



Vermont Forest Products Association

since 1977

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The Mission of the VFPA is to promote and defend the interests of our members. VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont. VFPA meets its mission through:

- Information and continuing education to its members
- Public outreach and education
- Working with other organizations through partnering and coalition building
- Networking with others within the forest products industry
- Lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers

VT Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT ANNOUNCES VERMONT LOGGER SAFETY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PROGRAM

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, June 25, 2019



Montpelier, Vt.—Governor Phil Scott today announced a new initiative to address the high cost of workers' compensation insurance for logging contractors in Vermont's forest economy.

The Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program—developed collaboratively by the Departments of Financial Regulation, Labor and Forests, Parks and Recreation, with input from logging safety trainers, the National Council on Compensation Insurance, insurance carriers and business owners in the forestry sector—will modernize safety training for logging contractors and their employees, reducing injuries and insurance claims and allowing them to qualify for reduced insurance rates.

"As we work to grow the economy and make Vermont a more affordable place to do business, the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program will help employers provide safer workplaces for their employees while lowering their costs and allowing them to create more jobs in this sector," said Governor Phil Scott.

The initiative, which was introduced by the Scott Administration and supported by the Legislature, includes state funding to increase access to affordable safety trainings tailored to the unique hazards of the logging occupation. These trainings will be available to logging contractors throughout 2019.

"This program will help level the playing field amongst logging contractors and lower the cost of this necessary insurance," said Gabe Russo of

Southwind Forestry in Pawlet. "Reducing expenses, during a time of difficult market and weather conditions, will allow me to reinvest in my business and continue to provide professional services with properly insured employees to forestland owners in Vermont."

Workshops for employers and managers of logging operations will provide leadership and communications training as well as information about current trends in losses and injuries related to logging, increasing industry-wide safety awareness. The State will provide onsite loss prevention consultations to verify that proper safety practices have been implemented by participating logging operations.

To lower the traditionally high insurance premiums for logging contractors (due in part to low participation rates of logging contractors in the workers' compensation insurance pool), the State will also provide new guidance to landowners and consulting foresters to ensure that they are contracting with properly insured entities.

A new website is now available with more information for logging contractors, consulting foresters and forestland owners at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/vermont-logger-safety-and-workers-compensation-insurance-program>

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GOOD ATTENDANCE AT THE “FOREST OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR SUPERVISING FOR SAFETY” WORKSHOP

The inaugural class of the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program, Forest Operations Supervisor, kicked off on July 24th with 25 employers and supervisors representing 20 logging operations from around the state attending. There was lots of positive energy, and attendees learned about how to create a culture of safety on logging operations, trends in claims and losses in the northeast, how to have difficult conversations with employees and other tools to have safer logging operations. FPR has received a lot of feedback from attendees about what they'd like to see in future trainings, which is very helpful as we learn and adjust for what you need to manage your business. Other qualifying safety trainings are planned for this fall and interested loggers can learn more at FPR's new website - <https://fpr.vermont.gov/vermont-logger-safety-and-workers-compensation-insurance-program> Registrations are limited for the fall classes, sign up today!

An informational webinar was presented on July 23rd, that included an overview of the new program and a walk through of how properly insured, or exempt, loggers will be able to meet the existing workers' compensation laws and fill out the checklists that landowners and foresters will be asking them for when signing contracts. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed at any time on YouTube <https://youtu.be/ZaeUMKCG21k>

The Department of Financial Regulation, with consultation from FPR, will be contracting with a service to provide onsite Loss Prevention Consultations for loggers that enroll in the program with onsite safety consultations and assist them in meeting the “safety certified” designation that will qualify them for a discount on workers' compensation insurance. This is another significant investment in Vermont's forest economy to make it safer and more affordable to hire employees.



Watch for more news from FPR on this, and other, initiatives in the coming months.



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**VFPA Legislative Report**

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It was a very unusual legislative session this year. Quite surprising to most, this session can be noted as a rather business friendly session. In the Spring issue of the VFPA newsletter we were reporting on various bills that would increase costs on businesses, but many of them did not make it to passage. The paid family leave and increasing the minimum wage bills were in play to the very end, but agreement between the House and Senate was elusive so they pushed it off until next year. The medical monitoring bill, S.37 did pass but Governor Scott Vetoed the bill citing lack of clarity and the fact that it would be impossible to buy business insurance. We will see if the Legislature has enough votes to override that Veto in January, 2020.

The session started with a conciliatory tone, much different from the last two years. The Legislature and the Administration demonstrated the appearance of playing nice, and it remained through most of the session. Last year Governor Scott vetoed 11 bills. In the 2018 election, Democrats gained 12 seats in the House of Representatives and 1 in the Senate creating super majorities in both bodies. Governor Scott was well aware that those 11 bills were coming back. He was also aware that his two-year moratorium on increased taxes or fees was not likely to continue into a third year as he could not provide a fail-safe backstop to prevent them from becoming law.

This year, eager to break that two-year log jam, Legislators did act on new taxes and fees to pay for various items.

A Misc. Tax Bill H.514 (Act 51) passed the House with a modest increase in taxes to raise \$60,000 of general fund revenue.

The fee bill, H.527 (Act 70) also passed the House raises substantially more funds. Total new revenues from new fees in FY20 are estimated to be \$9.2 million, of which \$5.8 million would go to the General Fund while \$3.4 would go to various special funds including fish and wildlife to, in part, restore the **Salisbury** Fish Hatchery. The fee bill also raises the license fee for foresters by \$10.00 per year and Current Use (UVA), enrollment fees by \$10.00 to \$100.00 per application. Many may remember it was not that many years ago when the UVA application fee was only \$6.00.

Another tax bill H.541 (Act 71) as passed made several changes to various taxes. A few changes were positive changes, especially with regards to land ownership. The capital gains tax was most problematic, but the compromise contained in the final bill reduced the impact of a new exclusion cap on only about 80-100 income tax filers. A summary is as follows:

- Capital Gains. Limits the amount of capital gains subject to the preferential 40% rate to a total exclusion of \$350,000.00. Effective July 1, 2019.

- Medical Deductions. Provides a state deduction from personal taxable income for medical expenses which is limited by the state standard deduction, the state personal exemptions, and amount of the federal deduction resulting by payments to a continuing care retirement community.
- Estate tax: Increases the State exclusion from \$2,750,000 to \$5,000,000 by January 1, 2021.
- Property Transfer Tax: Changes the definitions to make it clear that the transfer of a controlling interest in a legal entity that holds real property triggers liability for the tax. A controlling interest is 50 percent or more of the controlling stock or interest in the entity. The tax is applied to value of the property held by the entity, apportioned to reflect the percentage of ownership interest that was transferred. If more than one person is acting in concert, their interests are aggregated for the purpose of determining a controlling interest and their liability for the tax.
- Land gains tax: Changes definition of "land" so that the tax only applies to land that is purchased and subdivided in the six years prior to the sale or exchange. If a sale or exchange of property is for land that falls outside of this definition, there is no obligation to file or withhold.
- Fuel tax: This included off road diesel fuel. A proposal to double the excise tax from two to four cents failed, but this section removes the exemption for non-profits such as hospitals, municipalities and others and extends the sunset on the tax for five years to 2024. The proposal passed in a House weatherization bill to exempt farmers and loggers from the off-road fuel tax did not make it. The weatherization bill H.439 is postponed until next year.

On balance, this past session can be considered forestry friendly as well as business positive. Of interest to VFPA, two bills passed that will impact forestry and the forest products industry both positive and negative. More positive measures include the following:

- H.82 (Act 29) removes the sales tax on accessories for logging equipment such as traction enhancement accessories, tire chains, track systems, and winch cables. Senate is reviewing the proposal now. Last year a bill passed that removes the Purchase and Use Tax on rolling equipment and the year before the sales tax on logging equipment was exempted.
- S.160 (Act 83) is a new rural Vermont eco-

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economic development bill created by the Senate Agricultural Committee aimed to incentivize more ag and forestry activities. It has several sections, mostly agricultural related. This bill went through several changes, sections were controversial among agriculture interests and it was not a certainty that this bill would get through the process, but it did. Sections for forestry include:

1. Authority for the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) to assist in the cost of loggers' safety training programs including LEAP to encourage more logger participation and assist in making LEAP a more robust safety training program.
2. The Commissioner of Forests and Parks (Commissioner) shall develop a logging operations accident prevention and safety training curriculum to assist safety instructors. The Commissioner annually shall award grants to logging contractors to reduce the costs of safety training or continuing safety education.
3. Authority to the FPR Commissioner shall award to proposed value-added forest products businesses annual grants of up to \$10,000.00 to assist with permitting, consultation, engineering, and other costs of establishing a forest products business.
4. Extends the sunset an additional two years on the sales tax exemption for advanced wood boilers, which was passed last session, from expiring in 2021 to 2023.
5. Requires the Department of Forests and Parks to establish The Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group is created to study how to facilitate enrollment of Vermont forestlands in carbon sequestration markets. A report is due January 15, 2020 which in part includes how to create a statewide program to facilitate the enrollment of Vermont forestlands in carbon sequestration markets with possible guidance for private landowners and a pilot program on state owned forests.

There is some concern about the outcome of this working group. Carbon trading is not an easy concept. What it means to the landowner and the forest products industry is uncertain. Many legislators are very supportive of this idea thinking that landowners providing "ecological services" can be rewarded with money. The rules governing eligibility of land does not match up well with landownership patterns in Vermont. Most parcels are too small to qualify in most markets and for what steps a landowner needs to take to qualify may be more expensive than the potential revenue. The fact that Vermont forests are generally fully stocked with lots of carbon already stored, the issue of additionality is a major concern. To be rewarded for carbon storage, the basic rules of having something to sell is how much additional carbon can a parcel store, not for what was stored over the past 40-50 years. In any event, the supporting Legislators are optimistic that this group can come up with creative ways to make a trading platform work for Vermont forest landowners.

Bills of concern that did not pass this year include:

- **S.106** is a **municipal self-governance** bill that releases the obligation of towns to come for Legislative approval of certain charter changes, known as the "Dillon Rule". There is a fairly lengthy list of exceptions, or things the towns cannot change and forestry operations is one of them. Because it is in the state's interest to have a state-wide policy to not limit forestry operations locally, the exemption was added. Senator Rodgers added that provision to the bill on the senate floor just before it passed. The House decided to postpone any action until next year. This is a big issue for municipalities.
- **Act 250** Remains stalled in Committee- VFPA was all over the efforts to reform Act 250 following the two-year review by a Legislative appointed Next 50 years, Act 250 Commission. The House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

worked diligently most of the year considering recommendations of the Commission on a comprehensive proposal to drastically change the environmental permit law, but failed to introduce a bill. Committee members found the details were too difficult for all parties to understand and the lift was too great for the committee to be able to come to any resolution, so the measure remains in the original committee without any votes. It became quite evident midway through the session that a comprehensive Act 250 reform bill will take at least two years to pass.

The Commission report contains several recommendations to modernize the environmental permit for development including a new review for fragmentation and the creation of a new land feature called "Critical Resource Area". Working from drafts, the committee has spent hours and days taking testimony and deliberating but little agreement has been found. Other provisions recommended by the Commission include:

1. Less review or total exemption from a permit in a newly created "Enhanced Designation" This included downtowns, village centers and new town center designations.
2. New definitions for fragmentation, connecting habitat and critical resource areas.
3. New jurisdiction triggers for where the project is located in addition to its size or scale. Location based jurisdiction is a new concept.
4. Switching the Natural Resources Board to a new entity called Environmental Review Board and adds jurisdiction to the board to review appeals and eliminate the need for the Environmental Court.

These provisions are in the various drafts the committee is working from. The latest draft, 19-0040 – draft 9.2, is changed from the original draft in a few areas, but much work is yet to be done. VFPA will certainly be watching what the committee does next year.

- **S.165 Forest Fragmentation** - It appears the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy is somewhat impatient with the slow progress in the House on Act 250. Committee Chair Sen. Bray, (D), Addison introduced **S.165, Forest Fragmentation and Act 250**, which is the same bill as H.233 that was killed on the Senate floor during the last day of last year's session. Senator Bray states that addressing fragmentation is discrete enough from the comprehensive effort that is can be considered alone without waiting for House action. This year only one short walk-through hearing took place and they ran out of time to fully vet the measure, we can expect more consideration next year.
- Reforming **Wetlands Regulation** is a top priority for the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). This is complicated policy and it can be a political struggle to find a balanced approach to practicable environmental protections and enable land use activities in and near wetlands. Federal law and state laws do not align causing considerable confusion, especially with farmers. ANR seeks to better align with the Feds and to clarify what uses are allowed in wetlands and wetland buffers. Currently forestry is an allowed use with certain conditions such as properly applying Acceptable Management Practices for Protecting Water Quality on Logging Jobs, (AMPs). ANR wants to remove the allowed use status and shift all allowed uses to exempt uses so both agriculture and forestry uses are addressed the same.

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Both the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture have spent a considerable amount of time and still nothing comprehensive has moved out of committee into the process. The Senate had a bill and just prior to a committee vote, decided to hold off and take another long look at the issues, perhaps by creating a study committee. The House reviewed the work of the Senate and at one point attempted their own run at a comprehensive bill, but that also was pulled back for the need to have more time. At the end of the session, no bill was introduced to rewrite the law as proposed by ANR.

Not all farming activities can be exempt and, in those cases, permit fees to impact a wetland is very expensive. The Legislature did move a couple wetland provisions including creating a Legislative study committee on changing wetland laws. They also incorporated fee changes for farming activities. H.525 (Act 64), created the Legislative Study Committee and added a new cap on fees for water quality improvements and for building agricultural structures in wetlands and wetland buffers. Also, S.160 (Act 83) the sunset on reduced fees for underground manure pipelines was extended.

Forestry sections were not controversial, so they remained very similar between the two chambers. VFPA did not oppose the proposed changes in jurisdiction. Although a shift from an allowed use to a not-allowed use with exemptions means something, so does having those same exemptions in statute rather than in a rule. It is much more difficult to change a law than it is a rule.

2nd Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit: A Big Success



The 2019 Vermont Forest Industry Summit was a great success, with 149 participants over two days. The agenda included a plenary discussion about the Future of our Forests, a keynote address on the Future of Wood, and a total of eight breakout sessions on a variety of topics of interest to people and businesses throughout Vermont's forest and wood products industry, including Reducing Worker's Compensation Rates through Logger Safety; Reinvesting in the Vermont Sawmill; From Tree to Table: Tapping into Vermont Tourists' Desire for Forest-Based Experiences; Dry Wood Chips - Current and Future Market Opportunities; Trends in Design - How Vermont Wood Products Stack Up; Success(ion) Planning - Options for Businesses to Consider; SEO: What Is It, and Why Do I Need It? How to Get Your Business Discovered Online; and Telling Your Story.



The full agenda with speakers can be found here: <https://www.vsjf.org/programs/vermont-forest-products-program/vermont-forest-summit/>

All sessions were videotaped by Kingdom Access public access television, and will be available on the Summit webpage very soon! The opening plenary was a wide-ranging discussion about the future of

Vermont's forests moderated by Deputy Commissioner Sam Lincoln. The conversation led to an interesting focus on the need for the forest and wood products industry to tell a compelling story about its role in keeping Vermont's forests as forests.

And how there is an opportunity for more collaboration between the forest products and recreation sectors, as they have a shared goal of conserving forests for environmental and economic viability.



The Summit also featured a keynote address by Donna Cassese, from Sappi, who gave an inspiring talk about the Future of Wood. Her address was followed by table discussions where participants listed their top three new wood products they believe have potential to be developed in Vermont, or that would positively impact Vermont's working forests; what would be needed to succeed, and what questions need to be answered. These discussions yielded suggestions ranging from pursuing additional pellet and chip markets to investigating wood fiber insulation, biofuels and biochar.

We collected all of this information, and the Vermont Forest Industry Network Steering Committee met on May 23 to review and discuss next steps, which include taking a deep dive into market research done recently by FOR-Maine, a group focused on economic development for Maine's forest economy. We have reached out to Ken Jones with the Department of Economic Development to assist us in reviewing regional market research on potential products that could be produced in Vermont, or benefit the supply chain for Vermont-based forest and wood products companies.

During dinner, we debuted a short video, the Life of a Tree, to showcase the people and businesses who steward Vermont's forests and create wood products that are cherished for a lifetime.

The video, a partnership between Cabot Creamery Cooperative and the Vermont Wood Works Council, can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9v3QojxsXY>

A big thank you to Summit promotional partner the

Vermont Forest Products Association!



Vermont Forest Products Regional Roundup

Newport, VT



Colleen Goodridge of Goodridge Lumber and VFPA Vice President, welcomed the group of about 60 attendees to this annual regional event. Information about the VFPA, now celebrating 42 years of serving all sectors of the Forest Products Industry was presented – mission, membership, 2018 Year in Review

and funding/expenses of the organization.

Joining the breakfast/meeting were several area Representatives – Senator Bobby Starr, Rep. Vicki Strong, Rep. Mark Higley, Rep. Brian Smith, Rep. Woody Page, and Rep. Charen Fegard – who introduced themselves and shared comments with the group. All expressed the importance of having a strong Forest Products Industry in Vermont and offered their assistance in Montpelier in support of the industry. VFPA will be in contact with the Legislators as we look to the next legislative session.

Barbara Ross, outgoing VFPA Administrative Secretary/Asst. Treasurer, was presented a plaque thanking Barb for her 8 years of service and dedication to the Vermont Forest Products Industry – keeping everyone connected and informed, handling finances, organizing special events, and producing the VFPA newsletter enjoyed by the industry, as well as the general public. Great job Barb!



Brandy Inkel, new Administrative Secretary/Asst Treasurer, was present and is anxious to meet all the folks involved in the Forest Products Industry.

Sam Lincoln, Dept. Commissioner of the VT. Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation, presented information on the new “VT Logger Safety and Workers’ Compensation Insurance Program,” a new initiative to address the high costs of workers’ compensation insurance for logging contractors in Vermont’s forest economy. More information about the program will be coming soon, as this initiative begins to be available to loggers.

The Vermont Logger Safety and Workers’ Compensation

Council on Compensation Insurance, insurance carriers and business owners in the forestry sector—will modernize safety training for logging contractors and their employees, reducing injuries and insurance claims and allowing them to qualify for reduced insurance rates.

Paul Frederick, Wood Utilization Forester, VT. Dept. Forest, Parks and Recreation, gave updates on the AMP’S, skidder bridges, and the emerald ash borer.



Christine McGowen, Forest Products Program Director, VT. Sustainable Jobs Fund, announced the upcoming second annual VT. Forest Industry Summit that will be held at Burke Mountain on May 2nd and 3rd.

LEAP continuing education credits were given for the ½ day event for those attending.

Thank you to all VFPA members for their continued support in moving our industry forward in 2019 and beyond.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS ROUNDUP POSSIBLE!
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

Weyerhaeuser Company

Isabelle Insurance Agency

Yankee Farm Credit

Lamell Lumber Corp.

Goodridge Lumber

Columbia Forest Products

Green Mountain Mulch

Community National Bank

2019 NELA Awards Presentations

On May 16th, 2019 the Northeastern Loggers' Association honored individuals and companies in the regional Forest Products Industry for their outstanding contributions to the industry. NELA Awards were presented at the Annual Loggers' Banquet sponsored by Farm Credit at Jeff's Catering and Conference Center, Brewer, Maine in a ceremony attended by more than 200 members of the Forest Products Industry. Award winners included:



Outstanding Logging Operator **Brian Lafoe and Stan Parker,** **Lafoe Logging** *Orleans, Vermont*

“Our Award winners, Brian Lafoe and Stan Parker of Vermont’s Lafoe Logging, have a reputation that speaks loudly. They are known throughout the industry as loggers who care deeply for the health of the forest, and also work to advance the profession of timber harvesting. Brian Lafoe has been logging since the 1970’s. Little did Brian know when he dabbled in piling softwood pulp and cedar in the 1970’s that his passion for logging and forestry would lead him to establish Lafoe Logging, and that Lafoe Logging would go on to be known as one of the best operations in our region. In 1989 Brian began his full-time logging career with his brother Rick, and began working for Wagner, Plum Creek, and private landowners. In 2003, he was joined in business by his son in law, Stan Parker. Brother Rick retired last year, and today Brian and Stan run a cut to length system and forwarder, together as a team, “downsizing” from earlier days. Lafoe Logging takes great pride in their work, and they also give back to the industry. Understanding the importance of safety, they have sponsored first aid training in their garage for local logging contractors. They are extraordinary in their outreach to students, landowners, legislators, and the public to bring awareness about the benefits of good forest management. They see a future in our industry for young people and have worked extensively over the years with the students of the North Country Career Center in Newport, Vermont. They are also committed to environmental compliance on all their jobs, have a deep understanding of forest management, and always work to achieve landowners’ goals. Lafoe Logging demonstrates, in all areas of their work, the very best of our industry.”



Outstanding Use of Wood **Stafford Tech Forestry and Natural Resources Program** *Rutland, Vermont*

“This Award does not go to a single person, but to a group of individuals who have worked hard to improve their community through the use of wood products. The Stafford Technical Center’s Forestry and Natural Resources Program, under the direction of their teacher, Mark Raishart, have sold, purchased, and processed all manner of timber products this year. They have used those products to build needed structures in their Vermont community. Using wood salvaged from city forest lands in Rutland, Vermont, the team built a pavilion for Rutland Northwest School, a lean-to for the Kehoe Conservation Camp, and a sugarhouse for their own high school. They learned to mill custom lumber, as well as processed firewood for charity. Because of their energy and willingness to help where needed, we’d like to honor the Stafford Technical Center for Forestry and Natural Resources with this year’s award for Outstanding Use of Wood.”

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Outstanding Forest Products Trucking operator
Clint Joslyn, CS Joslyn Trucking
Winchester, New Hampshire

“The nominators for Outstanding Forest Products Trucking Operator note that Clint Joslyn is “One of the hardest working people on the planet!” Clint’s pride, honesty, dependability, and charm have made the last 20 years a pleasure to work with him. Clint has been in the forest products business in southern Vermont and New Hampshire for most of his life. His truck is always clean, he arrives on time or is early, and does his work with good humor and efficiency. After 30 years, he has a perfect safety record. He is a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy, and our industry is lucky to have him, even as his approaches retirement this year. We are very happy to honor Clint Joslyn with this year’s award for Outstanding Forest Products Trucking Operator.”

Other award winners were:

John Caveney, Spofford, NH– *Outstanding Leadership in Industry*

Robert Olson, New Hampshire– *Outstanding Industry Activist*

Karen Bennet, New Hampshire– *Outstanding Contributions to Forest Industry Education*

Peter Sformo, WJ Cox Associates, Clarence, New York– *Outstanding Contributions to Safety*

Old Castle Lawn and Garden, Wyoming, Rhode Island– *Outstanding Wood Manufacturer*

***Congratulations to all
Award winners!***



Forests, Filtration and Farms, Vermont Company Bets on Biochar to Clean Up Lake Champlain

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

Luke Persons and Roger Pion wanted to start a business, preferably one that kept them connected to the forested working landscape in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. With backgrounds in logging, excavating and trucking, the friends had heard about an emerging market for biochar, but knew little about its production or use. "They literally started watching YouTube videos," said Donna Pion, co-founder of [Green State Biochar](#). "By the time I'd finished reading through the research and working out a business model, Luke and Roger had already built a kiln." Now, two years into production, Green State Biochar is one of a handful of regional producers bench testing applications and effectiveness in the northeast. "There's a lot of academic research coming out of U.S. and global institutions including Cornell and Texas A & M," said Pion. "We're taking all that science and putting it into practice here in Vermont."

Referred to as "black gold," biochar is creating a buzz in the wood products industry. Produced through pyrolysis, biochar is a charcoal-like solid made from biomass that is being tested globally in applications ranging from soil amendment, to stormwater filtration, odor control on industrial poultry farms, carbon sequestration, animal feed, and even packaging materials.

"It's actually an ancient process," said Kathleen Draper, U.S. Director at the Ithaca Institute for Carbon Intelligence speaking in Hardwick at a Vermont Forest Industry Network Meet-Up this past March. "Indigenous communities around the world have been using biochar for centuries to reduce waste and enrich soil for agriculture. We are only now rediscovering its potential to improve water and air quality, and to harness carbon gasses that are contributing to climate change."

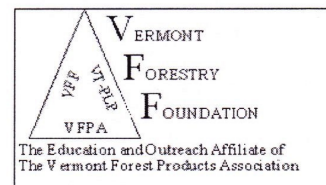
Biochar can be made from any organic biomass—coconut shells, manure, hardwoods, softwoods, construction debris—and its use varies dramatically based on geography and feedstock composition. "In drought areas, biochar can be added to soil to improve water retention," said Draper. "In China it's being used to reduce agricultural waste. Here in Vermont, we are looking at its potential to absorb phosphorus. In fact, it's versatility is a challenge because how it's used depends entirely on the feedstock and that research is happening in real time."

Roger Pion stands next to a pyrolysis machine — or kiln — used to make biochar. Two years into production, Green State Biochar is one of a handful of regional producers bench testing applications and effectiveness in the northeast. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.



Vermont Forestry Foundation

The official education and outreach arm of the Vermont Forest Products Association



SILVICULTURAL FIELD DAY A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

We did have a silvicultural field day May 31 with about 75 in attendance. This was mostly foresters, from all around the region, but we were glad to have several loggers and landowners along with the local conservation commission. Bill Leak was honored with a plaque for 62 years of service as a Forest Service silvicultural expert. We also had Mariko Yamasaki (USFS wildlife scientist), AJ Follensbee (County Forester), Ben Farina (USFS silviculturist), Jeff Tilly (USFS) and Tony D'Amato (UVM Rubenstein School) as "presenters". Of course, part of our success is not allowing the presenters to monopolize the discussion, drawing out the experience and perspectives of everyone. We covered a wide range of topics, well beyond the stands we walked through.

The day was spent on the property of Mrs. Stowell, in Cavendish VT, who's husband had managed and logged this land for almost 50 years. We were able to see the results of his efforts, along with recent harvesting in several units of both pine and mixed hardwoods. We saw a range of shelterwood treatments in the pine, along with group and individual tree selection in the hardwood and hemlock sections. Mrs Stowell and Bill Leak were able to ride around in an ATV for most of the trip, which was exciting at times.



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"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



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Hickok & Boardman
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Denis, Ricker & Brown Hickok & Boardman
"Here when you need us!"

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd

Forester/Herbicide Applicator

Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd. has an opening for a full time Forester. MTL is looking to hire an individual to work on our company owned lands as well as land we manage for private clients. Specifically, we are looking for someone who has a strong forestry passion with IPM and herbicide interests who will be capable of managing and growing our existing invasive species control program. It is estimated that the invasive management responsibilities will be the majority of the work week during treatment seasons. The rest of the time the primary duties will be administrative involving forest management planning and GIS mapping with fieldwork, including timber inventory, boundary line maintenance, and timber sale layout and supervision.

This is an exciting opportunity for the individual who is a team player and wants to be involved with a small but progressive company that is committed to long-term sustainable and ecologically responsible forestry. MTL is well known in the Vermont and New Hampshire conservation & forestry communities as being responsible stewards of the lands we manage. We manage about 34,000 acres of our own land and over 50,000 acres of private land throughout Vermont & New Hampshire from our main office in New London NH.

Minimum qualifications include a two-year degree with a strong background in invasive species management, computers including GIS, and forestry knowledge. We are willing to train the right individual. The successful candidate will need to live within 1-hour drive of New London, New Hampshire. Salary will be based on experience and abilities. We also offer a health insurance package as well as profit sharing.

If you would like to learn more about MTL please visit our web site at www.mtlforests.com.
If you are interested in exploring this position, please send a cover letter and a resume to

Jeremy Turner
Managing Forester
Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.
P.O. Box 966
New London, NH 03257



The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

Ela Chapin, Viability Program Director

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that forest products businesses can use to access one-on-one, tailored business planning and business-related technical assistance. It's a great opportunity for business owners who are looking to make improvements to their operations.

Use the Viability Program to...

- Expand your businesses & access capital
- Assess the feasibility of new equipment, products and/or enterprises
- Transition ownership



The Viability Program helps Vermont business owners work smarter, not harder.

If there are big changes coming for your business, whether it's...

- Studying the feasibility of adding a new enterprise, or
- Improving record-keeping to keep better tabs on finances, or
- Identifying what's making money rather than losing it to focus just on what's profitable, or
- Preparing a business plan to go to the bank for a loan, or
- Understanding the steps needed to sell or transfer the business to a successor, or any other complication on the horizon

...it's a lot easier to be successful with some outside expertise.

Whether times are tough and you're trying to weather the storm, or you feel like you've grabbed a tiger by the tail, and need help managing growth, the Viability Program can work with you on the issues at hand.

Apply today! Cost: \$75 for up to 1 year of services.

Get Started: Contact Ela Chapin (ela@vhcb.org or 802-828-2117) or find our application online www.vhcb.org/viability.

The Viability Program is a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Good for you. Good for our forests.®

SFI-00001

The past six months have been an interesting time for the SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC) of Vermont. We attended and participated in several events allowing us to continue promoting SFI and educate people inside the industry, in government roles and the general public about the importance of a working forests and the principles of sustainability. Events included a legislative breakfast, a forest industry summit, Project Learning Tree, (PLT) steering committee meetings, and talk radio. We worked hard on our priorities of promoting a new safety culture in the industry to reduce workers' compensation costs and expand Project Learning Tree into more schools and other youth groups.

SFI/AIV Legislative Breakfast Reception - The 2019 SFI/AIV Legislative breakfast event took place March 21, in the Statehouse Cafeteria. Approximately 20 industry members participated including mill owners, foresters and land owners meeting with several legislators exchanging greetings and discussing issues of the day. New this year, we sponsored a special Legislative meeting in the Statehouse's Ethan Allen Room and met with Legislative leaders including Senate President Pro-Tempore, Tim Ashe, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair, Bobby Starr, House Speaker, Mitzi Johnson. CV Chamber President Bill Moore also attended to explain a couple moving bills such as medical monitoring and strict liability for the use of toxins in a business setting. At noon, we had a pizza lunch in the AIV Conference Room. Deputy Commissioner Sam Lincoln who offered a status update on workers' comp and loggers safety training.

In early April, SFI attended the second annual **Vermont Forestry Industry Summit** held in Burke, Vermont by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. It was a day and evening event with several panel discussions and lots of networking opportunities. SFI VT had a display booth with stand-up displays, literature on both SFI and PLT. About 400 attended, many visited the booth. Link to a summary of the Summit including videos of the sessions is here: <http://www.vsjf.org/programs/vermont-forest-products-program/vermont-forest-summit/>

SFI Northeast Regional Meeting – On May 30, 2019, Ed Larson attended the annual regional SIC meeting held at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY. The meeting was well attended including SIC's from NY, NH, ME, and PA. We learned a great deal about new SFI initiatives including PLT and a plan to revise the SFI standards. We also had a chance to preview some of the new marketing materials SFI will be rolling out soon. A draft of the revised standards are expected in October of this year and will be in effect 2022 – 2029.

Common Sense Radio – There were a few occasions to be a guest on the WDEV daily "Common Sense Radio Show" to update listeners on SFI and its activities. Host Bill Sayre, VFPA Director and Chair of the VT SFI SIC, visited with SFI Coordinator Ed Larson and Bruce Shields, VFPA Director and SFI SIC Chair of its Outreach Committee to talk about the value and importance of SFI in Vermont. A special show took place with Larson reporting live from the PLT Conference in Little Rock co-hosting the show with Bruce Shields. The first half-hour included SFI President Kathy Abusow and PLT National Leader Ester Cowles talking about the SFI/PLT relationship, the conference and the value of getting young people interested in forestry and the forest products industry. It was a big hit at the conference Recordings have been added to the Vermont SFI Web site. We plan to continue this form of outreach in 2020 and beyond.

Project Learning Tree - PLT in Vermont. Vermont PLT is housed in the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). Rebecca Roy has returned to be the coordinator, part time and will continue to work in the Parks Division. Our Core Team comprised of SFI VT, FPR and VT Tree Farm has met several times the past two years to work on a plan. We have created an expanded steering committee that adds VT Dept. of Education, UVM Extension, Shelbourne Farms, Merck Forestry Center and VT Institute of Natural Sciences. We have a plan working with forest-based education centers as hubs for teacher trainings to get PLT into more schools and other youth groups.

Larson attended a PLT Coordinators' Conference in Little Rock, AK in early May. It provided him with a chance to do a deep dive into the details of the program and learn about how other states administer PLT. Adding PLT to our tool box of programs coincides well with the SFI mission to educate our youth about the forest and forestry and its many values in a balanced fashion. In PLT, children are taught how to think, not what to think,

LEAP and Loggers Safety Training - SFI currently posts all Vermont Logging Contractors that are currently certified under Loggers Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) on its web site. SFI continues to work with LEAP and FPR to maintain the quality of the training curriculum with an increased emphasize on safety. This is in order to get Workers' Compensation Insurance (WC) carriers to recognize this program and offer lower premiums for enrollees. We have supported FPR Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln in his efforts and leadership to attract more insurance carriers and find lower comp. rates. As a result, the LEAP curriculum has been revamped adding more training for mechanized and non-mechanized contractors and a special session targeted to the business owner or a project manager. Early this year, the VT Dept. of Financial Regulation, (DFR), included two new job class categories for LEAP Certified Logging contractors and for the first two years required insurance carriers to offer policies with a sizable discount. This added to the already reduced rates adjusted this past year due to rate actuaries, several employers are experiencing substantially reduced rates. The effort is far from over, Vermont remains one of the highest WC rate states in the region, but it is a great start. DFR is currently trying to hire on a workplace safety investigator for logging operations to visit jobs and inspect equipment and practices as a way to coach crews on how to incorporate a culture of safety on all logging jobs.

Mill and new participant prospects – SFI VT was awarded a Community Engagement Grant from SFI Inc. This award will allow Coordinator Larson to get around Vermont and meet many new prospects and strengthen awareness of SFI. This grant is also, in part, intends to promote Project Learning Tree and their focus on "Green Careers" in the forestry sector in Vermont.

SFI/AIV Forest Policy Task Force - The first of two semi-annual meetings will be held on **July 31, 2019** at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier. A full line up is scheduled, agenda will be out soon. We expect a good turnout of about 50 or so members of the industry. SAF and LEAP CE credits are available.

Look forward to meeting with all of you on the 31st

Ed Larson, Coordinator, SFI VT
William Sayre, Chair, SFI VT

EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTED IN ADDISON AND ORLEANS COUNTIES

Derby Line, Vt. - The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has confirmed that insects collected from ash trees in Derby Line, Vermont are emerald ash borers (EAB). This is the first detection in Orleans County. This latest discovery follows an announcement in June that insects collected from ash trees in Bristol, VT were larvae of the emerald ash borer (EAB). This invasive insect was first discovered in Vermont in February 2018, and has now been confirmed in Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Grand Isle, Orange, Orleans and Washington counties.

Landowners and other residents of Derby, Bristol and surrounding towns are urged to look for signs and symptoms of the insect and report suspicious findings on vtinvasives.org. Detailed information about the pest and what to look for may be found at the same website.

Based on tree symptoms, EAB had already spread to the Derby Line location before it was first detected in Vermont last year. Although this is a new location in Vermont, the Coaticook and Memphremagog Regional County Municipalities, due north of Orleans County in Quebec, have been part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's EAB regulated area since January 2018. EAB is likely to be present in other locations within ten miles of known infestations. In addition to Derby, this area includes Newport City and Holland, and parts of Newport Town, Coventry, Charleston, Brownington, Morgan, and Norton. Locations included in the area within ten miles of the Bristol find include New Haven, Waltham, Buels Gore and Vergennes, parts of Monkton, Starksboro, Lincoln, Middlebury, Weybridge, Ferrisburgh, and Ripton, and smaller areas of Warren, Fayston, Addison, Panton, Huntington, Granville and Hinesburg.



Moving any infested material, especially ash firewood, logs, and pruning debris, can quickly expand the infestation, so it is critical Vermonters follow the 'slow-the-spread' recommendations, available at <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont/slow-spread-of-eab>.

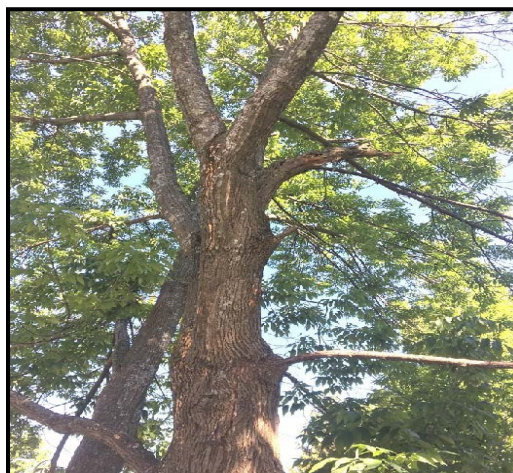
One important recommendation is to obtain firewood locally. If you're going camping this summer, please leave your firewood at home. It is still illegal to bring untreated firewood from out of state into Vermont.

EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves water and sugars up and down the trunk. It was first discovered in North America in the Detroit area in 2002, and over the past seventeen years it has decimated ash populations. EAB is known to occur in 35 states and five Canadian provinces.

Find more EAB information at vtinvasives.org including:

- The current map of the infested zone
- How to identify ash trees
- Resources for forest landowners, foresters, loggers, homeowners and municipalities

An email from a Derby Line Village resident prompted the confirmation of emerald ash borer on July 2. The infested tree is about six feet from the international border, with a few branches hanging over into Canada. There is a fair amount of dieback in the canopy, significant woodpecker activity (left) and D-shaped exit holes. Photos: J. Nunery



Vermont Tech Centers and Students ~ Our Forest Industry's Future

Many activities and training are taking place in our Tech Centers throughout the State in the forestry, natural resource and agriculture programs. These young people are the **FUTURE** of our Forest Products Industry.

The **Vermont Forest Products Association** invites these young people to become a part of our industry organization through our special Student Memberships. Among their member benefits would be their own free subscription to the Northern Logger Magazine and free quarterly VFPA newsletters. VFPA looks forward to meeting these young people, working together and learning from each other, recognizing that Vermont's forests and forest products industries are crucial to sustaining the rural character and economics of our Vermont communities.

Stafford Tech Forestry And Natural Resources Program- Rutland, VT

“Outstanding Use of Wood”

We interviewed Mark Raishart, a high school instructor at Stafford Tech about how he and his forestry students worked to improve their Rutland, Vermont community.

The Northern Logger: You and your students have built a pavilion for Rutland Northwest School, a lean-to for the Kehoe Conservation Camp, and a sugarhouse for your own school – all with lumber you processed yourself. Can you tell us a bit about the work you've done over the past year with your students?

Mark Raishart: The projects that we did that were specifically related to receiving this award were developed because we had an excess of logs. We normally harvest timber in the Rutland City Forest and we work with the Rutland City forester to do that. We were working with red pine a few years ago and the market that we had been selling it to basically cut us off about mid-winter, so we had probably about 16,000 feet of logs that we had to deal with. We brought it back to our school and tried to figure out some projects -- specifically donated projects -- that we could do to utilize the lumber, so that we weren't just sitting on it and it didn't go to waste, and so that we had some other educational outcomes.

The work that we've been doing is, in some ways, a community service project. But oftentimes we also exchange education with the organizations we work with. The projects that we do are collaborative with different organizations. For instance, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been really helpful in providing fish and wildlife education to the students throughout the year. The work that we do for them is in exchange for their generosity and their time.

It really works out well to have those opportunities in a public setting, so that the work that we do both fits in well with our curriculum but also provides community service to the greatest number of people. Rather than doing a project on a private property, I try to focus on public lands projects, so that students are able to get the best experience that they can get through a project and provide the most service that we can to the greatest good.

We got a grant from the American Forestry Foundation and Project Learning Tree for \$1000 towards some materials to build the sugar house on-site here at our school. That was one of the three projects that we did. We had the extra wood, so we decided we'd do some other projects to secure the funding, or at least the materials, for doing the other things that we worked on.

NL: Can you tell me a little bit about the students themselves?

Raishart: They come from all over Rutland County. Some live in the city of Rutland and some live on the far reaches of the county in more rural areas. Our students have very diverse backgrounds and experiences and long-term goals. When we teach throughout the year, we don't necessarily have an objective to make all the students end up doing the same thing – in terms of going to the same college or having the same skills. They have very different interests and very different long-term goals. I try to provide them with as many different opportunities as I can, so that they are able to pursue their individual interests.

NL: How have they handled the challenges this year? How do you navigate that?

Raishart: I think being flexible is probably the most important thing here. Both for me as a teacher but also for the students. There are a lot of changes and interruptions and obstacles in terms of weather and scheduling and personal issues, so we kind of look at whatever the long-term goal is. We work towards that within the best capacity that we can. Sometimes that doesn't mean we do what we planned. It means we do what we can with what we have available.

The students are really excited about this work. It was a several year project harvesting the lumber, the timber, and cutting it and drying it, and working on the projects. Especially those students that were involved in the whole process were really excited and, I think, really proud to have been recognized for the work that they do. I don't think that we always realize how substantial an impact the stuff that we do has on the community around us. I think the award really was an opportunity for them to reflect on that.



Skidder Bridge Program Will Improve Practices at Temporary Stream Crossings

Dave Wilcox- FPR Watershed Forester

It has been clearly demonstrated that loggers are willing to use temporary skidder and truck bridges when they are available. The Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation has made it a priority to make bridges available through the Temporary Skidder Bridge Grant Program for loggers and land managers.

In the spring of 2019, FPR provided \$50,000 to the forest products industry through a cost-share program for the purchase of temporary skidder bridges. Nine wooden bridges and three steel bridges were awarded through the program. Most of the temporary skidder bridges that we see in Vermont have been the traditional three-panel wooden bridges, but another style of bridge is an all-steel bridge that is similar in size, but can handle a larger load, at a longer span, and easily has double the life span of the wooden bridges. The cost of these 20' steel bridges is around \$12,000. Through this cost-share program, 75% of the cost of these bridges, up to \$9,000, will be paid for through the grant. This makes these bridges significantly more accessible to those working in the forest products industry. We will see how these new steel bridges work out for people, and you may see more of them in the woods in the future.



Wooden Skidder Bridge



Example of an all-Steel Skidder Bridge

FPR will be doing another cost-share program in the fall for more skidder bridges. To find out more information about FPR's bridge cost-share programs, bridge rental programs, or training opportunities, visit our website at: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/acceptable-management-practices>

Also, the new AMP manual is almost done! The new manual, presented in an all-new layout, will reflect the rule changes that went into effect in 2018. In addition, it will include updated supporting information, as well as information on planning and the wetland rules. Stay tuned for its release in the next few weeks. More information on how to get a copy will be available on the website. If you have any questions about this, or the skidder bridge programs, contact

Dave Wilcox- FPR Watershed Forester at (802)793-0265 or david.wilcox@vermont.gov



Summary of Current FPR Portable Bridge Rentals

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

david.wilcox@vermont.gov

802-793-0265

Wooden three-panel portable skidder bridges: Available through the Natural Resource Conservation Districts, with technical support from the Northern and Southern Private Lands Foresters (formerly the NRCS Foresters). These bridges are \$100 per month to rent and are designed to be installed on an abutment log or directly on the top of a streambank. They can be moved with most log truck

and are relatively inexpensive to move. For information on the rentals call:

Northern Private Lands Forester: Emily Potter (802)622-4230
emily.potter@vermont.gov

Southern Private Lands Forester: Brian Renfro (802)522-8244
brian.renfro@vermont.gov



Wood-over-steel skidder bridges: FPR has three, 25' long, two-section steel I-beam bridges with wooden decks. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder and a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have also been used for log trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. These bridges are located in Barre, Springfield and Rutland. Rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. These bridges were funded through a grant from the US Forest Service.

Watershed Forester: Dave Wilcox (802) 793-0265
david.wilcox@vermont.gov



Steel truck bridges: FPR has two temporary truck bridges that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM Fabricating in Pennsylvania. FPR has a 30' and a 40' bridge. They weigh between 25,000 and 30,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. These are substantial bridges and require at least one, and sometimes two medium to large excavators to load, unload and set in place. They also require a solid abutment to be set on, so they don't twist. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month and the rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. When not in use, these bridges will be located in Middlesex. These bridges were funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Watershed Forester: Dave Wilcox (802) 793-0265
david.wilcox@vermont.gov





LEAP is committed to working with the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. Loggers that meet and follow the program standards can receive up to a **15% discount** on their workers' compensation insurance premiums through the new occupation class codes of "safety certified mechanized logger" and "safety certified non-mechanized logger." The LEAP program, with recently updated training and continuing education standards, endorsed by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), is dedicated to help create a higher "Culture of Safety".

Non-mechanized loggers - chainsaw tree felling and processing.

All employees must have taken all four levels of Game of Logging within the past five years, or, if it was more than five years since they took all four levels, they must take Level 5, a refresher course.

The Game of Logging (GOL)

This is a four-day training program required for all Non-mechanized loggers!

Cost: \$150/day/Level *Bring your own Lunch*

Class limit: 10 loggers per day

Instructor: John Adler, Northeast Woodland Training.

GOL training is the industry standard for chainsaw safety and efficiency. It will be the main safety component for LEAP's non-mechanized training program. Location will be sent in advance to those who register. All trainings begin at 7:45 am.

Chester, VT:

Level 1 - Aug 19

Level 2 - Aug 20

Level 3 - Oct 23

Level 4 - Oct 24

Level 5 (Refresher) - Oct 25

Derby, VT:

Level 1 - Aug 21

Level 2 - Aug 22

Level 5 (Refresher) - Aug 23

Level 3 - Oct 21

Level 4 - Oct 22

Mechanized loggers - all work is performed from inside the safety of a cab with ROPS (Rollover Protective Structure) or FOPS (Falling Object Protective Structure).

Employees must take the new "Introduction to Mechanized Logging Safety" and "Advanced Logger Safety"

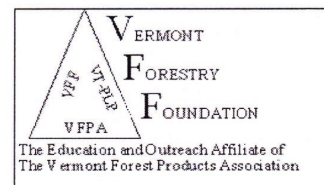
Stay tuned for training dates in the fall.

Contact David Birdsall with any questions: dwbirdsall@vermontel.net



Vermont Forestry Foundation

The official education and outreach arm of the Vermont Forest Products Association



The Mission of VFF is to educate the people within the forest products industry to improve efficiency, safety, professionalism, to increase profitability and build a positive image for the industry. In addition, VFF is engaged in outreach efforts to educate the general public about the importance of a vibrant working forest and forest products industry in Vermont.

VFF is a non-profit 501 © (3) organization that accepts grants and donations to meet its mission. Donations are tax exempt. VFF is run by a Board of Trustees that are elected for four year terms at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Forest Products Association.

Current Trustees and Officers:

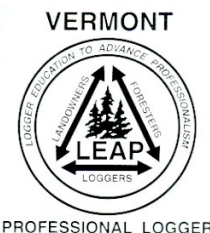
President: Robbo Holleran, Chester, Consulting Forester (802) 875-3021
 Vice President: Steve Hardy, Chesterfield, NH, Forester (603) 254-1644
 Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Shields, Eden, Landowner/Sugar maker (802) 888-5165

Trustees:

Dennis Allard, Springfield, VT, Logger ~ Delwin Fielder, Goshen, VT Logger ~ John Meyer, Montpelier, Forester ~ Bill Sayre, Bristol, Sawmill ~ Chris Fife, Fairfield, ME, Landowner ~ Sean Barrows, West Rutland, Sawmill ~ Warren Hill, Greensboro, Logger **Please contact the VFF if there are specific courses, workshops or training that will help you in your business**

LEAP~Logger Education to Advance Professionalism

Submitted by David Birdsall



MISSION: The purpose of the Vermont LEAP program is to promote a professional approach to logging by providing the knowledge necessary for LEAP participants to work safely, efficiently, and in an environmentally conscientious manner while harvesting timber in Vermont. The LEAP Curriculum exceeds the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). LEAP will be working with the Vermont Forest Products Association to benefit and strengthen the Forest Industry in Vermont. To encourage loggers to join VFPA, LEAP will offer a reduced rate for VFPA members.

How it works!

The LEAP Program

Step 1. Provisional LEAP Certification for Loggers new to Logger Education:

A logger must complete 24 hours (three days) of instruction, in the **Primary Curriculum** to achieve **Provisional Status**.

Step 2. Full LEAP Certification – for loggers who have completed the Primary Curriculum.

A logger must complete 3 additional workshops, within 2 years of obtaining **Provisional** status to achieve **Full Certification**. One of which must be First Aid & CPR. The other two can be Electives of choice.

Step 3. Maintaining Full Certification – Continuing Education (CE) – for loggers who have completed the Secondary Curriculum.

To maintain **Full Certification**, a logger is required to participate in 2 days of related CE programs or public service, within 2 years thereafter. First Aid and CPR certification must be kept current as well.

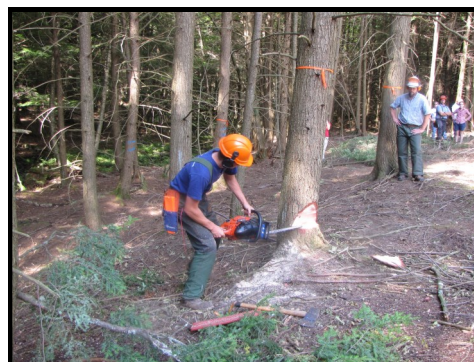
Bottom Line – once certified, complete one workshop a year to remain certified!

How much does it cost?

LEAP requires a one-time Registration fee:
 \$250 for VFPA members,
 \$300 for others.

There will be day fees associated with the different workshops, these rates vary depending on the presenter or topic. The fees typically range from Free to \$150.

Contact David Birdsall, LEAP Coordinator
 41 Northrup Road, Middletown Springs, VT 05757
 email: dwbirdsall@vermontel.net
 website: www.vtleap.com Phone: 802-235-2908



WHY BE A VFPA MEMBER?

The forest products industry is crucial to Vermont's economy and identity. The last few years have been a struggle for many in the forest products industry. Many are asking, "What can I do to bring about positive change?"

One of the most important things we can do is to support the organizations that support our industry. Our success depends on the strength of our organization, both in number of members and also in its financial health.

The mission of the Vermont Forest Products Association is to promote and defend the interests of our members.

VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont.

Your membership in VFPA is important. As a member of VFPA we can collectively seek ways to improve opportunities for our industry. Your membership gives you a place to learn more about improving your business, voice your concerns and share with others in helping Vermont remain a rural state that is proud to include a vibrant forest products industry.

We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

For more information, or a membership application, please visit www.vtfpa.org or contact Brandy at vtfpa@hotmail.com



NEW MEMBERS 2019

Nathan Foster
Russell Drown-Russell Drown &
Sons Logging
Darcy Nelson-DN Firewood
Keith Braman Logging

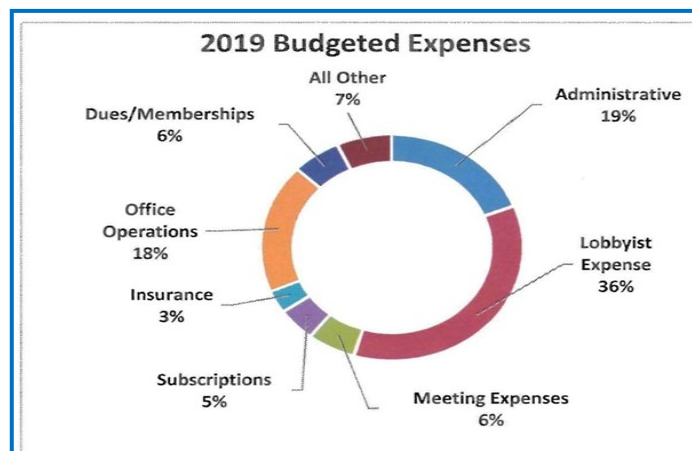
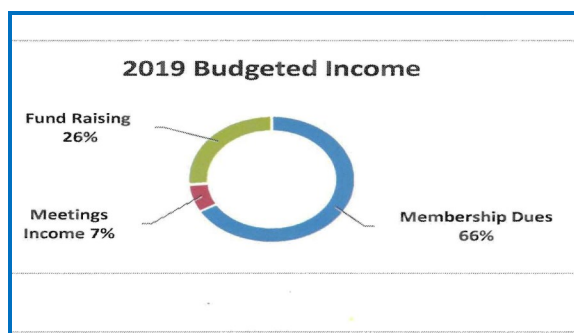
Chris Melendy
Reese Pedro-Pedro Logging
Brian Piper-BP's Excavation Logging
& Trucking
Robert Spring - Spring Tree Co.

Nancy Cass-Cass Insurance Agency
Howard Manosh – H.A Manosh Co.
Keith Simoneau - Timber Gardens
Normand Inkel - L&N Inkel Logging

Thank you to all those who have given their support through memberships with the VFPA this year

VFPA Operating Budget for 2019 is \$42,055.00

Presently, \$5,000.00 is needed in order to meet our 2019 obligations. Please consider a contribution to the 2019 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.



**Vermont Forest Products Association
P.O. Box 110, Coventry, VT 05825**

"The Voice of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont since 1977."

www.vtfpa.org

E-mail: vtfpa@hotmail.com

Phone: 802-461-5688

Coventry, Vermont 05825

P.O. Box 110

Vermont Forest Products Association



Dates and Events

August– There will not be a VFPA Directors' Meeting for the month of August.

Sept. 19– VFPA Directors Meeting– location to be announced.

Oct. 17– VFPA Directors Meeting– The Steakhouse Restaurant
1239 US Route 302 Berlin, Vermont. 4pm.

*Directors' Meetings are open meetings and all forest
industry folks are invited to attend*



~ Honors the traditions of the
working forests of the past
~Strengthens the
Industry of today
~Helps shape the future of the
forest products industry
for generations to come
