

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Front cover photos: Allan Thomson (left),
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Back cover photos: Tom Thomson (left), Allan Thomson (top right),
 VWA (bottom right)

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



Looking back, Looking ahead

by Kathleen Wanner, *Executive Director*

What a difference a few months makes. When I sat here in February, in my fairly new home office to write the article for the March newsletter, I was filled with hope for the year ahead. While I have not lost hope, I am overwhelmed by the rapid changes in VWA and the world in general. I know from my conversations with others that I am surely not alone.

I've grown weary of our new life of social distancing and also of "Zooming" my days away. Don't get me wrong. I love love love to see the faces of friends and colleagues whom I know are having the same struggles. There's comfort in this "seeing," more so than any phone call can achieve but less so than that much needed "hug hello" that always fed my spirit. I yearn for those hugs and worry that it could be a bygone tradition. But "Zoom" – which may be our 2020 word of the year – has a positive side too, and that is the ability to reach across geographic boundaries and deliver valuable content to many of you in far off places. I've been so heartened by the response to our many webinars and hope you've found them informative. I'm also very grateful to our natural resource professionals who have stepped up to deliver some pretty awesome programs. My view for the future, when restrictions are lifted, now includes a return to some small boots-on-the-ground woodland tours supplemented by some very engaging "Zoominars." Please join me on this new journey, either virtually or in person when we are again able to meet.

It seems we will mark time as pre, during, and post COVID for decades to come. There have been joys, like the birth of my great granddaughter in week two of our shut-down. As of this writing, I have yet to get my hands on little Brynn Kathleen Wanner who will always be a "pandemic" baby with stories to tell as she grows up. And, as we know, there have been sorrows at a time when even grieving must be borne alone as well.

The passing of Put Blodgett, just as COVID was hitting the headlines, weighs heavy. Like so many who have suffered losses, we have not been able to share our collective grief with tears, laughter, smiles, or hugs. We have not been able to come together to honor this man as he so deserves. Instead, each of us is engaged in silent reflection. Put and I had worked together for about 15 of his 20-year presidential term. He was my friend and mentor, my ally and adversary. While we both wanted the same thing for VWA – a secure and vibrant future – we did not always get there in the same way. But I like to think that we always learned something from each other.

I miss the friendly banter, the Monday morning calls with marching orders, the ease with which we could go toe-to-toe and ultimately agree to disagree, the stern reminders that "I would understand if I grew up in the depression," the man who was larger than life in everything he did. There are stories that I will remember with bemusement and stories that I will remember with pride. I will be forever

grateful that I had the opportunity to serve VWA under the leadership of Put Blodgett. We have witnessed the end of an era; but with endings come beginnings. Transition, when planned for, is difficult to manage. Transition, when thrust upon us, calls for courage and commitment. I have seen both from the VWA board and know that Put's legacy will live on. While we may have lost our long-time leader, we did not lose our vision for the future nor our desire to fulfill a mission of service and education to woodland owners.

By the time you read this, we will surely still be in the midst of a global pandemic, albeit with fewer personal restrictions, but my hope for us all is that the worst will be behind us and that together we can manage whatever comes our way. Please, stay safe, stay well, stay connected in whatever small way you can. And don't forget to get out into the woods to find a bit of peace in an otherwise crazy world.

My deepest gratitude to all who have given to the VWA Memorial Endowment in memory of Put.

He would be touched by your generosity and very pleased to see this endowment take root. If there was one ongoing discussion around the Board table, it was about the value of Endowments vs. Funds. To honor Put's wishes, please indicate that your donations in his memory should be allocated to the VWA Memorial Endowment.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

New Leadership Takes Root

by Stephanie Kelly, VWA

How does Allan Thompson plan to follow in the footsteps of Putnam Blodgett? Very carefully, he said of his role as Interim President for VWA. Allan said Put recognized that landowners owned land for many reasons, and recently Put worked tirelessly to integrate those interests into VWA even more by increasing the focus on sound forest management, stable forest economies, and wildlife habitat and conservation. Having Put lead the way was very valuable, and Allan's main goal is to keep up the momentum that the organization had built under Put's tenure.

"VWA has done a good job of engaging landowners and encouraging them to get involved with their own land and spend time in their woods," said Allan. "It will be a fun and valuable role to take the lead at VWA."

Recognizing the value of VWA's executive director, board members, committee members, and volunteers, Allan said he "will look to the existing knowledge and commitment to our forests of these ever-present parties to help lead the organization forward."

"Put was a really strong leader and gave a lot of time to VWA," Allan said, knowing it is not realistic for any one person, including himself (a small business owner with two young kids) to take the helm of VWA single-handedly. "We're going to be better at delegating. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge and commitment within our

board, committees, and membership, and I expect members will see more new faces and voices sharing the same messages that VWA has been sharing for a long time. There will be many people involved, a diverse voice. The way a diverse forest is a healthy forest is the same here: a diverse membership is a healthy membership."

Allan has been on the Board of VWA since 2016, when Al Robertson encouraged Allan to join the organization after Allan had contacted Al to express "some concerns" at Al's testimony to the legislature regarding some important forest industry legislation. Once Allan was on the Board, Put would, on many



occasions, lean over to ask Allan when he would “raise his hand” to do more. Consequently, Allan became Co-Vice President in May 2018 and now will sit as Interim President until an election is held at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for October 2020. Allan intends to keep his hat in the ring when the members vote officially for the next President.

Allan spoke admiringly about what VWA does best, which is to engage with landowners and encourage them to be responsible stewards. His goal is for the organization to keep engaging landowners. He wants to keep promoting a Woods Life, an integrated life that appreciates life in the woods, utilization of resources, protection of ecosystems, and cultural and social interactions. He says landowners are very privileged to own and manage land that they can call their own, but, in his words, “we still have a responsibility to manage the land to share its resources with others. VWA needs to stay connected with all of its constituents, including loggers, truckers, mill owners, landowners, and woods enthusiasts.

“There is a continued need to protect the legitimacy of Vermont forest industry activities financially, socially, and culturally.”

Allan said taking over as the president of VWA now is a “difficult time socially and culturally,” but VWA is in the best position that it’s ever been in. The value that donors and members see in the organization is so important and appreciated – they recognize the value and need for protecting our forests and keeping alive the forest culture.

One thing that Allan would like to do more of, besides teamwork and delegating, is to continue with the outreach efforts that the coronavirus outbreak has forced in recent weeks.

Allan hopes to maintain the various communications strategies that VWA has adopted recently because all of these tools “give landowners an easy way to engage with us.”

Another idea that is important to Allan as he leads VWA forward is how forest management improves carbon storage and sequestration. He spoke hopefully about how VWA could promote good forest management locally as well as recognize how those forests support global health. He would like to help members and the public learn more about climate-resilient and climate-friendly forest management. In Allan’s words, “a healthy forest means healthy living.”

Allan owns and operates Northern Stewards and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and VT Licensed Forester. Allan received his degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and worked as a wildlife and habitat technician for a variety of projects developing field skills in a variety of

settings still used today. Northern Stewards was founded in 2007 with the idea of integrating forest and wildlife habitat management on private lands in Vermont. Since then, his company has provided services to hundreds of private landowners, municipalities, land trusts, conservation organizations, States and the Federal Government.

Allan lives in the house that he grew up in, on 80 acres of land in Waterbury where he can tend his own woodlands with his two sons, 12-year-old Acer and 9-year-old Silvan. Allan thinks it was there on the family land where he developed his love and passion for outdoor work.

Allan is most interested in using his time as President to connect with members as a fellow landowner. He wants to make sure members know that he is one of them and cares about them and their activities. Under Allan’s leadership, VWA will continue to be a strong advocate for everyone’s lives in the woods.

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NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

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

Spring has transitioned from “stick” season to bursts of green on the shrubs and trees. As we welcome these warmer days with time outside, common sights we might see underfoot on our trails and paths include native plants, like Common Evening-primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) and Partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), as well as introduced species, like Common Mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*). In the mix may also be the overwintering introduced invasive plant called Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), starting to flower. Also known as “garlic root,” “penny hedge,” or “poor man’s mustard,” this biennial herbaceous plant has been found to be highly invasive in habitats like forests, forest

edges, floodplains, fields, and in disturbed habitats. In late spring, you will see tiny white flowers, and in warmer parts of the state, long slender seed pods should be visible. These are great indicators that you can use to learn how to identify this plant.

Garlic Mustard originates from throughout Europe and has spread as far as Africa, India, New Zealand, and North America. The first official record of Garlic Mustard growing in the United States, as far as I can tell, comes from the New York State Museum in 1868. It was certainly known as a garden herb in the 1800s, and perhaps even by early European settlers. Since that time, it has spread to over 39

states. Being an obligate biennial, this plant produces a rosette of leaves in Year 1, overwinters, and the surviving rosettes bolt, flower, seed, and die in Year 2.

Year 1 Plants: A rosette of green basal leaves will grow, with leaves having a bean shape, scalloped edges, and petioles that are purple-tinged. This stage of growth is where it is easiest to confuse other plants for Garlic Mustard or vice versa. Species like Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*) also have green, bean shaped, scalloped edged leaves, but they are much smaller on average and the growth form of the plant is mat-like vs. the rosette of Garlic Mustard. If ever in doubt, crush



An uncommon size and sight – Garlic Mustard rosettes that grew in the cleared space after Japanese Knotweed was removed. When identifying a plant, always use multiple characteristics, because there will be variations, especially in leaf size! Photo: E. Spinney, VT Forests, Parks & Recreation



Garlic Mustard infestation along a forest edge. Photo: L. Mehrhoff, UCONN, Bugwood.org

some of the leaves between your fingers – if it is Garlic Mustard, there will be a garlicky odor! The rosette of leaves helps the plant store energy in its taproot that will allow it to bolt in the spring. It is said to have an “S” shaped taproot, though I’ve personally found it to be less “S” shaped than just slightly curved like a winding road.

Year 2 Plants: The basal rosette remains, and a bolt forms, with alternating triangular, scalloped to toothed leaves. These leaves also have a garlicky odor. Flowers turning to long slender seed pods can be produced throughout late spring. The mode of spread is primarily through the dispersal of seeds, on wildlife, humans, and our gear/equipment/vehicles.

Garlic Mustard is a shade tolerant plant that is able to adapt and grow in a variety of conditions (pristine to disturbed) and exudes chemicals that

inhibit the growth of nearby plants (allelopathy). The seeds remain viable for the better part of a decade. It can overtake the understory of a forest, and it provides little benefit to native fauna. There have even been documented impacts to Species of Special Concern, the West Virginia White Butterfly. The female butterflies are attracted to Garlic

Mustard over their normal host plants, Toothworts (*Cardamine diphylla* and *Cardamine concatenata*). The butterflies lay eggs, which hatch and are unable to complete their lifecycle on Garlic Mustard. The negative impacts that this plant has on New England natural resources has led to its listing as a Class B Noxious Weed in Vermont.



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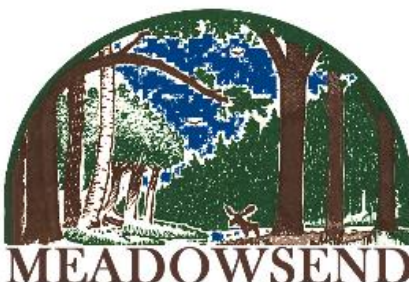
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NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

A Bird-Friendly Maple Assessment at Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm

by Gwendolyn Causer, *Teacher/Naturalist and Communications Manager, Audubon Vermont*

A Maple Morning

A few weeks ago, the stars finally aligned for me to tag along with Audubon Vermont's Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch for a Bird-Friendly Maple sugarbush assessment. Chaska Richardson and Matt Menard of Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm run a sweet sugaring operation high in the hills of Huntington. They already manage their forest to enhance wildlife and were enthusiastic to learn more about how to make a commitment to manage their sugarbush to intentionally enhance bird conservation through Audubon's Bird-Friendly Maple Project.

My interest in tagging along was two-fold: 1) an opportunity to take some pictures and tell the story of what a sugarbush assessment is all about, and 2) a chance to build my assessment skills so I could better incorporate sugarbush assessment into Audubon's Education Programs for school groups.



Audubon Vermont's Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch discusses the Bird-Friendly Maple Project with Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm's Chaska Richardson and Matt Menard. Photo: Audubon Vermont

The Assessment in a Nutshell

As described in our Bird-Friendly Maple Project brochure, a bird-friendly sugarbush is managed for the following features to offer great places for birds to forage, hide, and raise their young:

- A diversity of tree species: more than just maple
- Layers of vegetation: from small seedlings on the forest floor to saplings and shrubs to the canopy overhead
- Standing dead trees and live trees with cavities, the bigger the better
- Logs and branches on the forest floor
- Birds singing!

The Language of Sugaring

I quickly realized that while I was well-versed in forestry, birding, and conservation terms, Steve and Matt spoke an entirely different language of sugaring. Conversations about nonvacuum sap tubing, pan specifications, and fuel efficiency flew past me while I immersed myself in plant and bird identification.

More Than Just Maple

Steve was able to use data from Couching Lion's forest management plan to map out where to take our data plots and to determine the overall diversity of tree species currently in the sugarbush. It's enticing for sugarmakers to focus on growing only

sweet-sap-producing sugar maples, but encouraging a diversity of tree species at all layers of the forest ensures the long-term health of the woods in the face of potential insect and disease pests as well as from challenges brought about by changes in our climate. Growing more than maple also provides a wider variety of food sources, nesting habitat, and protective cover for birds.

We visually estimated percent cover in three layers of the forest: the canopy, the midstory, and the understory. In addition to a healthy population of sugar maple seedlings, we noticed plenty of young ash, black cherry, serviceberry, and beech. It was a bit like fortune-telling for the future of the forest.



Steve and Matt talk tubing in the sugarbush. Photo: Audubon Vermont

Surveying the Snags

Standing dead and dying trees, otherwise known as snags, provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds, such as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as well as a wide range of other species. To get a handle on the snags, we got to pull out the forestry tools! Over the years, Steve has explained to me a handful of times how to use a wedge prism for “variable-radius plot sampling,” but it had never really “stuck.” But hearing Steve explain prism to Matt and actually using the prism for the assessment made the difference: a true testament to the power of hands-on educational opportunities for students coming to Audubon!

Messy = Well-Managed

Nestled in the slopes of Camel’s Hump, Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm experiences frequent high-wind events, resulting in blow-downs in the sugarbush. The tangle of coarse woody debris is perfect habitat for both ground-nesting and ground-foraging birds. It also provides excellent protective cover for wildlife and cycles nutrients back into the soil as the trees decompose. A park-like sugarbush doesn’t provide all of these benefits. Matt was pleased to have the science to back up his management decisions, especially to explain that a well-managed sugarbush might look messy.



Discussing forest structure, diversity, and regeneration during a Bird-Friendly Maple Sugarbush Assessment. Photo: Audubon Vermont

Birdsong and Lunch

By August, the forest becomes much more quiet as birds are done with mate-attracting courtship songs and are keeping their nesting locations secret. Steve’s spring and early-summer sugarbush assessments are able to tally longer lists of birds as he identifies their songs. We heard a small flock of Cedar Waxwings (attracted to the fruit of the black cherry and serviceberry), but the woods were otherwise silent.

Around noon, both Matt and I needed to return to other work duties. Steve remained to finish up the assessment. The next big step in the process will involve Couching Lion Maple Sugar Farm making a commitment in their forest management plan to manage their sugarbush intentionally for the benefit of birds. They will then join Audubon’s growing community of Bird-Friendly Maple Sugarmakers.

Look for the label! To recognize and support participating maple producers for their good work, look for maple syrup containers with the label indicating the syrup was produced in a Bird-Friendly forest habitat.



Using a wedge prism during a Bird-Friendly Maple Sugarbush Assessment. Photo: Audubon Vermont



Birds such as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker rely upon snags for nesting cavities in the sugarbush. Photo: Linda Huffman



Steve and Matt use wedge prisms to assess snags during a Bird-Friendly Maple Sugarbush Assessment. (Notice the image at Matt’s left shoulder.) Photo: Audubon Vermont



Audubon Vermont Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch conducting a Bird-Friendly Maple Sugarbush Assessment. Photo: Audubon Vermont

OUR WOODLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

The Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) and the forest landowner

by Dave Wilcox, *Watershed Forester*

We hope that by now, spring of 2020, the new Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) manual has made its way to the Favorites bar on your computer or onto your bookshelf, into the glovebox of your vehicle, or in the pocket of your cruising vest. Whether you are a logger, forester, or landowner, the orange-covered manual is a must-have for anyone who owns, manages, or works in the woods.

The underlying official rule states, “The purpose of the AMPs is to provide measures for loggers, foresters, and landowners to utilize before, during, and after logging operations to comply with the Vermont Water Quality Standards and minimize the potential for a discharge from logging operations in Vermont in accordance with 10 V.S.A. §1259.” But what does this really mean to the forest landowner? This installment of “Woodlands and Water Quality” will discuss the AMPs from the landowner’s perspective.

In the March 2020 edition of the VWA newsletter, forestland owner and VWA member Allen Yale did a great job summarizing each section of the AMP manual and hitting upon some of the 26 practices that make up the AMPs. He talked about forest buffers, those areas around streams and wetlands that provide an area for surface water to

soak into the forest floor. He covered waterbars, which divert surface water from trails and roads to prevent water from gaining enough velocity to cause erosion. And he acknowledged that installing proper stream crossings, perhaps the most important AMP of all, was critical in reducing the risk of sedimentation into streams.



A forester and a logger work together.

In most instances, the AMPs are something that the forester and the logger work out on behalf of the landowner, and the landowner may see only reference to the AMPs as a requirement in the timber sale contract that he or she signs. A good contract will put the responsibility for following the AMPs onto the logger, who, after all, is the person implementing the AMPs during the harvesting and usually at post-harvest close-out. The fact that the forester and logger

take care of the AMPs is important because during the harvest is when the environment -- streams and wetlands, in particular -- is most vulnerable. When implemented properly, the AMPs will reduce soil disturbance, in turn minimizing the potential for discharges into surface waters.

It sounds easy, right? But, as with everything else in nature, the devil is in the details. Not all harvests are created equal. Some parcels are riddled with surface water, and some are not. Some parcels have soil that is poorly drained, and some is well drained. Sometimes access is right off the pavement, and sometimes it’s a two-mile truck-road with a major stream crossing, just to make it interesting. As you can imagine, the details of each timber sale will determine the AMPs necessary to protect water quality. Don’t worry, as the forest landowner, you have the perfect tool to combat all these little intricacies: your forester. He or she will know how to navigate the planning and layout of the harvest to reduce the potential impact to surface water. This is important not only for the cost of implementing the AMPs but also because proper layout of landings, roads, skid trails, and stream crossings is the number-one way to mitigate the risks to water quality.



Erosion on a forest road due to an undersized culvert.

So, why bother to understand all of this when the forester and logger make all the decisions? Keep in mind that a timber sale may only come along every 15-20 years on a typical stand in Vermont. What happens in between? Well, if you're like me, you like to get out in the woods and enjoy them. Access is important. Access means permanent roads and trails, and, in many cases, that means stream crossings and the inevitable and commonly misunderstood "wet section." Between planned harvests, your road and trail system will get used. As it should. And for the investment you put into the roads and trails, they should be maintained so that they last and, just as important, so that they don't contribute sediment to the surface water, which, in turn, causes problems downstream.

For the time period between harvests, it's a pretty good bet that as the landowner, you will be solely responsible for the maintenance of the AMPs installed on your roads and trails. This is where knowing a little about the AMPs can make a big difference. Understanding that culverts need to be sized properly to work properly (the AMP manual has a table for sizing permanent crossings on intermittent streams) and that they need to be cleaned out regularly makes a difference. Being able to recognize

that a waterbar is not working or that there is a section of trail that you can't get on until August without rutting is helpful in protecting your trails. And even beyond this, understanding that what we do as forest landowners in and around our streams, wetlands, and other sensitive areas has consequences downstream is key.



A skid trail that has been closed out properly.

I invite you, as a forest landowner, to peruse the AMP manual and get a feel for what the AMPs are intended to do and how they work. The principles are simple. Where we channel water with truck roads and skid trails, we need to implement practices to spread it back out and let it soak into the forest floor. Disconnect surface water in our trails and roads from streams using waterbars or cross drain culverts. And, most importantly, provide adequate forest buffers around our streams and build our stream crossings for the long term by providing ample hydrological and biological capacity. If we each take a little more time and are willing to go a little bit further to do our "work of clean water," we can make a significant positive impact.

You can find the AMP manual online at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/>. At the bottom of the screen, under Quick Links, choose Publications. Under Forest Management, click on Acceptable Management Practices (AMP's) Manual - .pdf. Printed manuals can be picked up free-of-charge at your County Forester office or at any district office of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

AN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS

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

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

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FOREST?

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

HOW CAN YOU HELP VWA?

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

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



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Important News for Tree Farmers and VWA Members

by Alan Robertson, *landowner and tree farmer*

The American Forest Foundation – AFF – held its annual National Leadership Community Conference (NLCC) in Baltimore this year just before the coronavirus made the traditional conference a bit of history. Your VWA and TF folks (Kathleen Wanner, Kathy Beland, Mary Sisock, Alex Barrett, and Al Robertson) attended in serious numbers and were rewarded with important participation and some news that AFF is serious about making the Tree Farm program more environmentally relevant and financially rewarding to participants.

First, the overview this year was, “strengthening, growing, and increasing our conservation impact.” There were an abundant number of concurrent sessions covering a broad variety of topics, including progress on the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program (SFLR), the upcoming revisions to the management standards, new tools for bringing more Tree Farmers on board, the White Oak Initiative for increasing and improving the acres of white oak under management, activating cultural competence and inclusion in forestry, and the importance of estate planning in forest ownership.

What we saw was AFF reaching out over the past few years to the black landowners of America to help them recover and steward forestlands

encumbered with title issues as well as other racial inequities burdening many black landowners throughout the country. We saw more assistance to women owning woodlands to help them in achieving their stewardship goals. We saw an effort to help landowners understand why they should embrace forest stewardship. And we saw a continued effort from AFF to look to exploit regional issues and interests that drive landowners to be good forest stewards even if their favorite issues and hobbies have little to do, initially, with trees.

Perhaps one of the most interesting sessions was the AFF effort to make a success of enrolling TFers in a new carbon market concept. AFF tried to make a success of entering Tree Farmers in carbon markets several years ago but failed because of the high costs associated with the program administration, inventory, and monitoring. It appears that AFF has found a way around those excessive costs through taking a practices-based approach rather than an inventory-based approach to carbon calculations as well as monitoring changes on a landscape level. They do this in part by utilizing high resolution aerial photography (a lot cheaper now)/photogrammetry and remote sensing algorithms to identify changes across landscapes. AFF is rolling out a test in Pennsylvania, and, if successful, they will

start up other states – hopefully Vermont. The Pennsylvania program included two directions. In the “Growing Mature Forests” program, eligibility requirements include acreages between 30 and 2400 acres, a natural forest – not a plantation – and minimum basal areas present. Practice requirements include a 20-year commitment, harvests limited over that period to 35% of the current basal area, and average stand diameters not reduced more than 10%. Also, the landowner is responsible for 5-year written notifications of conformity. Payments depend on the timber density on the parcel when enrolled and range between \$120 and \$400/acre total, metered out over the 20-year period of enrollment.

For the second program, “Enhancing the Future Forests,” eligibility requirements of acreages are similar to the first, but the enrolled land must have cover of at least 30% of undesirable competing plants, including invasives, and a regeneration harvest having occurred in the past 10 years or planned in the next 10 years. Practice requirements include treating enrolled stands to reduce competing vegetation by at least 85% of pre-treatment value and maintenance of this level throughout the contract period of 10 years. Payments depend on how bad the undesirables are and range from \$50 to \$280 per acre total with most of the payout in the first 6 years. If this concept is successful, a small landowner TFER

may finally be compensated for a real ecological service from participation in the program, which would also be a great recruiting tool for VWA/TF.

Vermont is currently working on a third type of carbon market program with Amazon, Vermont Land Trust, and other conservation organizations. There will be more information on this program in the future including eligibility requirements and practice standards.

But that's not all that got accomplished!

More details were made available on the WoodsCamp program, which will assist in bringing in more new, younger Tree Farm members. Almost all the Vermont attendees also were trained as Tree Farm Facilitators. The updated training and the increase in the number of Facilitators will allow easier training of our forester inspectors and lessen the load on the Facilitators. Additionally, Kathy joined a panel for the plenary session and led a discussion on inspector engagement in a concurrent session. Kathleen presented Vermont's Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers program for utilizing Tree Farm to achieve conservation outcomes and conducted another workshop discussing "Why be a Tree Farmer." Al, with Natalie Alex of AFF, gave a class on getting legislation through your legislature or Congress.

Despite the coronavirus, the next couple of years are going to be very busy for all of us in VWA and Tree Farm. We see many programs finally making headway on involving neophyte or previously uninterested forestland owners in our programs. And, for those of you with long memories of the past third-party audits, Vermont is again being audited in 2021! Now's the time to ensure your management plan and contacts with foresters and clients are up to date!

Stay healthy and socially distant!

Vermont Tree Farm Program Congratulates the 2020 Vermont Tree Farmer(s) of the Year

The Starrs: It's a Family Affair!

by Ryan Kilborn

Ila Starr (husband Jack Sr. deceased) and her children Jack Jr, Virgil, William, Gary, Betty, Jim (deceased 2018) & widow Jennifer Gaffney, their children Seth Starr, Leah Starr, and Anna Oshea.

The Starr family began their long heritage in the town of Troy in 1944 when Jack Starr Sr's father purchased what is now known as the Town Farm, which is still in the family's holding 76 years later. Jack Sr. was an advocate for the Save-the-Family Farm Aid program. He traveled across the country speaking on behalf of this program, and he worked with state senators and well-known musicians in fundraising events. This dedication and sense of conservation to the land was passed on to his children who have acquired, as a family, 500+ acres of forest and agricultural land in North Troy, protecting nearly 1.5 miles of frontage along the Missisquoi River.

Today, this acreage is owned by Ila Starr (wife of Jack Starr Sr., now deceased) and the siblings Jack Starr Jr., Virgil Starr, William Starr, Gary Starr, Betty Griggs, and the children



Left to Right: Willie Nelson, Jack Starr Sr., and Senator Bernie Sanders together at a Save-the-Family Farm Aid convention

of Jim Starr (who passed away in 2018) – Seth Starr, Leah Starr, and Anna Oshea. Jennifer Gaffney, Jim's widow, also maintains ownership of an additional 84-acre lot in the town of Troy.

Much of this land base is forested but also contains the family farm house, agricultural land, and family camp where multiple generations come together each year for family reunions. Many families would have bent to the

STARRS, continued on next page

STARRS, *continued from pg.13*

temptation of selling river frontage lots in the highly pressured development area that is shadowed by the Jay Peak Resort, but the Starr family's strong sense of conservation, love of recreation and wildlife, and strong connection to the shores of the Missisquoi River have kept this land base intact. Their family values include passing this land ethic onto the next generation and keeping the land in family ownership. A means of doing this has been through enrolling the land into Vermont's Current Use program and managing the property over the years for timber, while at the same time promoting wildlife habitat, water quality, and allowing the land to be used by others for hunting, hiking, fishing, and camping.

The property owned by Jim and Jennifer also was part of an NRCS contract where EQIP funds were used to maintain and create song bird/grouse habitat with a brontosaurus machine. Jim Starr was one of the leading individuals that helped orchestrate the purchase of the North Troy Village Forest, a 116-acre property with 1.5 miles of river frontage on the Missisquoi River and a large, rare natural community of silver maple-ostrich fern flood plain. Once the village purchased the land, they were able to conserve the tract through the Vermont Housing Conservation Board to protect the land and river from future development while creating open space for the public to recreate on.

The last timbersale occurred in 2016 on the parcel of land owned by all the siblings. The goal of this sale was to improve conditions for acceptable growing stock, release established regeneration, create aspen browse for wildlife, release apple trees, repair and

maintain old stream crossings with skidder bridge panels, and create new trails for recreation. This harvest was administered by a forester, and wood was marketed to local sawmills in Canada and northern VT.

Ephemeral and intermittent streams that form on the property and feed directly into the Missisquoi River were buffered and properly crossed with skidder bridge panels and pole crossings. Many of the historic crossings were in poor condition with washed-out culverts, causing erosion from high water events. Skidder bridge panels were purchased by the family and installed during the sale and then kept in place for long-term benefits to water quality and recreation. Maintaining forested buffers along the Missisquoi River is a long-term goal of the family ownership.

This river is one of the state's largest rivers and a primary watershed for Lake Champlain. Opportunities for development along this river are high and in demand, especially with Jay Peak in the backdrop, yet the Starr family has kept the land intact and free of fragmentation.

The Starr family has been able to maintain and increase their land ownership at a time when land is only becoming more expensive, highly taxed, and feuds between siblings and family members are common due to a changing world that disconnects many people from the land. To date, the family has been able to overcome the pressures of development that could easily provide them with more cash flow than growing trees, and they have embraced the importance of land management while balancing their family's goals and objectives related to recreation,



Left to Right: Jim, Betty, Gary, Ila, Jack Jr., Virgil, and Billy Starr

wildlife habitat, and water quality. They maintain an important sense of place that their family can reliably return to each year for enjoyment.

Although the family has been members of the Vermont Tree Farm Program since only 2014, they have practiced and adhered to the principles of forest stewardship for decades prior, which makes this family an excellent candidate for the Vermont Tree Farmer(s) of the Year. This award does not focus on the management of just one parcel, but instead it recognizes and congratulates the entire family for the values and efforts that they bring to the land and the surrounding community. It also recognizes the effort made by an individual, Jim Starr, who loved to share and promote the beliefs of forest stewardship, conservation, and family/community ownership with everyone.

We are currently hoping to host our Tree Farmer of the Year celebration in the fall. We are so eager to meet the Starr Family and shower them with our gratitude for exemplary stewardship, but time will tell what's possible. Please be on the lookout for notification about this event.



VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

May 4, 2020: “May the 4th Be With You” or “May the Forest Be With You”

by Kathy Beland

Until today, my most recent Inspector's Log was written last February. It is hard to believe it has been over a year since my life was turned upside down, seemingly over and over again. I could not have predicted that in a few short months, the loss of my husband would become part of my waking and sleeping and always in the background of how I think and process, mark time and move forward, plan and work, play and love on my family. And just as much as the loss was accepting the kindnesses and generosity literally heaped upon all of us. I thought 2019 was the most difficult, but also the most blessed, time in my life. Then SURPRISE, 2020 came in, and we ALL had our lives turned upside down! I did not expect Zoom and FaceTime to be my primary time to interact with people without a mask on my face. Or that when I ran into Walmart to get allergy medicine, I was so excited about scoring a 12-pack of toilet paper, that I called my daughter to tell her. Little things are big news today!

All that said, we are living in a different world now than we were a few short months ago. Humans are innovative and have that unique ability to change and make lemonade out of lemons, and use their passions to create something new, the force of which probably has not been seen since maybe World War II and the sacrifices made during that time. We are resilient, and definitely Tree Farm Inspecting Foresters and Tree Farmers fall into that category of

resilience, as do our forests. Your ability to adapt and move forward, try out new ideas, and stay current with the science of our profession and passions about the land are always refreshing to me. With that force of resilience, the Vermont Tree Farm Program is always looking at ways to improve how we work with you as well as make your work for Tree Farm worthwhile and, hopefully, simplified and rewarded as much as is possible.

Beginning in 2020, we are offering, on a first-come-first-served basis, a \$100 stipend in the form of a gift card for the first 30 completed Optional inspections statewide. This will not cover decertifications unless it required a field visit. Required inspections are always paid \$100 by ATFS. Currently, we have 25 Tree Farms that have not had an inspection in more than 10 years as well as 88 Tree Farms that have not been inspected for 6-10 years. We hope that this can be a little forceful push to getting some of those completed. There is a limited amount of funds for this stipend, but we hope that, in the future, it will be the standard for all Optional inspections. Your time is valuable, we thank you and want you to be rewarded.

Last year, I had also written about preparing a media package for inspectors to use to promote Tree Farm. This was something that was overwhelmingly supported during the

Inspector Survey completed in 2018, as was support for an annual Tree Farm Inspector Field Day. We are working on that package, and had hoped to roll it out this summer at a Tree Farm Inspector Field Day. Alas, that may look a little bit different now, and we may need to have that rollout via webinar with an online Inspector Field Day. It definitely won't be the same as completing it in person, but we will once again need to be innovative with how we move forward. Stay tuned!

I also want to introduce our two winners of Inspector awards, which would have been announced at the annual meeting. Kyle Mason worked on a system of points to identify inspectors who go above and beyond the norm in either completing inspections, as well as being involved in committees, or completing presentations, tours, and workshops. We also have it set so that the annual award does not go to the same person year after year. Each of our winners will receive a gift card for their efforts. I don't want to leave you hanging, so, for the second year in a row, Ryan Kilborn, forester for Meadowsend Timberlands, completed nine Tree Farm inspections statewide. Ryan also serves on the Tree Farm Committee. He is always ready to serve and help out, and he provided the nomination

LOG, continued on next page

LOG, continued from pg. 15



Ryan Kilborn, Winner of most Inspections in 2019

this year for our Tree Farmer of the Year. Congratulations, Ryan!

Five more of our inspectors completed three or more inspections. Those inspectors were Jeremy Turner, Richard

Root, Len Miraldi, Alan Calfee, and Pat Bartlett. In 2019, Vermont Tree Farm had 32 different inspectors completing 71 inspections. Of those, five were new Tree Farms, with 54 re-inspections and 12 decertified Tree Farms. In 2018, there were 79 inspections with 23 decertified, mostly due to database cleanup. There were four new Tree Farms, 52 re-inspections, and 25 inspectors completing 004s. Although those numbers don't seem to be that much different, the increase in the number of inspectors completing inspections is encouraging to me. I applaud you all and thank you for your time and efforts!

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We also honor one inspector as the Tree Farm Inspector of the Year: this year's winner is consulting forester and previous Tree Farmer of the Year, Alan Calfee from Dorset, Vermont. Along with completing four inspections last year, Alan also serves on the Current Use Advisory Board, Vermont Endangered Species Committee, Friends of Haystack, Inc. Dorset Conservation Commission, and the William H. Calfee Foundation. In 2019, Alan hosted two tours on his property for the Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers program, and led a Tree Identification Walk at Friends of Hildene, in Manchester. Alan has been a forester and Tree Farm Inspector since 1990. His enthusiasm for forestry and the Tree Farm program is contagious, and I have to say his excitement for this award was by far the best response I have received. Well done, Alan!

I also wanted to identify all of our Top Ten point earners, in order of most points: Ethan Tapper, Pat Bartlett, Jon Bouton, Len Miraldi, Russ Barrett, Jeremy Turner, Joe Peterson, Dave Paganelli, and Richard Root.

Thank you all for your efforts and extra time spent on inspections and so many committees and presentations, articles, and public speaking. Maybe I am a little biased, but I believe we have the best inspector corps in the country. I admire your efforts and energy, and your commitment to Tree Farm, but mostly your work in the forests of Vermont. We couldn't do it all without you. Thank you, and MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU!

Tree Farm
Inspector of the
Year Alan Calfee
from Dorset, VT



Seven Steps to Legacy Planning Success

by Mary Sisock

Seventy-five percent of you want to have your woodlands stay intact and in the family. Yet only about 20 percent of woodland ownerships are inherited. Something is happening to derail the wishes of woodland owners. One obvious culprit is a failure to plan.

People plan for things that will happen in the near future, like vacations, and they plan for things that may or may not happen by buying insurance, but a surprising number of people don't plan for the thing that is going to happen to us all. Yes, it's uncomfortable to think about. But, if you don't make a plan for what happens when you die, the default will be a plan the government will make for you; and it's unlikely to have the outcomes that you want. Failing to plan is planning to fail. But unknown to many, there is another culprit that prevents the realization of woodland legacy dreams. That is inadequate planning. Inadequate planning occurs when you've made plans but those plans don't necessarily lead to the outcomes that you want even when on the face of it seems like they should.

This is a good point to talk about the distinction between estate planning and legacy planning. Estate planning is planning that gets your things to where you want them to go as efficiently as possible with the least tax consequences. Legacy planning is planning that gets your things to where you want them to go as efficiently as possible with the least tax consequences and which is guided by a vision that governs what happens to your bequests when you are gone. If you

just want to make sure your assets go to whom you want and don't care what happens to them when you are gone, an estate plan will help you meet your goals. But if you are hoping to leave a legacy that lasts generations, you need to make a legacy plan. Much inadequate planning happens when people try to leave a legacy using an estate plan.

Seven Steps to Legacy Planning

1. Determine the need to do tax planning.

Estate and Legacy planning share the same first step, which is to make an inventory of all your assets and liabilities. The value of your assets minus liabilities and less any charitable contributions upon death equals the value of your estate. If the value of your estate is less than the federal and state estate tax exemptions, you don't need to worry about tax planning. If, however, you are near or over the limit of those exemptions, then you will want to consult with a tax attorney.

2. Determine what is important to you.

Before you can make a plan that will meet your legacy planning goals, you need to be clear about what you want. Questions to ask yourself include: Do you want the land to stay in the family? Do you want it to stay intact? Are there certain elements of how the land is used or not used that are important to maintain over time? In what ways will a legacy serve future generations?

3. Determine what is important to your potential heirs.

You may want to leave a land legacy,

but does anyone in your family want to receive one? If they are interested, does their vision for the future of the land match yours? Do they have concerns about affording the taxes or keeping up management practices? The answers to these questions will help you form a plan for a legacy that is sustainable in the long run.

4. Engage in mutual goal setting.

Now that you have a clear vision and know what others' interests are, you will probably find that there isn't 100% alignment. So, the next step is to work on finding common ground and set mutual goals. This is a time to be flexible and innovative. There are many ways that multiple goals can be met. Family meetings are a good setting to accomplish this work. Having regular family meetings also gets your heirs used to working together. If you find you're having trouble with this step, consider working with a neutral advisor.

5. Identify needed advisors

Although legacy planning can be broken down into seven steps, it is not necessarily simple work. You will at least need the assistance of an estate planning attorney. Other advisors that may be of help during the planning process are an accountant, a financial planner, an insurance expert, a facilitator, and your forester. Which advisors you need, and when, depends on your individual situation. Generally, the more complex the situation, the more advisors you will need.

6. Determine transfer timing.

You can transfer your woodlands to your heirs before you die or after you die, or some before and some after. There is no right or wrong choice, but there are important tax consequences for each. It's important to talk to a tax advisor about the consequences of

LEGACY, continued on page 19



NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

COVID-19 impacts on SFI

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

This pandemic and subsequent orders by Governors in the region to shut down portions of the forest products sector is having an effect on SFI participants. The “stay home/stay safe” order, which requires social distancing, has caused all events that involve people gathering to be cancelled or postponed, and that includes loggers’ training classes and third-party audits. LEAP has postponed all of its spring classes, and that affects the ability of SFI participants to meet the required standard to purchase raw material through trained harvesting professionals. SFI USA has responded by asking all third-party auditors to waive this requirement if there are loggers whose certification has lapsed as a result of Covid-19 training class postponements. This will continue until such time as the education programs can be rescheduled. Audits are also impacted, and new guidance has been published to allow for remote audits to take place and allow certifications of SFI participants to be extended until such time as field audits can restart.

In addition, the annual **SFI VT Legislative Breakfast** was cancelled. This occurred very early in March, even before the Governor’s Stay Home/Stay Safe order. We do plan to host this event in 2021, so stay tuned.

The summer **SFI/AIV Forest Policy Task Force** is also on hold until we know more about how and when we can

resume normal activities, if there will be such a thing. Our Executive Committee will be discussing this in the near future.

SFI VT also has a booth at the Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition, otherwise known as the **Loggers’ Expo**, held every other year at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT. As many of you may know, this has been postponed until October 16-17. We hope to see all of you there.

SFI Standards – Revisions are proposed

SFI USA and SFI Canada recently released a new draft of proposed changes to the SFI Standards used to measure the certification status of program participants. This revision is a rather lengthy step-by-step process. State Implementation Committees (SICs) were informed of this project a year ago, and these revised standards are not expected to go into effect until January of 2022. The last revision was 2014. Most of the proposed changes are minor as these standards, which began in 1994, have gone through a number of revisions to be more efficient and effective, so current standards are somewhat mature. New changes are additions to the standards, including better recognition of the need for control of invasive species as well as a section in forest management labeled “Climate Smart Forestry.” Some changes are also made to logger training programs to recognize

changing priorities on the landscape, including rare and threatened species and invasive species.

An interesting fact: In 1995, 34% of wood purchased by SFI participants was from trained harvest professionals. In 2018, that number was 96%.

The comment period for interested persons runs from May 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The VT SFI SIC will be reviewing the draft and plans to provide comments in the near future. Anyone interested in reviewing the draft can find it on the SFI website (www.sfi.org, click on SFI Standards). Your input to the SIC is welcomed.

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is widely recognized as an acclaimed education curriculum bringing understanding of our forests and forestry into the classroom. SFI and SFI VT have embraced the additional opportunity to reach out to community members, especially our youth, and provide a platform of activities and projects that are hands-on opportunities to learn about the importance of working forests, potential careers in our working forests, and the benefits that we derive from an active forest economy.

The Steering Committee met remotely last month to receive reports and updates. Coordinator Rebecca Roy is working hard to continue delivering

this program into our education system. A well-attended facilitators' training workshop took place last fall expanding our reach, especially in southern Vermont schools. As with everything else, plans for spring workshops have been cancelled, and we are hoping to commence more facilitator trainings this fall.

Since Covid-19 has closed schools throughout our state and country, PLT has found ways to adjust by showcasing activities that can be done in homes with families. If you want to see and perhaps try some of these activities now that children are stuck at home, check out the link to Family Activities at www.plt.org.

Stay Safe everyone!

LEGACY, continued from pg. 17

your choice. However, one advantage to transferring at least some interest in your woodlands before you die is that heirs are usually more engaged when they have some ownership.

7. Take care of estate planning basics and explore ownership options.

There are three documents that everyone needs in their estate plan: a will, a durable power of attorney, and an advance health care directive. Once you have these documents in place, there are three options for transferring ownership appropriate for most woodland owners: a will, a trust, or a limited liability company. Again, there is no right or wrong option. Which one will help you achieve your legacy goals

depends on your individual situation. In general, however, wills carry the most risk in terms of a legacy standing the test of time. Trusts and limited liability companies offer more protection in terms of the risks that can derail a legacy plan. An experienced estate planning attorney can advise you on which option is best for you once you've worked through the first six steps and discussed your goals with him or her.

Whatever you do, please don't put off starting to plan. Creating a legacy plan is a process that takes a significant amount of time. It takes most woodlands owners 2 to 5 years to complete a plan. And remember failing to plan is planning to fail.



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From Cutting Boards to Cutting Face Shields, J.K. Adams Responds to COVID-19

by Christine McGowan, Director of the Vermont Forest Industry Network.



Malcolm Cooper is the second-generation owner of J.K. Adams, one of Vermont's oldest manufacturers. His workshop has transitioned from making wooden cutting boards and wine racks to manufacturing protective face shields for front line workers during COVID-19. Photo: Erica Houskeeper

As stay-at-home orders rippled through Vermont's business community in April, one of the state's oldest manufacturers, J.K. Adams, began to experiment with cutting plastic instead of wood. "We have five Computer Numerical Control (CNC) routers and an amazingly talented workforce," said CEO Dan Isaac, "so the question we were all asking was 'what can we do to help?'"

Isaac began putting out feelers to his network, looking at how companies like Bauer in New Hampshire had shifted from making hockey masks to producing

face shields for health care workers. For manufacturers of wooden kitchen items, such as cutting and serving boards, the answer was less obvious, until Millenium Slate in neighboring Granville, NY approached the company about designing and cutting plastic face shields. "They had the technology and adhesive materials to make the masks, but needed someone to cut the plastic," said J.K. Adams owner, Malcolm Cooper. "So we got to work."

Once he was certain he could do so safely, Isaac brought back a few employees to work up a prototype. They found that by retooling the CNC routers with new bits, they could cut multiple face shields at once on the machines. They began to supply Millenium Slate with the plastic shields, and with the feedback from medical first responders, they designed and manufactured a slightly different full-face shield in-house.



J.K. Adams Shifts to Making Face Shields in Response to COVID-19. Photo: J.K. Adams

"The demand for PPE by healthcare workers on the front line was in the news daily," said Isaac, "and we had the capacity to do more."

Capacity to Make 50,000 Shields Per Week

With input and feedback from the UVM Medical Center, J.K. Adams designed a clear polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic full-face shield and almost immediately began filling orders for UVM Medical Center, the State of Vermont, police departments, firehouses, and small businesses, such as pharmacies, in need of personal protective equipment. They are currently filling orders for 5,000 to 20,000 face shields at a time, and have the capacity to increase that number. "At full capacity, we can make 50,000 shields a week," said Isaac, who says they are rapidly adjusting operations to meet demand. "The health and safety of our team is paramount, but we are in a good position to take orders of 200,000 or more."

In addition to providing their team with protective equipment, they are sanitizing the manufacturing area every hour and doing a full clean between shifts. They have also divided the workday into multiple shifts to allow for social distancing and set up remote working for employees who can work from home. Among those remote workers is Janice Corey, who has been with J.K. Adams for more than 50 years. "Janice is absolutely instrumental," said Isaac. "We have her set up at home with a laptop working on procurement and inventory." One of



Janice Corey, who has worked at JK Adams since 1966, continues to work remotely during COVID-19, coordinating procurement and inventory for the protective face shields the company is now making. Photo: Erica Houskeeper (2018)

the area's largest employers, J.K. Adams had 40-plus full-time employees prior to COVID-19. To date, they have been able to rehire about 25 percent of their workforce, and expect to bring as many who are willing and able back to work as production increases.

Continued Innovation

"We are only seeing growing demand at this point," said Isaac, "so the current plan is to continue manufacturing face shields even once we are able to resume making our wood products." The design team is currently working on a new model that can be sanitized between uses. "We struggle with the environmental impact of a single-use plastic face shield," said Isaac. "It is what has been demanded by the buyers and end-users, but we are working with medical professionals on a version 2.0 that will be fully sanitizable and reusable."

Isaac added that companies all over Vermont and around the country are working together, sharing information and design ideas to solve a real-time problem. "It's inspiring," he said. "It makes me proud to be a Vermonter and to work for a company that can make a difference."

In a 2018 interview with the Vermont Forest Industry Network, 70-year-old Cooper, who is the second-generation owner of J.K. Adams, commented that his business has always been about innovation, quality, and people. "We are constantly looking at how people live," he said in the interview, "and asking how we can enhance their lives." Who would have thought that his company's ethos would lead them from barbeque boards and cheese trays to medical face shields for frontline healthcare workers?

About the Vermont Forest Industry Network

Like most, the forest products industry in Vermont is experiencing uncertainty during COVID-19 and finding ways to innovate and respond. From JK Adams making face shields to county foresters hosting virtual forest walks, and woodworkers turning out birdhouse kits for kids, the industry is finding ways to support their employees, customers, and communities. The Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry.

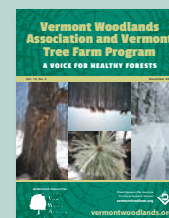
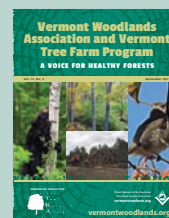
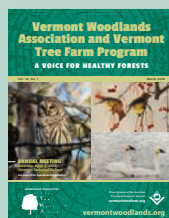
Vermont's forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction, and wood heating. Forest-based recreation adds an additional \$1.9 billion and 10,000 jobs to Vermont's economy. Learn more or join at www.vsjf.org.



A completed face shield manufactured by woodworking company J.K. Adams in Vermont. Photo: J.K. Adams

Advertise in the next newsletter in September or in the eNewsletter every week.

Contact Christa at
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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.

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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



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.

Colette Duerre, *New York, NY*
 Paul Epsom, *Clarks Summit, PA*
 Jeff Forward, *Richmond, VT*
 Robert Giffen, *Fair Haven, VT*
 Laura Meyer, *Williston, VT*
 Kim Morton, *San Francisco, CA*

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 Victor Wallis, *Somerville, MA*
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 Robert Williams, *Poultney, VT*



Information and Guidance to a Successful Timber Harvest

Timber harvests come with a lot of questions—some answers you need to know, some you don't. To help you answer those important questions about your woods, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has created the **Landowner Guides to a Successful Timber Harvest**. They're simple and concise guides that handle topics including: Overview of a timber harvest, Water, Wildlife, Economics, and Working with Foresters and Loggers. Download the series or just the booklets that pertain to you at VTCutwithConfidence.com.

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

Contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received for:

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 Michael Tatro
 Jim Wilkinson

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Kathy Beland
 George Buzzell
 Leo Laferriere
 Thom McEvoy
 Paul Harwood
 Ross Morgan
 William Sayre
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If you would like to make a donation to the memorial or honorary fund, please make note of whom your donation is for and how you would it invested (Upton Wildlife Endowment, Executive Director Endowment, Bizzozero Tree Farm Fund, or general operating fund).



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