

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact:  
Kathleen Wanner  
Vermont Woodlands Association  
802-747-7900

Sabina Haskell  
Agency of Natural Resources  
802-241-1562

## **A walk in the woods ... one county at a time**

*Celebrate Vermont's Forestry Centennial & 100 years of woodlands stewardship*

WATERBURY –Vermont Woodlands Association and the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation are inviting you to take a 12-month Centennial excursion into Vermont's forests, one county at a time.

Kicking off the year-long celebration is a walk in Wilmarth Woods at the base of Snake Mountain in Addison, Saturday, June 20, from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Meet county forester Chris Olson and learn about the Indiana bat, one of two federally endangered animals found in Vermont. Vermont's Champlain Valley serves as an important expanse of their summer habitat. Because the Champlain Valley is 94 percent privately owned, it is crucial for the survival of this species that landowners understand its habitat requirements and associated forest management strategies.

The monthly walks in the woods will be led by county foresters and will showcase the wonders and enjoyment of Vermont's lush forests. All are free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy walking shoes or boots.

“What better way to celebrate Vermont's forestry traditions than to reacquaint old friends and greet newcomers to our state's rich heritage,” said Commissioner Jason Gibbs.

Next month, the walk will be in Vernon, July 16, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Black Gum Swamps, J. Maynard Miller Memorial Town Forest. This is a unique forest that supports a fairly extensive system of several swamps that include black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). This species is not rare 400 miles to the south, but in Vermont it is a fluke from the past when the climate was warmer. There are some trees here that are purported to be over 400 years old.

Check Vermont Woodlands Association Web site for a full line-up of walks:  
[www.vermontwoodlands.org/EventsWorkshopsandTours.html](http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/EventsWorkshopsandTours.html).