

Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm Program

A VOICE FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Photos: VWA (front left and front top right),
 Tom Thomson (front right bottom), VWA (back feature & insert)

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



The Long Good-Bye ... or Until I See You Again!

by Kathleen Wanner, *Executive Director*

Life has a way of changing even the best laid plans. Rewind to 2018 when I shared my “5 Year Retirement Plan” with the VWA board. It seemed like a safe distance for me to prepare for change — a concept I don’t embrace but that seems to be the only constant — and get ready for retirement. After all, I’d be 75 by then, and perhaps it would be time.

Fast forward to March 2020. It was a momentous month and an ensuing two years that left a deep mark on so many. My family had its share of loss and illness during this period, and in so many ways, we are still trying to define this new normal existence. My once “carved in stone” retirement at the end of 2023 was fast-tracked.

The VWA board has been just amazing, stepping up to manage what will be another transition in a short period of time. But, please know that they are up to the task at hand. In collaboration with VWA’s management team at Morning Ag Clips (MAC), we have a plan and are in the midst of implementation. If nothing gets in the way, we hope to have a new ED hired by July. The remainder of the year will be devoted to “onboarding” a new leader as I shed a myriad of obligations either to this leader or to my colleagues at MAC who already work behind the scenes. We are planning for a very

hands-on transition, so I’ll continue to be visible through the rest of the year.

I’ve had the good fortune to serve you all in one capacity or another for about 25 years. I was behind the scenes, supporting my predecessor and business partner Mary Jeanne Packer until she left Vermont in 2006, and I came out of the shadows to serve as your executive director. At the time, I wondered how I would fill MJ’s shoes that were mighty large but soon learned that what we really do is fill our own shoes and lead in our own ways. This is why I know the new ED will be a perfect fit for VWA.

I can’t begin to tell you how much I’ve learned during my tenure. I came to you with a certain set of skills, but the knowledge base — that was something totally different. I must admit to still being a bit overwhelmed by some very technical conversations, but persistence and passion fill in a lot of blanks. As a technical writer by training, I learned I could work my way through any challenge just by knowing who to ask — the subject matter experts, or SMEs for short. Luckily for me, my world is filled with SMEs who collectively know everything I need to know about forestry and forest products. To all of my SMEs, my very BIG thank you for taking the time and having the patience to bring me along.

So, I write today to begin a long series of goodbyes. It is indeed bittersweet to be moving on from my role as your executive director. I have loved, loved, loved being a leader for such a remarkable group of land stewards. Over the years, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know so many of you. And even if I haven’t met you personally, I feel I know everyone through our shared passion for leaving the land a little better than we found it.

As I think about my future, I know there will be more time for other endeavors that will still involve VWA and Tree Farm. I’ll still be a VWA member, landowner, Tree Farmer and in fact serve on the Tree Farm committee (someone has to feed them lunch!). I know I will continue to be engaged in activities that bring me joy. Just this past weekend, I hosted a Leopold bench building workshop here for Women Owning Woodlands. What an amazing feeling to see eight finished Leopold benches loaded into vehicles ... and to have made new friendships with an eager and inspiring group of women woodland owners. When VWA needs volunteers, I hope to raise my hand, especially if the task involves “schmoozing” with members and the public. That has to be my all-time favorite activity — and

GOOD-BYE *continued on pg. 5*



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Infrastructure of Forest Stewardship

by Allan Thompson

All forest stewardship activities have a few basic infrastructure requirements. Many of us either take these for granted, hope someone else will build them, or have more to learn about the practical components of stewardship and what type and why infrastructure is required. It is important to think of infrastructure — property lines, landings, stable skid trails, stream crossings, etc. — as integral to the actual act of stewardship. And that maintenance and investment of infrastructural is required and preferably is completed ahead of any actual stewardship.

When I start my stewardship planning, I need to start from the outside in. As an example, let's take a classic timber harvest for a property that has a forest management plan with harvest recommendations. When planning for a harvest on my property or anyone else's when I arrive on site, my first question is where is the property? The property lines must clearly be delineated prior to any harvest, both on the ground and on a map and preferably a GPS. Flags, posted signs, rock walls, barbed wire may not by themselves indicate a boundary line, though walls and wire are sometimes referenced in deeds. Property lines must be maintained in order for them to actually do their job: communicating, in this case; *who has the right to cut trees where*. If you don't

maintain lines you may end up having to hire a surveyor to recreate lines lost to time. Not cheap.

Now that boundaries are clearly identified, marked and we can communicate them, we are ready for next steps. Again, thinking outside-in, the next question is how does a log truck get from there (Town or State maintained roads) to a landing. What does the log truck access look like?

I break the access down to a few components: landing, truck road and turnaround. The landing should be flat, well drained (or frozen), sufficient space for operations and they need to be maintained. Creating a landing often requires an excavator or bull dozer to flatten the space and remove trees and stumps. You'll need to have a place to put the stuff just cleared. This could be minimal. Could be giant piles of stumps, tops and other material. Once created, keep landings treeless by mowing or other activity so that trees won't need to be cut or stumps to be pulled at the time of the next harvest. Keep the landing well drained. Water bars need to be installed and maintained around the landing that prevent water from pooling in, gullyng through or exiting a landing. Landings are easily ignored between harvests. Don't. They are expensive to create and way easier to maintain when used.

Truck roads have very similar concepts. They should be dry, well drained and certainly on solid material, stone or gravel. Truck roads are wide with gradual turns (no S-turns) and have gentle inclines. Truck roads are at great risk to erosion and need excellent and maintained water diversion devices and appropriately sized ditches, culverts or other systems to move water. Trucks need to turn around, an often-overlooked component of space requirements. Tri-axle trucks require the smallest turn around requirements, with chip vans and tractor trailers requiring the most space for turning around. Turn arounds require some of the best traction where tires are turning. Turn arounds can happen in a variety of places and every situation is different but still needs to be considered. Investment in a good truck road, turn around and landing will make any stewardship activities so much easier to engage in a variety of activities.

We know where the property is and how to get to a landing. Now we need to get trees from the stump to the landing on logging trails. Logging trails have many more variables. Terrain, harvest time, equipment use, operator care, and additional uses, among many others. Logging trails will serve the purposes of logging, but these will also be important for any entrance into the property with

equipment for recreation. Building and maintaining logging trails that can also serve other uses may be of value to you. Logging trails, like landings and truck roads, should be well drained, have adequate water diversion devices, and be built and maintained for the variety of activities the trails will be used. Use and follow Vermont's AMP's for landings, truck roads and logging trails to protect water and soil quality.

For owners of recently subdivided land, you might find that infrastructure that once served a larger parcel will no longer serve you. The configuration of the new parcel or siting of houses may not have considered the operational logistics of forest stewardship: landings, truck roads and logging trails. You will

likely have to recreate this stuff to satisfy the new parcel layout.

These are the basic infrastructure pieces required for stewardship: properties clearly defined with good access. Harvest activities are a useful example because if you build your infrastructure for harvest operations, you'll be able to use that same infrastructure between harvests for so many other activities. As an owner and steward, investing in each piece should be a given. Having quality built and maintained infrastructure allows for better, more efficient projects and grants you more options for future use. More simply, good infrastructure will improve and allow for more of your stewardship.

GOOD-BYE, *continued from pg. 3*

how remarkable is that coming from this socially awkward introvert? My public persona is fueled by you all who somehow give me the needed grace.

You've heard it before and I'll say it again: I'm the luckiest woman in the world to have been given the trust, the freedom and the opportunity to serve you. I have been blessed with lasting friendships that grew from the countless miles, meetings, events and interactions with you all. I had a colleague ask me about five years ago if there was anyone in Vermont that I didn't "hug hello," and I'd have to say, probably yes, but only because I haven't met you yet. This labor of love may be winding down, but my heart will remember forever!



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www.vermontwoodlands.org



NEWS FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

Save It for a Rainy Day: Invasive Plant Management in a Changing Climate

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

When thinking of drought, flooding or erosion, invasive plant management is probably not the first thing that comes to most people's minds. The movement of water through and across the landscape does have implications for creating disturbances where invasive plants can thrive, for how invasive plants spread, and for how to manage for invasive plants. And there are concrete steps landowners can take to protect Vermont forests from invasive plants, come rain or shine.

In the March 2022 VWA Newsletter, we discussed building forest resilience to invasive species, and how individual landowners in Vermont can take part in lasting solutions. With extreme precipitation predicted to be pronounced in the Northeast, it is prudent to have in place a plan for how to respond. That involves integrating invasive plant management into forest management, and starts by creating an invasive plant management plan.

The VTinvasives.org website includes an outline of how to get started with monitoring and treating invasive plants, and numerous resources for those already engaged (*links at end*). The Invasive Plant Management Plan template (*link at end*) can help guide you through determining what resources or actions might be best. An

invasive plant management plan will include many elements, but the ones most approachable to landowners are basic assessment and physical removal.

Assessment can be as simple as printing an aerial photo of your land (online maps such as Google Maps provide these for free), grabbing a marker and going for a walk. Mark down what you are seeing, and where. Spring and early summer are a great time to spot invasive plants that leaf out and flower early.

Physical removal of the invasive plants you've identified is a great next step, and removal strategies depend on the specifics of the species: invasive shrub honeysuckles have shallow root systems; invasive barberries and invasive buckthorns have roots that like to dive and wrap around and under bigger roots and rocks; garlic mustard, wild parsnip and wild chervil all need the soil loosened around their taproots. One tool for this work can be these extra rainy days. Damp ground is great not just for easing the removal of t-posts, it also aides in the physical removal of many invasive plants.

While extreme weather can pose risk of creating disturbance and supporting the spread of invasive plants, so to can land management activities. As part of developing your plan, and



(L) Removing an invasive honeysuckle shrub with wrench is made easier after a rainy day, (R) putting back soil and duff after removal to reduce disturbance.

when considering physical removal of invasive plants, make sure to:

- Ask if treatment of any kind should take place? If yes, what methods make the most sense?
- Assess the site to determine whether the physical removal of roots will cause more harm than good.
- Remember that soil disturbance can have impacts like increasing likelihood of erosion, bringing seeds from seed bank closer to surface which promotes germination, and disturbing the root systems of desirable plant species.
- Fill back in and cover exposed soil to reduce soil disturbance after invasive plants are removed.
- Remember that invasive plant management is a process, not an

event, so have a plan to return and monitor for inevitable sprouts or missed plants.

When you do choose to physically remove invasive plants, hanging them from nearby trees or propping them on rocks or fallen logs, with their roots up, serves a few purposes. It keeps the

invasive plants from re-rooting, and as the invasive plants decay, it returns the nutrients from the plants right back to the soil, helping with remediation.

Useful links:

Physical removal of woody invasive plants, from WIGL:

- <https://woodyinvasives.org/management/physical-removal/#1570730214909-6ab77c0b-3f63f0a2-591b>

Get started creating an invasive plant management plan:

- <https://vtinvasives.org/land/management#managementplants>

Walk-through of management plan resources:

- <https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/making-an-invasive-plant-management-plan-part-1-getting-started-and-setting-priorities-for>
- <https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/making-an-invasive-plant-management-plan-part-2-outlining-purpose-priorities-and-resources>

- <https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/writing-an-invasive-plant-management-plan-part-3-mapping-invasive-plants>

Deep Dive

Interested in determining whether invasive plant management is likely to be successful? This in-depth tool can help: <https://www.ipmdat.org/>

Learn more about the double trouble of invasive species and climate change in the Northeast:

https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=eco_ed_materials



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NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Kathleen Wanner Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

by Rick Bizzozero, Chair, Vermont Tree Farm Committee

Longtime VWA Executive Director Kathleen Wanner received the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Forest Foundation (AFF) for her outstanding leadership and contribution to forestry and the wood products industry in Vermont. The award from the AFF, sponsor of the American Tree Farm Program, recognizes Wanner's extraordinary service and impact on the forestry industry in Vermont and nationally, and for her decades-long dedication to youth and private landowner education, working forest advocacy, and land stewardship.

Wanner is a life-long entrepreneur having owned several small businesses during her career. For the past 20 years, she served as the executive director of the Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Wood Manufacturing Association. Her name has become synonymous with woodlands in Vermont. She is a frequent speaker at forestry forums and has written many articles and given presentations on wood products manufacturing and forestry issues. She is always quick to provide comments on issues that affect woodlands in Vermont and the northeast.

Wanner is a Tree Farmer and educator. She strongly believes in educating the

next generation of forest stewards and forest landowners. She has helped grow statewide support for Project Learning Tree (PLT), an environmental education program sponsored by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. She has been instrumental in building stakeholder engagement and helped PLT increase its capacity through developing new partnerships, fundraising and working directly with schools on service-learning projects. She has helped reach new audiences through PLT workshops for forest landowners and private consulting foresters. Currently, she is collaborating with the Vermont SFI Implementation Committee and other stakeholders on new initiatives to help grow the program.

She has been instrumental in promoting the Women Owning Woodlands project in Vermont, whose mission is to support women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests. She has been an advisor and collaborator to the New York Tree Farm program, Vermont Working Lands Coalition, Vermont and New York Audubon, Vermont Coverts, and a founding member of Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers in

Vermont and New York. She has joined forces and promoted initiatives of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, and Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

In her role as executive director of Vermont Woodlands Association and administrator of the Vermont Tree Farm program, she has strived to educate and help private landowners sustainably manage their forests by providing timely and accessible forestry information to woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, advocacy, educational events, written resources and personal stories.

Kathy Beland, past co-chair and current administrator of the Vermont Tree Farm program, stated, "A good leader provides for the team what the team cannot provide for itself." Kathleen's example of identifying needs, making and implementing a plan, recruiting and encouraging volunteers and being present at events all over the state, sets a high bar for leadership in our forestry community. "She is so good that you just want to help her out and make whatever she is working on a huge success!"

Kathleen's leadership, knowledge and unwavering dedication to forestry and the forest products industry here in Vermont is extraordinary. She is

extremely passionate about Vermont's forested landscape, and her passion is contagious; she has influenced many individuals to be part of Vermont's working forest landscape. There is probably no one in Vermont who has a better understanding of the supply chain issues between the landowner

where the timber is grown, thru the consulting forester, logger and mill where the timber is converted to lumber, and finally where the lumber is transformed into building materials, and where craftsman and artisans create fine furniture and finished wood products.

The acknowledgment of Kathleen's outsized contribution to sustainable forestry in Vermont and nationally is very well-deserved. We wish Kathleen the best as she transitions later this year from her formal duties as executive director to planning her next chapter in retirement.

And Another...

by Kathy Beland, Co-chair VT Tree Farm Committee

Congratulations go to Kathleen on being awarded the "Outstanding Contributions to Forest Industry Education" award from the Northeastern Loggers Association, Inc. This award was presented to her on May 5 at the Logger's Expo event at Champlain Valley Exposition.

I cannot think of anyone more deserving to be recognized for her 25

years (or more) of service to the forest industry in Vermont. She is humble and would not really want a lot of fuss for doing something she loves to do. Oh well, my friend! You are stuck with us taking time to honor and make a big deal over you, as you move forward to "retirement." We all know you will still be involved!



Welcome New Tree Farmers

- 1773 John North, *Brattleboro, VT*
- 1774 Christopher Kirchoff, *Braintree, VT*
- 1775 Larry Creech, *Rochester, VT*
- 1776 George Goodrich, *Northfield, VT*
- 1777 Jeffrey Forward, *Richmond, VT*
- 1778 Ilse Hayes Govoni Life Estate
c/o Antonia Hayes Govoni, *Roxbury, VT*
- 1779 VLT- Brassknocker Woodland, *Greensboro, VT*
- 1780a-e Great River Hydro, LLC, *Somerset, VT*



Welcome New VWA Members

- Davis Barnett, *Cabot, VT*
- Shawn Connery, *Vershire, VT*
- Renee Hrubovcak, *Williamstown, VT*
- Carl Johnson, *Saint Johnsbury, VT*
- Denise Lavalley, *Barre, VT*
- Aileen Lem, *South Royalton, VT*
- Doug Meyer, *Bronxville, NY*
- Garima Prasai, *Rochester, VT*
- Brent Teillon, *Morrisville, VT*
- Brian Vargo, *No. Bennington, VT*



NEWS FROM AUDUBON VERMONT

Riparian Buffer Restoration with Birds in Mind

by Cassie Wolfanger, *Conservation Fellow, Audubon Vermont and Lake Champlain Sea Grant*

Re-establishment of riparian forest buffers has become a common means to combat loss or damage in woodland areas next to streams, rivers and wetlands. However, not all buffers are created equal, and there are several bird-friendly considerations that are easy to incorporate into existing restoration plans that can help get the greatest biodiversity bang for your buck. You might wonder: What site preparation is needed? Which native plants are best for birds? How large does a buffer need to be to support them? How long after a planting can you expect to see a response in birds?

Because riparian areas reside at the land-water interface, they serve as essential terrestrial-aquatic energy linkages, in which the quality of habitat and food affects bird diet, fitness and reproductive success. Flying insects can be up to twice as abundant in riparian buffers compared to bare shorelines,

which is particularly important for migratory species dependent on refuel during stopovers (Whitaker et al. 1999). The type and size of the water source (i.e., wetland, river, stream, lake or pond), as well as the habitat within the riparian buffer (e.g., diversity of tree species, availability of nest and perch sites, flood frequency) can greatly affect which birds are found there. Species like the Northern Parula, and Alder, Least and Great-crested Flycatchers are likely to be found only near streams with a thick understory of shrubs, whereas the Pileated Woodpecker can be found in nearly any type of mature riparian forest, as long as large trees are available for nest cavities. Among the earliest migrant warblers, the Louisiana Waterthrush nests right in the streambank and requires moving freshwater in clear, perennial streams in mature deciduous or mixed forests.

In general, headwater streams have more neotropical migrants dependent on undisturbed forest; larger streams have more generalist birds that tolerate edges and disturbed habitat (Miller et al. 1997). While birds benefit from riparian buffers, they can contribute to the restoration process itself through seed dispersal (Ortega-Álvarez et al. 2012) and functioning as bio-indicators of healthy functioning ecosystems in assessments of post-implementation

success (Bryce and Hughes 2002; Ormerod and Tyler 1993).

Removing invasive vegetation to prepare sites

The first step in riparian restoration is to control invasive vegetation since its presence and level of infestation impact the quantity and quality of food. Non-native plants that have not co-evolved with native insect communities essentially become insect deserts, supporting up to 96% less caterpillar biomass than native vegetation (Richard et al. 2019). This is catastrophic given that 95% of terrestrial bird species rear their young on insects and need a lot of them (even if they eat seeds or fruits as adults). Black-capped Chickadees for example, need 6,000-9,000 caterpillars over 16-18 days to raise an average clutch to maturity (Tallamy 2017).

The fruits of non-native vegetation are also poor in nutritional quality compared to native alternatives. Two aggressive forest invaders in Vermont — Common buckthorn and Japanese honeysuckle — are particularly bad for birds. Common buckthorn fruits have a laxative property, which limits birds' ability to absorb nutrients and spreads the seeds more rapidly. Berries produced by Japanese honeysuckle



Louisiana Waterthrush (Cameron Darnell)

are too sugary and not fatty enough to sustain birds in long flights during migration.

Native plant selection for birds in riparian areas

Riparian buffers that replicate native woodland species with an open canopy of mixed species, vertical structure and varied age classes are most beneficial for birds. But because not all native plants pack the same biodiversity value, meaning some support more diverse insect communities or better berries than others, we can be strategic about selecting “superstar” species to plant for restoration.

The *Quercus* genus takes the cake on hosting over 500 species of caterpillars, and Vermont has 11 native oak species. The *Prunus* genus — cherries, apples, etc. — is not far behind, supporting over 390 caterpillar species. Maples, yellow birch, sycamore, American elm, red cedar and hackberry are also all great choices for fruit and seed production.

For shrubs, native willows (pussy, silky, sandbar, wooly-headed and black) host 370+ species of caterpillars. Dogwoods, especially silky or red-osier that like their feet wet in riparian areas, produce excellent berries that ripen throughout the summer. Speckled alder also thrives in wet soils, and their catkins provide early-season food. You can't go wrong



Dogwood (Brian Maschino)

with other native berry shrubs such as elderberry, serviceberry, winterberry holly, bridal wreath spirea and many in the *Viburnum* genus: highbush blueberry, highbush cranberry or nannyberry.

How wide should a buffer be to support birds?

Of course the wider the buffer the more birds it supports, but what is a minimum width we can aim for to support most species? Ten to 30 meters can satisfy physical, chemical and aquatic biological integrity of small streams, such as subsurface nutrient removal, sediment trapping, erosion protection, water temperature reduction, and macro-invertebrate and fish communities (Sweeny and Newbold 2014), but much wider buffers are needed for terrestrial habitat (Broadmeadow and Nisbet 2004). Birds that prefer edge habitat or transitional zones, such as the Northern Cardinal, Brown Thrasher and Northern Mockingbird, use almost any size buffer. Other species, such as the Pileated Woodpecker and Scarlet Tanager that are limited to large expanses of forested riparian habitat, may need buffers in excess of 150 meters wide, whereas the Hairy Woodpecker and Red-eyed Vireo may be found in smaller forested buffers of 50 meters.

Spackman and Hughes (1995) suggests that a 150-meter buffer is recommended to include 90% of the total bird species they observed in six mid-order streams in Vermont. However, there is great variability in the literature on minimum recommended buffer widths for birds, meaning buffer width alone is a poor standard for restoration design (Fischer, 2000). Overall, the rate of increased bird abundance after restoration has been



Yellow warbler (Steve Byland)

shown as a function of the number of tree species planted (diversity), the number of trees planted per ha (density), and the percent riparian forest within 500 meters (proximity and connection to existing intact habitat; (Gardali and Holmes 2011).

How long after a planting will birds come to use it?

It is hard not to be eager to know if our management efforts have been successful. All restored areas are providing habitat, but certain bird species might reflect successional stage. Just like young forests, there are pioneer bird species that come first, often dominating, then later colonizers will appear, increasing richness and diversity over time (Burgess et al. 2010). Although each species has a different response rate to using regenerated habitat, an approximate expectation to see significant population increases in birds may hover around 15 years (Gardali and Holmes 2011). We must keep in mind that nature does not rush, but it does not rest. It often takes time, many years, to see a response in wildlife, but if we are strategic about species planted, site selection and

RESTORATION continued on pg. 15



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Irwin Family Named Tree Farm of the Year



Pictured, from the left, are: Barb Irwin, John Irwin, Ian Irwin and Ryan Kilborn.

This year's Vermont Tree Farm of the Year honor has been awarded to John and Barb Irwin, owners of tree farm #403. John and Barb live in Lyndonville, and their 930-acre tree farm is located in the towns of Granby and Victory. John and Barb have been managing the property since the 1970s and have been involved in Vermont woodland organizations for nearly 50 years.

The Irwin's land has been in the family since the 1940s when John's parents purchased the property. John and Barb built a cabin on the property in the 1970s and became more involved in the management. John worked with his father in managing and maintaining the property. John is a consulting forester and is a retired forestry/vocational natural resources teacher

at Concord High School and Lyndon Institute. This knowledge has enabled him to make management plans for the property that his son, Ian, helps implement. Operating the tree farm has always been a family affair, which continues to this day.

While the Irwins have been on the land since the 1940s, the property is home to some interesting sites that date back to Vermont's early days. The woodland includes locations where settlers in Vermont originally settled in the late 1700s and early 1800s, one of which includes an inn that was constructed in 1791. There are also remnants of carriage roads traveling from Guildhall to Westmore. John explained that the settlers in this area attempted to live in the area, but eventually abandoned the settlements in 1815 because of the harsh weather, particularly the cold and snowy winters. Maintaining these historical features of the property are a part of the Irwins' management.

In managing their tree farm, the Irwins seek to accomplish a variety of goals. Growing healthy timber, which can be made into wood products, has been a constant goal. Parts of the Moose River run through the tree farm, so care of riparian zones is another goal they seek to accomplish. Wildlife enhancement is important to John and Barb as they want to see their woodland be a hospitable place for animals, birds and fish in the areas where the river flows

through. In more recent years, carbon storage has become a greater focus in their management. The property is enrolled in the Current Use program and has been for several decades, which helps in meeting some of these goals. Their son, Ian, and his wife, Tara, also operate a small maple sugaring operation on the property.

The Irwins' commitment to these goals was part of what led them to be named Tree Farm of the Year. Timber management has grown great balsam fir in the past that has been used around the farm. As a boy, John helped his father plant Norway spruce trees along parts of the Moose River in what were agricultural fields in the 1950s. Tending to these stands created excellent riparian zones along the river. Their commitment to improving wildlife habitat and preserving the forest's aesthetics and historic sites also earned them this recognition.

Their work is not without challenges, however. Access can sometimes be difficult. Getting the equipment needed for a job to the location on the tree farm where it needs to be can be hard with the rugged terrain. Mother nature sometimes makes this even more difficult when weather events cause damage. For instance, a winter storm in the 1990s caused ice damage that harmed many acres of hardwood stands on their property. The property contends with invasive plant species

such as honeysuckle and chervil that is encroaching closer from the road. John beats back these invasives through mowing. He also foresees beech regeneration becoming an issue because of the individual tree selection they have done on their property. They are now considering expanded gap description on older hardwood stands to alleviate this issue.

Despite the challenges, the Irwins continue to try to manage their land in a way that is economically and ecologically sustainable. They have been involved in other forestry groups such as Vermont Woodlands Association and the Vermont Forester's Guild for many years. After nearly 50 years in Vermont Tree Farm, they are grateful for the connections and knowledge the group offers. They help them understand current events in the forestry world and latest techniques. They also offer networking and connection with other forest owners



who can share experiences, knowledge or simply stories. Barb said, "This provides an opportunity for people to share, network and learn from each other's successes and mistakes."

Congratulations to the Irwin family for being the Tree Farm of the Year!

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
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Kathleen Wanner

If there is someone special you would like to remember or honor with a donation, please send your gift to VWA, indicating who you wish to remember or honor so we can add your loved ones to this list.

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NEWS FROM SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI Announces New Standards Focused on Solving Some of the World's Biggest Sustainability Challenges

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

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) has developed new standards to support SFI's leadership in offering solutions to some of the world's most pressing sustainability challenges. 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.

"SFI has the scale to make a difference with more than 375 million acres/152 million hectares certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, and tens of millions more certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard," says Kathy Abusow, SFI's president and CEO. "Because the standards require independent, third-party audits, organizations that use them are responding to the ESG expectations of investors, customers and communities."

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 the climate crisis.

SFI-certified organizations will now be required to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

"Our hopes to mobilize forests for climate will depend on influencing forest practices across as many acres as possible, helping to infuse them with science-based approaches to achieve resilient carbon sequestration and healthy forests for our future," said Jad Daley, president and CEO of American Forests. "Forest certification is the dream device to make this connection with landowners across North America, and SFI has done an outstanding job of assuring that this new SFI standard will help catalyze the climate-smart forestry we need."

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.

An important component of the SFI standards is Objective 8, Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights. The SFI standards promote respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, representative institutions and traditional knowledge, and are aligned with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Specific measures require that SFI-certified organizations are aware of traditional forest-related knowledge, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.

"The SFI standard requires organizations to recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge," says Lenny Joe, president, Scwëxmx Tribal Council. "SFI's programs and certification

requirements are unique in that they focus on relationship building that creates trust. This is important to many Indigenous communities like mine and a reason for SFI's earned respect and growth."

SFI's standards are built on mutual trust and engagement. They help SFI-certified organizations meet societal expectations by ensuring that important issues

such as civil rights, equal employment opportunities, gender equality, diversity inclusion, and anti-discrimination and antiharassment measures are addressed.

SFI revises and updates the SFI standards to incorporate the latest scientific information, respond to emerging issues and ensure continual improvement. This open and transparent process began in 2019

and included engagement with the conservation community, Indigenous communities, the forest products sector, brand owners, private forest landowners and public forest managers, government agencies, trade associations, landowner associations, academia, and the public. The SFI Board of Directors approved the SFI 2022 Standards and Rules at their April 2021 meeting.

RESTORATION, *continued from pg. 11*

restoration scale when we build it, they might just come.

For more information on riparian restoration from the Watershed Forestry Partnership at UVM Extension/Lake Champlain Sea Grant, be sure to visit <https://www.uvm.edu/seagrant/outreach/watershed-forestry-partnership>.

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NEWS FROM VERMONT LOGGER EDUCATION TO ADVANCE PROFESSIONALISM (LEAP) PROGRAM

A Little More About VT LEAP

by David Birdsall, Executive Director, VT LEAP Program



The Vermont LEAP Program has been around for many years now. Our logo is important to the Forest Industry, and we have been working for a long time with the South side of the “Triangle” — Loggers. We have worked a bit with the Northeast side — Foresters. But we really want to bring the Northwest side into our program more — Landowners. The Forest Industry depends on landowners wanting to improve their “woods.”

LEAP's Mission

The purpose of the Vermont LEAP program is to promote a professional approach to logging by providing the knowledge necessary for loggers to work safely, efficiently, and in an environmentally conscientious manner while harvesting timber in Vermont.

LEAP's Philosophy

The logging profession is an essential link between Vermont's woodlands and forest industry. Along with landowners and foresters, loggers are partners in managing our forests for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. Vermont's forests have a legacy of providing these resources and can sustain these public benefits if properly managed. LEAP sees education as offering a positive approach, bringing everyone together to reach this common goal. The LEAP program is an instrument to encourage life-long learning among loggers. LEAP strives to promote professionalism through education and instill a stewardship ethic among loggers. The outcome of this endeavor, we envision, will be a well-managed and productive

forest landscape, and a positive public perception of the logging profession.

We are grateful that the Vermont Woodland's Association is eager to work more closely with the VT LEAP Program.

It's my goal that when a landowner is looking for a logger to work on their land that they consider working with a VT LEAP Logger. That logger has taken the time to complete the LEAP curriculum, which includes the following workshops:

LEAP's Core Workshops:

Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems
Professionalism in Forestry
Advanced Logger Safety
Game of Logging
Mechanized Safety Training
First Aid and CPR



Then every two years they take a Safety-related workshop and an Elective workshop that includes many of the following workshops:

- Surveys & Boundaries
- Wildlife
- Invasive Control
- Portable Skidder Bridges
- Vermont Water Quality – Acceptable Management Practices, AMP's
- Hardwood Log Bucking
- Business Workshops
- OSHA Regulations
- Logging Contracts and
- Book-keeping
- New Technology – Avenza Mapping, ANR Atlas Maps
- Garage Safety, Haz Mat, Spill Kits
- Trucking Safety
- Mill Tours and Spec sheets
- Biodiversity in the Woods
- Loggers for the Birds
- Maple – To Tap or Cut
- Road Building

Check out the Vermont LEAP Loggers at: www.vtleap.com.
Or contact David Birdsall, VT LEAP Director: 802-235-2908 or logger@vtleap.com.

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

Want to learn more?

Contact Stephanie at
stephanie@morningagclips.com

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.

Who sees the Forester eNews?

Average open rate -> 54%
during 5-month sample period



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.

Kathy Beland: 802-747-7900 or email director@vermontwoodlands.org



VERMONT TREE FARM INSPECTOR'S LOG

Paddling Upstream? Streambank Overflow?

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

As I thought about what to write about this quarter, it was clear to me that even though we had a theme we were supposed to focus on in our articles, I would have to take another route! Oh wait, let me try to make a connection. Here goes ... like running water, some Tree Farm inspectors stay inside or close to the banks of their stream, while others overflow into other areas, spreading their skills and wisdom far and wide across the land.

Wow. That is a terrible analogy using water. Ok. Let me try again. Excellent water quality does not always just happen when we are working in the woods. A great deal of effort takes place to make sure that water bars are in place, stream crossings are managed, roads are put to bed, buffers are managed, and that roads look as good as or better than when we began. Tree Farm Inspectors who stand out, are putting a great deal of effort in promoting Tree Farm to landowners, completing inspections, providing educational opportunities for the public, and volunteering on countless

boards, councils and committees. That was ok, but not so great, either. Oh well.

Every year, we honor at least two Tree Farm Inspectors for their commitment to Tree Farm. This year we have three! Congratulations go to Charlie Hancock, Ethan Tapper and Andy McGovern. The Vermont Tree Farm Committee takes many activities into account to tally points for the Inspector of the Year. It is not just about Tree Farm inspections, but also about all those other activities happening outside of their streambanks. There, that kind of worked!

Our first award goes to Andy McGovern, who is winning the award for most inspections in 2021. Andy is a consulting forester, hails from Thetford, and owns and runs Tamarack Forestry and Land Management LLC, with Len Miraldi. There's a good chance he will land in this category more than once, since Len and Paul Harwood may have one of the longer lists of Tree Farmers in Vermont. Congratulations, Andy!

Our second award goes to Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County forester. I am pretty sure we are well aware of the list of activities that Ethan is committing to on a regular basis in Chittenden County. In the midst of the pandemic, Ethan began hosting virtual events in the woods for anyone to view on his own YouTube channel. He serves on two boards, wrote monthly articles for local newspapers, and three for Northern Woodlands Magazine. Ethan led events at multiple locations including Hinesburg Town Forest, Andrews Community Forest, Huntington Community Forest, Milton Town Forest, Westford Town Lands, and Catamount Community Forest. He has partnered with countless organizations in and outside of Vermont. For this work, we are awarding Ethan with the Tree Farm Inspector Outreach and Education Award for 2021. Thank you, Ethan, for all you do!

Our final award goes to Charlie Hancock, a consulting forester with North Woods Forestry in Montgomery Center. Along with his work as a

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.

consulting forester, Charlie is co-founder and president of Cold Hollow to Canada. The mission of this community-based organization is to “maintain ecosystem integrity, biological diversity, and forest resiliency throughout the Cold Hollow to Canada region, with a focus on community-led stewardship and the conservation of our working landscape in the face of a changing climate.” He serves on boards for the Vermont Land Trust (vice chair), Vermont Natural Resources Council, Cold Hollow to Canada (president/chair), VT Working Land Enterprise Board (vice chair), Vermont Forest Industry Network Steering Committee, and Vermont Climate Council Ag and Ecosystem Subcommittee. He also led 10 tours or events, many on Tree Farm properties. Charlie’s leadership at the helm of these

organizations, along with his promotion and support of Tree Farm, is why we are awarding Charlie the 2021 Vermont Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Congratulations, Charlie! Thank you for your commitment to Tree Farm and to the working forests of Vermont.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to our entire Tree Farm Inspector Corps. You all commit time and effort to Tree Farm. Without you, Vermont Tree Farm would be paddling against the current, in muddy water, with rough seas ahead. Ok, that last one definitely was not worth the ink. Here is my last try related to water. Go fishing. Cast a line, set your hook and reel something in. Read into that what you will!

SAVE THE DATE

Tree Farm Inspector Field Day

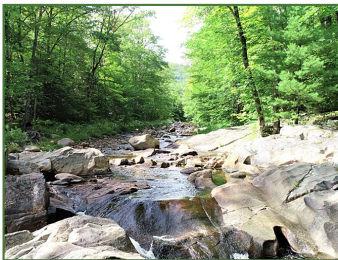
Tuesday, June 14

Dave Wilcox Tree Farm,
Berlin, Vt.

CFE credits available
Watch eNews and your email for registration links.

Contact Kathy Beland,
(802) 236-7865, for more information

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TIMBER INVESTMENT 5,441 acres, Campton NH

Beebe River Forest:

A long-term-timber investment property that is protected by a conservation easement, with excellent timber resource attributes, solid access, 5 miles of river frontage on Beebe River and low holding costs.

Check Web Site for Price



SWEEPING VIEWS 313 Acres, St. Johnsbury VT

St. Johnsbury Forest:

A gravel road was built to the top of the property's mountain offering views in all directions from a potential building site. Down low, by the town road, are open meadows and a year round stream, providing additional building sites.

\$640,000



TOP OF MOUNTAIN 123 acres, Woodbury, VT

Woodbury Mountain Forest:

This land is perfect for those seeking an outdoor experience and building a camp. The land rises to the top of Woodbury Mountain Ridge a great hiking experience with long views. The camp site is in a quiet location with local views.

\$168,000



HOME SITE ON PASS 195 acres, Marlboro, VT

Harrisville Brook Forest:

Southern Vermont location near Willington and Mt. Snow ski area. The potential homesite is on a high mountain pass along Vermont's Route 9 corridor offering sweeping views with tree clearing and easy access to the home site.

\$425,000



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Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

NEWS FROM VERMONT SUSTAINABLE JOBS FUND

Jack Bell Takes a Long View on Vermont's Forests

by Christine McGowan, Vermont Forest Industry Network



With an integrated approach to forestry and logging, Bell prioritizes forest health, workforce. (Photo by Erica Houskeeper)

“Most of Vermont’s forested land is privately owned and fragmented into relatively small parcels,” said Jack Bell, co-founder of Long View Forest. “One of our goals is to provide continuity and professionalism over time so that the long-term health and composition of the forest is always the priority, even if the land changes hands.”

Founded in 1999, Long View’s model is unconventional in Vermont. First, the company offers logging, forestry consulting and woodland services — including invasive species management

and young forest tending — under one roof. Second, Bell’s vision is for the company to be around for at least a couple of centuries, and he has a plan for that.

“It’s a tall order, but our vision is to build a business that will endure,” said Bell. “That Long View will be here in 200 years. Forestry is a long-term endeavor. You need continuity to have stability. The best forest management around the world spans over many, many generations. We want to build a business that will contribute to that kind of stability for Vermont forests.”

Building a company and a workforce to endure

One important component of Long View’s vision is a focus on growing the business and providing employees with opportunities for career advancement. “We want a business where there are pathways for personal growth, so we can retain and attract the very best people,” he said.

Bell’s own path to the forest industry has influenced his thinking as an employer and business owner. As early as high school, he wanted to be a logger. But, with no experience or connections, he couldn’t get a job. “I took a year off and moved to Maine, but no one would hire me,” he said. “I couldn’t get a job in logging, so I went to college.”

While working on a trail crew in the White Mountains one summer, Bell met Jim Hourdequin, a student at



Forester Hale Morrell and forwarder operator Jeff Dacey work together at an active harvest site in Windham. (Photo by Erica Houskeeper)

Dartmouth interested in forest ecology and environmental policy. Hourdequin was working with a local logger named Russell Barnes to start the Yankee Forest Safety Network. Hourdequin introduced Bell to Barnes, finally giving him the entree into logging that had eluded him for years.

“I had no experience,” said Bell. “I showed up at Russell’s house, and he asked me if I had brought my ax. I said, ‘we get to use axes?’” That was 1998. By 1999, Barnes had offered to restructure his company to bring Bell and Hourdequin into the business, and Long View Forest was born.

More than 20 years later, Bell and Hourdequin are constantly looking for opportunities to repay the favor. About two-thirds of Long View employees come from traditional forestry backgrounds, with training and education that ranges from hands-on, to local high school tech programs, to two- and four-year degrees from schools like Paul Smith’s College and the University of Maine, to masters programs at the University of Vermont and Yale Forestry. But the other third, like Bell, have little or no formal training. “Our lead mechanic is a great example,” said Bell. “He came to us to do logging, but we all noticed how good he was with machines. We had never had a dedicated mechanic, but I asked him if he would want to give it a try. He accepted, and five years later he’s helping us take the business in whole new directions.”



Alex Barrett, Long View’s forestry division manager, says a lot of landowners will first come to Long View with the broad goal of “making their woods better.” (Photo by Erica Houskeeper)

Employee-owned from the start

When the company was founded, Bell, Hourdequin and Barnes each put in \$10,000 and accepted loans from family and friends. When Barnes retired in 2014, Bell and Hourdequin repurchased his shares and broadened ownership to five, and then 12, long-time employees. The company continues to incentivize employees with ownership opportunities today. In addition to the option to buy in, Long View also awards “commitment shares” to dedicated employees after five years of work. This program has added six more employee-owners, bringing the total today to 20 out of 35 current employees.

“The usual reasons for selling stock are to raise money, retain talent, and to be fair to people,” said Bell. “We think about it in reverse order. Anyone who is all in and devotes their time and life energy to this business is contributing to the value we’re building and should have a part of that long-term. It’s helping us attract and keep great people, but fundamentally it’s about fairness.”

An integrated approach

From day one, Long View took an integrated approach to forestry and logging. Both Bell and Hourdequin had degrees in biology, and Barnes shared with them his passion for timber stand improvement.

As the company grew, services were grouped into three distinct, but overlapping areas: contracting (logging and related heavy-duty work), forest management and woodland services. “Being integrated is about both mission and business fundamentals,” Bell said. “If we’re going to be here long-term, we have to provide value to landowners and be profitable enough to keep good people and pay them well. We believe integration and diversification help us do our best work, be efficient, and make it easier for landowners to get good work done by offering a lot of choices under one roof.” Alex Barrett, a Long View shareholder



Employee Jeff Dacey uses his chainsaw at an active harvest site in Windham. (Photo by Erica Houskeeper)

and its forestry division manager, says a lot of landowners will first come to Long View with the broad goal of “making their woods better.” But, he says, they aren’t always sure what that means on the ground or how to get started.

At a project in Whitingham, for example, a client had recently purchased a new home that just happened to come with 100 acres of forest. “The landowner had a steep learning curve when it came to forests, but wanted to enjoy his property and do right by the land. For him, this meant having a reliable ATV road network,” said Barrett, “and leaving it better than he found it for future generations.”

Long View brought their full suite of services to the project, creating a forest management plan, building a multi-purpose road network for logging, recreation and future forest improvement tending, and completing a series of two-acre patch cuts throughout the property to increase wildlife habitat and structural diversity in the forest.

At another site in Putney, Long View guided a landowner to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which in turn funded timber stand improvement, invasive work and habitat creation on the 200-acre, privately owned parcel. To ensure that the work was done

VSJF continued on pg. 22

VSJF, continued from pg. 21



Long View mechanics Wyatt Blanchard and Paul Lang work together in Hanover Town Forest. One important component of co-founder Jack Bell's vision is a focus on growing the business and providing employees with opportunities for career advancement. (Photo by Erica Houskeeper)

to the specifications of the NRCS, which requires a complicated mix of overlapping practices each with performance metrics tied to funding, Long View Woodland Services technicians worked closely with the lead forester to implement invasive plant control ahead of a planned timber harvest.

"A lot of what we do is not the traditional approach to logging where a contractor heads to the woods mainly to extract value for the landowner," said Barrett, "so it's helpful to have everyone working and coordinating under one roof so we can meet the goals of forward-thinking landowners."

In the end, forest management is only as good as the contractors who implement it. A sustainable forest and forest economy rely on a year-round, professional workforce that companies like Long View hope to sustain into the future. "Being able to collaborate side-by-side with the people who are implementing the forest

management plan is the main reason I came to work at Long View. It's how we help clients achieve their goal of leaving the forest better than they found it."

The long view for Long View

As Bell looks to the future, his goals for the business are as much about mission as they are stability. "We're continuing to diversify and build up the mix of work we do," he said, acknowledging that climate change and unpredictable weather patterns have impacted all parts of the business. "If we want to have high quality jobs and employ people year-round, we have to have steady work."

In addition to timber stand improvement and invasive work, Long View has expanded into forest road and trail building, tree planting and pruning, clearing and brush mulching, and most recently, selling cut-to-length logging equipment for the Swedish company Rottne. "We're diversifying as fast as we can into areas that are at least somewhat

less weather dependent," said Bell. "Warmer, wetter weather is a big concern and a big challenge."

Ultimately, Long View's vision of healthy, productive forests in Vermont is directly tied to finding new ways to bring — and keep — the next generation of forest industry professionals into well-paying jobs that prioritize the long view over short-term gain. It's not a new idea, but Bell and his team are working to make it a reality every day.

About the Vermont Forest Industry Network

Vermont's forest products industry contributes \$1.3 billion to Vermont's economy and supports more than 9,000 direct and indirect jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating (2017). Those numbers more than double when maple production and forest-based recreation are factored in. The Vermont Forest Industry Network creates space for strong relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products. Learn more or join at www.vsjf.org.



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NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Is Your Woodlot Ready for Climate Change?

by Allen Yale, tree farmer and secretary of the Vermont Tree Farm Committee

Have you considered how climate change could affect your woodlot? Are you wondering whether there was anything you can do to minimize or ameliorate its impacts?

The way you manage your woodlot can affect climate change in several ways. It can increase the impact of global warming, decrease global warming or ameliorate some of the resulting impacts. Examples of management activities that can increase global warming would be a large scale clear cut that raises the temperature of that area; or removing trees from a stream bank or causing silt to enter a stream, both of which might raise the water

temperature. A management activity that might decrease global warming is the retention of large trees that are storing large amounts of carbon. Ameliorating practices might include planting trees that are more heat or drought tolerant.

Likewise, climate changes in the form of precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, and frequency and strength of severe disturbances can change what is happening in your woodlot.

There is a resource out there that addresses both how climate change will affect your woodlot and things you can do to minimize the impact.

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science has an online tool titled *Adaptation Workbook: a climate change tool for land management and conservation* (<http://adaptationworkbook.org>)

To get some feel for how climate change might affect your property, the Adaptation Workbook has a webpage called “Explore” that lets the viewer explore climate impacts on various regions of the United States. [<http://adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts>] By clicking on New England on the map, you will be introduced to projected climate change impacts on temperature, precipitation, stream flow, growing season, pests and pathogens, invasives, forest composition, productivity, soils, etc. This webpage also has a 32- minute video summarizing impacts of climate change on New England and northern New York.

While this sections gives you a general idea of changes to expect in the next 80 years, specific impacts on your property will depend on the unique specifics of the particular parcel. It will also depend on the judgement of you, the land manager and your forester, based on your collective experiences and observations.

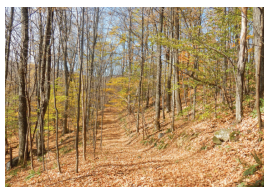
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- Forest Certification
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- Wildlife Habitat Plans & Invasives Control



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CLIMATE CHANGE continued on pg. 25



NEWS FROM THE VERMONT TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Carbon Programs for Vermont Private Landowners

by **Al Robertson**, *landowner and tree farmer*

In the last issue of this VWA newsletter, I outlined the background of recent forest carbon controversies and the alternatives to the extreme positions taken by some in the environmental community. One of the latest alternatives available to Vermont forestland owners is forest carbon programs.

A forest carbon program is a commercial effort of new carbon offset markets to allow landowners to sell the carbon taken up by their forest to another entity to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. These programs are so new that their development has caused the creation of new words, definitions, rules and organizations. In fact, their proliferation and complexity have made writing a definitive article on forest carbon programs almost impossible.

But there is a solution, and this short article should help aim the landowner in a good direction, decision-wise, to investigating and deciding which or even if joining a carbon program is right for you, your land and your forest stewardship.

First, a basic education on the carbon programs. The Vermont Forest, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) website has an excellent introductory text on carbon

programs. Use this link (https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/Climate_Change/Files/ForestCarbonOffsetsForVermontLandowners_Mar2021.pdf) to read and understand the concepts and basics of carbon programs. Also, at the end of the text are some of the latest carbon programs available to landowners. The good news here is that owning a large acreage is no longer a requirement to be in a program.

One of the early basic realizations is the new vocabulary that has developed around the carbon offset markets and the carbon programs. While the article mentions some of them, there is another link (<https://www.northeastforestcarbon.org/forest-carbon-markets/>) devoted to the new words and definitions used in the industry. Understanding the definitions and concepts is important when discussing a specific program, and evaluating whether that program is right for your forestland. We have also developed a Glossary of carbon-related terms that you might find helpful. You can find it under “Resources” on the VWA website.

Finally, as happens with any new thing, you may still have questions on program details not answered in the links. Fortunately, again, we have an FAQ developed that hopefully answers

those questions as well as a list of typical questions you should be asking of the specific program developer you are contemplating joining. These FAQ’s and questions are available under “Resources” on the VWA website.

There are a couple of immediate takeaways from all this information. First, as with any commercial enterprise you are thinking of buying into, let the buyer beware! It’s critical you understand all the rules of engagement, the legal limitations joining a program may mean to your management techniques and goals, how long your land will be affected by the contract, and penalties for leaving. Second, understand that if you join one of the programs you will likely not be able to join another — joining a program is a one-shot opportunity.

Finally, make sure you involve your consulting forester in the decision. A forester may have insights into the future of your forest that you may not have thought about. Choose wisely!

CLIMATE CHANGE, *continued from pg. 23*

The more useful aspect of the Adaptation Workbook is the “strategies and approaches” section. [<http://adaptationworkbook.org/strategies>] This section is divided into eight subsections based on the nature of the resource being managed. These subsections are: forest, urban forest health, forested watersheds, forest carbon, non-forested wetlands, recreation, agriculture and wildlife. If you printed out all eight subsections, you would have a document of approximately 244 pages.

Each subsection begins with a two-page list of from six to 10 strategies for adapting to climate change, and each strategy has from two to eight approaches to addressing that strategy.

The rest of the subsection consists of a relisting of each strategy and approach with a paragraph delineating the particular climatic impacts the strategy is addressing and examples of actions that address that approach.

One weakness of the document, which has no impact on its usefulness, is the misuse of words; what it calls “strategies” are really “goals” and what it calls “approaches” are really “strategies. The “examples” are “actions” or “behaviors.”

A helpful addition would be a numbering system so that a specific “example” could be keyed to one’s management plan, thus easily documenting what actions in your

management plan are addressing specific climate change impacts.

Fortunately, many of the activities that ameliorate climate change align well with the 2021 Tree Farm Standards. You will be relieved to discover that some of your current practices are lessening the impact.

However, the anticipated impacts of climate change over the next 80 years are expected to be great enough that we are likely to see dramatic impacts on our woodlands that we or our successors will need to address that will entail dramatic modifications or adjustments to many of our management practices to minimize the negative impacts of climate change.



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Mark your calendar!

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Vermont Woodlands Association
and Vermont Tree Farm Program
Annual Meeting

*Check the VWA website and eNews
for detail updates.*

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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.



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 _____ Email _____

Check here if you are willing to receive future VWA membership invoices by email ☐

How did you hear about us? _____

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 26, Rupert, VT 05768

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



Vermont Woodlands Association 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

As of December 31, 2021

Reflections on 2021

Dear Members and Friends of VWA,

The year 2021 has certainly been one of adjustment as our world started to come back into alignment, in a new way!

It was about transition, getting back together and communing again, with the trees, with the birds, with other forest landowners.

The year was about figuring out what the landscape looked like for business and for the social scene. For VWA, there was a flavor of closure. As a group, we were finally able to celebrate the life of Putnam Blodgett, the heart and soul of this organization. It felt good to honor him finally at the Annual Meeting in October.

We have accepted that the fearless leader, Kathleen Wanner, is finally going to retire — but more about that in the 2022 Annual Report.

In 2021, we also welcomed a new treasurer, bookkeeper and accountant! Wow, that's a mouthful of change. We embraced our first in-person Annual Meeting in two years, at the Trapp Family Lodge — after Covid testing, of course.

But more than anything, for me, as your helper Interim Executive Director, it has been about resilience: the resilience of the woods, the resilience of VWA and the resilience of you, our members. It has been full of learning, changing and redefining. Reaching deep within to figure things out on a dime, scouring high and low to pull it all together and extract valuable knowledge from every corner.

One thing I do know is that we, as an organization, have landed, set down by a big wind of change due to everything that started in 2021.

How excited I have been to have had the opportunity to meet many of you and help define the future of this fine, upstanding organization. VWA is a cornerstone in the landscape of Vermont. All of you should be very proud. VWA's connections and partnerships in Vermont and across the nation have never been stronger, and we have the prospect of undertaking exciting projects with new partners in 2022 and beyond. The goals that are important to us as an organization are shared across many miles and in many circles: with Audubon and its Woods, Wildlife and Warblers program; Land Ethic Vermont; Women Owning Woodlands; the U.S. Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and many more.

But it all comes back to the individuals within these organizations. At the start and end of the year, and everyday, really, it's about the people — who are cloaked in the riches of the forest — especially our Vermont Forest. It is a beautiful landscape that deserves to be cared for, loved, appreciated and, most of all, respected.

This is what I saw in 2021. A membership that, through it all, was passionate for the woods of Vermont. And your passion for the woods tightened the tether to keep us all together through the uncertain times of 2021. That same passion has helped us maintain our focus and perspective.

Here's to all of the change! Here's to all of the resilience! Here's to the woods, our tether, that kept us together!

And here's a sincere "thank you" to 2021 as we look forward to where 2022 will lead.

Thoughtfully,
Kate Ziehlm, President of Farmhouse Communication
and advisor to VWA

Vermont Woodlands Association & Vermont Tree Farm

Reports: Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

General Merchant's Account *(Includes Operating, Program, Restricted Grant funds)*.....\$73,538

CUTC Account.....\$5,254

Total Checking/Savings \$78,792**Accounts Receivable** \$18,116

Other Current Assets

Inventory Assessment.....\$13,597

Endowments

Executive Director Endowment.....\$330,241

Wildlife Endowment \$232,586

Funds

Bailey Charitable & Working Cap \$325,741

Bizzozero Tree Farm.....\$74,018

Robertson Tree Farm.....\$51,607

Total Other Current Assets \$1,027,790**Total Current Assets.....** \$1,124,698**TOTAL ASSETS** \$1,124,698

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

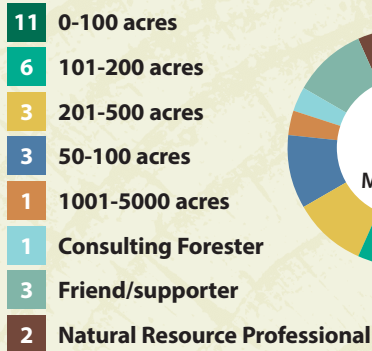
Accounts Payable \$16,773

Credit Cards.....\$2,897

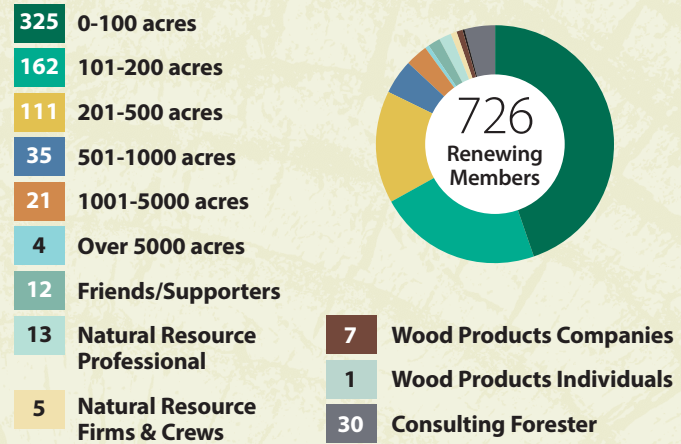
Total Current Liabilities \$19,670**Equity.....** \$1,105,029**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$1,124,699

Memberships

2021 New Membership



2021 Renewing Membership



Vermont Woodlands Association Reports: Profit & Loss

January through December 2021

Revenue

Annual Meeting	\$11,019
Donations	\$24,351
Grants	\$27,033
Investments	\$142,457
Member Dues	\$42,075
Newsletter	\$12,235
Other Program Revenue	\$402
Total Revenue	\$259,572
Cost of Goods Sold	\$8,080
Gross Revenue	\$251,492

Expense

Annual Meeting	\$26,193
Banking	\$326
Board of Directors (Insurance and rentals)	\$926
Educational Programs	\$18,372
General Admin (Accounting, liability insurance, website, etc.)	\$5,595
Legislative Affairs	\$3,085
Member Services	\$10,171
Office Expenses	\$14,582
Professional Services (Admin, postage, supplies, travel, etc.)	\$94,817
Total Expense	\$174,067
VWA Net Revenue	\$77,425

Vermont Tree Farm

Reports: Profit & Loss

January through December 2021

Revenue

Administration Fees	\$9,480
AFF Support	\$4,993
Fundraising	\$4,700
Grants	\$34,500
Inspections	\$4,400
Tours, Workshops, and Contributions	\$0
Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers	\$10,500

Total Revenue	\$68,573
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Expense

Administration and Database	\$23,400
Grants	\$3,016
Project Learning Tree	\$375
Signs and Awards	\$200
Supplies, Postage, Copies	\$1,514
Tours and Events	\$0
Training and Inspections	\$2,211
Travel	\$22
Website	\$325
Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers	\$11,015

Total Expense	\$42,078
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Vermont Tree Farm Net Revenue	\$26,495
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Total Vermont Tree Farm & Vermont Woodlands Association Net Revenue	\$103,920
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Please note financials are currently under review by our CPA for fiscal year end filing and may differ slightly from the 990.



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