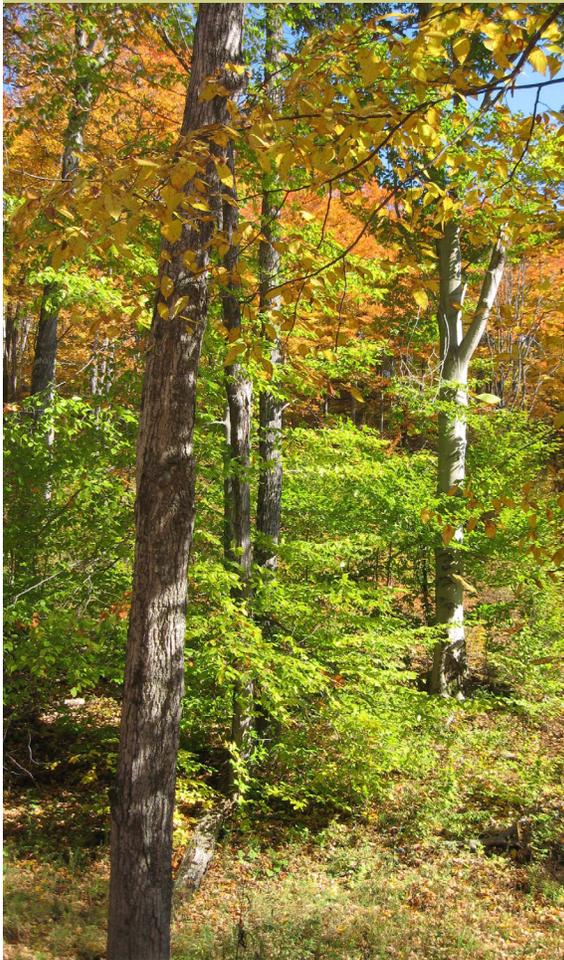


Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Vol. 14, No. 3

September 2018



A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

News from VWA	3	Tree Farm Standard 65	11
A Kettle of Hawks	4	Book review	12
President's column	5	Calendar of events	12
Poison Parsnip	6	From Our Readers	13
EAB update	7	Fairwell Steve Sinclair	14
A Day with Pat Bartlett	8	SFI Update	15
VT Tree Farm Program	9	Forest Sector News	16
Welcome & thank you	10	Building a Network	17
Inspectors Log	11		

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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

Balance... and the road to new experiences

by Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director

I'm a little crazy... or so I've been told. My husband chides me as being his "favorite overachiever." I don't see myself that way at all. I'm just a woman who loves what she does and, perhaps on occasion, does too much. But I'm on a search for balance...

For many years, I wore several hats within the forest and wood products sector. In addition to being the Executive Director for VT Woodlands Association and Tree Farm, I was also the Executive Director for VT Wood Manufacturers Association, now called the Vermont Wood Works Council (VWWC). I just loved the opportunity to keep one foot in the woods and one in the woodshop. I can't image two more passionate groups of people – landowners who strive to leave the land better than they found it because it's the right thing to do and woodworkers whose artistry and skill transform wood into beautiful and functional products that enhance our lives.

But, I am not a one-woman band. For the last thirteen years I've been assisted by Erin Lorentz who has worked very much behind the scenes completing the day-to-day tasks involved in managing organizations, and particularly the VWWC. Thus, it seemed only fitting that along with their new name they get a new Executive Director. It's very bittersweet for me as I've cherished my tenure as the E.D. working for an amazing and committed board of directors but life is not static and change is inevitable. Erin will serve this board and lead them skillfully into the future.

And the story does not end there. This amazing board bid me farewell with a most incredible gift – a certificate to attend the "Naked Table" workshop hosted by Charles Shackleton Furniture in Bridgewater and make a maple coffee table for my home. OMG! While I am quite crafty with fiber and textiles I have never made anything of



wood. The weekend of August 18-19 my husband George and I tootled over the mountain from our home in Chittenden to begin this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Charlie has been a member of the VWWC and I've known him for years but to actually be there as a "table maker" participating in the tenth "Naked Table" event was totally awesome. I love the look and feel of wood and there's something so satisfying about using one's own hands and hand tools to assemble parts and achieve that silky smooth finish.

The table making is followed by a luncheon put on by Sustainable Woodstock and catered by the Woodstock Farmer's Market. The meal is served under the Woodstock covered bridge, with bagpipes in the background. George and I loved the meal that we shared with nearly 100 other guests, met some wonderful people whom I know will be new friends, and after 48 years together put an all new experience in our repertoire together.

You've probably heard me say a thousand times before but it bears repeating... I'm the luckiest woman in the world!

To learn more about the Naked Table project visit nakedtable.com

To learn more about the VWWC visit, vermontwood.com



In the circle, Kathleen, George, & our mascot Louisa. Charlie Shackleton & Miranda Thomas, center.



NEWS FROM VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPT.

A Fall Recipe to Remember, a Kettle of Hawks

by John Buck, *Wildlife Biologist*



Keeeee!, thin and steady, followed then by a softer thin and steady *Keeeee*. Sitting on a big rock at the edge of my woods I heard this distinctive high-pitched, plaintive call. Looking up from my position, I saw it soaring in a tight circular pattern about 100 feet off the ground and so close I could see its distinctive rufous breast feathers and consecutive black and white tail bands. An adult Broad-winged Hawk. If it knew I was sitting there, it didn't let on. Its attention was focused on my neighbor's field where an unsuspecting mouse was likely foraging. The hawk also couldn't see the fixed admiration my face couldn't stop expressing for its skill of flight and sight. Just like the diva soprano soloist, beautiful and relaxed on the outside, but on the inside, keenly focused and in tight control.

Watching the hawk brought to mind their remarkable life cycle. Migrating south to the Caribbean and South America in 'kettles' of many hundreds at a time, this small soaring Buteo spends its nesting season in the deciduous and mixed forests of North

America in solitude. This is a species that has been able to hold its own in Vermont during the last 25 years due in large part to the occurrence of large blocks of contiguous forest habitat. Ensuring the ongoing presence of Broad-winged Hawks and their forest associates is dependent on our ability to provide that connected forest in the way we consciously use the land responsibly.

Here in Vermont, broad-wings will arrive in April to begin their courtship ritual of aerial displays and entangled talons. Once a female and male have selected each other they begin building their nest of small sticks in a sturdy deciduous tree in close proximity to a field or forest opening. Although they choose to nest among the trees, they are not built to dash through the woods as



are the Accipiters (eg Cooper's Hawk) but rather to soar (eg the Buteo hawk sub-group) and must have access to an open area where their superior soaring ability will allow them to hunt proficiently. Other common Vermont soaring hawks include the Red-tailed Hawk and the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Once the nest is complete the female will lay 2-3 eggs and incubate them for about 4 weeks. Following a mid-May hatching, parents will hunt for food for their offspring and for themselves, opportunistically taking chipmunks, mice, voles, other rodents, garter snakes, and even other small birds. After another 4-5 weeks the young hawks are ready to take wing. Because there is some variation among arrival dates and incubation dates, the range of dates for nest building to fledging is between mid- April to the end of July.

The newly fledged hawks will sharpen their flying and hunting skills over the

HAWKS, continued on pg. 18

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Deer Camp

by Put Blodgett, *President*

I grew up in a hunting culture. My father hunted. His brother, my uncle Pete, hunted. Vermont, in my youth and early manhood, was a hunting culture. The first day of deer season, the state, in effect, shut down as far as business was concerned because many employers and employees went hunting. Local churches served hunters' breakfasts at 4 a.m. When I was dairy farming, on opening day the hired man and I started chores at 3 a.m. on the run. If the cows didn't let down their milk under those out-of-the-ordinary conditions, they had to hold it until evening milking.

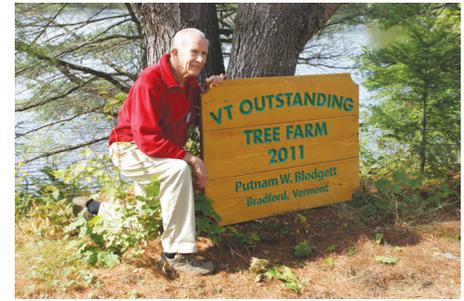
As a child I was given a Christmas present of a new .22 single shot rifle. I got a second-hand .32-.40 carbine for deer hunting in the 8th grade. My father took me to his early 1930s hunting grounds east of Bangor in the fall of my first two years of high school. In his day it required a day's hard paddle upstream to reach the remote log cabins. In my day we sat in a canoe with an out-board and nearly froze. In a 1930s hunt, my father had shot a 22-point monster buck that weighed 260 pounds woods dressed when they finally got it out to a weigh station a week later. That mounted head hung in our house throughout my youth.

In 1951 two fraternity brothers and I went to the North Country to hunt. One shot a bear which we brought back and placed on a toilet seat in one of the booths in the dormitory bathroom. It took a year off the life expectancy of the student who went to use that booth!

I didn't go again to the North Country until 1960 when Father and I were the first to use a new log cabin. The logs were green and damp and we nearly froze. I was hunting up a brook valley and I saw Father sitting on the bank some distance ahead. I saw him lean forward and then back and then suddenly snatch up his rifle and fire. An 8-point, 220-pound buck had made the mistake of jumping across a logging road. Both Father and Uncle Pete were fast-on-the-draw bird hunters. A couple of days later I connected with an 8-point, 210 pounder. It was quite a start to what has turned into an almost uninterrupted fall hunt in the North Country ever since.

For 42 years we returned to that cabin. I have become close friends with the builder of that cabin and he has joined our annual hunting party. But as grandsons joined the group, the 8 bunks were not enough and the cabin was crowded. We moved to another log cabin a few miles away with a bunkhouse for 8 attached by a covered porch to the main cabin that sleeps four. This main cabin was built for the walking boss of a logging company in 1922. It is a little airy and requires filling the wood stove in the middle of the night. But its colorful history is worthy of an article all its own. We have had a share in that history for the last 17 years.

In 1960 and thereafter for several years, I was the youngest of the group that consisted of my father's and uncle's generation and was the "gopher" for



Put Blodgett

chores. They are all gone now and it is a strange feeling to be the oldest member. Now there are sons, grandsons, brothers-in-law of a son and three close friends.

I don't hunt anymore. The driving passion that kept me sneaking through the woods from dawn to dusk is gone. I buy the groceries and do the cooking. No one complains because they know they would get the job if they did!

The hunting culture is fading. No longer are there hunter breakfasts and the closing of businesses on opening day. No longer are forested roadsides dotted with cars and hunters. Declining license sales forces the Fish and Wildlife Department to request financial support from the Legislature. Half the population lives in cities now and is far removed from the rural life and its hunting culture.

But in that last 20 miles to deer camp I am transformed—the unbroken forest, the flowing streams, the fresh air, the lack of people. It is a return to the basics—eating, sleeping, hunting and comradeship. We lug buckets of water from the river, we feed the stove to keep warm, we endure the shock of a frozen privy seat.

We enjoy the smell of bacon frying the first thing in the morning, an early-morning Frugal-Brugal (a mixture of Brugal rum and unsweetened grapefruit

PRESIDENT, *continued on pg. 25*



NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

Watch list species highlight: Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

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

In mid-summer, Vermont sees a wave of yellow flowers bloom along roads, fields, meadows, forest edges, and even forest trails and trailheads. And by September, the tall brown stems and flower heads stand out amongst the remaining green. This plant is called Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and is similar in appearance to Queen Ann's Lace (*Daucus carota*). Wild Parsnip is a member of the carrot family (Apiaceae) and is currently considered taxonomically indistinct from the common garden parsnip.

The history of this species's introduction to North America is not clear, though some herbarium samples are available from the mid 1800's. It is likely, that Wild Parsnip is a garden escape gone wild, spreading to almost all 50 US states, and all Canadian provinces. Exposure to this plant can be hazardous, because when the plant tissue is broken or crushed, and sap that comes in contact with skin is exposed to light, it causes a chemical burn (phytophotodermatitis). The VT Department of Health has more information on the health impacts of Wild Parsnip. In Vermont this species is listed on **Vermont's unofficial invasive plant "watchlist"** because of concerns regarding its toxicity and distribution.

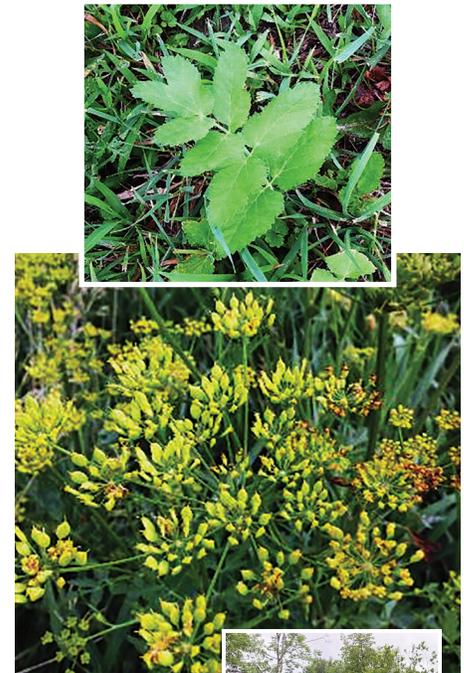
Wild Parsnip can reach heights well over 5', has grooved stems, and alternately

arranged compound leaves made up of 5-15 leaflets. Most notable when it flowers, Wild Parsnip has a two-stage life cycle. In the first stage, it grows up from seed, and leafs out in its rosette form (circular arrangement of leaves) for one or more years to gather energy stores in its tap root. When conditions are favorable, it will enter the second stage of its life cycle, sending up a tall bolt and flowering. After it flowers and sets seed, the individual plant will die (monocarpic perennial). Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 4 years.

There is a similar looking yellow flowered native species— Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), but it is more diminutive, and flowers earlier in the season.

To learn more about Wild Parsnip and options for control, check out www.VTinvasives.org and these additional resources:

Vermont Department of Health:
www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/environmental-chemicals-pollutants/wild-poison-parsnip
Vermont's Unofficial "Watchlist":
http://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/forest_health/invasive_plants
Invasive Species Center, Ontario:
www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/OIPC_BMP_WildParsnip_Feb182014_FINAL2.pdf



Photographs:(leaf, (flower) E. Spinney, VT FPR (tall plant next to field crew) H. Ewing, VT FPR. First year leaves of Wild Parsnip grow in a basal rosette (top). The following year, an aerial shoot, called a "bolt", produces a flat-topped umbel of clustered yellow flowers (center). Wild Parsnip can reach heights of 5' or more, as evidenced by the concerned faces of our Habitat Restoration Crew members this July (bottom).

University of Wisconsin Extension:
<https://hort.uwex.edu/files/2016/08/Wild-Parsnip.pdf>
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:
www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_002469.pdf



NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

What Can Landowners Do About Emerald Ash Borer?

by Keith Thompson, Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation, Private Lands Program Manager

In late winter of this year, emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in Central Vermont. At the end of July, it was found in Southern Vermont. EAB was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since spread to more than 30 states and several provinces in Canada. Since its discovery, no one has found a way to stop it from spreading, and most of the ash trees it infests die within a few years.

This can be overwhelming for some landowners, but nobody should feel powerless. There are straightforward approaches that landowners can apply to deal with the impacts of EAB and to help delay the impacts of EAB outside of the infested areas. The two main goals of landowner-action in response to EAB should be:

1. To maintain a healthy forest
2. Slow the spread of EAB to areas outside of the infested area

Healthy Forests

While the impending loss of ash is devastating, it should not distract from the fact that the forest will remain after EAB moves through. Our forest management choices in response to EAB can support or undermine forest health. To the degree that our actions support forest health, we will have cause to be proud and in coming years will be able to enjoy the many benefits that healthy forests provide. Here are a few steps you can take:

1) **Maintain ash as a component of the forest**

Practices that eliminate ash could be as great a threat to ash as EAB itself. Survival of ash species ultimately depends on retaining genes that help trees tolerate EAB infestation, and seedlings and a fresh seedbank to initiate future generations of ash. Ongoing research on EAB resistant ash and parasitoids (predatory insects) that reduce EAB populations provide some hope for the future of ash.

2) **Promote a diversity of native species**

Many woodlands can benefit from a well-planned harvest in which native tree species diversity and vigor is maintained or enhanced. This will promote development of a forest that will remain ecologically and economically productive when ash mortality occurs and improve resilience to future stressors or pests.

3) **Control non-native invasive plants**

As ash trees in the overstory die, plants in the understory respond to additional sunlight reaching the forest floor. The understory beneath a canopy of white ash tends to exhibit a higher abundance of invasive plants. Focus on establishing desirable species prior to the arrival of EAB.

- Survey for invasive plants

and incorporate invasive plant management into forest management plans.

- Remove new invasive plant populations before they spread. Treatment is cheaper and more effective when populations are still small and isolated.
- 4) **Reach out to a county forester or a consulting forester**

How best to respond to EAB while supporting forest health is going to be unique to each landowner and their woods. Working with a licensed forester can help landowners ask the right questions and arrive at an approach that works for the landowner and their woods.

Slowing the Spread

While we may not be able to stop the spread of EAB, we can slow it down and insure we don't contribute to its spread. Action to slow the spread of EAB can provide some protection for our forests and trees not yet affected by EAB, allowing landowners to plan, budget and take action in advance of its arrival. Slowing the spread also buys some time for emerging techniques and possibilities for control measures. Slowing the spread of EAB can be achieved by planning and managing the movement of infested or

EMERALD ASH BORER, *continued on pg. 19*



VWA CONSULTING FORESTERS

A Day in the Woods with Pat Bartlett, Consulting Forester

Rachel Fallon, *UVM Intern*

It was overcast when I pulled into a driveway in Woodstock to meet up with Pat Bartlett of Bartlett Forestry & Wildlife. Despite the impending rain, we hopped into his truck and drove a few miles to the Kachadorian property to look at some of the amazing work he's done for these landowners. As the rain began to fall, we took off into the trails on a covered quad and hoped for the best. I could see the excitement on Pat's face as he started telling me about the work he's been doing for decades.

Bartlett Forestry & Wildlife was started in 1987 and was the first consulting forester company to incorporate wildlife into their name and management. Pat had always been fond of wildlife. His interest began as a young boy growing up in the foothills of the Adirondacks, where his grandfather taught him about animal trapping and tracking. He was an Eagle Scout at the age of 15 when a visit from the Syracuse Ranger School secured his decision of pursuing forestry. He attended that exact school 5 years later and got his degree in Forest Technology.

After school, Pat skipped from one exciting job to the next. His work with VT Forest and Parks brought him to Windsor County in 1979, a place that he fell in love with. He took a position soon after for VT Fish and Game as hunter, firearm, and outdoor education instructor. That talent for education followed him the rest of his life, and he continues to teach workshops and lead

outings whenever he gets the chance. But Pat had a long-standing dream of living as a mountain man, so he headed back to the Adirondack Mountains to spend a winter in solitude. By the time spring began, he knew this wasn't his preferred lifestyle and headed back to society.

For a few years following, Pat worked in Connecticut with his brother who got him a job working for Wright Logging Company who supplied logs to Hull Forest Products and tree length firewood to Cape Cod. But by 1982, he found himself back in Vermont when he was offered a position in Woodstock working on the experimental Vermont Cable Logging project. He remained in Woodstock working for the Rockefellers as forestry supervisor, cross country trail groomer, and a certified professional telemark and cross-country ski instructor. It was during this time that he discovered his love of foraging for wild mushrooms, which I got to experience first-hand as we stopped on the trail to grab some vibrant lobster mushrooms (likely Pat's dinner later that evening). In 1986, he and his wife bought 11 acres of land and cleared away the pine and spruce that now makes up their home. And finally, in 1987, he took the leap away from a safe job with benefits to join private forestry.

Pat hadn't been planning to start his own company, but two consulting forester friends announced they were retiring at the same time and separately suggested



The first oaks planted by Pat for clients in 1989 (photo taken 1993)



The same oak tree in summer 2018

that he step in. He began with 50 clients in the Woodstock area, and has now grown to over 500 throughout Windsor County. He's had a powerful impact on private forestry in the state, using his experience in both forestry and wildlife to produce change. He is a Vermont

CONSULTING, *continued on pg. 20*



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

GIS, VWA, and the VT Tree Farm program

by Alan Robertson, *Tree Farm Committee Co-chair*

For those of you who use Google Earth, or have ventured onto the state VGIS website, or- for those in the Vermont Land Trust- that have recently received your copy of their new atlas of conserved land, the breadth and quality of information available to the public, and how it may be presented and used, are truly astounding. The basics of all this work revolve around quality databases, and software that can transform all of this information into useful informative solutions to previously unanswerable questions. For the TF committee and management of VWA this is most clearly illustrated in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

The first task in the process of using or developing a GIS system that might be of use to the Tree Farm Program was the development of a good database containing information on you, our customers. Based on the databases the Tree Farm Committee had access to previously we knew we had a lot of limitations and missing information in just trying to manage the program. The American Forest Foundation (AFF) also had a very limited database many years ago and brought in a new system about 12 years ago to help them manage the national program. The administrative improvements in the TF program over the past six years also demanded that the states clean up

their database to improve credibility and to populate the new AFF database. The Vermont TFC managed a two year program, completed about a year ago, to complete the database cleanup and we, at that time, thought we were pretty successful in this effort. But during that process it became very obvious that the AFF system was not really designed to support local state needs, and probably never would. Maybe more importantly, with the advent of sophisticated GIS systems in use both in government and private industry, the AFF database was not ready for that prime time mission.

So, as they say, no good deed goes unpunished. No sooner had we finished our state cleanup then we realized we were missing some additional information which would be needed to develop future interactions with both state and private GIS systems. That is, we didn't ask you all, or the right questions we should have....

At the same time in Vermont the state has initiated a comprehensive, sophisticated three year program, developed by AOT and the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VGIS), to map every land parcel in the state into an up-to-date GIS database of parcel boundaries. This product will also interface both with ANR databases already available on their website and private or NGO's databases through web

services companies. But for your VWA and TFC to be able to take advantage of this public domain system there must be an "attribute" in our database that is also in the state GIS system. That attribute is the **parcel SPAN number**.

The Department of Taxes Property Valuation and Review office (PVR) developed the SPAN number years ago to standardize and simplify the various and uncoordinated town parcel designators. It's a three part, 11 digit number with the town school code in the middle. If you do your homestead declaration, pay your own property taxes, or do an annual state Forest Management Activity Report (FMAR), you know what and where the SPAN number is. On the Property Tax Bill you receive every year from your town it's located in the little block titled "Housesite Tax Information" in the upper right hand corner of the form.

Some good news for the Vermont Tree Farm Program this summer was the approval by AFF of the three grant requests we sought, one of which was a grant to develop a Vermont TF GIS system. We intend to do this by cooperating with the state's efforts to complete their three year parcel program. The bad news is we will,

GIS, continued on pg. 18



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.

- Scott & Gretchen Beaudin, *Middlesex, VT*
 Chuck & Linda Bolton, *South Burlington, VT*
 Charles H. Bronk, *Tinmouth, VT*
 Daniel & Laurie Celik, *Brandon, VT*
 Richard Donahue, *Portsmouth, NH*
 Andrew Meyer, E.B. Hyde Co., *Hardwick, VT*
 Thomas Greene, *Arlington, VT*
 Walter Griffiths, *Bellows Falls, VT*
 Dana & Daniel Grossman, *East Thetford, VT*
 Jane Huppee, *South Royalton, VT*
 John & Carol Jenkinson, *West Berlin, VT*
 Marc Kessler, *Starksboro, VT*
 Richard Korchak, *Wallingford, VT*
 McGraw Family Partnership, *South Plainfield, NJ*
 Jim Newell, *Newark, VT*
 Keith Norton and Sue Miller, *Danby, VT*
 Jeffery & Stephanie Paul, *Bennington, VT*
 Marsha Phillips, *Montgomery, VT*
 Christopher Schenck, *Braintree, VT*
 Barbara Von Schlegell, *Wolcott, VT*
 David Sunshine, *Richmond, VT*
 Stan & Marisha Taylor, *Key Biscayne, FL*
 Michael & Diane Teetsel, *Rochester, VT*
 Tom & Barbara Truex, *Wallingford, VT*
 Stephen Twombly, *Roxbury, VT*

Welcome New Tree Farmers

1731 Tenney Brook Land Co., LLC, *Rutland, VT*

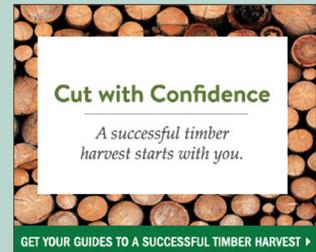


Thanks to our Tree Farm Inspectors

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 | Ryan Kilborn | Nathan Piche |
| Kathy Beland | Matt Langlais | Rich Root |
| Markus Bradley | Len Miraldi | |

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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VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

Star Date - August something or other, I can't see the calendar because my reading glasses are fogged up from the humidity- or "Transpiration of Respiration"

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

I
went to
the woods to
be quiet in my work
to breathe have space to make
a difference be a steward feel nature in
my pores touch the earth leave it better learn what
grows where and how and why and learn what lives eats
breathes walks hops climbs flies swims "depends" upon us to keep
"house" in their chaotic order of nature all the while growing trees to produce
wood to warm and build our homes make paper and pellets tools and toys and
toothpicks from trees working hard to undo mistakes of our forefathers and try not
to make any of our own in our version of taming the woodland not wilderness it
hasn't been that for a long time we try to do that and keep water clean for all
especially so trout will thrive and then in that same gurgling streamside
silence that quiet I sought to work I find when I have time to wet
a line feel the nip and tug of trout on and maybe supper
on table but sometimes just want to sit and listen
to water bubbling clean over rocks not
purposeful in anything but just
to breath and watch and
listen and know that
it is all
good

Sometimes, as foresters, don't we forget about why we are working in the woods in the first place? I know that considering the heat and humidity of this summer, it sure has been a challenge to have a good reason to want to be in the woods when it is absolutely miserable outside! Then you throw in wondering if you have enough credits, paying quarterly taxes or monthly bills, making a ton of phone calls, volunteering for your passion, writing plans and contracts, drawing maps, completing forms, fielding EAB questions, and making sure there is enough work lined up, it is no wonder that sometimes I forget how I ended up in this profession! I suppose that maybe I just need to write it down because well, I get behind in all that other work, or just let it consume my brain so that the peace of working in the woods, just goes away.

Just like you, I also get behind in my tree farm inspections. I can speak to all of our inspector

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

Vermont Tree Farm Standards Review: Standard #6-Forest Aesthetics

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 6-Forest Aesthetics-Forest management activities recognize the value of forest aesthetics".

Standard 6: Forest Aesthetics-Forest management activities recognize the value of Forest aesthetics.

Everyone understands that logging is a disturbance to the forest. Some operations and silvicultural treatments vary in degree of disturbance and visual aesthetics. Everyone also has different

STANDARDS, *continued on pg. 18*

TOURS, MEETINGS, & WORKSHOPS

2018 TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR TOUR

Saturday, September 15

8:30AM – 2:30PM

Peter & Julie Parker

Granville, VT

Register online at

Vermontwoodlands.org

VWA BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Friday of every month

VAST conference room

Berlin, VT

All members welcome to attend

TREE FARM COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 3

9:30AM – 1:00PM

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

8:30am – 3pm

VTC, Randolph, VT

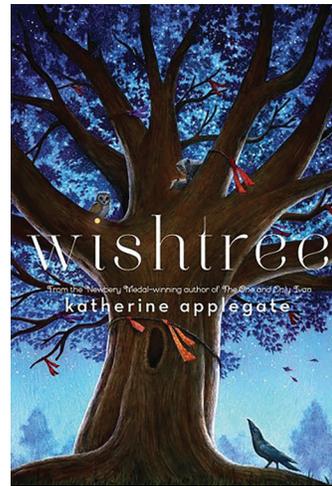
BOOK REVIEW

Wishtree, Project Learning Tree and forest management

by Allen Yale, *Tree Farmer*

Having just received my VWA newsletter, I was sitting on my front porch relaxing and reading the very excellent issue. I was thinking about what book I should review for the next issue, when my wife asked: “What is a red oak tree?” I looked across my driveway to the massive tree on the front lawn and said: “That is a red oak tree. Why?” She was sitting next to me reading *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. My wife Kathleen is a former school librarian and reading juvenile literature is one of her passions, especially Newberry Medal winners and Dorothy Canfield Fisher winners. She gave me a synopsis of the story. I said: “Let me read it when you are done.” That night I found it on my night stand.

Warning, this is a kid's book. Its protagonist is an urban red oak tree by the name of “Red.” Not only that, but “Red” can talk. His best friend is a crow called Bongo, but he also is home to raccoons, opossums, owlets, and many other forms of life. Red is two hundred and sixteen rings old. During his life he had seen many immigrant families move into the houses in his neighborhood. One group of immigrants, the Irish, re-established the old-world custom



of writing wishes on a scrap of cloth or paper and tying them to Red's branch on the first of May; thus “Red” became a “wish tree.” Recently, a new immigrant family has moved into the neighborhood which include a ten-year-old Islamic girl named Samar. She is not being accepted by the other children in school, nor her family by the neighbors. One day

Samar, with tears in her eyes, ties a fabric on Red's lowest branch and says “I wish for a Friend.”

“Hold on,” you say, “this is a newsletter for an organization with a serious mission, we cannot be wasting ink and space on bedtime stories.” In response, I will suggest that there are two reasons why I am reviewing “kiddy lit.” We have two challenges to sustainable forestry with which children's fiction might help us. The first problem for sustainable forestry is to foster within the younger generation an understanding and love of trees so that we have individuals, our children and grandchildren, willing and enthusiastic to take our place as

BOOK continued on pg. 24

FROM OUR READERS

What valuable advice Trevor Evans provides in last issue's "Boundary Lines - 101"!!

by Paul W. Hanna, L.S., Calais, VT

I can't tell you how many times in my forty-odd years of land surveying that a client has called with an I-need-my-land-surveyed plea – sometimes frantic – because of a proposed land use activity either on their own land or the adjacent. As often as not it turns out that what they really need is a trained eye to find previously marked and deeded boundaries that have been ignored for decades – a situation that would have been avoided entirely had the landowners followed Trevor's sage advice. Ancient boundary lines are a legacy passed from one generation of owner to the next but the legacy is a fragile one that requires nurturing like any ephemeral commodity. Blazes on trees heal over, paint fades, signs disintegrate, wire fencing rusts and disappears, and wooden posts slowly break down and return to the soil. An annual or at least bi-annual perambulation of one's boundaries with flagging, paint or signage is the best defense against unwanted intrusions.

Trevor's mention of "adverse possession" is important to remember too. While some view the concept as an apparent reward for a neighbor's underhandedness, in fact the historical legal context is one of punishment for failure to maintain one's boundaries – it is expected that you, as a landowner, will continually unfurl your flag over what is legally yours.

Trevor does an excellent job of describing the nuanced distinction of what a non-surveyor is permitted to do with respect to perpetuating boundaries, particularly in pointing out that the blazing of boundary and corner trees – physically scarring the tree with an axe – is solely the purview of a licensed surveyor. (A small, but significant

correction to Trevor's account: I know of no state where a civil engineer, absent a land surveyor's license, is authorized to engage in marking boundaries and corners. While foresters may have historically engaged in blazing lines, that practice too has been proscribed by surveying, licensing and boundary laws over the last fifty or so years.)

Blazed boundary trees are considered "monuments" and Vermont has a statute prohibiting the removal of monuments: Title 13 Section 3834. A second quibble I will point out with Trevor's account is that the "crime" is not a felony in Vermont but rather merely punishable by a \$100 fine. However, before the reader dismisses that trivial punishment and contemplates removing an inconvenient monument, the additional penalty of "and shall be civilly liable for the replacement cost and any consequential damages" should be considered. The cost of replacement can run into many thousands of dollars depending on the nature, location and significance of the monument. While not particularly religious myself, I will here invoke the surveyor's favorite bible quote: "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." (Proverbs 22:28.) [That quote also happens to be emblazoned prominently across the wall above the pulpit in Calais' Old West Church.]

Again, following Trevor's advice regarding boundary maintenance will go a long way toward minimizing the costs associated with owning land. Timber trespass can be an expensive mistake. But just as significant, if you call a land surveyor with an I-need-my-land-surveyed plea, the cost for that work – regardless of the motivation – will be noticeably lower with well-perpetuated lines and corners.

New Book Will Aid Wildlife Conservationists

from Keeping Track

Business guru Peter Drucker once said, "You can't manage what you can't measure." Though many systems and tools exist for measuring trees and woodlands, it's another story for wildlife. That can make it tough for forest owners looking to set sound wildlife conservation and habitat stewardship goals, and then monitor the results.

Sue Morse is out to change that. She's close to completing a comprehensive guide to finding, identifying and documenting wildlife sign and habitat health for some 40 species. The book will be published by Princeton University Press.

Morse is drawing on her lifetime of experience observing wildlife in forests across North America. She's a naturalist, tracker, photographer, public speaker and author, as well as a Vermont forester and forest owner herself. She's also the founder of Keeping Track, a non-profit that has field-trained thousands of people in using species-specific tracking techniques she's developed to conserve critical habitats.

Morse will describe many of those techniques in the new book. You can find more information about her project and even take a direct hand in its completion at tinyurl.com/



Neighborhood improvement: More than a tracking guide, Sue Morse's upcoming book is aimed at helping landowners and others recognize and conserve habitat quality for bobcats and more than 40 other species that contribute to forest health.

PROFILE

Four+ Decades of Service to Vermont: VWA Bids Farewell to Steve Sinclair, Director of Forests



by Kathleen Wanner

With a long and storied history of service to Vermont's forests, I doubt that any but newcomers to the state would not know or have crossed paths with Steve Sinclair, Director of Forests for VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation. As the Director of VWA, I've worked closely with Steve for years but still learned so much about him during a recent Face Time chat. By the time you read this, Steve will have retired as the State Forester and perhaps moved on to his new life in Delaware. We would like to recognize all he has done and wish him the very best for the future.

Steve is a native Vermonter but a "suburban" Vermonter, having grown up in South Burlington when Williston Road was 2-lanes wide, Kennedy Drive did not exist, and there were woods. Steve's house backed up to fields and woods, and this is where he spent his childhood. He's quick to note, "You don't have to live in the country to enjoy trees." And the woods were filled with treasures that he collected and brought home... cowslips, wildflowers, hemlock cones, moss on wood or rocks... Steve's mom recently passed and while others were leaving flowers at the cemetery, he and his daughter had gone foraging for forest trinkets as a very fitting remembrance of the years' worth of trinkets he brought home.

Even with this early love of the woods and outdoors, the path to a forestry

career was quite serendipitous. Steve's father was a professor at UVM's Ag College in Ag Economics and brought his son to meet professors in the college. As it happened, he connected with Roy Whitmore who was a professor in the forestry department. The two of them hit it off and the rest, as they say, is history.

Steve graduated from UVM at a very opportune time. In 1975, the state was taking advantage of the past federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to assist folks in finding employment. CETA paid 50% of salaries and thus allowed the state to take on new employees across government. Steve was hired as a forest technician, spending six months in Rutland before being transferred to the newly created regional office in Springfield. He is the last to retire from a group of forest techs hired at the same time. Steve credits his work as a forest technician as the way he learned "to do," expanding on his classroom studies. He spent 2.5 years as a technician before becoming a forester.

When asked about his current work, Steve says, "I'm a forester but today I really manage people and money." The path to today has been 43 years of transitions and it's a journey that covered many corners of the state and the nation.

Following his stint as a forest technician, Steve served as assistant county forester for Washington County

in the early years of the Use Value Appraisal program. He then spent ten years in state lands management in Central Vermont, which included Mt Mansfield State Forest. Here he did planning and implementation. As a county forester, he made recommendations, working with landowners who made the decisions and implemented practices. Working with State Lands, he actually took concepts to completion, carrying out the plans. "This is a real opportunity to see what works and it was a highlight of my career," Steve noted.

During his period managing Mount Mansfield State Forest, recreation was just budding. There was a lot of pressure on the Long Trail. Steve oversaw new acquisitions and did a lot of trail relocation on Hunger Mountain, including the creation of the Skyline Trail connecting Hunger Mountain with Elmore Mountain. The success of the Skyline Trail, equally as popular today as the Long Trail, is an accomplishment. Transition really meant opportunity and under past Commissioner Connie Monika, Steve was given the opportunity to start a new program – Urban and Community Forestry (UCF). In a way this harkened back to his roots as a "suburban" Vermonter but times had changed. UCF was a challenge. This was a

SINCLAIR, *continued on pg. 21*



NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Vermont SFI® AIV Forest Policy Task Force Summer Meeting

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

July 19, 2018
Capitol Plaza Hotel and
Conference Center
Montpelier, Vermont

About 40 people involved in the forest products industry attended the summer meeting of the SFI-AIV Forest Policy Task Force. Several topics were on the agenda and a great amount of high quality conversations took place addressing concerns and challenges of forestry in Vermont. Business owners and managers of sawmills, consulting foresters, biomass plants, loggers, landowners and Government officials came together for this biannual event.

The meeting began with Deputy Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), Sam Lincoln

providing a thorough update on his progress in finding affordable solutions to workers' compensation rates in Vermont. This is a major issue and a big challenge as Vermont's rates are the highest in the region. Vermont has a very small pool of insured worker's causing any claim to severely impact the loss/cost ratio, which is what insurance carriers use to determine rates. Lincoln has been working with the Dept. of Financial Regulation, several insurance carriers, other state's regulatory departments and David Birdsell of Loggers Education to Advance Professionalism, (LEAP) and others to gather information, discuss options and plan out a solution. The key is more safety training and to get more insured workers into the pool. Lincoln reported that on July 24, there is a workers' comp. meeting in Groton,

including loggers, foresters, sawmillers, state staff and insurance agents to look at options. Andy Wood, logging safety specialist with an insurance carrier, MEMIC will provide information on what worked in Maine to reduce accidents and lower comp. rates and a field demonstration of an active logging operation of how a job site is inspected for safety. Lincoln adds the goal is to get buy in to our commitment to safety and for loggers to make that commitment. In addition, he is seeking what new standards for LEAP training for safety will pass muster with the carriers.

AIV Vice President, William Driscoll provided a report on Legislative activity this past session and the impact of the new enacted marijuana laws on workers' comp. He reports that although possession is now legal in Vermont, employers still have the right to prohibit its use in the workplace. Driscoll adds that a recent court case involving a test of independent contractor has provided a brighter line on the definition of an independent contractor.

Governor Phil Scott joined us. The Governor spoke and answered questions for about a half hour on several topics both on forestry and his legislative challenges on the budget, tax, fees and

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SFI, continued on pg. 25

FOREST SECTOR NEWS

Loggers, Mountain Bikers and a Tiki Bar: Vermont's New Working Landscape

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

Forest and recreation industries align on East Burke's Kingdom Trails

Sawmills were East Burke's first industry, bringing brave and adventurous souls to the northern reaches of Vermont to work, establish farms and, eventually, build the local school, church and meeting house that would become the village of East Burke. It wasn't until the mid-1900's that residents began to think about building a tourism industry around the area's natural resources, including Burke Mountain and nearby Lake Willoughby. Today, brave and adventurous souls travel to East Burke to mountain bike down Sidewinder, a double black diamond on the 10,000 acre, world-renowned Kingdom Trails. But rather than displace the industry on which the town was founded, the trail



Mike Mathers, far left, grabs a beer with Kingdom Trails Executive Director Abby Long, center, and Caledonia County Forester Matt Langlais, right, at Mike's Tiki Bar, which is owned by Mathers in East Burke. Photo Credit: Erica Houskeeper

network and resulting rise in tourism has deepened partnerships with the trail community, landowners, foresters, loggers, and mill owners who collaborate to keep the forest productive and healthy.

"Recreation is one of our forest products now," said Matt Langlais, forester and president of the Kingdom Trails Association Board of Directors. "It's an integral part of our working landscape and supports our local economy." Langlais, an avid mountain biker, points out that the entire Kingdom Trail network began on logging roads. "The locals would go out and ride old skid trails and woods roads," he said. "They then began to build single track trails with more flow to connect different areas and the Kingdom Trails were born."

Local economic impact

Today, the network spans across 88 private woodlots, encompassing more than 10,000 acres, and attracts 100,000 visitors annually. "On average, an acre of forestland in Vermont produces \$135 of wood value a year," said Langlais. "The trail system brings in \$1,000 per acre in local economic activity, and landowners still harvest the aggregated \$135 in wood value every 10-15 years." Langlais credits those tourist dollars with



Forester Matt Langlais, right, visits with retired logger Oscar Perkins, who meticulously stacks 100 cords of firewood into neat walls visible from the road, one of which encompasses an old bike painted bright red. Photo Credit: Erica Houskeeper

supporting local businesses, noting that the Kingdom Trails have an economic impact of \$10 million a year, and that the area has seen 28 new businesses focused on trail users in the past 10 years. "All that money stays local, supporting small business."

Mike Mathers, owner of Dishmill Forest Products and Property Management, owns one of those local businesses. Located just behind the General Store, Mike's log yard became a de facto parking lot for the thousands of mountain bikers that pour into town each season. "I watched all those bikers coming into town and thought that if I could somehow earn a dollar for every tourist, I could keep my sawmill profitable," said Mathers. Not wanting to charge for parking, he built a three-sided structure off the side of his mill, filled a cooler with local beer, and hung up a string of tiki lights. Sure enough, the bikers were more than happy to find a cold beer at the end of the trail. Now an institution in town, Mike's Tiki Bar is East Burke's post-ride destination for tourists and locals alike.

LOGGERS, continued on pg. 27

FOREST SECTOR NEWS

Building a Network to Create a New Forest Culture in Vermont

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

As development creeps into our rural landscapes and woodlot ownership changes hands, our forests face an uncertain future. Vermonters value working landscapes, but do they value the work it takes to keep these landscapes intact? Not unlike other Vermont business sectors, our forest and wood products industry has struggled with an aging workforce, shifting markets and economic pressures that have caused a contraction in jobs and a feeling of futility in many of Vermont's rural communities at a time when they can't take much more.

In late June, more than 150 people from across Vermont's forest and wood products supply chain came together for the 1st Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit at Burke Mountain Resort, and launched the Vermont Forest Industry Network with a mission of advancing new and existing markets for Vermont forest and wood



Left to Right – Steve Hardy (VFPA); Ed Larson (VFPA); Dave Frank (Sunwood Biomass); Ansley Bloomer (Renewable Energy Vermont); Kathleen Wanner (Vermont Woodlands Association); Commissioner Michael Snyder, Sen. Bobby Starr, Gov. Phil Scott.

products, from high quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets.

The Summit was packed with landowners, foresters, loggers, truckers, mill owners, wood product manufacturers as well as business consultants, trade organizations, lenders and even our governor, all of whom want to see those who make their living working in the woods or creating products out of trees succeed.

Launching the Vermont Forest Industry Network

The Summit delved into several issues facing our forest and wood products industry, from finding new or expanded markets for low grade wood to strengthening connections between primary mills and secondary wood manufacturers and woodworkers in Vermont. Speakers talked about how to improve the bottom line through lean manufacturing and improving company culture. Others talked about global trends in wood such as mass timber that could impact Vermont forest and wood products businesses. These and other topics will be the focus of the Vermont Forest Industry Network moving forward.

Creating a network takes time. It can only happen when the right people align together at the right time around the right purpose. It takes the patience to know what 'ready' looks like. It also

requires trust. Working in a networked way involves being honest about good – and bad – ideas, and believing that honesty will be matched by humility. It means setting personal and political difference aside to make space for new ways of approaching a problem and new people who may have a new spin on 'we tried that already.'

But most of all, it takes commitment – both from those who build the framework of the network and from those who fill the space inside it. Vermont's forest and wood products industry is as old as Vermont itself and is enmeshed in our history, but it's still vulnerable to unraveling if it's not nurtured and challenged to innovate and improve. The Summit sparked many ideas worth exploring, and the Vermont Forest Industry Network will help turn the best of these ideas into action.

As the Vermont Forest Industry Network grows, so will the opportunities to develop new wood products made in Vermont, better ways to provide service to the industry and chances to connect more deeply with customers who want to know the people behind the skidder or the workbench. Ideally, a year from now, when we host the 2nd Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit, several Value Chain Action Teams will be ready to

NETWORK, continued on pg. 22

GIS, *continued from pg. 9*

again, be contacting you and/or your forester for some additional information. Of immediate need is the previously referenced SPAN number for your TF property, as well as your housesite SPAN number if you don't live on the TF (or a non-Tree Farmer in VWA). We also need the name of the property associated with the SPAN number if it differs from your name. In some cases, tax records have a property name, such as "Berry Hill Farm,

LLC," instead of a family name. Finally, we are also missing a few random bits of information from the original cleanup which we may also be asking for, such as the point of access to the TF both as a description and as coordinates (latitude/longitude) on a map. "Lat/longs" are easily determined from Google Earth if you can provide us a description of the access point, like "¼ mile west on X road from the intersection of X and Y roads".

The SPAN and the property name are the most critical data we need! If you read this article please look up your number and send us an e-mail with the number, and name if different from yours. The e-mail address is info@vermontwoodlands.org. Doing this will save an incredible amount of time and effort for your committee.

STANDARDS, *continued from pg. 11*

standards as to what they feel is an aesthetically pleasing forest prior to and after harvesting.

Some general guidance offered by UNH's Good Forestry in the Granite State is as follows:

"By creating a variety of tree sizes and types and different opening sizes, harvesting can have a long-term positive aesthetic effect. Some short-term aesthetic concerns include woody debris (slash) on the ground, broken or bent trees, ruts, clear-cuts, or a general change in the appearance of the forest. Improving the appearance of a harvest

may result in trade-offs with wildlife-related recommendations, resulting in fewer habitat elements, e.g., coarse woody material on the ground or standing snags (dead and dying trees). A forest that looks "neat" may not be ecologically healthy.

In many cases, doing a lot of little things can collectively make a big difference. For example, changing the timing of forest management activities can impact how a job looks and affect recreation on a woodlot. Roads built during dry seasons are cheaper to construct and look nicer. Operating on frozen ground that has good snow cover results in less damage to the soil, ground cover,

seedlings, and the residual trees, which often translates into a better-looking job. Many outdoor recreational activities take place during specific seasons of the year. Harvesting activities scheduled to avoid peak use will help to minimize potential conflicts.

Planning and adherence to some basic recommendations will balance the aesthetic outcome with achieving the long and short-term objectives of the landowner."

Several other recommendations can be found at <https://extension.unh.edu/goodforestry/html/3-2.htm>.

HAWKS, *continued from pg. 4*

next 8 weeks or so near their birth place while their parents disband their union and prepare to make their way south for the winter. The trek south can begin as early as September and continue through October. The peak in Vermont is in mid-September. Any of the prominent peaks along the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain are good vantage points to observe broad-wings and other hawks as they stream by.

One of the most notable points to hawk watch from is Mt. Philo State Park. For a modest fee one can easily hike or drive to the summit. In fact, it is so popular that the park rangers keep a tally of hawk sightings made by its autumnal visitors.

Contemplating those 'kettles' of broad-wings soon to pass through our state also reminded me of the many

woodland chores I have yet to complete. Reluctantly I get up from my granite seat and head down the woods road to retrieve more firewood for next spring's sugaring season. By then the woods will once again welcome the return of the pair of Broad-winged Hawk.

EMERALD ASH BORER, *continued from pg. 7*

potentially infested ash material to and from your property. Here are some steps you can take:

1) Know Your Ash

Know how to identify ash trees and where they are on your property. Learn about ash tree identification and signs and symptoms of EAB at vtinvasives.org/eab and review the description of your forest if you have a forest management plan. If you have ash trees, occasionally check for signs and symptoms of EAB. With your forester, develop a response plan for the arrival of EAB.

2) Know the Infested Area

If your forest is in the Infested Area, to avoid spreading the beetle, ash wood from your land should be handled according to the *Recommendations When Moving Ash* from the Infested Area (found at vtinvasives.org). As long as your ash remains uninfested and outside of the Infested Area, then it is reasonably safe to move within the state, as it is unlikely to contribute to the spread of EAB.

3) Consider the Timing of Harvest Activities

If your forest is in the Infested Area and you are going to conduct forest management activities that will result in the harvest and transport of ash materials to areas outside the Infested Areas, then October 1st to April 30th is the best time to do this work. This is when EAB is not emerging from wood, often called the “non-flight period.” By conducting harvests during this time of year, people handling ash wood from your land can apply the optimal *Recommendations When Moving Ash* from the Infested Area and reduce the risk of spreading EAB from your property to uninfested areas.

4) Include Language in Your Timber Sale or Forest Management Contract

Forest management that involves the harvest of ash wood within the Infested Area can create a risk of spreading EAB, but with clear communication among loggers, mills and others, this risk can be reduced. A timber sale or forest management contract is a common tool used to protect landowners’ and loggers’ assets and rights, and defines the responsibilities and conditions of an agreement, most often between a landowner and a logging contractor or mill. To reduce the risk of spreading EAB through movement of ash from your property, consider including language in your contract that requires adherence to the *Recommendations When Moving Ash* from the Infested Area and requires that the harvest be conducted during the non-flight period. Discuss this with your consulting forester.

5) Keep Firewood Local

If you are selling or buying firewood, minimize the distance ash firewood is moved. If you are inside the Infested Area, do not sell or move ash firewood outside of the Infested Area unless it has been heat treated. If heat treatment or buyers within the Infested Area aren’t available, it may be best to leave ash firewood on your property. If you are outside the Infested Area, do not buy or acquire ash firewood that came from within the Infested Area unless it has been legitimately heat treated. Talk to your firewood dealer to ensure that the firewood you are buying has been handled according to the *Slow the Spread Recommendations* and doesn’t pose a threat to the ash in uninfested areas.

There is more to know about EAB than covered in this article, and more resources designed specifically for forest landowners. Information and resources about EAB can be found at vtinvasives.org/eab, and more information about conducting a successful timber harvest can be found at VTcutwithconfidence.com

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CONSULTING, *continued from pg. 8*

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Pat was an early adopter of experimental patch cuts to benefit wildlife habitat and promote more valuable regeneration in Vermont's forests. Decades of single tree selection and loping tree tops to knee height had produced thousands of acres of beech, ironwood, and striped maple regeneration; something had to change. FPR Commissioner Michael Snyder, who was Chittenden County Forester at the time, looked at the results of this work, which he took to Audubon Vermont and

a new program was launched. Today, forest management "with birds in mind" is commonplace. Pat encourages "messy" forestry, providing wildlife with food and shelter, and goes the extra mile to create vernal pools in opportune areas. Bags of seed mix are on hand to cover old landing sites to prevent erosion, and milkweed is planted to give the monarch butterflies an extra meal. He's even been giving landowners pre-sprouted acorns to reintroduce oak to the area since 1993.

It's rare to meet someone so fully immersed in and knowledgeable of the natural world, but Vermont has

gotten lucky with Pat. His passion for teaching and leading others in the forest is infectious and continues to positively influence the woodlands around us. And it's great to know that the appreciation is reciprocated. When asked what his favorite part of this job was, he responded that there's nothing more rewarding than teaching landowners about managing their woods and wildlife and having them actually understand the work he does. For Pat, the natural world is full of opportunities to learn and grow and simply enjoy what we have, and he works hard to make sure that others can experience this too.

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

corps during any training and say that if you combine your inspections with completing work on a landowners' property, you are killing two birds with one stone. It is definitely more efficient to complete it that way, however, I don't always do that either! The same goes true with completing an inspection while you're doing inventory work with updates. I may say to myself, "when I get home, I will fill out the 004 inspection form and upload the PDF." It really is an easy process! So easy, that I don't always do it right away. Just like you. As important as that is, it is just as important to make sure that all of the Tree Farm elements are covered in those plans you are updating. If we can get inspections, and plan updates on the same time schedule, it may also simplify maintaining certification in the long term.

Also, there are some of you out there who live and work in confirmed EAB infestation areas in Vermont. In all honesty, we all could be in those areas and just don't know yet! The presence of EAB should also precipitate management plan amendments and documenting all that is transpiring on affected properties. And in that process of amendments, we try to be hopeful about what happens next. I am not sure how hopeful we can be about the future of ash, but can't help but think that we have all just taken the presence of ash in our landscape for granted, and really have been living in a bubble of disbelief that it was here. We just finished up the VT State Fair in Rutland with our entire display focusing on white ash and emerald ash borer. It was good to just really look again at the qualities

of that species, and what it contributes to our daily lives. But let's be real, it surely is difficult to have hope about its future without something definitive to stop the spread. Through all that I have read and listened to, our hope lies in trying to keep healthy ash in our forests, producing seed to perpetuate the species.

In all of these little Tree Farm items, and the big ones, please do as I say, not as I do! Most importantly, when you are out there in the woods, meeting with landowners and doing your work, don't forget about why you personally are there. It may help to motivate and respire to see what transpires. After all, "Sometimes a feeling is all we humans have to go on." (Kirk- "Dagger of the Mind")

SINCLAIR, *continued from pg. 14*

different group of constituents: architects, tree service folks, municipalities, etc. And this program would expand the influence of the Department in the state, building new partnerships and recognizing the value of trees and forests where people live and work. Steve really saw UCF as an opportunity to explain traditional forestry values to suburban populations. “If they understood, they would appreciate our rural forests as well.” Steve credits the UCF program as the stepping stone to his current position. In fact, he says, “I wouldn’t be director except for that experience that made me a better communicator, marketer, collaborator, with different audiences, that widened my view of trees and forests.” The strength of today’s UCF program is surely a testament to the foundation Steve built.

2002 marked the year that Steve became Director of Forests. He directly supervises nine people, with a total of sixty in the forestry division today. The role of the State Forester is fairly diverse and really requires a unique set of skills. His diverse background gives Steve good skills for the job. From my vantage point, I’ve seen VWA’s relationship with FPR grow and flourish over the years, in large part due to Steve’s ability to foster relationships. He also collaborates with peers from other states, regardless of size, as issues are basically the same; just the scale differs. He’s seen many changes too.

The state’s forest cover has decreased from 80% to 76% and while it still looks green and there are still many trees, it’s not the same forest. The “homogenizing” of the forest has led to more deciduous

trees, more mature trees. “We need a good balance of young, medium, and older trees but are out of balance as a result of a declining forest products economy.” Over the last 40 years, Steve saw 50% of sawmill capacity disappear and knows we need greater local opportunity to use and process wood. We also have a changing demographic. Looking back to his Washington County days, Steve notes that landowners are less involved. During the late ‘70s and ‘80s, Green Mountain Society of American Foresters (GMSAF) held bi-monthly forestry meetings with dinner, guest speakers, Q&A. As secretary for a few years, Steve remembers mailing

SINCLAIR, *continued on pg. 23*



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TSP: NRCS Technical Service Provider
* Tree Farm Inspector

NETWORK, *continued from pg. 17*

report back on efforts to advance some of the great ideas that came out of this year's Summit and the workshops that preceded it.

Goals for the Future

As I stood in the back of the ballroom during the closing session of the Vermont Forest Industry Summit listening to a panel of young business leaders from all parts of the forest and wood products supply chain talk about the future, I felt their hope. A forester, a logger, a mill owner and a couple of wood products manufacturers shared the stage with two educators training

the next generation of foresters, loggers, millworkers and woodworkers. They recognize the challenges ahead, whether they are weak markets for low grade wood, invasive pests that threaten our forests or the "Amazon effect" on everything from cardboard boxes to retail stores. But they also see the opportunities that new technologies offer their generation, from forest mapping to Facebook.

These are the people who will shape the industry in the years to come, and the future of our forests is largely dependent on their success. My hope

is that the Vermont Forest Industry Network will provide the space to solve industry challenges, seize opportunities, and ultimately create a new forest culture in Vermont that values not only the incredible forested landscape we all cherish, but also the people and businesses who help keep our forests as forests.

To learn more about the Vermont Forest Industry Network, visit the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund's Forest Products Program at www.vsjf.org.

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SINCLAIR, *continued from pg. 21*

out invitations to the state's 60 or so foresters. Today there are more than 200 licensed foresters in Vermont, perhaps because of current use and the important service that foresters provide. He tells his foresters that they have to manage people's expectations about forests and be good listeners. "There is not as much 'DIY' as landowners look to experts to help them with more complex forest systems," he says, and mentions Mike Snyder's oft repeated statement that 'forestry is not rocket science – it's way more complicated.'

As Steve thinks about his retirement and successor, he's quick to say that everybody is expendable and the next person who comes in will do a great job with different skills. What's hard to replace is connections and relationships, regionally and nationally. "After a while, you just know who to call to get answers. Long-term relationships take time to develop."

Having collaborated with Steve for many years, I know that his influence has gone well beyond Vermont's borders and according to him, it's been a fun part of the job. He served on national panels, representing Vermont; worked closely with the congressional delegation and their staffers in VT and DC; chaired the International Standards Review Panel for the American Forest Foundation; was the long-time chair of the Northeast Foresters Association (NEFA); chaired the Northeastern Area State Foresters (NASF) and their UCF committee; was an appointed member of the USDA's Forest Resource Coordinating Committee giving advice to the US Secretary of Agriculture. Vermont's woodland owners have certainly benefitted from Steve's participation at the national level.

I was curious about what Steve saw as biggest challenges for our future and not



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at all surprised by his response: invasive species and parcelization/fragmentation. None of us are strangers to these issues. Invasive are everywhere - buckthorn, bittersweet, honeysuckle, Norway maple, euonymus... and Steve is perhaps a bit doubtful when it comes to eradication. "We won't eliminate all invasives but need strategies on how to maintain native species and critters in the presence of invasives," he says. There's been a lot of research on control and removal but not much on how to live with, manage, and work on regenerating northern hardwoods with invasives in the mix. "Of course, that doesn't mean we don't do everything we can," he quickly adds.

For Steve, who grew up in Chittenden County in the '60s and '70s, he has seen firsthand the changes in the landscape. His backyard woodlot is now condominiums off Kennedy Drive. "We need to recognize that it doesn't only impact the land but changes our view of forests," says Steve. FP&R looks not only at environmental and ecological impacts but social as well. He notes that there are societal impacts of parcelization and working with landowners to appreciate what they own as part of a working forest system is crucial. One of my favorite lines that I first heard from Steve several years ago ... "Small forests are a big deal"... rings so true as parcel sizes decrease. He speculates on what we

might learn from southern neighbors on how to address suburbanization and landowner engagement.

Like the forested landscape, government is not static. During his tenure, Steve has worked under seven commissioners and thus is very adaptable, always striving to remain positive even as the department is tasked with doing more with less. One of the fairly constant hurdles over the years has been division within the forest community. He wonders if we will ever get past history and begin to speak in a unified voice with a uniform message; if we can find those places that we agree rather than disagree and realize there are not always ulterior motives. "There has, however, been considerable progress," he notes.

Steve is preparing to trade the green mountains for the blue ocean and adds that, "lifestyle change now will be really good for me and my wife," and while he is really looking forward to the change, he realizes that he will miss what has always been home. I know too that I will miss Steve as a state partner and collaborator for private landowners and a good friend of the industry that I've served for almost two decades.

BOOK, *continued from pg. 12*

forest managers. The second reason is to educate our non-woodland-owning neighbors to the benefits of active management of our woodlands, so that they will not oppose our management activities. One of the best ways to influence the public is to catch them earlier, when they are children. I believe reading the Wishtree will foster this appreciation of trees.

This book does have a bit of serious forestry content. “Red” states: “I am proud to say that I’m a northern red oak, also known as *Quercus rubra*.”(p.5) A few chapters later, he gives us a lesson in tree sex education, pointing out that oaks are “monoecious,” having both male and female parts, while other trees like hollies and willows are “dioecious”, individual trees being either male or female. (pp 17-18) The most important message was when “Red” says: “I’m not just a tree, by the way. I’m a home. A Community.”(p. 23)

Much of the book relates to the trials of Samar, although drama is added when Red’s owner, tired of cracked sidewalks and clogged pipes, decides it is time to have Red removed. I should note that the book includes several well done illustrations that children will find very appealing.

Project Learning Tree

Wishtree brings me to another point. VWA and the Vermont Tree Farm Program supports an educational program known as *Project Learning Tree*. This program was developed by the American Forest Foundation. It provides educational activities for children ages 3 through high school. *Project Learning Tree* is not a curriculum, per se, but rather a collection of classroom activities that teachers can adopt for a wide range of grade levels and subjects. The Pre-K-8 volume contains 96 classroom

activities. Each activity provides the teacher with all the information needed to carry out the activity. It includes the grade level, subject areas, concepts and skills covered. It also includes student worksheets needed for that activity.

In the back is a series of indices that may help teachers decide activities appropriate for their content areas.

Content areas in Index 1 include: Visual arts, language arts, math, physical education science, social studies and performing arts. Index 2 identifies what grade levels for which an activity is appropriate. Index 3 identifies how many class periods the activity takes and whether it is an indoor or outdoor activity. Index 4 identifies what digital technology skills the activity promotes. *Project Learning Tree* for secondary students is focused on Exploring Environmental Issues. Instead of being one large volume, it is divided into seven smaller volumes. It also seems to be more focused on the subject areas of science and social studies.

The secondary volume I have is called “Focus on Forests.” This volume has classroom models related to: forest health, succession, forest ownership, fire, forest as water storage/purifier, invasives, climate change.

The Vermont Tree Farm Committee is seeking you, local Tree Farmers, to get involved with your schools; encourage local teachers to get involved in *Project Learning Tree*, and offer yourself as a classroom speaker and your Tree Farm as a field trip site. If you are already doing these things, please contact Kathleen Wanner (kmwanner@comcast.net) so that we can collect data on the involvement of our Tree Farmers with local education.

I am suggesting that reading books such as Wishtree to your children or

grandchildren might foster within them appreciation for trees and their place in nature. *Project Learning Tree* will have an even greater impact by educating the young on the importance of forest in sustaining a healthy ecosystem in this age of global warming. It is never too soon to begin to educate young people to understand and appreciate trees.

Allen Yale is not only a tree farmer, but was an educator at the secondary and college level for thirty years.

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SFI, *continued from pg. 15*

spending policies. The Governor also spoke on the importance that members of the forest products industry actively participate in the Act 250 Commission process currently in its public forum stage. The Commission is in its second year of a two-year study of the landmark environmental permit program. Scott's administration seeks to have Act 250 view a forestry operation different than a Walmart type of application.

The meeting continued with a Legislative report by FPR Commissioner, Mike Snyder. Snyder followed up on the Governor's remarks with more details on the passage of S.101, Right to Conduct Forestry operations and S.276, a rural Vermont economic development bill that included a number of positive changes in

tax and regulatory policies to help reduce the cost of doing business in Vermont. The Commissioner also provided a brief update on other department activities including the new AMP rules, Camel's Hump management plan update, and implementing management plans to get more timber harvesting in the mix. Several comments and questions were shared among the group including how the state could make more use of licensed foresters.

Christine McGowan of the Sustainable Jobs Fund reported on the recent Forest Industry Summit she organized at Burke Mountain Resort. The event was well attended and many good ideas on

SFI, continued on pg. 26

PRESIDENT, *continued from pg. 5*

juice that removes any fuzz from the mouth and starts the day with a glow), the night sky full of stars undimmed by artificial light, the only sound is the wind in the trees and laughter from within the cabin. A friend gave me her painting of the cabin with its lighted windows, moonlight on the snow-covered conifers in back of the cabin and smoke rising from the chimney. I look at it every day.

And the memories. Father. Uncle Pete celebrating the 74th anniversary of his first visit in 1922. This cabin is now named in his honor. Pete brought black ducks that he had shot—the breasts were simmered in bourbon, butter and Beach Plum jelly. The carcasses made duck soup the next day. Once Father found a bottle of hot peppers, added a few and then decided to empty the jar. Father always thought if a little was

good, a lot was better—especially when he poured iodine on my childhood cuts. Nelson Bryant, Wood, Field and Stream columnist for the NY Times and a D-Day paratrooper, brought fresh oysters. Shucked, splashed with a dash of breadcrumbs and a dab of butter and quickly broiled, they were fit for a king. One night in the hot cabin and after a few drinks, Nelson lit a match and set the thick hair on his chest on fire (no lasting problems). There are stories of success and ones of “If only”.

I am part of four generations of family and many close friends that have built this treasury of memories that is so much a part of my heritage.

Sitting on the porch, both seeing and hearing the water cascading through the rocky gorge, savoring the remoteness and quiet, I am closest to being at peace.

**Living Tick-Free:
Preventing Lyme
and Tick-Borne
Disease**

by Alexis Chesney

Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States. Vermont has the highest rate in the country. While researchers and physicians work tirelessly at developing better testing and treatments, the numbers of new cases continue to rise. In order to change the tide, radical education on the prevention of Lyme disease is critical. Dr. Alexis Chesney, a Lyme and tick-borne disease (TBD) specialist, has created a concise guide with practical preventative strategies that everyone - from the weekend outdoor enthusiast to the daily farmer - can use. There are many steps that can be taken to prevent Lyme and TBD - from managing the tick population in your yard and preventing ticks from getting on your person, to treating tick bites promptly and properly if and when they happen. Gleaned from her years of clinical work, Dr. Chesney provides proven, user-friendly strategies for tick identification, tick control, tick bite prevention, and tick bite management and treatment. These practical tools can empower each of us to stop the spread of Lyme and TBD one person at a time.



"As a forester with a focus on education I have become a "go-to person" for advice on Lyme disease. This short book is one that I couldn't stop reading. I like it because it is a complete and middle-of-the-road approach. It is available only as an e-book. It is a must read."

- Lynn Levine

SFI, *continued from pg. 25*

collaboration were identified. McGowan is seeking comments from those that attended to assist her in making next year's summit even more successful. Many who were present had positive comments.

FPR Watershed Forester, Dave Wilcox provided an update on the AMP rules and the new wetland rules process. He states that the legislative Committee on Rules (LCAR) has just recently affirmed the rule change and new updated publications are forthcoming. Wilcox also reports that ANR is working to rewrite wetland rules, but that the silvicultural exemption in the current rule is not likely to be removed or changed.

We had a special guest, Gwynn Zagov of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to explain how the new stormwater law, Act 46, could have a negative impact on Class IV roads. Municipalities are now required to apply for municipal roads general permits (MRGP) for protecting water quality and that includes class IV roads. Since class IV roads get no state support, the cost of all necessary upgrades to prevent stormwater discharges fall onto the towns. Towns are reviewing this costly responsibility and may choose to either throw up or discontinue the road or reclassify it as a legal trail. Both scenarios can have costly impacts on adjoining landowners and cause loss of access to timber that depends on these roads. Zagov encourages everyone to pay attention to events in their communities and speak up when the public is invited to comment and explain how important a specific road is to our industry.

At lunch, Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Julie Moore presented an update on Agency activities. She spent much of the time

explaining ANR proposals to the Act 250 Commission and how Ag and forestry operations are important entities to maintain a rural economy and our rural character.

Secretary Moore responds to the MRGP concerns. She states that this is new and are in a learning process, so far, it's working okay, but we don't have all the answers yet. Moore acknowledged our concerns about unintended consequences.

On wetland rules, Secretary Moore sees no change to the silvicultural exemption, her mission is to improve objectivity and predictability and addressing the perception that this program is too subjective.

The afternoon began with the Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Dept., Louis Porter and its Director of Wildlife, Mark Scott. Both discussed fish and wildlife issues and new Legislation passed this past session. Porter talked about the new laws governing nuisance trapping and the ban on coyote contests. He also talked about the expectation that next year, Legislators may seek to close the moose hunting season, which he opposes. Director Scott reported on the new Big Game Plan update and a survey that will soon be out. He added recognition that deer and bear populations are becoming too large causing more issues with forest regeneration and bear conflicts with residents. Commissioner Porter praises the new early successional ten-year program starting in the Green Mountain National Forests, partnering with the Ruffed Grouse Society. Porter and Scott elaborate the importance that we educate the public about the importance of young forests for wildlife and forest sustainability. Commissioner Porter stated that forest management activity

in Wildlife Management Areas are at optimum sustainable levels considering the number of suitable acres in these areas. Porter commented on forest fragmentation and the efforts of the Legislature in include fragmentation as a new criteria in Act 250. He said that although it is with good intent, the mechanism is wrong. Porter acknowledges that an incentive-based policy rather than a costly regulatory one is preferred.

The meeting closed with FPR Commissioner Snyder and Deputy Commissioner Lincoln discussing more issues including:

- The Emerald Ash Borer "Slow the Spread" policy,
- the Private Lands Advisory Committee put together to advise streamlining The Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA). This group is also looking at how the state can utilize the services of licensed forester for some department functions.
- State Lands timber sale contract changes from Lump Sum sales to mill scale unit measure.
- The recent event of the Nature Conservancy creating a 5400 acre "forever wild" set aside and selling shares in the California Carbon Exchange.
- The consequential impacts of New Hampshire's Governor's Veto of Biomass incentives and the resulting loss of three large biomass plants in that state. That means an overnight loss of 550,000 + tons of fiber equaling \$250 million to the region.

Attendees were eligible for SAF continuing education (CE) credits for licensed foresters and loggers were eligible for CE credits with LEAP.

LOGGERS, *continued from pg. 16*

Heath Bunnell, a master logger and avid mountain biker, was careful to plan a timber harvest that would preserve the integrity of the Dashney trails near the base of Burke Mountain. Photo Credit: Erica Houskeeper

Managing forests for recreation

The Dashney trails near the base of Burke Mountain, including Trillium and Moose Alley, were part of an active timber harvest by HB Logging over the past few years. Owner Heath Bunnell, a master logger and avid mountain biker, was careful to plan a harvest that would preserve the integrity of the trails. “We harvest in the winter, when the ground is frozen,” said Bunnell, “so it can be hard to know where the trails are running. It’s important to get everyone together in advance to create a clear plan.” Bunnell met with a forester and representatives of the Kingdom Trails Association to walk through the area and develop a plan that laid out very specific routes for the logging equipment. “We try to cross the trail once at a ninety degree angle instead of crossing at multiple points,” said Bunnell. “It makes clean up easier and lessens the impact on the trail. Aesthetically, people don’t want to see a big mess in the forest. They want clear view lines and clean trails.” For the Dashney area harvest, Bunnell cleared a few small areas off the trail where slash was deposited to create wildlife habitat for songbirds, grouse and small mammals. “The fact is, we live in an area where tourism is the number one business,” said Bunnell, “so we have to manage the forests here with that in mind.”

Part of our DNA

And yet, the first business visitors see driving into East Burke is the Timber Resource Group (TRG) on Route 114, a concentration yard where logs are aggregated throughout the winter for eventual transport to mills. As mountain biking season starts up in the spring, Craig Owen, manager of TRG, estimates the yard holds 2.6 million board feet, all of which will be moved out by the end of June by log haulers like Ben Morrison of Morrison Trucking. Further out of town, retired logger Oscar Perkins meticulously stacks 100 cords of firewood into neat walls visible from the road, one of which encompasses an old bike painted bright red. Oscar’s daughter, Heidi, is the organizer of Rasputitsa, a 40 mile mountain bike race held every April in East Burke. “You can’t separate the logging from the biking community,” says Langlais. “The forests are part of our DNA here. We work where we play and play where we work.”

Langlais hopes that the symbiotic relationship between the recreation and forest economics that has developed in East Burke can be a replicated in other parts of the state. Growing interest in sports such as mountain biking and backcountry skiing, and expanding trail networks such as the proposed Velomont Trail that aims to connect Vermont’s six Mountain Bike Association chapters, and work underway in Stowe to build new trails and connect existing trail systems, create opportunities for dialogue. And there is plenty of evidence that those conversations are starting to happen. The clean up of Cady Hill Forest in Stowe, which was devastated by the wind storm last fall, relied heavily on local loggers and foresters working with the Stowe Trails Partnership and Stowe Land Trust to reopen some trails this spring. “Forests and tourists can

have a symbiotic relationship here in Vermont,” says Langlais. “Whether it’s board feet, miles of smiles, or both, our recreation and forest products economies depend on forests staying as unfragmented, non-parcelized blocks of healthy forest— that’s the point of common interest.”

Vermont Forest Industry Network

The Working Lands Enterprise Board Forestry Committee and the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund will host the First Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit on June 28-29 at Burke Mountain Resort. 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.



Ben Morrison of Morrison Trucking in Sutton gets ready to transport logs from Timber Resource Group in East Burke to Quebec. Photo Credit: Erica Houskeeper



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