



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

Department of Environmental Conservation
Holdsworth Natural Resources Center
160 Holdsworth Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9285
413.545.4300 / 413.545.4358 fax

JAN 28 2013

January 21st, 2013

Dear Friend of Forest Conservation,

Help us identify important people who can make the conservation difference! Every day landowners and communities make decisions that impact natural resources and the many benefits they provide. Our goal is to have in each community the people that can deliver accurate information to landowners and organizations at these crucial decision making times. **In order to achieve this goal, we are depending on you to recommend people for this year's Keystone training.**

In ecology, a **keystone species** is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. The Keystone Project educates forest owners and community leaders who have a significant impact on their communities. Keystone Cooperators can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an active community leader.

The Keystone Project is an intensive, 3-day training at the Harvard Forest which focuses on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land protection. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants. In addition, each participant is given resources to take home. Participants are required to attend all parts of the program. We suggest visiting the Keystone web site (<http://MassKeystone.net>), which has other program details including a sample program.

In return for this valuable educational opportunity, participants agree to return to their communities as a local resource and volunteer at least 30-hours of time on a forest conservation project(s) of their choosing with continued support from UMass Extension.

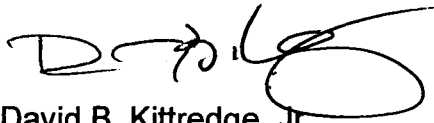
This spring, the program will take place on: **Thursday evening, April 11th, through Sunday afternoon, April 14th, 2013** at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. The application deadline is: **Monday, March 4th, 2013**. The Keystone Training will be held thanks to generous support from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation's Service Forestry program, the MA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Harvard Forest, and UMass Extension.

An application to the Keystone Project is enclosed. This application is an important step in helping us locate enthusiastic people to participate in the Keystone Project. If you are interested, please complete this form and return it by the deadline. If you know of good candidates, please pass this application on to them. Alternatively, you could contact us and we'd happily pass on application materials to likely candidates. Additional information and applications are available online: <http://MassKeystone.net>.

The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, connectedness within the community, special skills, and diversity. Space in the program is limited to 25.

Thank you in advance for helping us to identify people in an excellent position to protect and conserve the woodlands of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



David B. Kittredge, Jr.
Professor/ Extension Forester
dbk@eco.umass.edu
(413) 545-2943



Paul Catanzaro
Extension Assistant Professor
cat@umext.umass.edu
(413) 545-4839

3) Current Occupation _____

4) How long have you lived in your community? _____ Years

5) Please indicate which statements below best describe you:

- a. I own _____ acres of forestland in Massachusetts
- b. I am involved in the stewardship of _____ acres of forestland in Massachusetts, through a (circle one: Conservation Commission, land trust, other conservation effort.)
- c. _____ I am involved in my community and wish to work on forest conservation issues

6) What, if any, land management activities have you carried out in the past three years? As an example, you might list: timber stand improvement, timber harvest, releasing apple trees, boundary maintenance, invasive control, trail construction.

7) What, if any, conservation activities have you been involved with in the past three years? As an example, you might list: worked on town open space plan, permanently protected my property, monitored land trust land, spoke with a landowner regarding forest management and/or land protection.

8) Please list **ALL** of your community and organizational experiences, including community groups and volunteer activities. **Please indicate the dates involved and the activities or groups in which you are currently active.** Use an attached sheet if necessary.

Organization/Municipal Board/Activity	Role
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9) Please indicate the statement which most accurately describes the level of knowledge you feel you have about forestry and wildlife conservation.

- please circle the appropriate letter -

- a. I have no knowledge of forestry or natural resource management
- b. I am aware of some options available to me in managing my property for wood and wildlife.
- c. I understand some forest and wildlife management concepts and can explain them to others.
- d. I have enough skills to implement some forest and wildlife management activities on my land.
- e. I know as much about forest and wildlife management as most foresters or wildlife biologists.

10) How do you anticipate using what you learn through Keystone to advance forest conservation, wildlife management, and land protection in your community?

11) How will you help others make informed decisions about their land?

Keystone participants receive room and board for three days, well over \$200 in take-home references, and benefit in many other ways from this intensive educational effort. We are asking people who are selected to participate to invest \$50 in the program to partially offset expenses. These funds could come directly from an individual, **or be generated by a local conservation organization** (e.g., Conservation Commission or land trust) sponsoring a person.

If selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, do you agree to pay tuition of \$50?
Yes ___ No ___

If you are selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, what dietary restrictions should we make the caterer aware of?

Thank you for your interest in forest and wildlife conservation.