successful autumn sustainable forestry field day and tour. On September 25, 2015, more than 50 individuals had an opportunity to learn more about sustainable forestry and how the SFI Forest Management Standard promotes it. The in-the-field tours provided participants examples of the silviculture, wildlife management, and forest products merchandising/utilization standards SFI program participants must meet to be SFI-certified.

Again, none of these projects, workshops or tours would have been possible without the collaboration and assistance of our partner organizations, the dedication of our volunteers, and generosity of our member companies. Thank you.

As I hand the reins of the NH SIC chairmanship over to Kevin McCarthy, I am confident he will continue to build on the good work the committee is doing and I look forward to remaining involved.

Sincerely,

Chris Fife
Chairman, NH SIC