

# ALBERT DEANE NUTTING

*1905-1990*

## A Biography



Maxwell L. McCormack Jr.

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Albert Deane Nutting (1905–1990) was born and raised on his historical family homestead in Otisfield, Maine. Al was a brother in Phi Mu Delta Fraternity and earned a B.S. in Forestry at the University of Maine in 1927. His career of service to Maine spanned 40 years: 1931—Maine’s 3rd Extension Forester; 1948—Maine Forest Commissioner; 1958—Director, UMaine School of Forestry when he led the effort to construct a unique forestry building on the UMaine campus that bears his name; 1971—retired as director but remained active professionally. He was an influential advisor to Governor Percival Baxter in establishing Baxter State Park. He was a principal participant in executing the McIntire-Stennis Forestry Act of 1962 (a singularly significant, nation-wide funding program to support forestry research and education). He received numerous awards and recognitions. His accomplishments are legendary and have a continuing, positive influence on the forest resources of Maine. He died in a Norway, Maine, hospital in 1990; his residence at the time was his family homestead in Otisfield where he was born.



Graphite drawing by Maxwell L. McCormack Jr., 2008

## INTRODUCTION

During the mid-1950s, rumors were buzzing around the crowded east end of the University of Maine's Plant Science Building (now Deering Hall). Indications were that the Department of Forestry was soon to be elevated to a School of Forestry with its own director.

Albert D. Nutting, the State of Maine Forest Commissioner and a well-connected individual across a broad array of public and private forestry professionals, appeared to be the leading candidate. A University of Maine forestry graduate, Nutting was highly qualified to lead the transition from a department to a school, assure the construction of a forestry building on campus, and assist faculty in obtaining research funding.

Through the combined efforts of staff, alumni, and friends and with the full support of Winthrop C. Libby, Dean of the College of Agriculture, on 1 July 1958, the University of Maine Department of Forestry became the School of Forestry with Albert Nutting as director.

Born 6 September 1905 at the Nutting Homestead in Otisfield, Maine, Albert Deane Nutting was the son of Silas Dexter Nutting and Amy (Wardwell) Nutting. In 1923 he graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn and in that fall began his forestry studies at the University of Maine. His freshman classmates recognized from the start that they should not expect knee-jerk, reactionary comments from Al. His deliberations before speaking required patience from listeners, soon to be followed by respect. Al joined the Nu Epsilon Chapter of Phi Mu Delta Fraternity during his first year on campus and in his senior year served as chapter president. His senior year was also

when he was initiated into the Xi Sigma Pi Forestry Honor Society.

The spring of 1927 saw Nutting graduate—with 26 classmates—with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. After graduation, Nutting was employed as a forester by the Finch Pruyn Paper Company in Glens Falls, New York, where he gained an industrial perspective.

## UNIVERSITY OF MAINE EXTENSION FORESTER, 1931-1948

In 1931 Nutting returned to the University of Maine to serve as the specialist in forestry, namely, the State of Maine's (third) Extension Forester, a position he held until 1948. Back on campus, Al continued his life-long commitment to Phi Mu Delta Fraternity by serving as chapter advisor. Over the years he became affectionately known as "Gramp" by approximately 900 initiates who benefitted from his counsel. In recognition of his outstanding service, the Phi Mu Delta Fraternity established the *Albert D. Nutting Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award*.

During his years as Extension Forester, Nutting published nine bulletins on forest management and on forest and home grounds tree planting. He organized the publishing of *Forestry Facts* by the Cooperative Extension Service and established 150 forest management demonstration areas. Additionally, following the deadly and destructive 1938 New England hurricane, he promoted federal timber salvage programs.

As Extension Forester, Al left his mark on grassroots forestry in Maine. For example, in 1940, with Robert I. Ash-

man, he coauthored *Management of the Maine Farm Woods*,<sup>1</sup> a treatise containing general guidelines, many of which remain pertinent today. Text from the first page characterizes some of the woodlot data during that time:

An area growing 500 board feet of merchantable timber per acre per year is returning a gross income of \$2 to \$3 an acre, while an adjoining area growing 50 board feet is returning 20¢ to 30¢ an acre, based on present stumpage prices. The quality factor is important. Cordwood averages about \$1 per cord stumpage, while good white birch brings \$4 to \$6. Clear softwood lumber, free from knots, is almost a thing of the past from farm woodlots.

While Extension Forester, in 1940, Nutting married Leone Mae Dakin, another UMaine graduate ('26) and a native of Brookton, Maine, where her family owned forest acreage that is now part of the Baskahegan Company.

During Al's demanding career, he and Leone maintained their permanent residence at the Nutting Family Homestead in Otisfield, the fifth generation of the family to reside in the house where Al was born. They were devoted to maintaining the Nutting Farm as an outstanding example of a pre-1830 detached house and barn homestead, a site that has been documented with photos and

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<sup>1</sup> Nutting, A. D., & Ashman, R. I. (1940). *Management of the Maine Farm Woods*, Bulletin 233. Orono, ME: University of Maine Extension Service (32 pp.).



diagrams in Thomas Hubka's 1984 *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*.<sup>2</sup> The Otisfield residence continues as one of the longest, continuous, original-family occupancies in Maine. An eighth generation descendent, with a family of three children, was living in the residence at the time of this writing.

Al and Leone were skillful in drawing people together. They were a team, complementing each other in providing warm hospitality and comfortable venues for meaningful conversations. They also managed, on appropriate occasions, to demonstrate their subtle, positive bias in favor of UMaine alumni.

Proud rural Mainers, the couple gracefully networked through professional meetings, reunions, and University of Maine functions. Often, in their hotel rooms at forestry conferences, when Al conferred privately with colleagues, Leone would appear with coffee, tea, and a plate loaded with delicious cookies, after which she slipped away into another room.

Al and Leone also maintained a home in Orono where Leone regularly enhanced the activities of the neighborhood children with her warm hospitality.

## STATE OF MAINE FOREST COMMISSIONER, 1948-1958

In 1948 Governor Horace Hildreth appointed Al as

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<sup>2</sup> Hubka, T. C. (1984). *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*. Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England (226 pp.).

Maine Forest Commissioner, one of the most important positions in state government at that time. He was subsequently reappointed by Governors Fred Payne, Burton Cross, and Edmund Muskie. As commissioner, Al initiated, supported, or participated in an array of forestry programs and activities including:

- The Tree Farm Program
- The Keep Maine Green Initiative
- The Maine Primary Timber Resources Survey
- The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission  
(This was a major accomplishment that established mutual aid among the New England states, New York, New Brunswick, and Quebec.)
- Advancement of programs for managing forest pests, especially for spruce budworm
- Founding of the Maine Service Forestry Program  
(This included an educational program administered by state personnel to assist landowners in managing Maine's forests.)
- Promotion of strong cooperative relationships between the State Forestry Department and the University of Maine forestry programs.

During his tenure as Maine State Forest Commissioner, Nutting was active in the National Association of State Foresters and in 1956 was elected president.

In 1949 Al was elected a member of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) *ex officio*, where he actively supported projects. An example is the restoration of the West Branch Cable Bridge across the Penobscot River. Built in 1935–36 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the bridge

failed during the winter of 1948–49, and Nutting arranged for a Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge engineer to estimate replacement costs. Then, with MATC and Great Northern Paper Company funding, under Nutting's supervision, the DOT replaced the bridge.

Al was known for his gifted memory in recalling names, dates, and places, which enabled him to sustain warm, personal relationships with department personnel and forest landowners scattered across the state. Aiding his memory was the file he kept about his forest colleagues such as the names and birthdates of their children. Al was tireless in wanting to relate personally to his colleagues during field visits and elsewhere.

Additionally, Al was known as a quiet man who carefully thought before he spoke, continuing the reputation he had had as a student. At times, conversations with Al had their frustrations. He had a way of talking with prolonged pauses, thus leaving listeners suspended in time. Had he reached the end of his statement? Or should responses be delayed in order to hear continuation of his current thought?

Al also was known to slip into a meeting and sit quietly in the back. After periods of rambling discussion, the meeting leaders would likely invite Commissioner Nutting to comment. Al would stand, pause, perhaps offer suggestions, and then make a few succinct, summary comments. The participants would nod heads, look at each other, and wonder, "Why didn't I think of that?" As they settled back into their meeting, they realized that Al had eased out the door and was gone. Moreover, if Al ever felt anger, he concealed it well.

## Percival Baxter's "Forest Man"

On State of Maine maps, dead center in the upper portion, is a delineated, deceptively neat, vertically oriented rectangle of 209,644 acres: Baxter State Park. The original 201,018 acres of the park consisted of 28 separate parcels donated between 1931 and 1963 by Percival P. Baxter (governor of Maine, 1921–1925). Baxter was adamant that the land be maintained forever in a natural wild state and serve as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds. In today's parlance, Baxter envisioned the area as a wilderness preserve.

By virtue of his office as Forest Commissioner, Nutting served as a member of the Baxter State Park Authority and enjoyed a special relationship with Baxter who, in later correspondence, referred to Al as his "Forest Man." The two men debated the status of the park's forests and the benefits they would provide to the citizens of Maine. Baxter's staunch stance was for a "forever wild" park in contrast to Nutting's interest in providing visual examples of scientific forestry.

The differences between the two visions became moderated following Baxter's experience touring the managed forests of Western Europe and Scandinavia. This led to the inclusion of scientific forestry practices in the standards for Baxter's 1955 donations to the park, Parcel #26 (3,569 acres) and Parcel #27 (25,025 acres).<sup>3</sup>

These two parcels, totaling 28,594 acres in the northwest corner of Baxter State Park, constitute the Scientific Forest

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<sup>3</sup> Whitcomb, H. R. (2008). *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park 1931–2006*. Bangor, ME: Friends of Baxter State Park (325 pp.).

Management Area (SFMA). This area allows the citizens of Maine, the general public, and the broad community of forestry professionals to have a secure example of managed Acadian Forests. It provides a unique, world-class resource of long-term forestry data that, to a great extent, can be attributed to the vision of Al Nutting. This is probably one of his most significant, but least appreciated, professional achievements.

The collegial relationship between the two men regarding Baxter State Park continued after Nutting resigned as Forest Commissioner to become University of Maine School of Forestry Director.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY DIRECTOR 1958-1971**

On 27 June 1958, as the Nuttings were making their move from Augusta to Orono, the personnel of the Maine State Department of Forestry held a going-away party at the Tri-City Fish and Game Club. A lobster supper with all the trimmings was served with Austin Wilkins, Al's successor as Forest Commissioner, as master of ceremonies. Fred Holt gave Al a copy of *Forest Protectors*, which was dedicated to him with his picture inside the cover. Al also received a portable television set and an inscribed silver tray. He thanked the group and told them of his enjoyment in serving 10 years as Forest Commissioner. Leone also thanked the group, expressed her pleasure at being associated with the department, and noted that she would be glad to have her husband back home again. Apparently, she was in for some surprises once Al took on the tasks

awaiting him in Orono.

When Al took the helm of the new School of Forestry in 1958, forestry education and research were shifting from “general forestry” toward a perspective of “forest resources” within a broad framework of managing for multiple uses. This approach required a faculty of specialists rather than generalists. New programs would need to be developed to prepare increasing numbers of graduates to serve forestry agencies and manage forest resources. Al’s experience, knowledge, contacts, and talents were exactly what was needed.

That year, in an interview in the (then) *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald*, Richard E. McArdle, the iconic Chief of the U. S. Forest Service (1950–1960), stated that the University of Maine’s new School of Forestry had the opportunity to serve Maine’s forest interests and to become a vital force in training forest managers. McArdle noted that the school would be key in guiding the research that would mold the destiny of our timberlands. He emphasized that Nutting was uniquely qualified to serve as the school’s first director.

In addition to dealing with the details of academic programs and faculty research efforts, Director Nutting’s task list was front-end loaded with two daunting challenges: obtaining a dedicated forestry building on campus and becoming a participant among the national forestry school leaders in obtaining increased federal funding for forestry research.

## **The New Building**

Though he modestly omitted his own behind-the-scenes contributions to the long process of securing the new for-

estry building, following are some of Al's own words from *Historical Perspectives of the School of Forest Resources*,<sup>4</sup> compiled in 1978 for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Maine's forestry program.

The struggle for a forest resource building for the School was long and difficult. The School's accreditation was held up in the 1930s until a donor supposedly promised funds for a forestry building. In the 1960s there was still belief and hope by some people that a benefactor would provide the funds for a building. By 1963, it was evident that public funds would have to be obtained in order to get the needed facilities. The competition for building funds from the legislature was great among the many competing needs of the University. Each year the University Trustees recommended a new forestry building but placed it so far down on the priority list that the Legislature ran out of funds before reaching it. The good news finally came in 1967 that the legislature had authorized funds that would have to be supplemented with a federal grant which was later obtained.

The School staff wanted a useful, attractive, and unusual building. With support,

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<sup>4</sup> Newby, F. L. (1978). *Historical Perspectives of the School of Forest Resources, Miscellaneous Report 205*. Orono, ME: University of Maine Agriculture Experiment Station (75 pp.).

help, and backing of the Maine lumber industry, the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, Dean Libby, and numerous other interested persons, a beautiful and useful wood building was built and opened for use in the fall of 1968. Much credit is due the many people who cooperated so much to make the building possible. Special credit is due Mr. Barrows, the Architect, Professor Corcoran who handled many of the details during its construction, and Leon Williams who supplied and supplemented lumber and milling when it was often badly needed.

During the construction of the building, whenever forestry alumni and other interested supporters of the school would stop by Al's office in Deering Hall (formerly the Plant Science Building), he would insist on going across the road for a tour. Going through the construction site, dodging framing and other paraphernalia, he would point out open spaces, piles of sawdust, or a hodgepodge of debris while elaborately describing what was planned for each location. He pointed out places for wood paneling choices and, as a casual afterthought, mention the name of the sponsor of the room, hoping to recruit additional sponsors from among the visitors.

With construction completed, the usually staid and reserved Albert Nutting rightly revealed his enthusiasm and pride. On 22 August 1968, the Maine Forest Products Council, the Maine Forest Service, and the School of Forest Resources sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Forestry Day



at the University of Maine, featuring the dedication of the new Forest Resources Building.

Architecturally unique among the traditional brick buildings on campus, the new building's wooden superstructure reaches out, beckoning visitors and scholars into a spacious lobby where they are embraced by massive, wooden, tree-like pillars arching to a high ceiling. Additionally, different kinds of wood used for wall paneling, floors, and cabinets extend a warm welcome. The comprehensive layout and spatial arrangement throughout the building integrate multiple-function spaces, laboratories, classrooms, conference rooms, and offices. The interior environment evokes an academic celebration of wood as well as of forest science.

On 13 December 1971, with a blue-ribbon assemblage of forestry dignitaries and university officials present, the new Forest Resources Building was rededicated as the Albert D. Nutting Hall.

### **Research Support: The McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962**

While establishing the forestry building on the university campus was happening, Nutting's other major issue — research support — had been brewing in the background.

Since 1887 the Hatch Act had been providing limited support for forestry research at land-grant institutions. Most of the funding went to agricultural research. For example, during the early 1950s, only slightly more than one percent of the Hatch funding was directed to forestry.

A change was needed. Thus, the Commission on Forestry Research at Land-Grant Institutions, searching for sponsors of new legislation, asked Nutting, a new member of the commission, to approach Clifford McIntire, congress-

man from Maine's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, to propose new legislation to support forestry research. This effort tapped into Al's ability to maintain long-held professional and personal relationships.

During this time, the Nuttings resided on College Heights, a street in Orono adjacent to the university campus where they were neighbors of the family of Winthrop C. Libby, Dean of the College of Agriculture, home to the School of Forestry. The strong friendship between the Nuttings and the Libbys fostered the joint acquisition of an oceanfront lot in Winter Harbor. The lot was split for construction of separate family "camps" that shared the same pump house and tidal shoreland. This friendly relationship became a basis for a unique collaboration on productive efforts of mutual interest.

Adding to this camaraderie were relationships with University of Maine alumni, including the McIntire twins of Perham: (Congressman) Clifford G. ('30) and Smith C. ('32). Another strong relationship was with George F. Dow ('27) of Nobleboro who became Director of the UMaine Agricultural Experiment Station in 1957, the same year that Win Libby ('32) became Dean of the College of Agriculture.

It was a serendipitous assembly of appropriate personalities for enabling Director Nutting's pursuit of increased federal funding for forestry research through Congressman McIntire. Senator John Stennis from Mississippi, a recognized champion for forestry in the southeastern USA, promised his support. Nutting seized the initiative and through Dean Libby orchestrated meetings in UMaine's Winslow Hall that included Dow, Cliff McIntire, and Libby. Under Al's leadership, drafting of the forestry-specific contents of

the proposed legislation began at those meetings.

The proposed text specified that there be federal formula funding, thereby providing support for basic research that could be expanded over decades for completion of long-range projects. Moreover, such funding would not contribute to general university indirect costs and thus would bear relatively low overhead charges. Allocations were to be made separately, state-by-state, by a formula that incorporated land areas in forest, total area of non-federal commercial forest land, and volumes of timber harvested annually from growing stock. It was abundantly clear how this approach could deservedly position forestry at the University of Maine for the potential funding.

In August 1961, Representative McIntire introduced Forestry Research, H.R. 8535. Senator Stennis, jointly with James Eastland, the senior senator from Mississippi, introduced an identically worded bill, Assistance to the States for Forestry Research Programs, S.R. 2403. Following numerous discussions and debates over content and possible amendments, on 10 October 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-788, known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program (The McIntire-Stennis Act).

An informative, detailed evaluation of the McIntire-Stennis Program was conducted after its first 40 years.<sup>5</sup> It verified that the program was effectively underpinning nation-wide forestry research, thus providing stability for

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<sup>5</sup> Thompson, D. H., & Bullard, S. H. (2004). *History and evaluation of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program*, Bulletin FO249. Mississippi State, MS: Forest and Wildlife Research Center (57 pp.).

long-term studies. To date, over \$400 million has been appropriated in supporting the program and in providing a base for leveraging significant additional funding. An estimated 2,000 doctoral degrees and 8,600 M.S. degrees have been supported totally or in part by the program.

Utilizing the prescribed formula funding, appropriations are designated by state. In 1999, for example, among the 53 program participants, Maine ranked 13<sup>th</sup> and received \$581,785 from a total federal appropriation of \$20,733,069. In 2023, with 81 qualified participants, after deducting administrative costs, the total appropriation for distribution was \$35,320,209, from which the University of Maine School of Forest Resources received \$974,314.

Public Law 87-788 has significantly benefitted forestry students, faculties, and forestry research throughout the nation for over 60 years. Much of the wording that brought this about originated from the pen of Albert D. Nutting in Winslow Hall at the University of Maine.

## **The New School of Forestry**

The confluence of the McIntire-Stennis funding and occupancy of the new forestry building provided Director Nutting and the faculty with the resources and physical plant to move forward with expanded programs for managing the forest resources of Maine and the nation. Briefly noted below are Al's words extracted from the 1978 *Historical Perspectives* publication.

Research funds from McIntire-Stennis supplemented by funds from other increasing sources and combined with the new building facilities made it possible to increase

the admittance of students, undergraduate and graduate, add some of the required staff members, and increase and broaden research efforts. By 1971, the staff had increased to 27 with 6 secretaries from [a staff of] 11 with 2 secretaries in 1954. The number of students had doubled partly by the addition of the 2-year technician program in 1968. Four-year freshman student admittance had increased from 50 to 80. In the 1950s dropouts after the freshman year had kept upper classes down in numbers. Beginning in the 1960s, transfers into the School began to increase and by 1971, were more than offsetting the numbers of dropouts....

In 1967 the school was named the School of Forest Resources, and two associate director positions were established. The Ph.D. program, administered by Professor Malcolm Coulter, was approved in 1970. In that year two students were enrolled in the Ph.D. program and 25 in the M.S. programs in Wildlife and Forestry.

Amidst the administrative hubbub of the expanding new school, Director Nutting remained a personable, guiding influence on the faculty and especially the students. In 1962 the graduating forestry class, who had been freshmen during his first year as director, dedicated their issue of the *Maine Forester*<sup>6</sup> to Nutting.

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<sup>6</sup> *The Maine Forester* was an annual yearbook published by the forestry students.

It is our firm conviction that Mr. Nutting, more than any other person associated with the senior class, is deserving of this honor.

This pattern of appreciation has been reflected consistently in conversations with colleagues and friends as they have described their memories of Al. He maintained objectivity even when advising students who were family members of his long-time forestry associates. For instance, irrespective of their fathers being Al's forestry colleagues, he was known to admonish students on the cusp of academic failure to prioritize their allocations of time toward academics over time devoted to fall hunting.

Nutting's devotion to the students and the university went beyond the School of Forestry with, for example, his participation on the Interfraternity Alumni Advisors Board and the University of Maine Athletic Board; in 1966 he received the latter's Honorary "M" Award. Al and Le-one were loyal fans of UMaine football, attending all home games whenever they were at home in Orono.

### **Maine Forest Products Council**

In 1961 Al Nutting became a Charter Member of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) where his leadership contributed to the organization's solid establishment. The MFPC is composed of forest landowners, tree farmers, foresters, loggers, truckers, paper mills, wood processors, and the attendant businesses that support Maine's forest resources. To commemorate Al's numerous contributions to Maine forestry, in 1990, the MFPC established the Albert D. Nutting Award. Recipients are individuals who have demonstrated recognized qualities of leadership and

integrity as well as commitments to the values generated by Maine's public and private working forests. The award has been presented annually except for 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of this writing, the council remains a dominant voice in supporting Maine's forest economy.

## **The Society of American Foresters**

In 1969 Al was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, the society that sets the highest standards in forest management. The prestigious Fellows Award is given to those who have exhibited long and exemplary service at the local, state, and national levels.

## **Retirement**

In 1971 Albert Nutting retired as Director Emeritus, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine. In his final Director's Message in the School's 1970-71 Review, he commented:

This is my last Director's review, as I will be retiring on June 30. It will complete 40 years of public forestry – 29 ½ years with the University (16 ½ as Extension Forester and 13 as Director of the School) with 10 ½ years as Maine Forest Commissioner between the periods of University employment.

It has been my privilege to have spent these working years with students and Maine people interested in the forest resources of the state. My interest has always been in the total and best use of the forest

resources whether recreation, wildlife, or timber.

## THE LATER YEARS

In retirement, Al continued his interest and commitment to forestry. During the early 1970s, Al was contacted by Duncan Howlett, a Unitarian Minister who had retired in Maine with plans to manage his family woodlot. Howlett had a keen interest in forming an organization to benefit owners of woodlot properties, but he did not have knowledge in forestry and thus depended heavily on Nutting's forestry experience and perspective. Al provided Duncan with significant organizational guidance and arranged for him to enroll in a few, selected forestry courses at the university. The outcome was the founding of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) in 1975.

In 2016 the organization embraced a new era that included a name change to Maine Woodland Owners. Ten geographically distributed chapters of the membership organize a variety of field tours and workshops. A twenty-page, monthly newsletter circulates to more than 3,000 members, Maine legislators, and a wide range of selected readers. The publication provides information on current events in forestry and a range of woodland silviculture topics to private owners of Maine's forests. The organization has a land trust that manages an ever-growing assemblage of in-fee working woodland properties as well as a smaller amount under conservation easements. In 2025 the organization celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In 1978 Al was recognized as a School of Forest Resources Distinguished Alumnus. In 1987 he received an



Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Maine as well as the Maine Black Bear Award from the University of Maine Alumni Association.

From time-to-time Al would drop in to Nutting Hall to visit with colleagues. He took pleasure in standing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor catwalk across the lobby and talking with friends. On one such occasion, a fully bearded, UMaine alum who had recently returned as a member of the faculty, approached Al to chat. Stroking his own chin, Al firmly remarked, "Isn't that beard a little inappropriate for a professional in THIS building?" Now-a-days Al would likely do a double take over the appearance and attire of students and faculty scurrying through the lobby and hallways with laptops and cell phones. And, after a characteristic pause, he likely would express his pleasure with the abundant academic enthusiasm exhibited in HIS building

As a retiree, Al continued participation in a variety of forestry activities and organizations and continued to receive accolades for his professional contributions. He devoted time to his personal woodlots and retained UMaine alum Fred Huntress ('55) as his forester-on-the-ground to supervise harvesting and silviculture on his personal woodlots. They spent many days walking through Al's woodlots discussing silviculture options. Fred, known for his striding mobility and ease of moving through the woods, once commented to this writer how a day in the woodlots with the elder Nutting would leave him "plumb tuckered out."

At their historic home in Otisfield, Al and Leone sustained their team-work hospitality during visits by foresters and folks interested in forestry. Al's patient, thoughtful counsel during those comfortable living room sessions

continued to educate and guide many of us.

After a long illness, on 7 January 1990, at age 84, Albert Deane Nutting died in a Norway, Maine, hospital.

On 13 January 1990, an afternoon service commemorating his life was conducted in the Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ. Tributes were given by Robert Walker, Headmaster, Bridgton Academy; Alan Lewis, Phi Mu Delta Fraternity; Austin Wilkins, Commissioner, Maine Forest Service 1958–1972; and Fred Knight, Dean of the College of Forest Resources, University of Maine. Prayers were led by Reverend Duncan Howlett, D.D., Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine.

(Leone survived Al by three years, dying in January 1993.)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This compilation of information describing the life of Albert Deane Nutting is based on information garnered from library and office files, personal papers, cited references, and a broad array of personal experiences recounted by colleagues who knew Al. Much care has been taken in recording details and characterizations. Any errors or omissions are oversights by the writer.

Fred Huntress Jr. deserves special recognition. Until his untimely death, Fred provided consistent encouragement and friendly prodding. The words are mine, but Fred was the producer. Al Nutting's niece Gail Dubov and nephews Bob Greenleaf and Peter Connell shared family insights and information. Bob recounted a myriad of personal details of experiences with his Uncle Deane.

The late Austin Wilkins, Al's successor as Forest Commissioner, provided a wealth of information. Special Collections, Fogler Library, University of Maine was an invaluable resource. Former faculty members who discussed Al with me are Bucky Owen and Dave Field as well as the late Robert Ashman, Fay Hyland, Henry Plummer, Frank Beyer, Luther Zai, and Mal Coulter.

Providing significant assistance were many others including Chuck Gadzik, Jensen Bissell, Howard Whitcomb, Alan Lewis, Bob Tredwell, Jim Robbins, Larry Libby, Liz Erickson, Jenn Hicks, Marisue Pickering, and the late Boyd Post and Duncan Howlett.

Albert Nutting has had a powerful, positive influence on my own forestry career.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maxwell L. McCormack Jr. received his B.S. in Forestry in 1956 from the University of Maine. He went on to earn both his Master of Forestry and his Doctor of Forestry from Duke University in 1959 and 1963, respectively. Max's wish was one day to return to Maine, which he did in 1976 as Forestry Research Professor in UMaine's Cooperative Forestry Research Unit. He retired in 1997 as Research Professor Emeritus of Forest Resources. Max remained professionally active throughout his retirement.

Max passed away unexpectedly 11 March 2025 before he was able to finish the process of publishing this biography of Albert Nutting, a project deeply meaningful to Max. His family wishes to thank specific individuals for helping to see Max's project through to completion, namely, friend and neighbor Dr. Marisue Pickering, UMaine Professor Emerita, Communication Sciences and Disorders; and Dr. Adam Daigneault, Director, University of Maine School of Forest Resources.



Graphite drawing by Maxwell L. McCormack Jr., 2005



**Albert D. Nutting**

