

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

Vol. 16, No. 1

March 2020



ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 4, 2020
Vermont Technical College

See page 34 for Agenda and Registration

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Back cover photos: ©Susan C. Morse

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

The View from My Desk: It's Inspirational

by Kathleen Wanner, *Executive Director*

As always, Vermont Woodlands evolves. Your board and director have an ear to the ground and an eye on the world in an effort to fulfill our mission of providing education, outreach, advocacy, and networking. Following the guidance of strategic planning, we sought to strengthen and grow partnerships with like-minded organizations. We challenged ourselves to think outside the box and increase our visibility around the state. We took a bold step in underwriting on VT Public Radio. We continued many efforts that were underway or joined in new ones (see the Annual Report insert in this newsletter). Our objective is always the same – to deliver on our promise to help you leave the land better than you found it by being conscientious and dedicated land stewards.

Throughout the year, I personally had several “aha” moments about my work

for VT Woodlands, VT Tree Farm, and other organizations, moments that have changed the way I see the world and my work. Perhaps the most poignant input came from a Ted Talk called Golden Circles that turns traditional thinking upside down. It follows an idea that was first introduced to me about a decade ago from a strategic marketer that people make decisions based on emotion, not fact. And this notion gets to the heart of Golden Circles. Why do we do what we do? Why are we members of organizations? Why do we make certain purchases and not others? It's based on shared values and beliefs, on that feeling of “rightness.”

This idea that when something feels right, it probably is, changed the way I view my responsibilities in 2020. I'd like this year to be one of forward thinking, based on everything I've learned in the past – perhaps hindsight is 2020 or at

least 2020 is the perfect year to put that learning into action.

VT Woodlands, as with many organizations that rely on membership, sets growth as a number one goal. I am now a naysayer to that idea. Growth is not our goal. Growth is an outcome of being mission-focused, of putting our values and beliefs at the forefront, of being driven by our “why.” And this will guide what we do and how we do it. Our Walk in the Woods will see new energy in 2020, with a reinvigorated education committee that is planning a return to monthly, or more, events. And, Woodland Retreat Weekend is scheduled for a comeback! We've already begun to ramp up our communications with regular enews, facebook posts, and press releases. We are meeting the public wherever possible and looking for cultural change in the way people view forest management.

So, I ask you think about “why” you are a member of VWA and to share that story with us. Part of ramping up our communication involves hearing from you. Send an email to info@vermontwoodlands.org.

And, if you want to listen to the Ted Talk, it's on YouTube (18 minutes or the condensed 5-minute version) and you'll find it with a simple search for Golden Circle Ted Talk.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Supporting Wildlife

by Put Blodgett, *President*

Our woodlands provide food, water and shelter for a fascinating and diverse collection of wildlife—from tiny insects to birds, moose and bears. Dr. Peter Upton, a native Vermonter and former VWA director, was captivated by this

variety and left \$10,000 to VWA for its wildlife programs and member education.

Another wildlife lover and an admirer of Peter, offered a \$25,000 challenge if VWA could raise an equal amount and turn the total into a wildlife endowment in Peter's memory. In 2014 the challenge was more than met with over \$27,000 contributed. The VWA board combined the challenge and the donations with Peter's \$10,000, creating a \$62,000 Peter Upton Memorial Wildlife Endowment.

Since that time additional donations and stock market appreciation have grown the endowment to \$117,877 as of December 31, 2019.

Because wildlife is so important to woodland owners, VWA is enhancing its wildlife programming and offerings. The theme of VWA's annual meeting at Randolph's Vermont Technical College on April 4 will be wildlife. The program is designed by recently-retired Fish and Wildlife Department biologist and current VWA director, John Buck.

There will be more Walks in the Woods to see what others have done.

Paul Harwood, former VWA director and vice-president, UVM forestry lecturer, Orange County Forester and currently a long-time consulting forester, is organizing and hosting the Woodland Retreat Weekend. Wildlife will be a part of the weekend.



Put Blodgett

To support this increased emphasis on wildlife, earnings will be taken from the Peter Upton Wildlife Endowment, but the endowment itself cannot be touched.

The ultimate goal is to build the endowment to a size that will earn \$10,000 EVERY YEAR for VWA wildlife programs, wildlife education and Walks in the Woods.

To continue building this endowment, The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation has offered a \$20,000 challenge if matched by donations from VWA members.

Would you help match this challenge by making a donation to support Vermont's wildlife?

Please use the VWA addressed envelope included in the newsletter and write Upton Wildlife Endowment on the memo line of the check. If you prefer, you may also donate online (select Join Us and Charitable Donations from the drop down menu) via PayPal or call the office to give us your credit card information by phone.

If Bernie can raise millions in his presidential race, then Vermonters should be able to raise thousands to support wildlife.

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Nemesis for Some, Manna for Others: American Red Squirrel

by John Buck, *wildlife biologist*

While conducting my daily vacuum check last week I noticed a very low reading from line #3. A low vacuum reading can be caused by a number of ailments such as a blow-down on the line or frozen sap in the line. However, the weather had been calm and lacking any significant freeze so these two possibilities weren't prime suspects. A third common possibility is damage to the lines by various wildlife species. Moose are known to walk through lines tearing them down as they trudge on. Coyotes and bears have been observed to bite the lines which produces tell-tale puncture holes in the tubing. But for many sugarmakers the number one wildlife culprit is the American red squirrel.

The squirrels don't walk through or bite the lines but, as rodents are prone to do, gnaw on them (and on the taps and fittings too). Damaged and destroyed taps, fittings, and pipeline is of course more than a nuisance. It's lost productivity in both time and sap collection. But in thinking about this in a greater context, red squirrels didn't find their place on the earth just to be a menace to sugarmakers.

In addition to their inherent intrinsic value as a member of the native wildlife community, they are a vital food source for a host of forest carnivores. Some of the common beneficiaries of a red squirrel diet are Cooper's and sharp-shinned Hawks, barred and great-horned owls, grey foxes, bobcats, and fishers to name a few. The species' ability to feed so many other forest

residents is due in large part to their omnivorous diet and ability to seek shelter in a variety of forest types and conditions. The seeds of coniferous trees and a host of mushroom species make up a large part of the squirrel's diet. Squirrels hoard food in close proximity to their nest. As they forage about the forest squirrels perform an important ecological function by distributing seeds and spores throughout the forest. This results in greater reproductive success for the trees and fungi and also helps to fortify the forest's diversity thereby strengthening it against disease and insect damage.

Red squirrel reproduction is another means that keeps the species in good supply. They often have two litters per year, one in the spring and one in late summer, each with 3-5 litter mates. Gestation is a brief 35 days. Following birth the offspring will nurse for about 2 months then forage on their own. They will reach full body size after another 50 days. The following year the now one-year old squirrels will be sexually mature and capable of producing a litter of their own. Mortality is very high during the squirrel's first year of life where about 25% survive to their first birthday. If that benchmark is reached squirrels have a life expectancy of 3-5 years.

Adding to its survivorship abilities are its keen senses of sight and sound as well as their communication skills. I can attest to all of that. One autumn



SQUIRREL, *continued on next page*

SQUIRREL, *continued from pg.5*



afternoon I was watching a red squirrel forage in and out of its brush pile residence from my tree stand. All the while it was racing about it was very audibly alerting the entire forest of my presence. As it sat atop the brush pile, sassing me in no uncertain terms, it suddenly stopped and quickly ducked out of sight just as a barred owl swooped over its former place from an oblique angle. The squirrel survived and the owl went hungry by mere thousandths of a second. Owls are excellent hunters and do so discreetly and under a cloak of absolute silence. Yet, the squirrel escaped!



Success for predator and prey alike depends on the availability of abundant and good quality habitat. Ensuring the forest is diverse with respect to its age, species, and structure (layers of vegetation at different heights from the ground to the top of the canopy). Although a very adaptable species these habitat components are true for the red squirrel too. Now, providing quality habitat near one's home may seem a contradiction because not many people want red squirrels in their homes- another nemesis character. Addressing that is for another story. As for the forest community though, quality habitat not only serves the red squirrels well but it does so too for its predators. Available red squirrels equals a good food source for all the species mentioned before. But even under good habitat conditions the predator-prey relationship is an equilibrium that ebbs and flows.



Two key factors influence the equilibrium. The first is food abundance. Simply put, the greater the food supply, the greater the chances for successful pregnancy and neonatal

which leads to greater numbers of the species. One of the squirrel's most important food groups are seeds and nuts. Many scientific studies have linked squirrel abundance with the previous year's nut and seed output. Owing to the squirrel's diverse food habits a large number of native seed and nut producing species are found in Vermont. Two of them are red spruce and American beech because of their state-wide distribution. These species produce abundant nuts every 3-5 years. This is an average, not a regular cycle and, the spruces and beeches are not synched with one another. This is another advantage for the squirrel because even in poor production years there are still some available nuts. The second factor that significantly influences the number of squirrels that are born each year and survive to their first year is snow depth. Food abundance is important but only as important as it is available.

Squirrels cache their food throughout the year in precise locations not far from their nest. Not a hibernating species they then travel about during the winter to access their caches. What is a significant impediment to survival for many species, snow depth is actually a benefit to the squirrels. To gain access to their food reserves squirrels construct and maintain a network of subnivean (below the snow) tunnels. Hence, the greater the snow depth the less likely to be caught by a predator while accessing food.

Those are factors that forest landowners have little control over. But forest composition is. By managing forestland for the natural diversity it is capable of producing, landowners can influence the predator-prey relationship

to some degree by providing an array of nesting, feeding, and hiding places. For example, cavity trees offer excellent nesting sites for barred and great-horned owls, well maintained, day-lighted forest roads offer excellent hunting lanes for Cooper's hawks and northern goshawks, and downed,

decaying trees provide nesting and hiding habitat for short-tailed weasels. The latter traveling by winter as ermines making use of the subnivian tunnels to hunt squirrels and mice. Enjoying red squirrels while keeping them away from your bird feeders and out of your home is another matter for

another day. Sugarmakers will always need to be vigilant in monitoring lines and squirrel abundance. But lost productivity will be minimized by maintaining a diverse forest where its overall health is sustained by gains in long-term forest resiliency.



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Committed to promoting and strengthening the long-term conservation and management of Vermont's natural resources.

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NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

The Hinesburg Town Forest: Diversity, Inclusion and Demonstration

by Ethan Tapper, *Chittenden County Forester*

Many of the readers of this article have probably heard of the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) in one way or another. This 864-acre parcel is one of Vermont's early town forests, an aggregation of old hill farms acquired by Hinesburg between the 1930's and 1950's. Among other accolades, the HTF's history of excellent management is one of the reasons it was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Former County Forester, and current Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Mike Snyder also credits the HTF as the birthplace of the Foresters for the Birds program, which greatly influences silviculture in Vermont and beyond. More recently, the HTF is known for its recreational offerings, including a multi-use trail network maintained by Fellowship of the Wheel (a chapter of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association) and used by many for mountain biking. The HTF has also been part of the American Tree Farm System since 1990.

I have regarded the HTF as an iconic property since my time at UVM, when I visited it as part of Mike Snyder's Small Woodlot Management Class. After becoming County Forester in 2016 I came to appreciate the work behind the HTF's success: throughout its history it has been thoughtfully managed by the Chittenden County



Forester: George Turner, Bill Hall, then-assistant Chittenden County Forester David Brynn, Mike Snyder, and Keith Thompson, often working with the exceptional now-retired logger Bill Torrey and under the leadership of Hinesburg Town Forest Committee chairs Steve Russell and Pat Mainer. The fact that the HTF is such a wonderful resource is no accident; it is the product of all of these incredible people, laboring for decades to create something truly special.

The HTF has a comprehensive Management Plan, a broad governance document dictating rules, goals,

objectives, and the interactions between different uses and user groups, which was developed over a three-year public process with the help of Snyder and Thompson. However, when I came on the scene we still needed some more detailed information: a Forest Management Plan, with data and "prescriptions"—a clear, science-based roadmap for the management of the HTF's forested stands. We put the project out to bid and hired Harris Roen of Long Meadow Resource Management to do the work. We recognized the opportunity to actively manage the HTF for improved forest health, wildlife habitat, resilience and

other objectives, and so we prescribed some forest management over the next 10 years. The Forest Management Plan was adopted by the Hinesburg Selectboard in 2017.

One of the opportunities offered by HTF, and town forests in general, is the chance to showcase high-quality forest management while connecting with the character, culture and history of an individual community. In Chittenden County the potential impact of demonstrating good forestry is especially great; the county is home to about 25% of the people in Vermont, so outreach can have an oversized impact on our state's overall forest management culture.

Over the past two winters, our goal for the forest management at the HTF is two-fold:

To showcase modern, responsible forest management that creates a healthier, more diverse, more resilient forest with improved wildlife habitat, while generating local, renewable resources. In particular, we're emphasizing uneven-aged silviculture and encouraging late-successional attributes in the forest;

To demonstrate modern, responsible forest management in an open, transparent and inclusive way. We hope that by providing many opportunities for the public to engage with, and ask questions about, the work at the HTF, we can stimulate and improve the quality of forest management on private lands. We aspire to support an improved understanding of what good forest management looks like and the many benefits it brings.

In addition to demonstrating how we manage forests well, another critical facet of this project is showcasing

the local, renewable resources we've harvested and local economic benefits we've been a part of, which we're also very proud of. We hired Tim Brown, a skilled logger from Hinesburg, who uses a trucker from Huntington, the next town over. Tim processes and sells firewood locally, and the softwood sawtimber from the job stays in the county, including a good deal of it ending up at Clifford Lumber in Hinesburg. The stumpage payments from the job have funded trail restoration at the HTF and invasive species control at the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest, Hinesburg's other town forest, among other things.

Over the last year, we've hosted 13 public events attended by over 300 people, including numerous forest management walks before, during and after the harvest, "wildlife walks" with wildlife biologists, presentations at the Hinesburg Library focusing on forest management in general and specifically with forest birds in mind, a "Hinesburg Town Forest History Night," and an upcoming storytelling night with Bill Torrey. In addition, the harvest has hosted numerous classes of UVM Forestry students and was showcased during the New England Society of American Foresters annual conference. We have partnered with Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont

Coverts, Audubon Vermont, Woods, Wildlife and Warblers, Vermont Fish and Wildlife and the Vermont Land Trust, in addition to less traditional partners like City Market Coop and the Outdoor Gear Exchange in Burlington and Vermont Pride Center to connect any and all interested Vermonters to this kind of educational opportunity.

As we move into this project's second winter, we hope to engage many more people in the work that we're doing. There will be numerous public educational walks and opportunities throughout the duration of the project, all of which will be free and open to all. Whether you are an interested layperson, a landowner who wants to manage your forest but doesn't know what to expect, or a consulting forester with a client who is leery of, or curious about, active management, please take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by this project. We hope that our work can create a healthier Hinesburg Town Forest while contributing to better forest management everywhere.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or 802-585-9099.





NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

Is Burning Wood Good for Birds

by **David Mears**, *Executive Director of Audubon Vermont and Vice President of the National Audubon Society*



I have been splitting, stacking and hauling firewood since I was a kid, though I now cheat a bit and order from a couple of local brothers who deliver the wood already split. The stacking and hauling still keeps me busy enough and, as they say, the wood warms me twice. I enjoy the daily ritual of starting a fire on a cold morning, and the warm glow of our stove provides a nice gathering spot for my family in the evening during the winter months. That warmth is all the more pleasant, knowing that I am contributing to our local forest economy, and replacing the use of my other source of heat, an oil-burning furnace.

Since joining Audubon Vermont a little over a year ago, I have also learned that those of us burning wood to heat our homes can do so in a manner

that not only displaces fossil fuels but also helps birds. While cutting down trees to help birds may not seem like an obvious recommendation from an environmental organization, harvesting those trees in a careful and sustainable manner, and burning the wood from those trees in advanced wood heating stoves and furnaces can be good for forests, birds and the environment.

Vermont's forests provide many benefits in addition to providing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our forests provide clean water, clean air, flood resilience, and also capture and store carbon. In order to realize these benefits, we need to keep our forests as forests. In Vermont, a large majority of our forest land is privately owned. For that reason, we need to find ways to help forest landowners get an economic return from their land. Buying wood for use to heat our homes, whether in woodstoves or wood pellet boilers, is one way to help provide that financial benefit for those landowners who need the income and who prioritize careful long-term and sustainable management over short-term profit.

Buying wood harvested from those forests can benefit birds. Audubon Vermont works with Vermont's foresters and forest landowners, in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and partners like the Vermont Woodlands Association to promote bird-friendly forest practices. These practices not only

allow, but depend upon the harvesting of trees to ensure a mix of tree species and age classes.

Old-growth forests also have this same mix of different trees, both in size and species, due to natural disturbances and the life cycle of trees. Vermont's existing forests are, however, relatively young and even aged, having been largely cleared a century ago. By harvesting trees selectively from our forests, we can mimic the features of older forests and, in so doing, benefit birds. Importantly, by harvesting wood from our forests in this bird-friendly manner, landowners can also benefit financially and, for that reason, are more likely to keep their land undeveloped and forested.

Much of the recent conversation in the Vermont news about wood energy has discussed the interesting and important questions about whether the use of wood (referred to as biomass) for energy is good for the climate. The climate crisis is a critical challenge for all of us and especially for birds, as captured in Audubon's recent report: *Survival By Degrees*. While the climate implications of burning wood for energy are complex, I will note two significant and relevant variables:

(1) First, there is a big difference between burning wood for heat, and burning wood to generate electricity. The efficiency of advanced wood heating systems now available to heat our homes and businesses far exceeds the efficiency

of burning wood for electricity. Burning wood for electricity has been described as throwing away three trees to get a single tree's worth of electricity. As Bill McKibben has written, there are real questions about the climate impacts of burning pellets produced from short-rotation pine plantation forests to fuel power plants in Europe; and

(2) Second, the source of the wood matters. Treating trees like an agricultural crop, like happens in some pine plantations where only one species of tree is planted and the trees are harvested after only short duration rotations, provides little useful habitat, is at risk to pests and disease, and provides limited levels of carbon storage over the long-term. Harvesting trees from a local Vermont woodlot, where the forest has been stewarded in a manner that benefits birds, promoting a healthy and resilient mix of species and age classes of trees, is a different story entirely. In the argument over whether to harvest trees in the context of climate change, some resort to reciting the apparent truism that leaving trees standing and growing is the best way to maximize the amount of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and stored in our forests. While that may be correct, some research suggests that selective thinning can improve tree growth and increase carbon uptake. Regardless, this assertion side-steps an important question: how do we keep our forests as forests in the first place? No less an organization than the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit."

If we lose our forests to development,

the question of how much carbon they store is irrelevant. You may or may not have an interest in joining me in my daily winter chore of stoking up the

woodstove, but we all benefit when our forests are managed for birds, including harvesting some trees that we split, stack and haul in order to heat our homes.



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OUR WOODLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

Vermont's Watershed Forester

You may think, "As a forest landowner, I already protect water quality just by owning forests," and you'd be right. But there might be something more you can do. This new section of the VWA newsletter will be discussing ways that forest landowners can help protect water quality, and go beyond that to

improve water quality for everyone. The article below by Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore outlines some of the work ahead of us to protect water quality.

In future newsletters, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Watershed Forester Dave Wilcox will share more resources and information about our woodlands and water quality. The Watershed Forester administers the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) and Heavy Cutting Programs for the Department, as well as the Temporary Skidder Bridge rental program. In addition, the Watershed Forester provides education and outreach to foresters and loggers in partnership with the Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program and other organizations. Another responsibility of the Watershed Forester is to provide technical assistance and support to staff across the Agency of Natural Resources to implement good water quality practices on Agency land, as well as private land through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and other Clean Water Program initiatives.

Julie Moore: The work of clean water

This article originally appeared on Vermontbiz.com on January 19, 2020. by Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore

I am a civil engineer, a matter of considerable personal pride. And when I think about some of the significant challenges that Vermonters have met and overcome, many of the most

impressive that come to mind (or at least the mind of a civil engineer) are feats in which engineering had a central role.

Among them are the construction of the interstate highway system in the 1960s, the construction of the massive flood control dams and reservoirs in Waterbury, East Barre and Wrightsville following the 1927 floods, and, earlier still, the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge that crosses the Connecticut River and was the longest wooden covered bridge in the United States for most of its 150+ year history.

Our current shared effort to clean up our waterways is just as significant both in its benefit for our state and its people and for the engineering challenge it poses.

Some of our efforts to restore our water will rely on new and emerging science and technology. But many of the individual clean water projects are modest and use "technology" which has been around at least as long as the Cornish-Windsor span.

We have been planting cover crops on resting farm fields, rock-lining ditches to guard against erosion, and planting trees along our river and streams for centuries.

What has changed is the intentionality, magnitude and pace of this work. Together, these small projects are transforming our landscape by restoring the ability of the land to hold rainwater and snow melt.

This collective work represents a

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fundamental shift – altering the way we deal with the water which falls from the sky and the waste which we produce. For nearly the entire history of our country – certainly since European arrival, and in many ways stretching back even earlier – our attitude has been to swiftly and efficiently move water downhill to become someone else's problem.

From roof gutters and down spouts to roadside ditches to catch basins and storm sewers, we have spent hundreds of years building systems to capture and take rain and melting snow to the nearest river, stream or lake.

And as we moved that water away as fast as possible, if we could send with it the pollutants from our yard, parking lots, roads, and farm fields – not to mention the ones we produce ourselves – then all the better.

We now know that holding rainwater back, allowing it to soak into the ground as close to where it falls as possible, is the ultimate clean water strategy.

We also know now that instead of allowing dirt, grease, salt, and other waste to mix with stormwater runoff to flush it away, we need to separate and capture those materials as much as we practically can.

Ultimately, it will not be the State of Vermont, or the Agency of Natural Resources, which will determine if this is a success or not. It will be the cumulative impact of each of us looking for ways to slow water down and help it soak into the ground.

It will be homeowners turning down spouts into yards instead of onto driveways and allowing unused corners of yards to grow back up into perennial plants. It will be farmers leaving streamside buffer areas untouched, ensuring water is slowed and filtered,

and seeding cover crops each fall to protect the soil in the spring and increase organic matter in fields.

It will be landowner associations and watershed groups restoring wetland areas, planting trees in downtowns and along streambanks to provide shade, stability and to intercept rain before it hits the ground.

It will be towns investing in advanced road and ditch construction to reduce erosion and ensure longer-lasting transportation corridors. All these things cost money and take time.

Most important, they will take a new attitude.

We live in hasty world and one in which engineering has catered to our impatience. Now, a Google search has replaced hours of painstaking library research and next-day delivery of almost any good – from toothpaste to a new couch – can be had, for a price.

While the work of cleaning our waters requires engineering know-how, ultimately it will rely just as much on our realization that in this part of our lives, there is no quick fix.

Water can't be rushed without grave consequence. While our work will proceed as swiftly as possible, it can't be rushed if we want to do it well.

Building something lasting and significant takes time. It took more than a decade to build Vermont's interstates.

It took more than 2,000 men working for five years to build just the Waterbury Dam. And it will take a similar commitment and level of effort to complete the work of clean water.

But one day I am confident that when the engineering marvels of our state are cataloged, our clean water system will take its place alongside the beams and footings of that elegant, graceful and effective crossing of the Connecticut.

Julie Moore is the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the state agency with primary responsibility for protecting and sustaining Vermont's environment, natural resources, wildlife and forests, and for maintaining Vermont's beloved state parks. Moore was named to that position by Governor Phil Scott in January 2017. Moore currently resides in Middlesex, Vermont with her husband, Aaron, and their two children.



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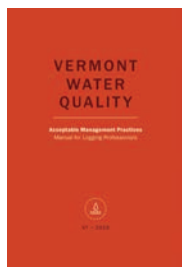
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OUR WOODLANDS AND WATER QUALITY: BOOK REVIEW

AMPs and you

by Allen Yale, landowner and tree farmer



Dave Wilcox et al. *Vermont Water Quality: Acceptable Management Practices: Manual for Logging Professionals*, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, 2019, pp 112.

This fall, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources published this booklet; generally referred to as “the AMP Manual” (Acceptable Management Practices). The primary title, Vermont Water Quality, defines the sole focus of this volume, the protection of Vermont’s water quality, and, at the same time, qualifies the sub-title “acceptable management practices” to those practices directly relate to protecting water quality during timber harvesting. This is acknowledged on page 7: “While . . . there are other recommended management practices that protect wildlife habitat, soil integrity and productivity, aesthetics and other aspects of the forest . . . they are not the focus of this manual.”

The sub-subtitle “Manual for Logging Professionals” may cause one to infer that logging professionals are the only individuals that need be concerned about logging practices. This inference is refuted in the opening sentence of the introduction which states: “This manual is intended to assist **landowners**, loggers, foresters and others involved in timber harvesting operations . . .”(emphasis by reviewer) [p.6]

This booklet is top quality. The text is clear. The color photographs and line drawings, which appear on almost every page, clearly illustrate what is being covered in that section. Sidebars in grey background indicated by a stop sign or yield sign highlighting legal concerns and topics not to be overlooked. The tables are designed to assist implementers with appropriate information for installing drainage structures, sizing culverts, buffers, seeding and mulching. Sidebars quoting specific AMPs are highlighted with a teal-green background.

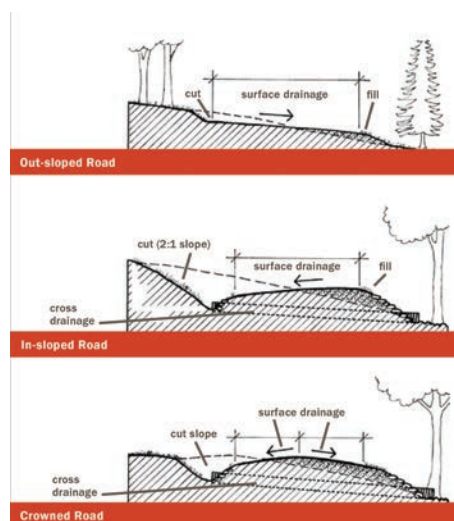
The introduction provides background on water quality and watershed; defining perennial and intermittent streams, and types of wetlands. It details ways in which logging affects water quality. It outlines how AMPs protect water quality and explains what constitutes violations of water quality. Finally, it discusses who is responsible for implementing the AMPs: “A landowner is ultimately responsible for any discharge that occurs on land he or she owns.”[p. 20]

The next section focuses on planning a harvest. As with the entire booklet, this section keyed in on aspects of the harvest that would impact water quality: location of water features; extent of buffers related to these water features; locations of truck roads, skid trails, and landings as relate to topography and stream crossings to minimize erosion and water drainage. Part of this is deciding which AMPs

applied to a particular job, including consideration of the type of harvesting equipment would be least damaging; whether logging infrastructure is temporary or permanent; and what will be the close out and long-term maintenance demands.

The section entitled “Acceptable Management Practices” is divided into six topics: (1) truck roads; (2) skid trails; (3) stream crossing; (4) forest buffers; (5) petroleum products and hazardous waste; and (6) log landings.

Truck roads link public roads to log landings. Because they will be traveled by log trucks which are more sensitive to road conditions, truck roads must have a firmer surface and less steep grades. They often require more heavy equipment, better stream crossings and more gravel or stone to build. Each of these add to the cost of the job.



Therefore truck road should be as short as possible, with shallow grade and few or no stream crossings.

Skid trails are usually limited to skidders, forwarders, felling machines and other equipment that are, by design, capable of working on rougher terrain. Therefore, they do not need to be constructed to the same specifications. However, care has to be taken to divert water so as to prevent erosion. Skid roads are also usually much longer, overall, than truck roads.

The greatest possibility of negatively impacting water quality is when a truck road or skid trail intersects a stream. More pages of the AMPs are devoted to this topic than to any other. Whether a stream crossing is permanent or temporary it must be designed to avoid discharge into the stream.

Forest buffers are strips of land designed to protect waterways by maintaining a filter. A buffer is required along streams and other waters such as a pond, lakes and vernal pools. Only partial cutting is allowed in buffers to minimize openings in the canopy and maintain continuous forest cover.

Unless one is horse logging with hand saws, logging equipment uses petroleum products in the form of fuel, hydraulic and transmission oil, grease and other hazardous waste such as antifreeze. These should be stored out of forest buffers and removed immediately upon completion of

logging. Petroleum spills of 2 gallons or more must be reported to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Proper maintenance of equipment can prevent many of these spills, but logging contractors should be proactive by having spill kits on hand in case of an accident.

Log landings are the most impacted area in a logging job and the one that gets the greatest traffic, for both log trucks and skidders traverse this area. Its important to locate them on well drained soils with a gentle slope, outside of forest buffers, and try to minimize the area to be stumped or grubbed. During operation, the landing should be maintained so that water does not form puddles or enter from or drain into skid trails or truck roads.

Of special note is the need to close out and maintain the above logging infrastructure. Much erosion and negative impacts to water quality can happen after the last log and piece of logging equipment has left the site. Close out practices include smoothing ruts, removing temporary stream crossings installing additional water bars, and seeding & mulching exposed soils.

The last section of the booklet is “Logging activities and Wetland.” The section starts with the quote: “Activity in a Class I or Class II wetland or its associated buffer is prohibited unless it is an allowed use under the Vermont Wetland Rules or authorized by a permit or order

...” It then goes on to say : “logging operations for the purposes of sustained forest management are considered a ‘silviculture allow use’ under the Vermont Wetlands Rules (Section 6) as long as certain conditions are followed. These conditions are listed. After reading this section, one might decide that the potential problems related to logging in a wetland might be more trouble than the value of the potential timber harvested.

The Appendix includes the text of the AMPs of August 11, 2018. This includes definitions of key terms and links to relevant pages in this booklet. The appendix also includes tables which contain information on the spacing of drainage structures, minimum culvert sizing, minimum bridge structure openings and methods of seeding and mulching.

I strongly advise landowners to get a copy of the AMP Manual and read it carefully. It is important that forest landowners should ensure implementation of these AMPs on their property: “a landowner is ultimately responsible for any discharge that occurs on land he or she owns. Therefore, landowners should ensure that a logger working on the land correctly implements the AMPs.” [p. 20] In addition, if the AMPs are not employed on UVA enrolled forestland, it may affect UVA eligibility,” [p. 20] thus the landowner risks losing the Current Use status, resulting in higher property taxes and a penalty for going out of UVA.

A PDF version of this document can be found at: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/acceptable-management-practices>. Individuals wanting a copy of the AMP Manual can contact their county forester or the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.





NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

What's the Legislature Looking at This Year? First month

by Alan Robertson, *landowner and tree farmer*

First, remember we are involved in monitoring, providing you information, and supplying facts and observations to the legislature and governor because those folks have a significant impact on private forestry in Vermont. Based on the history of legislative impacts on forestland ownership we tend to look carefully at legislation that deals with current use, forestland management and ownership issues, the forester and logger professions, forest health and environmental issues, and the forest-based (wood products) enterprises and markets.

In a year starting with an impeachment trial at the national level here's a hopefully light and positive look at what our folks in Montpelier are up to at the beginning of the session:

- Act 250: While the Natural Resources Committee has been furiously writing several versions of legislation not awfully sensitive to forestry, the VNRC and the governor sat down the past few months and came up with a very moderate and sensible effort to address many of the concerns we had with the existing rules, and the Natural Resource Committees take on a future direction for Act 250. The language includes efforts to streamline and professionalize the large project application review process (like sawmills and other wood processing facilities), elimination of the critical resource area language, maybe an agreement to assist wood processing businesses with more flexible hours of operation and delivery, and maybe mitigation to the agricultural soils criteria wood processing facilities must comply with (also proposed by Mike Snyder last year). There are several other issues VWA has with Act 250 (silvicultural policy, elevation and other triggers for forestry activity, consolidation of Section 248 and Act 250 determinations on small combined heat and power facilities, and mitigation of other Act 250 criteria) and we will continue to monitor and provide testimony on the legislation as needed.
- H-581: This bill proposes to establish the Vermont Working Group on Wildlife Funding to advise the General Assembly regarding the funding of all activities of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals. It is not H-190 from last year which VWA did not support. It's simply trying to find out how to fund the Fish and Wildlife Department in the future...
- H 197 and S 104: Basically the same bill: This is another effort to make corrections to Act 250. It includes language allowing more liberal hours of operation, shipping and delivery, and mitigation credits against the agricultural soils criteria in Act 250 for forest-based enterprises. Possibly in response to the hidden agenda behind the "critical resource area" language in the Resources Committee Act 250 bill drafts, the legislation also defines a "unique resource value area" (UVRA) which has much more forest land owner-friendly language and rules.
- H 683: Proposes to give Act 250 jurisdiction over development and subdivision above the elevation of 1,500 feet. It does not involve forestland owners or any forestry or logging operations but could include forest enterprise establishment above 1500 feet, a rather low hurdle in Vermont where private forest landowners own about 225,000 acres of land at or above 1,500 feet.
- H 798: This bill proposes to authorize the use of biochar in agricultural waste storage facilities for the purposes of odor control and nutrient retention. The bill also requires the Secretary of

Agriculture, Food and Markets to submit to the General Assembly a report recommending additional uses of biochar in farming in Vermont. Similarly, the bill would require the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to report to the General Assembly regarding the feasibility of establishing or enhancing the production of biochar in the State. Biochar is essentially charcoal. It's made through the pyrolytic destruction (thermal decomposition of wood in the absence of oxygen) of wood. A large plant making biochar would need vast quantities of low grade wood- like a paper mill or pellet plant. The production of biochar also generates quantities of fuel and other valuable chemicals. Most important, it is capable of water, chemical, and mineral absorption and may be a solution to the phosphorus runoff from corn fields in Vermont- it is considered by soils experts to be a very valuable soil amendment.

- Wetlands Legislation: The legislative study committee looking at wetlands regulation is recommending that no legislation action be taken at this time.
- S 192: This bill proposes to ban the sale, use, or application of the herbicide glyphosate. It would take a special dispensation from the Secretary of Agriculture because of "a determination that a threat to Vermont crops exists that requires the use of glyphosate and no other herbicide or class of herbicides would be effective in addressing the threat." While no one likes to use chemicals this herbicide is effective against most plant invasives and foresters and forest landowners use it in very small

quantities to deal with invasives. In many cases mechanical removal isn't effective and glyphosate is the only option. Passage of this bill would be a blow to invasives management in Vermont.

- S 280: This bill proposes to require the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to create resources for the public on forest carbon sequestration. It creates a new analyst position at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to complete this work. It also requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to evaluate the feasibility of enrolling State land into a carbon market and to do so, if feasible. It requires the Secretary to develop a plan to create a public-private partnership to facilitate forest carbon sequestration projects. Finding a way to enroll small landowners who managed their forests into a carbon market has proven very difficult due to the stringent rules put in place by the market operators. The rules must be stringent due to the difficulty in measuring the actual carbon stored over time in a forest. Someone proposing to enter the market with an afforestation program is clearly ahead of the pack as opposed to a person managing an existing forest. This effort behind this bill is going to be a hard task.

That's all for the beginning of the legislative session. For more information or questions about legislation please contact us at 802-747-7900. ALSO, remember we have an excellent weekly legislative update on the VWA e-newsletter.

TOURS, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

Visit vermontwoodlands.org for additional information about these and other opportunities

SAVE THE DATE

APPLE TREE PRUNING

MARCH 21

Time TBA

"Friendship Park" on Muzzy Rd, Berlin

VWA ANNUAL MEETING

April 4

8:30am to 3:30pm

VTC, Judd Hall

SUGAR BUSH WALK IN THE WOODS,

April 11

9am to 1pm

*Duplissey Forest Tree Farm,
Washington, VT*

VERNAL POOLS

May 9

Location TBD (East Central VT)

LOGGER EXPO

May 15-16

Champlain Fairgrounds

INDUSTRY-WIDE SUMMIT

June 4-5

Burke Resort

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS SUMMIT

June 6, all day

Kehoe Conservation Camp



Vermont Woodlands Association 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

As of December 31, 2019



Photo- E. Spinney



Photo by Erica Houskeeper

2019 in Retrospect

Legislative Advocacy:

During the legislative session, advocacy for woodland owners continues to be a high priority. Jane Clifford of ejc Consulting has been our eyes and ears in Montpelier for several years; she provides the weekly Legislative Update that you receive each Monday. Jane shows up at monthly board meetings to report on current happenings and advise the board of opportunities and needs for testimony. We hope you value this service and would welcome your participation when it's time to contact legislators. Our advocacy extends to Washington DC for the American Forest Foundation Fly-In. Representative Peter Welch introduced an invasives bill last year that we had worked on with his staff for several years. We continue our work to seek sponsors for this legislation.

Legacy planning:

The Forest Viability Program, managed by VT Housing and Conservation Board and funded, in part, by Working Lands Enterprise Board provided another year of funding for our work with landowners to develop legacy plans for the future of their woodlands. Our planning experts Mary Sisock and Audrey Winograd are available for an opening conversation and on-going guidance should you be ready to take on this very important task. If you want to see your forest remain forested and intact for the future, please take advantage of the free service.

Land Ethic Leadership:

In the words of Aldo Leopold, "nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'... It evolves in the minds of a thinking community. We have been fortunate enough to continue serving as part of the planning team for Land Ethic Leadership training. A community of leaders in Vermont can help to ensure the future of our farm and forest landscape. Are you interested in learning more, helping to plan a workshop, or training as a Land Ethic Leader? Let us know.

Working Lands Enterprise Board, Coalition, and forestry committee:

As landowners, you are the foundation of our working landscape and you continue to be represented on the board, the coalition and the forestry committee. The second industry-wide summit was held in May 2019 and the third is planned for June 4-5 in Burke. The summit brings together landowners, tree farmers, foresters, loggers, truckers, mills, brokers, and secondary manufacturers. When we get all these folks in the same place, it's kind of magical! Hope you can attend – you won't be sorry!

Women Owning Woodlands:

The Vermont WOW network is coming together! During 2019 we held focus groups, did phone interviews, worked with college classes, and drafted surveys. Perhaps you participated and helped us understand the needs and wishes of women woodlands owners. Mark your calendars for June 6 when you will be invited to attend our WOW summit for a day of learning and networking with other women.

Woods, Wildlife, Warblers:

Our hallmark landowner engagement program ended its fourth year of outreach and on-the-ground improvements with an expansion from Southern Vermont to the Champlain Watershed. Our partnership with Audubon continues to grow stronger as we identify many shared values for a healthy forested landscape. Our sights are now set on a statewide initiative that began with new partner outreach in November 2019. Perhaps most exciting about WWW has been our team's ability to evaluate and evolve based on a learning journey. Not all landowners follow the same path; nor can we. Our evolution is based on what you, as landowners or foresters, have taught us along the way.

Safety Certified Loggers:

We hope you've seen all the press about workers' compensation changes and safety certification for loggers. We also hope you've asked, "How does this affect me as a landowner?" We'd like to tell you. As woodland owners, you drive change. A question asked by loggers is, "why does it matter if I do this training or have workers' compensation insurance? Does anybody really care?" The answer to that question should always be YES, woodland owners care! Your woodland is an asset, an investment that you should protect as much as you protect your home. Help the industry make a cultural shift toward safety by asking the right questions of your forester and logger. Use the checklist and resources available on the VT FPR website for guidance.



Photo: Gerry Hawkes



Photo by Erica Houskeeper



Photo by Tom Thomson

Financially, 2019 was overall another good year for Vermont Woodlands Association.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

In 2019, the Vermont Woodlands Association was fortunate to receive its second RMD for \$1379. RMDs are required at age 70 ½ and known as annual mandatory Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distribution. An individual must determine if he or she will itemize or not when deciding on charitable donations.

Fortunately, there is tax break available to those who are subject

to the IRA RMD; it's called the Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. The QCD allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 each year directly to Vermont Woodlands Association from an IRA. If you have not met your RMD for the year, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution will count toward your RMD. Be careful since a QCD must be sent directly to the charity from your financial

institution. Most firms are glad to help you with a QCD transaction. Be aware that you will need to do this soon since your QCD must be converted to cash and Vermont Woodlands Association must receive the QCD before the end of the year. Also, the QCD cannot be directed toward a donor-advised fund within Vermont Woodlands Association.

Donations & Contributions

We wish to thank our members and donors, listed below in alphabetical order, who made contributions to Vermont Woodlands during 2019. Your ongoing support and generosity is so appreciated.

Abelson Echo Lake LP
Susan Ackerman
Bob & Zoe Aicher
John F. Ausura
Bailey Charitable Foundation
Beech Haven Trust
Beth Bemis
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Jeff Bernstein
Preston & MaryAnne Billings
Richard Bizzozero
Black Hills Timber LLC
Roscoe & Kathleen Blaisdell
Putnam W Blodgett
Clark Bothfeld
William G. F. Botzow
Darby Bradley
Charles H. Bronk
Ken & Barb Brown
Larry & Susan Bruce
Rodney Buck

Frederick & Judith Buechner
Richard & Ann Bulger
John Caldwell
Daniel Carluccio
Barbara Carreker
Anne & Michael Castine
Eugene & Jean Ceglowski
William Chester
Anne Christie
A. Collidge & Ann Churchill
Esther Clifford
F. Craig Coleman
John Colvin
Trey Crisco
Gregory Crockett
Daniel Davis
Michael & Catherine Delvecchia
Carol Dickson
Matthew & Anne Dodds
Christopher Elwell
John & Jean Emans

David Evans
Trevor Evans
Trevor Evans
Jeffrey Glassberg
Donald Glendenning
Edwin Godfrey
Greenrange Farm Corp
Terry (Charles) Gulick
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Gerry & Karen Hawkes
Margaret-Ann Healey
J.C. Heminway Jr.
Dr. Kent E. Henderson
Harold Hiser Jr.
Steve Hochberg
Hooting Bear Land Co LLC
Judith Howland
Jock Irons
John Jenkinson
Jerry & Susan Johns
Bart Johnston

So, what are the decisions you need to make and what do you need to know to make them?

- Do you wish to take your RMD directly from your IRA? If so, it is treated as taxable income, raising your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). You are still able to make a charitable contribution directly to Vermont Woodlands Association and this contribution may be tax deductible. However, you have probably paid a portion of your RMD (depending on

your tax rate) to the IRS and perhaps reduced the amount you are able to contribute to Vermont Woodlands Association.

- Do you wish to make a QCD directly from your financial institution to VWA? This reduces your AGI and helps lower the tax rate on your taxable income. It is no longer a “tax deductible” contribution but VWA has received the full benefit and the RMD has not raised your AGI.

Whether you itemize or use the standard deduction, your

QCD will be omitted from your AGI, thereby lowering your taxable income. This may allow you to take better advantage of tax breaks, such as medical deductions, or by lowering your AGI, the tax on Social Security benefits may be reduced. Whether you itemize or use the standard deduction, an RMD will be considered income and taxed accordingly.

As always, before deciding on a QCD, check with your tax attorney or accountant.

Bruce & Doreen Jones
Paul Kendall
John & Kathryn Kuryloski
L.W. Webster Company Inc.
Leo Laferriere
Landvest, Inc.
Heidi Lang
Joel & Nancy Lehrer
Richard & Sharon Liebert
Jonathan Linen
Robert Lloyd
Rena Lustberg
Ben Machin
David & Cheryl Mance
Richard Marshak
Dave & Roxanne Matthews
Margaret McBride
John McClain
Tim & Betsy McKay
Meadowsend Timberlands
Pat & Bob Mendelsohn
Hardy Merrill
Peter & Harriette Merrill
John Meyer
Susan Morse
NE Forestry Consultants
Paul Normandeau

Jack Norris
Louise Nunan Taylor
Ohly Family Ltd Partnership
Colleen O'Neill
Chris Osgood
David Paganelli
Peter & Julie Parker
Sharon & Alan Parker
William Peelle Jr
Peter Piper Timber LLC
Lynn Peterson
Jim Philbrook
Douglas & Mary Philipsen
Robert & Laura Pulaski
Martha Rabinowitz
Paul Ralston
Anthony Rawson
Stewart Read
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David Stoner
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Diana Todd
Jack G. Travelstead
Tom & Barbara Truex
Jack Vass
William & Helen Von Oehsen
Nancy Wayne Jaffe
Thomas Wemyss
Ken Weston
Douglas Wildes
Katherine Winter
Sanford Witherell Jr.
Yankee Farm Credit

Investment Committee

From 2018 to 2019, the Investment Committee consisting of Put Blodgett, Leo LaFerriere, Martha Rabinowitz, and Trevor Evans decided that VWA had grown to a level where it required a full-time financial advisor and firm. After hearing presentations from three firms, the Board of Directors elected Kings Point Capital Management in Kings Point New York. While the transition from Vanguard to Kings Point took approximately three months, the net investment activity for 2019 was a plus \$86,017. *Figure 1* shows the year ending investment balances for the Vermont Community Foundation and the Kings Point Capital Wealth Management investments.

2019 Investment: \$909,098

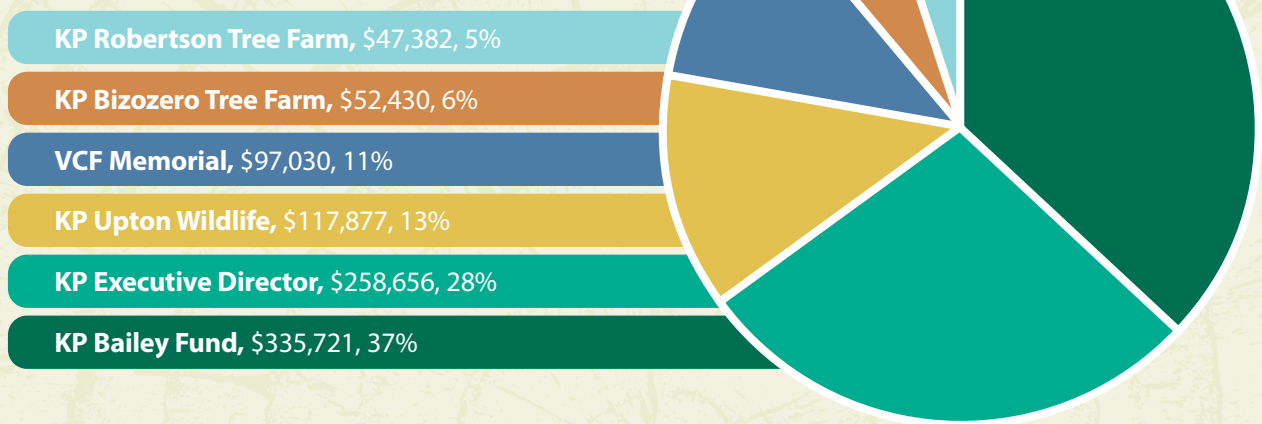
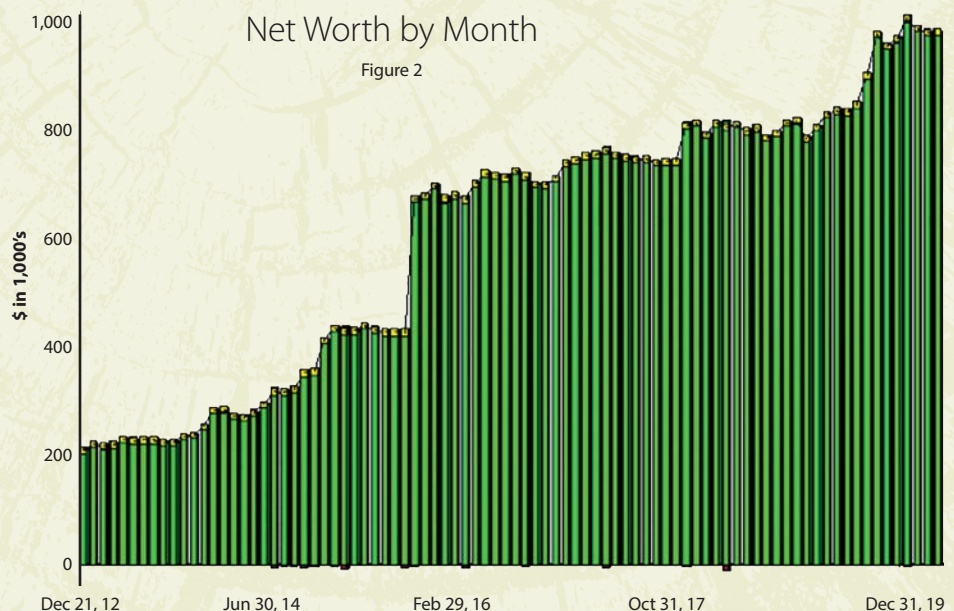


Figure 1

Net Worth

In 2013, Vermont Woodlands Association computerized its accounting system with Quick Books. On January 1, 2013 VWA's net worth was \$210,694. At the end of 2019, VWA's net worth has grown to \$980,494 which speaks to the financial strength of this non-profit 501c3 organization. *Figure 2* shows the monthly growth of VWA's net worth.

■ Assets
■ Liabilities
■ Net Worth



Tree Farm and Other Funds

VWA is the sponsoring organization for Vermont Tree Farm program that currently has 432 tree farms. VT Tree Farm was the beneficiary of a generous memorial gift from Al Robertson from the estate of Mrs. Roberta Robertson. The Bizzozero memorial annuity matured in 2019, and per the instruction of Richard Bizzozero, is now a Kings Point Capital Management individual investment account.

Figure 3 shows the total of all VWA Tree Farm and operating fund accounts.

2019 Funds: \$463,710

Bailey Charitable & Working Capital, \$335,721

Bizzozero Tree Farm, \$52,430

Robertson Tree Farm, \$47,383

Super Cd Emergency Reserve, \$28,176

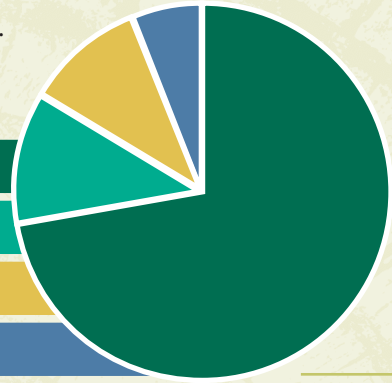


Figure 3

VWA Endowments

Endowments for VWA continued to grow in 2019. Figure 4 shows the balances of all VWA Endowments.

2019 Endowments: \$473,565

Executive Director Endowment, \$258,658

Upton Wildlife Endowment, \$117,877

Memorial Endowment - VT Community Foundation, \$97,030

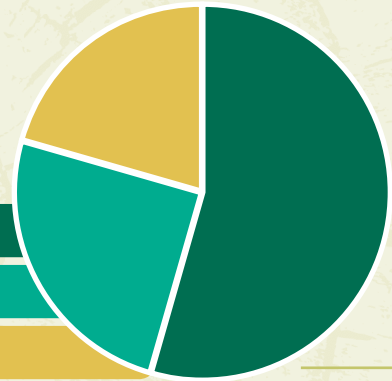


Figure 4

Figure 5

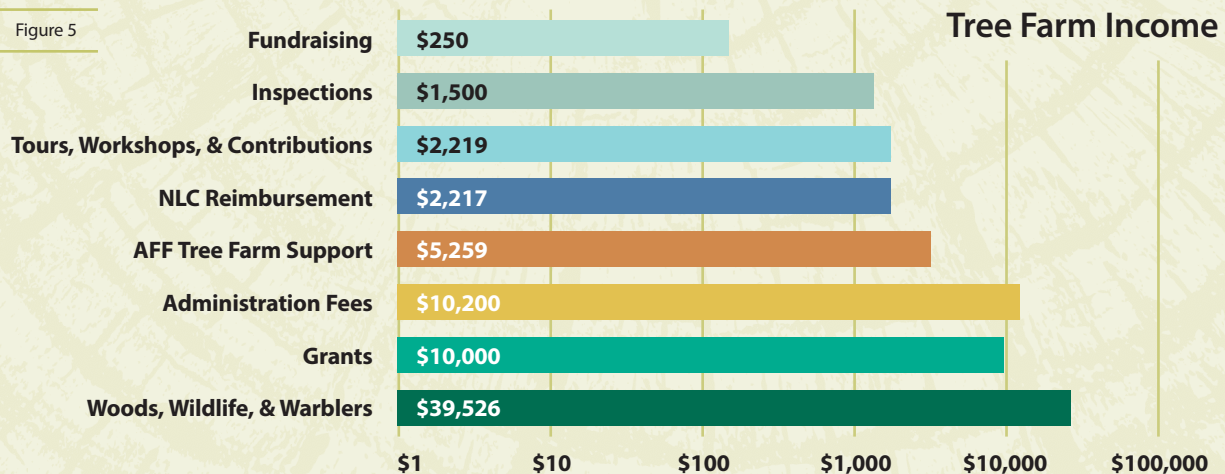
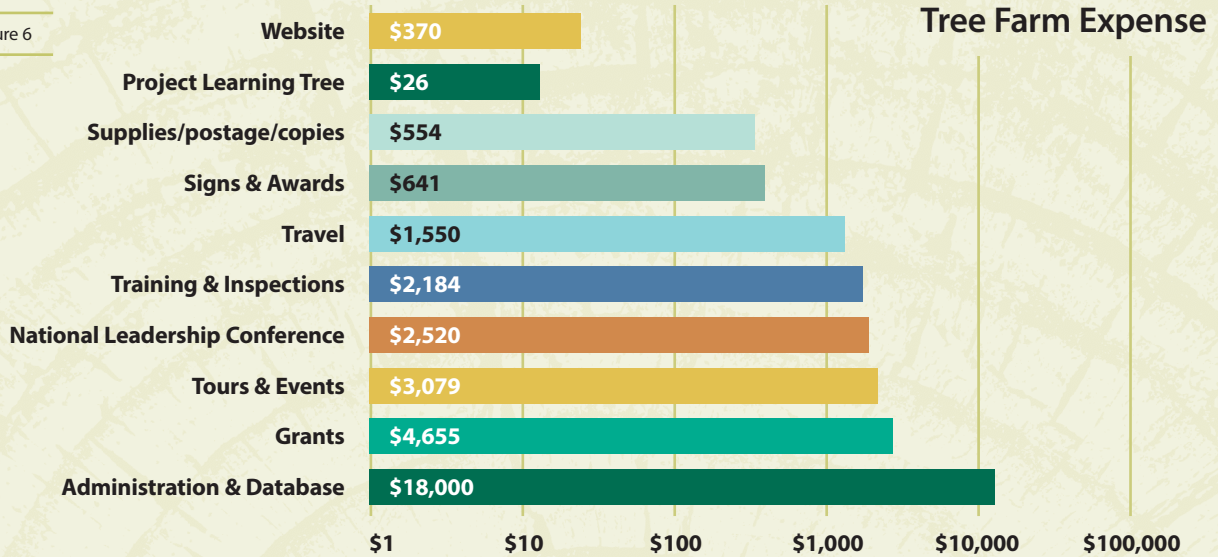


Figure 6



Memberships

In Vermont, there are approximately 88,000 privately owned woodlots with 10 acres or more. Of these woodlots, approximately 15,000 are enrolled in current use. Although in 2019, the number of new memberships did not increase, our member numbers remained stable. Even after attrition which included property sales, fragmentation, homeowner moves, and estates.

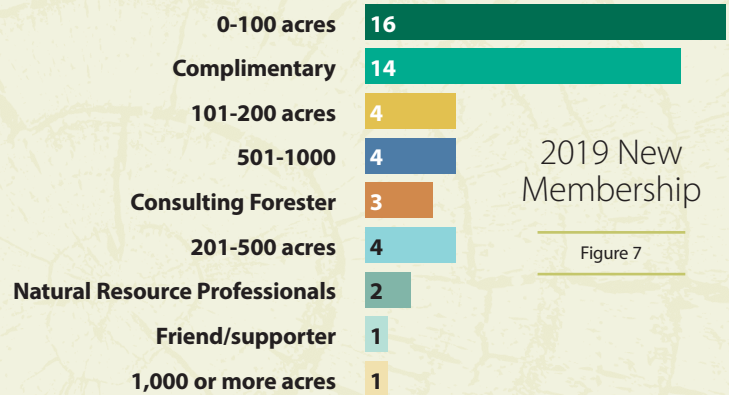
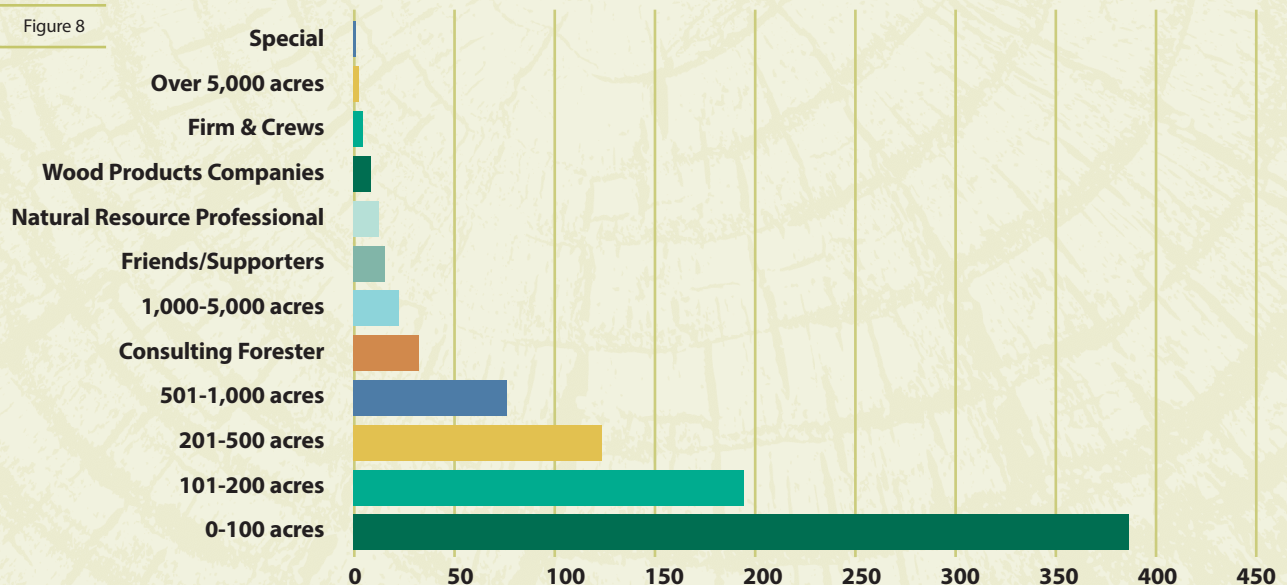


Figure 8



Reports: Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2019

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1010 - General Merchant's Account	
1007 - French Foundation - PLT	6,548.13
1005 - Funds for Wildlife Programs.....	1,326.82
1012 - Tree Farm Committee Grant.....	17,672.85
1010 - General Merchant's Account - Other.....	-9,347.85

Total 1010 - General Merchant's Account 16,199.95

Total Checking/Savings 16,199.95

Accounts Receivable

11060 - Dues Receivable	4,110.00
11070 - Tree Farm Admin Receivables	920.00

Total Accounts Receivable 5,030.00

Other Current Assets

12000 - Undeposited Funds.....	900.00
12100 - Inventory Asset	21,490.00
1650 - Endowments	
1700 - VW Memorial Endowment.....	97,030.33
1770 - Executive Director Endowment.....	258,657.92
1780 - Wildlife Endowment	117,876.61

Total 1650 - Endowments473,564.86

1784 - Funds

1785 - Super CD Emergency Reserve	28,175.92
1795 - Bailey Charitable & Working Cap.....	335,720.83
1802 - Robertson Tree Farm	47,382.68
1803 - Bizzozero Tree Farm.....	52,430.01

Total 1784 - Funds463,709.44

Total Other Current Assets959,664.30

Total Current Assets 980,894.25

Total Assets 980,894.25

Liabilities & Equity

Equity

3000 - Opening Balance Equity	210,694.78
3200 - Net Assets.....	556,360.17
Net Income	213,839.30

Total Equity980,894.25

Total Liabilities & Equity 980,894.25

Reports: Profit & Loss

January through December 2019

Income

4100 - Membership Dues	44,505
4200 - Donations	170,222
4260 - Grants	16,126
4300 - Annual Meeting	3,551
4400 - Tree Farm	69,832
4500 - Investments	86,017
4700 - Other Income	4,210
4770 - Walk In The Woods Division	60

Total Income	394,523
Cost of Goods Sold	135

Gross Profit	394,388
---------------------	----------------

Expense

Merchant deposit fees	127
5100 - Professional Services	66,345
5133 - Reimbursed Expenses	25
5200 - Printing	14,804
5300 - Membership Services	15,124
5400 - Board of Directors Meeting	851
5500 - Annual Meeting Expenses	3,148
5600 - VWA Educational Programs	4,658
5700 - Legislative Affairs	5,683
5800 - General Administrative	18,659
5900 - Grant Expenses	21,430

Total Expenses	184,435
-----------------------	----------------

Net Income	209,954
-------------------	----------------

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

(Note: existing members will receive an invoice)

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: VWA Treasurer, PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004.

MEMBERSHIP BONUS!

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.

northernwoodlands.org

VWA legacy planning services help pass on a sustainable woodland vision

There are about 88,000 woodland owners in Vermont, with an average age of 65. While many of those landowners may know what they would like to happen to their woodlands once they are gone, unless a sustainable plan is in place, nothing is guaranteed. And unfortunately, many people have not made adequate plans.

Because of the finality of it, succession planning is a difficult conversation for families to have. In addition, many woodland owners believe they have completed their planning by drawing up a will or a trust. Yet many of these documents focus only on the transfer of the physical estate but don't specifically consider how that forestland is to be managed.

Due to a lack of planning or inadequate planning, the majority of woodland ends up being sold outside the family. This puts the future of intact forests at risk. Preserving a landowner's legacy requires planning, and that involves more than just having a will. That is why the Vermont Woodlands Association offers succession/legacy planning services to woodland owners.

Mary Sisock and Audrey Winograd are woodlands succession planning experts who function within VWA through a fellowship that pays for their services and supports their continued education in family business planning, mediation and family dynamics. Mary was director of the Ties to the Land Program at Oregon State University, which initiated the national curriculum for forest landowners on succession planning. She has been working in this field for

11 years. Audrey was trained by Mary in woodland succession planning and has six years of experience, along with a master's degree in social work and a background in law.

They present succession planning workshops and offer one-on-one assistance for families who enroll in the program.

"People may have the estate planning covered, but not the legacy piece," Mary said. "They may have managed their forestland with a vision for the future, but if they don't pass along those values, all their work can be undone quickly."

For example, if land is passed along to several descendants, they may each have different ideas of what they want to do with it, and splitting up how the land is managed can cause problems from an ecological perspective, she said. They may each build road access into their portions, and these roads can be barriers for wildlife and pathways for invasive species. And if one or more decide they ultimately want out, the land will be fragmented.

Beyond the impact to the land, family fractures can occur if management of the land is not clearly defined and they cannot agree on a path forward.

"If there is no planning or inadequate planning, it often leads to severe consequences for the ecology, sustainability and the family," Mary said. "There may be underlying tensions that keep people from wanting to discuss the transition of woodlands

between generations, but it's best to bring it up and work through it in a controlled manner with our help."

VWA encourages woodland owners to take the first steps in planning, even if it is just asking for information. Ideally, attend a legacy services presentation or contact Mary and Audrey to start the conversation. The goal is to support the landowner's vision going forward by facilitating and/or mediating family meetings and reviewing existing plans.

"We start by finding out the landowner's vision and if others in their family share that vision. It does no good to plan a vacation if nobody wants to go on it with you," Mary said. "Then we bring everyone together to get them all on the same page. Finally, we can help bring in qualified lawyers and estate planners to figure out how to get their combined vision done legally as part of the actual estate plan. We will attend attorney/client meetings, if requested, or help landowners prep for meetings."

Mary and Audrey's assistance is free to landowners who use the service thanks to funding by the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program. By helping families establish a shared vision ahead of time, they also can save money when it comes time to meet with an attorney or estate planner by reducing the time needed to establish a plan.

Mary and Audrey typically work with people who own 100 or more acres of woodland. They usually work with five

LEGACY, *continued on next page*



Welcome New VWA members

Many thanks to all who have decided to join VWA. Our Voice for Healthy Forests is stronger because of you. No matter how you found us, we appreciate that you did. Every member makes a difference.

Rebecca Blouin, *Graniteville, VT*
Sami Abdelfatah, *Braintree, VT*

Kevin Fin, *Montpelier, VT*
Joseph Hryckiewicz, *Morgan, VT*

Many thanks to Meadowsend Timberlands for their support of VWA through complimentary memberships. Welcome new members.

Alexandra & William Altman, *E. Calais, VT*
Michael Barnhart, *Bethel, VT*
Gordon Clow, *Berlin, VT*
Louisa & Vince Dotoli, *Orleans, VT*

Eric Hutchinson, *St. Albans, VT*
Mark & Susan Laliberte, *W. Charleston, VT*
Juanita Nunn, *Plainfield, VT*

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:

Thomas Beland
George Buzzell
Robert Darrow
Azel S. Hall
John Hemenway
Edward Osmer
Michael Tatro
Jim Wilkinson

Contributions to the Honorary Fund have been received for:

Kathy Beland
George Buzzell
Leo Laferriere
Thom McEvoy
Paul Harwood
Ross Morgan
William Sayre
Steve Sinclair
Kathleen Wanner



Thanks to our Tree Farm Inspectors

Many thanks to our Tree Farm Inspectors for new and recertification inspections completed since Nov. 1

Kathy Beland
Peter Everts

Len Miraldi
Joe Peterson

Richard Root

LEGACY, *continued from pg. 28*

or six families each year, but are capable of helping 10 to 15 if the interest exists.

“We will talk to each family member individually to see what they each want to happen with the woodlands, and then bring everyone together to talk as a group and come up with the most sustainable plan for the future,” Audrey said. “Also, if there are any businesses attached to the land, we want to avoid any disruptions that could lead to the end of those businesses.”

These conversations can be very enlightening, because there may be scenarios that could occur in the future to impact the land that landowners and their families may have never thought about, Audrey said.

For more information about VWA's legacy/succession planning services, contact Mary Sisock at msisock@gmail.com or Audrey Winograd at audreywinograd@gmail.com.

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).



NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI/AIV Forest Policy Task Force - December 19, 2019

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

The second Forest Policy Task Force of 2019 was well attended and we listened to experts provide updates on several current forest policy topics. Just over 50 attendees participated in lively discussions on a myriad of topics in play in the Legislature, Congress and with our Presidential and Gubernatorial administrations.

We opened with a panel presentation, Q&A program on carbon storage, sequestration and trading carbon credits. The Legislature created a working group to study the topic and report on the opportunities and challenges in Vermont for public and private landowners maintaining their forestlands selling carbon credits for storage. Panel members from the working group include: **Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Mike Snyder, Consulting Forester and Carbon Verifier, Robert Turner, State Representative Mark Higley of Lowell and Landowner and VWA Board Member, Steve Webster of Randolph.** The final report of the working group was released on the 17th, so this meeting was timely for their first roll-out. The report contains 39 pages including a section describing what carbon sequestration and storage is, why and how carbon credits are traded, several findings pertinent

to Vermont and a list of seven recommendations. The panel provided a brief, but thorough overview of their work and answered several questions from attendees. Issues discussed focused on the compatibility of selling credits and timber management, the cost of enrollment vs. the benefits to the landowner, the benefits of all ecological services forests provide, the big picture of Vermont's forests capacity to sequester and store additional carbon and how the Legislature may respond to this report. We were informed that Senator Hardy of Addison County, and a member of the working group, has introduced a bill, S.280 to add staff to FPR to facilitate opportunities for Vermont forest landowners to participate in carbon markets.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, Louis Porter and State Wildlife Director, Mark Scott were next and offered a report on several topics and issues housed in their department. They covered topics such as deer browse, moose health and hunting permits, proposed changes in hunting regulations, the department's role in Act 250, the role of the Fish and Wildlife Board and management plans on Camels Hump and the Border Units found in the Northeast Kingdom.

Much of the conversation focused on the challenges we all have countering the anti-hunting agenda of a strengthening minority group of citizens. Issues around increasing timber management in Wildlife Management Areas, (WMAs) to enhance habitats. The **Executive Director of the Vermont Traditions Coalition, Mike Covey** joined Porter and Scott offering a deeper discussion on specific bills under consideration in the Legislature. Covey also spoke to concerns about creating more "Wilderness Type" designations in Vermont's WMAs.

Green Mountain National Forest Update - Jeff Tilley, Timber Program Leader and Dan McKinley Wildlife and Fisheries Program Manager provided an update on activities in Vermont's National Forests. Tilley reported that timber harvesting has doubled in the last six years with 11 Million Board feet put up for sale in 2018. Projects included early successional treatments and stewardship contracts in all portions of the more than 400,000-acre forest. McKinley spoke to their efforts to diversify tree species, age and size classes for climate resiliency. They also spoke about their education and outreach efforts and are trying to include private landowners surrounding the National Forest.

Consulting Forester and Chair of the Vermont Private Lands Advisory Committee and a member of the Vermont Foresters Licensing Advisory, Richard Carbonetti provided updates on activities in both entities. The Private Lands Advisory Committee has a rather lengthy list of topics they are addressing or plan to address. This includes several topics affecting the Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA) such as: a digital forest management template for enrolment, deadlines and extensions, mapping corrections, clarity on plans to address invasive species, conversions of forest to open vistas, and expanding the role of licensed foresters. Carbo added the committee plans to dig into other topics such as the capital gains tax. For his work with the Licensing Advisory Committee, the licensed forester requirement is now three years old and steps to tighten oversight is discussed in an outreach effort from the Office of Professional Regulation. Another member of the Private Lands Advisory Committee, Consulting Forester, Robbo Holleran joined Carbo to explain his role and perspective on their work, attempting to simplify and align the required features of a UVA forest management plan.

Next up, **Sam Lincoln, Deputy Commissioner of FPR** provided a report on the progress of the newly created **Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program**. He reports that over 70 logging contractors participated in the ramped-up safety curriculum in Vermont's Loggers' Education to Advance Professionalism Program (LEAP). He spoke to the contribution made by the Legislature to reduce costs to loggers' enrollment and the inclusion of an increasing number of insurance carriers seeking to do business in the forestry sector. This was well received news by attendees and Sam was offered great praise for his work.

William Driscoll is Vice-President of the Associated Industries of Vermont (AIV). He was our next presenter and spoke to the advancing multi-state effort to reduce emissions in the transportation sector called **TCI. Transportation Climate Initiative** is a 12-state effort to add a charge (TAX or FEE?) to all gas and diesel fuels collected at the wholesale point of sale and send moneys to participating states to perhaps fund transportation emissions in their state. This is very disconcerting to the forestry sector as diesel is our "Life Blood" to have a timber economy. Driscoll explained the details and how he is working with us to collaborate with our counterparts in the other states to find strategies to address this potential 17 cent fuel cost increase. Driscoll also reported on upcoming legislative activities including their potential role in TCI and the expected movement of Vermont's version of the **Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA)**.

The proposed GWSA is structured similar to the act already passed in Massachusetts and in play in New York State.

The afternoon concluded with FPR Updates and Reports by **Mike Snyder, FPR Commissioner and Sam Lincoln, Deputy Commissioner**. We heard their report on expectations for the upcoming Legislative Session including carbon markets, wetlands, fragmentation and Act 250, UVA, TCI, streamlining municipal overweight permits and modernizing tree warden statutes. Other topics included new movements of the Emerald Ash Borer and new information on ash survivals, staff changes inside FPR, efforts to increase productivity of forest management on state owned forests and general market conditions.

Participation in general from all attendees was abundant and all appeared to feel they are better informed on current issues affecting forests and the forest products industry. SAF CE credits were granted to attendees seeking to maintain their Forester's license.

SFI, continued on next page

**When it comes time
to sell your forest,**

**Contact the land experts to
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maximum value from a
broad marketplace.**

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Vermont Broker and Forester
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SFI, continued from pg.31

LEAP and The Loggers' Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program

As we have reported to you in the past, a very important function of the SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC) is to assure its participants that logging contractors that desire to sell wood to them have access to quality loggers training and education in their state. Our SIC dedicates a major portion of its resources to this end. Due to the fact that we are small compared to SICs in other states, our mission is best accomplished through collaboration. We work as a strong supporter and when possible a sponsor of The Vermont Loggers Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP). LEAP is the primary loggers' education program in Vermont. The SFI SIC encourages logging contractors to enroll in LEAP and maintain

their status as a trained logger that is necessary to be able to be an SFI approved logging contractor.

The VT SIC is also very concerned about the challenges and extremely high costs of Workers' Compensation Insurance for logging contractors in Vermont. That is why SFI VT has endorsed the newly created **Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program**. FPR Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln has led the charge to spearhead this new program designed to reduce workers' compensation rates for logging contractors. This new program involves expanding LEAP with high quality safety courses targeting the different types of logging activities and for each of the various jobs conducted in the woods. In addition, the state Dept. of Financial Regulation was able to create a 15%

discount on premiums for loggers that complete the courses offered by LEAP and become safety certified.

SFI VT is honored to be included in helping shape this ramped-up program. We are working on how to reach out to more logging contractors in Vermont to encourage more participation. A safe logger is a productive logger.

Save The Date SFI VT Legislative Breakfast March 26, 2020

Hope to see you all at the SFI VT Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, March 26 at the Statehouse. We will meet and greet Legislators as they arrive into the cafeteria for some breakfast. This is a great opportunity to meet with your Representative(s) and Senator(s) and share your thoughts and concerns about how they can and do impact your business. We are formulating a program following the breakfast to allow attendees to meet with legislative and industry leaders on current legislation and on SFI, Project Learning Tree and other matters of interest. Please plan to join us March 26.

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Lumberjills Gain Skills, Confidence in Game of Logging

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

Women-only trainings target growing number of female landowners in Vermont.

“Learning to use a chainsaw was the most empowering thing I have ever done,” said Caitlin Gosciminski, a natural resources major at the University of Vermont.

Gosciminski was among ten women who participated in the Women’s Game of Logging training at Merck Forest this fall. The sold-out training, which provides chainsaw safety and productivity techniques, hints at a shift in a traditionally male-dominated skillset as female professionals and landowners look to gain knowledge and confidence in felling trees and managing woodlots.

Nationwide, women are a large and growing part of the landowner population. According to a 2018 report from Yale’s Sustaining Family Forests Initiative, the percentage of family forest ownerships where a woman is the primary decision maker more than doubled from 2006 to 2013. Here in Vermont, women are the primary owners of 475,000 acres of forest, and the secondary owners of another 1.1 million acres, collectively responsible for 38% of Vermont’s total forest land. Coupled with the fact that women statistically outlive men, women are increasingly making important decisions about the management, sale, and division of forested land.

“Whether by choice or by circumstance, we are seeing more women landowners here in Vermont,” said Kathleen Wanner, executive director of Vermont Woodlands. “The long term health of Vermont’s forests relies on private

landowners making sound decisions about their land, so it’s important that we engage these women and provide them with the resources they need.”

Unique to Vermont, only 20 percent of forested land is public land, leaving 80 percent of Vermont’s forested landscape—more than 4.5 million acres—in the hands of private landowners.

Caitlin Cusack, a forester with the Vermont Land Trust, adds that women who have not historically been involved with forest management often feel unprepared to take on that role. “In some instances, women just don’t feel welcome or are intimidated because they lack forestry vocabulary,” she said, citing research from the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative showing that ‘lack of

knowledge’ is the main barrier to women owning forestland, and that women are less likely to attend traditional programming because they feel it’s not geared to them.

Women Owning Woodlands Network

Recognizing that women bring a unique set of experiences, values and motivations to land ownership, Vermont Woodlands, along with the Vermont Land Trust, UVM Extension, the Women’s Agriculture Network, Vermont Coverts, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation founded the Vermont chapter of Women Owning Woodlands. With the network still in its fledgling years,

LUMBERJILLS, *continued on next page*



Amy Gilbert, who owns land in Wallingford, was one of 15 women who participated in Vermont’s first women-only Game of Logging training at Merck Forest, which provided chainsaw safety and productivity techniques. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

LUMBERJILLS, *continued from pg. 33*

the group is focusing on learning what skills and information female landowners are looking for, and what kind of programming will be the most effective in reaching them.

A phone call to Merck Forest education director, Christine Hubbard, this summer offered one answer to that question. “I got a call asking if we held women-only Game of Logging trainings,” said Hubbard. “People just assume it’s going to be all guys, which can be intimidating to women, some of whom have never even held a chainsaw.” Although they did not have such an event in the schedule, Hubbard decided to add one and promote it through Women Owning Woodlands. Within a few weeks, the event was sold out with a waiting list.

“There is clearly demand,” said Hubbard, citing a freer, less intimidating space for learning as the main reason participants signed up for the women-only event.

Chainsaws, Coffee and Cake

One participant, Amy Kreuzberg, who owns a 15-acre woodlot with a network of hiking trails, wanted to learn how to use a chainsaw. “The thought of learning how to use a chainsaw in the company of women, with no worries about being judged, was very refreshing,” said Kreuzber. “And, of course, a chainsaw is a pretty intense tool. I wanted to learn everything from an expert,



The sold-out logging training at Merck Forest hints at a shift in a traditionally male-dominated skillset as female professionals and landowners look to gain knowledge and confidence in felling trees and managing woodlots. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

not just from my husband.” Caitlin Gosciminski, the UVM student, commented that the class allowed her to feel comfortable speaking up and trying new techniques.

“Not only was this the first time I felled a tree using a bore cut,” she said, “but I got to cut down a 100-foot tall ash! It amazed me how I could fell a tree in such a precise location. It was a great day spent sawing with incredible, strong women.”

Gosciminski’s comment about being in the company of women picks up on a theme reiterated by Wanner. “Women

have traditionally come together around food and family,” said Wanner. “They tend to want to learn in a supportive, group environment where they can build confidence. They want to know there are other women dealing with the same issues, and then discuss what they’re learning over coffee and cake.”

Women Owning Woodlands expects to complete its research identifying where there are gaps in services this summer. In the meantime, Wanner encourages anyone who is interested in the network to email info@vtwownet.org or visit the national website at www.womenowningwoodlands.net.



For Caitlin Gosciminski, a natural resources major at the University of Vermont, the training allowed her to feel comfortable trying new techniques. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Molly Hoyett makes a bore cut during a training exercise at Merck Forest. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.





PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702
802 747 7900
www.vermontwoodlands.org



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA & REGISTRATION

Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8:30AM-3:15 PM

Vermont Technical College • Judd Hall • 124 Admin Dr. • Randolph Ctr, VT

- 8:30 - 9:00 Coffee and registration in Judd Hall (on the left past Old Dorm)
- 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome, Putnam Blodgett, President, Vermont Woodlands Association
- 9:15 - 9:45 **Forestland Ownership: Every Forest Landowner Counts!**
Michael Snyder, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- 9:45 - 10:45 **Vermont Conservation Design and the Critical Role of Private Forest Landowners**
- Vermont Conservation Design: a Scientific Vision for an Ecologically Functional Landscape, Bob Zaino, Forest Ecologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
 - Trends in Forestland Ownership and Opportunities for Forest Landowners to be Part of the Conservation Design Vision**, Jamey Feidel, General Council, Vermont Natural Resources Council
- 10:45 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 11:45 **Bear Smart Living: Sharing the Forest with Vermont's Black Bears**
Forest Hammond, Black Bear Biologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
- 11:45 - 12:00 VWA Executive Director's Report, President's Remarks, and Business Meeting
- 12:00 - 1:10 Lunch
- 1:10 - 1:30 Tree Farmer of the Year/Tree Farm Inspector of the Year
- 1:30 - 2:00 **Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers**, Steve Hagenbuch Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont
- 2:00 - 2:30 **Bird Friendly Sugarbush Management**, Steve Hagenbuch Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont
- 2:30 - 3:15 **Photographing the Forest, Wildlife, and the Natural World, a Carousel of Opportunities for Beginners and Beyond**, Peter Riley, Life of Riley Photography
- 3:15 Closing Reflections/Adjourn

-----cut here-----

Please complete & return with your payment of \$35 per person (members) or \$50 per person (non-members) to
VWA, PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004
Registration deadline: March 27, 2020

Name: _____ Additional Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Charge my credit card : # _____ Exp : _____ CVE code : _____

Check enclosed : _____ Amount : \$ _____

You may also register online at <https://tinyurl.com/r836xt5>, visit www.vermontwoodlands.org/events, or call 802-747-7900



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