

Intro:

A few weeks ago, Hunter asked if I could help present this award., and say a few words about this years recipient.

I have worked with this year's recipient for the past six years. He has been a mentor a colleague and a very good friend. Most of you in this room will know this years recipient and know that he has been very active in the NH Forestry community over the last 25 years. He has been involved with organizations such as NHTOA, Tree Farm, Project Learning Tree and of coarse SAF.

Those of you that know this years recipient will know that he is very passionate about forestry and the direction of forestry here in the Granite State and if you know him you will also know that he is not afraid to express his opinion about any and all subjects that pertain to forestry here in NH and in the process, maybe ruffle a few feathers.

As you may have guessed, this years recipient of Forester of the year award goes to Dan Cyr.

So as I thought about why someone should be given the Forester of the year award, certainly active involvement in the forestry community would be a key facet, and most of you know Dan from his involvement in the organizations that I mentioned previously. But as someone who has worked closely with Dan over the past few years I would like to speak more about the continued good work that he has accomplished in the forests of southern and central NH.

First of all I would say that I have worked with many fine foresters over my 15 year career and I can say that Dan is one of the best. His attention to detail when it comes to laying out and supervising harvest operations is second to none. He is one of the hardest working guys I know. He has spent countless hours many of which are over the weekend piling brush, hand raking hiking trails and lopping tops after harvesting operations just to go the extra mile to make a job look that much better and to make sure his clients are satisfied with the results.

Loggers talk about having saw dust in their blood. I'm pretty sure Dan has Nelson tree marking paint coursing through his veins. I think we would be hard pressed to find anyone else in this room that has marked more trees than Dan over the course of their career. I have witnessed firsthand to the fine work Dan has accomplished in the woods as we re-enter areas that he had harvested 10 to 15 years ago. On many of these properties, we are harvesting as much if not more good quality sawtimber than what was harvested previously in the same location. We are also seeing lots of well-established high quality regeneration in these areas. This is what forestry is fundamentally all about, the continued improvement of our forest lands through sound silvicultural practices. This is a testament to excellent work Dan has been doing for his clients in NH for the past 25 years and another reason why he is so worthy of this award.

And I really think it is important that we recognize and award the men and women in our field that are not just talking about forestry and silviculture and participating in our forestry-based organizations, which is still very important, but we need to recognize the foresters that are out in the field doing the good work implementing sound silviculture, and making sure loggers are following through with Best Management Practices. And I can honestly say that when Dan is on a project he treats the clients land as if it were his own.

And so when thinking about the Forester of the year award, I think the ideal candidate is someone that is very balanced forester. A forester that is passionate about his profession and actively participates in organizations such as SAF or TOA, to better the profession. A forester that is committed to carrying out his landowner's objectives and goals for their forestland. A forester that works diligently with integrity and honesty to ensure that the work being done in the woods is going according to the plan that he has laid out, and a forester that implements sound silviculture so that the future forest will be healthier and more productive than the present day forest. For all of these reasons Dan Cyr is the perfect candidate for Forester of the year, and is a fine representation for all of the foresters in this room that work in the field on a daily basis, who struggle with market conditions, weather conditions and uncooperative towns, but somehow still continue to manage to get the job done.

So on behalf of all of your colleagues at Bay State Forestry and your friends and peers in this room, congratulations to you Dan for a being recognized by SAF for your outstanding commitment to the practice of forestry here in NH.