



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

Photojournalist George Bellerose, "Portrait of a Forest: Men and Machine" to Speak at VFPA Annual Meeting

The 2019 VFPA Annual Meeting is shaping up to be one of our best meetings ever - great speakers, lots of industry updates and information and great folks from the industry to spend your day with!

The day long meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26 at the Steakhouse Restaurant in Berlin, VT from 9 am to 3 pm.

The morning begins with the business meeting after which we will hear from invited guests Gov. Phil Scott; Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Forests and Parks; Sam Lincoln, Dep. Commissioner of Forests and Parks; VFPA Lobbyist, Ed Larson; Christine McGowan of Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Vermont Traditions Coalition Executive Director, Mike Covey and Eileen Townsend, Editor of Northern Logger Magazine. We will also be presenting the 2018 VFPA Awards.

After lunch we will hear from our keynote speaker, photojournalist George Bellerose who will talk about his current project. In 2013, he began documenting the forest products community for his forthcoming book, *Portrait of a Forest: Men and Machine*, to be published by the Vermont Folklife Center in 2019.

Mr. Bellerose has spent countless hours photographing and interviewing loggers and others documenting the challenges facing the forest products industry and the economic, ecological and cultural benefits of a healthy forest.

Photography of loggers, mill workers, and foresters is combined with 20-plus interviews with thoughtful observers like David Brynn, Jamey Fidel, the Lathrops, Bill Sayre and Michael Snyder.

Paul Costello at Vermont Council on Rural Development says, "What George has captured is important to our history. He has shown the forest products industry in a way that will help everyone better understand and appreciate it."

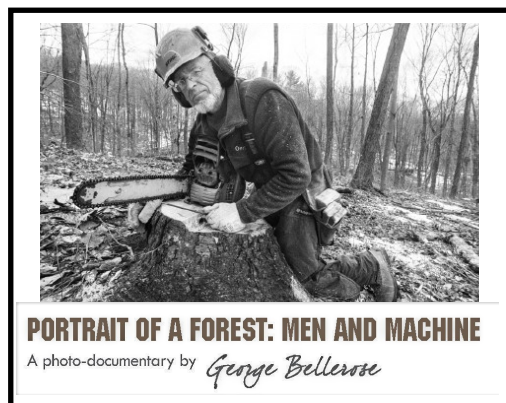
"Unlike Vermonters of the past, many of us no longer have a direct connection to the working landscape. We see logging trucks and the occasional roadside log collection, but rarely do we have contact with loggers or fully understand their importance to the state." ~ George Bellerose

For the past decade, George Bellerose has been reading industry magazines, attending policy and program conferences and round tables, interviewing experts from the forestry community, and above all, spending time in mill yards, on back roads, and in the forest with loggers. The relationships Bellerose built led to unique access and knowledge given from logger to photographer. Working together a portrait of the forest emerged.

Portrait of a Forest: Man and Machine documents how the forestry community continues to shape the land today and asks: What does it mean to be stewards of a working forest?

George Bellerose is a Weybridge photojournalist who has worked for rural weekly newspapers and city dailies. He has also been a writer, editor, photogra-

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pher, and college communication coordinator at three colleges. He has a long-time interest in documenting the lives of workers in traditional occupations, such as commercial fishermen, quarry workers, and dairy farmers.

The cost of this meeting is \$50 each which includes coffee, snacks and a hot lunch buffet.

To register, contact Barb Ross at 802-461-5688 or vtffa@hotmail.com by Wednesday, January 23, 2019

The Annual Meeting is an open meeting and all forest industry folks are invited to attend.



Lafoe Logging - VFPA “Outstanding Logging Operator” Award 2018

Brian Lafoe and Stan Parker- Lafoe Logging, LLC have recently been awarded the **VFPA “Outstanding Logging Operator” Award 2018** to be presented at the VFPA Annual Meeting being held on January 26 at the Steakhouse Restaurant in Berlin, VT

Brian Lafoe’s start in logging dates back to the mid-70’s when he dabbled in stump piling softwood pulp and cedar for a conventional Vermonter by the name of Delwin Marcotte. His passion grew from this experience and led him into other areas of logging throughout the 70’s, including cutting timber and operating skidders. In 1980, in order to secure a steady paycheck to support his family in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, he started working at Parkview Garage as a mechanic, with the added responsibility for traveling to farms to repair and change tractor tires. While working at Parkview, Brian continued logging nights and weekends. After a few years, he purchased a John Deere Dozer and Timber Jack Skidder to log the 49-acre lot that he had purchased for himself.

In 1989, Brian decided to take a leap of faith and wholeheartedly follow his passion for logging. He purchased a Cable skidder from Grappone in Lyndonville, left his position at Parkview, and began employment with Atlas Timber. With a small crew that included his brother, Rick Lafoe, and another hardworking Vermonter, he began his full-fledged career in the logging industry. Throughout the 90s, Brian continued to expand his operations with purchases of additional Cable machines while maintaining his work relationship with Atlas Timber/Wagner Woodlands. A pivotal point in his career occurred in late 1998 when the company approached him about going mechanized. With another leap of faith and deep determination, he decided to make that significant investment and change to his operations. Over the next few years, Brian invested in two Grapple Skidders, a Delimber, a Feller Buncher, and a Loader/Slasher, among other pieces of equipment and transportation, such as a semitruck for hauling logs. He hired sub-contractors and had crews working for Wagner, Plum Creek, and private Landowners.

In 2003, Brian’s son in law, Stan Parker made the decision to join his father-in-law in the logging business after years of traveling and installing liners in landfills across the Northeast. His introduction into the logging industry began as a Grapple Skidder operator, but he quickly moved on to the Feller Buncher. Stan was

interested in the Cut-to-Length system. Therefore, in 2006, Brian and Stan made the decision to purchase a 703 John Deere Harvester with a Wartah Dangle Head. One of their sub-contractors at the time, Claude Roy, purchased a John Deere 1110D Forwarder, and he and Stan started running the CTL operation. At that time, Brian was still running numerous mechanized crews throughout the Northeast.

In 2016, with thoughts toward retirement, Brian bought the Forwarder from Claude in partnership with Stan, and began operating the machine himself. They slowly started downsizing until they were essentially back to a family business, including Brian’s brother Rick, who operated the loader/slasher until his retirement last year.

Currently, it is just Brian and Stan running the Cut to Length System. They cut for private landowners, foresters, and organizations. With an eye towards the future of the logging industry in Vermont, they have participated in statewide initiatives, conferences and other public forums to help others understand the challenges and needs for the Vermont logging industry. They provide opportunities to organizations for site visits to help bring awareness and education around the work that they perform and the logging industry in Vermont. Additionally, they have worked with the North Country Career Center in Newport to help educate the students and community about logging in Vermont.



Brian Lafoe and Stan Parker discuss markets and equipment with North Country Career Center Students (March 2018)

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**VFPA Legislative Report**

Ed Larson, Lobbyist

**Elections Have Consequences**

The 2018 elections decidedly decimated any balance in the Vermont Legislature. Conservative voices were reduced to a small minority and the progressive agenda gained a huge boost. Dubbed the Anti-Trump election, the Democrats gained 10 seats in the Vermont House and one seat in the Senate creating super majorities that can override any Veto from Governor Phil Scott. Governor Scott was the only state wide Republican able to overcome the strong anti-Trump sentiment and won his second term in office.

Already, we are seeing signs of what the progressive agenda will contain. The Governor tied a record with 11 Vetoes last year. It is certain that these bills will come back, including increased minimum wage, paid family leave and strict liability for toxic chemicals. Other issues include marijuana tax and regulations, a health care insurance mandate, new tax for the clean water fund and a big new fee bill. Since taxes and fees have not increased the last two years, (Thank you Governor Scott), Legislators will want to make up for lost time. Act 250 will be a big issue this year following a two-year study by a Legislative Commission (see report below). Other industry mandates will likely surface as well such as wetland protections, harvest notifications and a trip ticket mandate.

VFPA will be fully engaged in the legislative process. The VFPA Board has decided to bring me back as your lobbyist and will be representing your interest every day. On the heels of a fairly successful 2018 session, it appears this new session will be one of the most challenging sessions for our industry.

Our best chance is to stay together and work together to make our voices heard. It is too easy to say, its out of our hands and shy away from the confrontations of debating public policy, but now more than ever, we must rise up and make our story, their story. Although we have lost a few friends and supporters this session, we still do have strong supporters in leadership positions. We can and must make a stronger case for our industry and why rural communities and a strong rural economy matters. VFPA is your voice and it becomes stronger when we all work together.

Act 250 Commission issues report

Land owners of forest blocks and habitat connectors are a major target. The Commission proposes changing the landmark development permit law to add criteria and possible new jurisdiction triggers for land-owners planning to develop in these defined forest blocks and habitat connectors. This is intended to reduce fragmentation of large forested parcels and keep habitat connectors intact. The proposal relies on

the report and map created inside the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife known as "Conservation Design". The proposal contained in the Commission Report is similar to H.233, a bill introduced in 2017. H.233 passed the House last year and was voted out of the Senate Committee but through a process maneuver, Senator, Bobby Starr was able to prevent the bill from passing. Governor Scott was opposed to the bill last year and all indications are, he remains opposed. With a Democrat super majority, however, we can expect this proposal to have legs and will likely make it to the Governor's desk.

A broader look at the report and draft proposal, we can see a drastic shift of control Act 250 could have on development. The Commission has a lengthy list of changes they are proposing, several are listed below. Jurisdiction or triggers that would require a permit is also in play. The Commission recommends establishing a multitiered approach toward Act 250 jurisdiction over commercial and industrial development, subdivisions, and housing units. Tighter triggers are based on if the project is in a defined "Critical Resource Area" and/or not in a designated development center.

The Commission report includes the following proposed changes:

- Amending Act 250 to explicitly reference the goals of the Capability and Development Plan and the goals of municipal and regional planning contained in 24 V.S.A..
- Amending the Capability and Development Plan to include a climate change goal and a goal regarding the utilization of natural resources.
- Update the county-level Capability and Development Plan maps created in the 1970s and be used for reference in Act 250 review.
- Reactivating the Development Cabinet.
- Tighten regional and town plans to be consistent with the statutory goals for municipal and regional planning and that, to be used in Act 250, these plans must be approved as consistent with those goals.
- Updating Act 250's floodways criterion so that it applies to flood hazard areas and river corridors.

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- Revise criterion specifically address fluvial erosion.
- Amending the energy conservation criterion to specifically reference energy efficiency.
- Amending the transportation criterion to: (a) include review of the safety and congestion impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and other transit infrastructure and (b) better define when it is appropriate for Act 250 to require projects to incorporate transportation demand strategies and require connectivity to transit services other than single-occupancy vehicles.
- Criteria be added to protect forest blocks and connecting habitat from fragmentation by adopting the changes contained in H.233 of 2017.
- Extending Act 250 jurisdiction to cover projects in interstate interchange areas.
- The exemption for slate quarries be repealed.
- The provision that allows quarries to be held in reserve without being considered abandoned be repealed.
- The repeal of the exemption for farming, logging, and forestry below 2,500 feet when these occur in areas that have been designated as critical resource areas.
- Consideration of a process under which release from jurisdiction could be obtained under specific circumstances.
- The Natural Resources Board (NRB) or its successor work with the other State agencies to create a predictable timetable for the permitting process.
- Act 250 appeals be heard by an administrative board that also has the existing functions of the NRB and that the board also hear appeals of ANR permit decisions.

VT Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Commissioner, Mike Snyder and Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln introduced a proposal into the Act 250 Commission to recognize realities of forest operations.

They sought changes to allow for flexibility in a District Commission's ability to impose conditions of operation. Conditions of operation can include hours of operation, transportation limits, noise and dust restrictions and other types of conditions limiting or restricting operations to appease neighbors or other concerns deemed appropriate by the District Commission. FPR sought to recognize the restraints logging, milling and other forest operations already deal with such as weather, environmental regulations and road conditions and that at times, these businesses need to be able to operate at odd hours to get the work done. The draft report totally rejects the FPR proposal stating a "lack of evidence". This is surprising after so many members of the forest products industry took the time to write a letter describing the challenges they have in the industry and why flexible operation conditions make sense.

This report feeds directly into the progressive agenda to control land-use. The report demonstrates a strong commitment made by the vast majority of the Act 250 Commission to make Act 250 rule over almost everything development. Any thought to reform Act 250 to be more business friendly is very unlikely. The reality is, we may likely see investment leave Vermont if many of the

reforms contained in this report pass into law. New sawmills or other value-added forest operations will likely appear in other states and Canada.

Legislative Day in Montpelier

On Friday, April 12, 2018, VFPA will have a Legislative Day in Montpelier. We have reserved the card room to set up a display and be there to meet with Legislators as they pass by. This is an important day and we hope many of you can take a few hours to stop in and help out. Wear working clothes and come prepared to tell your story and enjoy networking with colleagues.

Looking forward to meeting with you at the **VFPA Annual Meeting, January 26 in Berlin, VT.**

Wishing all of you a prosperous 2019, Happy New Year!

Ed Larson, Lobbyist

Vermont Forest Products Association

Vermont SFI® AIV Forest Policy Task Force Winter Meeting

On December 13th, close to 50 people involved in the forest products industry gathered at the Steakhouse Restaurant in Berlin, VT and attended the fall/winter meeting of the SFI-AIV Forest Policy Task Force. Several topics were on the agenda and a great amount of high-quality conversations took place addressing concerns and challenges of forestry in Vermont. Business owners and managers of sawmills, consulting foresters, loggers, biomass plants and public officials came together for this biannual event.

The meeting began with an in-depth presentation on the new wetland rules currently in play. **Laura Lapierre is the Wetlands Program Manager for the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC).** She provided a comprehensive power point presentation on the current rule; the process and what DEC seeks to change on regulating wetlands. Forestry is considered an allowed use with certain conditions; we were seeking an understanding on how that allowed use may change. For example, roads are an important feature of a harvest operation, we wanted to know if a new road or widening an existing road will require a permit. Lapierre states that there is a working group or task force of stakeholders meeting with her and other officials to flush out ideas and work through the details. Currently State Forester David Wilcox and Seth Clifford of Burlington Electric are representing forestry and the forest products industry in that group. In addition to addressing rule changes, Lapierre reports that the Department is seeking statutory changes as well and are planning to introduce a bill this Legislative session. Most attendees urged DEC to not pursue legislation and find ways to work within current laws, we want to avoid political pressures and risk losing our allowed use status. At this point, nothing is decided, but sometime, possibly this fall, a draft rule will be released for comment.

Understanding Conservation Design and how it can and may be used was our next topic. **Eric Sorenson, Natural Community Ecologist** and **Bob Zaino, State Lands Ecologist both with the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (F&W)** walked us through a presentation of what conservation design is and why was it created. Conservation Design is a mapping tool that includes several layers of data on wildlife habitat, large unfragmented forest blocks and other natural and ecological features on the landscape in Vermont. Using coarse and fine filter systems, the Dept. created a web-based tool to locat-

ed these various features in Vermont. F&W Commissioner, Louis Porter prefaced the presentation stating that this is a tool to provide information, not to become a basis for regulations. You may recall however, that H.233, a bill introduced in 2017 to address fragmentation used Conservation Design to trigger a review for an Act 250 permit. This presentation stimulated a very brisk conversation between attendees and the presenters.

Jeff Tilley, Timber Program Leader, Green Mountain National Forest was our next presenter providing an update on timber activities in the 408,000 acres that is national forests in Vermont. Attendees took away two major points. First the GMNF staff has ramped up timber production over the years to nearly 10 million Board feet in 2018 and Jeff reported that two timber sales were put up to bid in which no one placed a bid for those projects. Jeff states that no bids are adding to obstacles in further increasing timber production. Attendees asked several questions and were generally pleased that the GMNF has made decent progress in stepping up more timber harvests.

Jeremy Goetz, Forester, Silvio Conte Wildlife Management Refuge provided an update on activities in the Nulhegan Basin of the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge. Jeremy reports that the Refuge is now managed under an adopted habitat management plan and have plans to conduct timber and habitat improvement projects on up to 300 acres in each of the 15 years the plan is in effect. The plan targets habitat improvements for a list of focal species which include many bird species and brook trout. The refuge staff also plan to make improvements in deer wintering yards.

After lunch, **Forests, Parks and Recreation Dept. (FPR), Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln** provided an update on where we are in the quest to find lower workers' compensation (WC) rates, especially for loggers. Sam described a task force he has assembled to explore various ideas and proposals and of the strong support of Governor Scott. Sam described three major strategies to reduce rates: 1) strengthen safety training to reduce injury rate which should include more OSHA type programming, 2) achieve tying safety training to WC rates and 3) address insurance avoidance. We need more people involved in logging to get WC policies and grow the pool. This spring we should look for more news on changes that will occur with LEAP, Loggers Education to Advance Professionalism, Vermont's logger training program. In addition to advancing more rigorous safety training protocols, representatives of the major insurance carriers in Vermont will be there to discuss risk management and loss prevention.

To set the stage for the afternoon discussion, SFI Coordinator, Ed Larson provided a summary of the results of the elections of November 2018. Democrats will hold a super majority in both the House and Senate this session. Governor Scott tied a record of Vetoing 11 bills last year and this year, those same bills could be easily over-ridden by both chambers. This includes bills that can negatively impact businesses such as raising the minimum wage, paid family leave and strict liability for selling, distributing or using toxic chemicals.

The balance of the afternoon we sat down with FPR Officials to discuss a variety of topics including FPR's Legislative Agenda. Commissioner Mike Snyder, Deputy Commissioner Sam Lincoln, State water quality Forester David Wilcox and Wood Utilization & Wood Energy Program Leader, Paul Frederick were on hand to

provide reports and answer questions. Commissioner Snyder spoke about the Act 250 Commission, their pending report to the Legislature and a rundown on the proposal the Dept. introduced to add more flexibility in the permit process to recognize specific challenges facing forest operations. He thanks several industry members for their letters and input into the process. This will be a major topic in this year's Legislative Session.

Dep. Commissioner Lincoln provided information on the updated skidder and truck bridge program. This year there will be additional bridges available and the program included a modest cost-share to buy them.

Watershed Forester David Wilcox had the latest AMP report and provided more information on the wetland rule rewrite currently ongoing. He adds a new AMP booklet is almost completed and will be out soon.

Paul Frederick compiles data on several FPR operations including timber harvests. He reports that 2018 will be a good year for production with over 6 million Board Feet harvested on state land. This is the most in a year since 2008.

Several questions and comments were raised by attendees.

The day-long meeting ended just after 3:30 PM. SAF, forester licensing and LEAP continuing education credits were made available to attendees.

SFI Legislative Breakfast, March 21

Hope to see you all at the SFI VT Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, March 21 at the Statehouse. We will meet and greet Legislators as they arrive into the cafeteria for some breakfast. This is a great opportunity to meet with your Representative and Senator and share your thoughts and concerns about how they can and do impact your business. We will meet with Legislative leaders and administration officials in a roundtable meeting during the noon hour. Please plan to join us March 21.

Ed Larson SFI VT Coordinator

Bill Sayre, Chair SFI VT



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The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can co-exist.

SFI program participants practice sustainable forestry on all the lands they manage. They also influence millions of additional acres through the training of loggers and foresters in best management practices and landowner outreach programs.

This unique commitment to sustainable forestry recognizes that all forest landowners, not just SFI program participants, play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of our forests.

Governor Scott & Cabinet Spend Time at the North Country Career Center to Discuss the Future Workforce in Forestry and Agriculture

Career Center Enrollment Declines Despite Job Openings - Students Join Leaders To Brainstorm About Attracting Young People To Traditional Fields In Vermont Robin Smith - Oct 11, 2018 - The Caledonian Record

DERBY — Maddie Nadeau grew up on a farm. That prompted her to take courses at North Country Career Center.

The same goes for fellow student Olyvia Fortin. Both sets of her grandparents owned farms.

They are past president and president in the local Future Farmers of America chapter. They are looking at colleges to pursue technical careers thanks to NCCC programs.

But they are starting to be the exception rather than the rule.

As family farms close, young people in rural Vermont are less exposed to the types of jobs that exist in farming, forestry and related careers, in the kinds of outdoor jobs that attracted Vermonters for decades.

The need to lure more students to vocational and career education is becoming urgent in Vermont, said those who met with Gov. Phil Scott and members of his administration Tuesday at the NCCC land lab in Derby.

The discussion with business leaders, legislators, students and others was part of Scott's Capitol for a Day in Orleans County on Tuesday.

Many students were introduced to the opportunities of outdoor careers as part of growing up, said Sam Nijensohn, instructor of forestry, agriculture and water resources program at the land

lab. But there are fewer and fewer family farms, he said.

Ben Notterman, forestry and land management instructor at Green Mountain Technical

Career Center in Hardwick, is seeing the same trend.

Career and tech centers are experiencing a decline in student enrollment, right when jobs in these fields in Vermont are going unfilled. "I have the smallest class ever ..." Notterman said.

The main problem at the Green Mountain Career Center is the competition for those students with high schools, as student population declines across the board. High schools would lose money if more students went to regional career centers in their junior and senior years, he said.

Some high schools are trying to offer some career education, but they can't provide the full range of cooperative and other education that tech centers can, he said.

"None of that helps students," Notterman said.

Vermont needs to reinvigorate interest in these fields, he said.

He pointed to Maine, where a new way of funding career education takes away that competition.

Colleen Goodridge, owner of Goodridge Lumber in Albany,



said she is struggling to hire employees.

The demand is real, Notterman said. "I get calls two-three times a week ... They can't find qualified people to work," he said. His students often have already locked down good jobs for after graduation of high school, tech school or college.

lege.

Another problem is scheduling, Fortin said.

It's hard for students at Lake Region Union High School to ride another 20 minutes on a bus to attend NCCC classes, Nijensohn said.

That distance also makes it harder for younger students to enroll in the exploratory programs that introduce career and tech education to students, teachers said.

Goodridge said her business and the forestry, logging and trucking businesses that she works with are part of the working landscape of Vermont.

These businesses are decreasing as business owners have trouble hiring the new generation to continue, she said. Some business owners will just fold if the next generation isn't there to take over.

These jobs need to be "accepted, appreciated, valued, supported," she said.

Goodridge warned that when these businesses and family farms fold, the face of Vermont will change forever.

The tech and career education centers have great resources and facilities today, Nijensohn said.

But the promotion of those programs is what's needed, especially to younger students.

Sen. Bobby Starr of Troy said that offering full tech ed programs only in the junior and senior years at high school is too late.

NCCC Director Eileen Illuzzi said students can enter the full-time career programs in their sophomore year with permission of the principal.

Sen. John Rodgers of Glover said he'd like to see more school choice, which would allow Lake Region students the chance to enroll at NCCC and the attached North Country Union High School full-time and not just for the career courses.

Fortin and Nadeau said they were surprised to see how many schools in other states treat the FFA as a full-time course rather than a club.

Nijensohn would like to see recreation, a growing outdoor field, added to the career center.



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...from the letter to the Governor's staff and other cabinet members regarding the visit and issue:

The leaders and students at this technical career center represent a constituency in which FPR has a strong interest, and these programs are experiencing an emerging trend that we would like to intervene in, with your assistance.

Rural Vermont's economy continues to face a shortage of skilled employees and potential business owners to carry farm and forest based operations forward.

The decline in the number of students currently seeking entry into Natural Resource programs is a bellwether that the shortage is going to worsen.

We believe there is opportunity for students who could consider choosing a working lands career that Vermont's economy, environment and rural communities rely on and the need exists for equipment operators, technicians of all kinds, managers and entrepreneurs.

Sam Nijensohn is the director of the program at the Land Lab and is prepared to host a panel of students, educators and local business owners to discuss the current issues and trends and take questions so that we may learn about how we could collaborate to positively impact enrollment at these technical career centers.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

submitted by Joe Phaneuf, Executive Director, Northeastern Loggers' Association

The American Loggers' Council is in the process of organizing its 2019 Washington D.C. Spring Fly-in to be held April 3 - 6, 2019. This annual event brings an ever-growing group of loggers of our nation's capital to meet with the legislators who serve us.

The Northeastern Loggers' Association would like help to grow this contingent by encouraging interested volunteers from states not currently represented in the group to come to D.C. and be heard.

Volunteers are needed from the following states: Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

NELA is currently holding 10 sleeping rooms, which should accommodate 20 people (with double occupancy). We'd love to send along 20 people to the ALC Fly-In, but we've not accomplished that in previous years.

Both Maine and NH will have people at the Fly-In, but if there is space remaining in our block we'll make rooms available to representatives from those states, as well.

At this point I'd like to get commitments from possible attendees, so please contact me. As we approach the dates I'll work to obtain appointments with legislators from your state.

In addition, I can try to get appointments with agencies you work with – just let me know what you've got in mind. Also, some of the other subgroups may be putting together meetings that you might be interested in.

Funding clarification – NELA will pay for the hotel rooms/tax and the ALC will provide some meals (breakfast and lunch), but all other expenses you might incur (transportation, meals) are on your own.

Please let me know if you are interested.

If you would like to learn more about this, please call Joe Phaneuf at 315-369-3078 or e-mail Phaneuf@northernlogger.com at the NELA offices.

Tentative Dates and Schedule

- Wednesday, April 3 – Arrival and possible early evening hosted reception
- Thursday, April 4 – AM – Legislative briefing conducted by ALC
PM – Visits with legislators/agencies
- Friday, April 5 – AM – Visits with legislators/agencies
PM – Discussions and Briefings hosted by American Loggers' Council
- Saturday, April 6 – AM – ALC Spring Board meeting (optional)
Departure



Make sure to attend or exhibit at one of our 2019 Expos

**April 26-27, 2019 - Loggers Plus Expo,
Bloomsburg, PA**

**May 17-18, 2019 - Northeastern Forest Products
Equipment Expo,
Bangor, ME**



By Joe Carroll |

LEICHESTER, Vt. (WCAX) You would normally find Lawrence Felion working the woods. But the ground is soft, making it difficult for the long-time logger to run his skidder.

Years of working those big machines and chainsaws has made him hard of hearing. Felion wears a headset with an amplifier to pump up the volume. He says hearing aids are a bother.

So with some time on his hands, the 81-year-old shows me what makes him tick. It's inside his garage where every nook and cranny is filled with tools.

Felion has a nickname, 'Tweeter.' It was given to him by his dad and it has stuck like pine tar. Tweeter's treasures are kept close to his 30-foot workbench.

"Even if it's dubbing around, just get my hands in the wood, you know," Felion said.

His tools are sharp as his wit. "I don't like a dull tool," he said.

Outside, Felion rolls up his sleeves and flexes the bicep he's gained through decades of hard work.

Reporter Joe Carroll: You going to show me your guns?



Lawrence Felion: Right there. That's only just one side... I'm proud of it and I ain't bragging either.

Actually, it is a bit of boasting for good reason. "I have a lot of stuff on him," said Jean, Felion's wife. She has piles of photos of Tweeter when he was a competitive lumberjack back in the '60s and '70s. There's even a Vermont Life article where Tweeter is swinging an ax he calls Buddy.

Those were his glory days. A later competition might have been his last. His razor-sharp ax glanced off a loose pole and the blade came back into his calf causing him to bleed profusely. He ended up in the hospital with 135 stitches. "I got somebody up there. I'm a great believer in the Lord," Felion said.

But he almost met his creator again about a decade later when a chainsaw kicked back and cut him in the abdomen, narrowly missing his heart. Both times he was hurt, Jean was close by.



Reporter Joe Carroll: What do you think of him still going into the woods?

Jean: I never worry about him in the woods. I worry about him always on Route 7.

It's truly a family business. Jean does the books and son Homer harvests the trees with his dad.

"The part of it was, his family didn't give it one year," Jean said.



"My grandmother," Felion added.

But one year turned into 59. "We fooled them," Jean said.

And that razor sharp ax used in competition? He keeps Buddy and in a special box.

Reporter Joe Carroll: That's pretty sharp.

Lawrence Felion: Oh, that's sharper than hell... One sweep and I could cut your head right off.

Keeping a level head, I ask one last question.

Reporter Joe Carroll: So, you're not done with the woods yet?

Lawrence Felion: No. Don't make me quit, would you please.

A logger's life that hasn't been cut short.



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.

North Country Career Center

~ Sam Nijensohn, NCCC Forestry, Agriculture & Water Resources



Field trip to Rooty's Apple Orchard, Brownington, VT. (left)

And another field trip to the Fortin Christmas Tree Farm, (right)

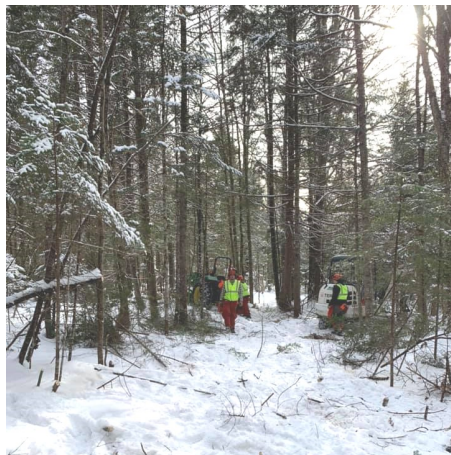


Milling for the new building (left and below). So far, we have harvested about 7 MBF of poplar sawlogs and

trucked them to the Land Lab where we are milling them with our new Woodmizer to make a timberframe sawmill building. We are just about wrapped up with the logging, should be done next week. (Submitted December 13)



Green Mountain Tech & Career Center



We are in timber harvest mode! Putting in some skid trails and a wetland crossing for the upcoming cold. By the end of the week we should have quite the frozen highway. (from the **Green Mountain Tech & Career Center** facebook page)

Wood: Vermont's Locally Grown, Renewable Fuel



Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Accelerating Sustainable Economic Development

By Christine McGowan, Forest Program Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
December 4, 2018

Vermonters have a long history of heating with wood, and most of us know there is nothing like the warmth of a well-stoked wood stove on a cold winter night. It is only in recent years, however, that advances in technology have made wood a convenient alternative to fossil fuels through whole-building, automated wood heat systems that are controlled by a thermostat. Today, Vermonters are poised to capitalize on a growing industry that not only supports the state's renewable energy goals, but also economic development, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and our cherished working landscape.



Automated Wood Heat

While cord wood is certainly part of the wood heat equation, the real opportunity lies in Automated Wood Heat systems, including woodchip and pellet boilers. "I don't believe there are many people out there who want to heat with cord wood who aren't already doing so," said Emma Hanson, Vermont's Wood Energy Coordinator, "but there are a whole lot of people who like their thermostat." Interest in the thermostat-controlled systems, which have been around for a few decades, is growing for a number of reasons—chief among them independence from fossil fuels, supporting local, renewable energy sources, and price stability.



Vermont Artisan Coffee & Tea's 15,000 square-foot facility in Waterbury Center is heated with a wood pellet boiler system installed by SunWood Biomass.

Dave Frank and Marc DiMario, co-owners of [SunWood Biomass](#) in Waitsfield, were among the first to introduce Automated Wood Heating systems to Vermont. The company provides design and installation services for residential and commercial systems throughout New England. "Wood can be used to cleanly and efficiently heat any size building," said Frank, pointing to recent installs at Vermont Artisan Coffee & Tea in Waterbury, Green Mountain Glove in Randolph, and [Goddard College](#).

Wood Heat and the Local Economy

According to a [2016 study](#) on heating with wood, 80 cents of every dollar spent on wood heat stays in state, versus only 22 cents of every dollar spent on oil or propane. In 2016, that translated into an estimated \$70 million retained in the Vermont economy. "It's a triple bottom line decision," said Hanson. "Heating with wood supports the local economy, moves Vermont towards its goal of meeting 90% of total energy needs from renewables by 2050, and it stabilizes heating costs."

"Two years after we opened SunWood Biomass, Hurricane Katrina hit and sent oil prices skyrocketing," said Frank, who consults with residential and commercial clients on every aspect of automated wood heating, from feasibility to financing. "Since the price of wood increases only with the rate of inflation, all of a sudden we had an opportunity to talk to customers about wood through the lens of price stability. Unlike oil, which can vary dramatically with natural disasters and political winds, wood heat comes from our backyard, and probably from a logger who lives down the road."

Maura Adams, program director for the Northern Forest Center agrees. "Heating with wood connects consumers directly to the working landscape," said Adams. "Every time you heat with wood you are supporting jobs in forestry, wood processing and transportation."



A Clean Source of Heat

Perhaps one of the biggest lingering myths around heating with wood is the perception that burning wood is bad for the environment. While it is true that older, residential wood stoves and outdoor wood boilers can contribute to poor air quality, new automated wood heat systems meet or exceed air quality standards and are actually reducing greenhouse gases. A 2016 independent [study](#) on the impact of using wood pellets on greenhouse gas emissions in the Northeast found that using wood pellets for heat reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than half compared to oil or propane. Over 50 years, greenhouse gas emissions from pellets are 62% less than oil, 67% less than natural gas, and 56% less than propane.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Frank adds that Automated Wood Heat systems far exceed U.S. air quality standards and in most cases meet or exceed European standards. “Complete and clean combustion is the paramount accomplishment of automated wood heat systems,” said Frank. “When wood is burned efficiently, you dramatically reduce carbon emissions and particulate matter. Our clean burning systems produce no visible emissions or smoke, and will create only a small box of ash about once a month.”

Pellet boilers produce significantly less air pollution while generating heat more efficiently than their traditional counterparts.

The pellets themselves are delivered via the same mechanisms through which customers receive oil. The pellets are pumped into a holding area and automatically fed into the boiler. “A customer doesn’t have any more or less contact with the pellets than they do with oil,” said Adams, who coordinates the [Feel Good Heat](#) campaign to educate consumers throughout the Northeast about the benefits of Automated Wood Heat. “There is no lugging wood from the shed to the house. The pellets are delivered through a hose right into a large storage hopper and heat is regulated with a thermostat. It’s the same process most people are accustomed to with oil systems, but from a cleaner, greener source.” According to the greenhouse gas emissions study, switching from oil to locally made pellets reduces a building’s carbon footprint by over 50% from day one.

For homeowners who are using older wood stoves and not ready to switch to whole-house automated wood heat, Hanson points to a rebate program that offers \$800 for switching to a newer, EPA certified wood stove. She also recommends that homeowners burn dry wood and not let fires smolder.

Keeping Forests as Forests

Vermont’s forests are one of its most abundant natural resources and, as long as trees are growing back at the same rate that they are cut down, wood is considered a renewable resource. Vermont forests have ample capacity to supply growing demand.

Hanson, who works for Vermont’s Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, points out that Vermont is 76% forested and we are currently harvesting less than half the net growth in the forest. The key issue, she explains, is the decline in low-grade wood markets. “There are two types of wood — high and low. High grade wood is wood that might one day find itself on a carpenter’s shopping list. It may become a 2×4, a cabinet, or a floor board. Low grade wood becomes firewood, woodchips or, historically in our region, paper. However, the paper industry has been declining in recent years leaving a gap in the market for this low grade wood. It is absolutely essential to have healthy markets for both high and low grade wood – without the pair it is impossible to carry out a sustainable forest management plan.”



Marc DiMario (far left) of SunWood Biomass instructs Bill Heigis of Heigis Builders (middle) and homeowner John Belding (right) on the new Froling automated wood pellet system he installed in Belding’s new home in Middlesex. Photo courtesy of SunWood Biomass.

Growing demand for Automated Wood Heat is not only good for the economy and environment, but also critical for keeping Vermont’s forests as forests. “A well-managed forest can and will meet multiple goals, from renewable energy to wildlife habitat to recreation,” said Hanson, “but you have to have a robust market for low grade wood to make it all work.”

“It’s an interesting intersection of the traditional forest products industry in Vermont and the renewable energy movement,” said Frank, who is also on the board of Renewable Energy Vermont. “There is only upside here — more work for local loggers, foresters and truckers, predictable pricing for homeowners and businesses, and less impact on the environment.”

Anyone interested in learning more, or in finding distributors and installers, can visit www.feelgoodheat.org and www.encyclopediaofvermont.com.

Vermont Forest Industry Network

Vermont’s forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating. The new Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products, from high quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets.

For more information please visit www.vsjf.org.

Lead Photo: Dave Frank, co-founder of SunWood Biomass, and Mané Alves, founder of Vermont Artisan Coffee & Tea Company, look over a wood pellet boiler system installed at the coffee company’s Route 100 facility in Waterbury.

Photo credit: Erica Houskeeper



Northeast Silviculture Institute
for Foresters

Northeast Silviculture Institute

"I attended all 5 Institute sessions. Absolutely fantastic experience. It made my year..." Private consulting forester

Northeast Silviculture Institute Online is Here for Landowners at a Discount!

The Northeast Silviculture Institute Online version is now available for landowners at a 25% discount from the list price of accessing the training materials (discount price is \$59 (and change) for each two-day session).

Now, in the comfort of your home or office, you can virtually attend one or all 5 of the 2-day Institute training sessions of the Silviculture Institute. Thanks to all the speakers and attendees for allowing everything - including every field trip stop - to be filmed. Now you can experience the tremendous silvicultural learning opportunity that is available at Institute offerings.

The Institute is a series of 5 two-day graduate level training sessions held in 2017 and 2018 for foresters all over the northeast. Each session and all the field stops as well as classroom training was filmed and now landowners and other non-foresters can get access to it at a discount. This is the premier silviculture training offered in the northeast in decades. It is so good that we believe forest landowners will want to learn from this tremendous resource too.

Just go to <http://www.northeastsilvicultureinstitute.org/institute-online-training/> and choose the session you want (Overview, Northern Hardwood, Pine-Oak-Hemlock, Mixed Oak-Hickory and Spruce-Fir) and set up a free Vimeo account. Click on "Pay \$79" and then insert the special Promo code given to you by your landowner association to get your 25% discount.

VFPA Members use Promo code: VFPA to receive the discount.

Here's what one Online Institute user said:

"This is great. I can do the training at my own pace, when I have time. The written materials and videos capture everything like I was at the training. I've never done training this way before and I highly recommend it."

Questions? Call or email Charlie Levesque at 603-588-3272 or levesque@inrslc.com.

Here's what some of the forester attendees have said about the field training that they attended:

I started adjusting my marking the day after the session. I am doing a better job planning and laying out regeneration harvests based on what species need advance regen or not. I am also thinking much harder about when and how to remove low and intermediate shade species.

All in all the entire workshop, presenters, field trip leaders and field trips were excellent. The material, its quality and content were first rate. It's too bad we didn't have a week (or more) to cover things in greater depth.

The material covered in the workshop and the input from other foresters made me realize that I do not understand the statistics behind the numbers I use every day in this field. I have become dependent on computer programs to reach conclusions. Understanding the relationships between the stand's condition, the data I collect, and the conclusions of the data will make me a better forester.

The forest hydrology session was the first time I have ever been exposed to this technical material and research. Great presentations by all and I felt that the presentation skills and climate adaptation were important in my everyday work.

I thought this workshop was great. It was a TON of information packed into a short time. I will certainly do some follow up reading to learn more about each topic – the readings and references in and of themselves were worth attending for.

The Institute workshops were designed to provide northeast U.S. foresters with the appropriate knowledge to make sound, science-based decisions for forest ecosystem management, harvests and regeneration. This project is designed so it can be used in the USDA Forest Service's National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) to provide landscape-specific materials for northeast forests. The Institute offers a graduate program level of instruction for practicing foresters. Funding support has been provided by the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry.

www.northeastsilvicultureinstitute.org

For more information contact Charles Levesque at levesque@inrslc.com



Danielle Fitzko Appointed as the New Director of the Division of Forests in the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

Greetings Partners,

After an extended and highly competitive search with strong candidates from Vermont, the northeast, the US, and even from around the world, I'm delighted to announce the appointment of Danielle Fitzko, as the new director of the Division of Forests in the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Danielle succeeds Steve Sinclair, who served in this role for the past sixteen years.

One of the roles that our previous Director of Forests played was that of Vermont State Forester which has particular importance to our federal work. Since Steve's retirement, I have taken on that title and role and will continue to serve as Vermont State Forester, working closely with Danielle as Director and even sharing some of those duties with her.

As an employee of the Department serving as the Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager for the last fifteen years, Danielle already has been instrumental in energizing the Division's extensive forestry programs. She has a proven record of setting a clear vision and establishing pathways to implementation, generating revenue, cultivating talent, and delivering high-quality public service. Her broad experience and leadership will serve us well as she works collaboratively with colleagues to understand the current issues and emerging needs, and to harness that information to

develop strategic approaches to meet them.

Danielle obtained her B.Sc. in Environmental Resource Management from the Pennsylvania State University and her MSc. in Natural Resource Sciences from the University of Maryland. Before coming to Vermont in 2003, Danielle worked for the University of Maryland's Extension Service where she honed her education and outreach skills.

Danielle recently completed the Agency of Natural Resources' Leadership and Management Program and is also a Vermont Licensed Forester, an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, and Vermont Certified Public Manager. Please join me in congratulating Danielle on her promotion and in welcoming her into this important role, which includes working with you and others to advance and expand the robust forestry programs at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

Thank you for your work for healthy forests and great forestry and my very best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive new year.

Commissioner Michael Snyder
VT Forests, Parks & Recreation



Save the Dates:

SFI Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, March 21 at the Statehouse Cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to meet with your Representative and Senator and share your thoughts and concerns about how they can and do impact your business. We will meet with Legislative leaders and administration officials in a roundtable meeting during the noon hour.

2019 Loggers Plus Expo, April 26-27 at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds in Bloomsburg, PA. The Loggers Plus Expo is aimed at the forest industry, tree care, and other related woods product professionals who are looking for a strictly business-oriented exposition. If you're interested in getting information about exhibiting at the Loggers Plus Expo you can e-mail us at plusexpo@northernlogger.com.

NELA Loggers' Banquet May 16 at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, Maine

2019 Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo, May 17-18 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine. If you're interested in getting more information about exhibiting at the show please call us at 315-369-3078 or e-mail us at expo@northernlogger.com. If you'd like to attend an upcoming Loggers' Expo or Loggers Plus Expo just keep an eye on this web page, as FREE registration for the show is offered for a limited time leading up to the show dates. We'll see you there!

David L. Grayck, Esq.

Law Office of David L. Grayck, Esq.
57 College Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-0659
David@graycklaw.com



"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"

Northern VT Regional Round-up, Saturday, April 27 at The Eastside Restaurant, Newport, VT

Join VFPA at the Statehouse - April 12

VFPA members and friends of the industry will gather in the Card Room at the Statehouse on April 12th from 8 am to 4 pm for an opportunity to speak with legislators and tell their "story" about the part they play in the Forest Products Industry.

This day long event brings the industry a little closer to those who may not otherwise hear our story.

Last year, a highlight of the day was being present to hear a Resolution that was read on the House floor recognizing the importance of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont.

Also recognized were the VFPA Award winners announced at the VFPA Annual Meeting held in January 2018, congratulating them on their outstanding work and their contributions to what make the forest and forest products industry such a valued state asset. Many of these winners have also been recognized with Northeast Loggers' Association (NELA) Awards.

VFPA was also able to meet briefly with Gov. Phil Scott in his ceremonial office. Thank you Gov. Scott!

VFPA hopes to make VFPA Day at the Statehouse in the Card Room an annual event. We hope many of you will join us!



VFPA in the Card Room 2018



VFPA Annual Meeting

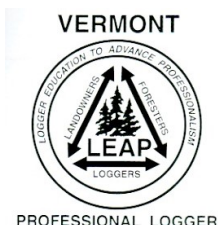
Saturday, January 26, 2019 ~ 9 am to 3 pm
The Steakhouse Restaurant, Berlin, Vermont

AGENDA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Allard Lumber
 Cersosimo Lumber
 David Grayck, Esq
 Goodridge Lumber
 SunWood Biomass

***LEAP credits are available for
those attending this
full day meeting.***



- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 9:00 to 9:30 | Registration |
| 9:30 to 10:00 | Business meeting
~Welcome - President Steve Hardy
~Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting
~Treasurer's Report
~2019 Budget
~Elect VFPA Directors for 2019-2021 term
~Elect VFPA Officers for 2019-2021 term
~Appoint VFF Directors to fill unexpired terms (2015-2020)
~2018 Year in Review |
| 10:00 to 11:45 | Invited Guests-
~ Governor Phil Scott
~Commissioner Michael Snyder, VT Dept of F P & R
~ Deputy Commissioner Sam Lincoln, VT Dept of F P & R
~Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist
~Mike Covey, Executive Director, VT Traditions Coalition
~Christine McGowan, Forest Products Program Director,
Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund |
| 11:45 | Awards Presentations |
| 12:00 to 1:00 | Hot Lunch Buffet |
| 1:00 to 1:15 | Invited Guest-
~Eileen Townsend, Editor, "Northern Logger Magazine" |
| 1:15 to 2:30 | Keynote Speaker - Photojournalist George Bellerose -
"Portrait of a Forest: Men and Machine" to be published 2019 |
| 2:30 | Adjourn |
| 2:30 to 3:00 | Vermont Forestry Foundation Meeting |

Registration—VFPA ANNUAL MEETING

Names: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E Mail: _____ # Attending _____ @\$50 each _____

RSVP by Wednesday, January 23, 2019
 Barbara Ross, VFPA Admin. Secretary
 P.O. Box 110, Coventry, VT 05825
 Phone: 802-461-5688 or vtfpa@hotmail.com

Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI) completes national study on Certified Master Logger Programs



Findings show success and influence of programs

For Immediate Release- December 4, 2018

HEMPHILL, TX – The nonprofit Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI) has completed a six-month national study on the value of Certified Master Logger Programs, finding they have real worth to loggers and forest industry stakeholders, but face challenges achieving the recognition with the public that could expand their reach.

In late March 2018, WSRI contracted with the James W. Sewall Company to explore the value proposition of these programs. The American Loggers Council (ALC) Master Logger Certification Program®, which is one of the programs included in the research, requires that the on the ground performance of professional timber harvesting businesses comply with seven areas of responsibility that ensure environmental protection, forest sustainability, and business accountability.

The study focused much of its work on active programs in Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Interviews and data were collected from loggers, landowners, mills, and forestry consultants. Some of the key findings of the study include:

1. Certified Master Loggers have a real sense of professionalism and take pride in being recognized for the good work they are doing in the woods.
2. Industry stakeholders perceive that Certified Master Loggers offer more consistent compliance with “Best Management Practices” designed to protect water, soil, and forest quality and do a higher quality job on timber harvests.
3. There is a real preference for Certified Master Loggers among forestry consultants and small landowners who are aware of the Certified Master Logger programs.

“The top three benefits can be summarized with alliteration as pride, performance, and preference. They are the hallmarks of a successful certification program. While they are not true everywhere the program has been implemented and among every stakeholder, we were able to document that there is a definite beachhead established in most of the states,” the report stated.

The study concludes Certified Master Logger programs are near the, “tipping point” of achieving real value nationally.

“Efforts should be directed at getting bigger, better, and more widely known. Done well, these efforts can be expected to bring about preference and trust from stakeholders, which will result in improved opportunities for Certified Master Loggers, the report stated.

Richard Schwab, of the ALC Board of Directors and chairman of the Master Logger Certification Program® Committee, said he was happy that the study was undertaken and yielded information that will be valuable as the program moves forward.

“As loggers who own this program, we are excited about the challenges and looking forward to addressing them,” Schwab said. “We plan to build on the successes where the program is working well, and work together with partners that support the program to expand into states that have laid the groundwork for adopting it but have not yet done so. This report tells us we are close to the tipping point for this program, and we will build off the momentum we have established in the past year to achieve national prominence and success for it.”

Ted Wright, Executive Director of the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, which oversees the Certified Master Logger program in the Northeast and which is leading an effort by the ALC to promote the American Loggers Council Master Logger Certification® program nationally, said the report provides a solid foundation to build those efforts on, as well as documented evidence that the Certified Master Logger brand is succeeding.

“We know these programs are already making a difference and have the potential to do even more, and this study shows us the good work Certified Master Loggers are doing as well as the opportunity to grow as more and more people, particularly small landowners and mills, become aware of and learn to value that good work,” Wright said.

To learn more about the study, visit: <https://wsri.org/research/value-assessment-of-certified-logger-programs/>

Master Logger Certification programs are logger owned and logger controlled program that offers third-party independent certification of logging companies’ harvesting practices. The ALC Master Logger Certification® Program recognizes logging companies that meet the responsible forest management

standards set forth by the American Loggers Council. These standards have been cross-referenced to all the world's major green certification systems.

To learn more about the American Loggers Council Master Logger Certification® program, visit: americanmasterlogger.com

The ALC was formed in 1994 to serve as a unified, national voice for professional loggers across the United States. Made up of a coalition of state and regional logging associations and councils, ALC represents more than 30 states across the U.S.

To learn more about the ALC visit: <http://www.amloggers.com>

CONTACT: Danny Dructor
Executive Vice President, ALC
Phone: (409) 625-0206
Email: americanlogger@aol.com

CONTACT: Ted Wright
Executive Director, TCNF
Phone: (207) 688-8195
Email: executivedirector@tcnf.org

Suggestions Needed for LEAP Spring Workshops

From David Birdsall

LEAP is looking for some possible workshop ideas for the upcoming 2019 session.

We are going to be doing some specific Safety Workshops this Spring, but would love to hear what folks might want to see for other topics.

I would like to see if we could advertise some for Logger/Forester Teams. We did a Bridge workshop down here last summer and advertised it as this Team concept and it went over very well.

So, if you have suggestions for workshops, please contact:

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



The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program

Ian Hartman, Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator

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 Ian Hartman (ian@vhcb.org; 802-828-1098) or find our application online www.vhcb.org/viability.

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

Portable Skidder Bridge Rental Program

Loggers can rent portable skidder bridges from Natural Resources Conservation Districts offering this program for \$100 a month. The bridges are located at participating sawmills and log yards for loggers to conveniently pick up and return. Loggers who rent bridges are provided an educational packet that illustrates guidelines to follow for installation, use and removal of the bridges while following *Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont*. Following is a list of Natural Resources Conservation Districts and sawmills participating in this program

Lamoille County NRCD

Kim Jensen
kimberly.jensen@vt.nacdnet.net
 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2
 Morrisville, VT. 05661
 (802) 888-9218 x 113
www.lcnrcd.com

Participating Sawmills:

Buffalo Mountain Wood Yard
 Hardwick, VT. 05843
 Phone: (802) 472-3600

Caledonia NRCD

Kerry O'Brien
kerry.obrien@vt.nacdnet.net
 481 Summer Street, Suite 202
 Saint Johnsbury, VT. 05819
 (802) 748-3885 x 110
www.caledoniadistrict.org

Participating Sawmill:

Stan Robinson & Sons Wood Yard
 2841 US Route 5, Passumpsic, VT 05861
 (802) 748-1946

Winooski NRCD

Corrina Parnapy, District Manager
corrina@winooskinrcd.org
 617 Comstock Road, Suite 1
 Berlin, VT 05602
 Phone: (802) 778-3178
www.winooskinrcd.org

Participating Sawmill:

Fontaine's Sawmill – Mark Fontaine
 East Montpelier, VT. 05651
 Phone: (802) 223-7719
MarcFontaine@fontainemillworks.com

Participating Sawmill:

Lamell Lumber –
 Tom O'Keeffe (Procurement Forester)
 82 Jericho Road
 Essex Junction, VT 05472
 Phone: (802) 878-2475
 Mobile: (802) 238-8575
 FAX: (802) 879-2761
tokee40282@aol.com

Rutland NRCD

Nanci McGuire
nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net
 170 South Main Street, Suite 4
 Rutland, VT 05701
 Phone: (802) 775-8034 x 17
www.vacd.org/rcd

Participating Sawmill:

Gagnon Lumber, Inc.,
 Pittsford, VT
 Phone: (802) 483-6550

Windham NRCD

Eliza Ridegeair
Elizabeth.Ridgeair@vt.nacdnet.net
 28 Vernon Street, Suite 332
 Brattleboro, VT 05301
 Phone: (802) 254-5323 x 104
www.windhamcountynrcd.org

Participating Sawmill:

Allard Lumber Company
 Brattleboro, VT
 Phone: (802) 254-4939

White River NRCD

Marina Welch
 28 Farmvu Drive
 White River Jct. VT 05001
 Phone: (802) 369-3167
whiterivernrcd@gmail.com
www.vacd.org/whiteriver

Participating Sawmill:

Angel's Sawmill - Tim Angel
 VT Route 14, South Royalton, VT

Bennington NRCD

Shelly Stiles
 PO Box 505, 310 Main Street
 Bennington, VT 05201
 Phone: (802) 442-2275
bccd@sover.net
www.bccdvt.org

Poultney Mettowee NRCD

Hilary Solomon – Poultney
 PO Box 209, Poultney, VT. 05764
 Phone: (802) 287-8339
pmnrcd@gmail.com
www.pmnrcd.org

Participating Sawmill:

Northeast Timber Exchange
 1635 Route 4 E
 Castleton, VT
 (802) 875-1037

Ottauquechee NRCD

Sue Greenall
 28 Farmvu Drive
 White River Junction, VT 05001
 (802)-295-7942 x11
onrcd1@gmail.com

Participating Sawmills

Sheehan's Sawmill
 251 Stoughton Hill Road
 Perkinsville, VT
 (802)-263-5545

Orleans County NRCD

Sarah Damsell
 59 Waterfront Plaza
 Newport, VT 05860
 (802) 334-6090 x118
sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net

Participating Sawmill:

Goodridge Lumber, Inc
 183 Bailey Hazen Road East
 Albany, VT 05820
 (802) 755-6298

Otter Creek NRCD

Pamela Stefanek
 68 Catamount Park, Suite B
 Middlebury, VT 05753
 Phone: (802) 388-6746
pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net

Participating Sawmill

Canopy Timber Alternatives
 John Anderson
 3311 Route 7 South
 East Middlebury, VT 05753
 Phone: (802) 388-1548

Essex County NRCD

Heather Robinson
 5396 State Route 105
 Brunswick, VT 05905
 (802) 424-5353
essexnrcd@gmail.com
www.essexcountynrcd.com

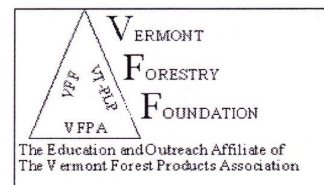
Grand Isle County NRCD

Jan Marinelle
 317 Old W. Shore Road
 North Hero, VT 05474
 (802) 372-5460
jan@champlainislands.com



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 ~ Mark Doty, 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.

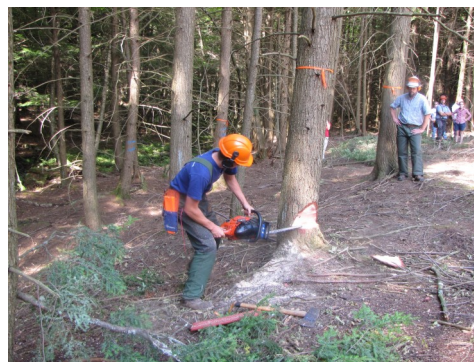
Bottom Line – once certified, complete one workshop a year to remain certified!

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 Barb at vtfpa@hotmail.com



NEW MEMBERS 2018

Michael S Tatro
Michael D Tatro
Dave Wilcox
John Whitman, Jr
Gary Norton

Jerry Peters
Sam Peters
Dennis Ducharme
Leonard Wright
Dwyer Brothers Logging

Mike Green
Stephen Smith
Ben Campbell
Zachary Emerson
Richard Carbonetti

Jason Bean
Bradley Bordewieck
Chris Garmalo
Warren Hill Trucking,
Inc

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

LEGISLATIVE APPEAL

"Having a strong presence in Montpelier is critical to the survival of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont."

It is essential to have someone in Montpelier monitoring the issues, providing information to the membership, participating in discussions concerning the industry, promoting the industry and defending it, when necessary.

The 2019 Legislative Session is apt to be extremely challenging. Act 250 will be a big issue this year following a two-year study by a Legislative Commission. Other industry mandates will likely surface such as wetland protections, harvest notifications and trip ticket mandate. Other issues include increased minimum wage, paid family leave, strict liability for toxic chemicals, marijuana tax and regulation, a health care insurance mandate, new tax for the clean water fund and a new fee bill. Whew!!!

Ed Larson will be serving as our lobbyist during this legislative session.

VFPA asks for everyone's help in raising funds to pay for these services for the 2019 Legislative Session.

It is imperative that have our lobbyist in Montpelier, representing each of us in the Forest Products Industry.

If you wish to make a Legislative Donation, please make your check payable to



**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

January 26 - VFPA Annual Meeting - 9am to 3 pm

At the Steakhouse Restaurant, Berlin, VT
Agenda and Registration on page 14

February 21 - VFPA Directors' Meeting - 4 pm

At the Steakhouse Restaurant, Berlin, VT

March 21 - VFPA Directors' Meeting

Time and place to be announced

March 21 - SFI Legislative Breakfast

At the Statehouse Cafeteria

April 3 - 6 - ALC Washington, DC Spring Fly-in

Details on page 7

April 12 - VFPA - Statehouse Cardroom

8am - 4pm

April 18 - VFPA Directors' Meeting - 4 pm

At the Steakhouse Restaurant, Berlin, VT

April 26-27 - 2019 Loggers' Plus Expo - Bloomsburg, PA

April 27 - Northern Regional Roundup - 8:00 to 11:30am

Breakfast and Meeting at the Eastside Restaurant, Newport, VT
For information call Colleen at (802) 755-6298

May 16 - Loggers' Banquet at Jeff's Catering, Brewer, ME

May 17 - 18 - Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo

Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, ME

*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*