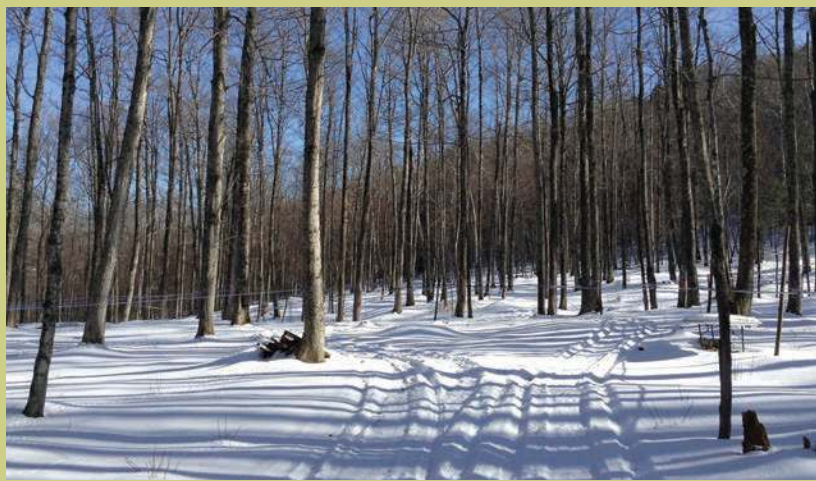


# Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

## A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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**Photos:** Kathy Beland (front left, front lower right, back/inset),  
 Dick Mansfield, flickr/Creative Commons (front top right)

## AN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS

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



# Giving Thanks

by **Kate Ziehm**, president of *Morning Ag Clips & Farmhouse Communications*,  
filling in for Executive Director, Kathleen Wanner

We work with many boards of directors every day in our profession of association management.

I have seen great successes on boards, as well as great shortcomings. Some of this I have observed, and some of this I have been a part of as a board member myself through the years.

**During this season of thankfulness and giving, I want to recognize and give thanks to the directors of the Vermont Woodlands Association.**

As an association, you are truly blessed to have such a cohesive group of individuals show up and give their time to your organization. It is very special.

In particular, this acknowledgment makes me ponder, what goes into making a great board of directors? Why are some boards thriving while others struggle so?

Many of you serve or have served on a board. Have you ever given it a thought, how successful your board is? Have you ever evaluated your role on a board or the role of others?



Successful boards are enjoyable and progressive to be on. Movers and shakers I like to refer to them as. There is no feeling of drudgery, minutia or operating in the doldrums.

I think to myself, as a person who works with many boards, is there anything I can offer as advice to our groups, their members and more specifically their board members to help them feel fulfilled and successful in a volunteer position?

I have landed on a couple of components I feel are common threads to setting up for success on a board of directors. I will share them with you and point out that all of these qualities, your VWA board of directors possesses and models. I have learned a great deal from all of them.

**Strong Leadership.** It all starts here. You need to have a strong leader somewhere on the board to ensure that the ship keeps moving forward. A strong leader is a delegator, and a facilitator of good conversation, ultimately drawing out a healthy decision-making process. Leaders get decisions made, and then facilitate action through delegation. They are able to recognize when one member is carrying the load and in a graceful manner make some shifts to ensure that no one person is going to get burned out. Very important.

**A willingness to show up.** Being committed to attending meetings

is critical. You don't have the right to weigh in on things if you haven't participated in the ongoing discussion. Nothing is worse than being a president and talking to *yourself* about an issue because very few on the board chose to attend the meetings. All of a sudden the board of 10 becomes an active board of three with a fight to make a quorum every month. When you consistently don't show up, you are letting down your peers, you are sending a message that the board and organization are not important to you. It severely impacts the morale of everyone involved.

**Volunteer.** Other than attending the monthly/quarterly meetings, volunteer to help out with something extra, a committee or possibly an outreach campaign. Figure out what you bring to the group and capitalize on that because it may come easy to you. Your involvement at times, outside of the board meeting, is critical in moving things forward.

**Always be looking for a replacement.** It's hard to find volunteers today. Everyone is very busy; life is moving at lightning speed. Be aware of those who you may come into contact with every day who might be a good fit for your board and organization. If your organization is healthy, it will not be hard to find good people. The members of the board

**GIVING THANKS** *continued on pg. 23*



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# Climate Change in a Changing Culture

by Allan Thompson

It can be hard to stay focused in today's forest culture. There is a lot on our minds locally and globally, and it takes a discerning landowner to sift through it all to make informed decisions that we can remain committed to.

Culturally, it feels more important than ever to think about climate change issues and how our forest actions can impact carbon storage and climate change. At the same time, culturally it feels more important than ever to reengage with our local roots. To remember who our neighbors are, where our material comes from, and look to our backyard rather than across the country or across oceans for our wood resources. To get outside and strengthen and protect our Woods Life.

The consequences of our forest actions on a changing climate are complex. That I continue to feel unprepared and unfit to fully grasp and communicate the full breadth of it all is an understatement. But, within the complexities, there are at least two absolutes. The first is that the world, Vermonters, and we, need wood. We therefore need to continue to cut trees, and all sustainable silviculture practices are on the table. Clear cuts and all. The other absolute is that the climate is changing and trees and the collection of trees, i.e. forests, are an extremely important tool in absorbing

and storing carbon, and, therefore, retaining forests is necessary.

If you apply these two contradicting absolutes to one sugar maple in the moment, you are paralyzed. You can't both keep and cut the maple. But we're not. In Vermont, we're applying these contradicting absolutes to millions of acres of forest land overtime, and there is plenty of room for balance to both keeping some and cutting others. FIA data shows we continue to have net tree growth; we're keeping more than we're cutting. Though the area of forest land is decreasing, the loss of forest land is a function of development.

The net growth has at least something to do with sustainable forest management, which appreciates those two absolutes, protecting the ability of forests to regenerate, stay healthy and serve as carbon sinks while producing wood products. These methods include increasing rotation ages or cutting cycles for long-lived forests, promoting native species and managing against non-native plants, promoting diversity of species and age classes, accelerating tree growth through intermediate cuttings, and protecting water and soils from erosion and degradation, among others.

The development that contributes to forest loss is done for a variety of

reasons. Though when there is a strong woodland culture and a community that supports woodland ownership and woodland uses, it is more likely that the forest loss can be avoided.

These are not new ideas. Nor is the balancing for wood utilization with the protection of natural features or functions. What is new, is the increasingly separated life we live from the woods itself. The perception and attitudes toward sustainable forest management and the culture of the Woods Life is changing, and it feels like more and more, we're living next to the woods. Those unfamiliar with stumps, skid roads and landings and more generally, unfamiliar with the woods and the changes within our woods, natural or otherwise, will almost universally view change with a negative reaction. This reaction and the absorption of media yields singular forest goals; no cutting, old growth forests, or carbon storage and will seep into legislative action, government rules and in opposition to cultural norms. This will yield cynicism and divided groups rather than a strong community.

At the last annual meeting, Mike Snyder, commissioner of FPR, reminded us that with all the attention on Vermont's forests, carbon and forestry, there is an opportunity. There are more people



listening and willing to engage in forestry discussions at all levels.

Cultural change is perpetual and as guaranteed as the change in our woods. What I hope VWA can contribute is to prevent the problem of climate change from being found in our woods by helping you understand what sustainable forest management looks like that achieves a variety of objectives, including carbon storage. We'll introduce you to loggers, landowners, foresters, stumps and old growth forest. We'll ask you to wade into the complex. We're here to help you get out into the woods and explore the woods and the culture. Avoid singular management goals and recognize that as a steward of resources we have a responsibility to share those resources, wood, water, air and all.

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

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

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### HOW CAN A CONSULTING FORESTER HELP YOU?

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

PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004 | 802.747.7900  
Visit the website for complete forester contact information:  
[www.vermontwoodlands.org](http://www.vermontwoodlands.org)



## NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

# Early Detection – Tree-of-Heaven

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

In the Northeast, communities and scientists alike are witnessing extended growing seasons along with more dramatic and frequent weather events. Less visible — but still impactful — are changes like the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere increasing. These factors all negatively affect our forests.

If we look closely, we can pick up indications of a changing climate in our backyards and woods. Some common invasive plants in Vermont, like barberry and shrub honeysuckles, leaf out earlier and stay green longer than locally evolved woodland plants. Predictions suggest this divergence will increase as the climate continues to change, providing a greater advantage to the growth of the invasive plants.

While grappling with this reality can feel overwhelming, there are concrete actions we can all take to protect the future of our forests from the impacts of invasive plants.

### Learn

Warmer weather allows new invasive plants to shift north, as those species previously hindered by Vermont's colder temperatures will now be able to successfully survive and thrive. We can mitigate some of the risks of shifting invasive plants by striving for early detection. Finding invasive plants soon after they arrive in Vermont allows us to address populations before they become well established, which makes management much more practical.

For example, there is an invasive tree called **Tree-of-Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*) (<https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/tree-of-heaven>). Tree-of-Heaven evolved in southern Asia and was introduced to the United States in the 1700s as an ornamental plant popular in urban settings. It was widely planted in the Northeast and California and has spread to most states with acceptable climates. It is susceptible to frost, which has kept it limited to more southerly latitudes, but its range is predicted to shift north. Currently, Tree-of-Heaven is only known in a handful of locations in Vermont.

Tree-of-Heaven can be found in forests, forest edges, fields and human-impacted areas. These trees are short lived, can grow 8 feet in their first year of growth, and have occasionally been documented producing fruit after only two years. The tree can reproduce vegetatively or from seed; seeds are easily dispersed by wind and are highly viable. Although Tree-of-Heaven is shade-intolerant, it has been



*Ailanthus altissima* leaflet, showing the glandular teeth and gland at the base. Photo credit: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.



The winged samaras of *Ailanthus altissima* oblong, papery, and have a central, single seed. Photo credit: Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.





*Ailanthus altissima* will grow just about anywhere. Photo credit: Ian Trueman, University of Wolverhampton, Bugwood.org

documented as a pioneer species in forests impacted or defoliated by biotic or abiotic stressors. Where it does grow, it can establish dense canopies, reducing understory diversity, and it releases allelopathic chemicals, which reduces competition and will persist in the soil, inhibiting succession. These behaviors and the continued spread of this species are reasons it is listed as a Class B Noxious Weed in Vermont ([https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PHARM/Plant\\_Pest/NoxiousWeedsQuarantine1.pdf](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PHARM/Plant_Pest/NoxiousWeedsQuarantine1.pdf)).

### Get Involved

While the known locations of this invasive plant are limited in Vermont, we suspect there are more, and need your help. Stay tuned this winter for an announcement about a community science opportunity, where you can formally volunteer to help track down Tree-of-Heaven (<https://vtinvasives.org/get-involved/volunteer>).



*Ailanthus altissima* infestation. Photo credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

In the meantime, if you suspect you've seen Tree-of-Heaven, please report it to VTinvasives.org (<https://vtinvasives.org/get-involved/report-it>).

### Helpful hints to identify Tree-of-Heaven

There are several locally evolved trees that look like the invasive Tree-of-Heaven, including ash and sumac. Luckily there are a few ways to distinguish invasive Tree-of-Heaven from its respective local look-alikes (see table on pg. 8).

### Make a Difference

In mid-August, a concerned community member notified scientists of the presence of an invasive insect. The insect, **spotted lanternfly** (<https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/spotted-lanternfly>), was first detected in the United States in 2014 in Pennsylvania and has spread across the eastern United States to eight states, but had never been

**DETECTION** continued on pg. 8

## HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FOREST?

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

## HOW CAN YOU HELP VWA?

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

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

**DETECTION**, *continued from pg. 7*

reported before in Vermont. It hitchhikes on just about anything from wooden pallets, slabs of stone, cars, campers, and even things like backyard grills.

Its success when it arrives in a new location largely depends on what plant

species are available for it to utilize. It can survive on over 70 species of plants, most notable maples, walnuts, oaks, hops, grapes and apples, often damaging those important crop and hardwood species. However, it appears that a favored plant, invasive

Tree-of-Heaven, may be important in assisting the spread of this insect. A better understanding of where Tree-of-Heaven is located will assist land managers in keeping track of the spread of spotted lanternfly.

Characteristics			Species					
			Tree of Heaven	White Ash	Black Ash	Staghorn sumac	Smooth sumac	Butternut
Leaves	Type	Compound	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Arrangement	Alternate	x			x	x	x
		Opposite		x	x			
	Margin	Smooth	x	x				
		Serrated			x	x	x	x
	Leaf Length		1-2’	8-12”	9-16”	6-16”	8-18”	1.5-2.5”
	Number of leaflets		11-41	5-9	7-13	9-27	9-23	11-17
Leaf scars		v-shaped	c-shaped	o-shaped	Horseshoe shaped	Encircle the buds	Wooly top fringe, no notch	
Height			60-80’	50-80’	40-70’	15-25’	3-15’	40-60’
Fruit			Samara, oblong, single seed	Samara, paddle shaped, thick	Samara, paddle shaped, thin	Small, red fruits in a panicle	Small, red fruits in a panicle	Green fruits, clustered together
Other Distinctive Characteristics			Leaves have glandular teeth, leaves and male flowers have rotten smell	Light gray bark with uniform fissures	Gray and scaly/flakey bark	Dense hairs cover much of the plant	One of the first trees to turn color in the fall – bright red	In Northeast, often exhibit signs of butternut canker

To learn more about invasive Tree-of-Heaven, check out [VTinvasives.org](https://vtinvasives.org) and these additional resources:

**Tree-of-Heaven**

Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/3889>)

New Hampshire DAMF (<https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/tree-of-heaven.pdf>)

USDA Plants Database (<https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=AIAL>)

US Forest Service (<https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/news/review/review-vol22.pdf>)

Penn State Extension (<https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>)





## NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

# Is Burning Wood Good for Birds?

by **David Mears**, *Executive Director and Vice-President, Audubon Vermont*



I have been splitting, stacking and hauling firewood since I was a kid, though I now cheat a bit and order from a couple of local brothers who deliver the wood already split. The stacking and hauling still keeps me busy enough and, as they say, the wood warms me twice.

I enjoy the daily ritual of starting a fire on a cold morning, and the warm glow of our stove provides a nice gathering spot for my family in the evening during the winter months. That warmth is all the more pleasant, knowing that I am contributing to our local forest economy, and replacing the use of my other source of heat, an oil-burning furnace.

Since joining Audubon Vermont, I have also learned that those of us burning wood to heat our homes can do so in a manner that not only displaces fossil fuels but also helps birds. While cutting down trees to help birds may not seem like an obvious recommendation from an environmental organization, harvesting those trees in a careful and sustainable manner, and burning the

wood from those trees in advanced wood heating stoves and furnaces, can be good for forests, birds and the environment.

Vermont's forests provide many benefits in addition to providing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our forests provide clean water, clean air, flood resilience, and also capture and store carbon. In order to realize these benefits, we need to keep our forests as

forests. In Vermont, a large majority of our forest land is privately owned. For that reason, we need to find ways to help forest landowners get an economic return from their land. Buying wood for use to heat our homes, whether in woodstoves or wood pellet boilers, is one way to help provide that financial benefit for those landowners who need the income and who prioritize careful long-term and sustainable management over short-term profit.

Buying wood harvested from those forests can benefit birds. Audubon Vermont works with Vermont's foresters and forest landowners, in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and partners like the

**AUDUBON** *continued on pg. 10*



## AUDUBON, *continued from pg. 9*

Vermont Woodlands Association to promote bird-friendly forest practices. These practices not only allow, but depend upon the harvesting of trees to ensure a mix of tree species and age classes.

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

Much of the recent conversation in the Vermont news about wood energy has discussed the interesting and important questions about whether the use of wood (referred to as biomass) for energy is good for the climate. The climate crisis

is a critical challenge for all of us and especially for birds, as captured in Audubon's recent report: *Survival By Degrees*. While the climate implications of burning wood for energy are complex, I will note two significant and relevant variables:

(1) First, there is a big difference between burning wood for heat, and burning wood to generate electricity. The efficiency of advanced wood heating systems now available to heat our homes and businesses far exceeds the efficiency of burning wood for electricity. Burning wood for electricity has been described as throwing away three trees to get a single tree's worth of electricity. As Bill McKibben has written, there are real questions about the climate impacts of burning pellets produced from short-rotation pine plantation forests to fuel power plants in Europe; and

(2) Second, the source of the wood matters. Treating trees like an agricultural crop, like happens in some pine plantations where only one species of tree is planted and the trees are harvested after only short duration rotations, provides little useful habitat, is at risk to pests and disease, and provides limited levels of carbon storage over the long-term. Harvesting trees from a local Vermont woodlot, where the forest has been stewarded in a manner that benefits birds, promoting a healthy and resilient mix of species and age classes of trees, is a different story entirely.

In the argument over whether to harvest trees in the context of climate change, some resort to reciting the apparent truism that leaving trees standing and growing is the best way to maximize the amount of carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and stored in our forests. While that may be correct, some research suggests that selective thinning can improve tree growth and increase carbon uptake. Regardless, this assertion side-steps an important question: how do we keep our forests as forests in the first place? No less an organization than the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fiber, or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit."

If we lose our forests to development, the question of how much carbon they store is irrelevant. You may or may not have an interest in joining me in my daily winter chore of stoking up the woodstove, but we all benefit when our forests are managed for birds, including harvesting some trees that we split, stack and haul in order to heat our homes.

### Attention VWA Foresters

Need help staying in touch with your clients?  
Let us help you!

**What is the Forester eNews?**  
The Forester eNews is a new 2-year pilot product designed for VWA Consulting Foresters to keep in touch with their own clients. It's branded for your business and features your content. VWA can subsidize the cost and retain option to add VWA branded content in the closing blocks (see costs below).

**Who manages the Forester eNews?**  
Morning Ag Clips is a consulting firm that provides services to VWA. The MAC team will work with you to develop your customized eNews and manage your distribution lists confidentially.

**What is your time Commitment?**  
It's really up to you but with the template MAC provides, it should take no more than 2 hours per issue to create a personalized message for your clients.

**What is the eNews value?**  
VWA believes in long-term landowner-forester relationships but "Forest Time" has a way of getting in the way. We think that this product will help you maintain that long-term relationship with landowners, even when you don't see them for many years. The Forester eNews won't let your clients forget your name between visits.

**What is the cost?**

- \$250 for initial set up
- \$150 per issue, with your business content

OR

- \$200 per issue, with MAC-generated content

You choose frequency: 12, 6, or 4 times per year.  
VWA will contribute \$75 to the cost of each issue for the right to include VWA-branded content.

**Want to learn more?**  
Contact Stephanie at  
[stephanie@morningagclips.com](mailto:stephanie@morningagclips.com)

**Who sees the Forester eNews?**  
Average open rate -> 54%  
during 5-month sample period





## NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE: BOOK REVIEW

# Book Displays Scientific Method at Work in the Field

by Allen Yale, *landowner and Tree Farmer*



Morse, Susan C., *Wildlife and Habitats: A Collection of Natural History Essays with Photographs*. Richmond, VT: Keeping Track, Inc. 2021, 300 pp, \$45.

Here is a book that is a must for anyone who spends a lot of time in the outdoors in the Northeast, but especially hunters, natural resources professionals and landowner-naturalists interested in what animals frequent their property. It is to wildlife signs what Tom Wessell's *Reading the Forested Landscape* is to disturbances on the land.

Written by renowned tracker Susan Morse, the book consists of 108 essays,

each between two and three pages, with some longer exceptions. Most had appeared earlier as Morse's regular "Tracking Tips" column in *Northern Woodlands* magazine.

The subtitle includes the phrase "with photographs." This may be an understatement as I counted 936 photos, averaging approximately eight photos per two page article. These photographs greatly enhance an already great book as they illustrate the points made in the article.

The book starts with a general section on tracking, and a section on botany as it relates to wildlife with three great articles on soft mast, cones and seeds commonly eaten by wildlife. The rest of the book is organized alphabetically by species. The more glamorous species getting more coverage than the lesser ones. The black bear has 16 entries, moose and white-tailed deer nine each, while hare and woodchuck only get one each.

The main thrust of the book is interpreting signs wildlife leave on the landscape. In fact, a more appropriate title might have been "Reading Wildlife Signs in the Landscape." In general, the signs left by wildlife fall into three categories: scat, which is a product of the digestive process but may often have communication value, scent marking that is usually evident to humans only

if it includes a visual component, and visual marking. I was amazed by the number of scent glands some species had. For example, a white-tail buck has scent glands on its forehead, the inside corner of the eye, the nose and mouth, and three glands on the leg, the tarsal gland, the metatarsal glands and a scent gland between its toes.

Many wildlife signs are unavailable to humans because of the total inadequacy of our noses to detect them. Having grown up on a farm with sheep, I noticed rams smelling the urine of ewes to determine whether they were in estrus. These signs are means of communication of several sorts to others of that species: territoriality, dominance, pairing availability, etc.

Because these articles were written over 20 years, and Morse returned to similar topics throughout the years, there is some redundancy of content, but I found, as a former educator, that some redundancy assists learning.

While many of you may have read some of these articles when they first appeared in *Northern Woodland Magazine*, having them collected and categorized provides a useful resource easily accessible on your bookshelf. I hope I get my own copy for Christmas.

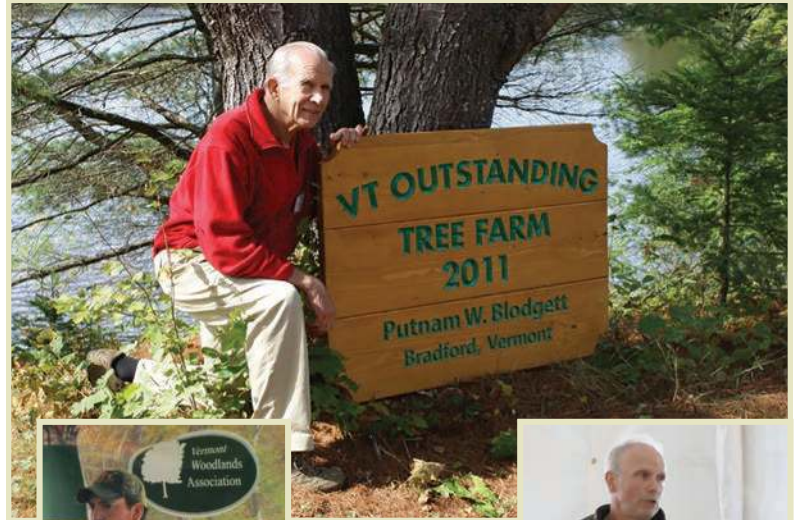
# A Perfect Backdrop to Gather Again, Remember Put

by Kathleen Wanner, Executive Director

We had a great turnout at the 2021 Vermont Woodlands Association annual meeting. After a two-year hiatus on meeting in person, it was apparent that all in attendance were thrilled to be there, to interact face-to-face with folks they had not seen in ages, to share a wonderful meal under the big tent and to learn so much from our outstanding presenters. This was also our first opportunity to come together and remember Put Blodgett since his passing in March 2020.

The Trapp Family Lodge was the perfect backdrop for this very special event. The morning began with trail walks in two groups led by Allan Thompson and Steve Hagenbuch. A few more hearty souls took an adventurous hike on their own following the property map. All were fortified with a great breakfast starter of yogurt and fruit parfaits, bagels, and lots of coffee. Upon returning from the woods, we all enjoyed an outrageously good Austrian Buffet that would satisfy even the pickiest of eaters.

The afternoon was our usual meeting fare, with business and speakers including our gracious host Johannes von Trapp, John Austin, John Morton and Michael Snyder. There was both laughter and tears as we launched into our remembrance of Put, accompanied by more “scrummy” FOOD. Put’s sons Boo and Peter had wonderful stories, including a glimpse at the “13-year-old Put from his diary.” Jamey Fidel, David Paganelli, Kathleen Wanner, Sam Miller and John Nininger all shared reflections of their very special and long-term relationships. We even had a few words “recorded” from Paul Harwood and Dan Kilborn who could not be there in person. It felt like we had finally bid farewell in fitting fashion to Put, our leader of 20 years and champion of all things forest in the northeast.



Forester Ryan Kilborn sharing the Starr Family Tree Farm story



Boo Blodgett talking about his dad, Put Blodgett.



Peter Blodgett reads from Put's 13-year-old-boy diary with Put's reflections spent camping outside, and stringing barbed wire around his campsite to keep the cows out!



Our host, Johannes Von Trapp

The afternoon was filled with business and speakers.



Long-time friend and fellow VWA board member and Tree Farmer Sam Miller shared special memories about Put.



An Austrian Buffet assured those in attendance did not go hungry.





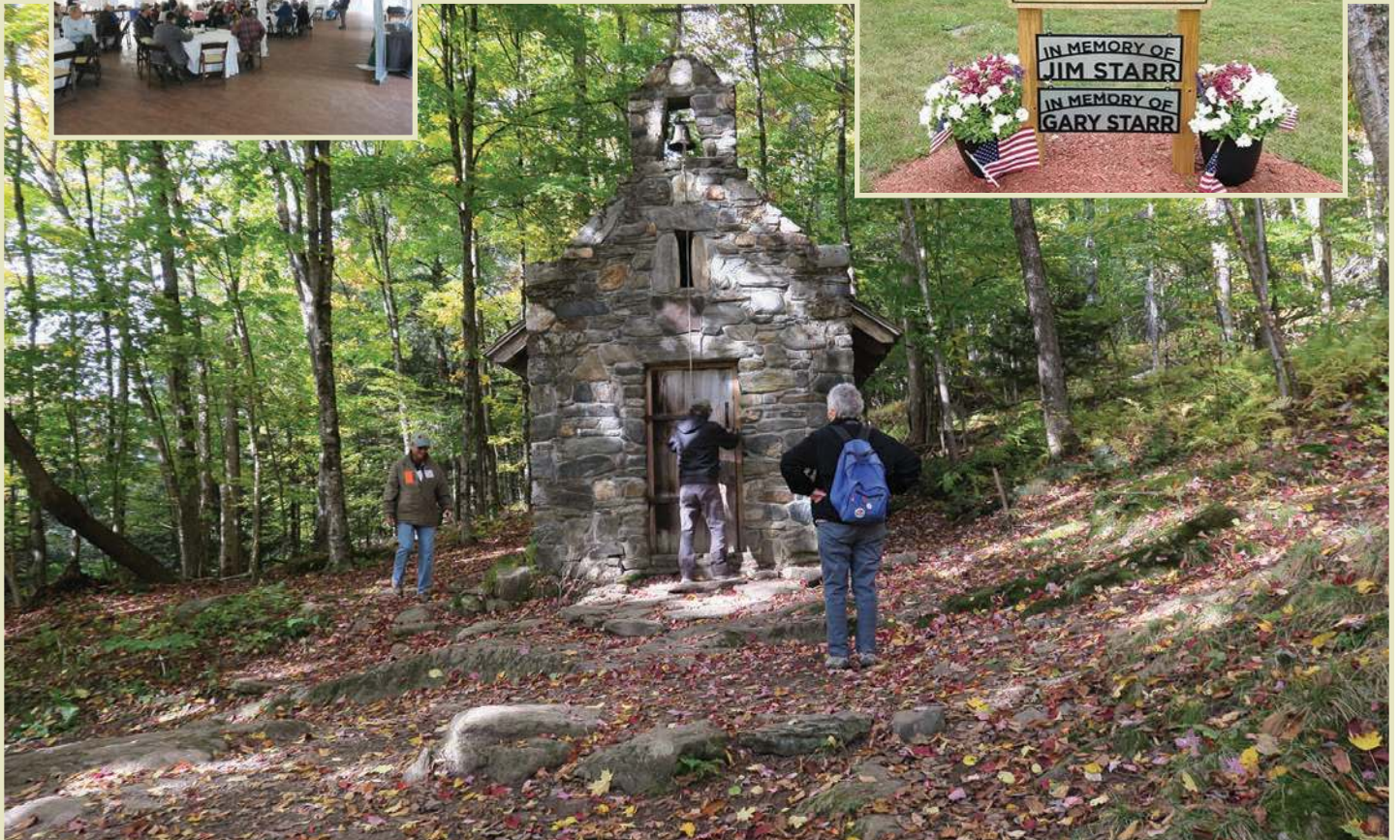
Members of the Starr Family, Vermont Outstanding Tree Farm 2020



2021 VWA Annual Meeting @ Trapp Family Lodge



Members were happy to meet under the big tent after a two-year hiatus.



Exploring the forests of Trapp Family Lodge





## NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

# FORI Reminder for Inspectors

In the 2021 third party Tree Farm assessment, it was found that many plans did not include any mention of forests of recognized importance (FORI). Although at the time of the assessment we did not have any, it is required to still be addressed in the plan.

If you have a management plan that does NOT include this information, please take the time to add a paragraph as an addendum to your affected plans. This does not need to be added to anything other than your records, and the landowner management plan. You may also use the management plan addendum form provided on the Vermont Tree Farm website. Please also refer to your standards booklet and the guidance within for more specific information.

All Tree Farms need to address this no later than June 1, 2022. Tree Farms included in the audit must address this no later than Jan. 1, 2022, and send this addition to Kathy Beland. All inspectors should have received notice of this via email in November.

There are no designated databases that identify FORI's across the country. Each state Tree Farm Committee was tasked with identifying any FORI's in their respective states. The language below provides a general statement that may be altered to suit your Tree Farm situation. The Vermont Tree Farm Committee is the resource that documents presence or absence of

FORI in Vermont. There is also an excellent ATFS document outlining further FORI guidance on ATFS and Vermont Tree Farm websites.

### Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) Language for Management Plans

*"There are no Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) identified by the Vermont Tree Farm Committee on this parcel. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, in Woodstock, Vt., has been designated as a Forest of Recognized Importance for its cultural and historic significance. It is the oldest professionally managed forest in the United States and the earliest example of scientific silvicultural practices in America. Management of this ownership is not impacted by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park as a FORI."*

This language may be adjusted accordingly based on proximity or impact of a Tree Farm near MBR.

**STANDARD 5: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health**  
Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE 5.4:**  
"Where present, forest management activities should maintain or enhance forests of recognized importance."

### **GUIDANCE**

"Forests of recognized importance (FORI) represent globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological values. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute."

### **Indicator 5.4.1**

"Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the situation, forest management activities should incorporate measures to contribute to the conservation of identified forests of recognized importance."



**LOOKING TO DO MORE  
IN YOUR WOODS?**

Visit **WOODSANDWILDLIFE.ORG**  
to learn more about becoming bird friendly.



## THE FORESTER'S VIEW

# A Tree Farm for Christmas

by **Charlie Hancock**, *North Woods Forestry*

When I was little my family would always make an annual pilgrimage to our local Christmas tree farm to select the perfect tree for that year. We'd spend over an hour walking the rows, looking for the one that was just the right height, the perfect shape and had the fullest, greenest foliage. After a careful and meticulous process, we'd choose just the right one, and call over our local Christmas tree farmer to make the cut that would let us take our prize home, where it would be festooned with bulbs and ornaments, each one carrying a special memory and place in our heart.

Back then I took for granted that there would always be a magical place where acres and acres of perfectly lined trees would be waiting for our arrival each winter, but today I understand that there's a lot of hard work behind the scenes to make that magic happen. Most agricultural or horticultural endeavors are intensive in planning, labor and capital, and Christmas trees are certainly no exception.

As with most things in the life of a tree, one must first consider the soil. I remember a family friend in real estate once saying that what matters was location, location, location. One could say the same thing about growing Christmas trees. Christmas trees are grown best on gently sloping soils that promote good internal drainage and are relatively deep (ideally 3-4 feet from bedrock). Soil pH is another consideration, as most of the preferred



*Photo: Adam Sonnett, Flickr/Creative Commons*

species grown in this region prefer a range of 5.0 to 6.0.

Once you have the right spot, a Christmas tree farmer must determine what to plant. Across the United States, about 12 species of pines, spruces and firs are sold as Christmas trees, with preferences tending to vary geographically. In the east, preferences range from standards such as the Balsam fir, to the more exotic and expensive Blue spruce. Fraser fir and Scotch pine have also been historically grown in the east, while Douglas fir, Noble fir and Grand fir are more common varieties in the west.

Each species has its own aesthetic (and olfactory) character, as well as characteristics that affect their ease of growth, and their longevity once they're in your living room. In general, pines are the most susceptible to disease and require the most pruning to shape them into the hallmark trees generally sought after; however, once cut they tend to hold

their needles better than spruces or firs. Spruces shed most readily, but are hardier trees that require little maintenance. Firs tend to be somewhere in between, and are the most common species that you'll find in most of New England.

The next step is planning the layout of the field. Evergreen seedlings, which are generally two years old and about 8 to 10 inches tall when you plant them, are commonly spaced at 5-by-5 feet (which will allow for more than 1,700 trees per acre) or at 6-by-6 feet (allowing for about 1,200 trees per acre). While this can seem wide open when the trees are first planted, they fill in quickly.

Once they're in the ground, you're only just getting started. Christmas trees take around 10 years to reach commercial maturity, and there's plenty of work to be done in the meantime. You can't just

**TREE** *continued on pg. 16*

## TREE, *continued from pg. 15*

put your feet up on the porch and watch them grow!

Even newly planted trees need careful attention, as double tops must be cut off in the first couple years to avoid the development of a multiple stemmed tree that will have a hard time finding a home. As the trees continue to grow, they must be sheared (pruned) to ensure the full conical shape consumers like to see in their living room. Starting in early summer, the tips of each whorl of branches around the trunk need to be trimmed back. This diverts the tree energy away from upward growth and causes the tree to bush out and become fuller instead. Careful shearing takes time, lasting all summer on a large Christmas tree farm.

In addition to the shearing of the trees, the rows must be mowed or brush hogged, and species that thrive in open fields such as bindweed, vetch, bedstraw and goldenrod must be kept at bay as they compete for sunlight, water and nutrients. This is especially important when the trees are young and more susceptible to competition. Insect and disease attack are also an issue that needs to be addressed on the Christmas tree farms, with bugs like gall midge or balsam twig aphid, or needle cast fungi that can leave a tree stark naked, never to see a bulb or a bobble.

And none of this comes cheap! Equipment on the Christmas tree farm includes everything from an auger for planting and shears for shaping, to a

tractor for mowing and a chainsaw for cutting, let alone the rest of the equipment you'll find at a commercial operation like the netting spool that helps you get that neatly packaged evergreen on the top of your Subaru or in the back of your pick-up. Between the planting stock and the equipment involved, starting a large commercial Christmas tree farm can run in the tens of thousands of dollars, and money doesn't grow on trees.

So next time you head off to the Christmas tree farm, keep in mind that your beautiful Balsam, or your fantastic Fraser, is the result of years of love and labor. And remember as you search for that perfect Christmas tree that, really, all Christmas trees are perfect.



### Are you a VWA member who is NOT a tree farmer? Now is a great time to enroll.

#### Do you:

- Have a desire to leave the land better than you found it
- Own 10 or more forested acres
- Have a management plan, or wish to have one
- Have a stewardship ethic that makes you proud

Tree Farm may be for you. Join now as a "Pioneer" while you prepare for full certification. VWA will waive the \$30 annual administrative fee for the coming year.

If your plan already meets the Tree Farm standard, you may be eligible to enroll as a certified Tree Farm – and we'll still waive the fee. Call the office to get information on how to enroll or check with your forester.

**SYNERGY – by definition:**  
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  
VT TREE FARM

### Are you a Tree Farmer who is NOT a VWA member? Now is a great time to join.

#### Do you:

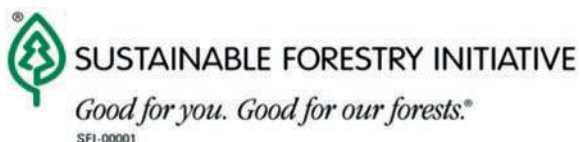
- Have a desire to leave the land better than you found it
- Wish to learn more about sound forest management
- Want to be part of an organization that advocates for private landowners
- Have a stewardship ethic that makes you proud

Vermont Woodlands Association may be for you. Join now and get your first year of membership, with your compliments.

Call the office to arrange for our complimentary one-year membership. Add your voice to our nearly 900 woodland owner members.

Kathleen 802-747-7900 or email [info@vermontwoodlands.org](mailto:info@vermontwoodlands.org)





## NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

# New SFI Standards are Slated to be Adopted January 2022

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



This was a comprehensive rewrite of the standards adding several new components including climate smart forestry and a more rigorous set of protocols to verify sustainability of managed forests. Moving from **“knowledge to practice”** is the general theme motivating these new more stringent standards. The last revision was 2014. Some changes are also made to logger training programs to recognize changing priorities on the landscape including rare and threatened species and invasive species.

SFI certification is a powerful tool to ensure healthy forests that mitigate climate impacts are resilient to fire threats, and support a diversity of communities.

Currently, 375 million acres are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard and tens of millions are certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. This offers tremendous scale to make a difference in the forests of North America.

### Climate Change

Requirements for a new SFI Climate Smart Forestry Objective are one of the highlights of the new standards. Forests play a central role in the carbon cycle and, with proper management, can be one of the most effective nature-based solutions to address climate change.

SFI-certified organizations will now be required to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The standard influences forest practices with science-based approaches to achieve resilient carbon sequestration and healthy forests. This may include leaving more larger trees and snags for storage, and longer rotation and cutting cycles for added sequestration.

### Fire Resilience and Awareness

SFI is elevating its role in addressing fire by introducing a new SFI Fire Resilience and Awareness Objective. Forest fires have long played a role in the evolution and function of natural ecosystems, but we are now seeing an increase in catastrophic fires that have dire consequences for our forests, wildlife and communities. SFI-certified organizations are now required to limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits,

risks and minimization measures. Certified organizations will have a year to adjust their management plans and practices to meet this new standard.

### Logger Training

Loggers who are aware of their responsibility as professionals are better equipped to protect the environment, underscoring the importance of logger training as a core requirement in the SFI Forest Management Standard. By the end of 2019, 214,000 loggers and foresters had completed training programs approved by SFI Implementation Committees.

Requirements for logger training is reorganized into two indicators. Indicator 1 details the core training requirements needed to attain qualified logging professional status. Indicator 2 has the continuing education requirements needed to maintain qualified logging professional status. These enhancements add more structure to the qualified logging professional training requirements and raise the overall quality and impact of logger training.

**SFI** continued on pg. 18

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  
Azal 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).*

## SFI, continued from pg. 17

The definition of “certified logging company” was updated to ensure the requirements for a certified logging company build on the already high level of training provided by qualified logging professional training programs. Specifically, key personnel are required to complete a SFI Implementation Committee approved qualified logging professional training program. Certified logging companies are required to hold independent, in-the-forest verification of conformance with a logger certification program

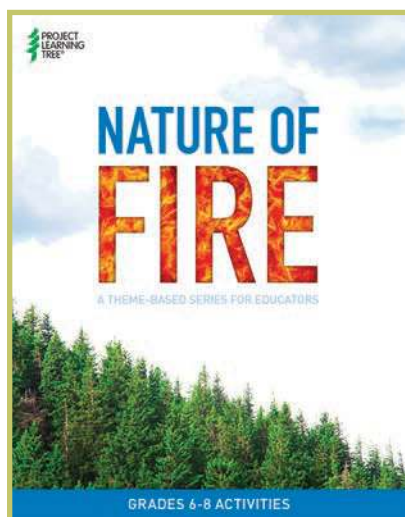


**Project Learning Tree**  
PLT recently launched a

new series of theme-based activity collections that focus on specific grade levels and relevant topics.

*Nature of Fire* is their latest release that features three PLT activities for educators of students in grades 6-8 that invite learners to investigate wildfire and ecosystem change.

*Nature of Fire* features three PLT activities for educators of students in



grades 6-8. Designed to be flexible, the activities can be used as individual, stand-alone lessons, or all together as a cohesive unit of instruction using a storyline technique.

### Nothing Succeeds Like Succession

Students read a story about forest succession and investigate the connections between plants, animals and successional stages in a local ecosystem.

### Living with Fire

Students learn about the three elements that a fire needs to burn and find out how this “fire triangle” can be used to prevent and manage wildland fires.

### Burning Issues

Students graph changes in atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) over the course of several decades to explore the relationship between CO<sub>2</sub>, the Earth's climate and wildfires — and suggest ways to reduce the negative effects of fire.

The activity collection is available for purchase from PLT's Shop ([shop/plt.org](http://shop.plt.org)) as a downloadable PDF for \$5.99.

### Other PLT Activity Collections include:

- Discover Your Urban Forest for grades 6-8 (<https://shop.plt.org/Shop/ProductDetails/discover-urban-forest>)
- Biodiversity Blitz for grades 3-5 (<https://shop.plt.org/Shop/ProductDetails/biodiversity-blitz>)
- Trillions of Trees for grades 3-5 (<https://shop.plt.org/Shop/ProductDetails/trillions-of-trees>)
- Sensational Trees for grades K-2 (<https://www.plt.org/news/activity-collection-sensational-trees/>)





# VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

## Star Date ... Sometime in the fall, so you don't know how late I turned in this article

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



*Nasturtiums and pumpkins,  
November 2, 2021*

I have to say, I think this has been the weirdest fall from a weather standpoint in a long time. Growing up in Maryland, I distinctly remember swishing through the leaves on Halloween just like “It’s The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown,” because they had all fallen by then. Today, even with the wind howling, I still have leaves on maples, and my lilac bush is green. Zinnias, black-eyed Susans, nasturtiums and cleome are still blooming in my flower beds, and I even plucked a red raspberry to eat in the woods yesterday. The only frost I have seen here has been on my roof and maybe a little on my truck one morning. This fall I had the blessing of spending a week in Texas for my son’s Marine Corps winging ceremony in early October. I was loving the perfect 80-degree beach weather, but sure didn’t expect to come back to 80 and wearing shorts on October 13 in Vermont. That was a first.

I generally enjoy those brisk fall mornings that herald the change in seasons, but haven’t really had that many of those this fall. Does it put climate on my mind? Well yes, but maybe not the way you might think! My thoughts tend to bounce around like a beach ball in the wind, more related to all of the definitions of a word, than necessarily what everyone else is buzzing about. It’s why I love a

good thesaurus, dictionaries and, yes, rhyming dictionaries.

Anyway ... climate ... ok ... here goes ... somehow I went from weather to situations to trends to feelings to mood to surroundings to the way information is presented or taught. I could go into full detail, but I believe I might lose you in my non-linear thinking process.

I recently sent out emails to all of our Tree Farm Inspectors, whether or not they were certified. Most of the correspondence was related to FORI (forests of recognized importance), and threatened and endangered language and guidance. I also put out a request for 2022 Tree Farmer of the Year nominations, even though they should have been in a while ago. There are also still about 40 of our inspectors who have not trained to the new standards, so they are not panicking when they have to complete an inspection and realize they do not have accessibility to complete and submit an 021 form.

In all of that, I referred them to the Tree Farm website, updated in the past year, and pretty easy to navigate. I love an easy website. Simplicity is key to me. If I have to jump through too many hoops to find information, I generally just stop looking and ask someone (a real person) for the

answer. Which somehow connected me to climate, I think because wandering through a confusing website is like driving in a foggy morning or blinding Star Wars snow at night. I know, I know, doesn’t really make much sense, but it does to me!

Oh well, my point in all of this is that, please visit the Vermont Tree Farm website! Take a minute, especially inspectors, to check out the information it offers. From explaining Tree Farm and its requirements, to offering information to inspectors, it is a great tool for anyone interested in the program, or wanting to easily share information to others. Its climate is welcoming, positive and informative. There are abundant links to other sites, as well as documents to download, if desired. For inspectors, you can download the entire toolkit, a blank 021, or click the link to the ATFS database.

A website is always a work in progress, and the people behind the scenes are working hard to keep up-to-date information and articles available to you. Even the web address is simple. You will find it at [vermonttreefarm.org](http://vermonttreefarm.org). Enjoy its perfect “day at the beach” climate, something you will be longing for in the coming cold weather!



Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

## NEWS FROM VERMONT SUSTAINABLE JOBS FUND

# COVID, Culverts, Climate Change and Vermont's Future Forests

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



There is just one road up the backside of Mt. Holly in Okemo State Forest (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/okemo-state-forest>). Originally built in the 1980s for forest management, the road now also supports snow machines and skiers in the winter, hikers and mountain bikers in the warmer months, and the occasional horseback rider. For decades, recreation in the area was fairly light — mostly locals who knew the road was there. And then came COVID-19.

Tim Morton, state lands stewardship forester for Windsor and Windham counties, estimates the area saw a five-fold increase in recreational use during

the pandemic, adding strain to an aging road that was already in various stages of disrepair. In addition to erosion from wear and tear, the original culverts were significantly undersized for the increased volume and flow of precipitation in recent years, causing washouts from increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

So when the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation received \$1.5 million in COVID-19 Relief funding to address increased use, Morton saw an opportunity to fix his road. And to expand recreational opportunities. And protect bear habitat. And improve truck access for a planned timber harvest. And

address forest resilience in the face of climate change.

And it all starts with upgrading a culvert.

### Upgrading forest infrastructure.

“Without road access, you can’t accomplish anything,” said Morton, standing by a culvert in Okemo State Forest. “So we have to do the work when the money is there. It’s a long game.”

Morton’s long range management plan for Okemo State Forest — an 8,000-acre parcel that includes Okemo Mountain Resort, extensive snowmobile trails, and the 798-acre Terrible Mountain Natural Area — carefully balances a myriad of objectives in addition to recreation. The road runs through early successional habitat for moose, deer, bear, pollinators and other insects. “It’s very vibrant,” he said, “and an important area where wildlife are raising and rearing young.”



Tim Morton inspects a new culvert that helps carry water from numerous drainages from South Mountain in Okemo State Forest. (Photo courtesy of Erica Houskeeper)



Protecting black bear habitat is a priority, as the area's vast beech population has been severely impacted by beech bark disease in the past two decades. Morton is introducing additional summer fruits as an alternative food source and looking at red oak to replace some of the lost beech. He is also opening access to a section of the forest that has been inaccessible because the road was built for shorter log trucks that are no longer available. The planned harvest in this area will create canopy clearings to improve tree species diversity, and help defray the cost of additional road and trail maintenance through the state's land and facilities trust fund.

But looming over all of the forest's many assets — recreation, wildlife habitat and timber harvesting — is a much larger concern, and one that now informs Morton's plans at Okemo: the impacts of climate change. With changes in weather patterns, temperature and precipitation, Vermont's forest industry is moving from monitoring and predicting the threat of climate change to mitigating its impact through active management.

### Flooding, erosion threaten Vermont forests

While wildfires ravage other parts of the country, parts of Vermont are dealing with a different problem: too much water. According to the NOAA National Center for Environmental Information (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>), average precipitation in Vermont has risen 6.7 inches per century — or about .7 inches per decade — since 1895.

The flooding and erosion that result from increased rainfall and extreme weather events can have a detrimental effect on the ecology of the forest, displacing carbon-rich soil and causing damage to infrastructure, such as log roads, that allow access for management and recreation. So back to that culvert.

"The original culverts were undersized back in the '80s," said Morton, "and they are nowhere near adequate to accommodate the increased volumes of water that come in short bursts during the summer months that we see today."



*After the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation received \$1.5 million in COVID relief funding, there was an opportunity to fix an old access road in Okemo State Forest and expand recreational opportunities. (Photo courtesy of Erica Houskeeper)*

Tony D'Amato, a professor and director of UVM's forestry program, agrees. "With increased rain and unexpected extreme events predicted for Vermont, if you want access to areas in forests, you have to invest in roads, bridge crossings and culverts."

### Restoration for adaptation

Compounding the changes in weather patterns is Vermont's history of land use, which included clear cutting 80 percent of the state's forested land in the late 1800s. Although the forest has returned to the Green Mountain State, many areas have not rebounded to their former levels of diversity. They contain trees that are all roughly the same age and size, creating vulnerability to pests, invasive species and extreme weather events.

Okemo State Forest is one of a few sites in Vermont where scientists and researchers who are studying forest resilience can test their ideas. "We are localizing these 30,000-foot ideas at Okemo," said D'Amato. "Diversity of species, complex forests, diversity of forest conditions — these are all ideas with theoretical and empirical backing, but those ideas need to be localized to the specific social, ecological and economic context of a forest."

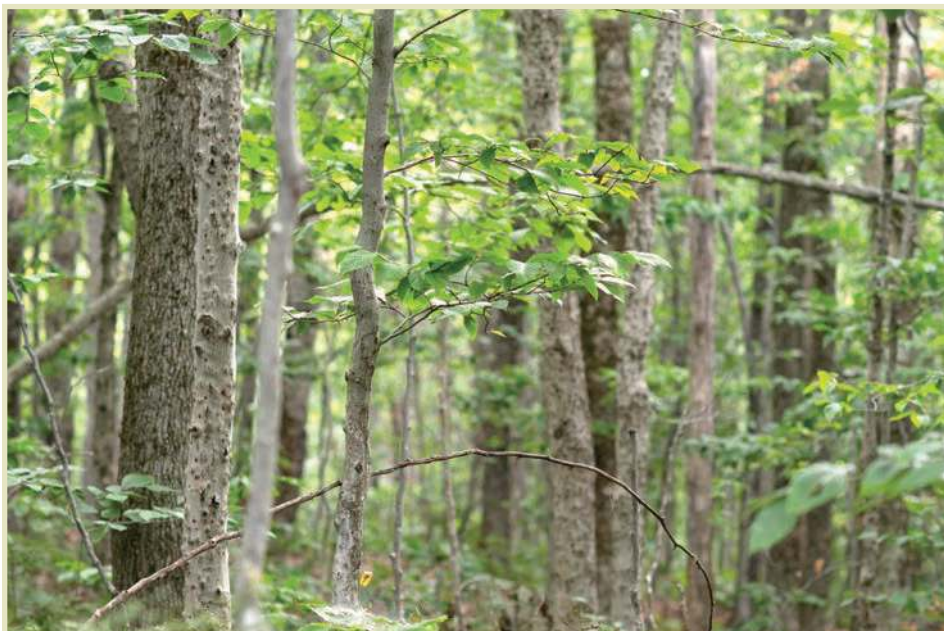
What D'Amato calls "restoration for adaptation" aims to restore ecosystem complexity over time in order to improve



*Tim Morton walks through Okemo State Forest, an 8,000-acre parcel that includes Okemo Mountain Resort, extensive snowmobile trails, and the 798-acre Terrible Mountain Natural Area. (Photo courtesy of Erica Houskeeper)*

**VSJF** continued on pg. 22

**VSJF**, continued from pg. 21



In Okemo State Forest, this one-half acre wooded area will be a log landing space for a future timber harvest. (Photo courtesy of Erica Houskeeper)

the forest's resilience to the effects of climate change. In Okemo, that means looking at species that are present in the forest makeup but in low supply, such as northern red oak, and creating conditions for young trees to thrive. He is also looking at species that are not currently present in the forest, but that do well just south — maybe 10 or 20 miles — such as black birch, bitternut hickory and black cherry, and introducing them to the forest composition.

"We're not trying to re-engineer the forest," said D'Amato, "we're just increasing the number of cards in the deck that are future climate adapted."

### From the desk to the forest

In Okemo, Morton has contracted Jarvis & Sons Excavating out of Ascutney and PFJ Logging and Trucking in Rockingham. The first order of business is improving the road and upgrading the culverts. Morton expects the timber harvest to take place sometime next year.

"We want our forests to be forests well into the future," said Kosiba. "With thoughtful management, we can help steward our forests through this crisis."

### 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](http://www.vsjf.org).

For COVID-19 updates from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, please visit FPR COVID-19 Response (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/COVID-19>).

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## GIVING THANKS, *continued from pg. 3*

won't be tired and overworked by the duties, and in actuality will be fresh and excited about the direction the association or organization is taking. That energy will be felt by those around, who just might be considering becoming involved in something and will.

**When it's time to go, leave.** If you aren't making a contribution, if you have made an impact and you feel that things are going in a good direction, leave. If you are having difficulties in your life and can't take one more thing, make a decision, step down. Know your limitations, know when the term is up. Hanging on, for any reason, does not serve the board well. It only starts the stagnation slide.

**The Executive Director.** I would be remiss if I didn't discuss the importance of this role. And I must say, VWA has had, in Kathleen Wanner, exemplary directorship, for 20 years. The executive director keeps things organized and helps give insight and guidance on topics that should be considered by the organization as it pertains to the issues that surround it. This position provides for the continuum and history, as board members come and go, and keeps the pace steady for getting things done. Most importantly, the executive director should care deeply about the success and mission of the organization, every day.

There are other important factors such as positivity, cooperation and vision. These qualities are very important, but I feel they naturally fall into line after the big ones that I mentioned above.

Being a good board member is VERY important. You are helping to steer the ship of a group that you feel connected to and want to see thrive.

On behalf of myself and my team at Morning Ag Clips & Farmhouse Communications, I want to thank each and every one of the VWA board members, personally, for helping to make the transition of the MAC team into the fold successful. You have all been open and honest, friendly and helpful. Truly, a pleasure to work with.

To me, your cooperation with us and amongst yourselves has meant so much. To your membership, it is invaluable to ensuring the success of a mission that will shape the future of Vermont's landscape.

With Deep Gratitude,  
Kate

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## Northern Properties - Experience the Value



### **POND-TIMBER-HOMESITES** 505 acres in Alstead, NH

**Lily Pond:** Exceptional timber resource with maturing stands, well suited to short or long term cash flow. Paved & gravel road frontage offers subdivision options with attractive building sites off quiet dirt road with power and views. Lily Pond is a wetland pond suitable for paddling and wildlife viewing.

**\$920,000**



### **TIMBER & HOMESITE** 502 Acres, Elmore VT

**Eagle Ledge Forest:** Features Elmore Branch River, three mountain streams, a beaver pond and many rock-outcrop ledges for exploring from a potential homesite at the end of a town road. The timber resource has been managed offering maturing northern hardwoods and spruce-fir. 30 minutes to Stowe, Hardwick and Montpelier.

**\$685,000**



### **TIMBERLAND** 3,568 acres, Worcester, VT

**Eagle Ledge Timberlands:** This investment offers attractive species composition, highly-stocked stands, positive cash flow, and excellent potential for asset appreciation. The timber inventory set timber value at \$5,264,000. Conservation easement allows for development of multiple camp sites.

**\$3,270,000**



### **LONG ROAD FRONTAGE** 870 acres, Duane, NY

**Rice Brook Forest:** Situated in the northern Adirondacks, the land offers miles of paved road frontage allowing for multiple future subdivisions. Well developed internal access offering private homesites. The year round Rice Brook bisects the land and Mechem Land is located across the road.

**\$589,000**



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## Welcome New Tree Farmers

- 1770 G. Scott Graham-Stephens,  
Fairlee, VT
- 1772 Butternut Hollow LLC,  
Vershire/West Fairlee, VT



## Welcome New VWA Members

- Amy Bedell, *East Burke, VT*  
 Patrick Miller, *Campton, NH*  
 Ellen Forshaw, *Urbana, OH*  
 Kevin Durkee, *Fair Haven, VT*  
 Andrew McGovern, *East Thetford, VT*  
 Ken Signorello, *Essex Jct, VT*  
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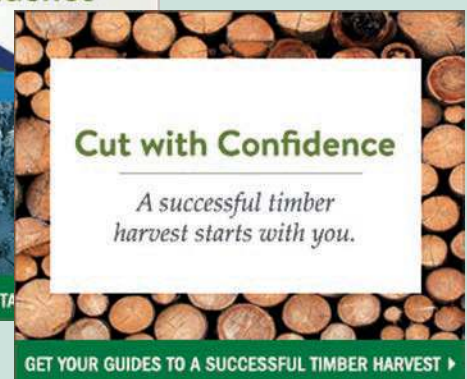
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# Information and Guidance to a Successful Timber Harvest

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](http://VTCutwithConfidence.com).



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://northernwoodlands.org)**





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