



Membership Newsletter

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December 2005

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VWA Membership
Newsletter is
published four times
a year.

2005-2006 Advertising Rates

(per year):

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J.K. Adams Tree Farm Tour



Malcolm Cooper (left), 2005 Vermont Tree Farmer of the Year with his Tree Farm's consulting forester, Gabe Russo (center), accepts his new Outstanding Tree Farm sign from Put Blodgett, VWA President, at a tour of Cooper's Dorset, VT, Tree Farm in October.



Gabe Russo (left) explains practices he and Jim White, Bennington County Forester, have found to be successful in reducing the impacts of invasive shrub species on the Cooper Tree Farm.



Malcolm Cooper (right) shows tour participants how a JK Adams hardwood kitchenware product is manufactured in the factory that Cooper's father developed adjacent to the Tree Farm.

New Planned Giving Partnership

VWA has entered into a partnership with The Vermont Community Foundation to offer a number of new gift opportunities, which provide donors with an income for life. VWA wants to encourage increased financial support, especially for our endowment funds, and these additional gift vehicles provide supporters with advantages that we have not been able to offer previously.

One of these new vehicles is called a charitable gift annuity. In exchange for a gift of cash, stocks or bonds, the donor receives income each year for the rest of his or her life. The amount of that income depends on the age of the donor when the gift is made. Once the annuity has been established, the amount of income remains fixed for life. No more worries about interest rates or the

stock market! Some sample rates at various ages are in the chart below. Charitable gift annuities can last for one or two lives.

Charitable gift annuities are simple to understand, easy to arrange, and can be purchased in any amount above the minimum gift level of \$10,000. Each annuity is guaranteed by all the assets of The Vermont Community Foundation. Donors receive a charitable deduction from their income taxes when the annuity is established, and much of their annual income from the annuity is not subject to income tax. The real benefit, though, is the ability to support VWA now, with no negative impact on the donor's current income. As a matter of fact, many gift annuitants have actually

Continued on page 2



News from the Vermont Tree Farm Program

Tree Farmers Tour Wood-fired Generator

The McNeil Wood-fired Generating Station in Burlington was the first stop on Day 2 of the Tree Farm National Convention “Best of Vermont” Tour. Thirty-five attendees were provided safety gear and a walk-through at the 50-megawatt station, which is fueled by wood chips. Station Operator Dave McCormack explained key components of the station and its air quality protection equipment. Visitors saw the Control Room and peered

into the boiler that consumes 1,500 tons of wood per day at full load. Chief Forester Bill Kropelin explained the fuel procurement side of the operation.

McNeil Station buys wood chips made from harvesting residue, as well as sawmill residues. A small portion of McNeil’s wood supply is clean recycled wood diverted from local landfills. Roundwood is stockpiled on site for chipping during mud season. McNeil Station’s operating permit requires that harvests must be approved by the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife to assure protection of critical habitat. McNeil employs four foresters to prepare harvest plans and provide on-the-ground monitoring of harvesting activities.

Seventy-five percent of the wood used by McNeil Station is delivered by rail. The Station owns 23 bottom-dumping railcars that are filled from a stockpile in Swanton, Vermont. Trains run 4-5 days per week depending on fuel requirements. An average train holds 1,200 tons, equivalent to 50 truckloads, and is unloaded by three people in 90 minutes.



Participants in the “Best of Vermont” tour visit the Moosalamoo Region of the Green Mountain National Forest. (Photo by Al Robertson)

Giving *Continued from page 1*

increased their current income by using this strategy. All assets remaining at the death of the annuitant are placed in a fund at the Foundation for the sole use of VWA.

Another way to support VWA is to establish a charitable remainder trust, and fund it with cash or appreciated property – including appreciated real estate. Because this type of trust is tax-exempt, the trustee can sell the appreciated property without paying any capital gains taxes. The donor reserves the right to receive income from the trust for life, and that income can be either a fixed amount each year or an income which

varies with the value of the trust. Donors receive a charitable deduction from income taxes in the year such a trust is established, and in any year in which the donor adds to the trust. The Vermont Community Foundation is willing to serve as trustee and handle the sale and reinvestment of the trust property. At the end of the trust term, the remaining assets are set aside in a fund at the Foundation which is solely for the use of the VWA.

If you would like to learn more about charitable trusts or gift annuities, contact Tom Smith, CFP® at The Vermont Community Foundation at 802-388-3355 or by email at tsmith@vermontcf.org.

Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
60	5.7%	70	6.5%	80	8.0%	90	11.3%
65	6.0%	75	7.1%	85	9.5%	95	11.3%



President's Column

Positive Momentum

I have long been a believer in momentum. It takes a lot of energy to start a body in motion, but once in motion, continual energy will keep it in motion. I think of the continuous stroking of a rolling hoop.

Admittedly, on a few occasions, the cops believed that I was applying too much momentum in inappropriate locations and my belief cost me some bucks. And my oldest daughter often reminds me that the momentum I was utilizing years ago to ascend a snow-covered hill into my Tree Farm has left a lasting impression upon her.

But, I believe that VWA has achieved positive momentum. Much work remains to be done and the challenges will never cease, but our Association is moving forward. There have been several major thrusts this year.

Education of the public to an understanding of forestry, starting with school children, has been one major thrust. Two "Walks in the Forest" for school teachers and students, two training sessions for those interested in hosting "Walks in the Forest" and a "Walk in the Forest" half-day training for teachers during the Teachers Convention have been held. Building on this base, many more "Walks in the Forest" are being planned for the future. The goal is to also bring forestry into the classroom through related subjects such as the natural sciences.

A work-in-progress is moving the VWA-sponsored Tree Farm Program from a mostly volunteer-administered program to one

administered by VWA's Executive Director and her staff.

A major effort was undertaken to start an endowment for the future financial strength and stability of VWA. Over \$25,000 was raised, which will allow the Vermont Community Foundation, the holder of the endowment, to offer Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Gift Annuities.

The quarterly VWA Newsletter has expanded its efforts to provide informative articles and timely inserts.

Put Blodgett and Al Robertson led a two-day, post-National Tree Farm Convention tour of Vermont. Participants from all over the country enjoyed an action-packed visit to Cersosimo Lumber Co., Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Pompanoosuc Mills, an overnight at Trapp Family Lodge including a presentation by Johannes von Trapp, Burlington Electric's wood-fired electrical generating plant, Maple Landmark Woodcraft, the Moosalamoo region of the Green Mountain National Forest and J.K. Adams wood manufacturing plant, shop and adjoining 2005 Outstanding Tree Farm.

And, continuing always, outreaching and partnering with other organizations to strengthen forestry in the Green Mountain State.

VWA is on a roll—let's keep it that way!

Put Blodgett, VWA President, put@valley.net



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Put Blodgett

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Member in The News:

A Sustainable First for National Parks

The Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program awarded the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of a national park to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller (MBR) National Historical Park, making it only the second federal land to receive such certification. Located just north of Woodstock, MBR is Vermont's only national park and one of the oldest continuously managed woodlands in North America. It is the first national park with a mandate to interpret the history and evolution of conservation.

MBR is a working conservation model that exemplifies the ethic of land stewardship promoted by the property's prominent residents. Park superintendent Rolf Diamant is clear about the importance of FSC certification of MBR: The educational value of certification, particularly its emphasis on

transparency and accountability, is good not only for Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, but will hopefully encourage a broader dialogue in the NPS about using more certified wood in our construction projects, and how we, as institutional consumers, can do a better job of aligning our procurement practices with our organizational values.

According to Eric Palola, northeast director of the National Wildlife Federation and a member of the FSC/SmartWood audit team that reviewed MBR against the ten FSC Principles and Criteria, MBR has been sensitive to balancing the historical nature of the park while practicing exemplary forestry that will benefit future generations. We salute MBR for its commitment to advancing the science and practice of sustainable forest management.

BOOK REVIEW:

Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region

By Richard M. DeGraaf, Mariko Yamasaki, William B. Leak, and Anna M. Lester

University of Vermont Press and University Press of New England, 2005

This is not the book for you if you want the standard wildlife habitat fare: what kind of viburnum to plant at the edge of your yard, how to make a brush pile for chipmunks and sparrows, or how to set up the hose to drip into a basin that birds will use for bathing.

Though the cover has photos of a lovely, inviting road disappearing into ferny woods, a flying squirrel on a big, old tree, and a handsome deer peeking out through snowy branches, this book is not about prettiness. It is a serious book, and it is about making major changes to the forest overstory in the service of increasing diversity of wildlife habitat.

The primary focus is on creating early successional habitat, a forest type that the authors believe is seriously underrepresented in the New England landscape. They consider the loss of this kind of habitat to be "the most pressing wildlife concern in New England." The whippoorwill, yellow-bellied cuckoo, chestnut-sided warbler, indigo bunting, towhee, and field sparrow are just a few of the shrubland birds whose populations are decreasing throughout much of the

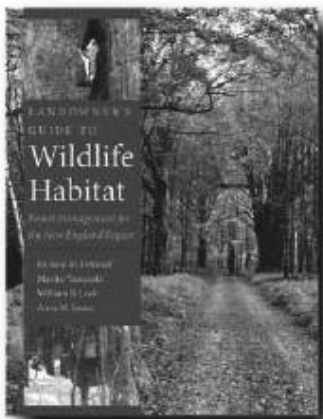
Northeast because the forest is maturing. Sawtimber-sized forests are so widespread that species requiring summer fruits such as strawberries and soft mast from pin cherry, blackberries, and raspberries are having a hard time getting by.

The authors use computer-generated images of what the landscape will look like under different management strategies 10, 20, and 100 years after cutting to demonstrate that even-aged management, with partial or complete overstory removal on 20 percent of the land every 20 years, will produce the most diverse forest, with trees in all age classes. These landscape images are created using real tree data and topographic information, together with computer models of tree growth and programs that produce photo-like images of a dynamic landscape. You can see a clearcut area filling in at years 10 and 20, only to be cut again at age 100.

Though their preferred options for southern New England differ from those for the northern part, periodic clearcutting in hardwoods and shelterwood harvests in softwoods are shown to support the largest number of wildlife species.

At the outset, the authors state that the aim of the book is to put forest management options in the context of "natural forest

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News from Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Farm Bill Up For Rewrite in 2007

Vermont is blessed with a remarkable forest resource that provides \$1 billion annually in economic value from forestry and another \$.5 billion in recreation and tourism activity. Equally important, our forests provide watershed protection and a source of clean drinking water supplies for local communities. These same lands also keep our air clean, climate stable, and provide critical wildlife habitat. Our forests drive our economy, our quality of life, and our sense of place—they are worthy of a federal investment through the Farm Bill. This Bill will be up before Congress in the near future and all forest landowners are encouraged to voice their opinion on the importance of forestry.

The Forestry Title in the present Farm Bill authorizes and funds many valuable programs to states and private landowners.

- **Forest Stewardship Program**—This important program funds the work of the state forestry agencies with private landowners, from stewardship planning to technical assistance. Funding must remain robust for this program.
- **Forest Legacy Program**—This has been one of the most effective tools for our region to conserve private working forestlands, establish community forests, and otherwise support forest conservation.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**

(WHIP)—This program has had a huge impact on forestlands in our region, unlike much of the rest of the nation where it is more focused on agricultural lands. Maintaining funding from this program will help private forestland owners afford to implement wildlife habitat improvements.

- **Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP)**—The assistance that would be provided if FLEP were adequately funded would greatly help the states work with private landowners in our region to meet their stewardship goals. This program should be consistently and robustly funded.
- **Urban and Community Forestry Program**—Our region has come to rely on community forests as a critical component of our forested land base that serves many public purposes. The UCFP should be well funded and other opportunities to support establishment and management of community forests should be explored.

Several key Farm Bill cost-share programs are only available for forestland that is incidental to traditional agricultural lands. This eligibility requirement should be changed to allow cost-share payments to private forestland owners where forests are the dominant land cover. Vermont forest landowners are encouraged to provide comments via the web, by contacting: <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.



Book Review *Continued from page 4*

disturbances that have historically created an array of wildlife habitat conditions in New England.” Opinions vary greatly on how much land was open or young forest in the pre-European era, and there is plenty of disagreement as to whether this percentage – whatever it is – is something that we should work towards recreating.

In this book, “letting nature take its course” is explicitly rejected as a way to benefit wildlife. Except at high elevations or in unusual circumstances, stands left unmanaged in perpetuity are not going to be necessary for animals either: “In New England, no species need stands older than the silvicultural rotation age.” Instead, it’s the many species that rely on early successional habitat that are in danger of being lost. In order to keep these habitats on the landscape, they write, “we

need to intentionally and continuously create them.”

This book constitutes a big and bold salvo in the already contentious battles over the value of extensive uncut forests and the ecological effects of significant clearcuts. It is written by highly respected experts, and the goals of the book and of the forest management they advocate are clear – that more wildlife species are better.

Their prescription for increased use of clearcuts, however, is bound to be unappealing to many landowners. Even those who wish to manage their land for wildlife are likely to find the prospect of sizeable clearcuts more than a little daunting.

Virginia Barlow

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Woodchip Power Plant Proposed for Ludlow

Rutland Herald, July 8, 2005

By Kim Smith Dedam, Southern Vermont Bureau

LUDLOW — A plan to build a \$45 million power plant that would burn woodchips and generate 20 megawatts of power was announced Thursday in Ludlow. Access Energy LLC, a renewable energy company based in Park City, Utah, said the facility would be built on the last 20 acres in the Dean Brown Industrial Park, owned by the Ludlow Economic Corp. Access Energy also has offices in Rutland.

Ron Bixby, president of the local economic agency, said the new power plant would add 150 construction jobs through an 18-month building phase, up to 22 full-time permanent jobs and about 70 local jobs in supplying and transporting woodchips. “On top of that, a clean energy project like this is the kind of business we need in Vermont,” Bixby said. “The project encompasses the goals of Act 61, a renewable energy law that Vermont Governor James Douglas recently signed, requiring electric utilities to purchase cleaner energy sources.”

Access Energy anticipates a one-year permit phase to be followed by an 18-month construction phase, putting the Ludlow plant online by early 2008. It will be Access Energy’s first power plant operation in Vermont, said Robert McClenachan, company president. The company operates four other plants — powered by gas from landfills — in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. It plans to build another woodchip plant in Connecticut; that one will enter the preconstruction phase “about three months behind this one,” McClenachan said. The Ludlow plant would also employ a forester to make sure the wood chips are harvested with the environment in mind, McClenachan said.

Several manufacturing and industrial operations surround a wooded property where the power plant would be built. A railroad line provides an important western boundary. Luzenac, a talc mine, operates at the southern edge of the vacant lot and the Ludlow Wastewater Treatment Plant borders the eastern edge. Jeld-Wen, a door and window manufacturing plant, and LaValley’s Building Supply neighbor the lot to the northeast. Bixby said Ludlow had the right amount of land next to a railroad line, which will be the primary supply line for wood and wood products.

Access Energy has not signed any power purchase agreements, but will begin negotiations immediately. “The new plant would also provide stable long-term pricing to the region,” Bixby said. One concern was raised about particles released in wood-burning operations. McClenachan said the plant would be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to remove the particles. He also said woodchip power generation includes a closed-loop system for cooling and re-circulating water through the plant. No wastewater or water byproducts would be added to Ludlow’s wastewater treatment load, McClenachan said.

The proposed power plant in Ludlow would closely resemble a 20-megawatt woodchip plant McClenachan helped build for Catamount Power in Ryegate 14 years ago. That plant is now owned and operated by Central Vermont Public Service Corp. Vermont has another wood-burning power plant, the 50-megawatt McNeil station in Burlington.

The land sale agreement for the Ludlow plant took two months to reach and provided no financial incentive or tax breaks, according to Town Manager Frank Heald. “It was just the right place at the right time, kind of like love at first sight.”

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



An Update from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)



Excerpt from SFI Tenth Annual Progress Report

Having started in 1995 as a voluntary code of conduct, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program has developed into an internationally recognized, independently governed sustainable forest management system implemented on more than 150 million acres of forestland in the United States and Canada.

Over the past decade, true to its founding ideal of “continuous improvement,” the SFI® program has undergone a number of changes that have brought it to this point where its participants now represent 90% of the industrial timberland in the United States. More than 129 million acres in North America have been independently, third party certified to the SFI Standard, making it North America’s largest forest certification program. Factoring in program participants’ procurement systems and the vital activities of the SFI Implementation Committees, including landowner outreach and logger and forester training, the SFI program now affects the way forestry is practiced on nearly half a billion acres of North American forestland.

The SFI program is a comprehensive system of principles, objectives, performance measures and indicators that integrates

the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees for useful wood and paper products with the long-term protection of wildlife and aquatic habitat, plants, soil, water and air quality. The SFI program continues to prove every day that responsible environmental management and sound business principles can co-exist for the betterment of our society.

Working at the local level, SFI Implementation Committees (SICs) continue to perform critical outreach and education activities necessary to promote sustainable forestry and the SFI Standard to a wide range of stakeholders — family forest owners, independent loggers, government land managers, legislators, conservationists, and environmental leaders. SICs are now operating in 38 states and 5 Canadian provinces.

The Vermont SIC promoted the SFI program at statewide Annual Teachers convention held October 19-20 at the Robert Miller Expo Center, Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex Junction. SFI and supporters took advantage of the opportunity to improve awareness and understanding about the importance of sustainable forestry to the economy, the environment, and to rural traditions and rural culture among a very important audience—teachers.



On October 21st, VWA sponsored the first "Walk in the Forest" workshop for teachers. More than a dozen teachers attended the half-day event hosted by Mike and Vivien Fritz at their Tree Farm in Marshfield. VWA would like to thank the Fritz's for their gracious hospitality, Ginger Anderson and Rich Carbonetti for teaching this workshop and also our many friends who supported the effort, including the Society of American Foresters, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Project Learning Tree, Northern Woodlands, Associated Industries of Vermont, and VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Photos by Rebecca McCarty.



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In Vermont, call Will Adams, SFI Coordinator, at Associated Industries of Vermont, 802-223-3441.





The Vermont Woodlands Association presents another opportunity to purchase a VWA-branded wood product. For 2005, we are offering a wooden trivet with a laser cut maple leaf and VWA name around the edge for a minimum donation of \$50. Maple Landmark, Inc. in Middlebury, VT, will make the trivets.

New Member Application and/or Donation Form (Renewal notices are sent by mail to current members)

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)

Land owners and managers

- 0-100 acres.....\$35
- 101-200 acres.....\$45
- 201-500 acres.....\$55
- 501-1,000 acres.....\$65
- 1,001-5000 acres.....\$100
- Over 5,000 acres.....\$250

Foresters and loggers:

- Individuals.....\$50
- Firms and crews.....\$100

Wood products companies

- Less than 10 employees.....\$50
- More than 10 employees.....\$250

Equipment suppliers:

- All suppliers.....\$100

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Forester _____ Trivet (\$50 donation)

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