

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Front cover photos: Patrick Bartlett (left), VWA (right top),
 Kathy Beland (right bottom)

AN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS

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

Mission Statements:

Vermont Woodlands is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to educate and advocate for the practices of productive stewardship, use, and enjoyment of Vermont's woodlands. We achieve our mission by delivering programs for landowners, the public, and policy makers that support forest health, forest economy, wildlife habitat, recreation, and enjoyment of forests for today and for generations to come.

Vermont Woodlands Association does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious belief, gender, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, or political belief in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all persons.

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



How do you ZOOM?

by Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director

How do you ZOOM? We've all seen the Zoomers in their sweats and Ts, jockey shorts and Bermuda shorts. But I got permission from the Wall Street Journal to wear the new WFH (it took me a minute to decode this: Work From Home) attire, and it's PAJAMAS! Seems this is the new, very acceptable apparel. In fact, not just for WFH but throw on your coat and feel free to grab a coffee to go or even shop for a few groceries. I might draw the line at wearing my flannel PJs to the grocery, but a year ago, I wouldn't have worn them to "work" either.

By the time this goes to press, it's nearly a year since Vermont's initial State of Emergency on March 13, 2020. I know the date because I marked it in my calendar book – and this kind of makes me feel like my Grandfather Murphy who had years' worth of calendars with "important data" for the day. He was clearly a man with not enough to do. I don't have the same excuse, but I do have about 10 years' worth of calendar books in my drawer. I liken it to my Outlook Inbox that has nearly 110,000 messages. Maybe someday I'll clean that out – but then again ...

So where am I going with this ramble? That has yet to be revealed. It's a fitting sentiment for our current world, which, too, has much to be revealed. I am

committed to remaining hopefully optimistic, but already there are chinks in that armor. The longer the Pandemic keeps us apart, the harder it is to nurture or even maintain those emotional connections to each other. The flat Zoom world lets you see that I may still be in my PJs, but it doesn't put us eye to eye or heart to heart. How could it? Are our relationships suffering from our "flat world?" I would say yes as patience, tolerance, kindness,



and love seem to be more fleeting. And I know from conversations with others that I'm not alone in feeling this groundswell of frustration mingled with fear.

Will 2021 bring us back together again, albeit with distance and masks? I, my colleagues, and my family are surely hoping, and, in some cases, planning for that. This will be a first step in reconnecting us as social beings. Hugs, handshakes, and even unmasked smiles may come much later.

In some ways, this feeling of isolation is uncharacteristic for me – a person who by nature is reclusive. The pre-Covid life that seems a distant memory was the perfect mix of in-person meetings, conference calls, (yes, actual phone calls with multiple people), "windshield" time for thinking while driving, and alone time in my office. That alone time was very special after a world full of people. Today, it's ordinary and mundane.

I fear we have come to accept our new virtual world as the path forward and may choose to stay here much longer than needed. While it is easier – does it get any easier than PJs all day and a tank full of fuel that lasts a month?! – it definitely does not feel like the better path forward. I think we as people are all our better selves when we are together, sharing food and conversation,

feeling the warmth, experiencing the emotion. Zoom screens and email – I'll save that topic for later – just don't fill the void. This recluse-by-nature yearns for a return to an active vibrant world not driven by fear or frustration, impatience or intolerance, but rather filled with the touch of humanity, kindness, and love. I hope you will all be ready to join me. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well, and stay connected in any small ways you can.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

VTOA's Historical Archives

by Allan Thompson

I recently spent a few hours at the Vermont Historical Society's Library in Barre. I was there to explore the records of the Vermont Timberland Owners Association (VTOA) that Put Blodgett had submitted a few years ago. Out came seven boxes of material from the VTOA dated 1915 to 1996, and almost none of it was in cursive. I came to the records because I felt the need to think about the history of the organization. What efforts and concerns has the organization grappled with for the last 105 years to get us where we are today?

The VTOA was organized in 1915 with its primary goal: "preservation of the forests of Vermont from loss by fire, and to enlist the aid of the United States and State government in said work." Members could be "any person, firm or corporation, who either as owner or agent, is interested in the ownership or management of timberlands," and membership included annual dues. VTOA members were primarily timber companies and owners worried about lost revenue from fires.

Most fires were described as being started by brush burning, "smokers," and railroads. Thousands of acres were being lost to fires. In 1919, a tax assessment on unoccupied land that did not have adequate fire protection was required by law, and membership in VTOA was seen as satisfying the assessment (or the protection?). VTOA, in cooperation with the Division of Forestry, helped

to administer forest fire protection. The VTOA built and supplied fire towers throughout the state and hired watchmen (\$75 per month) to keep watch and report fires. The relationship appeared very strong for at least 50 years.

Throughout the years, legislative topics came up, including forest fire wardens, Act 200 and 250, chip harvests, and, certainly, Current Use and many more. Opinions, letters, and correspondence relating to all of it were found within the boxes, and VTOA members likely had a lot to say. In 1926, F.B. Wilson, the secretary and treasurer of the VTOA (and of Champlain Realty Co. and then the International Paper Co.) wrote to the Commissioner of Forestry, Robert Ross, "are you considering any new forest laws that would benefit forest land owners?" The Commissioner responded, "We have for the most part, very good forest laws ... and I hesitate about adding new ones, especially those which call for much expense in enforcement." He added, "Of course there are numerous other laws which have been advocated, but most of them do not appeal to me as they aim to secure the practice of Forestry for the public, by imposing undue regulation on individuals. It has always seemed to me that if forestry is necessary for the public, the public should bear its part of the expense and not try to tax the forest owners unduly." A sentiment that permeates the next century of forest-related debate.

Fires became both infrequent and less severe over the years. No doubt, the VTOA and its members' efforts played a role. But as the fires dwindled, so did the organization. Membership and budgets struggled. Almost every annual meeting made mention of the loss of a member related to the perpetual exodus of traditional industry owners from the region. In 1967, Kenneth Weston, Forester for the A. Johnson Co., wrote, "I am finding it increasingly difficult to justify to Mr. Johnson his purpose in belonging to the Association." Bill Kropelin in 1985 asked Kendall Norcott, the VTOA president, "what action is VTOA considering to stabilize its budget...?" who apparently has decided to withhold a previously agreed upon funding.

The bylaws don't appear to have changed substantially until 1989 when the VTOA added advocacy: "the object of the association shall be to encourage the wise use and management of Vermont timberland and to enlist the aid of State and Federal Government, interested citizens and organizations in such work."

Shortly after, in 1994, John Hemenway, the president of VTOA announced in the Spring newsletter that the VTOA has merged with the Vermont Woodlands Resources Association. The two organizations had, at that time, similar messages for their members, and Put Blodgett had advocated for the merger for a number of years, citing

shared missions, removing competition for members, and improved mutual support. The VWRA administered the Tree Farm Program and, at this time, transferred, at least in name, to VTOA.

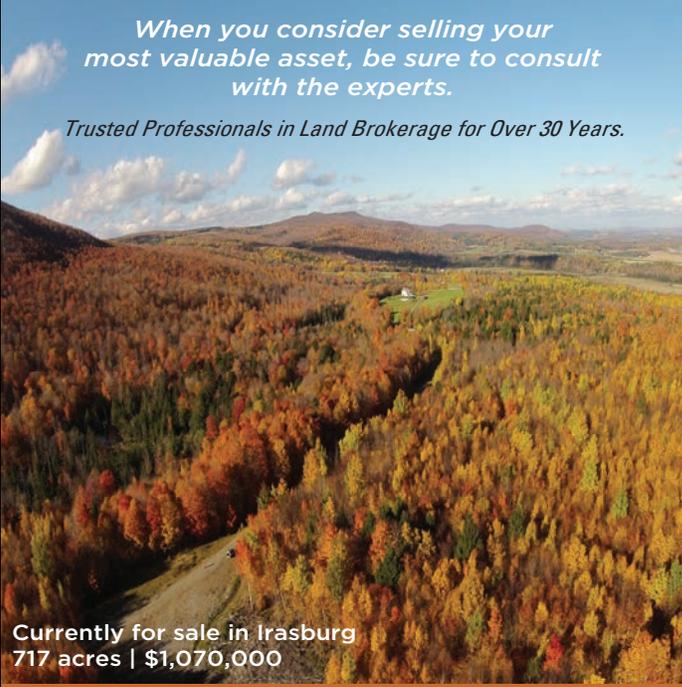
That's where the collection stops. And yeah, I skipped, like, most of it ... Lessons?

What I struggle with is how to respond to Mr. Johnson's conundrum and the perpetual struggle to justify membership. In the early days, VTOA members' forestland was burning. Literally. I think the most pervasive proverbial fire VWA has is cultural attitudes toward and awareness of forestry and forest management.

Most sticky issues related to forests and forest management fail to recognize a shared goal; the preservation of Vermont's Forests and the need for sustainable forest management. VWA works to ensure that when issues do come up (and they will), we can represent, and be represented by, a long list of members with a shared foundational understanding of forest issues. VWA believes if culturally we have a greater understanding of forest ecology, silvicultural practices, logging logistics, economics of forests, and management, then the issues get resolved a lot faster, if they come up at all. That's what membership in VWA is all about.

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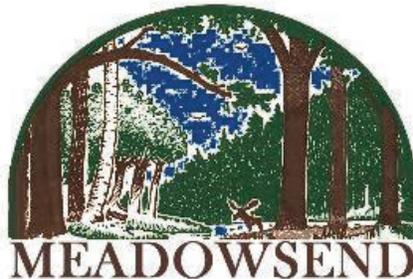
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NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

Jewelweed look-a-like is an early detection invasive plant

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

Short, snow-filled days have been with us for a while now this winter, and it can feel hard to believe that things will be green again soon. The amount of effort I'm putting into bundling up to get outside each day is perhaps a testament to my lack of "cold tolerance." Cold tolerance can be a feature that us gardeners in northern states seek out in new plants for our yards but also something we should be aware could be a warning sign of a potentially invasive plant.

Plants that become invasive can tolerate a spectrum of growing conditions, whether its Phragmites breaking through pavement, or barberry growing large even under full forest canopy, or knotweed growing in a rock pile out behind a garage, or purple loosestrife poking up in ditches, getting covered in road runoff. This article will focus on a cold-tolerant non-native invasive plant called Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

A member of the "touch-me-not" family (Balsaminaceae), Himalayan balsam, also known as Indian balsam, Himalayan touch-me-not, Himalayan jewelweed, ornamental jewelweed, Pink jewelweed, Purple jewelweed, gnome's hat stand, and kiss-me-on-the-mountain, among others, is native to central Asia, and was originally brought

to Europe in the mid-1800s. Frequently it has escaped cultivation, now being present throughout continental Europe, throughout the UK, in most Canadian provinces, in New England, and on the West Coast. Himalayan balsam prefers sites with wetter soils and is commonly found in ditches, roadsides, railroad ROW, yards, and gardens, and also along streams, floodplain forests, meadows, fields, early successional forests, and edge communities.

Leaves of Himalayan balsam are oblong with sharply serrated edges and a red midrib (midrib = vein that divides leaf in two). The leaves appear in pairs or whorled around the stem. The stems are hollow and can have a red/purple tint. Mature plants reach 6+ ft in a year (annual). This species produces 800-2,000+ seeds per individual, and the seeds are found in small pods that burst open when touched. High reproductive output, along with its significant height, allows it to quickly outcompete native plants. The impact it has had in other northern states and provinces has led to its listing on the unofficial invasive plant watch list in Vermont, meaning the plant has invasive tendencies but is not yet prohibited. Additionally, this plant is considered an early detection invasive species in Vermont, as there are several accounts of this plant in the state, but it is not yet well established.



Himalayan balsam prefers sites with wetter soils and can be found anywhere from ditches and on roadsides to floodplain forests and edge communities. [Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org]

The best time to identify this plant is during the summer and early fall, when it is flowering. Native look-a-likes, Pale Jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*) and Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), can be distinguished from their invasive cousin most easily by flower color (native jewelweeds/touch-me-nots have yellow- and orange-hued flowers, invasive Himalayan balsam has pink or purple flowers).

If you would like to report an early detection Himalayan balsam observation, check out the Report It! tool on VTInvasives.org: <https://vtinvasives.org/get-involved/report-it>

To learn more about Himalayan balsam, check out www.VTInvasives.org and these additional resources:



Invasive Himalayan balsam has pink or purple flowers while native varieties have flowers that are more yellow or orange. Photo by Becca MacDonald, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Leaves of Himalayan balsam are oblong with sharply serrated edges and a red midrib. The leaves appear in pairs or whorled around the stem. Photo by Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

- https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Quarantine_WatchListUpdate-2017_November.pdf
- http://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/Himalayan_Balsam_521370_7.pdf
- <https://leps.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Himalyan-Balsam.pdf>
- <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/impatiens/glandulifera/>
- https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/impatiens_glan.htm
- http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/herbs/Impatiens_glandulifera.htm
- <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/balsam-himalayan/>
- <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/policemans-helmet>
- <https://invasive-species.extension.org/impatiens-glandulifera-ornamental-jewelweed/>

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

Contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received for:

- Thomas Beland
- Rita Bizzozero
- Putnam Blodgett
- Clark Bothfeld
- George Buzzell
- Robert Darrow
- Azel S. Hall
- John Henenway
- Ruth Mengedoht
- Edward Osmer
- Robert Pulaski
- Michael Tatro
- Peter Upton
- Jim Wilkinson

Contributions to the Honorary Fund have been received for:

- Kathy Beland
- Chris Elwell
- Paul Harwood
- Leo Laferriere
- Thom McEvoy
- Steve Miller
- Ross Morgan
- Steven Peckham
- William Sayre
- Steve Sinclair
- Stoner Tree Farm
- Kathleen Wanner

If you would like to make a donation to the memorial or honorary fund, please make note of whom your donation is for and if you want it invested in the Memorial/Honorary Endowment (inaccessible principal in perpetuity) or the Memorial/Honorary Fund (accessible principal).

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NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

Bird-Friendly Paper? International Paper makes habitat a priority

by Steve Hagenbuch, Senior Conservation Biologist, Audubon Vermont

Most people would not expect their paper product purchasing decisions to have an impact on songbird habitat, but thanks to an innovative partnership between Audubon and International Paper, it can. Paper is a forest product, and the raw material, pulpwood, can be derived from forests that are managed in many different ways. Pulpwood is the low-quality material (trees) in the forest – those with disease, poor form, or defects – that prevent their use as lumber. The economic value of pulpwood can be dramatically lower than that of high-quality sawlogs. When a forest has a higher proportion of pulpwood to sawlogs, particularly on smaller properties, it can be difficult to find a logger interested in the work. As a result, forest management activities that have the potential to enhance habitat conditions for birds and other wildlife are left undone. This cascading effect is amplified in a digital world where the demand for paper is decreasing. COVID-19 has even had negative impacts on the paper industry.

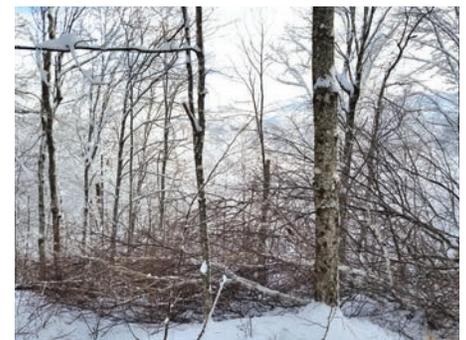
Fortunately, thanks to a new partnership between the Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers program (a collaborative effort of Audubon Vermont, Audubon New York, the Vermont Tree Farm Committee, the New York Tree Farm Committee, Vermont Woodlands Association, the New York Forest Owners Association,

and the American Forest Foundation) and International Paper's (IP) Ticonderoga (NY) mill, the narrative around the challenges of the pulpwood market is being rewritten. Through this pilot program, IP is preferentially purchasing trees harvested from forests managed with birds in mind. This is a benefit to the landowner as there is a guaranteed market for the wood. To be eligible, a landowner must have an up-to-date forest management plan that has formally incorporated bird-friendly management recommendations provided by Audubon staff or a forester trained by Audubon. One of this year's projects is currently underway at the Vermont Land Trust's (VLT) Hill-Robert property in Starksboro.

On a bluebird afternoon in mid-January, I had the opportunity to join VLT forester Caitlin Cusack on a tour of the harvest. The visit was somewhat of a milestone of a process that started in 2015 when I completed a forest bird habitat assessment for the 72-acre parcel. The management recommendations included in that assessment were incorporated into a forest management plan update prepared by Caitlin in 2018, with a harvest now occurring here in the winter of 2020-21. In addition, Caitlin has been conducting breeding season bird surveys on the property since 2016. These surveys will continue in

the years ahead and will help evaluate the effectiveness of the management activities in meeting bird habitat objectives.

One of the first things that caught my attention as we entered to forest was the abundance of down woody material, in simple terms logs and branches on the ground. In a harvest there will typically be some wood that is left in the woods. Many times, the "tops," or branches, are cut to a pre-determined height. This action does not serve any real ecological value but rather an aesthetic one. In fact, it can be preferable to leave the tops as they are, and this is exactly what served as an initial indicator that this harvest was following the management recommendations of the bird habitat assessment. Not only can the piles of down woody material provide excellent cover for birds, they also help protect young tree growth



Down woody material intentionally left high to enhance habitat. Photo by Caitlin Cusack

from being eaten by white-tailed deer, which are abundant in these woods.

A short while later, we arrived at an area where the majority of the overstory trees was harvested in an approximately ¾-acre area. In forestry terms, this is a group selection, and the intent is to provide for the right conditions to regenerate a new cohort of trees – the next forest if you will. The establishment of seedlings and saplings over the next 5+ years will provide excellent habitat structure for a breeding pair of Black-throated Blue Warblers to place a nest in. This understory vegetation was lacking pre-harvest, which makes this forest management activity the right one at the right time. Caitlin also pointed out a few other aspects of this area that held particular relevance to her thinking about bird habitat. This first was a standing dead tree, or snag, that was intentionally retained in the harvest as a potential nest site for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The other, as mentioned previously, was the abundance of down woody material, which will serve to be attractive to White-throated Sparrows as a place to



VLT forester Caitlin Cusack points out snag retained during harvest. Photo by Steve Hagenbuch



Logger Kyle Pratt and VLT forester Caitlin Cusack discuss bird-friendly harvest. Photo by Steve Hagenbuch

forage for insects. Speaking of insects, this ¾-acre gap in the otherwise closed forest canopy, will be the perfect place for an Eastern Wood-Pewee to forage for flying insects come July.

As our tour continued, it remained obvious that Caitlin had bird habitat as one of the main objectives as she marked the trees to be harvested and provided directions to Kyle Pratt, the logger doing the work.

It was exciting to hear Caitlin share her thoughts on managing for forest birds on the parcel:

I've come to cherish the two June mornings a year I sit in the woods at Hill-Robert to listen to the dawn chorus and record what species of breeding songbirds I'm hearing. This has deepened my relationship with this place and has helped me to fully appreciate how important managing with birds in mind is. It's so cool to think that perhaps some of the individuals I hear singing may return year after year following a long migration, in the case of the Blackburnian (warbler), from as far away as South America!

I would say the Forestry for the Birds training I received and your coaching has widened and deepened the lens with which I view the forest. I look

at fine woody material and vertical structure in particular a lot differently. I asked the loggers not to lop the tops to their usual 3-4' in order to not only protect regeneration from deer but also to provide immediate nesting sites and foraging habitat and cover for Veery, Black-throated Blue, Wood Thrush, and Ovenbirds I've heard singing. As the tops decompose, the shrubs and trees that establish from the increased sunlight will fill the role that the tops were providing. When I created openings larger than ¼ of an acre, I tried to retain any snags and a couple of live trees, such as yellow birch and aspen, in part for their value to birds.

As we made our way out to the log landing, we had a chance to meet up with Kyle. He pointed out the pile of high-quality sawlogs as well as the lower quality stems that were to be picked up later that day and trucked to IP's Ticonderoga mill – bringing the project full circle. The Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers partnership with International Paper is one example of how market-based approaches are critical to the long-term success of bird and forest conservation.

To learn more about Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers, please contact Audubon Vermont's Steve Hagenbuch at stevhagenbuch@audubon.org or visit <http://www.woodsandwildlife.org/>.



Pulpwood being loaded en route to IP Ticonderoga's Mill. Photo by Caitlin Cusack



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Good News For Tree Farmers and Foresters!

by Kathy Beland and Al Robertson

In the September issue of the VWA/TF Newsletter, we highlighted the probable changes to expect in the new 2021 ATFS Standards. Well, for once we were RIGHT! For the average Tree Farmer, there will be no significant changes between the 2015-2020 and the 2021 standards.

For **Tree Farmers**, here's what you need to know about the new standard:

- **Continuing Education** is emphasized for you. That's what VWA is all about, so now you HAVE to read the newsletters and eNews. Attending a few webinars or reading a good book on forestry are also good habits.
- Maintaining and improving the **forestry ecosystems** in your forest is also emphasized. It's the recognition that you are not just raising trees, you're also helping all the associated plants and animals that need the forest as well as insuring water quality and proper harvesting methods.
- You will also have to document and maintain records of the **use of herbicides and pesticides**. For most of you, this is the occasional use of glyphosate on invasives.
- When your plan does come up for renewal, it's more important than ever to document that you have looked to identify any **rare,**

threatened or endangered species.

Vermont has a good website (<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/conserve/endangered-and-threatened-species>) for this, so it isn't difficult. AND there's a new Addendum (https://www.vermontreefarm.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/aff_atfs_standards_addendum_12_10_20.pdf) available for you and your forester to use to ensure that your old plan covers all the bases in the new standard.

For **foresters, and landowners**, there's even more good news, based on a recent ATFS webinar:

- When evaluating reforestation of severely degraded land, you now have the option of recommending **plantation planting** of local tree species; before, ATFS didn't recognize plantations as an allowable prescription.
- **Tree Farm inspections** have been simplified and made easier. First, we think the inspections we have been trying to get you to do every 5-6 years ("optionals") are now discretionary, meaning we think (still waiting to see actual written guidance) you would have to do an inspection only when you do a plan update or a harvest. However, the Committee may levy a monitoring inspection if we feel the management

plan is too dated or if the plan isn't being followed. Audits (15-20 TFs every 5 years – happening in 2021) will now require an inspection, and the "required" random inspections will also still be lurking for a few TFers and foresters every year.

And, as we mentioned, there's a new addendum for you and/or the landowner to use to update your old plan to the new standard.

- The rules around **"remote" inspections** are also being loosened. Now more opportunities for remote inspections with more rules leeway – and for more than within 6 months – are allowed. Use of new aerial photos, drones, and other new technology will also be permissible.
- Tree Farms may now also include some "stuff" that was not allowed before, like **orchards and Christmas Tree plantations**, as long as the "stuff" is integrated into the management plan. However, these areas will be considered non-forested.
- Our **"inspector" training** has also been simplified. From now on, it will probably be conducted online with no physical attendance required. And once trained to the new standard, you will not need to retrain until the next standard (5 years!), nor are there minimum activity requirements or a refresher training requirement. This

does not mean that we may not offer any in-person trainings or, at the very least, bring back the Inspector Field Day to keep us on track.

- There is a new **form to replace the 004**, which wasn't that good a form to start with. We are hoping the new "021" form taking its place will be easier to use. Most of the difficulties both you and we faced in doing the inspections revolved around the problems with filling out the forms. We will have detailed classes, and you do need to learn about the new form. One addition on the form is more landowner input, especially including landowner information. There will be no "app" for the new form for quite a while, if at all.
- Timing: The old **004 "disappears" in March**; you won't be able to use it after that. The new 021 should come to us in early February, and

the training with it should begin in late February with use of the 021 beginning in March.

That's all for now. We hope the program

simplifications will help make the program easier to navigate; stay tuned for e-mails and notices for future inspector training!

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

SYNERGY – by example:
VT WOODLANDS AND
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WOODLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

Tips for installing and maintaining good stream crossings Part 1- Temporary Stream Crossings

by Dave Wilcox

This segment of “Woodlands and Water Quality” addresses the logging practice that is among the most important strategies for maintaining water quality on logging jobs: the stream crossing. When stream crossings are located and installed properly, they support the critical role of forests and forestry in providing fresh, clean water. When they’re not done properly, stream crossings tend to be the main source of sedimentation from logging.

The best stream crossing is one that is avoided, and that means that the first step in job layout is to find the best access to the site that minimizes the number of temporary stream crossings. This is often a choice between extended skidding distances and needing multiple landings, or deciding that a temporary crossing can be located and is worth the time and effort.



Temporary bridge crossing on a winter skid trail

Before considering installing an appropriate stream crossing, it is useful to start with some basics. Stream crossings can be categorized in two ways: temporary and permanent. Most stream crossings that are installed on logging operations are temporary crossings. This means that when the logging operation is complete, the stream crossing is removed. The crossing site is restored to its original condition, and the streambank and forest buffer are stabilized with seed and mulch. This is the preferred method for roads and trails that get used only for logging every 15-20 years (the typical cutting cycle in the northeast). This is because a permanent stream crossing must meet a higher (and more costly) standard due to the risk of seeing higher stream flows during its lifetime. When undersized structures (i.e., culverts, bridges) are left in place, they are at a much higher risk of being washed out, which creates an initial discharge of sediment to the stream and leaves the stream channel vulnerable to more erosion over time – not to mention that the crossing is no longer usable and can be the cause of other damage to the road/trail system. The Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) manual stipulates that temporary stream crossings constructed using bridges or culverts must be removed within 18 months of

construction, and temporary stream crossings constructed using poles or brush (in the wintertime only) must be removed within 12 months of construction. This timeframe is based on the relative “risk” that a crossing installed for a short period of time has. There is a lower likelihood that it will see a high enough flow to wash it out. The longer a crossing is in place, the higher that risk becomes. The AMP manual specifies the recommended sizes for stream crossings for both culverts and bridges (pg. 67, 68). The size is based on the drainage area in acres above the stream crossing. The larger the drainage area, the larger the crossing needs to be.

With these considerations in mind, one can begin to consider if a good option for a crossing exists. One of the biggest factors in locating a good temporary stream crossing is the condition of the stream and streambanks at the crossing site. Crossing sites with dry, hard and stable approaches, a narrow stream channel, and gentle, stable slopes are optimal. Once the crossing site is located, the next step is to choose the type of structure that will work best. Some temporary crossings can be as little as a few 8”-10” poles with some brush on top, that once frozen in with snow, fills in the crossing site and makes it look like the stream isn’t even



A poled ford on a small headwater stream

there, while still allowing water to flow beneath. This works well in smaller, intermittent streams during the winter. Other crossings may require much more planning, such as a temporary bridge on truck roads or skid trails. These crossings can range from a few feet wide to more than 30 feet.

What all temporary stream crossings have in common, regardless of the size or planning needs, is that they reduce the impact of the road or trail on the stream during and after the logging. This means that they are located well, sized appropriately, maintained during their use, and “closed out” properly. Maintenance during use is key in preventing discharges directly into the stream from the road or trail. Armoring the approaches with brush is helpful in keeping wheels and hitches out of the mud and dirt. It is also important to maintain good waterbars on any approaches going down to the crossing site. This keeps surface water from carrying sediment directly into the stream by letting it settle out into the forest buffer.

Once the logging is complete, the crossing must be removed, the streambank put back to its original condition, and the site seeded and mulched. It is also important to maintain a waterbar across the skid



Temporary truck bridge installed over a large stream

trail or road as close to 25 feet from the top of the streambank as soil conditions allow. This will prevent surface flow from transporting sediment directly into the stream.

When installed properly, temporary stream crossings are a cost-effective way to provide logging access while protecting water quality. Stay tuned for the next newsletter, where I will cover permanent stream crossings.

For more information on stream crossings, refer to the AMP manual developed by the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. A digital version of the AMP manual can be found online at https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/Forest_Management/Library/FullDocument-7.29.pdf

Printed manuals can be picked up free of charge at your county forester office or at any district office of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Due to COVID-19 safety measures and remote staffing locations, please contact your county forester or district office before coming in person.

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THE FORESTER'S VIEW

Covid and Wildlife in 2020

by Patrick Bartlett, *Forestry and Wildlife Consultant*

The past year saw many changes in all of our lives to say the least, but many people do not realize how much the virus has affected wildlife. I can only imagine that many of you are now thinking that you had not heard of deer, turkeys, or even bears catching Covid, and what he is writing about?!

Many activities ended for all of us in 2020, but one thing that jumped by leaps and bounds was outdoor recreation. Hiking, fishing, bicycling, and boating became the new pastimes for many of us. Out of all of them, hiking was at the top of the list. Trailheads on public and private lands that would normally have four or six cars on a weekend saw 20 or more. It was not uncommon for parking areas to be overflowing into town roads, sometimes making narrow back roads so narrow that a fire truck could not get by if needed.

With all these people came their dogs, some with a leash but many without. This is how wildlife is affected by the Covid crisis. The scenarios I will describe happened this year; some of them I saw myself, and some my clients experienced.

Hikers without dogs or dogs on a leash are NOT the issue for wildlife. It is the dogs that are running loose in front of their masters. Some dogs off-leash stay right beside their owners, but many do not. They run ahead of their masters and often leave the trail when a strange

smell catches their nose.

Deer, rabbits, grouse, turkey hens, and many other species of wildlife raise their young close to human presence because predators are not so common here. Trails often provide good edge habitat. For females raising their young, an occasional hiker does not present a threat, but a roaming dog off-leash with a hiker does. Hikers and their roaming dogs displaced thousands of animals and birds this past summer, but many people never knew it.

Owners of dogs bred for hunting, such as a lab, retriever, or terrier, are often aware of this because the dogs may be out sight for minutes or hours at a time, following the scents of wildlife. This invasion of loose dogs gives mothers of wildlife only one option: to move their young deeper into the forest where they can be hunted by coyotes, fishers, bears, foxes, and bobcats. Many of the young are eaten, and wildlife numbers decline as a result.

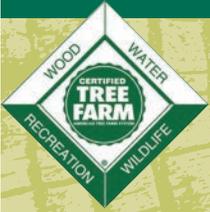
I personally manage one property that had been logged just before Covid hit. Recreational trails were built after the timber sale. Conservation mix was planted on these trails for erosion control and wildlife food. I placed trail cameras to monitor wildlife activity after the grass became established and got quite a few pictures of deer and turkeys with their young. Then, in about July, I began to see hikers and dogs using the same trails, with



the dogs off-leash. The neighbors had discovered the new trails and began to hike them daily, sometimes twice a day. I stopped seeing pictures of wildlife. No more does and fawns grazing on the trails and turkeys and grouse with their young eating the grass and insects in it.

If you were thinking only wildlife is suffering in this story, unfortunately that is not so. One friend and client was hiking with his off-leash Jack Russel Terrier this summer, and the dog chased some young turkeys out of sight that had been feeding next to a hiking trail. The dog was 8 years old and had been on many hikes and, likely, chased many animals over the years. Sadly, this time his barking drew the attention of coyotes in the area, and the dog was eaten by coyotes.

WILDLIFE, *continued on page 16*



VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

Star Date February 8, 2021: Insufficient Facts Always Invite Danger OR Inspector TSI

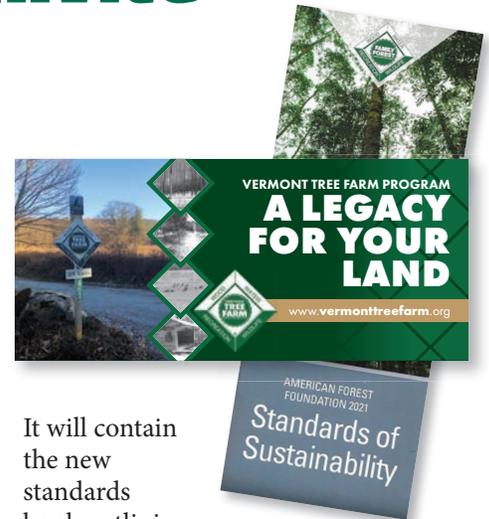
by Kathy Beland, Co-chair VT Tree Farm Committee and Inspector Trainer

Yes, I started this with a Star Trek quote. It's been a while, and I thought a little Star Trek isn't a bad thing. Maybe the word 'danger' is a little extreme, but it is true: if we don't have all the information, we really can't make great choices. Whether it's about Tree Farm, managing your forestland, taking care of your family, or getting ready to go sledding down a steep hill, it is always good to have as much information as possible to make decisions.

I am not a skier, snowboarder, or cross-country skier. I don't really like to go that fast standing up. I prefer snowshoes, but I do like to go sledding, and I have a great sledding hill. But if you don't know where the rocks live, or the wet spots, or when to turn at the bottom, you could end up in a briar patch, in a tree, or wrapped up in the willows and cattails. We have had many sledding parties here as my kids were growing up, and when my grandkids are here on a snowy day, I usually take a few runs down with them. I love to hear them squealing with delight (and a little fear!) as they fly down the hill. When I was a kid, my dad used to pack down our sledding hill with the bucket of his Allis-Chalmers tractor in lanes. It was a pretty open meadow, with few obstacles, but my dad knew where the rocks lived and when to stop before

the seep at the bottom of the hill. On a snow day, we could actually race downhill with the few other kids who lived nearby. We would stack ourselves up on our big Flexible Flyer sled like pancakes until we crashed in a heap at the bottom. What fun! There were a few accidents over the years (here in Vermont, too) but only from other kids who didn't know where all the obstacles lived! They had insufficient facts!

That said, since being involved in Tree Farm, the one consistent comment I have heard from Tree Farm Inspectors is the need for clarity to be able to present the Tree Farm Program for potential Tree Farmers, and, sometimes, current ones as well. You know, that elevator speech that everyone needs to show you have a passion for something you are presenting. I don't believe we have done a great job of providing those facts, especially to those who are supposed to do the promoting! I feel like we have been sending our inspectors down the sledding hill, face first with snow flying up and blinding their path. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, our inspectors will have received their new Inspector's Toolkit. The Toolkit is designed to provide inspectors with those tools they need to adequately present their case for Tree Farm.



It will contain the new standards book outlining each of the eight Tree Farm standards, a landowner guide titled "A Legacy For Your Land," as well as a cheat sheet for Inspectors with all those frequently asked questions about Tree Farm. My favorite part of the toolkit is the landowner guide. It is the leave-behind for the potential Tree Farmer, or maybe for Tree Farmers who are unsure if they should continue. The testimonials really give an inspiring view of the Tree Farm program for landowners and, hopefully, for you foresters as well! There will be other items also, a little swag, more background on Vermont Tree Farm, and information needed to move forward to become involved.

I also titled this article "Inspector TSI" to imply we are providing our inspectors with something to improve

LOG, continued on next page

WILDLIFE, *continued from pg. 14*

Another client was hiking with a black lab off-leash, and the dog surprised a bear cub and began to bark at it. The mother bear heard the distress cries from her cub and quickly returned to protect her cub. What happened next has happened to four other pet owners that I know personally. The dog ran back to its master with a very, very angry mother bear behind it and hid

behind the owner. In one instance, the dog was caught by the mother bear before it got back to the owner but luckily got away. None of these pet owners was attacked but could have been if they had done the wrong thing. Black bear numbers are higher than ever before, and this scenario will be more frequent in the future because we are going into their habitat.

So, the moral of this story is that if you really care about your dog, wildlife mothers and their young, and your own safety, please keep your dogs on a leash when you enter any woodland for a recreational hike.

Follow me on Facebook (@Patrick Bartlett) for more Forest and Wildlife stories.

LOG *continued from pg. 15*

their abilities. I tried to come up with a different acronym for timber stand improvement, since that was our newsletter theme this quarter, maybe Inspector Tools, SWAG and

Information? I guess that works, but it is a bit awkward. I am going to stick with the facts and not sled blindly down the hill. If we don't have all the tools we need, it makes the job that much harder

to finish. We hope this toolkit helps our inspector corps but also brings new Tree Farmers to Vermont Tree Farm.

Welcome New Tree Farmers

1763 Alan Calfee, *Rupert, VT*
1764 Tim Stout, *Shrewsbury, VT*
1768 Douglas & Lynne Coutts, *Derby, VT*

Welcome New Pioneers

1761 Russ Barnes, *Daggett Life Estate, Essex Town, VT*
1762 Andrew Rianhard, *Waterbury Ctr, VT*
1766 Matt Slayton, *Tunbridge, VT*
1767 Stephen & Martha Feltus, *Lyndonville, VT*

**Welcome New VWA Members**

Michael Allen, *Roxbury, VT*
Brian Boyden, *Norwell, MA*
Jim Burmester, *Waterbury, VT*
Tom Collard, *W. Pawlet, VT*
Spencer Como, *Rutland, VT*
Jeff Crozier, *Shelburne, VT*

Del Cummings, *Meriden, CT*
David Foster, *West Tisbury, MA*
Kimberly Hornung-Marcy
Antonia Govoni, *Roslyn Heights, NY*
Glenn Kreig, *Mt. Holly, VT*
Warren Master, *Chester, VT*

Todd Mower, *Corinth, VT*
Andrew Rianhard, *Waterbury Ctr, VT*
Edward & Kathy Thomas, *Wolcott, VT*



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NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Celebrating 25 Years

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

Letter from Kathy Abusow, President and CEO, SFI Inc.:

For 25 years, SFI has been a leader in sustainable forest management through our standards. In recent years, we have built on our successes and evolved into a solutions-oriented sustainability organization that addresses local, national, and global challenges. Our recently updated mission, to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations, reflects this focus. Climate change, biodiversity, strength in diversity, clean water, the future of our youth, the importance of a walk in the forest, and the sustainability and resilience of our communities—these are some of the important issues that the SFI community is working to address. We also realized that we will need a new generation of leaders to help us tackle the future challenges facing our planet.

This led to the acquisition of Project Learning Tree in 2017 and the creation of Project Learning Tree Canada that same year. We believe that this increased focus on environmental education will help SFI make an even bigger difference. By leveraging our network to grow PLT and PLT Canada, we will help ensure our positive impact for another 25 years and beyond. I believe our work is more important now than ever before, and our commitment to forests and the social and environmental benefits they provide will continue to position us to meet future challenges. Thank you.

This letter was included in the 2020 SFI Inc. Annual Report. The report also included these stats, showing the progress SFI Inc. has made in meeting its mission:

- Products with SFI Certification are sold in 144 countries.

- 11% of the world's forest is now certified, delivering 38% of global roundwood production.
- 35% of the certified forests

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worldwide are SFI certified.

- SFI-certified forestland in the USA and Canada is now over 375 million acres.

Consumer awareness grows:

- In a consumer survey in the USA in 2020, 54% of US consumers are aware of the SFI logo more than any other certification standard.
- In a worldwide consumer survey in 2020, 74% of millennials who are aware of the SFI label say it is a positive influence when they are making product decisions compared with 62% of boomers.

Logger training efforts:

- 10,965 resource and harvesting professionals participated in training in 2019 to ensure understanding of water quality, biodiversity, and other sustainable

forest practice requirements (cumulative total since 1995: 213,977*).

- In 2019, 96% of all fiber supplied to SFI-certified mills was delivered by trained harvesting professionals, an increase from only 34% in 1995.

Only SFI has a standard requiring research:

- In 2019, 524 research and conservation projects were conducted by SFI companies spending \$57 million on topics such as water quality, forest operations efficiencies, fish and wildlife habitats, forest health and productivity, ecosystems and climate change, and more.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) www.plt.org:

- In 2019 in the USA, some 3 million students were reached, taking more

than 750 workshops through over 14,000 educators.

- PLT has over 250 lessons and activities for students in grades Pre-k through 12. 53% of those lessons are outdoor activities.



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Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

NEWS FROM VERMONT SUSTAINABLE JOBS FUND

Maple Landmark, America's “Local Toy Company,” Rooted in Family, Forest

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



Wooden train ornaments are displayed at the company's headquarters in Middlebury. This year will mark another turning point for the company, which has seen a significant shift from wholesale sales to direct-to-consumer. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Mike Rainville, founder and owner of Maple Landmark, landed his first wholesale account at age 15, when a traveling salesman noticed the wooden tic tac toe boards Mike had for sale at the Lincoln General Store. That was 1979. Today, Maple Landmark supplies wooden toys—including the tic tac toe and cribbage boards that gave Mike his start—to thousands of gift shops around the world, employing 37 people at its 28,000 square-foot facility in Middlebury, Vermont.

Growing up in Lincoln, Rainville, who describes his family as “either farmers who did carpentry on the side, or carpenters who did farming on the side depending on the circumstances,” was always surrounded by tools, scrap wood, and



Mike Rainville, founder and owner of Maple Landmark, purchases the majority of the company's lumber from local mills that are family owned, multi-generational businesses who steward their own woodlands and work with responsible loggers. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

big piles of sawdust. He started tinkering one afternoon when, bored after finishing his chores and homework, his mother suggested he go build something. “She likes to say I went down to the basement and never came back,” said Rainville.

He started making simple household items such as bobbin and spool holders, and eventually moved on to game boards. He continued woodworking throughout his college years and, in 1984, expanded his workshop in Lincoln where he hung

the first “Maple Landmark” sign on the door. Officially open for business, Rainville spent the next two decades expanding, eventually acquiring two other Vermont toy making companies—Troll's Toy Workshop and Montgomery Schoolhouse.

America's Local Toy Company

As the product line expanded, one thing remained the same at Maple Landmark—doing business locally. For the entire

history of the company, Maple Landmark has purchased the majority of its lumber from local mills that are family owned, multi-generational businesses who steward their own woodlands and work with responsible loggers.

“I’m a local guy,” said Rainville, “I deal with local people.” Early on, Exclusively Vermont Wood Products in Bristol supplied most of the wood. As the company grew, he added Johnson’s Lumber in Bristol and Gagnon Lumber in Pittsford to his suppliers. Since most items the company makes are small, they buy the low and medium grade wood not suitable for furniture, and simply work around knots or imperfections. As often as possible, they work with native species, primarily sugar maple, as well as some pine, cherry, and oak.



Maple Landmark supplies wooden toys to thousands of gift shops around the world, employing 37 people at its 28,000 square-foot facility in Middlebury. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Less lofty principle and more rooted in Yankee practicality, working with people he knows and trusts are just “common sense” according to Rainville.

That ethos extends to other parts of the business as well, such as local banking relationships. Rainville points out that only one percent of the company’s budget goes out of the country, and they keep as much as possible right here in Vermont.

Local Toys, Global Opportunities

Rainville’s commitment to local relationships, wooden toys, and products that are “Made in the U.S.A.” came to bear in 2007 when a series of high-profile recalls revealed that

overseas manufacturers were using lead and other hazardous materials in toy manufacturing. Well positioned with their product line, the company was promoted as a non-toxic alternative in national press and saw a huge surge in sales. “That year was a big turning point for us,” said Rainville, who launched their Schoolhouse Naturals line in response.

And, of course, 2020 marked another turning point for the company, which has seen a significant shift from wholesale sales to direct-to-consumer.

When the pandemic hit last spring, he sold a record number of classic board games, such as Chinese checkers, and he predicted families might be more inclined toward holiday gifts that bring people together, and off screens, for a few hours.

All in the Family

As the company’s past is rooted in family, so is its future. Rainville’s two grown sons, Adam and Andrew, have both recently joined the business, helping with production management and communications. Among their projects—revamping the website and printing the first holiday catalog the company has mailed in 16 years, both designed to drive direct sales and appeal to consumers looking for classic gifts, such as wooden blocks, colorful name

trains, board games, puzzles, and the painted ornaments that have become the company’s best sellers. The company also sells build-it-yourself kits, offering a reminder from Rainville’s mother that when kids get bored, they can “go build something.”

About the Vermont Forest Industry Network

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



Mike and Jill Rainville, with their sons Adam and Andrew, work together at the company’s Middlebury headquarters. Adam and Andrew have both recently joined the business, helping with production management and communications. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Survey highlights importance of Vermont Family Woodland Owners

by Emma Sass and Brett Butler, *Family Forest Research Center*

Forests provide benefits at local, regional, and global scales. Families and individuals own more wooded land than any other group in the U.S., and their decisions about how to manage and care for their land have broad impacts. Understanding these woodland owners in Vermont, including what they do with their land and why, and what their challenges and needs are, is important to help support healthy forests and vibrant communities now and into the future.

Here, we use “woodland” as a broad term to include woods, woodlots, timberlands, and forests – any patch of trees that’s more than one acre in size. Families and individuals who own wooded land – collectively, “family woodland owners,” can be one person, a joint ownership of spouses or other individuals, family partnerships, family LLCs or LLPs, and family trusts or estates. We use “ownerships” to refer to all the owners of a piece of woodland.

To better understand family woodland owners, the USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program conducts the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS, <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/>). The survey asks landowners about who they are, why they own their wooded land, what they have done with it in the past, and what they intend to do with it in the future. Here we present results from 115 randomly selected Vermont woodland ownerships with 1+ acres who responded to the survey in 2017 and 2018.

Family Woodland Owners Count!

An estimated 2.7 million acres of wooded land in Vermont are owned by an estimated 76,000 family ownerships. Family ownerships control 60% of Vermont’s wooded land, more than any other ownership group, including the state or federal government or forest industry.

Size of Holdings Makes a Big Difference

The average family woodland ownership in Vermont has 35 acres of wooded land. 47% percent of the ownerships have relatively small holdings between 1-9 acres, but 54% of the *area* of wooded land is owned by ownerships with 100 acres or more. This is important because size of holdings limits what an ownership can do with their land, such as timber harvesting, wildfire protection, or control of invasive species, and often impacts what programs they are eligible for. Because of the increased management options, program involvement, and other dynamics of larger ownerships, all results that follow are for family woodland owners with **10 or more acres**.

Beauty, Wildlife, and Nature are What Matter

The most commonly cited reasons for owning woodland in Vermont are related to the wildlife, beauty, and privacy the wooded land provides. Recreation and passing land onto future generations is also important

to many owners. Financial objectives, such as land investment and timber production, are important to some owners, but they are not as common as other objectives.

They Love Their Land

Most family woodland owners in Vermont have a deep love of their land. The vast majority of owners, 90%, agree or strongly agree with the statement “I want my wooded land to stay wooded.” 85% of owners agree or strongly agree that they have a strong emotional tie to their wooded land, and 80% say they know their wooded land well.

Management

In the past 5 years, one in three (33%) family woodland owners has cut or removed trees for sale, and two in three (65%) have cut trees for their own use. Around one in three (33%) has improved wildlife habitat, and 24% have reduced invasive plants. 41% have a written management plan, and 31% have received woodland management advice in the previous 5 years.

They are Older

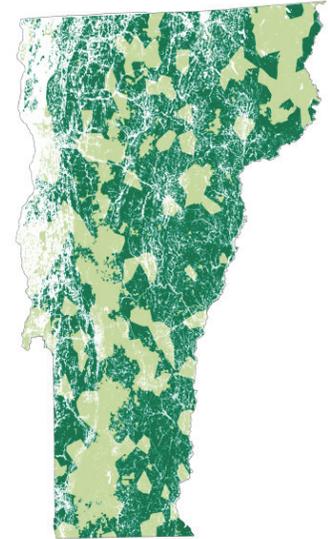
The average age of primary decision-makers for family-owned woodland in Vermont is 65 years. 11% of acres are owned by people who plan to transfer some or all of their wooded land in the next 5 years, and a majority of ownerships (77%) are worried about keeping the land intact for future generations. 68% of primary decision-makers are male.

Conclusions

Woodland conservation and management depend on the people who own it – in Vermont, most of these acres are held by individuals and families. Understanding the threats to the land – including the loss of forest through development, parcelization, invasive plants, disease, and insects, and other issues – is critical for conservation efforts. Using a common language and designing policies and programs that meet the needs of landowners and professionals will have a major impact on the current and future owners and

the vital lands that they own. For more results, visit the USDA Forest Service’s National Woodland Owner Survey website at www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos. To learn more about the services and resources available to woodland owners in your state, contact your local forestry agency or association.

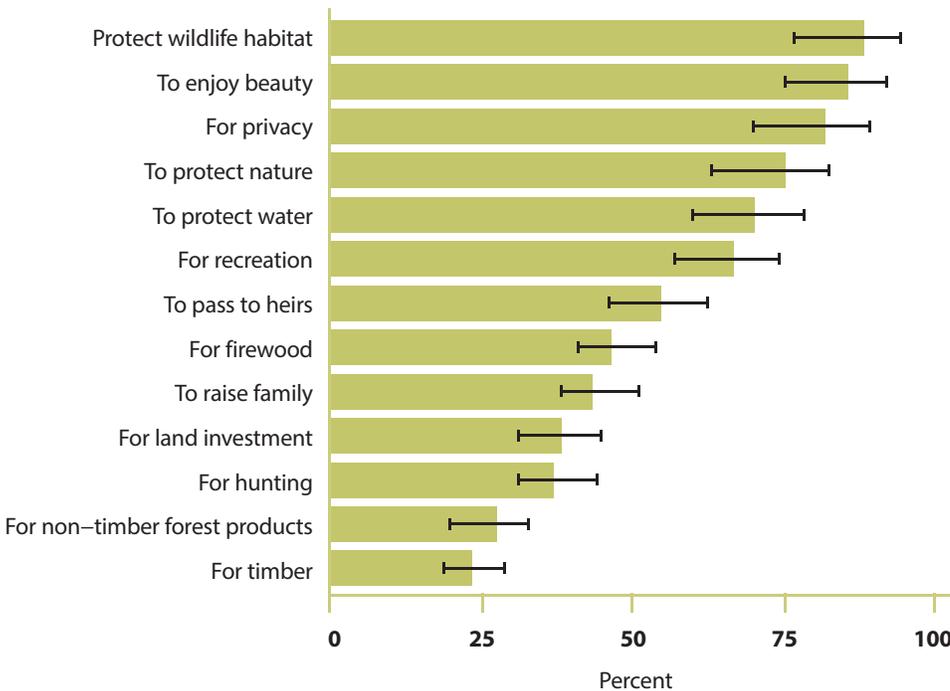
Emma Sass is a Research Fellow with the Family Forest Research Center and University of Massachusetts Amherst. Brett Butler is a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and Family Forest Research Center.



Map of woodland ownership

Family woodland (■), other woodland (■), and non-woodland (□) in Vermont. Data source: USDA Forest Service.

Reasons for owning wooded land



Percent of Vermont family woodland owners with 10+ acres who rate each objective as important or very important. Error bars represent 68% confidence interval. Data source: USDA Forest Service, National Woodland Owner Survey.

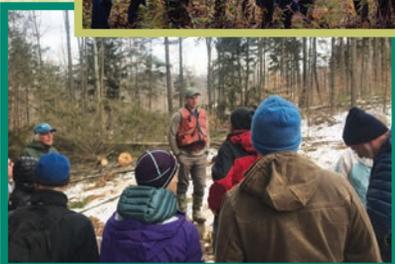
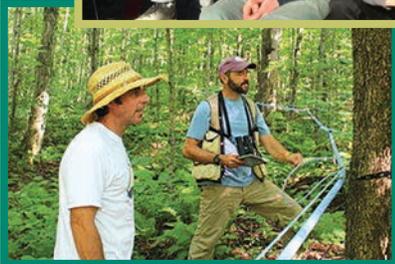
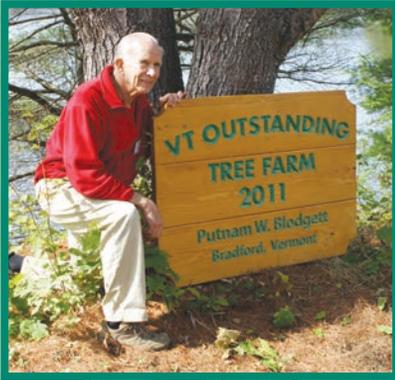
Key Facts

- Families and individuals own **60%** of Vermont’s wooded land
- Most own their wooded land for wildlife, beauty, and privacy
- **90%** of family woodland owners want their wooded land to stay wooded
- **Two thirds** have cut trees for their own use, and a one third have cut trees for sale in the past five years
- **41%** have a management plan and one third have received advice about their wooded land in the past five years



Vermont Woodlands Association 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

As of December 31, 2020



2020 in Retrospect

The year presented us with so many changes and challenges, it's hard to know where to start. First, let us thank you all for your support through continued membership and generous contributions. We know that you all had changes and challenges too in navigating our Covid environment and are grateful for your ongoing support.

A big hurdle, as you know, was the passing of Put Blodgett on March 3rd, at the cusp of our Covid State of Emergency. Put missed the board meeting on February 21st, only the second such occurrence in his 20 year tenure as president. That happened to be our last in-person meeting. How does an organization fill such a void, especially as a global pandemic is unfolding? While transition planning had been discussed, we didn't have a plan – except in a very fortuitous move, we had co-vice presidents. Allan Thompson and John Buck, whether they knew it or not, were preparing to someday take up the mantle of leadership. And when that time arose, Allan stepped into the role of president with John as vice president.

Have you met Allan Thompson? We introduced him to you in our June 2020 newsletter. In the nearly one-year of leadership, Allan has steered this ship with confidence and competence. We all know that our woodland owner demographic is 65+ years of age. The board room (or Zoom screen) mimics that demographic. Not Allan. He is the next generation of landowner, the next generation of professional consulting forester. His “youthful” perspectives are welcome. He is a leader with a collaborative style and he can delegate – something that does not seem to be in the DNA of we older folks. We are very fortunate to have Allan at the helm, supported by vice president John Buck and the rest of the Board.

We are excited about a few other important changes that took place in 2020. Even without the board table to hash out ideas, we were able to engage in email discussion and agree on a new Vision and Mission to guide our work.

Our Vision: *Healthy Vermont forests, supported by an informed and inspired constituency.*

Our Mission: *To educate and advocate for the practices of productive stewardship, use, and enjoyment of Vermont's woodlands.*

After years of Walk in the Woods, Tree Farm Tours, and field workshops, times demanded change. As in-person scheduled programs were cancelled, many of us wondered what we would do to fill our days with no travel, meetings, or events. ZOOM to the rescue! What started in late March 2020 as a way to offer programs has now become the only way we all get to “see” one another. Zoom has also been the preferred tool to continue our partnership programs that have evolved and grown during the last year. We are pleased to be engaged in bringing learning, networking, and opportunity to diverse audiences through these partnerships.

- Woods, Wildlife, Warblers – Are you interested in forest management with birds in mind? How can you make habitat improvements to welcome Vermont’s migratory songbirds in their breeding season?
- Women Owning Woodlands – Are you a woman landowner who wants to network and learn from other women? Visit <https://ourvermontwoods.org/topic/vt-women-owning-woodlands-network> to learn about opportunities for engagement.
- Land Ethic Vermont – What’s your relationship with the land? Visit ourvermontwoods.org/topic/land-ethic to learn about opportunities to explore your personal land ethic.
- Your Land. Your Vision – Are you thinking about how to keep your woodlands intact and in the family for the future? Have a conversation with a Legacy Planning expert and if ready, start your journey.
- Water Wise Woodlands – Are you a woodland owner in the Upper Winooski Watershed towns of Cabot, Marshfield, or Plainfield? Learn how active forest management can help to improve water quality.
- Our legislative advocacy also continues in a new relationship with Vermont Farm Bureau. As members, you now receive VFB’s weekly update, Under the Golden Dome.

Vermont Tree Farm remains a foundational program for VWA. The Tree Farm Committee guides initiatives designed to grow stewardship among managing landowners. Vermont has 437 certified Tree Farms totaling 134,350 acres. An additional 53 Tree Farms with 11,603 acres are Pioneers, land stewards who need a plan update or an inspection for full certification. If you are interested in learning more about Tree Farm certification, visit vermonttreefarm.org for details.



Photo by Erica Houskeeper



Photo by Thomas Thompson



Photo by Shirley Donald

Donations & Contributions

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to our generous members and donors who contributed to Vermont Woodlands during 2020. In these very challenging times, we appreciate that you remembered VWA with your gift of support.

Robert Ackerman	Peter Clark	James & Cornelia Kachadorian
Bob & Zoe Aicher	Paul Collodi	Liza Ketchum
Anonymous	John Colvin	John & Kathryn Kuryloski
Norman Arseneault	John Constantine	L.W. Webster Company, Inc.
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Jason Bell	Anup Dam	Richard & Sharon Liebert
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Black Hills Timber, LLC	Douglas Flamino	Howard Manosh
Carol Lee Blackwood	Fountains Land	Jane Marlin
Phillip Blake	Stephan Fowlkes	Richard Marshak
Clark Bothfeld	Robert Gaiko	James Martin
William G. F. Botzow	Larry & Maureen Gatto	Michael Mason
Darby Bradley	Donald Glendenning	Dave & Roxanne Matthews
Markus Bradley	Terry (Charles) Gulick	Charles & Mary Jane Mattina
William Brainard	Steve Hagenbuch	Margaret McBride
Brookfield Renewable	Wallace Handfield	John McClain
Brooks Tree Farm, Inc.	Emmy & Rick Hausman	Tim & Betsy McKay
Ken & Barb Brown	John & Joey Hawkins	Barry Meinert
Linfield & Roberta Brown	Charles Haywood	Gregory Melkonian
Larry & Susan Bruce	JC Heminway, Jr.	Pat & Bob Mendelsohn
Thomas & Louella Buckles	Harold Hiser, Jr.	Hardy Merrill
Frederick & Judith Buechner	Hooting Bear Land Co LLC	Peter & Harriette Merrill
Richard & Ann Bulger	Judith Howland	John Meyer
Susan Buswell	Albert Jr & Marcia Hunker	Laura Meyer
Leonard Cadwallader	Jock Irons	Nancy Miles
John Caldwell	Jack & Dorothy Byrne	L. Sam & Mary Miller
Michael Caldwell	Foundation	Elizabeth Mills
Reed Cass	Betsey D. & Edward B Jackson	Steve Morse
Anne & Michael Castine	Michael C. Jennings	Susan Morse
Cavendish Wildwood Farm	Keith & DeAnne Johnson	John & Katherine Morton
Eugene & Jean Ceglowski	Bill & Irena Jones	James Mumford
William Chester	Bruce & Doreen Jones	Marina Naumann

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Linda & Richard Olson
Colleen O'Neill
Chris Osgood
Gail Osherenko
David Palumbo
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Robert & Sharon Payeur
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Mary White
John Widness
John Jr. Willard
Robert Williams
Terry Williams
Sanford Witherell
Ken & Marth Wooden
Daniel & Mary Wyand
Allen & Kathleen Yale
Yankee Farm Credit

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

In Memory Of:

Thomas Beland
Rita Bizzozero
Putnam Blodgett
Clark Bothfeld
George Buzzell

Robert Darrow
Azal S. Hall
John Henenway
Ruth Mengedoht
Edward Osmer

Robert Pulaski
Michael Tatro
Peter Upton
Jim Wilkinson

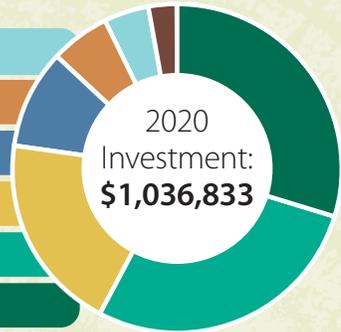
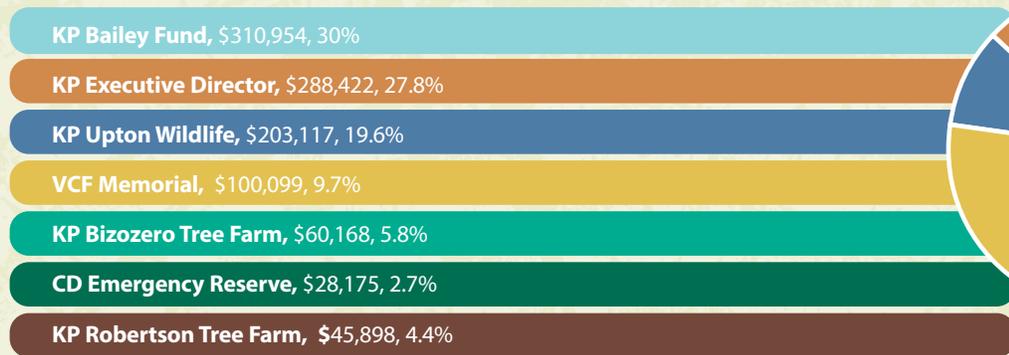
In Honor Of:

Kathy Beland
Chris Elwell
Paul Harwood
Leo Laferriere
Thom McEvoy
Steve Miller

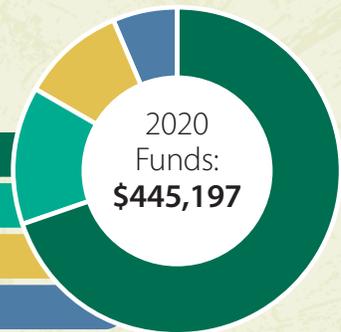
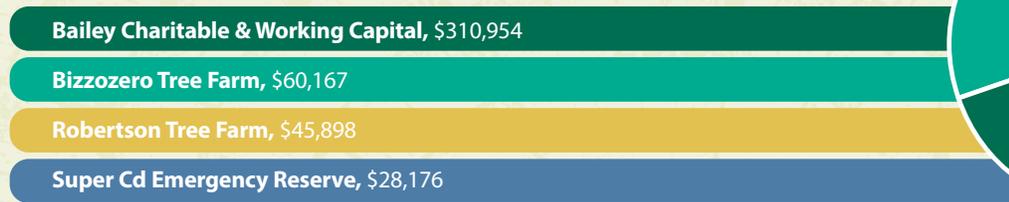
Ross Morgan
Steven Peckham
William Sayre
Steve Sinclair
Stoner Tree Farm
Kathleen Wanner

If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in honor of your loved one, please make note of whom your donation is for and if you would like it invested in a Fund or Endowment.

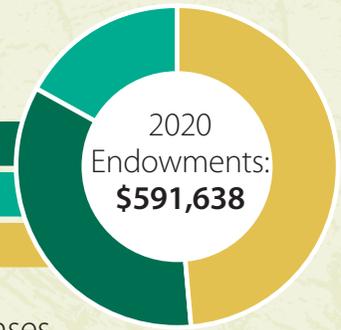
VWA Investments



Tree Farm and Other Funds

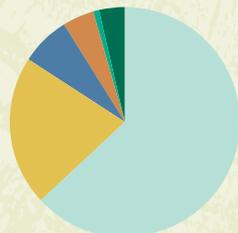


VWA Endowments



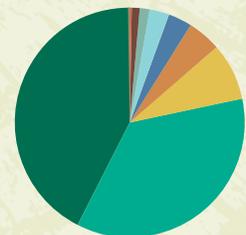
2020 Tree Farm Income

\$30,600	Woods, Wildlife, & Warblers
\$0	Grants
\$10,137	Administration Fees
\$3,423	AFF Tree Farm Support
\$2,042	NLC Reimbursement
\$0	Tours, Workshops, & Contributions
\$500	Inspections
\$1,630	Fundraising



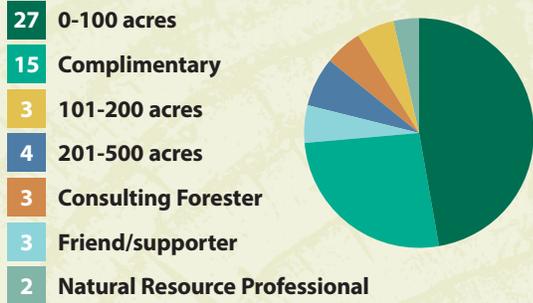
2020 Tree Farm Expenses

\$0	Tours & Events
\$113	Travel
\$180	Supplies/postage/copies
\$562	Signs & Awards
\$940	Project Learning Tree
\$1,650	Training & Inspections
\$1,952	National Leadership Conference
\$2,692	Website
\$4,820	Grants
\$21,300	Administration & Database
\$25,116	Woods, Wildlife, & Warbler



Memberships

2020 New Membership



2020 Renewing Membership



Reports: Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

Income

4100 · Membership Dues	42,400.00
4200 · Donations	109,314.92
4260 · Grants	12,677.84
4300 · Annual Meeting	1,935.90
4400 · Tree Farm	47,585.61
45000 · Investments	80,905.89
4700 · Other Income	23,223.00
4770 · Walk in the Woods Division	231.10

Total Income	317,812.06
Cost of Goods Sold	212.29

Gross Profit 317,599.77

Expense

Merchant deposit fees	594.50
5100 · Professional Services	83,145.72
5200 · Printing	17,879.46
5300 · Membership Services	12,707.80
5400 · Board of Directors Meeting	851.32
5600 · VWA Educational Programs	3,509.86
5700 · Legislative Affairs	8,596.44
5800 · General Administrative	7,129.13
5900 · Grant Expenses	569.00
6000 · Tree Farm Expenses	59,324.47
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	50.00

Total Expense	194,357.70
----------------------	-------------------

Net Income 123,242.07

Reports: Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1010 · General Merchant's Account	
1007 · French Foundation - PLT	8,048.13
1009 · Funds for Wildlife Programs	1,326.82
1012 · Tree Farm Committee - WWW	23,897.64
1016 · VW Memorial General Fund	-50.00
1017 · VW In Honor General Fund	550.00
1010 · General Merchant's Account - Other	3,934.63

Total 1010 · General Merchant's Account 37,707.22

Total Checking/Savings 37,707.22

Accounts Receivable

11000 · Accounts Receivable	-330.00
11060 · Dues Receivable	3,050.00
11070 · Tree Farm Admin Receivables	340.00

Total Accounts Receivable 3,060.00

Other Current Assets

12000 · Undeposited Funds	3,5550.00
12100 · Inventory Asset	21,490.00
1650 · Endowments	
1700 · VW Memorial Endowment	100,099.38
1770 · Executive Director Endowment	288,422.17
1780 · Wildlife Endowment	203,177.08

Total 1650 · Endowments 591,638.63

1784 · Funds

1785 · Super CD Emergency Reserve	28,175.92
1795 · Bailey Charitable & Working Cap	310,954.53
1802 · Robertson Tree Farm	45,898.72
1803 · Bizzozero Tree Farm	60,167.60

Total 1784 · Funds 445,196.77

Total Other Current Assets 1,061,880.40

Total Current Assets 1,102,647.62

Total Assets 1,102,647.62

Liabilities & Equity

Equity

3000 · Opening Balance Equity	210,694.78
32000 · Net Assets	768,200.77
Net Income	123,752.07

Total Equity 1,102,647.62

Total Liabilities & Equity 1,102,647.62

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION (Note: existing members will receive an invoice)

Vermont Woodlands is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to educate and advocate for the practices of productive stewardship, use, and enjoyment of Vermont’s woodlands. We achieve our mission by delivering programs for landowners, the public, and policy makers that support forest health, forest economy, wildlife habitat, recreation, and enjoyment of forests for today and for generations to come.

ANNUAL DUES INVESTMENT (check one)

Landowners

- 0 -100 acres..... \$40
- 101-200 acres..... \$50
- 201-500 acres..... \$60
- 501-1,000 acres..... \$70
- 1,001-5000 acres \$100
- Over 5,000 acres \$250
- Friend/Supporter \$40

Natural resource professionals

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

Wood products companies & equipment suppliers

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

- VWA Accredited Consulting Foresters** \$160
(Subject to VWA acceptance. Call for details.)

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____ Email _____

Woodland town(s) _____ County(ies) _____

Woodland acres _____ Tree Farm member? _____ Enrolled in the Value Appraisal Program? _____

Forester _____

Please make checks payable to Vermont Woodlands Association and mail with the completed form to: VWA Treasurer, PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004.

MEMBERSHIP BONUS!

Northern Woodlands



As a benefit of membership, the Vermont Woodlands Association offers a free subscription to Northern Woodlands, a quarterly magazine that offers readers a “new way of looking at the forest.” Northern Woodlands mission is to encourage a culture of forest stewardship in the Northeast by increasing understanding of and appreciation for the natural wonders, economic productivity, and ecological integrity of the region’s forests. Members also receive the VWA newsletter published quarterly and E-News, offering articles of interest and educational opportunities for woodland owners.

northernwoodlands.org



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Alaska.....1	New Jersey.....17
Arizona.....1	New York.....22
California.....10	Ohio.....3
Colorado.....1	Oklahoma.....1
Connecticut.....32	Oregon.....1
Florida.....16	Pennsylvania.....6
Georgia.....1	Rhode Island.....7
Illinois.....1	South Carolina.....1
Kansas.....1	Texas.....2
Louisiana.....1	Virginia.....4
Massachusetts.....52	Vermont.....775
Maryland.....12	Washington DC.....3
Maine.....3	Wisconsin.....1
Michigan.....1	
Minnesota.....1	
North Carolina.....3	
New Hampshire.....25	

