

2025 FEMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Forest dynamics and stewardship at a crossroads: Science, partnerships, and adaptive strategies for moving forward

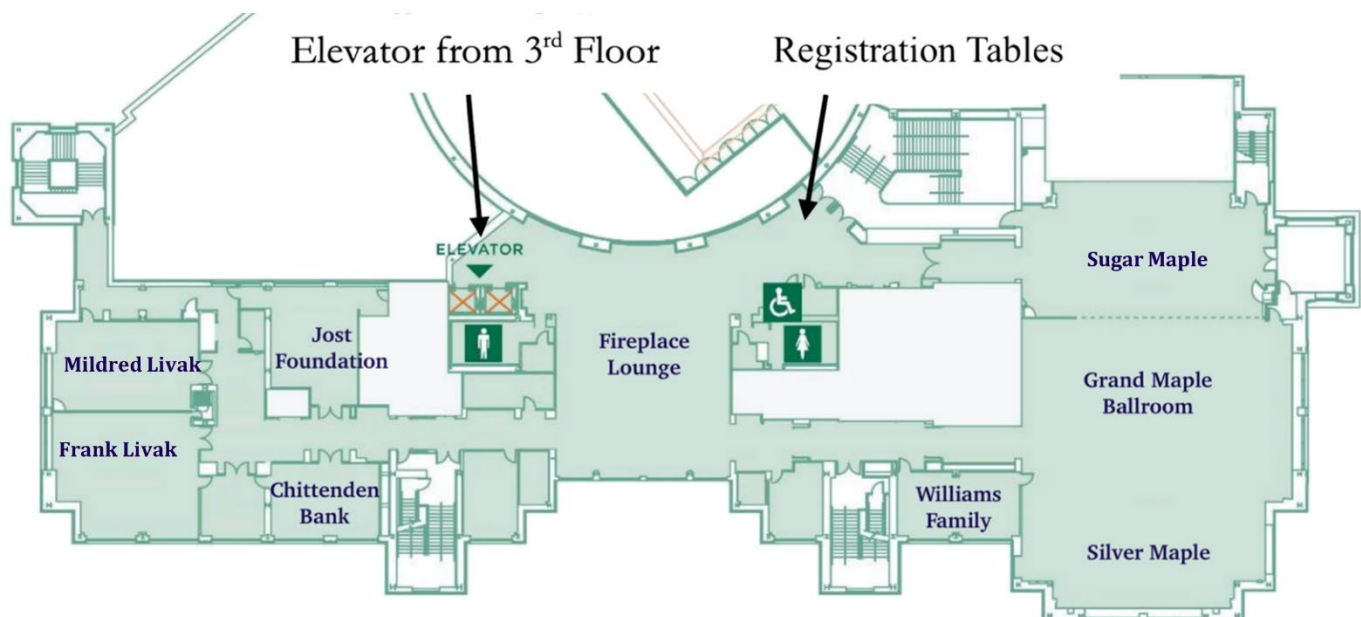
November 20, 2025

8:00 – 8:45 am	Coffee and Registration
<i>In person Fireplace Lounge</i>	Arrival and check-in.
8:45 – 9:45 am	Welcome and Introduction
<i>In-person and Virtual Grand Maple Ballroom</i>	FEMC Director Alison Adams and FEMC Steering Committee Vice Chair Will Hochholzer will provide introductory remarks. Special session introductions: Dr. Anne Jefferson will introduce the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC). Dr. Beverley Wemple will provide an overview for the Mt. Mansfield paired watershed study. FEMC State Coordinators will provide updates from each state (Eli Ward, Connecticut; Alana Russell, Rhode Island; Eric Peterson, Massachusetts; Jeff Hariman and Aaron Bergdahl, Maine; Larissa Robinov, New Hampshire; Savannah Ferreira, Vermont, and Amanda Dillon, New York)
9:45 – 11:00 am	Plenary Presentation and Discussion
<i>In-person and Virtual Grand Maple Ballroom</i>	We have an engaging agenda with plenary speaker Dr. Anthony D’Amato to discuss the current state of forest science and stewardship, and how we can use our knowledge and experience as future challenges arise.
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee Break – Fireplace Lounge
11:20 am – 12:05 pm	Concurrent Talks – Session 1
<i>In-person and Virtual 4th Floor Davis Center Rooms</i>	Parallel tracks of 20-minute presentations contributed by cooperators on various forest ecosystem research, monitoring, and outreach activities. (See details on next page)
12:05 – 1:10 pm	Lunch Break – Fireplace Lounge and Grand Maple Ballroom
1:10 – 2:45 pm	Concurrent Talks and Workshops – Session 2
<i>In-person and Virtual 4th Floor Davis Center Rooms</i>	Parallel tracks of presentations and workshop-style sessions contributed by cooperators on various forest ecosystem research, monitoring, and outreach activities. (See details on next page)
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Coffee Break – Fireplace Lounge
3:00 – 4:35 pm	Concurrent Talks and Workshops – Session 3
<i>In-person and Virtual 4th Floor Davis Center Rooms</i>	Parallel tracks of presentations and workshop-style sessions contributed by cooperators on various forest ecosystem research, monitoring, and outreach activities. (See details on next page)
4:35 – 5:30 pm	Poster Session and Social Hour – Fireplace Lounge

Concurrent Talks – Session 1

11:20 – 12:05

Time	NSRC	Forest Planning	Fungal Ecology	The impact of language related to introduced plant management	
	Jost	Williams	Chittenden Bank	Sugar Maple	Silver Maple
11:20 – 11:40	Tools for rehabilitative silviculture in degraded hardwood stands <i>John Foppert</i>	Thirty Years of Organic Family Forestry in Vermont's Center-West Ecoregion <i>David Brynn</i>	Restoring multi-functional riparian forested buffers <i>Jess Rubin</i>	Shifting the Conversation: Building Shared Purpose Across Vermont's Landscape <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Lunch Set up
11:45 – 12:05	Assessing the future Northern Forest through the lens of seedling survival and sapling recruitment <i>Lucas Harris</i>	Planting with Purpose: Lessons from Vermont's New Guidelines for ANR Lands <i>Danielle Owczarski</i>	Fungi of Vermont <i>Savannah Ferreira, Jess Rubin</i>	<i>Emilie Inoue, Noah Hoffman, Pieter van Loon</i>	



Concurrent Talks – Session 2

1:10 – 2:40

Time	NSRC	Forest Ecology	Pests and Pathogens 1	Northern Forest Center	Wildlife
	<i>Jost</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Chittenden Bank</i>	<i>Sugar Maple</i>	<i>Silver Maple</i>
1:10 – 1:30	Comprehensive Utilization of Forest Residue Biomass for Fermentative Bioproducts and Solid Biofuels <i>Ankita Juneja</i>	Where the Wildlands Aren't: Expanding Ecological Representation in the Northeast <i>Liz Thompson</i>	Terrestrial eDNA surveys for forest and plant pest detection: a trial using spotted lanternfly as a test species in Rhode Island <i>Alana Russell</i>	Help Develop a Messaging Guide for Communicating Forest Stewardship <i>Kendra Collins</i>	AMMonitor: A case study in automated detection for invasive Cuban Treefrog with a two-stage machine learning approach <i>Kaitlin Huebner</i>
1:35 – 1:50	Sustaining basketmaking in Waponahkik through increased accessibility, processing, and storage opportunities <i>John Daigle</i>	Caterpillar abundance in a northern hardwood forest: exogenous effects, endogenous feedbacks, and multidecadal trends <i>Miranda Zammarelli</i>	A resurgence of red pine scale in New York <i>Amanda Dillon</i>	1.5 hour working session	Acoustic Monitoring Informs Ruffed Grouse Habitat Management in Northeastern Forests <i>Kayley Dillon</i>
1:55 – 2:15	Evaluating the utility of static stand structure-derived estimates of forest demographic change in the wake of nonnative insect pests and disease <i>Jeff Garnas</i>	Protecting birds in protected areas: a multi-scale analysis of forest structure on avian occurrence <i>Bruna Amaral</i>	The New Kid on the Block: Laurel Wilt in New York State <i>Kelsey McLaughlin</i>		DeepFaune New England: Building a regional trail camera species classifier <i>Laurence Clarfeld</i>
2:20 – 2:45	Tree Rings and Mud: An (ongoing) Collaborative Reconstruction of Historical fire regimes in Northern New Hampshire <i>Simon Pendleton</i>	Tracking spring wildflower temporal niche across the microclimatic gradients of northeastern temperate deciduous forests <i>Morgan Southgate</i>	Jumping worm monitoring at FEMC forest health monitoring plots <i>Ben Porter</i>		Analyzing habitat factors consistent with river otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>) abundance in the Lewis Creek watershed <i>Lydia Emry</i>

Concurrent Talks – Session 3

3:00 – 4:35

Time	Fire in Northeastern Forest Ecosystems	Highlights from long-term research and monitoring on Mt. Mansfield	Pests and Pathogens 2	Forests and Community	Avian Acoustics
	<i>Jost</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Chittenden Bank</i>	<i>Sugar Maple</i>	<i>Silver Maple</i>
3:00 – 3:20	A Post-Smoke Critique: "Asbestos Forest" Management Paradigms in the Northeastern USA <i>Andy Vander Yacht</i>	Warmer winters drive snowpack declines and runoff increases in a headwater region of the northeastern United States <i>Kate Hale (remote)</i>	2025 Maine Spruce Budworm Update <i>Allison Kanoti (remote)</i>	A citizen science early-detection system: Managing forests in Maine with help from iNaturalist and eBird users <i>Kyle Lima</i>	Utility of passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) to assess long-term patterns of songbird community composition within northeastern forests <i>Aaron Weed</i>
3:25 – 3:45	Restoring Ecosystem Health with Fire in a Rare Inland Pine barrens. <i>Neil Gifford (remote)</i>	The Summit-to-Shore Snow Monitoring Network in Vermont <i>Arne Bomblies</i>	Beech Leaf Disease Monitoring and Mitigation via Silvicultural Treatments <i>Kelsey McLaughlin</i>	Forests Are Part of our Story: Enhancing Forest Resilience throughout Northeastern National Parks <i>Rachel Swanwick</i>	Evaluating Machine Learning Threshold Stability in Large-Scale Passive Acoustic Monitoring <i>Sharon Martinson</i>
3:50 – 4:10	Keeping the Pine in the Pine Barrens of Long Island <i>Kathy Schwager (remote)</i>	Determining links between LiDAR-derived canopy metrics and daily changes in snow depth around VT <i>Jacob LaDue</i>	15 Years of White Pine Needle Damage: What Have We Learned? <i>Nick Brazee (remote)</i>	Spotlight on Black Ash Communities in Vermont: Outreach, treatment, and seed collection on State Land <i>Joanne Garton</i>	Can we predict abundance from acoustic data? <i>Vijay Ramesh</i>
4:15 – 4:35	Prescribed Fire and Resiliency in Southeastern Massachusetts: Managing for an Uncertain Future <i>Alex Entrup</i>	Insights from 25 Years of Biological Monitoring in the Ranch Brook and West Branch Little River Watersheds <i>Meaghan Hickey</i>	Hemlock woolly adelgid biological control: Signs of hope for eastern forests <i>Nick Dietschler</i>	Advancing Workforce Development in Forestry through a Multi-Pronged Educational Approach <i>Paulina Murray</i>	Evaluating machine learning's potential for assessing forest-dependent and migratory bird species presence in the Colombian Amazon <i>Charles Arthur Tebbutt</i>

Poster Session

4:35 – 5:30

- 1 Interactions between neighborhood effects and microsite factors may inhibit or facilitate upslope tree range shifts**

Nathan Kiel, SUNY ESF; Jordon Tourville, AMC; Jay Wason, University of Maine; Martin Dovciak, SUNY ESF

- 2 Analyzing habitat factors consistent with river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) abundance in the Lewis Creek watershed**

Lydia Emry, University of Vermont

- 3 New Progeny Planting of Recurrent Genomic Selections of American Chestnut on the Green Mountain National Forest**

Paula Murakami, USDA Forest Service; John Butnor, USDA Forest Service; Kendra Collins, TACF VT/NH; Gary Hawley, TACF VT/NH

- 4 NRS Research and Conservation Partnerships in Vermont 2025**

John Butnor, USDA Forest Service; Christopher Hansen, University of Vermont; Paula Murakami, USDA Forest Service

- 5 Optimizing Vegetation Indices for Enhanced Management of Parks and Protected Areas: A Case Study from Acadia National Park**

Min Kim, Stockton University; John Daigle, University of Maine

- 6 Tracking forest soil health: 25 years of soil monitoring by the U.S. Forest Inventory and Analysis program**

Melissa Pastore, NRS USDA FS; John Shaw, RMRS, USDA FS; Sean Cahoon, PNRS, USDA FS; Hayley Peter-Contesse, Dept. of Nat. Res. And Env. Mgmt., University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Suzanne Owen, PNRS, USDA FS; Grant Domke, NRS, USDA FS; Belinda Esham, NRS, USDA FS, Erin Berryman, RMRS, USDA FS

- 7 What's in a song? An analysis of avian vocalization patterns in a northeastern forest**

Matthew Ayers, Dartmouth College; Wyatt Cummings, Dartmouth College; Laurel Symes, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Aaron weed, National Park Service; Hannah ter Hofstede, University of Windsor; Pooja Panwar, Dartmouth College; Sharon Martinson, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

- 8 A collaborative regional approach to forest insect monitoring and management**

Valerie Watson, Schoodic Institute; Emma Lanning, Schoodic Institute and National Park Service; Kyle Lima, Schoodic Institute; Jesse Wheeler, National Park Service

- 9 Turning Objectives into Action: Adaptive Planting on Vermont Lands**

Danielle Owczarski, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

- 10 Snow refugia: Managing temperate forest canopies to maintain winter conditions**

Sarah Nelson, AMC; Melissa Pastore, NRS USDA FS; Elizabeth Burakowski, Earth Systems Research Center, UNH; Alexandra Contosta, Earth Systems Research Center, UNH; Anthony D'Amato, RSENr UVM; Sarah Garlick, The Nature Conservancy; Edward Lindsey, Old town High School; David Lutz, Colby-Sawyer College; Toni Lyn Morelli, USGS NECASC; Alexej Siren, Earth Systems Research Center, UNH; Grace Smith RSENr, UVM; Aaron Weiskittle, University of Maine

Assessing eco-geomorphic habitat factors associated with amphibian diversity in riparian floodplains of the Lewis Creek watershed

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Margreta Grady, RSEN, UVM; Lilo Schultz, Dept. of Biology, UVM; Elizabeth Doran, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UVM; Lydia Emry, RSEN, UVM; Brittany Mosher, RSEN, UVM; James Murdoch, RSEN, UVM; Kristen Underwood, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UVM; Rebecca Diehl, Dept. of Geography and Geosciences, UVM; Rose Watts, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UVM; Kenneth Johnstont, Dept. of Geography and Geosciences, UVM

Implications of cold air pooling on dynamic soil properties and carbon storage

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Grace Wang, RSEN, UVM; Shealagh Brown, RSEN, UVM; Maxwell Landsman-Gerjoi, RSEN, UVM; Carol Adair, RSEN, UVM

Spatio-Temporal Patterns of Bird Communities Using Regional Passive Acoustic Monitoring

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Pooja Panwar, Dartmouth College; Aaron Weed, National Park Service; David Lutz, Colby-Sawyer College; Matthew Ayres, Dartmouth College; Hannah ter Hofstede, University of Windsor; Laurel Symes, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Forest management strategies to rehabilitate a coastal red spruce forest in Maine

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Reg Clarke, University of Maine; Keith Kanoti, University of Maine; Rose Gellman, Smokey House Center; Nicole Rogers, Maine Forest Service; Jay Wason, University of Maine

Utilizing Bioacoustics to Study the Elusive Habits of Bats in North-temperate Forests

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Jessica Jones, Dartmouth College; Pooja Panwar, Dartmouth College; Matt Ayres, Dartmouth College; Hannah ter Hofstede, University of Windsor

The Maine Woods Initiative: Protecting 130,000 Acres of Land in the 100-Mile Wilderness

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Jordon Tourville, AMC; Hannah Clipp, AMC; Braedon Lineman, AMC; Georgia Murray, AMC; Sarah Nelson, AMC

For the Love of Snow: Snow Monitoring with Community Science

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Georgia Murray, AMC

Help Us Find Additional Survivor Elms!

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Christopher Hansen, University of Vermont; John Butnor, USDA Forest Service; Anthony D'Amato, University of Vermont; Cornelia Wilson, USDA Forest Service

Power in the Patchwork? Enhancing Biodiversity and Resiliency by Using Summertime Patch-cutting to Create Uneven-Aged Northern Forests.

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Audrey Tamasy, SUNY ESF Department of Sustainable Resources Management; Stacy McNulty, SUNY ESF Adirondack Ecological Center; Andrew Vander Yacht, SUNY ESF Department of Sustainable Resources Management

Finding lingering ash for resistance breeding: MaMA 2025 program update

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Jonathan Rosenthal, Ecological Research Institute; Radka Wildova, Ecological Research Institute

Prioritizing sites to search for lingering hemlock

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Radka Wildova, Ecological Research Institute; Jonathan Rosenthal, Ecological Research Institute

Across the Northern Forest: Wood Products Businesses Share Their Forest Story

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Amy Robinson, Northern Forest Center; Julie Renaud Evans, Northern Forest Center; Kelsey Seeker, Northern Forest Center