



Membership Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 5

June 2011

2011 Annual Meeting

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Newsletter is
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The 2011 Vermont Woodlands Association Annual Meeting was a great success. With over 110 people attending, a newly renovated meeting space, and an information packed agenda, the day flew by.

Put Blodgett, VWA President called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone and then introduced Vermont Dep't of Forests, Parks and Recreation State Forester, Steve Sinclair, who gave an overview of Vermont's forest resources as well as discussing a new FPR program designed to welcome new Vermont forest landowners.

FPR Commissioner Michael Snyder spoke to the group about the direction he hopes to take FPR, and responded to concerns from the audience regarding the scarcity of county foresters, the lack of a licensure program for the state's consulting foresters, and the difficulties loggers and truckers are having in today's market environment.

We also heard from John Meyer who briefed the progress VWA, and its reconstituted Current Use

Tax Coalition (CUTC), is making with a new current use bill before the legislature. Deb Markowitz, Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, described the issues and goals of the Agency, including the effort to move the biofuels industry forward in the state. Green Mountain National Forest Supervisor Colleen Madrid and Chief Forester Bill Peterson explained the latest proposed planning rule and harvest plans for the forest.

Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Pat Berry briefed the efforts to maintain the correct numbers of the four big game species in Vermont- moose, deer, turkey, and bear, and the continuing debate and efforts to improve the harvest and protect the forest from excessive numbers. NRCS State Conservationist Vicky Drew briefed the work in progress in helping simplify the Technical Service Provider Initiative (TSP) training for Vermont's consulting foresters and the NRCS resources available to forestland owners. Governor Peter Shumlin presented the important goal of creating an energy plan as a priority for the state. The plan will include a much larger role for the biofuels industry, and the hope that it will further the success of the local economy movement in Vermont.

Following lunch there was a brief membership meeting, and then Executive Director Kathleen Wanner presented a comprehensive review of last year's VWA successes and achievements, including the doubling of the VWA membership to over 1000, the very successful hosting of the National Tree Farm Convention, the well-attended forestry schools, the Walks in the



Attendees of the 2011 VWA Annual Meeting

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News from Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Climate Change and Vermont's Forests

Sandy Wilmot, Forest Health Specialist



Impacts and Vulnerabilities

Forests are an invaluable economic and environmental resource of Vermont. Climate change will likely affect many forest functions that humans rely on, including clean water, recreational opportunities, forest products, wildlife habitat, and colorful fall foliage. There will be initial short-term impacts as forests try to adapt to environmental changes, and long-term impacts as a new forest evolves.



Climate changes are already evident in Vermont (Betts 2011). Temperatures have increased in the Northeast by 1.8°F since 1970, with winter temperatures rising faster

than summer temperatures. Precipitation has increased by 15-20% over the past 50 years with 67% of this falling in heavy precipitation events. These and other trends in climate are anticipated to affect Vermont's forests (GCCIOUS 2009), including:

- More frequent hot (over 90), humid days;
- Longer growing seasons;
- Worsening of air quality in areas where air quality problems already exist Increased heavy downpours;
- More frequent winter thaws and earlier springs;
- Less winter precipitation falling as snow and more as rain;
- Earlier spring snowmelt resulting in earlier peak river flows; and,
- More frequent short-term droughts in late summer and fall.

Tree growth

Tree growth predictions vary because of the intermixing of positive and negative climate effects. Increases in carbon dioxide and temperature may have a positive effect by increasing the rate of tree growth, but only up to a point. Increased temperatures may also increase evapotranspiration, soil drying, and

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President's Column Seen in the Wild

Turkeys were absent in my youth, but were later re-introduced by the Fish & Wildlife Department and have now spread through out the state.

In the spring, the tom turkeys utter their mating call to attract hens. It is amusing to watch the toms display with puffed feathers, drooping wings and spread tail. Mostly, the hens feed on, oblivious. I have seen a tom display all day long to no apparent effect. It must be both frustrating and exhausting!

Early one spring morning, I was awakened by an unfathomable racket. I jumped out of bed and discovered a turkey, passing by a basement window and seeing its reflection, challenging the reflection by pecking the window and squawking.

One winter a flock zeroed in on the litter below our bird feeders. It was a deep-snow winter and, feeling sorry for them, I started throwing extra sunflower seeds beneath the feeders. In just a few days, the early risers were racing across the snow like a flock of chickens. The late risers found nothing left. Because of the proximity of food, the birds started roosting closer to the house. It was interesting to see them gather just before dusk and start flying up into trees for the night. Most had sense enough to settle in hemlocks, but once a big tom chose the bare top of a yellow birch fully exposed to the northwest wind. The last I saw him before darkness, he was bobbing in the wind. The wind continued all night and he was still bobbing in the morning. It must have been a hell of a night! The turkeys started scratching up our perennials so we haven't fed them since.

One time I was watching turkeys feeding and a fox started stalking one. The fox finally got so close that the turkey didn't have time to fly, so it puffed itself up and spread its wings. The fox circled a couple of times but decided the turkey was too big to tackle.

Foxes have an amazing method of hunting voles and mice. They tiptoe along, carefully listening and then leap high and come down on their prey. In the winter it involves burying their head in the snow.

Years ago on the farm, we hayed a large field and there were several fox dens revealed. There were young foxes everywhere. I almost got my hands on a young kit before it got to its den. Then the mange hit and no more foxes.

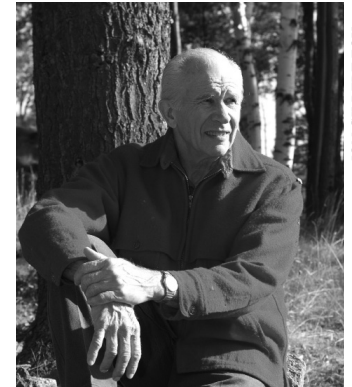
We once watched two grey foxes, hunting side by side about ten feet apart, come up over the knoll in front of the house. Anything flushed between them would have been caught by one or the other.

Fawns have very little scent and instinctively stay motionless. I once was walking through a hay field and my next step would have been on top of a fawn. The only motion was it's eyes following my arrival. Another time I walked along a path and a fawn lay on a little knoll not five feet from the path and never moved. Working on my Tree Farm in Bradford, I heard what I thought was a young crow. As an excuse to stop working, I crept through the trees to discover a fisher attacking a fawn and the noise I heard was it's bleating. I chased the fisher away and looked at the fawn and felt that it hadn't been critically harmed. But I went back the next day and it was dead. A Bradford fisherman told me he had also seen the same thing.

While watching a group of deer and a flock of turkeys feeding in the open woods, one of the young deer went prancing up to examine a turkey. The turkey flew up into a tree and the young deer stood there, feet apart, obviously completely mystified as to how the turkey disappeared.

While watching a group of does and their

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Put Blodgett

JON GILBERT FOX

Visit our website at www.vermontwoodlands.org for information on the Tree Farm program, workshop opportunities, forestry related programs for students and teachers, and much more.

Climate Change, *continued from page 2*

the frequency of short-term droughts, which would limit water availability for tree growth (Huntington et al 2009).

Changes in Species Distribution

Forests cover 75% of the Vermont landscape, and grow more than 50 different tree species. Each species has unique requirements for sunlight, soils, temperature and moisture. Some species commonly grow together, since they have similar preferred growing conditions. In Vermont, the dominant “forest-type groups” are: Northern Hardwoods (sugar maple, yellow birch, and American beech), White/Red Pine, Spruce / Fir, Oak/ Hickory, and Aspen/Birch. Under changing climatic conditions, we expect that each species will be affected differently, potentially changing forest types as we know them.

Species distribution is already changing at high elevations. Northern hardwood trees are now able to survive at increasing elevations, due to moderating temperatures, outcompeting spruce and fir trees (Beckage et al 2008). Climate and pest risk model predictions identify Spruce-fir forests as being vulnerable to increased warming (Manomet 2009, Iverson et al 2008, Dukes et al 2009, Woodall et al 2009). Only slightly less vulnerable are northern hardwood forests whose dominant species are sugar maple, yellow birch and American beech. These forests are expected to be nearly eliminated in Vermont, replaced by species that prefer the warmer drier conditions, such as oak and pine species (GCCIOUS 2009).

Spread of Forest Pests

For many pest species, rising summer and winter temperatures, and increased carbon dioxide will improve survival and growth, and in some cases increase reproduction. Trees stressed from low water availability tend to reduce their defense mechanisms and are more susceptible to insect or disease invasion. Current introductions of 3 non-native pests illustrate potential effects.

Hemlock is susceptible to the non-native hemlock woolly adelgid. Warmer temperatures may favor winter survival of this insect in Vermont, leading to increased declines and mortality of hemlock (Dukes et al 2009). Emerald ash borer has been eliminating ash trees across the US, and when it reaches Vermont, is likely to have a significant impact on white, green (a popular street tree planting) and brown (a wetland species) ash. There is likewise uncertainty about the long-term impacts of the Asian long-horned beetle (a maple invader), as well as other future pests. Invasive plants, native (e.g. hayscented ferns) and non-native (e.g. buckthorn and barberry), are opportunistic and respond quickly to openings in the forest canopy, whether it be from natural disturbances (e.g. wind storms), forest harvesting, or declines from forest pests. Most of the non-native invasive plants have migrated from southern New England northward, and are well suited to predicted temperature increases.

Vulnerabilities

Water and Air Quality

Forests play an essential role in protecting public and private water supplies, reducing pollution and mitigating temperature extremes for cold water streams. They also play an enormous role in protecting property and infrastructure from flooding and fluvial erosion, primarily by preventing stream bank erosion. Reduced air pollution is attributed to tree leaves as they capture particles in the air. Areas with air quality problems would see those problems worsen with rising temperatures, if no additional controls are placed on ozone-causing pollutants.



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Climate Change, *continued from page 4*

Tourism

Fall forest colors support our tourism industry and provide a significant economic boost to the economy. As the timing of peak foliage changes due to warmer conditions, the industry must adapt to timing visits with peak foliage conditions. Also, the quality of fall foliage may change due to dry fall weather conditions, summer growing conditions, and with tree species compositional changes. Winter recreation has also supported our tourism industry, but as winter thaws increase and the length of the winter season lessens, more year-round recreational opportunities will be needed to maintain a thriving industry.

Christmas Tree Farms

Vermont has a strong Christmas tree production industry. Production is dominated by balsam fir trees, which grow best in cool temperatures and plenty of moisture, and to a lesser extent other conifer species. Christmas trees, as well as maple products, account for over \$22 million of Vermont's annual revenue, and growth reductions are likely in response to warmer and somewhat drier growing season (NEFA, 2007) (See Maple Syrup Production under Climate Change and Agriculture).

Wood Resources

The forests of Vermont are largely owned by private individuals. How each landowner responds to climate changes on their land will contribute towards shaping future forests, and therefore the availability and uses of wood. In 2007, forest-based manufacturing contributed \$1 billion to the Vermont economy (NEFA 2007). Current increases in energy costs and uncertainty about future sources for electricity in Vermont is expanding interest in biomass (wood) use for heat and power, increasing the demand for low quality wood. Predicted increases in heavy precipitation, more frequent winter thaws, and earlier springs affect forest operations such as: higher risk for soil and stream erosion; shortening of winter logging season; and earlier closings of haul roads.

What's already being done?

Many of the forest health issues identified above are not new, but the approach used to address them may need to change as climate change predictions are incorporated into planning. Current forest management strategies rely on historically-based expected outcomes that may no longer be valid. Adaptation goals that safeguard forest functions and ecosystem services without trying to preserve the current composition of species are more likely to succeed. The Forestry Division's forest resource plan identifies activities that maintain forest sustainability (VT FPR 2010), including:

- **Monitoring** - Annual monitoring of forest health indicators from aerial survey and ground plots record information on: species distribution, growth, regeneration, mortality, soil conditions, spring and fall phenology, pests, and forest disturbances. In addition, as a member of the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative, the State also monitors forest conditions at high elevations where other weather and environmental monitoring is co-located, such as on Mount Mansfield and in the Lye Brook Wilderness.



- **Outreach** - The Forestry Division provides an extensive supply of educational resources to municipalities and private land owners to promote sustainable forest management. One outlet for informing

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**Email:
An Important Tool**

Why do we ask members for their e-mail addresses? E-mail is the only practical way to quickly reach you with late-breaking news or updated information about VWA opportunities and events. But we don't have current e-mail addresses for many of our members.

As an added benefit of membership, we have been sending the Vermont Current Use Report via email (a \$29 value). In addition to providing the Vermont Current Use Report, we will still be publishing our own VWA E-News and offering information about current use legislation.

If you have an email address and would like to keep current on Current Use, please sign up now. You can add your email address to your membership renewal, send an email to info@vermont-woodlands.org, or call the office at 802.747.7900.

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Climate Change, *continued from page 5*

landowners about sustainable forestry is the Use Value Program (UVA), whereby the State reviews and approves private landowner's forest management plans, in exchange for reduced tax rate on forested land. In addition, the Urban and Community Forestry Program provides extensive outreach on proper tree care to professionals, towns and the public.

- Forest Management – State Lands forest management planning and implementation are conducted on nearly 6% of the state's forests by the Forestry Division foresters using best management practices that demonstrate sustainable forest management.
- Regulations – Programs such as the Ecosystem Restoration Program (formerly Clean and Clear) oversee logger training and the development of Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) to guide forest harvests in maintaining the health of Vermont's forests.

Adaptation Strategies

Vermont forests are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and resource managers should pursue policy initiatives to improve the state's adaptability to changing conditions. Landowners and resource managers may consider the following strategies in order to preserve Vermont's forest resources:

- Include climate change adaptation strategies in long-term and annual forest management plans;
- Emphasize creating diverse forests, diversity of species, stand structures, and age classes;
- Use monitoring as a tool for adaptive management (i.e. results of forest management that can be learned and applied to next plan); and,
- Diligently reduce other stresses on forests, and maintain forest health (e.g. invasive plant management, reduce frequency of harvests, etc).
- Preserve carbon sequestration ability of Vermont trees, which annually remove

around 8.23 million metric tons of CO₂.

- Preserve urban forest canopies, which filter air pollutants, absorb water to alleviate stormwater pollution, and moderate urban temperatures.

Further research opportunities also exist to improve our understanding of what strategies will be most effective in strengthening forest resiliency. Research topics may include:

- Determining accurate Vermont precipitation predictions;
- Identifying locations where climate-vulnerable species are most likely to succeed (refugia) to assist with short-term conservation efforts;
- Improving predictions about the interaction between climate and air quality variables that affect tree growth: model interactions between temperature, precipitation, carbon dioxide, and ozone, and subsequent effects on individual tree species growth;
- Determining "no-regret" silvicultural options which avoid making irrevocable decisions and yields results regardless of climate change; and,
- Identifying forest management options that maximize carbon sequestration while providing the best adaptation strategies.

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Meet Your VWA Officers & Directors...

This is the second in a series of articles introducing VWA officers and directors.

Meet Paul Harwood. The Harwood family first put down roots in Bennington in the 1600s and later settled on 3,000 acres that is now owned by the Merck Foundation in Rupert, Vermont. By almost any measure, consulting forester and VWA board vice president Paul Harwood is a 6th generation Vermonter. The only glitch is that Paul was actually born in the Philippines where his Dad was serving in the Air Force during the Korean War. In fact, his father's military career took the family all across the globe and it was not until 9th grade that Paul made his way to Vermont with his family, attending and graduating from Rutland High School. Four years in any school was a very long stint after attending 25 different schools through high school. This, perhaps, is what makes Paul so easy going and resilient.

And, what led Paul to forestry? He says that every job he ever had was in forestry, going back to his sophomore year in high school. So, it's no surprise that he graduated from Paul Smith's College of Forestry and the University of Vermont with degrees in forest management. Wildlife biology was actually the big draw but Paul figured out that he could affect more wildlife habitat as a forester than as a biologist and he wanted to do something for wildlife.

If you've been a landowner in Vermont for a while, you may remember that Paul worked for VT Forests, Parks and Recreation for more than a decade as a forest resource protection specialist, state lands forester, and finally Orange County forester before founding Harwood Forestry Services in 1989. The business is located in Tunbridge and provides forest management services to private, municipal, and corporate woodland owners in Central Vermont and New Hampshire. Harwood Forestry manages over 400 properties that total more than 45,000 acres.

Paul is a forest landowner and Tree Farmer. His 56-acre Tree Farm #1444 was first en-

rolled in December 2003. He has also been a Tree Farm inspector since 1975 and has performed numerous inspections on properties that he manages.

The Harwood homestead sits high on a hill in Tunbridge that is so far off the roadway, it is also off the grid. Paul explains that this was not really a "green" decision but rather a financial one. Solar was the economical choice and one they have never regretted. The home was a family project, designed by wife Susan and built by Paul, his wife, and their three children. Aside from the foundation and the solar energy system, the Harwood's did it all, even the rock walls that look like they've been there for centuries.

Most people think of solar homes as very modern with lots of glass but the family wanted a traditional farmhouse. The design kept that Colonial look and was adapted only slightly to fit the solar needs. About 85% of the energy used comes directly from the sun; a propane powered generator supplies the balance during the dark and cloudy months of winter. Living off-the-grid has been an excellent learning experience and taught the family much about conservation and energy use.

As with most foresters, Paul is an avid outdoor enthusiast. When not working in his clients' woods, he enjoys working in his own woodlot, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and snowshoeing. The Harwood's three children are grown but all were raised with a sense of self-sufficiency, caring for farm animals, gardening, hunting, and fishing. It was a natural fit for a family with an almost 400-year link to the land.

Paul has been on the VWA board since 2001 and vice president since 2006. He helped VWA launch its Forestry School program in 2007, developing the curriculum and teaching the first five classes of landowners in consort with several other forestry experts. He now serves on the education committee

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Paul Harwood, VWA Vice President and Vermont Woodlands Certified Consulting Forester



Consulting Foresters Corner: Forest Planning in a Nutshell

Ben Machin, VWA Certified Consulting Forester, Redstart Forestry

By now, you have probably noticed that Vermont is pretty well dotted with purple this summer. This isn't a fashion statement, however; these triangular shaped purple objects in the trees along Vermont highways and by-ways are traps that have been set for the non-native invasive insect emerald ash borer. While most of us know that non-native invasive species are a major problem, the fact that they cause over \$1 trillion in annual damages worldwide and are the second leading cause of species loss may come as a surprise. Here in Vermont, those of us that look after the forest are presently most concerned with three invasive insects: hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian long-horned beetle, and emerald ash borer. Of these three, the insect that is moving the most rapidly and causing the most tree mortality is emerald ash borer. This insect is the subject of an aggressive statewide trapping campaign in 2011 and will also be the focus of an upcoming workshop hosted by VWA for natural resource professionals. This workshop, to be held on June 29, 2011 in Wallingford, will include excellent state, federal, and private consulting foresters as presenters. It will be geared towards professionals looking to develop their understanding of this important insect, the trapping program, and implications for forest management.

About EAB: As you likely know, EAB preys on white, green, and black ashes. Confirmed in Detroit, Michigan in 2002, it was likely introduced to this country via ash crating or pallets from Asia. EAB is a more rapid tree killer than other insects such as Asian long-horned beetle due to its habit of feeding on the cambium, its high reproductive rate, and capability for flight from infested areas into uninfested areas. The EAB infestation was also more advanced than the Asian long-horned beetle when it was discovered and millions of trees have been found infested and have been destroyed. The insect has now been found in 14 US states and 2 Canadian provinces. The New York and Quebec infestations are especially concerning for Vermont and there is every indication that the insect is quickly moving our way.

About the trapping program: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a branch of the USDA, is responsible for management of EAB. In recent years, APHIS has begun to employ the "purple traps" as a detection tool. The traps are three-dimensional triangles, made out of thin, corrugated purple plastic that has been coated with non-toxic glue on all three sides. The purple prisms are about 24 inches long and hang vertically in

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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.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Forestry School: Silviculture, Recreation and Wildlife Management, June 11, 2011, 9AM-3:30PM, Sterling Forest, Stowe, VT
 Michael Snyder, Commissioner of FPR, will lead this workshop with emphasis on techniques used by foresters, wildlife biologists and landowners to implement multiple, inter-related objectives in forest management. Event will be held rain or shine. Moderate hiking. Bring a bag lunch. Cost is \$25 (non-refundable). Download registration at www.vermontwoodlands.org.

Walk in the Woods: Northern Hardwood Forest Management, June 19, 2011, 9-Noon, Tunbridge, VT

Join Paul Harwood, Consulting Forester, on his property in the heart of maple country to discuss hardwood management emphasizing uneven-aged techniques. Discuss single tree selection thinning, crop tree release, hardwood pruning & strategies for managing for non-timber objectives such as sugarbush, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. This is a field event (rain or shine) so dress accordingly. Mild to moderate hiking is required. Bring a bag lunch and socialize while eating at the end of the tour. There is no charge for this workshop, and no registration is required.

President, continued from page 3

yearlings feed in the open woods, a buck walked into the group. They moved out of his way and the lord of the woods had his pick of the feeding area.

One spring my wife called me to come see the buck outside. I asked how she knew it was a buck. She answered, "Because it has antlers". I replied "Impossible, they shed them in the winter". But, for some reason, this buck still had antlers.

Several years ago, while hunting, I came around a knoll and surprised two deer mating. They were gone in a flash. Coitus interrupted. I've felt guilty ever since!

One winter, while still on the farm, I was spreading manure down on the meadow. The wind was howling from the north and powder snow. There was a deer laying down facing into the wind. I walked up behind it and put a hand on its back. It nearly leapt out of its skin!

One moonlit night I watched a coyote feeding on a dead deer. It would only take one or two bites before looking all around. Amazingly wary. No wonder I hear them far more often than I see them.

To be continued.....

Put Blodgett, VWA President



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Corner, *continued from page 8*

ash trees or are secured to the trunks of trees. To enhance the attractiveness of the traps to EAB, they are baited with a lure. Note that these traps are a detection tool, not a management tool. They are designed to assist APHIS and the rest of the natural resource community in identifying the location of the insect. In 2011, over 2000 traps will be hung in Vermont by a combination of state, federal, and private sector personnel. FORECON, Inc. of New York is the lead contractor working with APHIS on this project, and some local organizations and companies, including Redstart, are helping to hang traps in their areas. These traps will be checked in mid summer and checked again in the fall before being taken down. It is everyone's hope that no EAB will be found, but the general consensus is that it's not a matter of whether EAB will be found in Vermont, but more WHEN it will be found here.

About the workshop: To better prepare ourselves for EAB invasion, the VWA certified consulting foresters committee has scheduled the upcoming workshop entitled Preparing for EAF Invasion. (Information about continuing education credits will be available on the VWA website or at the workshop.) The program will include a review of the basics - life history, mobility, location of insects to date, levels of damage to expect, identification, etc. - but will also cover the trapping program in detail, some of the other options for insect detection., ways to identify affected trees, the newest information on potential controls, ways to reduce spread, silvicultural options, and compliance agreements/quarantines. We are lucky to have Nathan Siegert of the USDA Forest Service, Barbara Burns of Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation, and Emilie Inoue of VT Agency of Agriculture as presenters. In addition, the workshop will be hosted by VWA certified forester and board member Kathy Beland on the Glen-denning property in Wallingford. We expect a good day of learning from the presenters and one another, and if you are a natural resource professional, we hope you will join us. Please contact Trish Pelkey at VWA (802.747.7900 or trish@gwriters.com) for more info.

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Conservation Programs Deadline

The deadline to apply for fiscal year 2012 funds for conservation programs is September 1, 2011. Forest landowners and operators are encouraged to apply for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program's Forestry Initiative for practices that will address wildlife habitat. This initiative also offers practices that will help forest operators address soil resource issues in the forest. For forestlandowners and operators who only want to address soil erosion and/or forest health concerns, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers practices that will assist folks in accomplishing this. Folks who want to apply for funding need to do so at their local USDA Service Center. Information about NRCS conservation programs and where to find local service centers

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Annual Meeting, continued from page 1

Woods program, and several other initiatives. Paul Harwood presented awards for 50 & 25 year membership in the Tree Farm Program and presented Put Blodgett as the 2011 Tree Farmer of the Year. Put was also recognized as a 50 Year Tree Farmer. Put invited everyone to his Tree Farm Tour on September 17th.



Paul Harwood congratulating Put Blodgett on being named the 2011 Tree Farm of the Year

Further details on this tour will be available on the VWA website.

The Keynote Speaker for the meeting was Dr. Alan Betts, past President of the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering,



Keynote speaker Dr. Alan Betts

and a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. Dr. Betts gave a presentation on Climate Change in Vermont. The PowerPoint slides and discussion brought home the folly of the

world's, and the US's in particular, reliance in an unsustainable growth and consumption curve, and the need to reassess our direction if we hope to save the earth's environment.

Meet Your Board, continued from page 7

that is responsible for planning the monthly Walk in the Woods and annual Forestry School programs. Paul is committed to VWA. He finds it a vibrant, relevant, pertinent, and productive association that gets things done for the forest landowners who are keeping the working landscape from being developed. His great hope for VWA's future is to see more young faces among the membership and on the board. "It is the involvement of committed young people that will help to keep us moving forward," says Harwood.

Deadline, continued from page 10

is available on our web site; <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Becoming a Technical Service Provider to Write NRCS Forest Management Plans

NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) has funded 280 comprehensive forest management plans since 2009 with the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) budget. VT Forests, Parks and Recreation county foresters, acting as temporary Technical Service Providers (TSPs), have reviewed and certified these plans to meet the requirements of the NRCS Forest Management Plan 106 Checklist. Nationally, this program is designed to have private, consulting foresters do this work after training to become certified TSPs.

Effective October 1, 2011, NRCS will require that all EQIP funded forest management plans be written and certified by private, TSP qualified consulting foresters. Consulting foresters who would like to learn more about becoming certified TSPs should review the following website: <http://techreg.usda.gov/>. The Vermont NRCS TSP coordinator is Sandra Primard whose e-mail is: Sandra.primard@vt.usda.gov.

For more information, please contact George Tucker at USDA-NRCS at 802-388-6746, ext. 21 or George.Tucker@vt.usda.gov

Vermont Legislature

The website for the Vermont Legislature has been revamped with a very user friendly format. From the homepage you can find virtually anything you want.

In the left hand navigation bar under Getting Started, there is a "How do I..." link that takes you to list of questions and answers. For example, How Do I...

- Find my representative or senator,
- See the legislative directory, or
- Email the Governor?

If you have not recently visited www.leg.state.vt.us it is definitely a tour.

If you do not have a computer or do not use email, you can always leave a message with Francis Brooks, the Sergeant -at-Arms (802) 828-2228.

We occasionally do recommend that you contact your representative or senator to voice your concerns about issues affecting forest landowners. The new website is sure to help you do just that.



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
Friend/Supporter \$40

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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