



Membership Newsletter

Vol. 11, No. 2

June 2015

News from VWA

2015 Annual Meeting - Celebrating 100 years of service to woodland owners *by Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director*

On March 28, VWA held its 2015 Annual Meeting at Vermont Tech in Randolph for an audience of more than one hundred attendees. And, based on all comments, the day was a big success with dynamic, informative, and entertaining speakers. For those who missed the program, a synopsis of the day's events follows.

John Buck, Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologist, gave an excellent review of the Landowners Wildlife Habitat Guide, an excellent and comprehensive look at what a landowner can do to improve wildlife habitat. This publication may be purchased for \$12 on the Department's website at http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Bookstore_index2.cfm. The Peter Upton Wildlife Fund has also grown, enabling VWA to offer more wildlife focused programs.



Michael Snyder, FPR Commissioner and Steve Sinclair, FPR State Forester tag-teamed a briefing on forestry-related legislation in the state house and senate, and updates on all the other on-going work underway in the Department (see details in Legislative Update on Page 11.)

Chestnut Regional Science Coordinator Kendra Gurney gave an excellent review of the progress TACF has achieved in the resurrection and restoration of the American chestnut.

Mary Sisock, UVM Extension Forester, gave a sobering talk on the problem of generational change in the US, how it will affect landowners and forests, and how difficult it is for families to sit down and address the issues. VWA is holding three sessions this spring for Succession Planning with a follow-up in the fall.



The third annual VWA forest essay awards were announced. Sarah Eustis won the competition and read her essay. Second place was Sofia Gulick, and Abigale Lamberton took third. Thanks went out to the French Foundation for their support. You may read the winning essays at <http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/news.asp>

During a brief business meeting, last year's minutes, the annual report and the slate of directors proposed by the nominating committee were all accepted. Your Executive Director gave

Meeting... continued on pg 11

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News from VT Fish & Wildlife Department

Maestro's Rival the Wood Thrush, by John Buck, Wildlife Biologist

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Sitting on a stone wall while taking a break from a hike through my woodlot, I heard a distinctive flute-like call like that of Vermont's state bird the Hermit Thrush. But wait, as I listened more closely there was something subtly different about this song. It seemed to have more definition to its flute-like phrases and sung at more of a dynamic my musical friends would label as forte than its ethereal relative the Hermit Thrush. Then I heard it again, more distinctly this time and sure enough, a male wood thrush was making his rounds through the understory and mid-canopy of my woods.



Finally, I caught a glimpse of this plump, robin-sized thrush. Noting its very spotted breast, white eye ring, and a somewhat uniform brown coloring I easily distinguished it from its forestland cousin, the Hermit Thrush. Hermits have a rusty tail that really sets it apart from other thrushes. Feeling very fortunate to have seen this bird I continued to sit and think about the plight of this woodland thrush.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports the North American Wood Thrush popula-

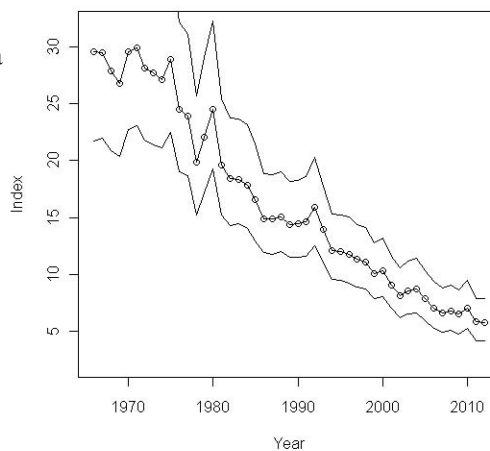
tion has decreased by 50% since the inception of the national breeding bird survey in 1966. In Vermont this translates to an average decline of 3.9% annually. That annual rate of decline increases to 5.4% when considering the most recent 10 years. The reasons aren't entirely certain, and they are

likely to be intertwined, but loss of forestland from human development is the prime suspect, not only in North American forests but in their wintering forest habitat of Central America.

Wood Thrushes are found throughout the state but are more highly concentrated in the forest habitat of Vermont's foothills and lower slopes of the Green Mountains. They prefer to live in the

mature deciduous forest with interspersed conifers such as pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock. An understory rich with plant diversity, leaf litter, and fertile soils make for ideal nesting and feeding habitat. It is a species that does not compete well at the forest edge, or where forests are very young in size due to high predation rates from edge

species such as raccoons and blue jays. Nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds is also thought to be a significant loss of Wood Thrush productivity where forests are frag-



Maestro, continued on pg 8

President's Column

A Pleasant Day... by Put Blodgett

Three years ago VWA started the Forestry Essay contest for high school students. The idea was to have students think more deeply about the trees around them and their effect on Vermont's economy, environment and sense of place. The French Foundation has been very generous in providing the funding for the attractive three prizes of 1st-\$1000, 2nd-\$750, 3rd-\$500.

This year an entire 28-member class from Vermont Academy submitted essays. The class was taught by Nate Williams, a graduate of Castleton State College and a science teacher and Director of Outdoor Programs at Vermont Academy. Many of his students were from abroad and their perspective on the forest made for some interesting reading. None of them finished in the top three, but the VWA board was so impressed by their efforts that it decided to award each one a paperback copy of Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac.

Having graduated from the local high school in Bradford in a class of 46—the largest graduating class up to that time, I was interested to visit a prep school and volunteered to deliver the books.

Vermont Academy was founded in 1876 by the Vermont Baptist Convention in Saxons River and was associated with that denomination for its first sixty years. Originally coeducational, it became an all boys school in 1931 but returned to coeducational in 1975. Today it has about 240 students in grades 9-12—about 60% boys and 40% girls. Tuition is \$50,000 for boarding students and \$30,000 for day students. A little daunting when considering the cost of the college years to follow.

Nate wanted to do a class woods tour with this landowner as did Christine Armiger, a teacher of an Advanced Placement Environ-

mental Class and also the Campus Sustainability Coordinator.

The woods were close enough to the classrooms so that, even in a 50-minute class, we could see a variety of wood issues—trees reaching for sunlight along a roadway with heavy branching on the roadside and scarcely any next to the thick woods; and in the woods, tall straight trees striving to overtop their neighbors; a classic example of a weeviled white pine in the open behind a dorm and the resulting lateral bending upward to replace it; 2" white pine annual growth in the open versus 1.5" in heavy shade; shade-tolerant hemlock re-generation beneath hemlocks and no pine regeneration under mature white pines; invasive honeysuckle, barberry and euonymus (burning bush); badly weeviled mature pasture pine that were first to seed into an old field; a dead elm with larvae tracks still evident on the trunk; red oak and white oak and why the latter was used for ship building but not the former.

During lunch Christine, Nate, and I observed a boy and girl at the next table—he looking at his laptop, she fingering her I-phone—immersed in their respective electronic gadgets and not with each other or their surroundings.

Nate takes a small group hiking on the Long Trail before school starts in the fall, but he says it is getting increasingly difficult to interest students in the out-of-doors. Richard Louv makes the same point in his recent book, "Last Child in the Woods," which resulted in the No Child Left Inside movement.

The environmental movement started with the youth in schools. VWA has made a small step with the Forestry Essay Contest, but there is a tremendous amount of work still to do!



JON GILBERT FOX

Put Blodgett

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News from UVM Extension Forestry

Protect the Place You Love: Buy It Where You Burn It

By Mollie Klepack, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, UVM Extension

As the summer camping season gets started, take a moment to think about the places that you love and how you can help to protect them. Chances are that trees make up a key component of these places. A spreading sugar maple, a towering ash; trees are vital to many of the places iconic to Vermont and New England.

Unfortunately, many of these trees are at risk from invasive tree pests, such as the emerald ash borer (EAB). This insect is native to Asia and feeds on ash trees, killing nearly 100% of the trees they attack. Since its detection in 2002, we have watched the emerald ash borer relentlessly march its way into at least twenty five US states and two Canadian provinces. Far too often this pest's march has looked more like a hop, skip, and a jump as evidenced by its detection in Boulder County Colorado, over 600 miles from the nearest known infestation in north eastern Kansas. Research has clearly shown that this unnatural dispersal pattern is due to humans aiding the pest's spread, largely through the transportation of firewood.

Unfortunately, the emerald ash borer is not the only tree-killing pest that can be spread in firewood. The Asian longhorned beetle feeds on over twelve different kinds of trees, including sugar maples, and can be easily moved in firewood by an unwitting camper.

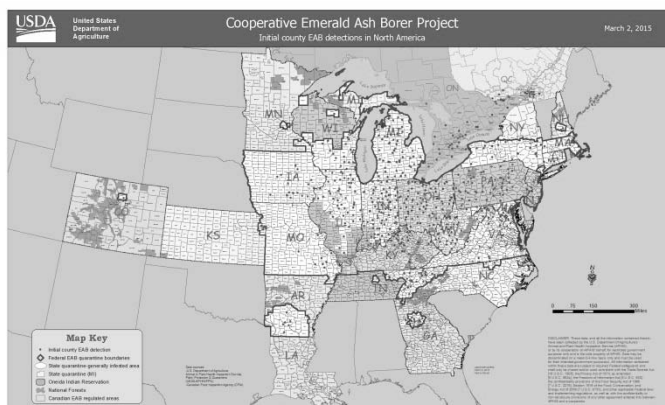
But you can help to protect the places that you love from these tree-killing pests! Buy and burn only locally harvested firewood and stop giving these pests a free ride!

The rallying cry to not move firewood has been building throughout the US. There is a national Don't Move Firewood partnership that works tirelessly to spread the word. The ethic around firewood transportation has been steadily changing, but there are still people to be reached.

This spring, the rallying cry is building stronger in Vermont as Firewood Awareness Week was hosted May 17th through the 23rd by UVM Extension; Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Foods, and Markets; Green Mountain National Forest; and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The goals of the week were to raise awareness of the risks of moving firewood; to feature the social, economic, environmental, and personal impacts of invasive pests; and to educate the public about the upcoming state quarantine regulating the movement of firewood into Vermont.

Firewood Awareness Week focused on two types of locations that are highly likely to be exposed to potentially infested firewood and places heavily visited by people that may be bringing firewood into Vermont: campgrounds and rest areas. At four-

teen state and federal campgrounds around Vermont, threatened species (such as sugar maples, ash, and birch) were "tagged" with orange flagging tape. These tags create a graphic representation of the great number of trees which could be infested and killed by invasive tree pests.



Signs were also posted with information about how we can all help protect those trees by only buying and burning local firewood.

In addition to campgrounds, rest areas are also considered to be potential portals to infestation. To draw attention to this, campaign staff hosted "rest area blitzes" on May 22nd at four highly trafficked rest areas around Vermont. As visitors travel for the start of the summer camping season, they were greeted at these rest areas with information, activities, and staff to educate them about good firewood etiquette. Tree tagging also took place at all the rest areas in Vermont and remain up through Labor Day Weekend.

So as you kick off your summer, keep an eye out for tagged trees and commit to protecting the places you love by buying and burning only locally harvested firewood!

News from Vermont Audubon

Species Spotlight – the Wood Thrush

By Steve Hagenbuch, Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont

Springtime in the forests of Vermont is marked by the unfurling of new leaves, colorful displays of ephemeral wildflowers and the return of migrating songbirds. Among the latter, the flute-like “ee-oh-lay” song of the wood thrush (*Hylotrichia mustelina*) resounding from the deep woods is a sound like no other. Although this bird species remains a common summer resident of Vermont’s hardwood forests, its population has declined nearly 40% range-wide over the past 40 years. For this reason the wood thrush is a focus of a variety of conservation programs, including Audubon Vermont’s Forest Bird Initiative, and is listed as a Vermont Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Forest landowners can play an important role in stabilizing this population decline, or even reverse it, by understanding the habitat needs of wood thrush and planning and implementing forest management that supports these needs.

Size Matters –

The wood thrush is often described as an “area-sensitive” or “interior forest” species. Essentially, this means that they achieve higher nesting success as forest patch size increases. Throughout the majority of Vermont, where the landscape is dominated by forest cover, an unfragmented forested area of 200 acres or more provides high breeding habitat suitability. Although smaller forest fragments may support nesting wood thrush, the likelihood of successfully having their young survive is greatly diminished due to increased nest predation and possible nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds.

Getting the “low down” on Thrushes –

Mature deciduous or mixed forests are classic wood thrush breeding habitat. But it’s not necessarily the mature trees themselves that offer the most important habitat features. More often than not wood thrushes nest and forage within 15 feet of the forest

floor. Nests are usually built in the lower limbs of a sapling or understory shrub, 10-15 feet above the ground. Likewise; beetles, ants, millipedes, etc. in the leaf litter of the forest floor serve as the wood thrush’s main course during the spring and early summer months. Light timber harvesting and timber stand improvement can enhance nesting habitat by opening small gaps in the forest canopy thereby promoting the growth of understory vegetation. Too much sunlight however can dry out the leaf litter, decreasing prey availability.

Fueling Up

By the middle of August most wood thrushes have completed their nesting for the year. Juveniles and adults are beginning to switch to a diet that includes more fruits, such as elderberries and cherries that will help give them the energy needed to migrate as far away as Central America. Many of the fruit producing trees and shrubs grow in places that receive full sunlight, such as small forest openings. Recent studies have shown the importance of regenerating patch cuts and small clearcuts (<10 acres) to wood thrushes during the post-breeding period.

A Forest of Many Uses

Intentionally planning for the habitat needs of wood thrush and other songbirds does not need to come at the expense of planning for other forest ownership objectives. Fortunately bird habitat management can be very complementary to timber management, maple sugaring, and even thinking about the daunting topic of climate change.

If you’d like to learn more about integrating habitat for wood thrush into your forest management plans please contact Steve Hagenbuch at Audubon Vermont; 802-233-0332 or email shagenbuch@audubon.org.





News from Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks & Rec

What Is Forest Fragmentation and Why Is It A Problem?

By Michael Snyder, VT FPR Commissioner

Forest fragmentation is the breaking of large, contiguous, forested areas into smaller pieces of forest; typically these pieces are separated by roads, agriculture, utility corridors, subdivisions, or other human development. It usually occurs incrementally, beginning with cleared patches here and there – think Swiss cheese – within an otherwise unbroken expanse of tree cover.

Over time, those non-forest patches tend to multiply and expand until eventually the forest is reduced to scattered, disconnected forest islands. The surrounding non-forest lands and land uses seriously threaten the health, function, and value of the remaining forest.

Any large-scale canopy disturbance affects a forest, but it is important to distinguish between a forest fragmented by human infrastructure development and a forest of mixed ages and varied canopy closure that results from good forest management. The former is typically much more damaging to forest health and habitat quality, usually with permanent negative effects, whereas the latter may cause only temporary change in the forest.

The effects of fragmentation are well documented in all forested regions of the planet. In general, by reducing forest health and degrading habitat, fragmentation leads to loss of biodiversity, increases in invasive plants, pests, and pathogens, and reduction in water quality. These wide-ranging effects all stem from two basic problems: fragmentation increases isolation between forest communities and it increases so-called edge effects.

When a forest becomes isolated, the movement of plants and animals is inhibited. This restricts breeding and gene flow and results in long-term population decline. Fragmentation is a threat to natural resilience, and connectivity of forest habitats may be a key component of forest adaptation and response to climate change.

Edge effects are even more complicated. They alter growing conditions within the interior of forests through drastic changes in temperature, moisture, light, and wind. Put simply, the environment of the adjacent non-forest land determines the environment of the forest fragment, particularly on its edges.

Fragmentation, continued on pg 7



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Fragmentation, *continued from pg 6*

This triggers a cascade of ill effects on the health, growth, and survivability of trees, flowers, ferns, and lichens and an array of secondary effects on the animals that depend on them. Ecologists suggest that true interior forest conditions – you know, where it’s hard to hear cars and lawnmowers and it remains cool, shady, and downright damp even during a three-week drought – only occur at least 200-300 feet inside the non-forest edge.

And so a circular forest island in a sea of non-forest would have to be more than 14 acres in size to include just one acre of such interior forest condition. Put differently, reports indicate that the negative habitat effects of each residential building pocket within a forest radiate outward, affecting up to 30 additional acres with increased disturbance, predation, and competition from



Photo by Blake Gardner (www.ablakegardner.com)

edge-dwellers. This may not matter to generalist species like deer, raccoons, and blue jays, which may actually benefit from fragmentation, but it is hell on interior-dependent species like salamanders, goshawks, bats, and flying squirrels. The smaller the remnant the greater the influence of external factors and edge effects. A wise person once likened it to ice cubes: the smaller ones melt faster.

Moreover, as forest fragments become ever smaller, practicing forestry in them becomes operationally impractical, economically nonviable, and culturally unacceptable. In

turn, we lose the corresponding and important contributions that forestry makes to our economy and culture. The result is a rapid acceleration of further fragmentation and then permanent loss.

Here is the tricky part: when fragmentation occurs in a heavily forested region like ours, at least in the early going we are still left with a largely pleasant condition. We sense that we still have lots of woods where we can work, hunt, ski, and walk the dogs. And to most of us, this seems good enough, even when the perforations expand and those woods are the scattered remains of a fragmented forest.

But is it enough? At some point when the larger forest is highly fragmented, the size, integrity, and connectivity of those wooded remnants deteriorate beyond recovery and they are no longer adequate for native forest plants and wildlife. After all, when the Swiss cheese has more holes than cheese, the whole sandwich suffers.

About the Author:

Michael Snyder, a forester, is Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. This article is reprinted with the permission of

Northern Woodlands magazine. A not for profit organization, Northern Woodlands seeks to advance a culture of forest stewardship in the northeast and to increase understanding of and appreciation for the natural wonders, economic productivity, and ecological integrity of the region’s forests. Learn more at www.northernwoodlands.org.

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

SAVE THE DATE

TIES TO THE LAND:
Succession Planning
Workshops
June 2, Fairlee, VT

Rattlesnakes in VT
Doug Blodgett
July 16, 2015 - 6:30PM
USFS, Rutland

Woodland Retreat:
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Workshop
Sept. 19-20, 2015
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Forest Festival
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MBR National Park
Woodstock, VT

Visit our website often
for updates on 2015
Walk in the Woods and
Wildlife programs.

Maestro, *continued from pg. 2*

mented by roads and fields. Wood Thrush nests are similar in size, shape, and construction to their robin cousin's but with more leaf litter and less mud. Construction begins in early May with young fledged and out of the nest by late June/early July.

The Wood Thrush does not linger into Vermont's autumn as do Robins and Hermit Thrushes so it is essential they get their nesting accomplished in the brief time they are here.

Vermonters are very fortunate to live where the deciduous forest is still relatively connected (i.e. unfragmented). This is due, in part, to the long-term ownership commitment of private forestland owners who make up the majority of the landownership in Vermont. Management practices landowners can perform to help provide habitat for the Wood Thrush and other forest birds are those that ensure a variety of tree and shrub species throughout their deciduous forest types. Longer rotations that incorporate single and small group selections are most favorable.

Harvests that occur during frozen ground conditions are best for soil and water protection and will not disturb nesting birds. Perhaps the single most important contribution forest landowners can make is to retain its contiguous nature and its connectedness

with neighboring forest landowners. This is also the most difficult as it involves personal financial needs as well as parameters that are outside of one's ability to control such as property, estate, and timber taxation laws.

As I continue my walk I am charmed by the persistent flute-like performance of the resident Wood Thrush. Hearing this rival maestro to the Hermit Thrush inspires me to think even more intently about my own long-term ownership strategies and my fervent hope that my grandchildren will experience the wonder of the Wood Thrush as I do.



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Forestry and the Arts

Shedding Light on the Working Forest

SHEDDING LIGHT is a traveling exhibition of paintings and poems celebrating the forest landscape and the people who have honed skills into a livelihood there.

THE ARTISTS

Kathleen Kolb, an award-winning landscape painter, has been portraying the life of the working forest for over twenty years. Vermont Life magazine featured an article about her paintings of the logging industry in their winter 2009-2010 issue and her work for Art of Action focused on the leading edge of the working forest in Vermont. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Verandah Porche has created told poems and shared narrative with elders, factory workers, literacy students, patients, and others, during residencies across New England. She holds an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Marlboro College.

Mark O'Maley, lighting designer, is the Production Manager of the Vermont Governors Institute on the Arts and an Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance at the University of Colorado at Boulder. O'Maley holds an MFA from Goddard College.

SHEDDING LIGHT will include

- approximately thirty paintings and drawings, done by Kolb over a twenty year span, illuminating the wooded landscape and people working in the forest
- poems and narratives by Porche drawn from the voices of participants in forest work
- projections by O'Maley of visual art and text to share the work in public spaces
- a full color catalog including visual art, poems, narratives and essays by an art critic and a forestry professional
- a website documenting the project
- optional outreach potential: workshops, woodland hikes, and public discussion

THE NEED: Despite public concern about climate change and sustainability, many people are not aware of what actual work goes on in the forest surrounding them. Though the public relies on a range of people who work in the forest, their skills are rarely presented and their voices are absent from conversations about interdependence and care of the planet. Vital ecosystem services provided by the forest are often not well understood.


PROJECT GOALS AND OUTCOMES: SHEDDING LIGHT will


- portray the unseen work of loggers, foresters, mill operators, artisans and others, through the eyes of an excellent artist
- offer workers a chance to describe and reflect on their experience, with the support of a seasoned writer
- instill respect and appreciation through the presentation of eloquent narratives

Shedding Light, continued on pg 10

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excerpt from **WOMAN AT THE MILL** by Verandah Porche a poem commissioned by a neighbor

Slim and limber, she eases through the forest. With what transpires between earth and sun, she is at home, essential as xylem or pheromone.

Trees here know her eye can size up timber. A log's heft, the blade's keen serration: what profitable cut comes next?

Methodical and quick—she has julienned hemlocks like carrot sticks, sliced rock maple, and slawed log-truckers who ogled her with a grating grin.

Eli, she quipped to her swift apprentice, Open the best face first.

Now the sawmill she manned is in other hands. Dryad in denim, she strolls through dusk.

Spring takes heart. Stars, stone walls, hearth and kin can reassemble. She reckons her future on all ten fingers, never stumped.

Shedding Light, *continued from pg. 9*

- educate residents and tourists about the working woodlands, in both human industry and ecosystem services
- provide opportunities for the public to reflect on their own relationship to the working forest

SHEDDING LIGHT will open at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center in VT in October 2015. It will then tour to the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury, VT. The Vermont Folk Life Center, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, and Northern Woodlands magazine are working with the artists to realize the project. This versatile traveling exhibition can be adapted for museums and galleries, as well as public places.

Kolb and Porche are no strangers in the forest. For more than forty years, they each have lived surrounded by Vermont forest: they have gathered firewood, foraged, hiked and snowshoed across the land around their homes in Lincoln and Guilford. Kolb has made maple syrup on a commercial scale and created furniture from wood harvested on the property where she first came to love the ephemeral spring wildflowers she paints. Porche has managed a unique forest plan, studying and tending her acreage in concert with a forester, a sculptor, and a logger. She writes poetry with students, calling close attention to the vitality of the landscape and the metaphors available to the attentive walker.

If you would like information on how to contribute to **SHEDDING LIGHT**, please visit the Vermont Folklife website or contact: kathleenkolb@gmavt.net 802-453-3592, 802-377-0270
www.kathleenkolb.com
verandahporche@gmail.com 802-254-2442
<http://verandahporche.com/>

Legislative Update: *From FP&R Presentation at VWA Annual Meeting*

The Department has a new website! The following reports can be found online at <http://fpr.vermont.gov/> Search by report name.

- Voluntary Harvest Guidelines- Expected to be out by this summer in a pocket guide.
- Harvest Assessment- has been reviewed and approved.
- Forest Fragmentation Report- to be delivered by Comm. Snyder to the legislature on April 16. Good forestry is not a fragmenting act!
- Environmentally Sensitive Treatment Area (ESTA) cap has been removed.
- Current Use Management Plan extensions beyond 1 April will not be granted.

Legislation

- H5 Endangered and Threatened: omnibus bill, no threats at present.
- H35/S49 Water Quality: At the time of this writing, there is no agreement between House and Senate.
- H40: Renewable Energy- wood is considered "renewable."
- H202: Helps oversized forestry equipment on the highway.
- H236: Bans neonicotinoid pesticides because of impact to bees but those are also the only ones used on EAB
- H272 Current Use: LUCT is 10% of FMV, and there's an easy-out. At time of writing there is no agreement between House and Senate.
- H330 Landowner Liability: protects landowners from "water hazards" lawsuits.
- H355 Forester Licensing: FPR is in favor. Testimony is possible the second week of April. However, bill did not make cross-over so will be considered in 2016 session.
- H372 Carbon Offset: state to conduct feasibility study on complex rules.
- H443 Class IV Roads: unusual rules on landowner responsibility for maintenance.
- On the Horizon: More tinkering with Current Use regarding posting, LUCT, etc.... the ongoing saga.

Meeting... continued from pg. 1

an annual progress report on VWA and the Tree Farm committee. The report shows expanded partnerships, programs, and growth for VWA during the last year.



Unbeknownst to Put Blodgett, the VT Wood Manufacturers Association selected him for their 2014 Friend of the Industry Award and

VWMA board member David Hurwitz was in attendance to present the plaque in honor of Put's tireless efforts for the entire forestry and wood products industry.

News from the Tree Farm program: Richard Carbonetti, a tree farm forester and member of the Woodland Committee of the American Forest Foundation gave a short and very interesting presentation on the work of the committee. Silver signs were presented to Tree Farmers for 25 years of stewardship in the program. Receiving awards were Steven Springer, John Morton, Anne Wade, Russell Cook, Glen Rogers, and Lake Mitchell Trout Club. Paul Harwood was acknowledged both in Vermont, Regionally, and **NATIONALLY**, as the Tree Farm Inspector of the Year! This is the second year in a row Vermont has won the national award. Jared Nunery, Orleans County Forester, was recognized as the 2015 Vermont Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.



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The keynote Speaker for the meeting was Charlie Cogbill, Vermont Plant Ecologist. He gave a great presentation on the nature of, and the history of change in the original forests of Vermont.



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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

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..... \$100

- VWA Accredited 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:
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