

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S URBAN FORESTRY CENTER¹

by Mary Kuzia Reynolds

Abstract. The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is a gift to the State of New Hampshire by John Elwyn Stone to be forever used for socio-ecological purposes. John Elwyn Stone (1922-1974) was a direct descendant of John Langdon (1741-1819), the distinguished New Hampshire statesman and first Governor of New Hampshire. The gift consists of 150 acres of land with buildings and the annual income from a \$1.7 million trust fund. The property is managed under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forests and Lands, New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development. The Urban Forestry Center is being developed to make people aware that trees are a renewable resource and to educate the public on the socio-economic value of trees. Because of its location within the City of Portsmouth, nature, and purpose, the Urban Forestry Center is ideally suited to serve as an example of an urban forest. The 150 acre forested and wetland tract will function principally as a demonstration area and its facilities will be used for teaching, education, and research in urban forestry.

The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is a **gift to the people of New Hampshire by John Elwyn Stone** (1922-1974). His bequest to the people of the State was a dramatic one, 150 acres of land with buildings together with the net income from an estimated \$1.7 million trust fund. Motivated to secure the permanent preservation of his woodlands and open space located in an urban area of New Hampshire, John Elwyn Stone willed that his land be "forever used for *socio-ecological* purposes." It is an unusual opportunity for a property of this size, and within the growth bounds of a municipality, to come into public domain. The gift of John Elwyn Stone was accepted by the State of New Hampshire and established as the Urban Forestry Center in July 1976. The property is managed under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forests and Lands, New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development.

There are many facts that attest to John Elwyn Stone's dedication to the public interest including his *final, generous, and imaginative gift* of his Portsmouth property to the State of New Hampshire.

Over the years, John Elwyn Stone's contributions for building renovations, historical restorations, and the gift of land and money for the construction of a new Church have benefitted the people of New Hampshire. Born John Gilbert Marshall Stone, Jr., he later changed his name to John Elwyn Stone. He grew up in New York City but returned to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and York, Maine, to spend summers. He graduated from The Groton School and later from Yale University where he received a B.A. degree with a major in English literature. In World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps.

The property is of historical significance to the people of New Hampshire being the birthplace and early home of the distinguished New Hampshire statesman and first Governor of New Hampshire, John Langdon (1741-1819). John Elwyn Stone was a direct descendant of John Langdon. This very property remained in the ownership of the Langdon family for over 300 years since Tobias Langdon arrived from Cornwall, England, in 1650 and first settled the land at the head of Sagamore Creek in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Urban forestry is a relatively new concept for forestry in New Hampshire and in New Hampshire, urban forestry will mean **people-oriented forestry**. The Urban Forestry Center is being developed to make people aware that trees are a renewable resource and to educate the public on the socio-economic value of forests, trees, shrubs, and related plants. Because of its location within the City of Portsmouth, nature, and purpose, the Urban Forestry Center is ideally suited to serve as an example of an urban forest. The 150-acre forested and wetland tract will function principally as a demonstration area and its facilities will be used for teaching, education, and research in urban forestry.

The Urban Forestry Center consists of 60 acres

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of wetlands and 90 acres of upland forests. Major vegetational types include: wetland-march (60 acres), red pine plantation (24 acres), Colorado blue spruce and white spruce plantation (4 acres), mainly evergreen woodland (37 acres), mainly deciduous woodland (18 acres), and scrub-shrubland (7 acres). The natural stands of timber, both mixed hardwoods and softwoods, are the second largest non-planted cover types of native forest species found on the property. Various species representative of differing stages of forest succession may be found in this area. The existing vegetational types, both native and planted, are well suited for the ultimate uses of this area in urban forestry.



Recent fires have reduced the area of the red pine plantation by approximately one-half of the original size. A portion of this burned area will be used to study secondary plant succession and for several mini-woodlot demonstrations.

Plans for the development of the Urban Forestry Center include the creation of an arboretum, establishment of an ecological preserve, and the development of several mini-woodlot demonstration areas. The existing buildings will be adapted for administrative, program, and historical use. Further, this urban forest resource will provide society with a variety of goods and services by: (1) meeting passive recreational needs of urban dwellers; (2) providing technical assistance and guidance on the maintenance and care of urban trees and shrubs; (3) helping municipalities, land developers, conservation commissions, and others in implementation of public urban forestry projects; (4) sponsoring education and informa-

tion programs to extend public knowledge of forests and forestry; and (5) producing wood fibre and utilizing urban wood.



A view of the two barns. The meeting barn in the foreground is being adapted for program use; in the distance, the maintenance barn.

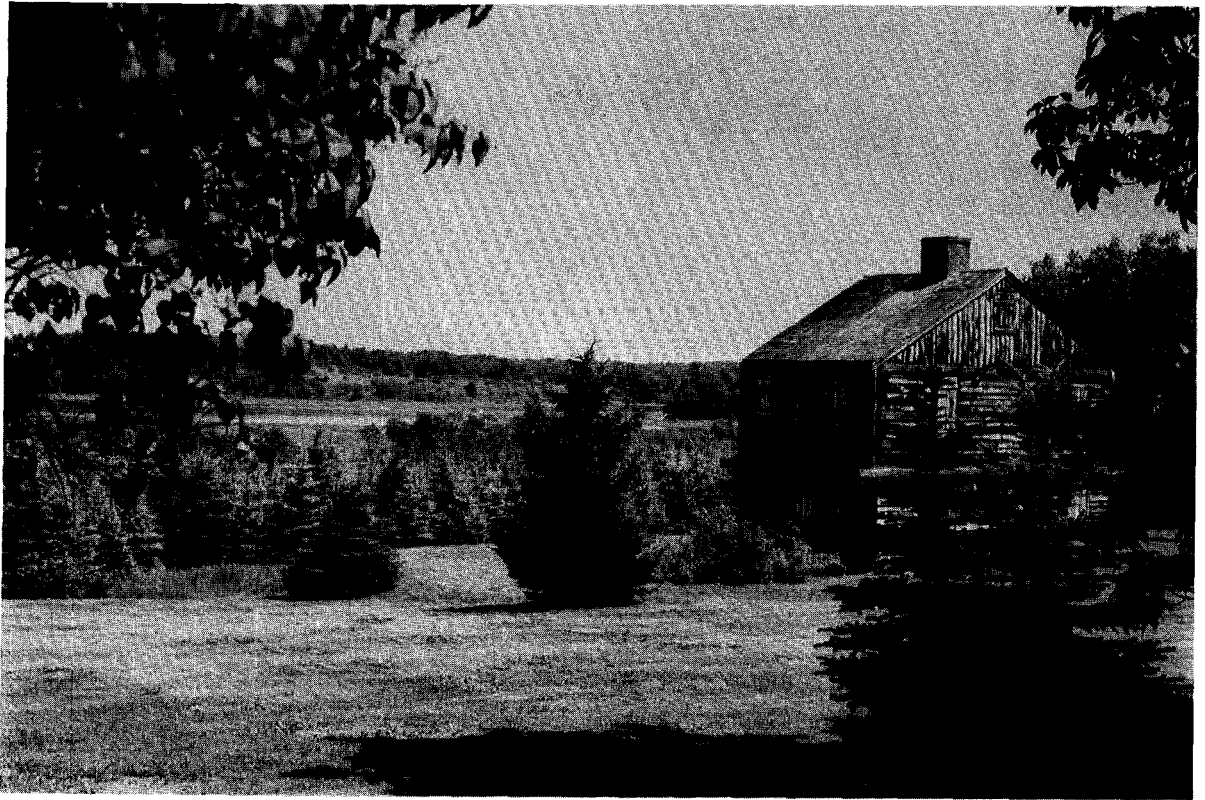
The Urban Forestry Center will encourage investigation of urban forestry problems by sponsoring and conducting conferences, lectures, continuing education programs, workshops, demonstrations, and exhibits designed to bring interested educators, researchers, publics, municipal administrators, land use planners, forestry professionals, arborists, and others together to discuss and evaluate urban forestry problems. Program activities of the Urban Forestry Center will vary and will include a broad range of urban forestry disciplines. Educational and investigative priorities relating to gaps in our knowledge of specific urban forestry problems will be established. The scope of urban forestry will be addressed with flexible programs to meet changing urban needs. Development and implementation of a program of urban forestry at the Urban Forestry Center will continue to be refined through experience.

Urban forestry is for our needs and for our children's necessities if traditional American life values are to be maintained. Teaching those values will be one prime part of the purpose of the Urban Forestry Center. Programs of the Urban Forestry Center will emphasize the *amenity* values of trees and shrubs. AMENITY, that's a good, old word for pleasantness, attractiveness, a

courteous act is an amenity. Trees perform many courteous acts: they enhance beauty, reduce air pollution, deaden noise, modify extremes of temperature and humidity, protect and preserve the soil and water, make life better for wildlife,

provide useful products.

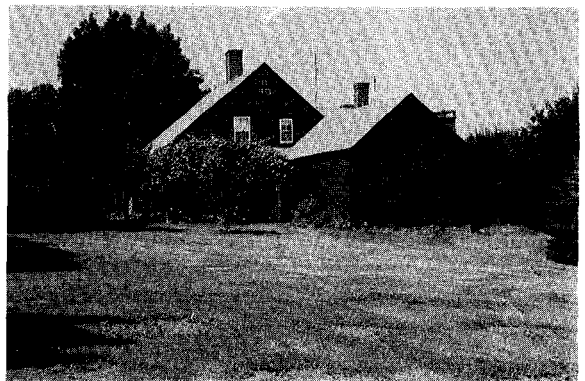
It is within this framework that the Urban Forestry Center will work to protect and promote nature's beauty and usefulness for the people of a state that isn't so rural anymore. John Elwyn



Rosemary Cottage, moved here from historic Portsmouth, overlooks the spruce plantation; in the distance, Sagamore Creek (northeast).



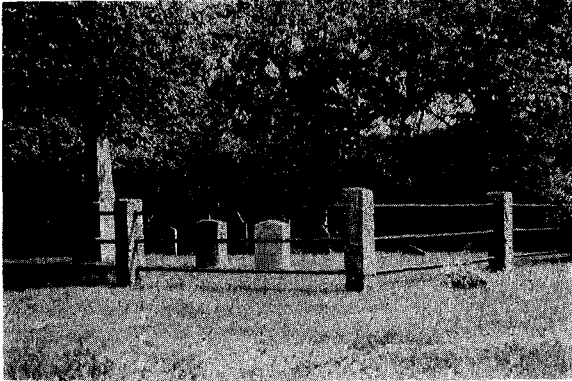
Looking northwest, a reminder of adjoining urbanization and U.S. Route 1.



The historic cape dates to 1840 and serves as administrative headquarters for the center.

Stone's gift of the Urban Forestry Center to the people of New Hampshire will be of benefit and enjoyment to generations to follow.

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The family cemetery dates to the early 1600's.

ABSTRACTS

Hazeltine, W.E. 1978. **IPM: real and political.** *Agrichemical Age* 22(7): 6, 29-30.

Anyone who has successfully practiced Integrated Pest Management (IPM) knows that there are at least three necessary elements for a good program. These are (1) the availability of a knowledgeable expert to practice the art, (2) the widest possible selection of materials and methods from which to choose, and (3) the freedom to make balanced judgments on which material or method to use, when control is necessary. The current politicizing of IPM seems to neglect most or all of these necessary elements. In the present climate, IPM has become a bureaucratic bandwagon which is popular to support, but which seems aimed more at renouncing the benefits of technology than to the use of technology for the benefit of people. The basic problem seems to be getting people to recognize that there is a large difference between real IPM and political IPM, and then getting into action to preserve real IPM.

Nielsen, D.G., M.J. Dunlap, and J.F. Boggs. 1978. **Controlling blackvine weevil.** *Am. Nurseryman* 147(7): 12-13, 89-91.

The black vine weevil has been a destructive pest of woody ornamental plants in the US for many years. Young larvae consume small feeder roots while becoming established and eventually strip larger roots, cutting off the supply of water and minerals to stems and foliage. Extensive larval feeding reduces plant vigor and may cause mortality. During the past two years chemical control investigations and other studies have been conducted to provide new information regarding the biology and seasonal history of this pest in hopes of learning how best to approach its control. This article deals with results of selected studies to demonstrate how natural history information, combined with knowledge of pesticide effectiveness, can be conceptualized to design a workable control program.