



Natural History Field Seminars, Workshops, and Courses at Eagle Hill on the Eastern Maine Coast

Northeast Forests, Forest History, and Forestry Policies

July 8 - 14, 2012

The Northeast, from New Jersey and New York to Maine, one of North America's oldest regions of European settlement, remains dominated by forest, most notably in Maine, which is 90 percent forested. Why is this so? How will the changes in industrial ownership and exurban sprawl effect the future of the "Northern Forest"? What role will forests play in mitigating the likely effects of climate change? How will urban growth affect the forest? Can we devise policies that will ensure forest sustainability for future generations? What does sustainability mean? What are the relative roles of local, state, subregional, and federal authority in these matters? To answer these and other important current questions, it is critical to understand how the region's forests and forest policies came to be what they are. Forest history will be explored through vignettes of key periods from early Colonial to the present; major differences within the region will be highlighted. Learning some of the lessons of this region's history may also be helpful to students concerned with forests in other parts of the world. The region's forest history and policies will be explored by lectures, directed readings, daily field trips and guest speakers, and discussion. If you are interested in forestry, resource policy, land use, resource economics, natural resource based economies, and conservation history you will find this course to be a good foundation for future studies. For those taking for college credit, evaluations will be based on class participation, a book report, and a professional "Poster" and presentation on its contents to the group.

Lloyd Irland (lclairland@gmail.com) earned his B.S. at Michigan State University; M.S. at University of Arizona; Ph.D. at Yale University.

He served in the US Army in Vietnam. Mr. Irland served with the U.S. Forest Service as a research economist before teaching at Yale for three years. He then served five years with the Department of Conservation, and five years as Maine's state economist. Since 1987 he has been consulting, mostly to industry but also to governments, trade groups, and environmental groups. He has been actively engaged with major land use, wood supply, and industrial competitiveness issues in the Northern Forest of New York and New England. Mr. Irland served as a junior author of the timber chapter of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and participated in the U.S. National Assessment on Climate Change. He has worked actively in the field of forest certification. He is author of 5 books, including *The Northeast's Changing Forest*. From 2003 to 2010 he taught fall semesters at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. His efforts on forest sustainability and policy have brought him on study tours and lecture visits to China, India, Germany, Austria, Greece, Bhutan, France, Yugoslavia, Mexico, and Ukraine. He attended, as an observer, the UNFCCC global Climate Summits in Copenhagen and Cancun. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

