The Northeastern Forest Research & Technology Transfer Conference

Wednesday Afternoon Optional Field Trip Descriptions:

Mystic Seaport and the Henry B. du Pont Preservation Shipyard

Mystic Seaport http://www.mysticseaport.org/ is the nation's leading maritime museum. Explore American maritime history first-hand as you climb aboard historic tall ships, stroll through a re-created 19th-century coastal village or watch a working preservation shipyard in action. Founded in 1929, more than 300,000 people continue to visit Mystic Seaport annually. Membership represents more than 20,000 people from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The volunteer corps consists of more than 1,400 people.

Witness the lost art of wooden shipbuilding in the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard, an awe-inspiring opportunity to watch skilled craftspeople perform skills made nearly extinct by steel and fiberglass. From a visitors’ gallery, the Shipyard offers a bird’s eye view of carpenters’ shops, an amazing 85-foot spar lathe, a rigging loft and a large, open area where the Museum’s vessels are brought indoors for repair.

Other shipyard sights include a paint shop, a metalworking shop, documentation shop, lumber shed and an old-fashioned saw mill full of rough-cut logs. Best of all, everything’s being used – historic methods for historic vessels. Cost: $20.00

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center http://www.pequotmuseum.org/ is a new tribally owned-and-operated, state-of-the-art complex located in Mashantucket, Conn. Opened on August 11, 1998, it presents the rich history of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the histories and cultures of other tribes, and the region's natural history through a series of innovative presentations.

Utilizing the latest in exhibit design and technology, the 85,000-square-foot permanent indoor exhibits present four types of interpretation to the visitor: dioramas, text panels, interactive computer programs, and a series of films. Evolving Mashantucket Pequot life is conveyed through dioramas and exhibits, films and videos, interactive programs, archival materials, ethnographic and archaeological collections, and commissioned works of art and traditional crafts by Native artisans. A glacial crevasse, a caribou hunt of 11,000 years ago, a walk-through, 16th-century woodland Indian village, a 17th-century Pequot fort, and an outdoor, 18th-century farmstead set on two acres with orchards and gardens are some of the exhibits that take visitors from the last Ice Age to modern times.

Seven computer interactives, including more than three hours of original documentary video, have been created. A total of 13 films and video programs are on view throughout the permanent exhibit space in 10 locations. The visually impaired are able to move through the exhibits utilizing an infrared communications system and access audio interpretation, with selected replica artifacts available for all to touch in specially
designated areas, including spearheads, fur clothing and tools. The films, computer interactives and videos are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

The center offers engaging experiences for all ages, from life-size walk-through dioramas that transport visitors into the past, to changing exhibits and live performances of contemporary arts and cultures. Extensive interactive exhibits depict 18,000 years of Native and natural history, while two libraries, including one for children, offer a diverse selection of materials on the histories and cultures of all Native peoples of the United States and Canada. **Cost:** $18.00

### U.S. Navy Submarine Force Museum and Home of U.S.S. Nautilus

Visit the Submarine Force Museum [http://www.ussnautilus.org/](http://www.ussnautilus.org/) and peer into the lives of the men who sail the ocean depths in their "sharks of steel." Trace the development of the "silent service" from Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the modern Virginia and Ohio class submarines. Look through one of three operating periscopes and perhaps you'll see one of the Navy's newest submarines going by on the Thames River. Relax in one of our theaters and enjoy films of submarines past and present. Even learn how a submarine operates on an interactive computer display.

The Submarine Force Museum, located on the Thames River in Groton, Connecticut, maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy, and as such is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. **Cost:** $10.00

### Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration

At Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, [http://www.mysticaquarium.org/](http://www.mysticaquarium.org/) visitors encounter ocean animals in an exciting new way – no scuba gear required! Reach in and touch a ray, go beak-to-nose with a penguin and feel the splash of a beluga whale. Through spring 2009, see the seven belugas and four Pacific white-sided dolphins visiting from Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Watch California sea lions – including Boomerang, the sea lion pup – strut their stuff during a live show, and meet a variety of animals, from African penguins and Steller sea lions to sharks and blue-tongued skinks.

Dig into the new interactive exhibit [*Prehistoric Creatures of the Sea*], where kids can uncover the fossils of sea creatures from 600 million years ago! Take a thrilling ride in the XD Motion Theater “Deep Sea 3D.” In *Challenge of the Deep*, explore the deep ocean with the world’s only exhibits on Dr. Robert Ballard’s fascinating expeditions, including his discovery of the *R.M.S. Titanic*. Don’t miss his newest exhibit, *Exploring Your National Marine Sanctuaries*, which takes you live into some of the country’s sanctuaries to discover shipwrecks and see colorful corals – all without ever leaving the aquarium!

The Institute for Exploration (IFE) has also pioneered the emerging fields of deep-sea archaeology and deep-sea geology. Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Ballard,
IFE has assembled an extraordinary team, uniting world-class deep-ocean engineers and oceanographers with renowned archaeologists and geologists.

The results have been spectacular. The team has uncovered archeological treasure unseen for thousands of years. And through recent and current expeditions, IFE has already emerged as the leader in designing and developing deep-submergence vehicles capable of pushing the boundaries and taking our curiosity deeper and further than ever before. Cost: $22.00

The Arboretum at Connecticut College [http://arboretum.conncoll.edu/]

This field trip is limited to the first 25 participants. Arboretum Director Dr. Glenn Dreyer will provide our group with a guided tour of the collections, and describe research activities taking place at the unique Connecticut College Arboretum in New London.

The Arboretum Plant collections are broken down into four areas: the Native Plant Collection, the Caroline Black Garden, the Connecticut College Campus, and the Greenhouse. These areas are diverse in size and plant composition and, therefore, offer the student or visitor a varied and enlightening experience with both native and exotic species. The collections contain an incredible diversity of plant life, from the epiphytes and orchids of our tropical greenhouse to the pitcher plants and red maples of our wetlands.

The Native Plant Collection specializes in collecting and displaying trees and shrubs native to eastern North America and hardy in New London. Nearly 300 kinds of woody plants are cultivated on 20 acres between Williams Street and Gallows Lane. The various species take turns displaying their beauty throughout all the seasons: shadbush in April; dogwood and azaleas in May; mountain laurel in June; giant rhododendron, sourwood and sweet pepperbush in July; brilliant autumn foliage in October; evergreens and conifers year-round

The Caroline Black Garden houses a mature collection of ornamental trees and shrubs from all over the world. Established in the 1920s, this garden offers over 180 different taxa of native and exotic ornamental woody plants, including the crimson queen Japanese maple, the Japanese stewardia, fragrant viburnum, the weeping cherry, and many other specimens of beauty.

The College Campus is another wonderful place to observe unusual tree and shrub plantings. The campus collection currently has 223 taxa of trees and numerous shrubs, and includes the Franklin tree, the Japanese pagoda tree, seven-son flower, Chinese witchhazel, as well as many other trees of interest and beauty. The greenhouse is also located on the campus. Cost: $10.00

Research Site – Invasive Forest Plants Control

Dense Japanese barberry stands have spread beyond manicured landscapes and are associated with a paucity of both tree regeneration and herbaceous plants in some forest stands. This tour will visit one of the replicate sites for a study examining a two-step process to control barberry and will include a demonstration of propane torch flame-
treating methods. Controlling barberry reduces larval and adult blacklegged tick populations. Thus, controlling barberry may benefit human health by reducing a major vector of the disease agents that cause Lyme disease, human granulocytic anaplasmosis, and human babesiosis.

Excellent control of barberry can be achieved using either propane torches or herbicides after initial mechanical treatments reduce the size of established barberry clumps. Propane torches may provide a nonchemical alternative in parks, nature preserves, or forests where herbicide use is restricted and barberry infestations are still small. Where herbicide use is permitted, pretreatment with propane torches reduces the amount of herbicide used. *Cost: $10.00*

Additional field research site options are being explored, and details will be announced.