



Membership Newsletter

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September 2011

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VWA Receives Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

The Board of VT Woodlands Association is pleased to announce its selection as a recipient of the 2011 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in Land Use and Land Use Planning. VWA was the sole winner in this category that recognizes the sustainable use of our natural environment. We thank our more than 1100 private forest landowner members who believe in our mission and support our education and outreach programs. Forestry School, Walk in the Woods, Vermont Tree Farm Program, and Outstanding Tree Farmer tours were particularly noted as programs that promote the sustainable management of the \$4 billion forest products sector in Vermont.

The awards were presented by Secretary of State Deb Markowitz in a ceremony on June 30th at the Vermont State House. In attendance to accept the award were Putnam Blodgett, president; Kathleen Wanner, executive director; Paul Harwood, vice president; Sam Miller, treasurer; board members Rich Turner, Leo Laferriere, and David Paganelli.



Maintenance of Private Roads

by Paul Ralston who manages a woodlot in Randolph and represents the town of Middlebury in the Vermont legislature

Landowners that abut a private road in Vermont should carefully consider H.272, "An act relating to maintenance of private roads." This bill was introduced during the 2011 legislative session, and will likely be considered in 2012. The purpose of the bill is to comply with new requirements of home-mortgage-purchaser, Fannie Mae. There are clear and compelling reasons to satisfy Fannie Mae standards, as Fannie Mae is a major purchaser of residential mortgages on the secondary market and provides liquidity for most Vermont mortgage lenders. But, in addressing this issue, the state should be careful not to disadvantage farm and forest land owners who may have sold residential lots from their land holdings.

At issue are community-owned or private roads serving one or more properties where main-

tenance of the road is not expressly outlined in a legally enforceable written agreement signed by all parties on the road. In absence of such an agreement, Fannie Mae has asked states to enact statutory provisions that define the responsibilities of property owners for the maintenance and repair of private roads. Vermont currently has no such provision, hence the introduction of H.272.

Where conflicts have arisen in the past, the Vermont Supreme Court has applied common law equitable principles to apportion the cost of maintaining the private road. In the reported decision *Hubbard v. Boliveau*, 144 Vt. 373 (1984), the Supreme Court held that "when several persons enjoy a common benefit, all must contribute rateably to the discharge of

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News from Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Getting Involved In the Forest Where We Live

Danielle Fitzko, Urban & Community Forestry

Picture the quintessential Vermont Town Green without trees, or a barren city street with no street trees. As members of Vermont Woodlands Association you already understand the value of Vermont's forests and the responsibility you inherently have as woodland owners. What is not so obvious is the responsibility we all have as owners of forests in the greater context of where we live - our community.

Town and municipal forests and other larger tracts of land owned by the municipality are not the only community forests. Take a closer look. Municipalities have a much greater responsibility to the management of forests than often realized. Trees that fall within the right-of-way of the miles of town roads or the trees that grace our town greens, parks and sidewalks are all 'public' resources. These trees provide values that are often overlooked, such as social wellbeing, economic development and environmental services; these key values are why it is so important that they are protected and managed.

It's no surprise that many of Vermont's municipalities do not have the resources (human and financial) to adequately address their urban and community forests. Community members serving as volunteers play a vital role in assisting the town. The importance of this oversight

was recognized by the legislature as far back as 1904 when the State enacted its Tree Warden Statute 24 V.S.A. § 871. Tree Wardens act as overseer of public trees, organizing and implementing tree planting, maintenance and protection programs. They serve on a volunteer basis and work in concert with other volunteer groups such as tree boards or Conservation Commissions.

Today, as we face challenges such as stormwater runoff, climate change and an economic recession, the need for volunteers is greater than ever. These trees are on the front line of defense and often neglected during times of need. To support volunteers getting involved in the forest where we live, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in partnership with UVM Extension, offers the Stewardship of the Urban Landscape program (SOUL) every other year. SOUL's motto is Leadership Training to Enhance the Quality of Life in Vermont Communities through Trees. The training started in 1996 and has since trained over 350 Vermont Tree Stewards.

"I have not spent much time thinking about forestry beyond the 'forests,'" said one SOUL graduate, "I now realize that trees and forestry in towns and communities and cities is just as important."

The SOUL course includes eight evening

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**** NEW ****
Vermont Woodlands Association offers Technical Bulletins Written by landowners for landowners!!
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President's Column

The Great Hurricane of 1938

On September 4, 1938 an upper air depression was recorded at a weather station at an oasis in the Sahara. Moving west it formed into a hurricane over the Atlantic. It was headed straight for Miami but a weather trough off the east coast of the US diverted it north along the coast. As it moved north, not only did its wind speeds intensify, but its forward motion increased to 50 mph, multiplying its severity. Before the days of radar and satellite imagery, weather forecasting was inadequate to warn of what was impending.

Four days of tropical rain preceded the hurricane's arrival on September 21. In southern New England the rain already amounted to 7-11 inches before the hurricane rains arrived and in some places flood levels exceeded those of 1936. A low-pressure area, a high tide and hurricane force winds cause a tidal surge that devastated the coast of southern New England. Inland, saturated soils resulted in rapid run-off into already flood-stage streams and the wind toppled trees whose roots had little solid soil for an anchor.

The highest recorded wind velocity was 186 mph at the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, Massachusetts, well east of the storm center travelling up the Connecticut River valley. 685 people lost their lives, mostly in southern New England. Destructive winds more than 200 miles in diameter caused more property damage than ever before recorded for a natural disaster, including the San Francisco earthquake. The highest trestle of the Mt. Washington Cog Railroad, Jacobs Ladder, was blown over and winds were recorded at 162 mph on that summit.

In New England, an estimated 2.6 billion board feet of timber was blown down including many sugar maples, which curtailed syrup production for many years. At the time my parents owned a 75-acre sugar bush in West Fairlee. They sold maple syrup to various customers and syrup, maple sugar cakes and maple cream from a stand in front of our farmhouse on Route 5. One of the humorous stories from that time was when a woman was examining some fancy syrup (as it was called in those days) in a glass

container and her husband yelled from the car, "Don't buy it, Mabel, they've watered it." But the back roads were so bad in those days that a man had to stay at the sugarhouse during sugaring. I remember a frightening time of being mired in a sea of mud in the farm truck while my father went looking for a team to pull us out. After the hurricane there weren't enough maples left to keep a man out there and my parents sold the 75 acres.

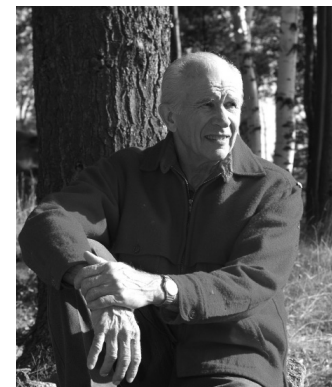
My father had been at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts and started home on September 21. High water forced him up the New Hampshire side and he finally was able to cross the Connecticut at Woodsville. But Route 5 was flooded north of Newbury village and he had to find back roads to the farm.

Electricity was out and my mother put out a cold supper on the dining room table. A limb crashed through the window spreading shattered glass all over the meal. She brought my brother and sister and I downstairs to sleep as she feared the giant elms in front of the house might come crashing through the roof.

The next morning was devastation!! Sheets of tin gone from farm building roofs, trees down everywhere, a 4' dbh elm in front of a neighbor's house laying across Route 5 and the entire third story and roof of their house missing. Men with axes and cross-cut saws worked for days to open Route 5 to traffic. For years I crawled through blown-down timber, finding great relief in the occasional standing timber areas.

With such a huge loss of timber, salvage operations started that winter. Men with axes and saws, teams of horses and oxen and crawler tractors tackled the dangerous windthrow. Many sawmills were set up and we hosted one. Wood was hauled from three adjoining farms as well as ours. The lumber was stacked in an open pasture, a dam constructed in the brook for fire protection and ladders, barrels and pails scattered throughout the lumber piles. A few firebreaks were cleared in the woods. With all the down, dead trees, there was a high danger

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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.



LEED 2012 - Second Draft

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released its second draft of their LEED 2012 rating tools on August 1, 2011.

The Material and Resources (MR) credits have been substantially overhauled. Based on SFI's initial review, the new "Responsible Sourcing of Raw Materials" credit in the Building Design and Construction fails to recognize the important contributions of made-in North America standards like SFI, ATFS, and CSA which make up nearly 75% of certified forests in North America.

One significant change under this credit is that USGBC has narrowed its recognition of FSC to the limited supply of 100% FSC Pure products which means that FSC mixed-sources products are no longer recognized.

In addition, under the draft, several raw materials that compete with wood would qualify for a credit under "other materials" if they meet the following four requirements:

- *Commitment to long-term ecologically responsible land use;*
- *Reduced environmental impact of extraction and/or manufacturing processes;*
- *Economic and social support of adjacent communities;*
- *Commitment to meeting applicable voluntary codes that address responsible sourcing criteria.*

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Consulting Foresters Corner

Ben Campbell, VWA Certified Consulting Forester

Summer has come and gone, already. The application deadline for 2012 enrollment in the State of Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Program is fast approaching. Forest management plans for new enrollments are due October 1st to their respective County Forester. Participants in UVA must update their forest management plans every ten years.

Most readers are aware that UVA program participants are required to actively manage their woodlands primarily for productivity and improved health and quality. This concept is open to wide interpretation – and lively discussion amongst professional foresters and landowners. What exactly defines these elements matters less than the identification of ownership goals and the actual implementation of the appropriate forestry practices.

The fact that the UVA program has been under scrutiny for the past several years is not news to those in the forest industry. Moving forward, Vermont tax payers – specifically their representatives in Montpelier – will seek to substantiate the value that UVA provides to the State. The forest management plan is the first step in executing quality silviculture; and equally important in that it provides an association between a public program and the fiscal activity on private lands that contributes positively to our State's economy.

Forest management plans: the necessary evil that likely draws a collective groan from countless landowners and foresters alike. However, it's generally accepted that a complete forest management plan increases the likelihood that proposed activities will net a desired outcome. Most forestry consultants prepare forest management plans that meet UVA and other standards. Traditionally, these plans are relatively straightforward and consist of identifying landowner goals, delineating management units, and scheduling various silvicultural prescriptions. However, each individual parcel has a variety of factors ranging from the type of landowner(s), ownership goals, land use history, site quality, and present condition and stocking.

Recently, a number of forest health issues, aside from the usual pest, disease, and regeneration ills normally associated with land stewardship, have caught the attention of both landowners and managers. The near inevitable arrival of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the encroachment of invasive plant species, and the potential occurrence of endangered plant and animal species are on most everyone's radars. Developing plan strategies to counter these forest pests can become complicated.

Also, there are a variety of technical standards for numerous cost-sharing programs, conservation easements, and forest certification programs that require specific plan elements.

Depending on all of these distinctive features, the resulting forest management plan could very well be highly detailed and/or complex. At times, the possibility of the silvicultural "baby" being thrown out with the "bathwater" becomes a real issue if one attempts to deal with these competing interests. However straightforward or complex the plan, it is important to remember that the landowner "owns" the forest management plan and is responsible for its implementation. Keep in mind the big picture, that a managed forest is productive and healthy, and is the best defense against the potentially destructive elements out there.

Updating an existing plan allows both the landowner and forester a chance to gauge the effectiveness of previously stated goals and treatments – and to focus on the priorities for the following planning period. Did the scheduled thinnings and harvests occur? Have the crop trees or regeneration treatments responded as hoped? Were the pre-commercial sites treated? Have the patch-cuts produced the desired habitat, or were the permanent wildlife openings created? Did the apple trees get pruned and released?

From the list of unaccomplished practices, why didn't they get completed and which are still relevant? It is important to recognize what has succeeded and what needs to be addressed.

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News from The Nature Conservancy

Dollars and Sense: Best Management Practices to Managing (and Preventing) Invasive Plant Species in Vermont Woodlands

Sharon Plumb, Invasive Species Coordinator

It's hard to walk through many Vermont woodlands without a nearly constant reminder of one the greatest threats to their future health and economic vitality: invasive plants. Barberry creates impenetrable thickets and buckthorn seedlings pop up on old logging sites. This issue is not going away. There's no magic wand that will keep these plants away. Even if your forests are clean, the threat remains. Timber harvests, road building, even mountain biking and the movement of birds and other wildlife create vectors for invasive seeds and roots to move. Disturbed sites are an open invitation for invasives to take root. All of us need to be a

part of the solution, managing invasives on our own lands and educating our neighbors about the issue.

This year has been a busy one for public and private partners committed to reducing the threat of invasives. The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Forest, Parks & Recreation, UVM Extension, Redstart Consulting, Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont Land Trust, and Upper Valley Land Trust are just a few of the many private and public entities engaged in the issue.

This fall, three new resources will be available to help people more effectively find resources and develop effective prevention and management plans:

- A new website www.vtinvasives.org Includes comprehensive identification, prevention and treatment information. Downloadable fact sheets on invasive species, tips on how to assess a property for invasives and develop a management plan, up-to-date calendar and iMapinvasives, a new on-line database and invasive plant mapping tool.
- A field guide for land managers and landowners, Best Management Practices for The Prevention and Treatment of Invasive Terrestrial Plants In Vermont Woodlands. This manual thoroughly outlines the Best Management Practices listed below. It is available for free by request. Email splumb@tnc.org for a free copy.
- An all day workshop to help land managers integrate BMPs into their management plans and on-the-ground activities (see sidebar, right; professional development credits available).

Invasives Prevention and Management for Foresters, Loggers and Land Managers

A Training on Incorporating Best Management Practices into Land Management Activities

- Implement forestry practices that reduce the spread of invasive plants
- Incorporate invasive plant assessments into Current Use and other land management plans
- Identify, assess and prioritize invasive plants on a property
- Control invasives using mechanical and chemical treatment methods
- Prioritize treatment activities based on land management goals, resources and difficulty of control
- Streamline the process for NRCS' WHIP and EQIP practices
- Make informed on-the-job decisions to avoid spreading invasives at your site
- Find additional resources and tools to help you get the job done and to share information with clients and landowners

Choose from four trainings, each running from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

Sept. 21, 2011: Thetford Community Center, Thetford, VT

Sept. 27, 2011: Putney School, Putney, VT

May 22, 2012: Old Gray Barn, Rupert, VT

May 29, 2012: Hinesburg Town Hall, Hinesburg, VT

\$45 per workshop (lunch included)

Use iMapinvasives for prevention and management of invasive species



iMapinvasives is a free, easy to use website that anyone in Vermont can use to map invasive terrestrial plants. Land managers, landowners, community groups and students can use it to:

- Make a simple map of infestations on a property
- Share information with other landowners and land managers, including the NRCS for potential WHIP or EQIP projects
- Keep track of monitoring and treatment activities
- Note changes in size of infestations over time
- Download data and make more sophisticated maps in GIS
- Keep track of Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species
- Contribute to a statewide understanding of the spread of invasive species.

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LEED continued from sidebar, page 4

It is unacceptable that other materials can get credit for responsible sourcing without third party certification and yet forest products, with third party certification, cannot get this credit.

Other credits within the "Material and Resources" section may provide an opportunity for structural and non-structural forest products to earn credit for their environmental characteristics through life cycle analysis, environmental product declarations (EPDs) and product attributes.

SFI will be hosting webinars, and at that time will provide further interpretation on these credits in order to support your comments to the USGBC.

In the interim, we strongly encourage you to encourage builders, architects, designers, specifiers and other LEED users to positively comment on the LEED Pilot Credit 43, released in June, for the use of non-structural certified wood products, such as furniture, flooring and windows. The pilot credit listed SFI and other credible certification standards along with the FSC in a section on 'pre-approved certifications and labels.'

For information on upcoming SFI webinars or for more information on this issue please contact Darcie Johnston at 802-223-3441 or at Darcie@Johnston-consult.net.

News from NRCS

What's New with NRCS Farm Bill Programs?

There is a September 1st, 2011 sign-up deadline for the first round of 2012 funding for both the Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). In past years the sign-up deadline has been October 1st so foresters, be sure to let your clients know. Often we have had multiple rounds of funding each year. Any applications received after September 1st, 2011 will be kept on file for these future rounds of funding. Don't be deterred from signing up if you happen to miss the application deadline for the first round of funding. The focus of WHIP for forestland is wildlife habitat enhancement and soil erosion if there is a wildlife focus to the project as well. The focus of EQIP for forestland is soil erosion and forestry related practices. Contact your local USDA Service Center to speak with someone at NRCS. <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/>

New Practices

Vermont NRCS will be offering some interesting new opportunities through the WHIP Forestry Initiative for forest landowners interested in improving forest health, timber quality and priority forest bird habitat. NRCS has worked with Audubon Vermont and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to develop a series of Forest Stand Improvement scenarios based upon the Foresters for the Birds Project and Toolkit documents. Basically, we will help fund silvicultural options 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 3A outlined in the document 'Silviculture with Birds in Mind - Options for Integrating Timber and Songbird Habitat Management in Northern Hardwood Stands in Vermont.' So, for the foresters who have been through the Foresters for the Birds program you will have a good idea of what this means. For those that don't know, check out the Foresters for the Birds Toolkit of three documents found at: <http://vt.audubon.org/fbi.html>. NRCS and partners have developed a checklist – 'Integrating Timber/Songbird Habitat Management' – that outlines the intent of the practice, stand eligibility and required information.

This information checklist will be made available shortly under the Forest Stand Improve-

ment Practice (666) found on the Vermont Conservation Practice Information Web Page at: http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Conservation_Practices/Index.html. In addition to this new practice we will be continuing to fund the practices we have previously funded through WHIP and EQIP. These include wildlife habitat enhancement work (mast tree release, apple tree release and pruning, early successional habitat management, etc....), erosion control on forest roads, timber stand improvement/crop tree release, invasive plant control, NRCS forest management plans, aquatic organism passage, etc.....

Refining Priorities and Priority Areas

Through a national planning process, called the State Resource Assessment (SRA), Vermont NRCS is further refining conservation targets across the state using existing State Resource/Wildlife/Forestry Plans and data. The SRA includes information and targets across all land types and variety of resource concerns but we can provide a few examples of priorities of interests to forest landowners. Highly productive forest lands, as identified through the Vermont Forest Resources Plan, will be prioritized for timber oriented Forest Stand Improvement. Projects to benefit young forest habitats will be prioritized in the counties with the lowest percent of forest in the seedling sapling size class (from USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis data). Practices to benefit forest birds will be prioritized within Audubon Vermont's Forest Bird Priority Areas and where a landowner assessment has been completed by Audubon Vermont. Priority wildlife connectivity/corridor areas, established through the Staying Connected Initiative, will be prioritized for practices that provide connectivity of forested habitats. But, don't forget that just because you may not be in a priority area there is still plenty of opportunity for a good forestry or wildlife project anywhere in the state. While we are at the beginning stages of this planning process, we have been able to make good use of existing state plans, data and initiatives. Thanks to all the help from the partners across the state!

Meet Your VWA Officers & Directors...

Kathy Beland is serving her second term on the VWA board and is a member of the VWA certified consulting forester advisory committee. She hails from Maryland, where she grew up on a farm and spent much time outdoors with her father. She always expected to have a career in agriculture but after working for the Maryland Forest Service in her teens, discovered the woods had more appeal than the fields. This led her to Allegany Community College (now called Allegany College of Maryland) where she earned an associate's degree in Forestry Technology.

Vermont has been home since 1986. She and husband Tom, whom she married in 1984, traveled through the state on the way home from New Hampshire and loved it. A few weeks later, they were camping at Gifford Woods and on a drive up Route 100 spotted a "For Rent" sign in Pittsfield, which sealed the deal for them.

Kathy began her career in forestry as a consultant working for Mark Skakel of Skakel Forest Management. In fact, her "job interview" was a timber marking project on Dick Rose's South Hill property in Stockbridge, a property that she continues to manage today. Kathy credits Mark with giving her opportunities to enhance her skills and knowledge and the autonomy to make decisions. She and Mark became business partners within a few years and changed the name to Not Just Trees, the consulting company she still owns today with business partner Frank Hudson who came to work in 2000 when Mark moved on to pursue a teaching career in forestry. Not Just Trees has about one hundred clients in Rutland, Bennington, and Windsor Counties.

Many of her landowners are Tree Farmers as Kathy is a very strong advocate for the program. She has been a Tree Farm inspector for more than two decades and has worked closely with VWA and the Tree Farm committee to strengthen the program in Vermont.

Service to forestry and community has been a hallmark of Kathy's life. She spent eight years as an ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future) volunteer coordinator in the Clarendon Elementary School when her children attended

and received the Jenepher Lingelbach Elf Volunteer Award for her service in 2005. She is a trained Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, and Project Wet instructor and has conducted workshops for students in all programs. She worked with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on Arbor Day workshops and conservation field days and still works with the Rutland office to plan and present Forestry Management workshops in the county. She also serves on the worship team at her church and teaches Sunday School.

If you ever attend the Vermont State Fair in Rutland and visit the Forestry Building, you'll see the result of Kathy's efforts as a co-coordinator. The building is a showcase for Vermont's forests with focus on a different tree species each year and a broad base of partner participation.

Kathy and Tom live in Clarendon with their two children, Erin age 21 and Joey age 18. She enjoys fishing, canoeing, gardening, going to baseball games to watch Joey pitch, and writing; although writing is more passion than hobby. She is currently writing a book, Potatoes to Pine Trees, about Dick Rose and his South Hill property. She also writes poetry.

No story about Kathy and her family would be complete without the Christmas Tree saga. It started years ago when the US Forest Service was issuing \$5 permits to cut trees and the Belands brought home a twelve-footer. While this is big by most standards, it barely filled the 21-foot cathedral ceiling in the living room. So, now the annual trek takes them to the overgrown Christmas Tree farm owned by the Hudsons in Pittsford where they find trees greater than 21 feet in height. It's quite a chore to identify, fell, drag, load, truck, and install a tree of this size and it's a family affair that uses the push/pull method. Kathy says that she and daughter Erin actually "pretend" while the guys do all the heavy lifting. Once firmly secured with rope and wire to the balcony and the rafters, it takes 35 strands of lights and about 8 hours to decorate!



Kathy Beland, VWA board member and Vermont Woodlands Certified Consulting Forester



Erin (l), Joey (r), and future son-in-law William Perry (c) dwarfed by the massive tree.

**Maintenance**, *continued from page 1*

the burdens incident to the existence of the benefit.” Unfortunately, the Hubbard decision did not result in a published remedy nor is there any indication how a future court may interpret the rather arcane legal term “rateably.”

H.272 attempts to convert the Hubbard decision into a statutory provision, but leaves the essential issue of apportioning maintenance costs deliberately vague. The bill defines ‘maintenance’ as “includes activities related to the upkeep of a private road in its usual condition or that are necessary to allow safe passage (emphasis added). A “private road” is defined as “a road or street ... that is owned by one or more persons and used by more than one owner or holder of a recorded easement as a means of access to one or more parcels of land (emphasis added).

A farmer who has a right-of-way on a private road to access a field, may only use the road once a year to get in a hay crop. A forest land owner may only use such access once every decade for a harvest. While there may be unknowns to consider, farm and forest land owners - and seasonal camp owners - should be concerned with how the costs of annual snowplowing, sanding, and mud-season repair are apportioned in any legislation. In the current draft, H.272 does not adequately consider the interests of seasonal or intermittent users of a private road relative to those of year-round residents. Vermont Woodlands Association can help to clarify those interests so that a good, workable solution can be found to this issue.

Getting Involved, *continued from page 2*

sessions taught through Vermont Interactive Television (VIT), an online learning environment through the University of Vermont, as well as four Saturday hands-on laboratories. The curriculum content is divided between technical sessions on trees and applied sessions on working effectively within the community. Plans are underway for SOUL 2012, which will be held on Wednesday evenings February 15 to April 11, 2012 at 10 VIT sites across the state. For more information on SOUL or Vermont’s Urban and Community Forestry Program, contact Danielle Fitzko at 802-241-3673 or danielle.fitzko@state.vt.us

President, *continued from page 3*

of fire for many years. The lumber was hauled off in 1942 to crate war material and my first long, full day of work was picking up stickers.

That “Perfect Storm” of wind and water hit 73 years ago and some of our hardest hit areas are just beginning to produce marketable trees. In a few places I can still see the outlines of trees that were all blown down in the same direction. Since the white man came, there have been many destructive storms but the ones of 1635, 1815 and 1938 have been extremely disastrous. As my forest nears recovery from the Great Hurricane of 1938, I wonder when the next great one will hit.

Put Blodgett, VWA President

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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VERMONT WILDWOODS

Contact: Parker Nichols

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News from SFI Darcie Johnston, Johnston Consulting

SFI 2011 Summer Update

The Vermont Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) continues its efforts to build awareness within the forest products industry, the legislature, and the general public as to the importance of sustainable forestry practices.

Formed in 1994 by the American Forest & Paper Association, SFI is a comprehensive, private sector system of principles, objectives and performance measures that integrates growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water quality. Additionally, supporters of the program subscribe to the belief that sound environmental and business practices can be integrated to the benefit of landowners, shareholders, and the people they serve.

Vermont SFI continues to educate and build support for the program and its goals among state and local policy makers, and is looking forward to another productive year of outreach to and interaction with legislators in the upcoming legislative session.

Vermont SFI particularly wishes to express appreciation for the support and cooperation received from the Vermont Woodlands Association, as well as the Vermont Tree Farm Program.

Woodlots in the Tree Farm Program qualify as SFI-approved for purposes of SFI certification. SFI companies provide markets for forest products grown by VWA and Tree Farm mem-

bers. Associated Industries of Vermont, which helps administer SFI in Vermont, appreciates the important perspectives contributed by those serving on AIV's Forest Policy Task Force, particularly on matters of Use Value Appraisal, workers' compensation, and active management of working forests.

On the professional front, the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program remains the only in-state logger training program that is SFI-certified. The SFI standard is a comprehensive list of requirements that logger training programs must meet in order to advance the cause of sustainable forestry. Loggers, truckers, foresters, and mill owners are encouraged to enroll in training programs to further their professional education. Vermont SFI encourages those in the forest products industry to contact LEAP and become SFI-certified.

Those interested in finding out more about and enrolling in upcoming training courses should contact David Birdsall of LEAP at (802) 235-2908 or at www.VTLEAP.org.

Sustainable forestry continues to be an increasingly important issue that can affect the success and survival of everyone in the industry, from landowners to loggers to manufacturers to retailers. It is critical that everyone in the process understands the value of the private-sector driven, environmentally and economically viable approach to sustainability embodied in SFI. To learn more, contact Associated Industries of Vermont at (802) 223-3441.

Save the Date:
SFI 2011 Conference
comes to Vermont
September 13-15, 2011
Hilton Hotel
Burlington, Vermont

For agenda and conference
details please visit [www.
SFIprogram.org](http://www.SFIprogram.org)

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE®

Growing Tomorrow's Forests Today®

www.aboutsfi.org

In Vermont, call William Driscoll, SFI Coordinator, at Associated Industries of Vermont, 802-223-3441.

Each year we grow more than 850 million trees, which provide homes for thousands of species.

Bringing new forests to life.

This newsletter is printed on Accent Opaque brand paper produced at International Paper's Ticonderoga mill from working Vermont and Adirondack forests, managed responsibly in accordance with the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, http://www.ippaper.com/accent_home.html



Dollars and Sense, *continued from page 5*

FUNDING SOURCES FOR INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT: The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a number of programs, including Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), that can help defray the costs of invasive plant treatment for qualified landowners. Talk with your county forester or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ for more information.

Practice Early Detection and Rapid Response!

- Regularly monitor properties for invasive species.
- Remove new populations before they spread.

Treatment is cheaper and more effective when populations are still small and isolated.

EARLY DETECTION CAN APPLY TO:

- a species that is known to be in an area but is new to a property, OR
- a species that is not yet known to occur in Vermont

- Will a certification program compliment upcoming harvest objectives, and what are the various certification options?
- Are cost-share programs available that effectively promote the implementation of activities that otherwise would not be completed?
- Will the next harvest activity need to accommodate for a rare, endangered, or threatened species?

Whether one is reviewing an existing plan or creating, updating, or amending an existing plan, don't get overwhelmed with numerous details and let "analysis paralysis" kick in. Communicate goals with a forester, set a priority schedule and get started.

Simply put, when a thorough plan is well executed, Vermont's woodlands thrive. Implementing quality forestry enhances the State's economy. Making the connection between fiscally positive, responsible land stewardship and the State's land use program re-emphasizes the importance of forests, forestry, and UVA to the citizens of Vermont.



**CALL NOW!
BEFORE YOU CUT,
NOT AFTER**
A Guide to Public Resources for Woodland Owners in Vermont

Take advantage of free services available through the Vermont County Foresters before selling timber from your woodlands. Call Now! Before you cut...not after.

To download the *Call Before You Cut* brochure or to find your County Forester, or a VWA consulting forester, visit www.vermontwoodlands.org.

Consultant Corner, *continued from page 6*

Even if not in the process of preparing a new or updated plan, it may be a good idea to discuss the following topics with a forester:

- What is the risk, if any, with the present stocking of ash sawtimber, and what are the options in the event of an EAB outbreak?
- What strategy is best to deal with honeysuckle, buckthorn, or barberry in the understory? Likewise, do the ferns, deer browsing, and/or undesirable beech and striped maple understory need to be considered before a regeneration harvest is implemented?

Over **fifteen-million acres** are certified by **NSF International Systems Registration.**

Partner with a well respected and stable registrar – consider **NSF Forestry Services**, including:

- Tree Farm Group Certification
- SFI Certification
- SFI Chain of Custody Certification
- PEFC Chain of Custody Certification
- Joint FSC Chain of Custody Audits

For a quote on services or information, please contact Jeanette Halliday at 734-827-3804 or Halliday@nsf.org.

NSF International Strategic Registrations, Ltd.
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News from Fish & Wildlife

Forest Management for Vermont's Endangered and Threatened Bats

Alyssa Bennett, Wildlife Technician

Vermont's bats are dying and they need our help. Four of Vermont's six hibernating species of bats are now threatened or endangered and all six species are suffering dramatic losses from a disease known as White-nose syndrome (WNS). These include the recently state-endangered Little brown and Northern long-eared bats, the state threatened Small-footed bat, and the federally endangered Indiana bat. As is the case with most endangered or threatened species, maintaining habitat is critical to their survival. With the help of responsible forestry practices, we can create and maintain important summer roost trees that will allow the remaining bats to reproduce and build fat stores for the long Vermont winters.

White-nose syndrome was named for the white fungus seen on the muzzles and wings of hibernating bats and has killed over a million hibernating bats in eastern North America since it was first discovered in the winter of 2006/2007. WNS has continued to spread across the US and into Canada. The fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, thrives in the same cold, moist conditions that bats prefer to hibernate in- caves and old mines. Scientists are working around the clock to better understand what is killing these bats and how to stop it, but what can the rest of us do to help?

Though WNS has caused a dramatic population decrease in all of Vermont's hibernating species, habitat loss continues to be a major concern as well. For bats that do survive the harsh effects of WNS while hibernating over the winter, the summer is a time to heal and rebuild fat stores. The recovery can be dramatic as a typical bat eats half its body weight in insects each night. Summer is also a time to replenish the population. Females congregate in maternity colonies to birth their young. Managing our forests properly is critical for the survival of these small mammals, which seek warm, safe trees to roost in during the day. Proper management includes conserving dead or dying trees (snags), as well as large-diameter living trees of targeted species.

Forest management practices that maintain a mixture of forest age classes will provide suitable habitat. In addition, Vermont's hibernating bat species prefer forested buffers along wetlands, lakes, ponds, and streams to forage and access water without being exposed to predators such as owls in larger open areas. Important roost tree species include Shagbark hickory (Indiana bats only), Black locust (Northern long-eared bats), and Red maple (Little brown bats). Special attention should be given to tall trees with a large diameter at breast height (DBH greater than 8 inches) in open canopy stands or along the forest edge. The larger the diameter of the tree or snag, the more likely it will be a roost site.

Roost suitability is the main focus for conserving individual trees. All four endangered and threatened species prefer to roost under loose or peeling bark and cracks, though Northern long-eared bats will also use tree cavities. Pregnant females seek roost areas warmed by solar radiation, so tall trees in open canopy stands are the most desirable. Suitable habitat can also be created by cutting some of the other growth around potential trees to provide more solar exposure. Preferred snags will be upright, rather than leaning, include cracks and cavities and have a large DBH.

We are hopeful that with our help these bats will have safe roosting sites to fatten up on those pesky night-flying insects we all could stand to see a few less of. Buzzzzzzz.

For more information on White-nose syndrome, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/. For proper bat exclusion instructions, to erect your own bat house, or to report a colony of bats please visit us at www.vtfishandwildlife.com and click on "You can help Vermont's Bats."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, September 17: Regional Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year tour at Put Blodgett's Tree Farm in Bradford, VT. Registration required. Details at www.vermont-treefarm.org

Saturday & Sunday, September 24 & 25: Vermont Fine Furniture and Forest Festival at Union Arena and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, VT - A Vermont Top 10 Fall Event! Details at www.vermontwoodfestival.org

Saturday, October 30: Walk in the Woods with Russ Barrett, Washington County Forester at Barre Town Forest. Details TBA

Women and Their Woods, Saturday & Sunday, October 22 & 23. A Forestry School program designed by and for women forest landowners. Details TBA



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.

9/11

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