**Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2020, 2021, 2022**School of Forest Resources
University of Maine

September 10, 2022

The School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine is pleased to announce the Distinguished Alumni Recipients for 2020, 2021, and 2022. The award recognizes the distinguished service and significant contributions a graduate has made to the forest resource professions and society.

After public presentations were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, we are pleased to present the award to three deserving recipients on [Friday evening, October 14](https://forest.umaine.edu/alumni-and-friends-event/), to help begin Homecoming Weekend on the Orono campus. The recipients are **Mike Dann, Ken Laustsen, and Patrick Strauch**.

**Mike Dann** is receiving the 2020 Distinguished Alum Award in Forest Resources. Mike earned his BS in Forest Management in 1968 and served as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was employed from 1971-2007 by Seven Islands Land Company, the last 16 years as woodlands manager. From 2007-10, he was the SWOAM Land Trust forester. From 2009 to 2016 he was a FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody lead auditor. Mike is an active member of the Society of American Foresters at the state and New England levels, and he received the NESAF Distinguished Service award and the national SAF Fellow Award. He has served on numerous advisory boards as a licensed forester and has worked on the Maine Forest Practices Act and has worked with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Maine Forest Service, the Maine Forest Products Council, and the Forest Resources Association. Mike lives in Dixmont and enjoys working on his 150-acre Tree Farm.

The 2021 recipient is **Ken Laustsen**. Ken received his BS in Forestry in 1974 and Masters of Forestry in 2011. Ken recently finished a distinguished forest resources career that started in 1974 as a foreman doing brush control work for Asplundh. He worked for Great Northern Paper Company (1975-1999) as a development engineer, operations forester and woodlands analyst. From 1999 until his retirement in 2021, Ken worked for the Maine Forest Service as the state’s Forest Biometrician as he guided the state into modern use of inventory sampling and analysis to estimate the state’s wood supply and utilization. Ken has been a member of the Society of American Foresters since 1974, and he actively served at the state, New England, and national levels. His invaluable support for the profession was recognized when he was awarded an SAF Fellow in 2008. His additional achievements include: SAF Certified Forester; Maine Licensed Professional Forester; United States Forest Service 2001 Director’s Award for Excellence, and Maine Forest Products Council 2018 President’s Award.

The 2022 recipient is **Patrick (Pat) Strauch**. Pat received hi BS in Forestry in 1981 and a MS in silviculture in 1990. He worked for St. Regis Paper, U.S. Gypsum Company, Casella Waste Systems and Sawyer Companies in Maine before becoming coordinator of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) in 2001. He became Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council in 2004. Pat leads a diverse membership involving all aspects of the industry – loggers, truckers, lawyers, bankers, landowners, forest management firms, land trusts, and forest product companies. He develops a consensus that is used to influence legislation and policies in Augusta to support the forest products community in the state. In recognition of this extraordinary challenge in leadership and communication, Pat received the W.D. Hagenstein Communicators Award from the Society of American Foresters in 2014. In recent years, Pat was a key partner in developing the “Forest Opportunity Roadmap/Maine” or FOR/Maine, a blueprint for future development and support of Maine’s forest products industry.

The School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine is proud to have these three people as Alumni and look forward to honoring them on October 14. More information about the Alumni and Friends Event and presentations of the Distinguished Alumni Awards in Forest Resources can be found at <https://forest.umaine.edu/alumni-and-friends-event/>.