



Forests Ontario

Annual Update 2013–2014





“As the newly merged Forests Ontario, we are better poised to fulfill our goal to support and promote abundant, healthy and sustainable forests.”

Rob Keen, RPF
CEO, Forests Ontario

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A Message from the President and the CEO

This has been a landmark year, thanks to our membership, the past boards of the Ontario Forestry Association and Trees Ontario, the new board for Forests Ontario and of course, the staff of Forests Ontario.

We are building upon a very fine heritage and legacy, that of the Ontario Forestry Association, with its record of promoting forest awareness, education and stewardship, with the equally fine record of Trees Ontario, arguably North America's premier not-for-profit organization facilitating large-scale tree planting and forest restoration efforts on private lands.

The merger of those legacies in January 2014, and the merging and honing of our robust programs in education, stewardship and forest restoration, have very much positioned us as the voice for our forests. Our new mantra is simple: "As one, we can maximize the impact we can make on Ontario's forests and achieve a vision of healthy forests for healthy people".

We are now poised, and intentionally so, to be the "go-to" organization when it comes to issues pertaining to our forests. We are well positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of both the present and the future as a bigger and stronger voice for Ontario's forests. That is why we have come together as a single organization—to become more effective and to eliminate any confusion among potential supporters about who we are and what we represent. We are off to a very fine start: our staff is engaged, our programs are strong, and we are financially healthy.

The urgency for a stronger voice and more effective action is real. Market forces are hurting our forests in agriculturally-dominated southern Ontario. For the first time in decades we are actually losing forests from our landscape, and that is in spite of our

afforestation efforts. Market forces really do shape our landscapes and we continue to see growing threats from invasive species, forest pathogens and climate change.

That is why we need a strong and focused Forests Ontario.

Consider if you will our **awareness programs**: the eco-health campaign, landowner workshops, community tree plant, Heritage Tree program, National Forest Week, and Without Wood; or look at our **educational programs**: Focus on Forests, Tree Bee, Forestry Connects, and Forestry in the Classroom; and of course Ontario Envirothon and PLANT—our forestry mentorship program.

These are complemented by our **forest restoration and stewardship programs**: the 50 Million Tree Program, which has now expanded to include all parts of Ontario including the north, our Forest Recovery Canada and Ontario programs, and our technical workshops focused on enhancing the capacity of our partners. Our tree planting operations adhere to highly accountable and professional standards to ensure success and optimal survival. Forests Ontario maintains an online database tracking all of our plantings across the province, making us the only non-profit in Canada to be fully accountable for every tree we plant.

Finally, we continue our efforts to **build membership services** to ensure you are receiving the benefits you seek from this organization, including an annual conference which just keeps getting better. All of this simply serves to highlight some, but certainly not all of our programs. I think you will agree that we have both breadth and depth in our program offerings.

It is important to carefully position our programs. We are making the linkage between healthy forests and healthy people and working to show that healthy forested landscapes provide a myriad of services that benefit people, including

in our major urban centres. Why? Because all people need to see the benefits that trees provide and we need their continued support to fulfil our goals.

More and more people realize that we need to start investing in our natural green infrastructure. In southern Ontario, we do have a long way to go. While 30% forest cover at a sub-watershed scale is regarded as a minimum, it is still considered a high risk situation. By contrast, 50% forest cover is regarded as a much lower risk situation—providing critical ecosystem services that we need, while also sustaining the forest biodiversity that ought to be found in our landscapes and watersheds. Clearly, we have a noble mission and we do have our work cut out for us.

Organizationally, we are fortunate to have a board of great talent, experience and passion about Ontario's forests, a board that truly is "future-oriented" and a board that has demonstrated its ability to roll up its sleeves and work together for a more robust future for this organization. These fine folks have worked together very well over the past year and more formally since last January to help set a very positive course for Forests Ontario. And perhaps most importantly, we have an extremely talented, knowledgeable and dedicated staff who ensure that we actually deliver all of those great programs.

We are focused and we are building momentum. Stay tuned, as we have much more to accomplish in the coming year and beyond.

Robert H. Keen, RPF
Forests Ontario, CEO

Steve Hounsell
Forests Ontario, President



Our Vision

As the “Voice for our Forests”, Forests Ontario advocates for abundant, healthy and sustainable forests. In order to ensure a healthy natural landscape for future generations, we focus our efforts on: **Restoration, Stewardship, Education and Awareness.**

Restoration

Forests Ontario, together with more than 85 partners across the province, manages diverse tree planting programs that will grow Ontario's forest cover. Trees Ontario, the forest restoration arm of Forests Ontario, continues to administer the government of Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program, with a goal to plant 50 million trees by 2025.

Through Forest Recovery Canada, our national tree-planting program, we are creating an extensive network of tree planting partnerships across the country to increase Canada's forest cover in ecologically significant areas.

Stewardship

Forests Ontario is training the next generation of forest stewards and inspiring Canadians to support ongoing forest management and restoration efforts throughout the province. Forests Ontario continues to support community outreach events to share our vision and mission with all Ontarians.

In 2013/2014, Forests Ontario continued to recognize the many outstanding individuals whose stewardship efforts will produce positive results for future generations.

Education and Awareness

Every year, Forests Ontario hosts technical and landowner workshops designed to increase awareness and to educate landowners, woodlot owners, forest managers and the general public on a variety of topics related to forest management.

Forests Ontario continues to administer a broad spectrum of educational programs targeted towards students of all ages. Our programs inspire youth to understand the natural environment and the impact that forests have on human health, well-being, society and economy.

Our educational programs teach youth the important role that our forests play in our lives. Encouraging engagement in our science-based programs support our natural resources and inspire the next generation of stewards for our forests.



Restoration

Growing and restoring forests is at the **heart of what we do.**

50 Million Tree Program

Trees Ontario continues to administer the government of Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program. Landowner engagement remains at the forefront of the program's success and remains a top priority going forward. Forests Ontario, with the help of our many planting partners and community groups, has planted more than 14 million trees under the program by the end of the 2013/14 fiscal year.

Community Planting Events

On May 4, 2013, Forests Ontario hosted its sixth annual Community Planting Weekend in seven communities across the province. In total, Forests Ontario saw nearly 5,000 trees planted by more than 1,000 volunteers. The event was supported by CAA, TD FEE, Enbridge and our planting partners.

Forest Recovery Canada

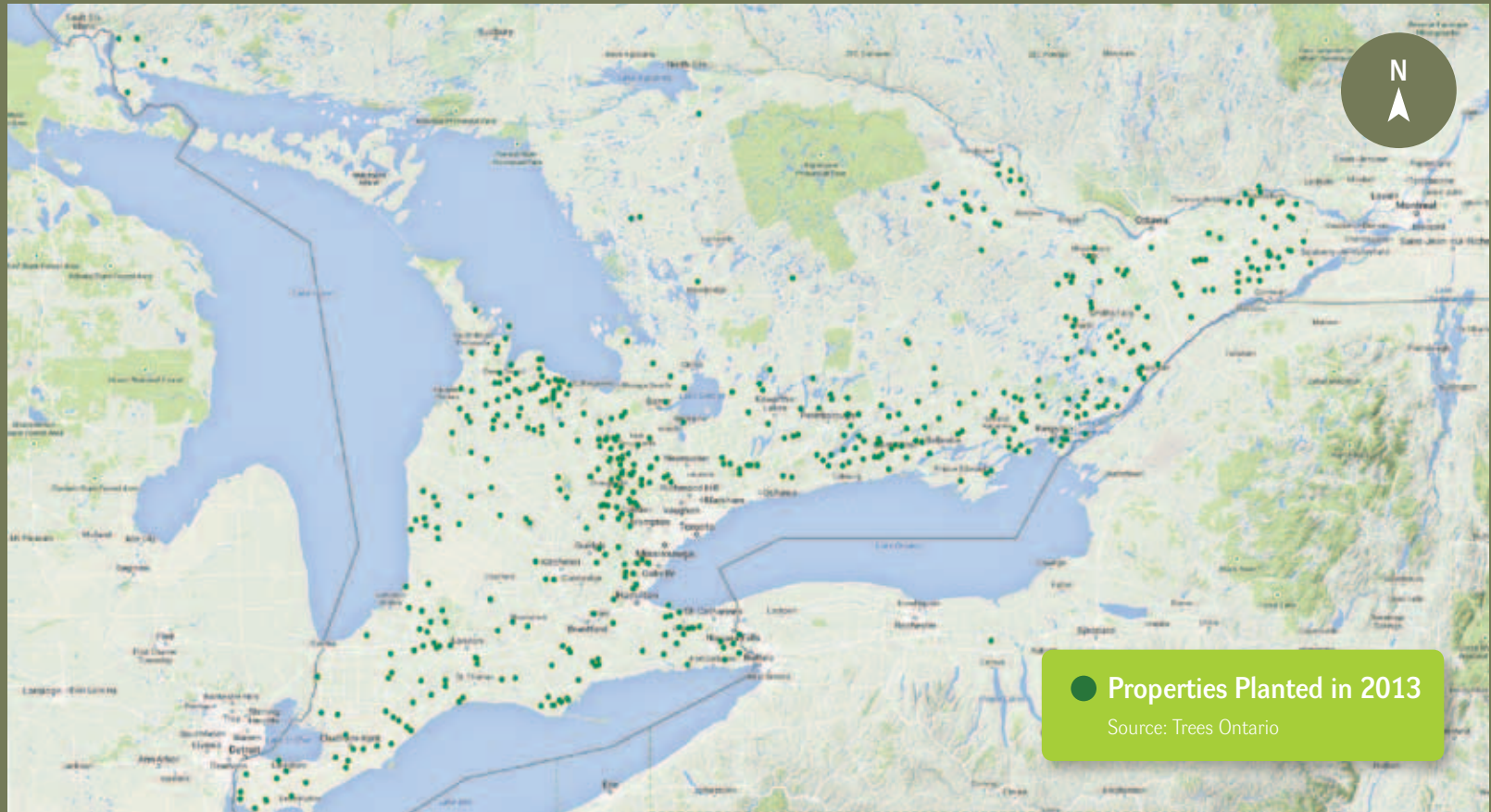
Forest Recovery Canada (FRC) aims to maintain and enhance our national biodiversity through science-driven tree planting initiatives. This past year, FRC brought tree planting events to communities across the country from Maple Ridge, British Columbia to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. FRC was proud to partner with Honda Canada to plant a tree on behalf of each customer who purchased a Honda garden tool, on behalf of Bentall Kennedy on behalf of their tenants, and in recognition of Enbridge Gas' customers who chose the company's e-billing option.

Tree Planting Programs

Tree Planting Program		Description	Number of Trees Planted in 2013–2014
50 Million Tree Program*		As part of the government of Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has partnered with Trees Ontario to plant trees on rural lands across Ontario. The program is designed to mitigate the effects of climate change, among other objectives. The program significantly reduces landowner costs of large-scale tree planting and, in turn, the number of trees planted.	2,685,599
Sponsor funded subsidy programs (e.g. Forest Restoration Program, Forest Recovery Canada)		Trees Ontario administers several sponsor-funded programs that provide planting agencies with subsidies to help reduce the landowner's planting costs. In turn, the planting agency provides landowners with all services required to plant the trees, including site inspection, preparation of site plan, ordering stock, site preparation, overseeing the tree planting, tending and follow-up survival assessments.	109,782
Special Projects		Trees Ontario directly manages tree planting programs for organizations interested in restoring their own lands or to compensate for development work done elsewhere. Trees Ontario works with planting partners (nurseries, Planting Delivery Agents, consultants) to complete the required restoration effort.	27,837

*Accomplishment includes trees planted under other programs that met eligibility requirements of the 50 Million Tree Program.

2013 Planted Sites 50 MILLION TREE PROGRAM





Stewardship

Green Leaders

At Forests Ontario, it is our mission to recognize those who demonstrate stewardship through their commitment to growing, caring for and protecting Ontario's forests. We call them our "Green Leaders". In 2013, Forests Ontario was pleased to honour five Green Leaders, who, through their actions are shaping the future of our forests.

Over the past year, we recognized the following individuals for their efforts:

- John & Betty-Ann Asher, Loretto, ON
- John & Rosemary Dunsmore, Shanty Bay, ON
- Bill & Mabel Almond, Meaford, ON
- Jim H. Louie & Judy Lowry, Williamsford, ON
- Bill Grierson, Rockwood, ON

Community Outreach

We continue to use every possible opportunity to engage the public in our mission. In 2013/2014, Forests Ontario attended, displayed and presented at more than 120 events in communities across the country. We use these events as a way to encourage community engagement, get people involved in our goals, and engage people in our valuable programs.

Major events included:

- Green Living Show
- International Plowing Match
- Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery Historic District
- Canadian Outdoor Farm Show
- Education Forums



Education and Awareness

Engaging youth has long been a commitment of our organization. Our education and awareness programs are designed to create stewards, who can ensure the future of our forests for generations to come. By connecting youth with nature, Forests Ontario is rousing kids to be excited about the natural environment and inspiring them to participate in the conservation of Ontario's natural landscapes.

Educational Programs included:

- Tree Bee
- Ontario Envirothon
- Forestry Connects
- PLANT

Focus on Forests

Focus on Forests is Canada's leading online forest education program that engages youth, educators and the public in learning more about our forests. Our goal to educate youth is achieved through curriculum-linked resources, mentorship opportunities, training sessions, informative videos, and outreach initiatives that increase the understanding and awareness of our forest resources.

Forestry Connects

Forestry Connects provides urban high school students and teachers the opportunity to learn first-hand the interdisciplinary nature of forest management in Ontario. This program gives students a broader understanding of forest management and a chance to learn about career opportunities in natural resource management. In 2013, Forests Ontario took 29 students to Algonquin Provincial Park in order to challenge students and teachers to think about sustainable forest management in a hands-on setting.

"We had the opportunity to participate in the Forestry Connects program last year, and all the students that participated found it to be a fabulous experience. The participants shared their experiences and knowledge with their classmates and developed a forestry unit in partnership with Focus on Forests resources, a local forester and community members. At the end of semester evaluation, the forestry component was a highlight for all students. I know it would have a similar impact on another group of students." – 2013 Forestry Connects teacher

PLANT

PLANT (Program for Local Afforestation Network Training), Forests Ontario's mentorship-based program for new university graduates, addresses forest restoration needs. In 2013, three candidates undertook six-month Afforestation Technician intern positions with host partners to gain practical, on-the-ground experience in natural resources. The great success of the program in 2013 has allowed expansion into 2014, when nine new graduates will be eligible for PLANT's mentorship program.

One Big Forest: Increasing Awareness

In our ongoing mission to increase awareness, Forests Ontario is focusing on educating Ontarians about the value of our forests. Throughout the year, Forests Ontario hosted or participated in a variety of public and educational events including the annual Community Planting Weekend, teaching conferences, community fairs and festivals, educational landowner workshops, outdoor education centres, and school and library visits. We've continued our outreach by presenting and exhibiting at events throughout the year including tree planting events, forestry days, the Distillery District's Toronto Christmas Market, National Forest Week, and by developing and distributing Homeowner and Woodlot Owner Ice Storm Damage booklets with MMAH/OLMNR.

The size of our planting area equates to approximately



 = 100

To date our trees
are eliminating over

7,800

cars worth of CO₂
emissions /year (each
car is expending

8,320lbs

of CO₂/year)

How much carbon does one tree
sequester over the course of its life
cycle (on average)?



How much oxygen does
one tree produce?



In 2013, the number of
trees we planted produced

5,464,634 lbs

of oxygen in one day!



We collect



species of seed that have
storage capabilities

Estimated amount of hectares
re-greened (in 2013)

1362 ha

There are
38 seed zones
in Ontario



Students spent over

15,000 hours

in nature in the Ontario Envirothon
program—that's approximately

625 days



 = 100

over 750 high school students
participating in regional and provincial
envirothon programs



Our oldest heritage tree is
400 years old

140

classrooms were visited
by forestry professionals
across Canada for Forestry
in the Classroom

approximately

3,500

students were reached





Clockwise from bottom left: John Asher, Rosemary and John Dunsmore, Bill Grierson, Judy Lowry and Jim Louie.

“My goal was to create a diverse eco-system [on the property]... Right now I’m doing everything I can to ensure the long-term success.” Bill Grierson

.....

“It wouldn’t have been possible without the 50 Million Tree Program planting incentives because the cost would have been out of reach for us.” John Dunsmore

.....

“For us, forest regeneration is the best way to keep this land in the family for generations to come.” John Asher

.....

“It’s always been a dream of ours to plant the whole property. We did it because we knew we were doing something good. I remember my dad helped me write a speech on conservation back when I was in public school – that’s how I learned if you cut down so many trees, you’re supposed to replace them.” Judy Lowry

.....

“It’s encouraging to see such life-long stewards of the land continue giving back to the environment. These individuals have truly earned the title of ‘Green Leaders’.” Rob Keen

Green Leader Profiles

Trees Ontario Green Leaders are landowners who are engaged with the environment and have contributed to re-greening efforts by participating in the 50 Million Tree Program. Nominated by one of our planting agency partners, Trees Ontario Green Leaders are recognized for their leadership in tree planting initiatives and environmental stewardship of the land.

This year, five landowners were recognized as Green Leaders. We would like to congratulate and thank all of our Green Leaders to date for their efforts and commitment to re-greening their local communities.

Green Leader	Property Location	Date of Recognition
John & Betty-Ann Asher	Loretto, ON	March 2013
John & Rosemary Dunsmore	Shanty Bay, ON	June 2013
Bill & Mabel Almond	Meaford, ON	November 2013
Jim H. Louie & Judy Lowry	Williamsford, ON	February 2014
Bill Grierson	Rockwood, ON	April 2014



Tree Planting Delivery Partners

Trees Ontario works with local tree planting agencies and nurseries across the province to deliver its tree planting programs. These include Conservation Authorities, forestry consultants, nurseries and First Nation communities. Planting agencies work directly with landowners to determine program eligibility, allocate funding and coordinate tree planting activities on the property.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our 2013–2014 tree planting agency partners.

Andy Margetson Tree Planting	Forest Stewardship Committee of Renfrew County	Pineneedle Farms
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	Raisin Region Conservation Authority
Association des propriétaires de boisés de la Beauce	Grand River Conservation Authority	Regional Municipality of York
Bancroft Area Forest Industry Association	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Bartram Woodlands	Haldimand Stewardship Council	Saugeen Conservation Authority
Carbon Sink	Huron Stewardship Council	Somerville Seedlings
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority	Kettle Creek Conservation Authority	South Nation Conservation Authority
Clean Annapolis River Project	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Conservation Halton	Land Care Niagara	St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre
County of Simcoe	Lands & Forests Consulting	Stephen Pitt
Credit Valley Conservation Authority	Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council	Sustainable Resources
Drentex Field Services	Long Point Region Conservation Authority	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Elgin Stewardship	Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority	University of British Columbia
Essex Region Conservation Authority	Mark Pedersen	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Ethic Tree Creations	Northumberland Stewardship Council	Williams and Associates Forestry Consulting Ltd.
Ferguson Forest Centre	Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority	

To further enhance and execute forest restoration activities, Trees Ontario requires the ongoing financial support of individuals, government, corporations and small businesses.



Rob Keen with Mathew Rosenblatt of the Distillery Historic District.

Forest Restoration Through Partnerships

Our Sponsors



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



RBC Foundation
RBC Fondation



Forests Ontario would like to recognize and thank its financial contributors including government, foundation, corporate and small business donors and partners. Your contributions assisted our educational and technical programs and supported the planting of 3 million trees in 2013–2014.

Forests Ontario would also like to thank our many individual donors and members for their ongoing support.

Supporters

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium
Active Green + Ross
Aecon Group Inc.
Arbor Day Foundation
Assoc. of Power Producers in Ontario
Bee Team Cleaning Inc.
BioForest Technologies Inc.
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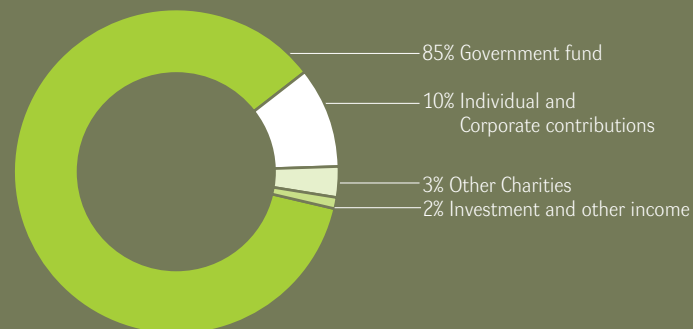
Malvern
Mosaic Hair Group
M & M Woodcraft
Muskoka Roastery Coffee Co.
Ontario Power Authority
Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan
PCL Contractors
Qualcomm
Richard Ivy Foundation
Rochester Midland Ltd.
Sierra Utilities
Skyline
Smith & Anderson
Sporting Life Inc.
Summit Reforestation
Starbucks
The Orange Lounge
Toronto Community Foundation
United Way
Urban Forest Innovations Inc.
WeWood
Yvon Champoux Inc.
Zehr's

Statement of Operations

Fiscal year ending March 2014

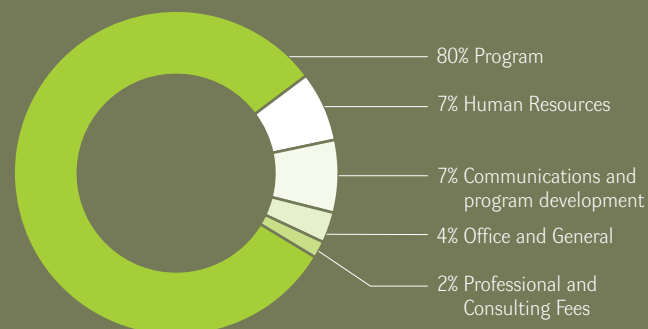
Income

Government fund	\$ 5,062,411
Individual and Corporate contributions	\$ 623,038
Other Charities	\$ 184,796
Investment and other income	\$ 83,893
	\$ 5,954,138



Expenditures

Program	\$ 4,750,321
Human resources	\$ 442,753
Communications and program development	\$ 429,876
Office and General	\$ 231,229
Professional and Consulting Fees	\$ 98,356
	\$5,952,535



Current Year Net Income \$ 1,603

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2014

Assets

Total Cash and Investments	\$ 2,123,087
Accounts receivable and prepaid commitments	\$ 322,086
Inventory	\$ 139,561
Fixed Assets	\$ 54,606
	\$ 2,639,340

Liabilities

Trade payable and program commitments	\$ 1,233,884
Deferred Program Revenue	\$ 727,115
	\$ 1,960,999



Board of Trustees

Steve Hounsell (President)

Donald L. Macdonald, Q.C.

David Archibald

Julie Desjardins

Tracy Smith, Secretary

Ian Buchanan, York Region

Steve Munro, Westwind Forest Stewardship

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Joanne Brown, Treasurer

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Margaret Casey

Forests Ontario Staff

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Al Corlett, RPF, Director of Programs

Shelley McKay, Director of Communications & Development

Patricia Hammond, Office Administrator

Monica Fuda, Membership & Donor Relations

Ann-Marie Colacino, Communications Officer

Kerry McLaven, Forest Program Officer

Andrew Pitek, Forest Operations Coordinator

Jessica Kaknevicius, Education Program Manager

Allison Hands, Education Coordinator

Stephanie Prince, Program Assistant

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Mike Walsh, PLANT Mentoring Program Coordinator

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Brian Swaile, Field Advisor

Donald Gummer, Field Advisor

Wade Knight, Field Advisor

Glenn McLeod, Field Advisor

Ron Thayer, Field Advisor

Steve Bowers, Field Advisor

*Trustee and Staff list as of March 31, 2014.

A photograph of a forest interior. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the tree trunks and the forest floor. The trees are tall and slender, with rough bark. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

—
*the voice for
our forests*



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