

Chris Ward: Professional Forester of the Year Award



Chris Ward (left) accepting his award from ARPFNB president Jasen Golding.

understanding of New Brunswick's forest dynamics and trade-offs between multiple values. This work led to a job with the Department of Natural Resources, where he has been working since 2008.

At DNR, he's held positions in wood supply modeling, sector development, and in leadership of the Forestry Division.

Working now as Assistant Deputy Minister, Chris recently has been tasked with the unenviable job of understanding the current state of the private woodlot ecosystem and the relationship between private woodlot owners, Crown, Industry and Marketing Boards. Working first hand with all parties involved, Chris is working to build confidence in this segment of the forest industry.

Chris graduated with honors from the Maritime Forest Ranger School in 2000 where he won the Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal, the Hank Blenis Award for highest overall standing in field work, and the Proctor's Award for reflecting cooperative spirit in helping other students. Chris considers his year at Ranger School to be foundational in his understanding of forests and forestry.

After timber cruising for several years in New England states, Chris returned to the University of New Brunswick for a Bachelor in Science in Forestry. He graduated on the way into the downturn in the mid-2000s, so he stayed at UNB to do a Masters of Science in Forestry where he studied Triad zoning with Drs. Erdle, MacLean, and Beckley.

During his Masters work, Chris worked with Dr. Thom Erdle on the Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply. The Task Force work provided Chris with a thorough

Chris has shown countless times his dedication to the forest industry by going that extra mile. He takes the time to listen, learn and understand the various points of view on difficult and controversial topics yet is still able to move the issue forward to a conclusion while showing respect to all parties involved. This ability, along with his soft spoken nature and genuine interest in people and the forest they manage, draws respect from those he works and interacts with. He is always ready to listen and learn from those who have many more years' experience than he while keeping up to date with new technology and ideas to aid in management decisions.

Chris's proven track record of professional ethics and accomplishments brings public credibility and respect to professional foresters in New Brunswick, making him the ideal candidate for the Professional Forester of the Year award.

