



# Membership Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 1

June 2010

## 2010 Annual Meeting

### Vermont Woodlands Association 2010 Officers and Directors

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**W**ith over 100 people in attendance, a new meeting location, and a great slate of guest speakers the 2010

Annual Meeting was a huge success! We met this year at Our Lady of Angels in Randolph where we were treated to wonderful home-cooked meals prepared by gracious volunteers.

Put Blodgett, VWA President started the day welcoming everyone before turning the floor over to Jason Gibbs, Commissioner of the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation who briefed us on the Departments activities and successes during this time of serious budget cutting. Ginger Anderson, also from VT FPR, advised us about FPR activities.



Jason Gibbs, Commissioner FPR

We also heard from Jonathan Wood, Secretary of Agency of Natural Resources with an overview on bills before the legislature this year; Bill Peterson, Chief of Forest Management with the Green Mountain National Forest on harvesting successes last year - 5 million bf - and their continuing efforts; Jim Shallow and Steve Hagenbuch of Vermont Audubon on the Foresters for the Birds Program and the strategic importance of Vermont in the critical migration routes for songbirds in the US; Eric Sorenson of Ver-

mont Fish and Wildlife on the SWG Habitat Block and Wildlife Linkage project.

Following a wonderful lunch, Representative Chris Bray and Jonathon Wood discussed the legislative situation with biomass regulation in Vermont and Bob Paquin and Kim Peterson of the Farm Services Agency talked about the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).



Executive director Kathleen Wanner

presented a comprehensive review of VWA's activities, beginning with membership growth from 470 to 730 and finishing with Vermont hosting the 2010 National Tree Farm Convention.

Following a brief membership meeting the 2010 Tree Farmers of the Year were announced. Vivien and Mike Fritz of Marshfield, VT were chosen as this year's recipients and plans are underway for a tour of their property on August 14th. More details will be available on our website soon.



Clark Bothfeld and Vivien & Mike Fritz

*continued on page 10, column 1*



## News from the Tree Farm Program

### Countdown to the Tree Farm Convention

Kathleen Wanner

It's only the middle of May, but by the time you read this it'll be early June and that means the Tree Farm Convention is right around the corner. We have worked with the national office for the last six months to put together a stellar program.

The 2010 National Tree Farmer Convention will be held July 13 – 15 in Burlington on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain. This presents a great opportunity for you to meet and network with fellow Tree Farmers from around the country. In fact, we've been told that current registration is 250, just one less than the total attendance at last year's Convention in Washington, DC.

For the first time, the Convention offers two days of special youth programming. On the first day, your children will experience a day filled with stories, dancing, arts and crafts, games, and a nature hike in the beautiful Burlington waterfront parks. During day two, your children will join you at the Shelburne Farms Field Day and then, while you attend the awards banquet, they will enjoy a "Kids Banquet Finale" with movies, games, and dinner. Consider making this a family vacation and engaging the next generation of Tree Farmers in the American Tree Farm System.

The ever-popular field day event will be held on Thursday, July 15 at the Shelburne Farms in nearby Shelburne, VT (<http://www.shelburnefarms.org/>). A certified Tree Farm, Shelburne Farms is a nonprofit environmental education center, 1,400-acre working farm, and National Historic Landmark established in 1886. School field trips, summer camps, workshops, and many other programs allow children, educators, and families to learn in this place of natural and architectural beauty. Enjoy performances from Timber Tina's World Class Lumberjills in addition to seeing a variety of demonstrations, exhibits, tours, and talks focused on forestry and Vermont's natural resources set up throughout the property. Tree Farm co-chairperson Alan Robertson has been the lead planner for Field Day and has done an outstanding job of preparing an activity-filled day that promises to educate

and entertain you. If you want to attend just the Field Day without the cost of the entire convention, go to [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org), and click on the convention logo to download the Field Day Only registration form. Field Day only registration includes access to all activities and lunch!

The Convention culminates with the presentation of the Regional and National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year awards, proudly sponsored by STHL Inc. We are thrilled that Trevor Evans, our 2009 Vermont Outstanding Tree Farmer will be honored as the Northeast Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer. And ... drum roll please ... he will be competing for the National Outstanding Tree Farmer award to be announced at the Convention. Regional and National Tree Farm Inspectors of the Year are also recognized. You'll enjoy a delicious dinner and celebrate the best Tree Farmers and foresters in the country!

Pre-registration for the National Tree Farmer Convention is required – walk-ins are not admitted. Register online at [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org). The registration rate for adults is \$299. Youth ages 7-15 can register for just \$99.

The convention will be held at the Hilton Burlington. The reservation deadline is June 25, 2010. The hotel expects to be sold out for the convention dates, so reserve early to ensure availability and group rate. Call (800) 4450-8667 or (802) 658-6500 and mention "Tree Farm Convention" to get the special group rate of \$139.00 plus tax (Single/double occupancy) or \$159.00 plus tax (Triple/quad occupancy).

Check the Tree Farm website for additional information and updates – chances are you will find the answer to your question. Inquiries should be directed to Julie Crow at (202) 463-2733 or [convention@treefarmssystem.org](mailto:convention@treefarmssystem.org).

It's quite an honor for Vermont Woodlands and the Vermont Tree Farm program to be the hosts of this National Convention. Please consider attending either the entire Convention or the Field Day only to help us celebrate the outstanding work of our forestland stewards in Vermont and across the nation. Hope to see you all there!



## President's Column

### The Tortuous Trail of UVA....

**D**uring the last frenzied days of trying to balance the budget in 2009, proposals were made to cap per acre values, above which land would be taxed at full market value. Some legislators balked and the idea was dropped. But the Legislature requested that \$1.6 million in savings/added income be found to lower the cost of the Use Value Assessment Program (commonly called Current Use).

Consequently, a committee was formed made up of representatives from some of the organizations committed to the importance of UVA. Various ideas were examined, some rejected, some refined. The agreed-upon ideas were presented to the House Ways and Means Committee.

At the same time, the Administration and a sizable segment of the forestry community felt that UVA was so important to maintaining “the working landscape” of forests and farms that no changes should be made. In order to slow the growth in the cost of the program, the Administration suggested a moratorium on new enrollees for Fiscal Year 2012. Ways and Means latched onto this idea and incorporated it into the \$1.6 savings for FY 2011. The bill, H.485, was speedily passed by Ways and Means, Appropriations, and the full House and sent to the Senate.

Much concern was raised over moving the moratorium to FY 2011 because of unfairness for applicants who had paid for forestry management plans in good faith before the deadline of September 1, 2009. The Senate chose to drop the moratorium idea and substitute a “one-time” surcharge divided among enrollees to achieve the \$1.6 million savings. A surcharge of \$128 per enrollee for both forest and agriculture was chosen.

Advocates for the surcharge claim it to be “one-time,” but my understanding is that the Legislature considers the \$1.6 million to be a “base cut,” meaning that it will be cut

from the UVA program every year. When UVA was under-funded in FYs 1992-96, the amount of under-funding varied each year by how much was needed to balance the budget.

One idea put forth by the last summer’s committee was a \$25 fee on enrollees for three years to fund the transfer of UVA records to an electronic basis. There were four people working in the UVA office then and now there are two. The need for electronic record keeping was recognized by the Legislature and this idea has morphed into raising the Property Transfer Tax from the UVA rate of 0.5% to the 1.25% paid by everyone else and using the estimated \$300,000 raised per year for three years to meet the estimated cost of \$900,000 for switching to electronic record keeping.

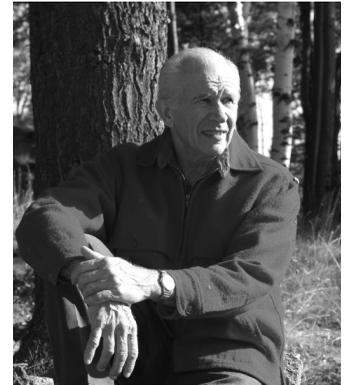
But the most controversial suggestion is returning to the original 10% tax on Fair Market Value of the parcel removed from UVA. Currently, the removed parcel is taxed on the average value of the parcel from which it is removed. Obviously, the per acre value on a side hill is less than a two-acre building lot beside a road. This Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) would be split 50-50 with the towns where withdrawals occurred.

An attempt was made in the Senate to strip this section from the bill, but it failed.

The Senate returned H.485 to the House with its changes. The House added an “easy out” amendment for entire parcels up to \$1,000,000 without penalty before September 1 and sent it back to the Senate, which concurred and the bill became law.

As of this writing (5/13), the bill now goes to the Governor who may veto it.

*Put Blodgett, VWA President*



Put Blodgett

JON GILBERT FOX

**Visit our website at [www.vermontwoodlands.org](http://www.vermontwoodlands.org) for information on the Tree Farm program, workshop opportunities, forestry related programs for students and teachers, and much more.**



*News from Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation*

**Positive Ways to Manage Forests Under Climate Change**, by Sandy Wilmot, Forest Heath Specialist



There are some topics that are very practical to write about, and others that provide food for thought. Using this analogy, topics about climate change form a banquet of food to think about. But if anyone is to shape our future forests, it is you, landowners and forest practitioners. So with this I offer some actions that can be taken now, and encourage a discussion of, and suggestions on, other options on how to manage our forests under climate change.

For a long time I expected that signs of climate change were just going to happen one day; then we'd all know what our future forests would look like. Gradual temperature changes have resulted in gradual forest changes, and in parts of the world there are visual examples. Although I'm awed by images of melting ice caps, I'm most interested in what we can expect to happen in Vermont. While climate models are still general, some aspects of our regional climate predictions are agreed on: increased temperatures, longer growing seasons and warmer winters.

What if I told you that to manage climate change your most immediate concern is pest invasions? Think about the predictions under

climate change and you'll agree that insects, diseases, and invasive plants thrive under these conditions. Climate change research focused on predicting future pest activity have found that pests are likely to expand their range and increase in severity, especially for certain species. Hemlock woolly adelgid is expected to have better survival under warmer conditions, and for Vermont this means they would survive winters in northern Vermont. Likewise, non-native plants would have opportunities to out-compete native species under these climate conditions. Oriental bittersweet has been cited as one plant species likely to extend its range. Armillaria root rot, already widespread in Vermont, is predicted to increase in severity in the future. Other species of non-native insects, diseases and plants have similar predictions.

Planning efforts in several New England states and within the USDA Forest Service emphasize the immediate need to address non-native pest populations as a high priority for climate change management. So, by managing pests already on your radar screen, you will be managing forests for climate change.

Most people think of the anticipated shift in forest composition rather than pest damage as

*continued on page 6*

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## The Current Use Tax Coalition is re-born.....

Trevor Evans, Chairman CUTC

As you know, this legislative session brought heated debate regarding the future of current use and the Use Value Appraisal program. Please note that as I write this article, the legislation is not yet finalized.

Today, there are approximately 12,000 property owners enrolled in current use. Of these property owners about 8,000 are forest landowners while the remainder are agricultural landowners.

In addition, of the 5.4 million acres in Vermont, 4.5 million are in forest and woodlands with 80% of that total held by private landowners. The balance is 1% industrial landowners and 19% owned by local municipalities, the State of Vermont, and the federal government.

As we all know, the forestland of Vermont plays a significant role in the economy. The logging industry alone accounts for 1.4 billion dollars. The tourism industry brings in over 1.0 billion dollars a year. Snowmobiling contributes .5 billion dollars annually while fishing, hunting, and wildlife contribute .375 billion dollars to the Vermont economy.

While some landowners may elect not to enroll in the program for a variety of reasons, many members of Vermont Woodlands Association have been enrolled for several decades and others are just now joining the program.

The legislature has considered tacking on surcharges, moratoriums, increases in the land use change tax, and the property transfer tax to offset state deficits, and forest landowners are beginning to question the validity of their current use contract with Vermont. These same landowners are struggling to decide what to do now. The legality question regarding whether the current use contract is really a contract is a lengthy subject for a future article. However, it is very apparent that over the last several years the current use program

has been viewed by the legislature as an ongoing source of “bail-out” money for state deficits (over-spending).

In defense and support of the program, your board of directors has decided to form a committee to re-establish the former Current Use Tax Coalition (CUTC). The mission of CUTC will be to continuously educate and inform the Vermont legislature and the public with facts and supported reasons for maintaining current use as it exists today in the state statute. CUTC will be established as an extension of VWA. CUTC is founded on the fact that the voices of many landowners like you are much more influential on legislative votes than the voice of one paid lobbyist.

CUTC is comprised of the following VWA board members: John Myer, Paul Harwood, Rich Turner, Trevor Evans, Leo Laferriere, Alan Robertson, Put Blodgett, Sam Miller, and Clark Bothfield. Anyone of VWA's 750 members is welcome to join this committee. As with any non-profit committee, CUTC needs volunteer time and money.

Some of the implementation mechanisms the CUTC has proposed in its infant stage to keep the current use program in tact are:

- Monthly emails to the Vermont Senate and House
- Telephone calls from VWA members to their Senator and Representative prior to and during the legislative session
- One-on-one meetings with Legislators
- Lunch meetings with Legislators
- Legislative breakfasts in local areas
- Educational exhibit booth at the State-house
- Mailings
- Presentations of current use programs
- Support and assistance from other non-profits
- Educational brochure regarding the Use Value Appraisal program

*continued on page 10, column 1*

**ACORN** A CoOperative Resource Network  
for the WEST and DEERFIELD WATERSHEDS of southern Vermont

Vermont ACORN is a website for woodland owners that contains a monthly feature as well as a wealth of information on forest ecology, tree identification, forest types, wildlife, insects and diseases, invasive plants, recreation and forest management. For more information on ACORN visit [www.vtacorn.net](http://www.vtacorn.net).



### Positive Ways to Manage, *continued from page 4*

the focus for managing climate change effects. This is a longer term process with more uncertainties, but equally important to this discussion. Regional assessments of climate change impacts identify spruce-fir forests as most vulnerable to climate changes. In fact experts are suggesting the total replacement of these species in Vermont. One study of high elevation forests in Vermont, directed by Dr. Beckage of the University of Vermont, has already shown an upwards shift of spruce-fir forests. The previous elevation limit of hardwoods on Vermont peaks in this study was 2,400 feet. Over the past 40 years, hardwoods have replaced spruce-fir forests 350 feet higher. This is a very slow migration upwards in elevation for spruce-fir forests, and even if we are experiencing an acceleration of climate changes, it seems that we have time to carefully plan future management of these areas.

One suggested management strategy is to identify locations that are best suited to support these cold-adapted species (e.g. frost pockets, northern slopes) and conserve these areas as refugia for spruce-fir forests. This may prolong their survival, allowing time for associated forest-dwelling species to adapt or migrate north.

Another prediction is that our northern hardwood forests will shift northward, to be replaced by more warm loving species like oak and pine. As you can imagine, this mammoth change would take many decades. However, several maple-related processes are already being affected by changes in temperatures. Maple syrup producers have experienced changes in timing of sap flow (about 8 days earlier) and length of the sugaring season (11 days shorter) over the last 40 years. Similarly, sugar maple foliage over the last 20 years shows trends towards earlier spring leaf out and later fall leaf drop. How these changes will affect future growth and reproduction of the species is another unknown. Effects from current insect activity may be easier to visualize and have important implications for northern hardwood forests.

Asian longhorned beetle is well known to the forestry community as a maple killing non-

native insect, currently being eradicated in Worcester MA. Successfully eradicating this pest is crucial to maintaining healthy conditions in our maple forests, now, and under future climate changes. So, your action can be to know the pest, know its signs and symptoms, monitor your forests, and communicate any findings to state forestry staff. This will be key to successful control.

Hemlock is a common component of hardwood forests, providing tremendous value in keeping water clean, and guarding against stream water temperature increases. As mentioned above, due to damage from increasing hemlock woolly adelgid populations, hemlock may be a vulnerable species of our northern hardwood forests. Monitoring for, and managing this insect pest will be a worthwhile battle to maintain forest health and climate change resistance.

The third non-native insect threat to northern hardwood forests is the emerald ash borer. New forest management recommendations have been prepared for Vermont. You would be wise to stay abreast of updates to help maintain forest health. This is a very destructive pest and poses a serious threat to ash species.

Moving away from our traditional forest management planning where we manage for an expected future desired condition, we move into an era of management uncertainty. Guidelines for managing forests under climate change start with maintaining forest health. Establishing good diversity of species and age classes is one step. Awareness of techniques for monitoring and managing non-native species of insects, diseases and plants is another positive management activity. For our action-oriented society it's good to know that something can be done NOW.

More climate change information: [http://www.vtfpr.org/htm/for\\_climatechange.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/htm/for_climatechange.cfm)  
More pest information: <http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/idfrontpage.cfm>

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## Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) update

Kimberly Peterson, USDA Farm Service Agency

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency was authorized by Title IX of the 2002 Farm Bill and was amended in the 2008 Farm Bill. The intent of the program is to spur the expansion of dedicated non-food crops for renewable energy and biofuel production. In Vermont, this essentially means woody biomass. Matching payments up to \$45 per dry ton have been paid to the owners of eligible biomass material delivered to qualified conversion facilities. The program has received a great deal of attention across the country.

Although the 2008 Farm Bill is scheduled to expire in 2012, the BCAP payments have stopped for now, at least temporarily. Farm Service Agency offices were directed to stop accepting any new applications from either eligible material owners or potential qualified biomass conversion facilities on February 3, 2010. The interim rules under which the program was operating were terminated on that day and the proposed final rules were subsequently released. Until these proposed final rules undergo a review process and are published in the Federal Register, the program is suspended.

Landowners and agencies and individuals whose mission is to protect our forest health have questioned some of the opportunities and benefits of the program. Since the only person or entity to receive a matching payment had to have been the legal owner of the eligible biomass material at the time of delivery to a qualified facility, actual landowners were rarely the recipient of a direct matching payment from the USDA. The interim rules under which the program was operating had only a few references to forest stewardship or management plans. This Farm Bill program was authorized under the Energy title of the 2008 Farm Bill, rather than the Conservation title.

Despite some controversy about the program delivery, some participants had positive

comments. Jim Lathrop of Claire Lathrop Lumber in Bristol, Vermont feels that although some components of the program rules unfairly affected the market, he voiced that he was very pleased with the outcome. "I will say this – it got us back from losing to get our feet ahead of us," Lathrop commented. "I'm a seventh generation sawmill and this is the first time I've seen a USDA program to help us." Lathrop, his wife Claire and their sons Jason and Justin produce screened hardwood bole chips. These high-quality chips are milled specifically to meet the needs of the wood-chip boiler systems used in many Vermont schools and other biomass conversion facilities.

The forestry industry has been challenged by the economy, and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program will help to accelerate the investment in and the production of biofuels. Chris Brooks is the CEO of Vermont Wood Pellet Company in Clarendon, Vermont. They were the first facility to be designated as a Qualified Biomass Conversion Facility in the state. Their facility produces premium high BTU wood pellets from pulpwood harvested in local forests. Although the qualified BCAP facilities do not earn any direct matching payments, the implementation of the program has helped to encourage growth at Vermont Pellet Company. According to Brooks, "BCAP has helped our facility by giving us a foothold in the procurement area, with local loggers, and it has let us expand our production." After the pellet mill undergoes an upgrade in June, Brooks expects to increase their purchase of local pine by about 60%.

The Farm Service Agency in Vermont has worked with over sixty-three eligible material owners to make over \$3,359,000 in matching payments for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible biomass material. The next phase of the program will include "Project Areas" which will allow

### Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Clarification

"Who gets the money from this program?" or "I asked for an extension – where is my matching payment?"

These questions were asked at the Vermont Woodlands Association Annual Meeting on April 9th and may have caused some confusion in the audience. The USDA Farm Service Agency clarifies that the individual or entity that had legal title or ownership of the eligible material at the time of the delivery to the qualified biomass conversion facility receives the matching BCAP payment. Some landowners and loggers worked through a wood broker who had a letter of agreement with a qualified BCAP facility. A logger or a landowner who sold their material to the broker, or another contractor – who then sold it to a conversion facility – would not receive a matching payment. The broker or contractor in this case is the legal owner of the material and is the only party eligible to receive a matching payment under BCAP. Any payment arrangements or BCAP program value-shares would need to be individually arranged between the broker (legal owner) and the landowner or logger. Contact Kimberly Peterson at FSA at 802-658-2803 with any questions.

*continued on page 10, column 2*



## The Consulting Foresters Association of Vermont joins VWA

Lynn Levine and George Weir

In 1985, Alan Turner conceived of the idea of the Consulting Forester's Association of Vermont (CAV). He invited three other consulting foresters (Gregg Chase, Linda Matteson and Lynn Levine) to discuss forming an organization. All agreed that it was time for Vermont Consulting Foresters to come together. On December 7, 1985, the first formal meeting of the organization took place. Approximately 18 foresters were present. Discussion on the advantages of an organization included: business training, development of standards, promotion of foresters and forestry, increased buying power, development of logging standards, certification and political input.

All those present agreed on a goal for the organization, "To promote and strengthen the role of private consulting foresters in the long-term conservation and management of Vermont's forests." The following March, bylaws were approved that limited membership eligibility to "...private foresters or their employees practicing forest management for a fee. Employees of companies procuring, producing and/or manufacturing forest products shall not be eligible for membership." Then, as now, candidates for mem-

bership had to hold a degree from an SAF approved institution and supervised at least 5 forest product sales to qualify. Since the beginning, CAV has required members to complete 20 hours of continuing education per year to sustain membership.

From that beginning of 18 foresters, membership soon increased to nearly 35 members, the level where membership has remained over the years.

Several years ago, Put Blodgett proposed CAV and VWA merge to mutual advantage. Initially CAV decided to remain autonomous and work on building our own organization. But as VWA grew over the last few years, as more CAV foresters became members of VWA, as CAV struggled to accomplish all administrative tasks, and as VWA became recognized as the voice of private forestland ownership in Vermont, the advantages to CAV of a merger became more clear.

Starting a year ago working with Kathleen, we began discussions on how a merger would work and what it would achieve. CAV had clear objectives for itself

*continued on page 10, column 2*

USDA Urges Producers to Sign Up Now for Conservation Stewardship Program

Applications Will Be Accepted Through June 11, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC May 10, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that producers nationwide are invited to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Forestland is eligible and the deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is June 11, 2010.

Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices or on the NRCS Web site at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html).

CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices. For more information about CSP, please visit [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/csp.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html).

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## Vermont's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Educates Loggers and Legislators, Chris Loyer, SFI

**W**e would like to start off by thanking the many legislators, government officials, regulators and members of the timber industry for joining us at the 2010 Annual SFI Legislative Day held at the Vermont State House on March 10th. The event turned out to be a great success for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative outreach team. Several Vermont lawmakers took the time and opportunity to learn what makes for a healthy forest and what steps are being taken to keep our forests healthy and sustainable long into the future. It is critical that our Legislators understand the value of timber harvesting in Vermont, not only for the rural based economy, but also for the diversity of our environment.

Vermont's SFI program also enjoyed another great success and outreach opportunity at the Northeastern Loggers' Association Exposition held in Essex Junction, Vermont. The Northeastern Loggers' Expo is an industry trade show that is visited by thousands of loggers, foresters, truckers, mill operators, woodlot owners, woodworkers and the general public from across the Northeastern United States. Through the efforts of our organization and its volunteers, great strides were made in promoting SFI's goal of ensuring that wood products being produced by, or from,

a certified producer are done in accordance with established environmental and ethical guidelines.

Sustainability and accountability were the focus of our outreach efforts during the first part of the year. It is important that industry professionals, lawmakers and the general public be aware that the timber industry is not only concerned with the economic benefits of timber harvesting but also with environmental stewardship. In the last update from SFI, we announced that our "Accountability Reporting Process" was up and running. To date, we are happy to announce there have been NO reports of any misconduct by forest products operations in Vermont. It is critical to the future of timber harvesting that the general public is aware the industry has implemented self-governing mechanisms to protect the environment and minimize any negative impact on Vermont's forests, wildlife, or waterways.

It is vital that we continue to spread the message of sustainable and responsible forest management in Vermont. If you would like more information on how you can help SFI spread the message of responsible timber harvesting or if you would like SFI to present an educational or training session for your group, please contact Chris Loyer at 802-229-6107 [Chris@JohnstonConsult.net](mailto:Chris@JohnstonConsult.net)

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**Annual Meeting, continued from cover**

The Keynote Speaker for the meeting was Mr. Allen Koop, author of *Stark Decency*, the story of WW II German POW's who were based in a camp in Stark, NH, and worked in the woods for the Brown Com-



Author Allen Koop

pany of Berlin, and of their interaction with the local citizens, and subsequent reunions. Allen's presentation was an interesting, humorous, and riveting review of an aspect of

the war not well understood or documented, and was very well received by all.

**Tax Coalition, continued from page 5**

- Radio interviews
- Local newspaper press releases
- Bumper stickers (i.e. "Support Current Use – Keep Vermont Green")
- Emails to public and Current Use Landowners
- Advice from Attorney General as to the contract elements in current use

The Current Use Tax Coalition welcomes your comments, suggestions, critique, and participation. Although this year's legislation is behind us, we know that next year will be an even tougher budget year and current use will again be on the chopping block. Our work now will be aimed at being prepared for the next legislative session.

While this article has been somewhat critical of the Vermont State Government, we must remember that it was the same government who over 20 years ago had the vision and foresight to create such a program to minimize the fragmentation of the forests and farmlands; to prevent urban sprawl and preserve Vermont's pristine environment; and to contribute financially to large sectors in the Vermont economy.

**BCAP update, continued from page 7**

landowners to receive rental payments for land that produces eligible renewable biomass crops such as willows, or switchgrass used in pelleted fuel if the land is enrolled in an approved geographic project area. This program will also provide 75% cost-shares for the cost of establishing the crop.

As of mid-April, the public comment period regarding the proposed final rule has closed and the USDA is currently reviewing over 24,000 comments that were received. There will be a sixty-day Congressional review period before the final rule is published. The estimated timeframe for the release of the final rules is fall of 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Peterson at FSA at 802-658-2803.

**CFAV Merger, continued from page 8**

1. To maintain our identity as Vermont's premiere consulting foresters.
2. To lessen administrative tasks for our Executive Committee.
3. To expand continuing education opportunities for our members.
4. To ensure we would have a sufficient advertising budget.
5. To expand our internet presence.
6. To have adequate representation on the VWA board.

These objectives were easily accepted by VWA and with a lot of work on both sides, the merger was completed in early 2010.

We anticipate a very productive future within VWA and hope that our technical knowledge and management experience will make important contributions to VWA's success.

## 2010 Forestry School Workshops

Mark your calendar for the following Forestry Schools. Cost is \$50 each or \$45 for two or more workshops (non-refundable) and includes lunch and materials. Download registration form at [www.vermontwoodlands.org/programs](http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/programs).

### Wildlife Habitat: Creation, Protection, and Enhancement

**June 5, 2010**, 9:00AM – 3:30PM. W. Rutland

Presenters: Eric Hansen, Rutland County Forester; Herpetologist Isaac Chellman; Jim Shallow, Conservation Director Audubon Vermont; consulting forester Joe Peterson; wildlife biologists Doug Blodgett and Kim Royar, VT Fish & Wildlife.

Join us at the W. Rutland town office for a presentation on herpetology... or habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Then, head for a field tour of habitat management in W. Rutland Town Forest. After lunch, learn about beaver management both in the classroom and the field at the Potter property in Clarendon. End the day with a field visit and discussion on early successional habitat.

### Invasive Plants and Insects: Identification, Monitoring, and Control

**August 28, 2010**, 9:00AM – 3:30PM, Dummerston, VT

Presenters: County Foresters Sam Schneski and Bill Guenther; Forestry Specialist Jim Esden, VTFPR; Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director Arnot Teaching & Research Forest at Cornell University.

If you want to learn about control of the ominous invaders that are trying to take over our native ecosystems, then this is a must-attend workshop at the Scott Farm. Begin the day with a plenary session that will help you better understand the threats that these insects and plants pose to woodland owners. Targeted presentations will focus on Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer,

and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. You'll see a demonstration on "flame weeding" technique before lunch and an afternoon outdoors visiting field sites where control practices have been implemented, including an infestation of HWA.

### Timber Harvest, Logging Roads, and Trails

**October 2, 2010**, 9:00AM – 3:30PM, Groton, VT

Presenters: Consulting forester Markus Bradley; Louis Bushey, State Lands Forester, VTFPR.

Spend the day at Seyon Ranch State Park and the Groton State Forest where you'll learn through hands-on demonstrations and field visits about timber sale layout, even age and uneven age management techniques, and forest silviculture. Workshop will include layout and design of logging roads and trails, including truck roads, log landings, primary and secondary skid trails. You'll also visit a recently-logged sugarbush under lease from the State. This is a full-day field experience. Be prepared for moderate walking. Dress appropriately for time of year and weather.

Workshop is co-sponsored by VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

### Vermont Woodlands launches a new Tree Farm website.

With a grant from the American Tree Farm System, we have designed and launched a new website at [www.vermontreefarm.org](http://www.vermontreefarm.org). We hope you'll find the site visually attractive, easy to navigate, and informative. The site will target Tree Farmers, inspectors, foresters, and landowners who are prospective Tree Farmers.

Content on the site will be updated regularly, and in fact, some is still in development. Please visit often to stay current on Tree Farm news and feel free to let us know if there's something you're looking for that you don't find.

### Would You Like to Go Paperless?

If you would like to download our quarterly newsletter rather than receive it by mail, please let us know. Contact the VWA office at 802-747-7900 or email [info@vermontwoodlands.org](mailto:info@vermontwoodlands.org).



As a benefit of membership, the Vermont Woodlands Association offers a free subscription to Northern Woodlands, a quarterly magazine that offers readers a "new way of looking at the forest." Northern Woodlands mission is to encourage a culture of forest stewardship in the Northeast by increasing understanding of and appreciation for the natural wonders, economic productivity, and ecological integrity of the region's forests. Members also receive the VWA newsletter published quarterly and E-News, offering articles of interest and educational opportunities for woodland owners.

New Member Application and/or Donation Form

Vermont Woodlands Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the management, sustainability, perpetuation, and enjoyment of forests through the practice of excellent forestry that employs highly integrated management practices that protect and enhance both the tangible and intangible values of forests—including clean air and water, forest products, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, recreation, scenic beauty, and other resources—for this and future generations.

Annual dues investment (check one)

Landowners

- 0-100 acres \$40
101-200 acres \$50
201-500 acres \$60
501-1,000 acres \$70
1,001-5000 acres \$100
Over 5,000 acres \$250

Natural resource professionals

- Individuals \$50
Firms and crews \$100

Wood products companies & equipment suppliers

- Individuals \$50
Firms and crews \$250

- VWA Certified Consulting Foresters \$160 (Subject to VWA acceptance. Call for details)

Name
Address
Town State Zip
Telephone FAX Email
Woodland town(s) County(ies)
Woodland acres Tree Farm member? Enrolled in the Value Appraisal Program?
Forester

Please make checks payable to Vermont Woodlands Association and mail with the completed form to: VWA Treasurer, PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004.

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