



Vermont Woodlands Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2013

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Vermont Woodlands hosts 2013 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

SO. STRAFFORD, VT – Woodland owner and Tree Farmer John Hemenway has been honored as the 2013 Vermont Tree Farmer of the Year for exemplary stewardship on his Taylor Valley Tree Farm in Strafford, VT. Hemenway's Tree Farm #22 has been actively enrolled and managed in Tree Farm since July 1957.

From his original purchase of 1,000 acres in 1950, Hemenway has been growing and conserving his land holdings and, in fact, playing a pivotal role in the protection of the valley. John is a long-time member of Vermont Woodlands Association, serving on the board of directors, and New England Forestry Foundation, where he was both treasurer and executive director.

John, at the tender age of 89, is now a full time resident of Strafford, having given up his Boston dwelling two years ago. He is easily recognizable, pedaling his bike around town and always dressed to the nines in his suit jacket and button down shirt.

The public is invited to attend a Tree Farm Tour on Saturday, September 14th from 8:30am to 2:30pm. Three-hour walking tours will be offered with three different themes and attendees can select from the following:

1. Sixty years of timber management in Taylor Valley with foresters Paul Harwood and David Paganelli.
2. Archaeological and cultural importance of an 1800s farm community in Taylor Valley with Yvonne Benny-Basque, VT Division of Historic Preservation and Brennan Gauthier, VTrans Archaeologist.
3. Wildlife habitats and management considerations in Taylor Valley with wildlife biologist John Buck.

The morning tours will involve moderate walking on old roads and through the woods. Wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. There is no shelter or buildings at this site. Portable toilets will be available at the parking area. At the end of the field tours, we will drive to Barrett Hall for lunch and indoor awards and presentations.

For information about the tour, visit www.vermontwoodlands.org or call 802-747-7900.

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