

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Front cover photos: Audubon VT (left), Tom Thompson (right top),
VWA (right bottom)

Back cover photos: VWA

AN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS

We welcome your submissions for the VWA and Tree Farm newsletter. If you have a story to tell or news of interest to share with other landowners, please send along so we may consider for future editions. We can accept articles, photos, or news tidbits via email to info@vermontwoodlands.org.

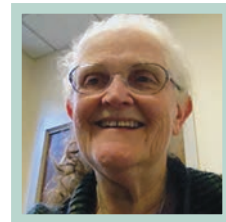
Mission Statements:

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. VWA objectives are to communicate the benefits of working forests, recognize exemplary actions of woodland owners and managers, provide educational opportunities, and represent its membership before governmental bodies.

The **American Tree Farm System**, first organized in 1941, is the Nation's oldest certifier of privately owned forestland. Tree Farm members share a unique commitment to protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat, conserving soil, and providing recreation; and at the same time producing wood products on a sustainable basis. The Vermont Woodlands Association strives to educate, train, and support private forest landowners in sound management practices concerning wildlife, water, wood, and recreation. We do this by managing and enhancing the American Tree Farm System® Program in Vermont.



NEWS FROM VWA



Retrospection

by Kathleen Wanner, *Executive Director*

It seems a long time ago that I sat in my new office reflecting on the year ahead – 2020! It was to be a banner year of reflection and new beginnings. As I sit here today, I am eager to see 2020 in the rearview mirror. It's been a year like no other, not just for VWA but for all citizens of the world.

First, I must express my gratitude to all VWA members and Tree Farmers. You have helped us maintain our mission of providing education and advocacy through your ongoing membership, contributions, participation, and stewardship of the forested landscape. You get the credit for the vitality and success of VWA. You, our members and Tree Farmers, make all the difference. I'd also like to thank the board of directors who have steadfastly kept us on track, despite a new and ever-changing environment.

Looking ahead, I anticipate that much of what we learned this year will serve us well. Although we had eagerly awaited the opportunity to gather again in small groups across the landscape, it appears that our hopes will not be realized. There is great joy in "seeing" people via Zoom, and even though I

am hungry for a return to 3-D living, we must continue to maintain our safety protocols and to function in a virtual world. We've done well in converting many of our workshops to online learning and hope to increase the capacity so there is something for everyone in the year ahead.

There has, however, been one overarching message for me in 2020, and that is the need for planning. VWA has experienced loss this year as have I and my family. I know we are not alone, and my heart goes out to those who share the burden of grieving in isolation. Loss has been the driving force for me to finally understand that transition is inevitable and planning is a part of transition. True story – the VWA board began pushing me on transition planning months ago, and although I do intend to retire in 2024, it felt very premature. Today, I am grateful for that push. I realize that planning is a process and one that does not happen overnight. If you attended the annual meeting in November, you got to meet Kate and Stephanie from Morning Ag Clips. They are part of VWA's and my transition plan. If not for early action by the board, I would

have missed the meeting and had no one to back me up. Did I mention how grateful I am for the push to begin transition planning?

Planning is critical not only to my work life, which has an expiration date, but also to my life in general, which does not have an expiration date. As I've heard my friend and colleague, Mary Sisock, say many times, "Failing to plan is planning to fail," and while this has a harsh ring, it's nonetheless true. I have a very new appreciation for action, not thinking about action. I'm on a mission to make sure that when I do see 2020 in the rearview mirror, I will see more than the challenges and losses. I will see that hope and resilience have risen above adversity, and 2020 has brought new beginnings.

Let me take this opportunity to again thank you for your unflagging support and to remind you that if you are still thinking about legacy planning, there's help and hope! Call me to ask about VWA services that may be available to help you.

Above all, stay safe and well in the months and year ahead.

VWA's Annual Meeting was held Thursday, November 5.

Check the Events page on the website for the minutes and a recording of the meeting.



Healthy Vermont Forests is a vision of the Vermont Woodlands Association. Given all the pressures on forests, healthy forests are not accidental and are the result of conscious and committed decisions by owners, users, and managers.

Forests are complex adaptive systems and are an amalgamation of interacting parts and functions and constantly

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Forest Health Investment

by Allan Thompson

adapting to the endless and unexpected disturbances that forests encounter. Humans are a part of this complex system, interacting within and between parts of the forest. Therefore, the definition of a healthy forest doesn't exclude social components like wood product utilization. At risk of stating the obvious, we have a role and responsibility to the health of Vermont Forests for the well-being of our forests and ourselves.

Value and health are often synonymous with each other, and forest managers might code switch depending on the audience. A healthy forest tree, for

example, will be better formed and longer lived and will yield a better value once cut and sold than an unhealthy tree. Value is an important consideration for forest managers and not because we're greedy. Value gives options and allows managers to plan harvests that can satisfy more objectives during or after harvests. Primary among those objectives is to retain a healthy forest: one that ensures the adaptive ability for that forest to regenerate and self-organize.

I'm writing all this to encourage you and your forest managers to invest in the health of your forest. Conduct timber stand improvement (TSI) activities, remove non-native invasive plants, install water bars and appropriate stream crossings. Promote species and age-class diversity within and between forest stands that create resilient forests. There is no better time than now to invest in the health of your forest.

The concept isn't crazy: invest a little now, return a lot more later than what would be returned if the investment didn't occur. Classic examples of TSI can improve growing conditions of trees by thinning, crop tree release, regeneration establishment or overstory release; improve the percentage of quality of forest products by removing low quality trees so your forest has a higher percentage of quality trees that



will yield higher rates of return per unit of labor during subsequent harvests; improve quality of individual trees by pruning lower branches off; improve health of the forest by removing invasive plants or trees with disease that will favor more desirable regeneration; protect soil and water quality by installing water bars and adequate stream crossings on access routes and insuring quality access for you and future harvest activities.

Forest management can occur at many levels and scales, and we typically rely on conventional timber harvests to accomplish these tasks and leave our forests in an optimal state; trails buttoned up, forest composition perfect, and adequate growing space guaranteed. While this shouldn't change, the truth is, at this scale, there will be gaps, and the reliance on our trusted practitioners to accomplish all we could gain is not realistic. Overtime, waterbars may fail, beech and striped maple will sprout, invasive plants are all but inevitable, and natural agents will continue to erode the hoped-for conditions: stable reliable access, quality regeneration, and optimal growth rates. We should expect and operate as if it is the norm that between timber harvests, we're investing in these things.

In my Tree Farm, I'm accomplishing many of these tasks. The tools of choice have evolved over the years. I go between loppers and chainsaw depending on the task. If it's a striped maple and beech day, I wander through the woods with loppers to find saplings in need of overstory or side release and drop striped maple and beech saplings. Other days the chainsaw comes out to tackle larger stems. Most stems get dropped. I save hardwoods larger than 6" for the firewood cutting days. Smaller than that I drop and leave as large and as whole as I can for both deer

cover and browse protection. Larger low-quality softwoods get girdled. My firewood removal has evolved from hand hauling to sled hauling then to ATV and wagon hauling to now a tractor-winch set up. The evolution is not uncommon to those committed to the activity.

Dealing with water issues has gone through a similar evolution. Dropping poles and brush by hand in wet areas and installing water bars with a hoe and shovel evolved to renting excavators and then to hiring excavators. A bit more stone will be needed, but now the tractor can do some of it, and I'm pretty well set up for winter and dry summer operations.

The access is good, the quality and regeneration have and will continue to improve, and soil and water quality will be protected. It hasn't been cheap. Labor of love and money, for sure, and I still have work to do. But I'm investing in the future for myself and my family and for the land.

Our vision is health, and our mission is to educate and advocate for the practices of productive stewardship, use, and enjoyment of Vermont's woodlands. Healthy forests are not accidental. They are certainly a result of intentional consequential actions, and all of us will be better off if we invest in them. VWA is here to help.

Information and Guidance to a Successful Timber Harvest



Timber harvests come with a lot of questions - some answers you need to know, some you don't. Check out the **Landowner Guides to a Successful Timber Harvest** at VTCutwithConfidence.com where you can download the series or individual booklets.



NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

Barberry, Part 2: Common Barberry

by Elizabeth Spinney, Invasive Plant Coordinator, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

On early winter walks, when the snow still glistens in the morning sunlight, bright colors tend to catch my eye. I occasionally come across caning plants with bright red berries – barberry. In September, I wrote about Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), but that plant has a close relative that is also invasive: Common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*).

Common barberry is a member of the barberry family (Berberidaceae), which includes native species like Blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) and mandrake (*Podophyllum peltatum*), but there are no native members of the *Berberis* genus in New England. Species within the barberry family are perennial herbs or woody shrubs, all of which have alternately arranged

leaves. The woody shrub species in this family have spines located at nodes along the stems.

Common barberry originates from Eurasia, and it was used in European farmstead traditions, which is how it ended up in North America. This plant easily escaped cultivation and naturalized but was later discovered to be an alternate host of cereal stem rust (*Puccinia graminis*). Because these plants supported the growth and spread of a fungal pathogen that impacts cereal crops and was directly tied to failing wheat crops in the United States, an elimination program was established as early as the 18th century. While widespread eradication efforts did not hit stride until the 1900s (an amazingly long timeline!), the combined efforts



Common barberry in June 2020. Flower clusters hang below the canes alongside dried persistent fruit from previous autumn. (Photo credit: FPR staff)

led to a decline in the presence of this plant on the landscape and also to the introduction of another invasive plant (Japanese barberry), which was touted as a rust-resistant replacement for Common barberry.

There are persisting populations of Common barberry across the United States, and in the Northeast, it can be found near areas of human development as well as in forests, forest edges, meadows, and fields. While not as common on the Vermont landscape as Japanese barberry, Common barberry is actively managed for on state land by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, including a population in the Northeast Kingdom that was scattered over 40 acres.

Leaves of Common barberry are oval, small (~1" wide and ~2" long), with serrated margins, and grouped in

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Japanese Barberry (FPR staff photo) single thorns vs. Common barberry single or triple thorns (Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org).

clusters along each cane. The yellow flowers and subsequent red oblong fruit also hang in clusters below the cane (dangling racemes). A good way to tell Common barberry from Japanese barberry is to compare leaves.

Common barberry leaves will have serrations along the edge, and Japanese barberry leaf edges will be smooth. You can also compare thorns. Common barberry thorns are singly or triply born, while Japanese barberry have single thorns.

This plant is on Vermont's Noxious Weed List, and it is listed on prohibited species lists across New England. The fall is a good time to scout for Common barberry in the woods as the plant will hold onto its leaves into the fall, with blushing on the leaves and bright red clusters of berries. University of New Hampshire Extension also offers a great list of non-invasive alternative shrubs that perform similar structural or aesthetic functions in a landscaped setting.

If you'd like to add your Barberry observations to a growing Citizen Science dataset, check out Mapping for Healthy Forests, Vermont.

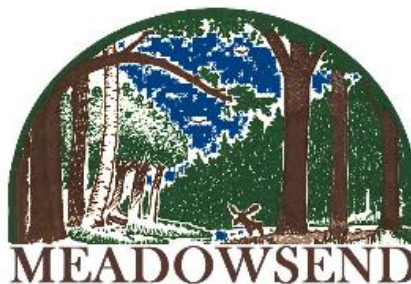
To learn more about Common barberry, check out www.VTinvasives.org and these additional resources:

- USDA Plants Database Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- New Hampshire Department of Agriculture
- Midwest Invasive Species Information Network
- Bugwood Invasive Plant Atlas
- US Forest Service

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NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

Forest Management with Birds in Mind – Part 2

by **Steve Hagenbuch**, *Forest Conservation Manager and Senior Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont*

The September 2020 VWA newsletter provided an introduction to managing forests with birds in mind. Presented here are some specific silvicultural options for integrating timber and songbird habitat management.

Habitat Enhancement of Mature Forest

If you happen to own forestland, there's a pretty good chance that all or a significant proportion of it could be considered "mature." For our purposes, we will consider this to include forest stands that generally have the majority of trees in the poletimber and larger size classes and have a canopy closure of greater than 50%. Many of these stands also may be overstocked. This leaves a wide range of variability in vegetative structure and tree species composition, but, from a bird perspective, it allows us to focus on a particular suite of species, including Black-throated Blue Warbler, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager. Due to a variety of factors, these forests are very often structurally simple. They lack a well-developed understory and midstory. Dead and down wood also may be in low abundance along with few large diameter snags or cavity trees. This is a forest that is a good candidate for habitat enhancement, so what could we do?



Let's start with, you guessed it, a look at the landscape in which our property sits. For this exercise, let's assume that there's a good mix of habitat conditions within the approximately 2,500 acres surrounding our parcel, with permanent openings, wetlands, regenerating forest, and mature forest all present. Based on our landscape assessment, we determine there's already a sufficient amount of early-successional habitat. The greatest opportunity on our property may be to enhance nesting habitat for the mature forest suite of birds. Our habitat management objectives include increasing the amount of regeneration and understory shrubs (approx. 1-5 feet in height), which will, in time, equate to a more well-developed midstory (approx. 6-30 feet in height). Doing so

will potentially benefit Black-throated Blue Warbler, Wood Thrush, American Redstart, and others by providing increased opportunities for nesting and foraging. We also want to increase the amount of down and dead woody material along with planning for the future of large diameter snags and cavity trees. It would be ideal if we could also integrate all of these habitat considerations with management for forest products. Too much to ask for? Absolutely not!

A great tool to assist in addressing all of these considerations is the document, "Silviculture with Birds in Mind," an outcome of the partnership between Audubon Vermont and Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation on the award-winning

Foresters for the Birds project. This document provides silvicultural options for integrating timber and songbird habitat management and is an accepted reference for the creation of Use Value Appraisal management plans in VT. Depending on the specific metrics of our stand, there are a variety of silvicultural options presented to us, including crop tree release with canopy gap formation, variable-retention thinning, expanding gap group shelterwood, and mixed intermediate treatments. Based on our hypothetical stand conditions, however, we'll settle on small-group and single-tree selection. Remember that our goal is to enhance habitat for mature forest nesting birds. Our small groups will be just that, ideally between 1/10th and ½ acre. The idea is to open the canopy just enough to establish or release regeneration. Across the stand(s), we are looking to maintain canopy closure preferably greater than 70-80% on average. Research has shown that even birds that are sensitive to disturbance often will tolerate this lighter approach to forest management in a primarily forested landscape. No large patch cuts here; we'll reserve that for the next scenario. To assist in achieving our objectives of dead woody material, we may recruit larger diameter snags and cavity trees by girdling some poor stem quality overstory trees and increase down and dead inputs by leaving the lowest quality cut stems in the woods. Leaving the tops of trees in the woods



also may help establish regeneration in areas where deer browse is significant barrier to doing so.

A Case for Early-Successional Habitat

Let's now focus our attention on a scenario where the creation of early-successional habitat does fit with the landscape context. The working definition of early-successional habitat that we'll use is regenerating forest covering a contiguous area of at least 1 acre. The majority of the trees are seedlings and saplings, although some residual poletimber or sawtimber may exist. Canopy closure is generally less than 30%.

One of the more desirable traits of early-successional habitat is a high density of seedlings, saplings, and other woody-stemmed vegetation, such as raspberry or blackberry. The key is low, dense structure in order to provide nesting cover for Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and a host of others. Beyond this, the retention of snags can provide important singing perches and nesting cavities for Northern Flicker. Slash piles from the harvest that created the condition are often used by White-throated Sparrow as a nest site location.

Just as there was for mature forest, there are a variety of silvicultural options available for creating early-successional conditions. Going back to our guide, "Silviculture with Birds in Mind," we are presented with options of group selections between 1 and 2 acres, or patch cuts, as well as shelterwood with reserves. There are also other forms of silviculture that will create the desired conditions, such as larger clearcuts and seed tree cuts; however, their application should be thought out carefully (as should any forest management activities). Beyond the ecological

considerations, there is the societal acceptance issue to think about as well.

Making it Happen

In many situations, habitat enhancement or creation will yield a forest product, and, if nothing else, pay for itself. There are times, however, when the costs to implement habitat management projects exceeds the revenue it produces. Fortunately, there are payment programs available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that can be applied for to help cover the cost of getting good work accomplished. Many are familiar with Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funds for the creation or maintenance of early-successional habitat, but there are also practices available for payment designed to enhance mature forest habitat thanks to a partnership among NRCS, Audubon, and the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Audubon's Healthy Forests Initiative is a source of information on forest songbird habitat management, and biologists on staff may be able to visit your property to provide technical assistance specific to your situation. For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Audubon Vermont at 802-434-3068, email vermont@audubon.org, or visit the Healthy Forests Initiative website at <https://vt.audubon.org/conservation/working-lands/forest-bird-initiative-1>





NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Member Profile - Stonehenge in Vermont: Jock Irons

Active VWA members and Tree Farmers come in all shapes and sizes, just like their woods. For this issue, we peek in on VWA member and Tree Farmer Jock Irons.

Jock was born and raised in Bennington, where he stayed until he finished college. Then he moved to Alaska, where he stayed until moving back to Vermont in 2014. Jock now lives on the 41-acre property in Woodford with his mom, who is 93. The property originally belonged to friends of Jock's father's parents. The friends had no children of their own so they willed the property to whichever Irons boy (of Jock's father or uncles) stayed in Bennington; Jock's father,

John, was the one who stayed and inherited the original 20 acres. At the same time, the Scott family had just completed a clearcut of their holdings in Woodford and Glastenbury, and they were making plans to transfer the land to the Forest Service to become part of the National Forest System. Before the sale was completed, the Forest Service contacted owners of adjoining lands to tell them to get their boundaries straight before everything was finalized. Jock's father was also able to purchase an additional 20 acres, which, Jock noted, did not straighten the boundaries ("they're worse than they were!") but allowed John to acquire some additional acreage.

Jock discussed the house, nicknamed Stonehenge, and told about how it came into being. When he was still in Alaska, he was snowshoeing with his father, and Jock told John he wanted to build his retirement home on the family property. He described the house as "homegrown": all of the 2x4s and 2x6s were rough-cut, milled, and dried on the land from spruce on the property. All of the kitchen cabinets are black cherry from the property. All of the stones on the exterior were collected by John for over 40 years, and the siding above the stone is board-and-batten spruce. John and Jock did the framing, and then Jock's brother, a carpenter, joined the work party to help finish the house.

John had enrolled the property in the Tree Farm program in 1987, but his certification lapsed. Jock was contacted around 2015 or 2016 and asked if he still wanted the property in Tree Farm. Kyle Mason, then Forester for Bennington County (who has since moved to Rutland County) "roped" Jock into participating in the Tree Farm Committee and writing an article about his property for the Tree Farm newsletter.

"I became active in Tree Farm, and by my membership in Tree Farm, I learned about VWA and joined VWA after I joined Tree Farm, which is, apparently, the direction it goes most of the time. Very few VWA members subsequently join Tree Farm."



Stonehenge in bloom.



Cabin built by John and Jock from spruce thinned from the spruce grove.

The property is enrolled in Vermont's Current Use program. The original management plan was done by a forester with Jock's dad in 2012, and John's original primary goal was harvesting saw timber with a secondary goal of managing wildlife. Since Jock has taken ownership, he has reversed those goals: he is managing for wildlife with timber harvest as a secondary goal.

"I have found, from all the years cutting firewood and tending the forest with my dad, I have developed a great appreciation for beautiful trees that will make beautiful sawlogs. And, so, I manage that way: I manage for straight trees with few limbs and a good species for sale to a mill. However, I don't intend to actually cut them and make them into sawlogs; they're sort of an aesthetic in themselves to me."

Jock has seven stands on the property, four of which are enrolled in UVA. Two of those stands – one in UVA and one not in UVA – have plantation Norway Spruce that were planted during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Jock's father pruned them with a handsaw up 35 feet. Both the stand of Norway Spruce in UVA as well as the adjacent stand of mixed conifer/northern hardwood are overstocked and require thinning because they are nearly inaccessible to a skidder. Jock talked with a couple of loggers, including a horse logger, but none were

interested in the project, leaving Jock to tackle the thinning this winter. Jock's forester has done the marking, so Jock plans to drop the trees and then leave them to rot. He talked about girdling some of the trees and leaving them standing as wildlife trees while felling the others and leaving them to rot on the forest floor, which is better for the forest.

Jock's timber stand improvement (TSI) activities also include a technique called crop tree release, in which the forest landowner identifies the crop tree species of choice and then the individual trees of the tree species that are to be prioritized. Then the forest landowner looks at each individual tree's canopy and removes neighboring trees that are competing with the priority trees for light. Crop tree release improves the forest by weeding out the less desirable specimens.

Another management activity that is taking Jock's time is working on invasives. He has identified 17 species of invasives on the property, and Jock says he has most of them under control. A neighbor pointed out buckthorn,



Spruce grove.

which, Jock said, "was the first I knew about invasives." Jock's father didn't know about invasives at all and never talked about it.

Jock is a peer landowner with the Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers program and has visited with three other landowners to talk about their properties. In addition, Jock invited Steve Hagenbuch from Vermont Audubon to his property to do a bird habitat assessment on Jock's land. Jock said his understory is a little bit lacking, but most of the assessment is predicated on a harvest.

PROFILE *continued on pg. 12*



Crop tree release.

PROFILE, *continued from pg. 11*

“If you want to manage for wildlife, you’ve got to cut trees. And it’s something that a lot of people don’t understand. And I want to have as much diversity on my land as possible.”

Jock said the issue that is most important to him is invasive control – he said most forest landowners probably do not know they have an invasive problem, and they probably do. He flags a place where he finds invasives so that he can go back each year to check for new plants or a small piece of root that he left in the ground. The three that are not under control are buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, and garlic mustard. He has pulled out plants, treated the areas, and now holds constant watch to catch new seedlings. He has burned garlic mustard plants and cut down buckthorn stems,

but he knows they are tenacious. “Because so much of the Vermont forest is privately owned, that’s the only way that we’re going to get a handle on them. We’ll never eradicate them, but we can at least get a handle on it and slow things down a bit.”

Jock hosted a virtual tour of his forest back in October [insert link]. Inadvertently he had been prepping for it for years, taking walks and accumulating photos of different aspects of his property. He said he had been on a Zoom call with the VWA Board of Directors and Tree Farm Committee members, and people were bemoaning the fact that they could not do walks in the woods. Jock offered up a virtual walk, not really knowing what he was offering and others not knowing what

they would be attending, but the group decided to give it a go. He shared a PowerPoint of photos and talked about the history of the property. People were interested in his work on invasives and vernal pools.

When asked about his time as a member of VWA, Jock noted a lot of overlap among Tree Farm, VWA, and VT Coverts. He said there is a good variety of events each year, and he has enjoyed participating in the past and looks forward to being able to participate in the future.

“Every forest in Vermont is different. Even a forest that’s only a mile from here is going to be different. I learn more every time I walk a new property.”

AN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS

We welcome your submissions for the VWA and Tree Farm newsletter. If you have a story to tell or news of interest to share with other landowners, please send along so we may consider for future editions.

We can accept articles, photos, or news tidbits via email to info@vermontwoodlands.org.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FOREST?

Work with a consulting forester to manage as best as possible in these difficult times. With the complexity of the problems facing us, it is imperative to have professional help, just as we do for our medical, dental, legal and accounting needs. Also, your consulting forester’s assistance is needed to make sure forest management is allowed if you should ever decide to put your property into a conservation easement.

HOW CAN YOU HELP VWA?

Introduce a friend, neighbor, or family member to VWA. Membership really matters!

Attend a workshop or walk in the woods to learn from and network with others.

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Pioneering Tree Farmers

Once upon a time, “Pioneer” was the pathway to becoming a Tree Farmer. Today, Pioneer status can still serve as an introductory level of participation in the program, but it is not a mandatory starting point. The Pioneer category allows interested landowners who may not quite meet AFF Standards of Sustainability but do meet eligibility requirements to join the American Tree Farm System. The goal of Pioneer status is to provide landowners an opportunity to work toward being a Certified Tree Farmer, whether new to the program or just needing a management plan update.

If you are a non-industrial private forestland owner (NIPF) with 10 acres or more of contiguous forest, you are eligible to be a Tree Farmer or to

enter the program as a Pioneer. It’s really simple. There’s a form called the “004” that would need the first page filled out. This is basic contact information for you and basic property information. You can get help from Kathleen at the office, a tree farm committee member, or a consulting forester. Once you are enrolled as a Pioneer, you’ll have up to 5 years to complete a management plan that meets the Standards of Sustainability in order to become certified.

The Tree Farm Committee has a management plan template that we will share with you so you can familiarize yourself with the components of a management plan. We will facilitate an introduction to a tree farmer in your area who will be happy to meet with

you and take you on a guided tour of his or her tree farm.

The American Tree Farm System has provided a grant to the VT Tree Farm Program to assist in our Pioneering Tree Farm effort. Because of this funding, we are able to waive the annual \$30 administrative fee for the first year. This fee helps to cover the cost of administering the program to ensure its integrity and compliance with the American Tree Farm System and third party certification.

The Vermont Tree Farm Committee and our Vermont Tree Farmers are proud of their stewardship. Please consider joining the nearly 500 Tree Farmers who share a common love for and connection to the land.

Welcome New Tree Farmers

1757 John Stone, Hill Limited Partnership, Greensboro
1758 John Zaber & Farley Brown, Craftsbury Common
1759 Pioneer Tree Farm, Andrew Balser, Moretown
1760 Bruce & Doreen Jones, Rochester



Thanks to our Tree Farm Inspectors

Thank you to our Tree Farm Inspectors whose service to the program in completing inspections helps to maintain our integrity and keeps us growing.

Charlie Hancock
John McClain
Len Miraldi
Jared Nunery



Welcome New VWA Members

Alice Allen, *E. Ryegate, VT*
Andrew Balser, *Moretown, VT*
Russ Barnes, *Essex Jct, VT*
Joseph & Linda Camardo, *New York, NY*
Collette Duerre, *New York, NY*
Paul Epsom, *Clarks Summit, PA*
Jeff Forward, *Richmond, VT*
Paul & Diana Frederick, *Hardwick, VT*

Robert Giffen, *Fair Haven, VT*
Beth Gutwin, *Williston, VT*
Larry Kingman, *Whitingham, VT*
Daniel Levinthal, *W. Berlin, VT*
Brian McDonald, *Wolcott, VT*
Laura Meyer, *Williston, VT*
Kim Morton, *San Francisco, CA*
Jared Nunery, *Craftsbury Common, VT*

Alex Rodriguez, *Brownington, VT*
Elizabeth Thompson, *Jericho, VT*
Joseph Twombly, *Randolph, VT*
Victor Wallis, *Somerville, MA*
Timothy Wheeler, *Bennington, VT*
Robert Williams, *Poultney, VT*

LEGACY PLANNING

Woodland Legacy Planning – Trusts

by Mary Sisock

Since May, the Vermont Woodlands Association has been presenting a series of webinars on woodland legacy planning. Over the course of this webinar series, the presentations have spanned from an overview of the steps of legacy planning, to family meetings and governance, to conservation easements, to our most recent topic covered on the webinar on November 10: trusts. Presenter Attorney Sarah Tischler gave a comprehensive overview of trusts.

Trusts are one of several legal entities that woodland owners can use to plan for the future of their land. Basically, a trust is a written set of directions that reflects the wishes of

the person creating the trust. There is also someone, called a trustee, who is named by the person creating the trust, and whose job it is to carry out the directions of the trust. Once a trust is formed, assets must be put into it or titled in the name of the trust. And finally, the directions governing the trust name beneficiaries – people, groups, or even pets who benefit from the assets in the trust.

There are many ‘types’ of trusts specifically designed to meet certain conditions or outcomes. However, all these types of trusts fall into one of two classes: revocable or irrevocable trusts. Both are established during lifetime of the trustor – the person establishing

the trust. Revocable trusts are those in which the directions governing the trust can be changed until the person forming the trust dies. Also, the assets within the trust can be withdrawn, the beneficiaries changed, or the entire thing can be revoked at the discretion of the trustor. Another common characteristic of a revocable trust is that the person establishing the trust is also usually named as the trustee. This results in the assets title in the trust remaining in the full control of the person creating the trust. Irrevocable trusts, as the name suggests, have opposite characteristics. Once established, the directions cannot be changed, the person creating the trust is usually not the trustee, and assets in the trust are out of control of the person who created the trust. Although both revocable and irrevocable trusts can be used by woodland owners to leave a land legacy to their heirs, revocable trusts are used more commonly when the primary concern is to have a specific vision or set of wishes carried forward. Conversely, irrevocable trusts are usually chosen when, in addition to having wishes carried out, there are gift or estate tax concerns. For woodland owners wanting to keep their woodland intact and in their family, it is essential that they make a plan to ensure their wishes become reality.

Why not a will instead of a trust? In that they both govern what happens to your belongings once you are gone, they are similar. However,

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trusts have an important feature that appeals to many people – they avoid the need for probate. Trusts are also effective during your lifetime, through incapacity, and upon and after your death. The phrase “after your death” is important for distinguishing trusts from wills. Wills identify to whom you want your assets to go, and you can even leave instructions regarding the assets. However, your beneficiaries are under no obligation to follow those instructions. A trustee, on the other hand, has a legal obligation to follow the directions of the trust. For example, if you want your land to be managed for certain objectives and have it in a trust, it would continue to be managed for those objectives as long as you specified that in the directions of the trust. So, if you are

really interested in leaving a legacy instead of just assets, a trust is a much more binding legal entity.

One thing Attorney Tischler particularly emphasized was that it is not enough just to sign documents that form a trust. For a trust to be an effective legacy planning tool, it must be funded. That is, assets must be titled to the trust or, for assets such as life insurance, the trust must be designated as the beneficiary.

The final word of the webinar was that no matter which legal form – a will, trust, or limited liability company (LLC) – you use, it will be effective only if you have a clear idea of your goals and vision for the future.

Check the Events page on the VWA website for upcoming events as well as recordings of previously held webinars. If you have an idea for a future webinar, email Kathleen at kmwanner@comcast.net.



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*TSP: NRCS Technical Service Provider
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VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

The Root of it All

by Kathy Beland, Co-chair VT Tree Farm Committee and Inspector Trainer

My almost 90-year-old Dad grew up in Maryland as a dairy farmer, and he always has been interested in plants and trees and planting different species to enjoy. As a child, my Sunday afternoons were frequently spent in the Catoctin Mountains hiking trails or in the woods just down the road. We planted seedlings eventually used as Christmas trees, and even one year got a live tree we planted after Christmas. That one didn't go too well when the ants inside the root ball woke up and invaded my sister's toy kitchen. One of Dad's favorite trees planted was a white oak seedling from the Wye Oak, the Maryland State Tree, which my grandfather mowed down on at least three different occasions. The roots, however, were strong enough, and, eventually, it was taller than the lawn mower and thrived.

Many of my visits to him now involve visiting his old haunts, fueled by special memories. Recently my sister, I, and my Dad went to Maryland, a short

drive, to see places that used to house a family store and the house where generations of our family, including me, grew up. What he wanted to see the most, though, was that Wye Oak tree. The 7-acre property retained after our dairy farm was sold has since been subdivided with way too many houses, too close together, with a landscape so altered that it was too difficult to locate my backyard playground.

Not long after the houses were built, someone wanted to cut down the tree. Somehow my Dad got wind of it, and he produced the certificate from the State of Maryland saying it was the progeny of the Wye Oak. On that day earlier this year, he wanted to see if it was still there. Sure enough, there it grew on the other side of the fence from our old home and barns, with a large tree house ensconced in its branches. He was quite happy to see it had survived.

On my most recent trip, he had come across a typewritten paper outlining some genealogical history of the "Williams" side of the family. This started a conversation regarding his great grandfather, Marion Williams, who fought in the Civil War and was wounded seven times at Gaines' Mill but stayed in the service for the duration, even as an ambulance driver during the battle of Gettysburg. Our roots ran deeper on many branches of our family tree, back to the Revolution and before. In this conversation, he recalled his grandmother (Marion's daughter) going to visit family just

outside Gettysburg with his Dad driving. They would often visit a small stone or brick church in the country, with a nearby cemetery where his ancestors were buried. It is interesting how we recover our memories with images and sounds and smells, and, like him, I tend to connect trees to events and good moments in my life. He remembered these trips because there was a gigantic (in a small boy's eyes) shellbark hickory at this country church. He said his father and grandmother would visit with family, and they would turn him loose and sometimes he collected the nuts from the shellbark hickory tree. This launched a discussion of the differences between shellbark and shagbark hickory. And then he says, "I wonder if that tree is still there?" So, being tech savvy (at least on a small scale), I said, "let's search historic churches outside Gettysburg and find out!"

We found a few possibilities, using street views to look for shellbark hickories in the churchyards, and, though we saw no hickory trees, we settled on a few spots to visit the next afternoon. The first place we pulled into was the Upper Marsh Creek Independent Brethren Church, organized in 1805, with the stone church built from 1830 to 1833. I wandered around and only saw a hickory tree in the woods behind the church, but my dad was convinced this was the place. We confirmed that when the first headstone in the cemetery was his great-grandfather's! So, even



My dad, Ted Young, holding a giant puffball on the "Great Shellbark Adventure."

though we found the right location, still there were no shellbark hickories, and we decided that it was probably long gone. Then we decided to check out the next location back a long country lane with a very old cemetery at the end. As we pulled in to park, there were at least a couple of shellbark hickory trees. We found two nuts that had not been chewed to bits or full of holes. We also happened across two giant puffball mushrooms, along a row of, you guessed it, hickory trees (of the shagbark variety!)

My dad still plants trees in his yard full of oaks, has a sugar maple and a paper birch from my place in Vermont, and orders seedlings every year. He nurtures them in pots until they are big enough to plant in the ground, and, this spring, we planted a shellbark hickory. He will never taste the nuts from that

tree, but I have to applaud the hope he has in its future. It is a hope that when you have set its roots in the ground, you can almost feel the shade it offers, breathe the air under its branches, see the animals using its fruits, and enjoy its profile on the landscape. For me, and I think for my Dad, trees are the root of it all – a hope in the future – and somehow always seem to be part of the adventures my sister and I embark upon with him.

I see that kind of hope in Tree Farmers and woodland owners in Vermont and across the country. It is a like-minded hope of stewardship in the longevity of growing something that likely will outlive us all. Taking care of a forest, or a tree in your yard, your backyard garden, or field of milkweed for monarchs, are all stewardship great and small. It is a legacy mindset, of doing the best you

can for the landscape while you are here to take care of it. There are many forest landowners in Vermont who manage their forestland and have that mindset. Most of them, however, are not Tree Farmers, but maybe they should be! For many, that may be because their plans meet the Use Value guidelines but not necessarily Tree Farm. Maybe the program was not explained to them well enough, or they just could not justify the effort. The Vermont Tree Farm committee is offering a way through the Pioneer Tree Farm status to eventually be certified in the American Tree Farm System. The adjacent ad outlines this process and offers direction for YOU to become a Tree Farmer. Talk to your forester or the county forester, contact the office at 802-747-7900, or email info@vermontwoodlands.org to finish planting your woodland roots in Vermont Tree Farm.



Are you a VWA member who is NOT a tree farmer? Now is a great time to enroll.

Do you:

- Have a desire to leave the land better than you found it
- Own 10 or more forested acres
- Have a management plan, or wish to have one
- Have a stewardship ethic that makes you proud

Tree Farm may be for you. Join now as a “Pioneer” while you prepare for full certification. VWA will waive the \$30 annual administrative fee for the coming year.

If your plan already meets the Tree Farm standard, you may be eligible to enroll as a certified Tree Farm – and we’ll still waive the fee. Call the office to get information on how to enroll or check with your forester.

SYNERGY – by definition:
the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

SYNERGY – by example:
VT WOODLANDS AND
VT TREE FARM

Are you a Tree Farmer who is NOT a VWA member? Now is a great time to join.

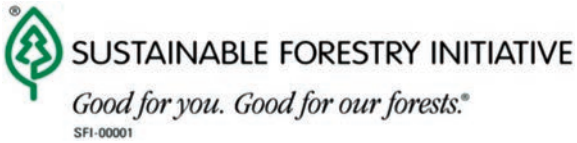
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- Have a desire to leave the land better than you found it
- Wish to learn more about sound forest management
- Want to be part of an organization that advocates for private landowners
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NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE



Covid-19 impacts on SFI

by **Ed Larson** *SFI VT Coordinator* and **Bill Sayre**, *Chair SFI VT*

This pandemic continues affecting some aspects of SFI. From the perspective of the State Implementation Committee (SIC), loggers' training is a key component of SFI as program participants need certified trained professional logging contractors to maintain their SFI status. Vermont's LEAP program has been postponed until such time as it is considered safe. This fall, only two workshops on the same topic (Forest Operations Supervisor – Supervising for Safety) were offered. In the meantime, SFI has allowed for some lapse in maintaining certification because of these cancellations due to Covid-19.

We are already seeing some interesting changes in how loggers' training is delivered. We are seeing some creative techniques around the country. Some states are using webinars for many topics, and some in-person training programs have re-opened by employing Department of Health "slow-the-spread" guidance. Because many components of a quality loggers' training program require hands-on training, not everything can be delivered remotely through a webinar platform. This could be an advantage for loggers as they may find a huge variety of online courses available to them. They may find new interesting topics and have the ability to more quickly maintain their certification. The challenge for participants and SICs will be to evaluate the quality of

these opportunities to assure loggers are getting the quality they deserve. SFI VT encourages loggers seeking CE credits to explore these opportunities and bring them to us or LEAP to be evaluated as eligible for credits in Vermont.

New SFI Website and Domain Name – forests.org

On the heels of an extensive public comment process as SFI USA and Canada revamp SFI Standards, a new revamped website was rolled out in late September. Quoting their press release:

"SFI's new website focuses on how SFI and the SFI community are working collaboratively on important global issues such as climate change, responsible procurement of forest products, species recovery, sustainable communities, and more. We are helping educators engage youth in environmental education that uses trees and forests as windows onto the world and are leveraging our network to build a diverse and resilient workforce in the forest and conservation sectors thanks to Project Learning Tree and Project Learning Tree Canada."

By elevating why our work matters relevant to key sustainability challenges, this site will strengthen our ability to achieve our mission of advancing sustainability through forest-

focused collaborations. It will help us better support our network, engage new audiences, and enhance our ability to provide better choices for the planet."



SFI E-Summit: Growing Solutions

This year, SFI hosted a one-day E-Summit on October 22 to bring together network partners and participants to learn about the work SFI is doing across its four pillars to achieve its mission of advancing sustainability through forest-focused collaborations. The day-long session had several speakers presenting updates on activities and work of SFI across the US and Canada.

SFI President and CEO, Kathy Abusow, provided opening remarks: SFI has been a leader in sustainable forest management through our standards for 25 years. But, in recent years, SFI has built on its successes and evolved into a solutions-oriented sustainability organization. She added the following facts:

- SFI Certified land is now 375 million acres strong across North America.
- 71% of consumers surveyed

say that wood products from sustainably managed forests are a good choice for combating climate change.

- 90% of the people who have heard of SFI, trust SFI.

Community – Consumer awareness and expectations that the goods and services they consume also protect the environment have doubled during the last 2 years. In an effort to reach a broader cross-section of consumers to explain the benefits of sustainable forest management, SFI has brought on marketing and branding consultants to help with the SFI narrative. We learned how language makes a difference in reaching more consumers by using words and phrases that are easier to understand. For example, to promote a forest products solution to a low carbon economy, the phrase “Grow-Use-Repeat” seems to work well with most consumers.

Certification, especially with a third-party verification, is also gaining traction among consumers. We learned that, in the USA, buying behaviors have been actively changing, especially in the last 5 years. Currently 41% of consumers want to be seen as buying environmentally safe products, and over 25% know a business from which they purposely did or did not purchase due to their perception of the environmental image of the company.

Standards – A section of the summit was devoted to providing an update on the SFI Standards revision process now underway. The public comment period ended June 30, and the Board of Directors is working with advisors and staff on addressing comments and looking at changes. It will be another year or more before they expect the revisions to be fully complete and adopted. This was

a fairly comprehensive rewrite of the Standards, adding several new components, including climate-smart forestry, biological diversity, logger training, and a more rigorous set of protocols to verify sustainability of managed forests. Moving from “knowledge to practice” is the general theme motivating these new more stringent standards.

We were presented with an update on the Conservation efforts of SFI. Described as “Moving from limiting risk to advancing positive outcomes,” SFI has been funding several projects and research activities to understand and improve our conservation efforts. Projects include how different types of logging impact climate change, protecting water quality and quantity through best management practices, and managing for birds and other wildlife habitat needs and biological diversity.

The education pillar was presented in a couple of ways. Both the flagship program Project Learning Tree (PLT) and “Green Jobs” were featured. Esther Cowles is the Education Director for SFI; many may remember when she was the PLT Coordinator in New Hampshire. Esther now runs the entire program and provided an

update. She claimed that in 2019, PLT reached 3 million students through 14,000 educators with more than 750 workshops. Esther described the new pocket guide funded in part by International Paper for our very young forest lovers, ages 3-6, called “Seeds to Trees.” Esther also described a new publication called “Learn About Forests” for ages 6-9 and a new roll-out of a program about Green Jobs, which includes an online course and a quiz to gauge specific interests and skills to find a good fit, targeting students aged 12-25. In addition to International Paper, other partners included Weyerhaeuser, Society of American Foresters (SAF), and US Forest Service.

We learned about the efforts in Canada to educate youth and introduce them to careers in and around the forests. The Green Jobs program is called “Building Bridges to the Next Generation of Forest and Conservation Leaders.” In 2019, this program helped to place Canadian youth in 3800 green jobs. The panelists described the partnership with the Canadian Parks Council, working with Indigenous tribes and their use of internships and mentorships.

Stay Safe everyone!



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Loggers and Lagers: How Healthy Forests Help Brew a Better Pint

by Christine McGowan, Forest Products Program Director at Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund



Johannes von Trapp, the youngest of the famed Trapp Family Singers and a forest ecologist, says a spring he discovered on the property in the early 1970s was the inspiration for the von Trapp brewery. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

The story of von Trapp Brewing begins 50 years ago in the forested hills behind the resort, where a natural spring bubbles clear water up to the surface of the earth. The spring is fed by moisture that condenses on the forest canopy, gathering on leaves, twigs, and pine needles until eventually it drops to the ground into the fertile soil and filters down to the aquifer below.

“It’s a lovely spring,” said Johannes von Trapp, president of Trapp Family Lodge, a forest ecologist, and the youngest of the famed Trapp Family Singers. “It was the inspiration for the brewery.”
[insert vontrapp main]

Von Trapp discovered the spring in the early 1970s when the reservoir that supplied Trapp Family Lodge with water ran dry. After lugging three truckloads

of 40-gallon milk cans from the local creek back up to the lodge, von Trapp dug out an 1890s U.S. Geological Survey topographical map and located a spring up in the hills above the lodge. Fresh from Yale School of Forestry, von Trapp put on his hiking boots and headed out into the forest to find a better solution. He ended



The Trapp Family Lodge property encompasses 2,600 acres—70 acres of which are developed, 130 of which are in pasture, and 2,400 that remain forested. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

up with not only a new spring to feed the lodge but also the idea for a brewery.

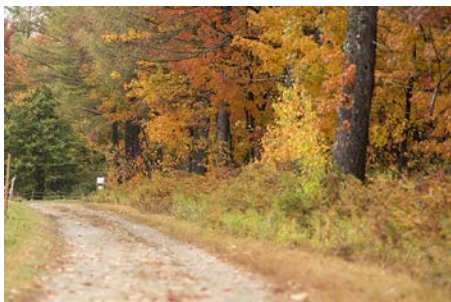
“Natural spring water is particularly favorable for brewing lager,” said von Trapp, noting that many of the early breweries in Austria, where his family originated, were located near mountain springs. “The pH balance and trace minerals found in spring water are important to the taste of the beer. It’s something I always wanted to do.”

The quality of the spring water, located a mile and a half from the brewery, and the resulting lager, is very much a product of its environment. Situated deep within 2,400-acres of forested land on the property, the spring is intimately connected to the health of the surrounding forest.

Healthy forests, clean water.

To fully appreciate the relationship between a healthy forest and Vermont’s craft beer industry, von Trapp looks back to the deforestation of Vermont’s landscape in the 1800s, when 80 to 90 percent of Vermont’s forests were cleared for agriculture. “The impact on streamflow was severe,” said von Trapp. “Vermont took a hit, but we learned a lesson.”

Without leaves and branches to intercept and slow the fall of precipitation to the earth, extreme runoff and flash flooding events became more common, and higher elevation soil was washed down the hillsides to permanently reside in Vermont’s rivers and streams as sediment. Without that rich layer of forest humus to collect and retain water, the earth became dry and susceptible to forest fires



The von Trapps maintain more than 100 kilometers of trails on the property for year-round recreation including hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

that scorched more than 20,000 acres in Vermont in the early 1900s.

The forests we see around us in Vermont today are the result of an intentional effort to return pasture land to forest and prevent uncontrolled development. Those revitalization efforts began in the 1920s, eventually leading to the establishment of the Green Mountain National Forest in 1932. However, as von Trapp notes, “the trees that were left were the trees that nobody wanted,” resulting in a “mono-aged” forest of primarily low-grade wood, a challenge for today’s forest products industry.

“Forests that are untouched will change anyway, and not necessarily in the way

you want them to,” said von Trapp. “We can manage the forest to provide the products and environment we want, but we have to do so intelligently.”

So, what does that have to do with craft beer?

Water is the main ingredient in beer. More than 95 percent of beer is water, and more than half of America’s water comes from our forests. In Vermont, where we now have more than 4.5 million acres of forest covering about 75 percent of the state, many of Vermont’s craft brewers point to the quality of their water as a critical ingredient to the taste, mouthfeel, aroma, and color of the final brew. In 2019, the Vermont Brewshed Alliance was formed to “protect the state’s waters where many people enjoy it most—in a pint.” Recognizing that “clean water is integral to the health of people, animals, farms, and forests, and is also the prime ingredient in great tasting beer,” the initiative highlights the importance of clean water in making high-quality beer.

According to an article in *Beer Connoisseur*, different styles of beer originated geographically, depending on how the purity, pH, and trace minerals of local water sources interacted with hops,



Sam von Trapp explores and recreates in the same woods that his father Johannes enjoyed as a child. To ensure that the property and the trails will be “retained forever in their natural forested, scenic, open space, wildlife habitat condition,” Johannes von Trapp donated a 1,100-acre conservation easement to the Stowe Land Trust in 1995. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

yeast, and malt. Today, many brewers around the country can alter municipal water for desired results, but von Trapp Brewery works with the natural composition of their spring, brewing seasonal and year-round lagers, which have won numerous awards in national and international competitions.

Keeping forests as forests.

All told, the Trapp Family Lodge property encompasses 2,600 acres—70 acres of which are developed, 130 of which are in pasture, and 2,400 that remain forested. A beautiful example of how working land can be actively managed to meet a myriad of interconnected objectives, the von Trapps raise Scottish Highland Cattle, produce maple syrup, and maintain more than 100 kilometers of trails on the property for year-round recreation including hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Visitors to the resort in the fall may notice neatly stacked timber piles along Haul Road, the yield from an active harvest that will, in part, supply the lodge with firewood.

And all of this, notes von Trapp, is compatible with protecting the spring that supplies the Bierhall with fresh, mountain water and preserving large tracts of forest for wildlife. Any frequent visitor of the



The von Trapps raise Scottish Highland Cattle and produce maple syrup in addition to thorough trail maintenance. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

LOGGERS *continued on next page*

LOGGERS, *continued from pg. 21*

trails will surely stumble upon deer, bear, fox, or moose at some point. And most will certainly appreciate the protection of the canopy during a soft rain or gentle snowfall. To ensure that the property and the trails will be “retained forever in their natural forested, scenic, open space, wildlife habitat condition,” von Trapp donated a 1,100-acre conservation easement to the Stowe Land Trust in 1995.

Today, von Trapp’s two adult children, Sam and Kristina, along with his four grandchildren, enjoy exploring and recreating in the same woods that Johannes himself enjoyed as a child. While his stewardship of the forest is guided by his training as a forest ecologist and decades of practice, he notes it has always been the place where he finds solace. “These woods are magical,” adds Sam, who has inherited his father’s love for the land, and von Trapp agrees. “The forests are home to birds, insects, and animals; they are a carbon sink; and they provide us with the water we need to live. I get a little claustrophobic most places east of the Mississippi, but here I can breathe.”

About the Vermont Forest Industry Network

Vermont’s forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating. Forest-based recreation adds an additional \$1.9 billion and 10,000 jobs to Vermont’s economy. The Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products, from high-quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets. Learn more or join at www.vsjf.org. For COVID-19 updates from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, please visit <https://fpr.vermont.gov/COVID-19>.

Several generous donors have already contributed to our Memorial and Honorary Funds, naming those who touched their lives in special ways. You may see your loved ones in this list.

Contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received for:

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If you would like to make a donation to the memorial or honorary fund, please make note of whom your donation is for and how you would it invested (Upton Wildlife Endowment, Executive Director Endowment, Bizzozero Tree Farm Fund, or general operating fund).

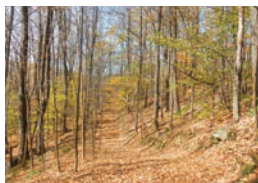
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Vermont Woodlands Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the management, sustainability, perpetuation, and enjoyment of forests through the practice of excellent forestry that employs highly integrated management 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.

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Northern Woodlands



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.

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