

VERMONT WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, 9 October 2021
Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, VT

The 2021 Vermont Woodlands Association Annual Meeting was called to order by President Allan Thompson at 1:30 PM on Saturday, 9 October 2021 in the Wedding Tent at Trapp Family Lodge (TFL) in Stowe, Vermont. The theme for the day was a celebration of Put Blodgett's life as the day actually started at 9 AM with a light breakfast, and several Walks in the Woods around the forests of TFL conducted by Allan and Steve Hagenbuch. Attendance was about 75.

The breakfast was preceded by a warm and interesting introduction by Johannes von Trapp, and lunch was an excellent authentic Austrian buffet.

Membership Meeting:

Marli Rabinowitz of the Nominating Committee, which also included Allan Thompson, Leo Laferriere and Chris Fife, introduced the following nominations for the Board of Directors:

- 3 Year Terms:
 - Gary Ames of White River Junction
 - Susan Culp of Newbury
 - Steve Hagenbuch of Waterbury Center
 - John Manchester of Hanover, NH
 - Ron Millard of Hancock
 - Dave Potter of Clarendon
 - David Wilcox of Berlin
- 1 Year Term:
 - Steve Handfield of Poultney
 - John McClain of Randolph

Members passed the acceptance of the slate of candidates after nominations (Rabinowitz/Robertson) were closed, motioned, and seconded (Thompson/Buck).

The Election of Officers for next year was deferred to the next monthly board meeting, due to the difficulty in rounding up board members.

Tree Farmer of the Year: Ryan Kilborn introduced the Starr Family and gave a great presentation of the Starr's 2020 TF in Troy, Vermont. (A previous celebration was held last year in Troy but involved only the family due to the pandemic. Over 50 family members were present!)

50 and 25 Year Tree Farm Recognition: Al Robertson recognized the 50th Anniversary Tree Farmers- Joanna Maynard (TF 249), and William Emmons III (TF 261), and the 25th Anniversary Tree Farmers- Joseph Weston (TF 1196), Ken Weston (TF 1317), and Arthur Dugas (TF 1322).

FPR Commissioner Mike Snyder gave an excellent review of the state of Vermont's forests. He commented on the challenges facing the state including the various carbon and climate change strategies, invasives and the associated problems of regeneration, and the continued saga of the Act 250 legislation. Overall the state's forests are in good shape right now.

John Austin gave an interesting and informative briefing on wildlife habitat connectivity and the forest landowner.

John Morton, a trails development and design expert, and the keynote speaker, gave an excellent and instructional presentation on trail development, construction, and maintenance.

Reception:

Later in the afternoon a beautiful photo remembrance of Put's life was presented and many members and friends gave warm and emotional anecdotes of their memories of Put and his long and storied life in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Robertson,
Secretary