



Vermont Woodlands Association
PO Box 6004
Rutland, VT 05702
www.vermontwoodlands.org
802-747-7900 FAX 802-747-7989

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CONTACT:

KATHLEEN WANNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Info@vermontwoodlands.org 802-747-7900

2014 Forestry Essay Winners Announced

The Vermont Woodlands Association is a non-profit organization devoted to supporting private forest land ownership over the course of successive generations. Among the many benefits of long-term ownership is the thoughtful management of the forest that provides wildlife habitat, firewood and lumber, clean water, and a place for people to experience the outdoors.

It will be up to our future generations to be the stewards of our landscape. We can, through good forestry practices, protect and conserve the ecological, cultural, and environmental integrity of our forests. In light of this reality, the Vermont Woodlands Association partnered, for the 2nd year, with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the French Foundation to sponsor an essay contest for Vermont high school students.

For this essay, our focus was on people and wildlife. As the next generation of woodland stewards, we asked them to tell us, in 600 words or less, how we can sustainably manage our forests for people and wildlife. They were to conclude their essays by explaining what they would do to ensure that forest lands remain healthy, productive, and continuously present for people and wildlife for future generations.

The VWA received more than thirty essays from students around the state. Our team of judges read every essay, often several times, and finally selected the top three entries.

Congratulations to:

- Grace Butler from Harwood Union High School
- Harrison Fromm from Lake Region Union High School
- David Fraser from Essex High School

The three students who placed first, second, and third each received cash prizes that were awarded at the VT Woodlands Association annual meeting on April 5, 2014 in Randolph. All three winning essays are posted online for reading at <http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/news.asp>.

VWA and its co-sponsors would like to thank everyone who participated. We are very fortunate to have such good land stewards in our next generation.



From l to r: Harrison Fromm, David Fraser, Grace Butler, & Put Blodgett, VWA President, at the VWA Annual Meeting on April 5, 2014.