

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS



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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

2019 on the Horizon... Really?

by Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director

Oh my goodness, the end of 2018 is fast approaching and I'm totally not ready. Did this happen more quickly than usual, that the temperatures plunged to single digits both sides of zero and snow fell nearly daily? Or, is it age that impacts how I view time these days. The old adage, "time flies when you're having fun" seems more appropriate for youth because in my view, time flies when you're not looking. And sometimes life is too busy to look.

The best laid plans just don't always work out the way we expect. During 2018, I made several decisions that were designed to give me a bit more time for relaxation and reflection. As it turns out, Aristotle had it right when he postulated that the universe seeks to fill the voids, or more commonly interpreted as "nature abhors a vacuum." Seems it's not only the universe that seeks to fill the voids but humankind as well... or at least, this human. I often find myself wondering when I had the time to do those things that came off my plate earlier this year.

For me, it means I've still not mastered the art of letting go. For VWA, it means we've had a very productive and what I'd call, successful year. We're picking away at many of the goals that the board set in the 2016 five-year strategic plan. In the last twelve months, we have welcomed 122 new members. These are landowners, friends, and resource professionals who have chosen to add their voice to yours and I hope you

know how very important each and every one of you are to our *Voice for Healthy Forests*.

If you took our recent member survey, thank you! Your answers are very informative and help us understand how to better serve your needs. I was so encouraged to see that nearly 50% of survey respondents have been VWA members for more than 10 years and that more than 40% of you heard about us through your forester. We have long said that our foresters are our best ambassadors... thank you foresters, for your advocacy of VWA.

Your reasons for belonging are about as diverse as you are. But, I find a very common theme that is support of our mission to provide education, encourage and promote exemplary woodland management, and represent your interests as woodland owners. The services you value most, in order of importance, are Northern Woodlands magazine and our newsletter, workshops and events, and legislative advocacy.

You provided us with many good suggestions on how we can improve and grow and we will strive to incorporate as many of these ideas as possible. Some of your suggestions had to do with greater connections to industry and economy. I've been involved in conversations about this topic with some of our foresters, with the Working Lands Forestry Committee (of which I am the "appointed" interim chair),

and Christine McGowan, Director of the Forest Products Network. I expect that this involvement will lead to better information and opportunity for our members. It's also on my list to develop a tax planning program for landowners that will complement our existing succession planning programs.

Much of what has kept me busy this past year involves engagement with other like-minded organizations as partners. We are working more closely with Audubon Vermont on our Woods, Wildlife & Warblers program; participating in a Water Wise Woodlands project with the folks in the Upper Winooski Watershed; collaborating with UVM Extension, VT Land Trust (VLT), and VT Coverts on programs for women woodland owners; planning for a Land Ethic Leaders training in 2019 as part of a state and private partnership; serving on the Working Lands Enterprise Board and forestry committee; helping guide the transition of Project Learning Tree in its new home with Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); working with Vermont Conservation Design partners; offering continuing education opportunities for foresters and walks in the woods for landowners; participating in the NRCS state technical committee meetings; and so much more. My odometer is testament to VWA's desire to increase

HORIZON continued on pg. 18



NEWS FROM VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPT.

Northern Saw Whet Owl

by John Buck, *Wildlife Biologist*



During these seemingly endless days of winter, while checking sap lines for wind-fall, my mind often wanders to the truly long days of summer, when the landscape is a shade of green so rich that Crayola should have a crayon named 'Vermont Green,' when the forest smells of rich conifer needles and the organics of the soil exude an earthy fragrance reminiscent of patchouli. I

also think of all the birds that will be here staking out their particular claim on forest real estate.

One of those birds is a special favorite of mine (if it is possible to have a favorite), maybe because it is more common than its infrequent appearances would suggest and the fact that it is more active at night than

in daylight hours. However, if you find yourself in the forest into the night and intently, you are likely to hear the distinctive monotonous 'peep-peep-peep-peep' of the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Weighing in at just 3 ounces, the saw-whet is Vermont's smallest owl and is among the smallest owl species on the planet. It gets its name from the resemblance of its call to the sound of a saw being sharpened on a whetstone. Saw-whets are most frequently found in older coniferous forests with a diverse understory because of the good combination of nesting and feeding opportunities. However, they are not rare in mixed and deciduous forests too. Because of their diminutive size, saw-whets most often utilize the lower and mid-canopy portions of the forest to stay out of view of the woodland hawks. However, while hunting, they are unabashed.

OWL, *continued on pg. 18*



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Getting the Wood Out

by Put Blodgett, *President*

How to get heavy wood to the mill or processor? This has taxed the ingenuity and strength of loggers since the days of the first settlers.

In Colonial days, the King of England claimed the finest white pines for his navy's masts, much to the frustration of the colonists. They cut some anyway, sawing them into narrower boards as if they had come from smaller trees. The king's tree wardens were very unpopular, even to the point of being tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail.

After the mast tree was cut, a straight road was cut to the nearest river, one end of the tree hoisted to the underside of the axle between two giant wheels and several teams of oxen hauled the tree to the water. After arriving at the seacoast, the masts-to-be were loaded on ships and sent to England where they were gratefully received as mast trees were becoming scarce in Europe.

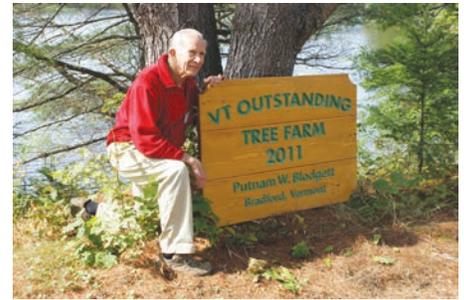
As the years went by, timber harvesting extended further inland which increased the difficulty of getting the wood out.

In north central Maine, the heavily-timbered Allagash watershed flowed north to join the St. John river. American loggers paid a duty to New Brunswick for wood that floated into the St. John which did not sit well.

Chamberlain Lake and its tributaries are the headwaters of the Allagash. But Telos is connected to it to the east and a glacial

moraine at the east end of Telos could be ditched to send water down Webster Brook to Grand Lake Matagamon and from there via the East Branch of the Penobscot to the main river and hence to Bangor where ocean-going ships could load lumber from the sawmills built on pilings that spanned the river. But the logs further down the Allagash had to be raised 15 feet to the level of Chamberlain. This was accomplished the first time by building a dam below Churchill Lake which was north of Eagle. The two lakes are connected, so the same elevation. This raised the water level all the way back to where the water from Chamberlain entered Eagle. A lock was constructed there and another lock built where Chamberlain water left that lake. Logs were towed up Churchill and Eagle and through the lower lock. The lock was closed and the lock at the outlet from Chamberlain was opened, raising the level in the lock to that of Chamberlain. The logs were then towed down Chamberlain to the east, across Telos and to the dam at the top of the Telos Cut. Water released from this dam propelled the logs through the Cut and into Webster Stream.

An investor purchased the township that the Telos Cut was in and upped the tax on logs going through this dam at the head of the Cut. Loggers decided to drive their logs through anyway, but the investor got word of their intent. He armed a group of 75 roughnecks from Bangor with knives and clubs and sent them to the Cut to deter the loggers. The roughnecks were successful



Put Blodgett

at intimidating the loggers and the Maine legislature finally had to set a fair tax. That ended the "Telos Cut War". This first harvesting of the Allagash headwaters happened in the 1840s.

In 1902 a new idea was conceived to get logs from the Eagle/Churchill watershed to Chamberlain and then down the same route to Bangor. A tramway was built from Eagle Lake to the 15' higher Chamberlain. A 6000' 1.5" cable, weighing 14 tons, was brought up Moosehead Lake by boat but proved too heavy to haul overland to the site and had to be cut in two and then spliced after arrival.

The tramway consisted of two sets of small rails, one above the other in a wood box-like frame. Concave steel trucks with wheels were clamped every 10' to the now endless cable. Logs were pushed onto two adjoining trucks by men with pike poles as the trucks came up around a submerged wheel in Eagle Lake. At the upper end they went over a 9' bull wheel, powered by a steam engine, and slid into Chamberlain and the endless cable carried the trucks upside down on the bottom tracks back to Eagle. The Tramway operated six seasons, 16 hours a day, and moved approximately 100 million feet of logs.

A 71' tow boat was built on Eagle to tow the logs from the Eagle/Churchill

PRESIDENT, *continued on pg. 22*



NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

Vermont Native Plants vs. Invasive Plant Look-a-likes: American Cow Parsnip vs. Giant Hogweed

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

With snow falling, autumn chores in full swing, and daydreams of crisp winter hikes through our woods filling our heads, it can be hard to remember some of the excitement of summer. But our winter wanderings may bring us upon tall, dried stalks—reminders of what was once growing only a few short months ago.

When June and July rolls around in Vermont, many things are in bloom, including suspected sightings of a rare non-native invasive plant, Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). Around the same time in summer, a native plant, American cow-parnsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), is also flowering. American cow-parnsnip (common cowparsnip, cow parsnip) is much more common than its invasive plant look-a-like. **Giant Hogweed** can reach heights of 7-20 ft., with leaves up to 5 ft. across, flower clusters up to 2.5 ft. across, and stems with purple splotches, and was introduced to North America in the early 20th century, originating from the Caucasus Mountains and Asia.

A few quick ways to determine what you're observing include general size (Hogweed is truly towering), the shape of the flower clusters (Hogweed has an "umbrella" shape, American cow-

parsnip is "flat topped"), presence of coarse white hairs at the base of the leaf stalk (American cow-parnsnip lacks these coarse almost beard-like hairs), and number of rays within the flower cluster (Hogweed has 50 or more rays within the flower cluster while American cow-parnsnip has only ~15-30).

Here is a great resource to compare other native plant look-a-likes to hogweed from New York DEC.

{www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html}

While contact with both American cow-parnsnip and Giant hogweed can cause a rash or burn, Hogweed sap can trigger a severe chemical reaction on exposed skin, and even cause blindness. Brushing up against this plant can transfer sap. This is more worrisome than exposure to Wild parnsnip, Wild chervil or American cow-parnsnip, where you have to break the plant tissue to come in contact with the sap. Giant hogweed is a federally listed noxious weed, and is therefore part of Vermont's Noxious Weed Quarantine.

{https://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant_pest/plant_weed/invasive_noxious_weeds/noxious_weeds_list}

Check out this site if you'd like to learn more about the native plant, American



Photo Credit: R. Westbrook, Giant Hogweed stalks in winter, CC BY 3.0 US

W. Ciesla, the flat-topped blooms of American Cow-parnsnip, CC BY-NC 3.0 US

cow-parnsnip, the United States' largest member of the carrot family.

{<https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/species/heracleum/maximum/>}

Another great resource for curious minds is "Mistaken Identity" published by the Delaware Department of Agriculture. This document highlights many common invasive plants and their native plant look-a-likes.

{www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_024329.pdf}



VWA CONSULTING FORESTERS

Is Consulting Forester in Your Vocabulary?

by Kathleen Wanner

Growing up in suburbia, forester was not in my vocabulary. Climbing the few backyard trees in my neighborhood was as close as I got to the woods. Even living in the woods of Vermont for the last fifty years, it was not really until my tenure as Executive Director that I began to understand the value that foresters bring to our working landscape. This leads me to the realization that there are probably many woodland owners like myself who didn't know the role a consulting forester could play or had never thought about hiring one.

I think about this in conjunction with our Woods, Wildlife, & Warblers (WWW) program that's been underway in southern Vermont for the last three years. This project began because landowners like you and other industry professionals told us how important it was to them to have more landowners engaged in active management. This is actually a fairly common theme around the globe as we see more and more loss of forest cover.

WWW was designed to encourage greater engagement by offering a suite of services for woodland owners. Through extensive marketing in the four southern counties, we were able to reach nearly 700 woodland owners who had some level of interest in knowing more about how to care for their woods. The lens we use in this

program to view the forest is birds and other wildlife. And what we offer is information, access to workshops & woods walks, a visit from a forester, a peer landowner, or a wildlife biologist. Everybody would jump on that, right? Well, not so much. And here's where I circle back to my lack of understanding.

The WWW team had anticipated certain barriers that we'd need to overcome ... such as time and resources... and thought we had planned accordingly. But there was more that we learned during the scope of this project that I think will make us all better at what we do in the future. One of those things has to do with managing expectations about what it means to work with a consulting forester. If you receive this publication, you're already connected to VWA and/or Tree Farm and may be enrolled in Current Use so working with a forester is not an alien concept. But whatever our personal involvement in caring for the woods, most of us have friends or relatives who may not be so involved... and so we are all ambassadors!

All Vermont foresters are licensed but not all licensed foresters are consultants. So what is a consulting forester? A consulting forester is an independent professional forester whose specialty is to work with woodland owners in providing

comprehensive forest management advice. While some of Vermont's licensed foresters work for industry, logging contractors, commercial enterprise, local, state, or federal agencies... a consulting forester works for you, the woodland owner. Nearly ten years ago, the Consulting Foresters Association of Vermont (CFAV) merged with VWA and its members became VWA Consulting Foresters. You can find the list of our consultants on the website at www.vermontwoodland.org.

So what does a consulting forester want from you? Harkening back to our learning in the WWW program, it's easy to imagine that some folks might be apprehensive about having a forester come visit. The best way to alleviate any apprehension is to understand what the consulting forester may want from you. His or her questions may likely be...

- What are your goals and expectations for your woodlands?
- What do you want the property to look like in 10 years? 20 years? Beyond that?
- Do you wish to harvest timber?
- Do you have recreational objectives? Trails? Roads?

VOCABULARY, *continued on pg. 19*



VWA CONSULTING FORESTERS

Forty Years of Forestry in Vermont

by Kathleen Wanner, *Executive Director*

John McClain has been a Vermont forester for more than forty years. He lives in Bethel and works primarily in central Vermont; however, he has clients as far north and south as the Canadian and Massachusetts borders.

From his Brooklyn-born roots, John moved a lot as a youth but always had a great love of the woods. He recalls his Boy Scout years as a very enriching experience. After graduating from high school in Connecticut, he attended the University of Colorado for two years, leaving there to work in Arizona as an archaeological assistant. And while this was interesting work, he missed the green mountains and the ocean. And John



knew his future had to involve one of those elements – he chose the mountains and went back to school to finish his education as a forester, graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1977.

As a young forester in the 70s, when there were perhaps only 20 or so consultants around the state, he opened his first forestry business in Roxbury. He sent out about 200 letters to landowners, introducing himself and his service... and got one response. So during that first year, John spent more time in the woods logging than practicing his profession. And, for several years thereafter, he worked all week for Ethan Allen grading lumber at their furniture factory in Randolph. While in college, he had taken advantage of a program through National Hardwood Lumber Association and was a certified lumber grader. Weekends were dedicated to the woods for the few clients he had secured in his business.

A few of John's classmates at U Mass wanted to do business in Vermont and reached out to him. Together they formed Atlantic Forestry but after a few years, John broke away from the company and started Forest Resource Associates with Joe Nelson and Rich Ince. FRA had an office in Burlington and Randolph. This business eventually split and in 1993 John was approached by Keith Ross of New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) to manage a timber sale. The two developed a good working relationship and John consulted with NEFF for a few months until he became a

NEFF forester. He soon met other NEFF foresters and in 1994-95, New England Forestry Consultant (NEFCO) was spun off. Several very generous benefactors helped with this transition. NEFCO is an employee owned entity with the company's 14 or so foresters owning the company's shares. There are currently two new NEFCO foresters sharing John's office, learning from his tutelage.

As a NEFCO forester, John and his fellow foresters manage NEFF's roughly 24,000 acres of forest and monitor their conservation easements. This is his largest client. John estimates that he has about 300 other private landowner clients with a land base of about 120,000 acres.

When asked what he likes most about forestry, John quickly responds, "working with landowners." His first question for landowners is about their goals and objectives and he encourages folks to think about this. And whatever the goals, he aims to impart knowledge through conversation and walks in the woods so landowners can make informed decisions. He knows his clients well, listens, and always tries to help them meet their goals. Perhaps as a testament to his demeanor, John just wrote the fourth management plan update for the family of his very first client.

Service to his profession is an integral part of John's work. As a young forester, he was chair of the Green Mountain

CONSULTING, *continued on pg. 20*



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers Project: Southern Vermont landowners embrace managing their forests to enhance bird habitat

by Steve Hagenbuch, *Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont*

It's no secret that many Vermonters place significant value on the wildlife habitat that their land provides. Knowing what to do to enhance the value of that habitat becomes a question for which many landowners are seeking an answer. Thanks to the *Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers* project, a partnership among Audubon Vermont, the American Forest Foundation, and Vermont Tree Farm Committee, landowners in Rutland, Windsor, Windham, and Bennington counties



are getting the help they desire. Nearing the end of its third year the project has directly engaged, through technical and management planning assistance, 60 landowners stewarding over 6,600 acres of forestland.

Each parcel of land presents its own unique opportunities for habitat enhancement. One of the significant benefits that the Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers project provides is a personalized set of management recommendations to each participating landowner. Take for example a story unfolding on a property in West Wardsboro. The landowner has been working to re-establish a number of small apple orchards. During a recent walk through, the consulting forester for the property and an Audubon biologist identified the opportunity to enhance the orchard's habitat potential for songbirds by planting additional fruit producing trees and shrubs. Native plants such as alternate-leaf dogwood, serviceberry, and highbush cranberry will offer migrating species including Wood Thrush and Blue-headed Vireo a valuable food source during their fall journey to the tropics.



Further north in the town of Norwich, Audubon's biologist pointed out to the landowner the importance of trying to enhance the structure of a forested area dominated by eastern hemlock and white pine. The density of trees and minimal sunlight reaching the forest floor have not supported the growth of the next forest cohort. Consequently the seedlings, saplings, and forest shrubs which provide important nesting and foraging opportunities for birds like Black-throated Blue Warbler are by and large lacking. Harvesting of small groups of trees, each up to ¼ acre in size, will likely help address this resource concern.

WILDLIFE, *continued on pg. 17*



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.

- Dan & Kristie Adams, Pittsford, VT
 Kate Bass, *Strafford, VT*
 Chandra Blackmer, *Northfield, VT*
 John Bloomer, Jr., *Rutland, VT*
 John & Diana Caldarelli, *South Kingston, RI*
 Steve Clark, *W. Brattleboro, VT*
 Alan & Pat Cole, *Island Pond, VT*
 Thomas Comes, *Newport, VT*
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 Sara Pennington, *Putney, VT*
 Michael & Jean Polnerow, *Thornton, PA*
 Barbara Hudson Rescott, *Marriottsville, MD*
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 Jack Santos, *Fairhaven, MA*
 Nancy & Edward Shyloski, *Old Lyme, CT*
 Philip Stoltzfus, *Randolph, VT*
 Craig Tomkinson, *Belmont, VT*
 Scot Williamson, *Cabot, VT*
 Richard Wiswall, *Plainfield, VT*
 Shane & Jennifer Young, *Tunbridge, VT*
 Bob & Lois Zambon, *South Ryegate, VT*

Welcome New Tree Farmers

- 1732 Charles Bronk & Tracylea Byford, *Tinmouth*
 1733 John Calderelli, *W. Wardsboro*
 1734 Shane & Jennifer Young, *Tunbridge*
 1736 Craig Coleman, *Springfield*

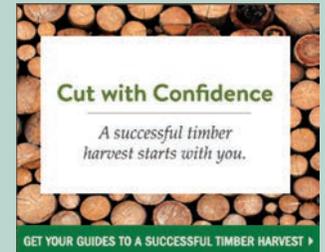


Thanks to our Tree Farm Inspectors

The success of the Tree Farm program is totally dependent on a dedicated corps of inspectors who help us uphold the high standard of excellence. We wish to thank our inspectors who enrolled new tree farms or completed inspections for us in the last three months.

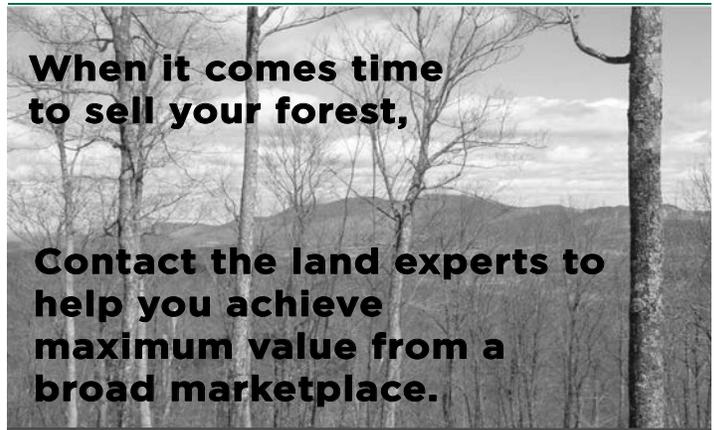
- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Alex Barrett | Kathy Beland | Dan Kilborn |
| Russ Barrett | Paul Harwood | John McClain |
| Rose Beatty | Robbo Holleran | |

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.

VTCutwithConfidence.com



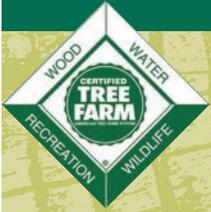
When it comes time to sell your forest,

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VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

Star Date - November 12, 2018 The Measure of a Tree Farm Program, or How Many Googly Eyes Spell Success?

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

As of the end of October, Vermont had 88 active Tree Farm Inspectors. Of those 88, 31 of you have completed at least one inspection this year. Fourteen inspectors will lose their certification over the next 6 months if they do not complete one and only one inspection or take an online refresher course. There are other ways to maintain your active status as well, that may involve other activities, and not just how many inspections you complete. Amazingly, those numbers are somewhat of an improvement over previous years. Numbers can mean a lot or nothing at all. It all depends on what is the expected outcome.

Last weekend, my husband and I had our grandkids for the weekend. Knowing that the weather was going to

be more than a little blustery and very wet, I planned lots of craft activities, most of which included spruce cones of assorted sizes, acorn caps, feathers (really a bad idea,) glitter (an even worse idea,) popsicle sticks, paint, fake snow and the very entertaining googly eyes. There was also an inordinate amount of glue. And yes, I harnessed the power of Pinterest! It is interesting to watch Hannah and Gabe and how differently they approached their creations. Some of that is the difference between a 5-year-old and a 3-year-old, and some is their personalities. Hannah was all about having a vision for each project. She knew what she wanted, how she wanted it to look, made a plan, had all of her parts and pieces picked out and put them all together. She moved a little slower and was all about making

it “match” my sample project. Gabe was barely in his seat before he was trying to paint anything in front of him. He pretty much covered an entire page with paint, which in some cases ran together to create, well, brown. After finally getting him to slow down a little, and he realized that I had googly eyes to glue, he covered a paper with those! However, they were for other projects, namely a spruce cone reindeer and an owl. With their respective approaches, Hannah made one owl, and two reindeer, and was very creative. Gabe made two owls, and would have made more, and then about 10 reindeer. He would have glued googly eyes on cones all day long if I had let him! While Gabe

INSPECTOR'S LOG, *continued on pg. 20*

Vermont Tree Farm Standards Review Standard #7- Protection of Special Sites

by **Ryan Kilborn**, *Tree Farm Inspector*

In this article, we continue the review of the 8 Standards set by the American Forest Foundation for the American Tree Farm System. Because it is the responsibility of the landowner to make sure these standards are being met on

their property, the Vermont Tree Farm Committee has decided to review these standards for your education. Today we discuss “Standard 7-Protection of Special Sites.”

Standard 7: Protect Special Sites;
Special sites are managed in a way
that recognize their unique historical,

STANDARDS, *continued on pg. 23*

TOURS, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

WILDLIFE TRACKING WITH LYNN LEVINE

Saturday, January 12, 2019

(bad weather date, Sunday January 13)

1:00-4:00 PM

Dummerston, VT

Limit 15: registration required

WOODS WALK

Saturday, January 26th

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Waterbury, VT

Contact Allan Thompson for details.

VERMONT FARM SHOW

January 29-31

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY EXPO

A great opportunity to meet and greet others interested in our forest stewardship. If you'd like to volunteer for a shift, please contact Kathleen (kmwanner@comcast.net)

VWA BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Friday of every month

VAST conference room

Berlin, VT

All members welcome to attend.

TREE FARM COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, January 11, 2019

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

118 Prospect St., WRJ

All Tree Farmers and

Inspectors welcome to attend

*It's never too early to
mark your calendar*

2019 VWA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 6th

8:30 AM-3:00 PM

VTC, Randolph, VT

FROM OUR READERS

Town Forest, American Chestnut Foundation, and a local school team up

by Roxanne Matthew

In the spring 2016, the five members of the Fairlee Town Forest Board, along with the town's consulting forester, Markus Bradley of Redstart Forestry, and Dr. Kerry Browne and Rachel Sanders, science instructors at Rivendell Academy in Orford, NH, acquired 21 potentially resistant American chestnut hybrid seedlings (B3F3). They were provided by Yurij Bihun, President of the Vermont/New Hampshire Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation.

Bradley, Dr. Browne, and Ms. Sanders met and developed a lesson/planting program, and the Rivendell freshman science class enjoyed a day-in-the-woods lesson while planting the seedlings in three clear cuts at the site of a recent logging operation in the Fairlee



Photo by David Matthews

town forest. Each year, the sophomore science class and instructors, members of Redstart Forestry, and members of the Fairlee Forest Board meet to release and measure the trees. The resulting data is charted and submitted to the national office of The American Chestnut Foundation. The first year

TOWN FOREST continued on pg. 19



Photo by David Matthews

FROM OUR READERS

Message from a Vermont Tree Farmer

by Kevin Hall, 2016 Tree Farmer of the Year

I am writing this account of my recent experience to remind fellow tree farmers of the importance of avoiding ticks. Since around the first of May I have been battling severe fatigue along with constant flu like symptoms. Presently I take 12 pills a day, and my doctor tells me that could go on for a long time yet. I hope I can prove him wrong. What's wrong you ask? I was bitten in late April or May by a tick so small I never knew. There was no rash, no sign of a bite, no nothing. I had been in our sugarbush most of April, and in May we took a week end trip to L.L. Bean in Freeport Maine. While at the Hotel we found ticks everywhere. My wife Emmy came in off the lawn and found four on herself, and as many on our dog. I didn't happen to catch any on me, but Emmy and the dog found as many the next day. After our car sat on the main street of Freeport, we found them walking around on the inside of the window glass. Well crap, doesn't that give you the willies! We were reluctant to leave the blacktop, and didn't go on any hikes at all. After returning home I went to the woods a few days later. I was fine in the morning, but by eleven o'clock I was so sick and weak I had to return home and go to bed. I had a fever so high it is a wonder it didn't bust the top off the thermometer! 102-104 degrees for the first week. It was like the flu times ten. Never had I experienced such a head ache. It was so intense I couldn't touch my head. Sweats, chills, body aches like you can't imagine. After going to a clinic and being sent to an emergency room twice, the blood test revealed both Lyme disease, and Anaplasmosis. It seems he was an extra

dirty little tick since he was carrying two types of bacteria.

For the rest of May I refrained from driving, since my judgement and alertness was impaired. I had a terrible time to type on the computer. The connection between the brain and fingers seemed disconnected somehow.

For the remainder of the summer I have had to rest a lot, and most projects were cancelled. Fatigue and dizziness are the biggest issues presently. There hasn't been a day since May without a headache, although not as severe as in the beginning. Probably the hardest part for me has been the diet. No sugar at all,

no calcium, no this, no that, all in order to allow the pills to do their job. Imagine going that long with nothing to drink but water, and yes that means NO DESSERTS. It was a long summer without pie or maple creamies.

It makes me very uneasy now to wallow into the brush, or sit on the ground. We treat our outdoor clothing now with Permethrin, made by Sawyer, check for ticks when we shower, and use peppermint soap. I encourage anyone spending time outside to read up on the disease, and take preventative steps. A simple little tick bite can be real life changer.

Kevin's experience is heartbreaking and we wish him all the best in his recovery. VWA is exploring other features on ticks for future newsletters. This is an issue that landowners must approach with total seriousness. We all wish to be able to enjoy the outdoors and to encourage our youth to do the same.

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NEWS FROM VNRC

New Report Highlights Loss of Undeveloped Woodland in VT

by Jamey Fidel, VT Natural Resources Council.

A new report by the Vermont Natural Resources Council highlights the increasing loss of undeveloped woodland tracts in Vermont through parcelization, the breaking up of land into smaller and smaller parcels. The phenomenon of parcelization, which usually occurs through subdivision, is gaining momentum, and subsequent development is causing forest cover to decline in Vermont. According to the U.S. Forest Service, Vermont may have lost 102,000 acres of forestland from 2012 to 2017.

Depending on how it occurs, parcelization and development can lead to the following impacts:

- Forest fragmentation and land conversion, which can negatively affect plant and animal species, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational access, and the ability of forests to sequester and store carbon.
- The loss of large ownership and management of forest parcels, which can reduce their productivity and contribution to the working lands economy.

An increase in the number of parcel owners, which may result in new housing, and infrastructure (roads, septic, utility lines, etc.), which can diminish the economic and ecological viability of forests depending on how the development occurs.

VNRC worked with researchers and state agency partners to examine parcelization trends on private land in Vermont by using Grand List (tax) data and Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Program data from 2004 to 2016. The following are some of the key trends from the research:

- ***The amount of land in larger parcels is shrinking, while the amount of land in smaller parcels is increasing.***

Both the amount of land in parcels 50 acres and larger, and the number of parcels 50 acres and larger are decreasing, while both acreage, and the number of parcels under 50 acres, is increasing. More specifically, the number of parcels in the 2-5 and 5-10 acre size categories increased by 10.25% and 15%, respectively.

- ***The number of acres in the “residential” category is increasing, while “farm” and “woodland” acreage is decreasing, with “woodland” parcel acreage decreasing the fastest.***

Residential acreage increased by 162,670 acres, which is a 7% increase over the study period. The amount of “woodland” parcels, which represent undeveloped forestland (there may be a seasonal camp), decreased by 147,684 acres, or approximately 15% over the

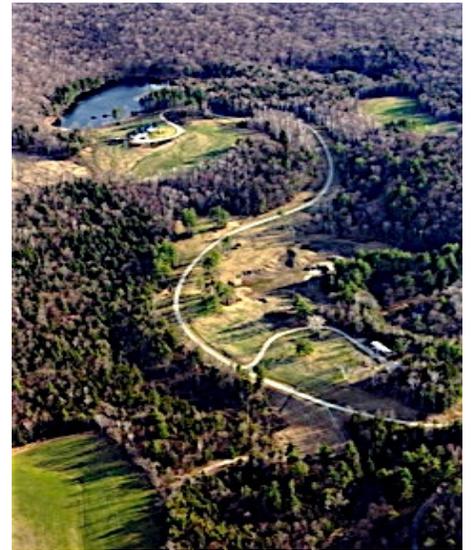


Photo by A. Blake Gardner

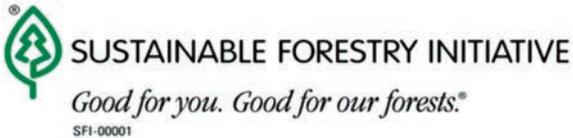
study period (a portion of this was due to land shifting to public ownership).

- ***Across the state, the per-acre value of land in Vermont nearly doubled during the study period, though increases varied greatly depending on location.***

During the study period, the value of land statewide went from \$990/acre in 2004 to \$1,827/acre in 2016—an increase of 185%.

Most dwellings are built on smaller parcels compared to larger parcels. The number of parcels with dwellings

WOODLAND, continued on pg. 21



NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Vermont SFI® Update

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

SFI Vermont continues to promote the principle of sustainability as our private forest landowners manage for the future. The use of a third-party certification program develops confidence in buyers and consumers of forest products that these forestlands are well managed today and will be here for generations to come. SFI® is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting forest sustainability and supporting the links between sustainable forests and communities through carefully targeted research, direct leadership of critical initiatives, and partnerships that effectively contribute to multiple conservation objectives. Nationwide, Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard cover more than 300 million acres. Millions more acres benefit from the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. SFI's Forest Management,

Fiber Sourcing and Chain of Custody Standards work to ensure the health and future of forests. Through application of these certification standards, SFI's on-product labels help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. In a 2017 survey, 41% recognize the SFI Logo. SFI Inc. is governed by an independent three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at sfiprogram.org.

Worker's Compensation Remains on the Front Burner

The costs of purchasing workers' comp policies is too high. Vermont rates are the highest in the northeast and ranks as one of the most expensive in the nation. Because of high costs, fewer logging contractors are hiring employees to help them be more

productive. Working alone is not a safe situation either. Thanks to Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln, there is a bright light shining at the end of this long dark tunnel. We are not there yet, but the shape of a solid plan is coming together. Lincoln is working with regulators, industry leaders and insurance companies to find a solution. We need to grow the pool by getting more businesses buying policies, greatly enhance Vermont's premier loggers' education program, LEAP and all of us need to realize this is a major cultural change in how we have been conducting our businesses in the past. Safety must be paramount on all logging jobs, sawmills and trucking enterprises. SFI VT is doing all it can to promote Sam's leadership, shape the solution and promote and support the effort. A very important component of SFI Certification for mills purchasing forest products is that logging contractors are trained for safety and professionalism. Currently, nationwide SFI recognizes over 11,000 loggers as trained to SFI Standards, including close to 200 woods workers here in Vermont. This certification requirement has brought many more loggers to take LEAP classes to be able to supply wood to SFI participating mills. We all need to recognize that although change is difficult, in this case, it is necessary if we are to grow

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In Vermont, call William Driscoll, SFI Coordinator, at Associated Industries of Vermont, 802-223-3441.

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SFI, continued on pg. 24

FOREST SECTOR NEWS

Fighting Climate Change One Rocking Chair at a Time: Vermont Woods Studios Makes a Case for Buying Local

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

“Buy local” is a common refrain around Vermont, and many of us feel good about supporting small, independently-owned businesses, farms and restaurants around the state. For Peggy Farabaugh, owner of Vermont Woods Studios in Vernon, the idea has roots that are much deeper and farther reaching. “We started this business 13 years ago because Vermont woodworkers were making some of the finest furniture in the country, but few people outside of New England knew about them,” said Farabaugh.

“We thought that if we could introduce consumers to Vermont’s incredibly talented furniture-makers, we could convince them to buy responsibly-made furniture that supported forest health, and ultimately the health of our planet.”

Sound lofty? Farabaugh makes the connection between buying locally-made furniture and global forest health without missing a beat. She explains that many larger, industrial-scale furniture makers buy wood that is illegally or, at best, irresponsibly

harvested from rainforests like the Amazon in South America. Timber is shipped to China where it’s inexpensively made into furniture using cheap labor, and then sold to U.S. consumers. “You’re paying to ship wood around the world,” said Farabaugh, “not for craftsmanship or quality.”

Vermont Woods Studios

Farabaugh and her husband, Ken, believed they could create a market for Vermont-made furniture to help support the local woodworking community, and work to reverse the effects of global climate change. Their first move was to purchase the old Pine Top ski area in Vernon and convert the former ski lodge into a showroom for Vermont-made furniture. Well positioned just a few hours from Boston, New York and other major metro areas in the Northeast, the Farabaughs believed customers could be drawn north to buy locally-made furniture. Today, Vermont Woods Studios features furniture made by Maple Corner Woodworks, Vermont Furniture Designs, Copeland Furniture, and Lyndon Furniture as well as products made from Vermont partners such as Hubbardton Forge and Simon



Peggy Farabaugh and her husband, Ken, believed they could create a market for Vermont-made furniture to help support the local woodworking community, and work to reverse the effects of global climate change. Photo credit: Erica Housekeeper

CHAIR, *continued on pg. 25*

WILDLIFE, *continued from pg. 9*

In the examples given above the landowners had already been actively engaged with their land for many years. The new information they received from Audubon through the *Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers* project provided a “birds-eye view” of the forest and a very intentional focus on wildlife habitat in general, birds in particular. This information can be used to help inform future updates to their forest management plans or as an amendment to them. Not all

landowners, however, are in a similar situation. For those who may have perhaps recently acquired their land or have otherwise not been actively engaged with it, the *Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers* project offers solutions to get them started. Thanks to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and a group of dedicated volunteer peer landowners and consulting foresters these landowners are also eligible to receive a complimentary 2 hour site visit. At the completion of the visit the

landowner is provided with a checklist of “next steps” and other resources toward enhancing the habitat value of their woodlands.

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to enhance wildlife habitat on your property or would like to request a free visit from a forest and wildlife professional please visit <http://www.vtwoodsandwildlife.org>.



Vermont Woodlands Consulting Foresters

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

VWA Consulting Foresters are licensed by the State of Vermont and meet all continuing education requirements.

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Visit the website for complete forester contact information: www.vermontwoodlands.org

How Can a Consulting Forester Help You?
Consulting foresters assist private landowners in identifying and achieving goals for their woodlands, including managing for forest products, wildlife habitat, recreation, water resources, and aesthetics. VWA Consulting Foresters can help you meet your management objectives.

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TSP: NRCS Technical Service Provider
* Tree Farm Inspector

HORIZON, *continued from pg. 3*

its outreach, public engagement, and partnerships across the region.

Looking ahead to 2019, it promises to be as busy and productive as this year has been, with continued involvement in existing programs and the launch of a new website by end of March. We will also strive to continually improve the newsletter you are currently reading. This issue includes stories and photos

submitted by our members about relevant issues and topics. I invite you all to do the same and to get in touch with me anytime you have ideas to pass along. I love to hear from you and especially love meeting you at our various events around the state.

It's you who helps us be our best, working for you in ways that make a difference. We don't exist without

you, our members, and so we do strive to not only meet but exceed your expectations. Keep us honest by letting us know how we're doing.

The best to you all for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

- Kathleen

OWL, *continued from pg. 4*

The Saw-whet owl's diet is largely that of small mammals such as voles, shrews, and mice. They will occasionally take chipmunks and squirrels and small birds. Like all birds and especially their larger owl relatives, saw-whets have an extremely acute hearing ability. This trait allows them to detect and pursue their prey with extraordinary accuracy while silently gliding under the cover of nighttime's darkness.

Saw-whets are cavity nesters. That is, they utilize holes in trees, preferably those excavated by woodpeckers, but will sometimes use cavities formed by decay or other natural processes. Nesting in Vermont begins in early April. Following courtship the female begins laying 4 to 6 off-white colored eggs in the cavity nest. She will perform most of the incubation duties over the next 4 weeks while the male hunts and brings food to her. Once the young have hatched and grown out of their downy first feathers (mid-June) the female will begin hunting too. Or, she may leave to find another mate to begin the nesting cycle all over again. After the young have learned to fly the male will remain with them for a few weeks.

The status of the Saw-whet Owl is



less dire than some species. Their population is widely distributed throughout Canada and the United States where coniferous forest habitat is found. However, they are on the decline as so many bird species are. In the 25 years between the two Vermont Breeding Bird Atlases (1982-2007), saw-whets experienced a 26% decline. That was not the case in New York and Ontario where increases in saw-whet populations were reported. Vermont's decline may likely be due to decreases in older aged coniferous forests and its accompanying cavity trees.

As I release the last main line from its wind-thrown burden my task is not

complete. I need to head to the conifer stand where wind has toppled some of the most vulnerable of the shallow-rooted fir and spruce trees. The change is sure to have an impact on the local saw-whet owls. But my hope is they will find ample nesting and feeding habitat in the large remaining stand I have been managing to withstand such weather events. Hearing will be knowing. Sugaring season will be well underway when the familiar 'peep-peep-peep-peep' of the saw-whet will next be heard. Instant gratification is not in the vocabulary of forest-time so I must tone down my need for an answer to match that of the forest.

VOCABULARY, *continued from pg. 7*

- Do you wish to manage for wildlife? Do you hunt and if so, how does this impact your management?
- Are there any special places on your land that you wish to maintain?
- How long do you plan to keep your property? Will your family inherit? Will you sell?
- Are you interested in the tax equity program (aka Current Use)?
- Do you want revenue from your land for taxes and other projects?

VWA has always suggested that you consider your relationship with a consulting forester much the same way you consider a relationship with your physician, accountant, or attorney – that is, long term and based on mutual respect. So how does one go about hiring a consulting forester? Do your research. Look at the consulting forester list on the VWA website, ask

your neighbors who they use for a forester, call foresters in your area, ask them for client references or recent jobs in your area, ask about their services and affiliations, and get specific if you wish... when can they start work for you, do they have employees or partners, are they insured, what are their fees for services and will they give you an estimate before they provide service? Typically, an initial visit may be free or at a nominal cost but time spent advising, educating, developing a plan, marking and monitoring a harvest is billable service. Some foresters charge by the hour and some have set fees. Educate yourself ... and remember, this is a long term relationship so you also want to get a feel for how well you can work together.

Once you have selected a forester, and they have accepted, you should sign

a contract that details the services to be provided and agreed upon fee structure. If there is something you don't understand, ask for clarification.

A consulting forester is not there to tell you what to do with your land but advise you on what's best to do, based on your goals, expectations, and values. Their knowledge can complement or enhance yours and help you make the best decisions for managing your woodlands. It took us nearly thirty years of woodland ownership to understand the value of working with a forester but our woods are grateful for the attention they've received. And I understand that even my small forest is a big deal in the greater ecosystem, that what I do on my land does matter to the birds and wildlife that call the woods their home, and in some miniscule way to the world's forests.

TOWN FOREST, *continued from pg. 12*

of follow up measure and release was conducted by the same group of students -now sophomores - who had planted the seedlings, and most of the students remembered which trees they had helped to plant; they were very proprietary about measuring and releasing "their" seedlings. The 2018 follow up was a very satisfying one for the group, as some of the trees had put on growth spurts which made measuring heights a bit of a challenge. To date, all 21 trees have survived and are thriving.

Prior to the hands on portion of the project, Markus Bradley leads a classroom science lesson which

explores the history of the American chestnut, the effects of the chestnut blight, and some of the basic science associated with the restoration project. Chestnut Day in the Fairlee Forest is becoming a much anticipated and popular lesson for the students as well as the instructors and other adults who attend. The class begins the day with a hike of about a mile to reach the chestnut landing, and the hands-on tasks begin. The student groups complete maintenance and measuring tasks and make any needed repairs to the enclosures around each tree. After a short lunch break, the students head back out into other areas of the town forest for an afternoon of

entry level Forestry 101 presented by members of Redstart Forestry.

The Fairlee forest board will be receiving chestnut seeds from The American Chestnut Foundation in 2019. These seeds will be given to elementary school students at Rivendell who will attempt to get the seeds to germinate and develop into seedlings, which will be then planted to become part of the Chestnut project in the town forest.

CONSULTING, *continued from pg. 8*

Society of American Foresters (GMSAF); had early involvement with the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program; was the project forester for the first Craftsbury classroom; and has served on the Current Use Advisory Board since the early 80s when rules

were in development. He continues to serve on the CUAB and has been chair for at least the last 15 years. He is one of four founders of Consulting Foresters' Association of VT. That group was united with VWA a number of years ago. John joined the VWA board of directors

in 2018 and brings a quiet, thoughtful approach to all discussions. In his non-working hours he enjoys fly-fishing here in VT as well as Maine. He is also a dedicated duffer on the golf course.

INSPECTOR'S LOG, *continued from pg. 11*

frantically glued eyeballs, Hannah took a paper plate that had all of our leftover glitter and fake snow, and turned it into a complete snow scene, with birds in nests, bushes and trees and a wooden person with an acorn hat. She is so much like her mother! We had a ton of fun, and I only lost a little bit of skin to hot gluing antlers but will probably have glitter in my dining room forever. Outcome? Lots of Gabe's reindeer, and a snow scene that melted my heart for Hannah's passionate creativity.

Every month, the Tree Farm Committee receives a report from National, with graphs and numbers on what we have done, what goals we have met or missed, how many Tree Farms and Tree Farmers, acres and comparing previous years' numbers to this year, number of inspections, types, etc. You get the picture. All of these numbers are important to track. However, if we looked at those numbers comparing it to a year ago, we have less acres in Tree Farm, less Tree Farms and less Tree Farmers. If you only address the numbers, it sounds kind of bleak! But, if we look at the story and the work behind those numbers, to me, it looks different. Since establishing a stand-alone Tree Farm Committee, we have completed a Strategic Plan, Bylaws, a mission statement, and have a great group of active committee members. Probably the biggest job since then has been updating our database by contacting each Tree Farmer by

phone, having a 20 minute or more conversation, and removing people who were no longer interested, updating contact information, etc. In that process, our numbers dropped. I don't view this as negative, but instead as an opportunity to continue to build the program with dedicated Tree Farmers with a vision of long-term stewardship.

As part of our mission to "promote the thoughtful stewardship of Vermont's privately-owned working forests," VT Tree Farm, as well as Vermont Woodlands Association, accomplishes much through the acquisition of grants. Part of any grant process is measuring the outcome when that grant is complete, and whether or not it was successful. Grants are written fairly specific for their purpose and how they measure results. But do the numbers always tell the whole story? I know with the Woods, Wildlife and Warblers grant, I personally believe we have accomplished and will continue to accomplish so much through the contacts we are making with landowners, their neighbors and the general public in accomplishing habitat work through forest management. Again, the numbers are necessary and important, but the personal connections and change in public perception regarding management, to me, are much more important.

So, for you 88 active Tree Farm Inspectors, not including the 6 just

trained, and the 2 more happening soon, I have trained all of you, some with the help of Paul Harwood following the standards update in 2015. Some of these trainings were big crowds, some smaller, and some have sat at my dining room table. The most recent group, the majority were young enough to be one of my kids. Nothing against those of us who may be a little gray, but I have to say it was refreshing to teach a group of young foresters about Tree Farm. I only hope that I have instilled a little bit of passion and pride for this program and what it means to me and many others.

No numbers or statistics can measure the pride in a Tree Farmer's voice when speaking about their land and all that they have accomplished or are planning. I have heard that passion from Tree Farmers all over this state and across the country. I heard it this fall from Randy Wilcox when speaking about the Parker's at the Tree Farmer of the Year celebration and heard it in the voices of Peter and Julie Parker as they spoke. That passion and pride was also about relationships between the family and the people who have worked on their land, and the stewardship ethic that emanates from all of them, even down to the gentleman who planted trees there while in high school.

INSPECTOR'S LOG, *continued on pg. 21*

WOODLAND, *continued from pg. 14*

increased by 20,737 parcels on tracts less than 50 acres in size, which is an increase of 8.8% over the study period.

- ***The Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Program is playing a role in protecting large woodland parcels.***

The study found that parcels enrolled in the forestland category in UVA in 2004 were more likely to remain as undeveloped “woodland” in 2016 compared to woodland not enrolled in

the UVA Program.

The report includes a number of recommendations to help woodland owners including the following:

- Support diversified strategies to reduce the pressures on landowners to subdivide land.
- Boost investment in land conservation and landowner incentives for conservation easements.
- Increase support to woodland

landowners for succession planning to minimize the subdivision of land.

- Support working forests, including funding the Current Use Program and the administration of new forestland enrollment.
- Support outreach efforts and public policy to encourage landowners to aggregate land for management or conservation purposes.

To read the report and explore the data visit <https://vtforesttrends.vnrc.org>.

INSPECTOR'S LOG, *continued from pg. 20*

For me that passion started when I worked for the Maryland Forest Service. My coworker and I went to visit a Tree Farmer's property somewhere in Frederick County. I do not remember his name, but clearly remember that he had planted some kind of super poplar on part of his land, to produce pulp and/or firewood using coppice sprouting. This elderly gentleman may have been long in years, but still had the vision, energy and enthusiasm for planting trees, and managing his forestland, but mostly, he loved being a Tree Farmer. And he loved that green and white sign that announced to the world his passion and stewardship ethic. I think at that moment, even though I didn't know it at the time, my blood began to turn to Tree Farm green. No numbers here, no metrics to count or analyze, but instead, pure passion for something I couldn't quite put my finger on at that time.

As of this date, about 18 of the 88, soon to be officially 96 VT Tree Farm Inspectors, have completed a survey sent out to you regarding your experience with Tree Farm, and things we can do to help you promote this program. Yes, I am counting the number of you who

responded. But the actual answers are more important than anything! However, if more don't respond- am I actually getting all of the feedback that we really need? We need this information to help us help you build this program with passionate inspecting foresters and Tree Farmers. If we don't have your thoughts- we clearly cannot elicit change and improve an already great Tree Farm program. I will be following up this survey with phone calls to each and every one of you, to discuss the survey and find out what tools we can give to help you engage with landowners better

and develop and maintain a long-term vision for Tree Farm.

Can we measure the promotion and thoughtful stewardship of Vermont's privately-owned working forests? I don't think we can from a numerical, or statistical basis. But we surely can by the Tree Farmers we connect with, and by the foresters and loggers who are the boots on the ground, and by all those who become good stewards of our forested landscape.



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PRESIDENT, *continued from pg. 5*

watershed to the bottom of the Tram. A 91' tow boat was built on Chamberlain to tow the logs down that lake and across Telos to the outlet dam.

In 1925 Great Northern Paper Company contracted with Eduard "King" LaCroix to deliver 125,000 cords of pulp annually from the Allagash watershed to the West Branch of the Penobscot and hence downstream to its paper mill in Millinocket.

The East Branch was deemed too difficult to drive and the Tramway too slow to deliver that amount of wood. First a canal was considered but then abandoned in favor of a railroad.

During the winter of 1926 two locomotives weighing 90 and 100 tons, two switch engines, 60 flatcars and eleven miles of rails were hauled from Quebec through the woods, across a bridge over the wide St. John River to the Tramway site—an incredible feat! Then the railroad was built which included an 1800' trestle across Allagash Stream and its adjacent wetlands and a 600' trestle into Umbazooksus Lake where the pulp was dumped for its journey to the mill.

The Umbazooksus trestle had a 6" tilt and the box cars had a 12" floor tilt so that when the sides were unlatched, much of the pulp fell into the water, but bark piled up and caused problems. To meet the contract commitment, the railroad operated round the clock from midnight Sunday to midnight Saturday. The railroad operated from 1927 until 1933.

Deep in the Maine woods, it was too expensive to salvage and the remains, along with the Tramway, fascinated canoeists for years. The two engines were housed in a huge shed with boarded sides and a tin roof. But when the state created

the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in 1966, it later gave orders to burn all buildings along the river to create the "Wilderness". Through some horrible mistake, the shed protecting the engines was burned which also consumed the wooden cab on the smaller engine. They sit there today, forlornly rusting away.

New Hampshire's White Mountains and the rocky streams on their slopes did not lend themselves to the log driving methods of Maine. Logging railroads were the answer.

Between 1870 and 1919 there were 17 logging railroads carrying away the wood as the lumber barons stripped the mountains of their timber. The resulting slash and the sparks from the engines caused massive fires that brought howls of protest from tourists. The rapid run-off of rain and melting snow from the barren slopes left the down-country mills without water for power in dry times. The combined uproar resulted in the 1911 Weeks Act (Weeks was a native of Lancaster) and the establishment of National Forests east of the Mississippi.

Space is getting short for a more detailed history of New Hampshire and Vermont early "Getting Out the Wood" methods. For those interested in New Hampshire's logging railroads read "Logging Railroads of the White Mountains" by C. Francis Belcher published by the Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston.

The Connecticut River provided for its watershed an opportunity for massive log drives that was wonderfully illustrated by the presentation at the 2018 VWA Annual Meeting. For those that missed the meeting and are interested, the story is well documented by Bill Gove, long-time member of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and

Recreation, in his "Log Drives on the Connecticut River," a well-researched history of the drives with a treasury of old pictures. The colorful career of George Van Dyke and his Connecticut Valley Lumber Company is included. The book was published by Bondcliff Books of Littleton, NH.

The ingenuity and toil that went into "Getting the Wood Out" should not be forgotten!

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STANDARDS, *continued from pg. 11*

archeological, cultural, geological, biological, or ecological characteristics.

Every property is unique and we all have different values and goals for owning land. This all shapes what might be deemed a special site on your property. Some special sites maybe mapped and identified by a state agency for unique values that make it a rare or endangered natural community or provides habitat for a rare or endangered species of animal, or has historical and/or ecological significances. Some simple examples (that are more pertinent to Vermont) are old cellar holes, dam sites, mill sites, look outs/vistas, historic cemeteries, vernal pools, various wetlands and swamp communities, rare or threatened plant and animal species, areas holding special family memories, and the list goes on.

The standard states that landowners shall consider and maintain special sites relevant to the property and that landowners shall make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities. The best way to recognize or locate special sites is to consult with your forester and other natural resource professionals and to get out on the ground to explore your property. If special sites are located then they should be flagged and documented on your map and within your management plan. Pairing this information with notes and/or photographs can help pass knowledge onto future generations. Minimizing disturbance to and around these special areas is important during forest management operations. Have conversations with

your forester and logger so they are fully aware of the location of a special site and your expectations for how it should be protected.

The Vermont's Natural Heritage Program (vtfishandwildlife.com/conserve/conservation-planning/natural-heritage-inventory) is a great place to start to research if there have been any preexisting reports of rare or endangered plants/animals, as well as natural communities, on your property. For historic archeological information the best option is to contact Vermont's Division of Historic Preservation (www.historicvermont.org). Another option is to also talk with neighbors or long-time community members that may have a knowledge of the area. The combination of time and lack of maintenance can quickly erode evidence of roads, foundations, or historic structures in a short period of time.

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SFI, *continued from pg. 15*

our industry and remain a strong component of our rural economy. Look for more to come in the coming year and be ready to do your part to assist in this challenging endeavor.

Project Learning Tree

As reported, just over a year ago, Project Learning Tree (PLT) found a new home in SFI. The American Forest Foundation turned over the administration of PLT to SFI. PLT is a widely recognized as an acclaimed education curriculum bringing understanding of our forest 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 we derive from an active forest economy.

At the same time PLT is transitioning, the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is also making changes in its educational programs. PLT has been administered by FPR for more than 25 years and the recent Coordinator, Rebecca Roy has taken on new responsibilities in the Parks Division. SFI VT is working on a transition team that includes FPR Officials, VWA and The Vermont Tree Farm Program to reenergize PLT in Vermont to meet the needs of our community.

The goal for PLT is to expand its reach into more schools and to reach out to other youth organizations such as childcares, boys and girls clubs, summer camps, community youth centers and scouts. To do so, a big need is to recruit volunteer facilitators. Facilitators are front line people that

reach out to schools and other youth organizations to introduce PLT and assist the teachers in how to use the curricula and adopt them into their usual course of teaching. Forest products industry folks are excellent candidates for such a role in their local communities. If you have interest in becoming a facilitator please let us know, we do plan to put together a facilitator training workshop as soon as our transition team finalizes its work. What better way to contribute to your town and local school than to share your interest in child education and to have a valuable tool to help them understand the importance of the forests around them and our industry.

A major stakeholder meeting is planned for November 30 at the UVM Extension office in Berlin, VT to enlarge our reach, gather more ideas and shape the final plan for making PLT a great program for Vermont's youth. VFPA leaders are invited and anyone that has experience in youth education and/or has a desire to become a facilitator is encouraged to attend.

Forest Policy Task Force

For close to 30 years SFI VT and the Associated Industries of Vermont (AIV) has joined together to bring a top-notch industry meeting, twice a year, on forest policy. Members of the forestry and forest products industry gather together and invited experts on policy topics affecting forests and the forest products industry bring in reports. We discuss various topics and issues and work together on solutions and resolutions to affect positive change for our industry. The fall/winter meeting is timely to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session and prepare for what issues we will be working on with Legislators. We have set the date for Thursday, December 13 at the Steakhouse Restaurant in Berlin, Vermont. We do expect to discuss important topics such as workers' compensation, Act 250, forest fragmentation, Use Value Appraisal, public lands management, carbon trading and taxation and transportation issues. Stay tuned for meeting announcements as we finalize the agenda and plan to attend. If you are a member of the forest products industry and have not been getting task force meeting notices in the past, please let us know and we will add you to the invitee list. It is working together that gets us the best resolution and standing together that gets us the best result.

CHAIR, *continued from pg. 16*

Jake Checani, land steward and facilities manager for Vermont Woods Studios, stands in front of a shed filled with 20 cords of oak, ash, birch and beech firewood that was harvested from the woods behind the company's office in Vernon. Photo credit: Erica Housekeeper

Pearce. They deliver an average of 200 pieces of furniture per month. “The furniture makers we work with are using both traditional methods and cutting-edge technology to make pieces that will last a lifetime,” said Farabaugh. “We have customers from as far away as California who come to us because they want to know where and how their furniture is made.”

All of the furniture at Vermont Woods Studios is made in Vermont from wood that is sustainably harvested in the Northeast, and the Farabaughs are making a concerted effort to help increase consumer demand for wood species native to Vermont. “Furniture is actually a lot like fashion,” said Farabaugh, “trends come and go. One year everyone wants cherry, the next year walnut. We try to feature Vermont woods, such as maple, in the showroom and online to encourage consumers to think about other options.” Anecdotally,

Farabaugh sees an uptick in sales of local wood species, pointing to a maple bedroom set she sold that day. “If we can

connect people to the story behind the furniture, we might be able to convince them to make a choice based on something other than color preference.”

Vermont forests have the capacity for increased harvesting to accommodate furniture production. According to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the 2017 growth to removal ratio was 2:1, meaning that we are growing twice as much wood as is annually harvested or dies. Farabaugh, who employs a professional forester, notes that “you have to weed the forest garden” to keep it productive and healthy. The more demand for furniture made from local wood, she reasons, the more incentive for Vermont’s forests to be actively managed and, therefore, preserved as forests.

CHAIR, *continued on pg. 27*



Peggy Farabaugh, seen here in her showroom, sells furniture made by Maple Corner Woodworks, Vermont Furniture Designs, Copeland Furniture, and Lyndon Furniture as well as products made from Vermont partners such as Hubbardton Forge and Simon Pearce. Photo credit: Erica Housekeeper

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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- 201-500 acres..... \$60
- 501-1,000 acres..... \$70
- 1,001-5000 acres \$100
- Over 5,000 acres \$250
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Natural resource professionals

- Individuals..... \$50
- Firms and crews..... \$100

Wood products companies & equipment suppliers

- Individuals..... \$50
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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

CHAIR, *continued from pg. 27***Global Reforestation**

With global rainforests disappearing at the alarming rate of 1.5 acres every second, the Farabaughs were compelled to take their dedication to sustainable forestry practices one step further, committing to plant trees in the very same rainforests being clear cut by their competitors. To date, they have planted more than 57,000 trees in the Amazon and other rainforests through non-profit organizations such as Plant A Billion Trees and Forests for Monarchs. “We don’t just sprinkle seeds,” said Farabaugh, “we check on our trees after three and seven years, at which point they are well on their way to maturity and significantly contributing to carbon sequestration

and animal habitat.” She notes that their current partner, Forests for Monarchs, has additional synergy, as they are planting trees in the oyamel forests of Mexico where many of Vermont’s monarch butterflies go for the winter.

“Consumers have a choice in how they spend their dollar,” she said, “and we want to give them a clear alternative to mass-produced, low-quality furniture. It’s like food. Anyone who feels frustrated by environmental problems can start by understanding where the things they buy come from.”

Vermont Forest Industry Network
Vermont’s forest products industry

generates an annual economic output of \$1.5 billion and supports 10,000 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating. The new Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products, from high quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets. For more information please visit www.vsjf.org.



Photo: David Matthews

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.

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 VWA?

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

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



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