



Vermont Forest Products Association



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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

National Forest Products Week: October 20-26, 2019

Protecting Vermont's Forests Requires Cutting Some Trees

VT Digger: News In Pursuit of Truth

Imagine a landowner and a county forester walking in the woods. They're standing in the middle of a grove of mixed hardwoods. Interspersed within the numerous brown and gray trunks are softer hues of birch trees. The county forester offers the landowner tips to manage her 300-acre woodlot. For years, she has been managing her land in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.



But when the plywood mill in Rutland closed in 2014, the price paid for one of the most common trees in her forest dropped 40% almost overnight. To make ends meet, she is considering carving off a handful of five-acre plots from her 300 contiguous acres of hardwood forest and selling them to people interested in building homes or businesses.

As forestland owners subdivide woodlots into smaller pieces and sell these pieces to multiple owners, this creates a big problem with an even bigger name: forest fragmentation and parcelization. Disjointed land ownership makes the long-term management of forest resources more challenging and complex. Fragmented ownership can exacerbate the most urgent issue of our time, climate change. If we lose these forests, we lose important arrows in our climate change quiver – habitat connectivity, carbon sequestration and landscape resilience. Parcelization also impacts forest-based recreational opportunities such as skiing, hunting and biking. For example, an increased number of parcels means more permissions needed to support a trail network.

When local markets for timber dissolve, it becomes harder to keep woodlands intact and economically viable. When a place like the Rutland Plywood mill closes, it's not a victory for the forests. When processors and manufacturers of locally produced wood products struggle, it hurts the recreationalists who often use privately owned (but publicly accessible land) during a hike or snowmobile trip.

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When Vermont's forestland owners can no longer cover their costs of ownership – from property taxes to stewardship – with periodic timber harvests, we experience a ripple effect across the state impacting everyone from loggers to mill workers to mountain bikers.

A weak forest economy translates into weak forests. Vermont is currently *losing* forests – about 1% over the last decade, which may sound small but translates to nearly 50,000 acres. The economic viability of our working lands plays a key role in protecting the 4.5 million acres of forests covering Vermont's landscape. In recent years, Vermont has experienced a dramatic decline in local markets for forest products. This forces forestland owners to transport timber farther and farther to the remaining processors, squeezing profit margins and increasing carbon emissions. Over 100 sawmills and other wood processors have ceased operation in Vermont in the past 50 years, including Rutland Plywood. And as these local markets disappear, the risk to the viability of our working landscape grows.

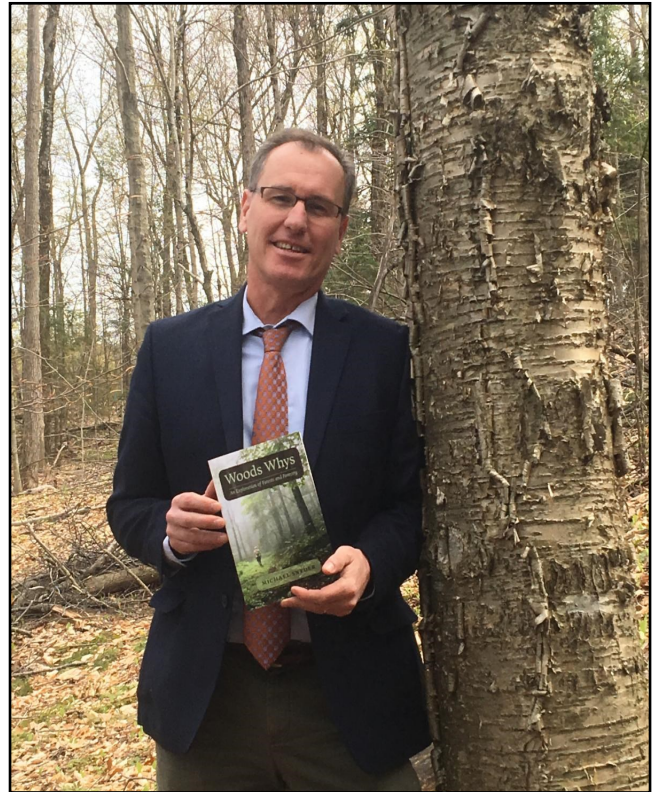
To put it bluntly, when landowners are unable to receive a reasonable rate of return on their land through the sale of timber, they look for other ways to cover the cost of ownership. I have heard some say, tongue-in-cheek, that they're trading a perennial crops of forest products for a one-time crop of houses. As a state, we need to "tip the scales" in favor of trees, perennial crops of forest products, and healthy, intact and expansive forest blocks.

For Vermont to truly embody our identity at the Green Mountain State, we must think holistically, not just about protecting forests, but the entire supply chain that allows forestland owners to receive a reasonable rate of return. Working to preserve forest products enterprises that add value and generate revenue essential to stable land ownership is the best practice of today and the future. The next time you see a log truck on the road, think about where it came from, where it's going, and the benefits we all accrue as a result.



Editor's note: This commentary is by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore, of Middlesex.

Wood Whys



Have you ever wondered how trees "come back to life" in spring? Why paper birches are so white? Or which trees make the best firewood?

A new book by Vermont's Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Michael Snyder answers these questions and many others.

Woods Why: An Exploration of Forests and Forestry is a collection of essays that aims to teach people more about trees, forests, and forest management—and, by doing so, to help them become more connected to the woods around them.

The essays in *Woods Why*, originally appeared in a column Snyder wrote for many years in *Northern Woodlands* magazine, and the book is designed to be read cover-to-cover or one article at a time, depending on what the reader is curious about. *Woods Why* is available in local bookstores across the region.



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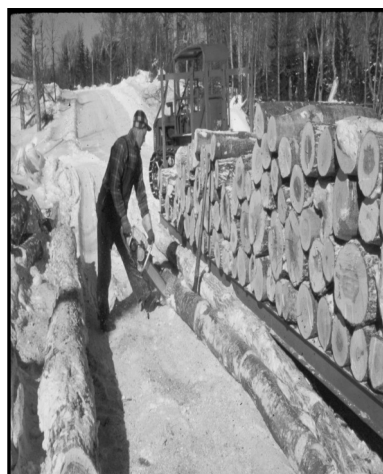
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'Where I Want To Be': Reflecting On 45 Years At The Sawmill

By ERICA HEILMAN: VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO



Colleen Goodridge began Goodridge Lumber with her husband 45 years ago when they dragged a \$500 run-down saw over Albany Mountain, on a wagon with flat tires, in mud season.

Goodridge Lumber is a family-run sawmill located in Albany, Vermont, in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom. In the last 25 years, nearly 150 of the state's sawmills have gone out of business according to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. But Goodridge Lumber, which specializes in locally harvested white cedar, is still going strong. Erica Heilman stopped by to talk with owner Colleen Goodridge.

It started with a \$500 run-down saw that Colleen and her husband, Donley, dragged over Albany Mountain, on a wagon with two flat tires, in mud season. And 45 years later, Colleen Goodridge is still running Goodridge Lumber, along with her three sons, Doug, Mark and Brian. I sat with Colleen in her office near a big woodstove, with about 16 pairs of work boots lined up on the hearth. She talked about what she loves about this life as well as her fears for the future of the forest industry in Vermont.

Colleen: "We are a special kind of breed, those of us that work the forest. We like a hard day's work and go to bed. We don't go to meetings very much and we don't toot our horn too much about what we do. And that may have backfired on us, because while people are moving away to more urban areas and we're doing our thing, there has become a disconnect of, when I see that big log truck going down the road, that does not mean the landscape has been raped.

Colleen continued: "And I think we have to do a better job helping people understand, this landowner has a forest management plan, it was ready for harvest, they're going to take that load of logs and it's going to help sustain that family, along with the others that

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have taken part in the harvest. And to realize all the values that all of us, wherever we live in Vermont, experience: the clean water, the clean air, our maple syrup industry, our Christmas tree business. Recreation is another big thing. Forest management and recreation go hand in hand. We talk about deer hunting, wildlife habitat — if there isn't food for the wildlife, they're going to be gone. So we just need to make sure that people know that even though the silent people have been quietly doing their work, they are needed.

Colleen continued: "We have experienced generations of our families in this line of work. We don't use the crosscut saw anymore, and the team of horses. But you still have that desire to go out, see a nice cut, maybe go back in 15 years and do it again. There have been decades and generations of families committed to working the land, and unless they are accepted, appreciated, valued and supported, they will not exist."

On the sawmill floor, the grind of the saw is deafening. Colleen shouts over it all her praises for what she calls a "nice board."

Colleen: "This is what money can't buy, is to look at a nice board like this."

Colleen continued: "We saw year round. As you'll notice, it's quite an open building. We will saw down to 20 below zero. Everybody moves just a little faster and puts a few more clothes on."

Me: "What are you most afraid of?"

Colleen: "I wish that we had more sawmills in Vermont. And providing a market that was close to the source. That's another thing: we talk about emissions and climate change and everything else. If we can have our markets closer, we can be more efficient in our trucking and transporting. I think there's only been two mills permitted since 1974 that I know of. That might not be absolute."



Me: "Why — why — have we lost all our mills?"

Colleen: "Well, I can tell you that Act 250, which was in 1970, that was enacted to protect the environment and promote economic prosperity. I think we needed to do a better job protecting our environment. I think we're working well on that. But I think that in the forestry business, I see that we have been hampered by regulation. "

Me: "Is this an uphill climb everyday, doing what you do?"

Colleen: "I am more concerned as we go forward in our 46th year ... the loggers that I see that are retiring or downsizing, the truckers that I see that are retiring. The landowners that I'm seeing that are having to make choices about their land against their heart because of economic challenges. The students come here, especially the high school students looking for careers, and a part of me is saying, 'Am I encouraging them to get into a business where they can't make a living?' I'm really torn there."

When the saw is off at Goodridge Lumber, it's quiet, quiet enough to hear the crickets chirping all around us.

Colleen: "Farming, whatever you're farming, whether it's hay, whether it's trees, you're very connected to nature and to the landscape. From seeing the first tree bud in the spring, and the different greens on the hillside, to now we're seeing a change in the seasons and the colors, we know what's coming up, we've got shorter days."

Colleen continued: "I always told the boys when it's my time, I'm going to go sit on the log pile up in back in peace and quiet and go to my next place. That's where I want to be."



BUNNELL NAMED JAKES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – For more than 20 years, Rocky Bunnell has hosted a JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) Day in his community, introducing thousands of youths to the outdoors. For these efforts, the National Wild Turkey Federation presented Bunnell with the JAKES Volunteer of the Year Award.

“The success is teamwork,” Bunnell said. “There’s a great group of people that work with me. Without them, this wouldn’t happen. It’s because of the kids. I’m glad people realize the importance of kids in the outdoors ... The numbers of active people in the hunting world are going down. It’s good to know that the kids get to experience things that a lot of them wouldn’t otherwise have the chance to.”

Bunnell, of Monroe, New Hampshire, accepted the JAKES Volunteer of the Year Award during the 43rd annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show. Mossy Oak is the official convention sponsor.

The North County Longspurs NWTF JAKES Day is one of the country’s longest running outreach events thanks to the efforts of Bunnell. For starters, the event takes place on his family’s property — known as “Bunnell Camp” — as well as bordering properties where he has secured access.

In addition, Bunnell coordinates all aspects of the event, working with local businesses to help defray the cost of food and recruiting new volunteers to help keep programming new and exciting. Bunnell even works with state wildlife agencies to request help in obtaining fish to stock in a pond on the property so young anglers can take part in a fishing derby.

Bunnell’s impact on his community shows; many of those who previously attended the event as kids are now returning with their own children or to volunteer their time.

“Rocky puts his heart and soul into making the annual North County Long Spurs JAKES Day a success,” NWTF CEO Becky Humphries said. “We are thankful for volunteers like him, and are proud to honor him as our JAKES volunteer of the year.”

About the National Wild Turkey Federation

When the National Wild Turkey Federation was founded in 1973, there were about 1.3 million wild turkeys in North America. After decades of work, that number hit a historic high of almost 7 million turkeys. To succeed, the NWTF stood behind science-based conservation and hunters' rights. Today, the NWTF is focused on the future of hunting and conservation through its Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative – a charge that mobilizes science, fundraising and devoted volunteers to conserve or enhance more than 4 million acres of essential wildlife habitat, recruit at least 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 acres for hunting. For more information, visit NWTF.org.



Post and Beam on Lake Iroquois Keeps the Wood, the Work, and the Dollars Local

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



George Wilcox and his son Dave Wilcox stand next to the log of a white pine tree that was cut in February on their West Berlin property. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

The story behind Randy Kay's camp on Lake Iroquois began with an errant voicemail. Andy Harper, owner of Winterwood Timber Frames, received a message that he wasn't sure was meant for him, but he returned the call anyway and got to talking with Kay, who was looking to build a camp using materials sourced in Vermont. "Using local, responsibly-sourced timber for our post and beam buildings is a central tenet of my business," said Harper, "so we ended up having a great conversation."

Small-Scale Forestry

Kay hired Harper to build his 1,800 square-foot camp, and began working with architect Timothy Duff to design a year-round home that would fit naturally in the surrounding environment. That same spring, Harper was asked to speak at the Vermont Forest Industry Summit in Burke about utilizing local wood. In the audience, Dave Wilcox, a forester and landowner, heard Harper say that he was looking for small-scale sources of high quality local pine for his timber frames. "He said he didn't need 100,000 board feet all at once," said Wilcox, "and that because he paid a premium for the logs, he preferred to walk the land to ensure that the trees were suitable for the home he was building. We had a small mixed softwood stand that was ready to be thinned and included some beautiful 70- to 80-year-old pines, so I introduced myself after the panel and invited Andy to come out to walk my family's forest."

Andy Harper, left, of Winterwood Timber Frames, oversees his crew as they build Randy Kay's house on Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg.

Photo by Erica Houskeeper.



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Dave Wilcox harvests a white pine tree on his family's property in West Berlin. The property, a Certified Tree Farm and enrolled in current use, has been in the Wilcox family since 1973. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Wilcox manages more than 200 acres of his family's forest in West Berlin. The property, which is a Certified Tree Farm and enrolled in current use, has been in the Wilcox family since 1973. As it turned out, the area that was next scheduled for treatment included pines that were exactly what Harper needed for Kay's camp. Ranging from about 90- to 100-feet, the trees were straight and tall with few knots, but were starting to get choked out. "It was a right-sized deal at the right time for both of us," said Wilcox, "and it fit within our long-term forest management plan." The timber sale totaled five small truckloads of White Pine logs, totaling 21,000 board feet, as well as seven cords of Red Maple firewood and about 4,000 board feet of Spruce sawlogs—all in all a pretty light thinning of the six-to seven-acre area. "Even a small sale for a big Canadian mill would typically be in the 50,000-75,000 board foot range," said Harper. "I try not to inventory timber because pine used for post and beam construction has to be fresh. It doesn't make sense for me to buy double what I need." In fact, the name "Winterwood" refers to the harvesting of trees in the winter for spring construction. "Forestry has seasonality," said Harper, "just like agriculture." Adding Value Along the Supply Chain

Between the forest and the construction site, the trees harvested last winter from the Wilcox land were processed by a critical third partner, Fontaine Millwork and Forestry. Located in East Montpelier just a few miles from Winterwood Timber Frames, Fontaine and Harper have been friends for a long time. "Marc has the ability to saw logs up to 35-feet long," said Harper, "which is unusual and truly impressive. He's used to handling the larger and longer pieces we need for timber framing, so we work together often." All of the logs from the timber sale were delivered to Fontaine, where Harper



then walked through and chose logs for the post and beam. He provided Fontaine with a cut sheet specifying the exact size and length of the beams needed for the camp based on the architect's plan. The side cuts left over from the logs were dried into lumber that is being used in the camp for flooring. All in all, Harper purchased about 60 percent of the timber sale, and Fontaine purchased the rest to be sold as finished lumber. "Marc played an essential role in the economics of this sale," said Wilcox. "He was willing to buy the remaining logs that were not suitable for post and beam."

All three men agree that the relationships forged in a small state allow them to do business differently.

"There's a degree of trust and a shared love of the forest," said Wilcox. "We all value the idea that these trees won't be shipped overseas to become a piece of trim board at a big box store. Instead, they'll be used in a home where people live and appreciate that the timber grew here in Vermont for almost a century before becoming part of their home."



Marc Fontaine of Fontaine Sawmill in East Montpelier is skilled at sawing larger and longer logs that are needed for timber framing. Photo by Erica Houskeeper.

Harper agrees. "Not every tree is a commodity," he adds. "The people who add value along the way have as much of a story as the tree itself." Harper points to other Vermont businesses such as The Treehouse Hardwoods and Millshop and Green Mountain Grain & Barrel who are also sourcing wood with a history of place. "The idea that local wood products support an important industry here in Vermont is starting to take hold," he said. "We have to keep making the connection for people between the wood they buy and the forests they love. We have to keep preaching, keep supporting one another, and keep buying local."

Wilcox, who was visiting the construction site with his father, George, a retired fieldman for Agri-mark, points out the similarities to Vermont's local food movement. "People understand that they support the fields and farmers when they buy local food at the farmer's market," he said. "But they don't necessarily make the same connection for wood products. The only way to prevent parcelization and maintain healthy forests for recreation, wildlife, and the environment is to support the working forested landscape. In order for landowners to keep our forests as forests, we need the economics to work." The value of the wood, however, goes beyond dollars and cents for Kay, who intentionally sourced building materials from Vermont. "I want this home to tell a story," said Kay. "Now part of the story is that the timber came from the Wilcox family land, and that we supported Vermonters and the forested landscape."

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Vermont's forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction and wood heating. Forest-based recreation adds an additional \$1.9 billion and 10,000 jobs to Vermont's economy. The Vermont Forest Industry Network creates the space for industry professionals from across the entire supply chain and trade association partners throughout the state to build stronger relationships and collaboration throughout the industry, including helping to promote new and existing markets for Vermont wood products, from high quality furniture to construction material to thermal biomass products such as chips and pellets.

For more information please visit www.vsif.org.



*In Vermont, because it is a small state, people in the forest products industry forge lasting relationships.
From left, Andy Harper, Dave Wilcox, George Wilcox, and Randy Kay.
Photo by Erica Houskeeper.*



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ST. JOHNSBURY FIREWOOD BUSINESS WINS USDA ENERGY GRANT

By Andrew McGregor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced that over \$9.3 million was being invested in rural businesses and mentioned a project by a local logger as one just four projects highlighted in the nationally distributed release.

All told USDA issued about 650 grants nation-wide ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$20,000 to farmers, Ag producers and rural-based businesses and institutions to help lower energy costs through the Rural Energy for America Program.

In St. Johnsbury, Tony Dwyer's Logging LLC will receive a \$12,465 REAP grant to help fund a more efficient kiln drying system for firewood. Tony Dwyer's Logging produces high-quality, kiln-dried firewood. The new kiln, which will run on propane, will reduce the cost of processing a cord of wood by 40 percent.

Dwyer said Wednesday the kiln represents a \$100,000 investment he has made this year to boost his volume and lower production time and costs. He's hoping the kiln will be fired up sometime next week.

"It will be twice as efficient, maybe three times as efficient, as my old kiln that ran off of my outdoor boiler," said Dwyer. He works in his small business on Higgins Hill Road with his finance, Brittnee Stuart, who helps run the firewood side of things with a bit of hired help.

Dwyer's old kiln fit 5 cord and it would take 7-10 days to dry the firewood to the 5-10 percent moisture target. He said his new equipment will fit 6 cord and only take 24-36 hours depending on the season.

Currently the company sells about 25 cord of firewood a week, which has been steadily increasing to meet demand. Dwyer said on the firewood side of the business he drops and trucks some of the log supply himself from his logging supply, but he also buys firewood by the long length from suppliers and processes at his business.

About a third of the firewood they sell is sold kiln-dried, with the other portion either green or seasoned (air-dried). Kiln-dried is a premium offering because it burns cleaner and doesn't result in creosote due to the low moisture levels in the wood, said Dwyer. The demand for the kiln-dried wood has increased, which was part of the reason he invested in the new kiln.

"We've got orders, as soon as the new kiln is up and running, we will be busy with that for a month," said Dwyer. "We are actually thinking about getting another firewood processor (the equipment that cuts and splits logs into firewood)."

"We were pretty excited to get the grant to keep costs down," said Dwyer. "We've paid everything out of pocket now, so this fall is going to be a bonus to get that money. I'll probably reinvest it." Dwyer said he could buy 10 trailers of log length wood to have on hand for future firewood customers.

Dwyer said one of Stuart's relatives, with grant writing experience, helped in the application process. The grant that he received will be paid as reimbursement once his project and the required paperwork is completed.

As part of the release, Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator Bette Brand said, "Lowering energy costs helps rural businesses improve their bottom line and create jobs."

Congress appropriated \$50 million for REAP grants and loan guarantees in fiscal year 2019. USDA will make additional funding announcements in the REAP program in coming weeks.

Recipients can use REAP funding for a variety of needs, such as conducting energy audits and installing renewable energy systems such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower and solar. Funds also can be used to make energy efficiency improvements to heating, ventilation and cooling systems; insulation; and lighting and refrigeration.

In the most recent round the only other regional recipient was Cloutier Lancaster Development LLC in Lancaster, N.H., which received \$12,230 for a project to create biofuel from waste products.



WORKING LANDS BUSINESS GRANTS APPLICATION PERIOD OPENING

October 3, 2019 | Montpelier, VT – Following last month's announcement of the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) [Service Provider Grant period opening](#), the Board is proud to announce the 2020 Business Grant period pre-application guide has now been posted. WLEB business grant funds seek to support the development of Vermont-based agriculture and forest products businesses. The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) supports innovative entrepreneurs at the forefront of Vermont's Working Lands economy to help growing businesses thrive.

STANDARD BUSINESS GRANTS – \$5,000-\$24,999

Project activities for these grants may include:

- Infrastructure development: project specific planning, permitting, and/or engineering or architectural plans; purchase and/or construction of physical assets (i.e., building and equipment costs)
- Market development: accessing new markets and securing new customers, including institutional and wholesale market expansion, costs associated with achieving humane and/or organic certification
- Research and development: testing new systems or technologies; developing innovative solutions to production issue

SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACT BUSINESS GRANTS – \$25,000-\$75,000

Project characteristics may include:

- Grants will demonstrate how the market or product the applicant is developing or expanding will positively impact multiple businesses within its own supply chain.
- Infrastructure improvements that support increased production, processing, and/or distribution of a commodity or value-added product(s), thus benefiting the application and additional enterprises;
- Leveraging supply chain partnerships to reach new or larger markets, e.g. via product aggregation, co-branding, vertical or horizontal efficiencies, etc.

zontal efficiencies, etc.

MARKET LEVEL IMPACT BUSINESS GRANTS – \$50,000-\$150,000 (forestry, wood products, and dairy sectors only)

Project activities for these grants will illustrate how the market, product, or service the applicant is developing or expanding will positively impact multiple businesses and/or create a new market for sector-specific commodities and/or value-added products, as noted below. Impacts of the project will be visible across the market, and within that industry sector in Vermont.

- Makes significant process and/or infrastructure improvements for medium to large scale production, processing, or distribution enterprises in the forestry, wood products, or dairy sector;
- Scale of the primary product being brought into supply chain has the ability to broaden the industry, address the sector on a market-wide scale, and/or address a market downturn;
- The technology or approach is innovative and will lead to new opportunities for multiple businesses

Please visit <https://workinglands.vermont.gov/grant-opportunities> to begin the process.

Important dates for the completion of the grant process are:

- Request for Applications Release: **October 1, 2019**
- Pre-application Period Begins: **October 8, 2019**
- Pre-applications Due: **November 3, 2019 at 11:59 PM** (application closes at midnight)
- Notification of Pre-application Acceptance/

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- Denial: **Late December 2019**
- Invited Full Applications Due: **January 26, 2020 at 11:59 PM** (application closes at midnight)
- Award Notification: **Early March 2020**
Estimated Project Start Date: **May 2020**

FY 2020 Program Year

The Working Lands Enterprise Board plans to award \$1.6 million in total is available for investment into farm, food systems, forestry, and forest products enterprises. Funds will be disbursed in (2) investment areas: Business Grants and Service Provider Grants. **A total of \$100,000-150,000 is available for Service Provider Grants for awards in the range of \$5,000-20,000.** Information regarding Business Grants, including those for dairy-specific projects (for which \$500,000 is available in grant funds) will be released on October 1, 2019.

History of Success to Date

The Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB) was formed in August 2012 and today has awarded over \$5.5 million in grant funds to over 200 grantees, leveraging more than \$10 million of matching funds. Since 2013, the WLEB has invested over \$2 million to twenty-six distinct service provider organizations in the form of grants and contracts. For a list of previously funded projects, visit <http://workinglands.vermont.gov/projects>.

Description of WLEI

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) is administered by the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets in partnership with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The initiative is led by the Working Lands Enterprise Board, made up of public and private sector members involved in agriculture, food, forestry, and wood products.

For more on WLEI, visit <https://workinglands.vermont.gov/>.

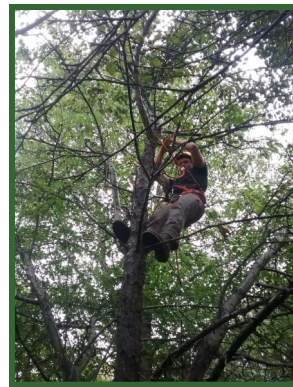
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TECH CENTER NEWS



Well, North Country Career Center Natural Resources students are donning their chaps and hardhats today (10/21/19) to begin Game of Logging training after a week of learning to use and maintain chainsaws. The training will also serve as the first round of timber falling for a pine harvest at a local land-owner's woodlot. The students have estimated volumes of standing timber, determined landing and road layouts, researched stumpage prices and wood markets, written a contract, and are eager to get started on this harvest. Some of the wood will be brought back to the school to be milled up and used to build timber-frame dugouts for the Derby Junior High School.

In recognition of the need to get more kids outdoors and forming personal connections with their environment, we are building up a fleet of canoes and related outdoor recreation gear and have been out on Memphremagog learning how to paddle canoes while studying water quality (including exotic invasive aquatic plants and measuring turbidity to understand nutrient inputs and algal growth). We are planning and preparing for a week long canoe camping trip in Maine this spring and some of us canoe camped for one night a couple of weeks ago on the lake to learn leave-no-trace camping techniques.



We have also been busy running some maple sugar lines at nearby sugarbush, learning arboriculture climbing techniques while gathering apples for cider making, practicing reading deeds and using compasses and GPS units to locate property boundaries and read and make maps, and learning tree identification.

One major highlight was a visit with Vt Fish and Wildlife biologist Peter Emerson at the fish ladder on the Clyde River. Students enjoyed identifying, measuring and weighing Atlantic salmon while learning about restoration efforts and their connections to water quality and power generation.

Off to the woods! Work safe,

Sam Nijensohn
North Country Career Center
Natural Resources
209 Veterans Ave., Newport VT, 05855
(802) 334-2556



SFI Vermont

Coordinator Report

Ed Larson – Coordinator

A very important function of the SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC) is to assure its participants that logging contractors that desire to sell wood to them have access to quality loggers training and education in their state. For Vermont, very similar to other states, our SIC dedicates a major portion of its resources this end. In Vermont, the fact that we are small compared to SIC's in other states, our mission is best accomplished through collaboration. We work as a strong supporter and when possible a sponsor of The Vermont Loggers Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP). LEAP is the primary loggers' education program in Vermont. The SFI SIC encourages logging contractors to enroll in LEAP and maintain their status as a trained logger that is necessary to be able to be an SFI approved logging contractor.

The VT SIC is also very concerned about the challenges and extremely high costs of Workers' Compensation Insurance for logging contractors in Vermont. The high costs are making it very difficult for Vermont loggers to compete with loggers from neighboring states and some choose to work as an independent contractor, sole proprietor and not carry insurance. This becomes a large safety concern for the industry. That is why SFI VT has endorsed the newly created **Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program**. Deputy Commissioner, Sam Lincoln with the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation has led the charge to spearhead this new program designed to reduce workers' compensation rates for logging contractors. This new program involves expanding LEAP with high quality safety courses targeting the different types of logging activities and for each of the various jobs conducted in the woods. In addition, the state Dept. of Financial Regulation was able to create a 15% discount on premiums for loggers that complete the courses offered by LEAP and become safety certified.

SFI SIC Chair, William Sayre urges more participation with the following statement:

We face great challenges in our forest products industry at this time. High tariffs, Wet weather, and high workers' comp. rates for loggers. Our US Trade representatives are in China working on the tariffs, a higher power than us all will decide the weather, but workers' comp. is an issue on which each of us can do our part; Land-owners, Foresters, Mills, Loggers, Insurance Companies, and Government. We all can encourage and support more participation in both insurance programs and the safety training programs that will reduce accidents, and thereby, reduce workers' comp. rates.

The stage is set for New Insurance and Safety Program to start working. The Insurance Discount is in place, and the specialized safety training courses, which are part of the insurance discount, are scheduled.

Think about it, tell others about it, and then do your best to help make successful The Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Comp. Insurance Program.

SFI/AIV Forest Policy Task Force

The first of two semi-annual meetings was 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 had a good turnout of about 50 or so members of the industry. SAF CE credits were granted to attendees seeking to maintain their Forester's license.

The second Forest Policy Task Force of 2019 is in the planning stages as this is written. The date is not yet set so stay tuned for future announcements. It will be another policy filled program with several experts covering the myriad of topics we encounter in our industry. Look forward to seeing all of you then.

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



GMTCC WELCOMES NEW FORESTRY INSTRUCTOR

My name is Meghan Luther and I am a Walden Vermont native. I graduated in 2010 from the GMTCC Forestry Program. I went on to Unity College in Maine for wildlife conservation where I competed on a woodsmen team in the US and Canada. I came back to Vermont and finished my degree at Johnson State College. I have worked for Sue Morse as a wildlife tracker, EPSCoR for water quality and for Vermont Fish and Wildlife as a wildlife technician. I am very excited for this opportunity! I hope to meet some of you either for sugaring season or before so feel free to contact me!

802-851-1520
mluther@gmtcc.net



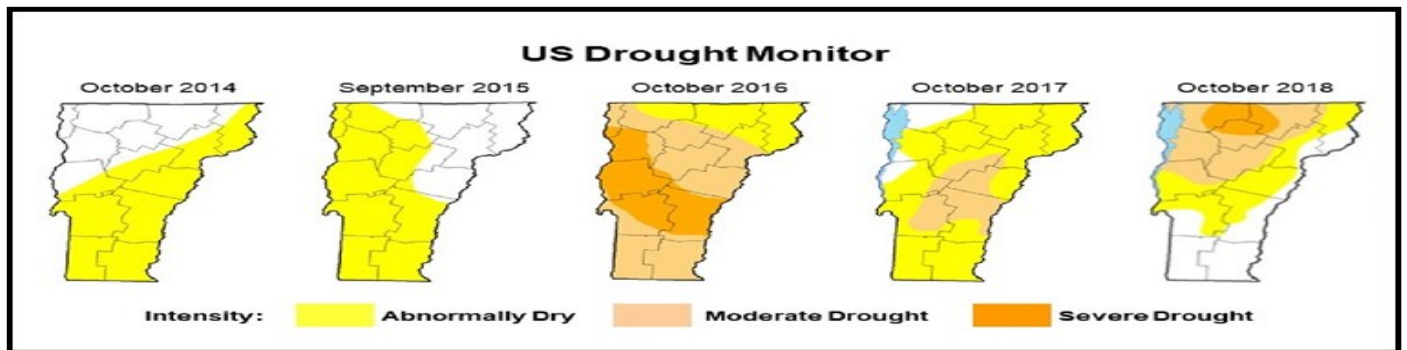
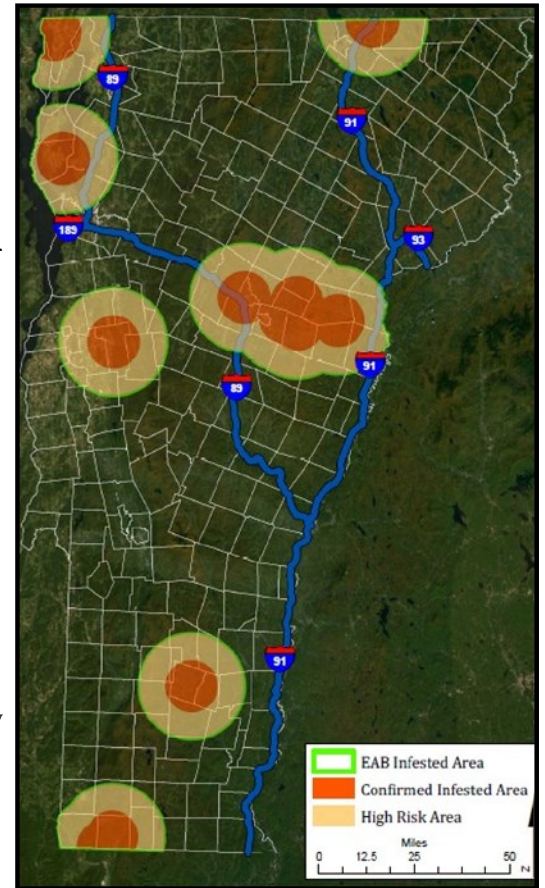
A Very Short Break from Bad News about Exotic Beetles

We got through the month of September with no new detections of emerald ash borer (EAB), but by the first week of October a beetle from Londonderry was submitted by an arborist. A USDA identifier made it the first confirmed EAB in Windham County. Because of this detection, the mapped area in Vermont to which “Slow-the-Spread” recommendations apply now covers all of Londonderry, Windham and Landgrove, most of Jamaica, Winhall, Peru, Weston, Andover and Grafton and extends into Chester, Townshend, Stratton, Athens, Mount Tabor and Wardsboro.

October means that non-flight season Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer are now in effect when moving ash from the infested area. With heating season underway, it’s important to remember that untreated ash firewood should never be moved out of infested areas. While the infested area map shows that high risk areas for EAB include many towns, visibly infested trees still remain rare in Vermont. There’s a lot of spread that hasn’t happened yet, so there’s a lot of spread to slow!

We plan to release emerald ash borer biocontrols next year and are looking for potential release sites. These should be in or near locations with visibly infested ash trees. Release sites should be one to a few acres in size with a significant ash component. We’d ask the landowner to leave the area uncut for a period of at least four years. Interested landowners or managers of sites that meet these criteria should contact barbara.schultz@vermont.gov.

Since EAB remained undetected in Vermont for ten years following the 2008 discovery south of Montreal, it may seem surprising that suddenly, within a space of 20 months, it’s been confirmed in eight counties. There is a likely explanation. Although EAB can infest and kill healthy ash trees, it’s well documented that, like most other metallic wood borers, it prefers trees that are stressed. This is why girdled trap trees are a good detection tool. From 2014-2018 our growing seasons have been abnormally dry. While drought didn’t carry EAB to Vermont, it likely allowed insect populations to build up quickly and spread.



The sudden detection of many EAB locations since the first Vermont detection in February 2018 is likely due to recent dry growing seasons, which are favorable to the success of EAB and other beetles in the family Buprestidae.

Map: NOAA/USDA/NDMC <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The new AMP Manual from FPR is Here!

The wait is over, and the new AMP manual is now available from your local FPR Office:

Barre

5 Perry Street, Suite 20
Barre, VT 05641-4265
(802) 476-0170

Essex Jct.

111 West Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-4695
(802) 879-6565

Rutland

271 North Main Street, Suite 215
Rutland, VT 05701-2423
(802) 786-0060

St. Johnsbury

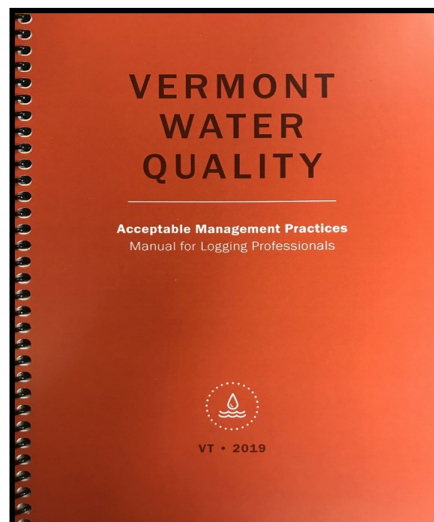
374 Emerson Falls Road
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 751-0110

Springfield

100 Mineral Street, Suite 304
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
(802) 289-0613

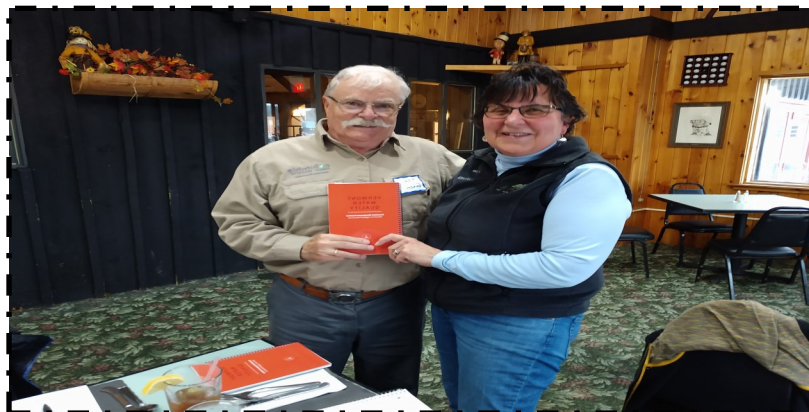
Headquarters office in Montpelier

1 National Life Drive
Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 828-1531



This manual replaces the old “orange book” and has tons of info on the AMP rules, along with other information related to maintaining water quality.

If you have questions, you can contact Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester- (802) 793-0265



Mike Green and Colleen Goodridge with the new AMP manual at VFPA's October meeting.

Photo Courtesy of Ed Larson



Another Round of Skidder Bridge Grants Coming Soon

FPR is announcing that another round of Temporary Skidder Bridge cost share grants will be starting soon. Applications for the temporary steel and wooden bridges will be available on the FPR website by October 15th, 2019. At least five steel bridges and three wooden bridges will be funded in this round.

If you have questions, contact Dave Wilcox,
FPR Watershed Forester at (802)793-0265
david.wilcox@vermont.gov.



Wooden Skidder Bridge



Example of an all-Steel Skidder Bridge

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>

FPR Portable Bridge Rentals

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester
david.wilcox@vermont.gov

802-793-0265



VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION 2019 CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS



The VFPA Annual Awards Program is our opportunity to recognize Excellence in our industry and our chance to celebrate some of the best people that represent the many good people of our industry. We need you to look around the industry and send us nominations of folks who make significant contributions to our industry.

We will use the **Northeastern Loggers Association (NELA)** award categories: Outstanding - Logging Operator, Sawmill Operator, Wood Manufacturer, Forest Products Trucking Operator, Management of Resources, Contribution to Forest Industry Education, Contribution to Safety, Industry Activist, Use of Wood, Service to the Forest Industry and Leadership in Industry.

Send a brief description of why you think the nominee should be given the award in the appropriate category. Along with the description, send a short biographical sketch of the nominee and letters from two individuals who will verify and support the nomination.

We are calling for nominations to be submitted to Brandy at ytfpa@hotmail.com by December 16, 2019.

Awards will be presented at the January 25, 2020 VFPA Annual Meeting.

We will submit our VFPA winners to the NELA competition by January 31, 2020. NELA Awards will be presented at the Annual Logger's Banquet to be held May 14, 2020 in South Burlington, VT.

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS GUN RAFFLE

Mossberg Patriot chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum

\$500.00 VALUE

\$25 per ticket

Drawing: January 25, 2020

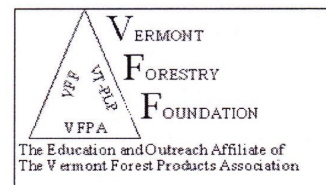
If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, contact any VFPA Director or email at ytfpa@hotmail.com

ONLY 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD



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.

From Sam Lincoln, Deputy Commissioner, VT Department of Forests Parks and Recreation

The Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program is advancing with growing participation from Vermont's logging contractors and their employees. Qualifying trainings were held at five locations around Vermont earlier in October - Nortrax in Springfield, Anderson Equipment in East Montpelier, Stan Robinson & Son Log Yard in Passumpsic, Long View Forest in Westminster and Gagnon Lumber in Pittsford. Four of the five trainings were sold out and more will be held in 2020.

Based on a grant to the LEAP program provided by the legislature, attendees will be getting rebates on a portion of the registration cost for both the Introduction to Mechanized Logging Safety and Advanced Logger Safety. If you would like to take any of the qualifying trainings for this program in the future - Forest Operations Supervisor, Introduction to Mechanized Logging, Advanced Logger Safety, or Game of Logging - please email your interest to vtleap@gmail.com and you will be notified when one of these trainings is scheduled.

Governor Scott, members of his cabinet and several legislators were on hand at on October 9th at Anderson Equipment to announce that W.J. Cox Insurance from New York has been awarded the contract to provide onsite loss control consultations for loggers enrolled in the program. W.J. Cox is well established in forest economy related insurance, with decades of experience in loss prevention on logging operations. Stay tuned for more information on the availability of this new service, which will bring a consultant to logging operations to reduce the risk of injuries on the job.

On behalf of the entire team that's brought this program together, I want to send a strong message of thanks to the **67 loggers that attended these trainings**. I've heard from numerous loggers about how much they learned from the trainings. I can remember well when I was logging the first day the guys put on high vis jackets, or we held a safety meeting, and it sure felt awkward, but we committed to doing it, quickly realized the benefits, and it became a natural part of our work. I also remember leaving a logger rescue training years ago and realizing how underprepared I was should someone be injured on the job, and that I needed to spend a relatively small amount of money to have necessary lifesaving supplies on hand.



There were questions raised at the trainings about the time it will take to address safety issues, document training, or whether or not any insurance premium discount outweighs the lost production it takes to attend a training. I myself came to this initiative thinking primarily about the economics of workers' compensation insurance, because I never had a claim or major injury on my own logging operation. Though the insurance discounts available for safety certified loggers are significant, and this voluntary initiative is designed to steadily bring rates down over time for a dedicated group of safer loggers, we need to work through the relatively minor initial cost concerns and think about coworkers, their families and preventing severe injuries and fatalities. Nobody wants to picture him or herself standing on a coworker's front porch telling their family that they aren't coming home from what was a preventable incident.

67 loggers working together is more than enough to make change. They took this first step together, and it will be powerful if they commit to staying on this course together, and others join them.

As always, call or email me if you have questions, concerns or feedback that we can assist with.

Sam.lincoln@vermont.gov or 802-622-4005



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

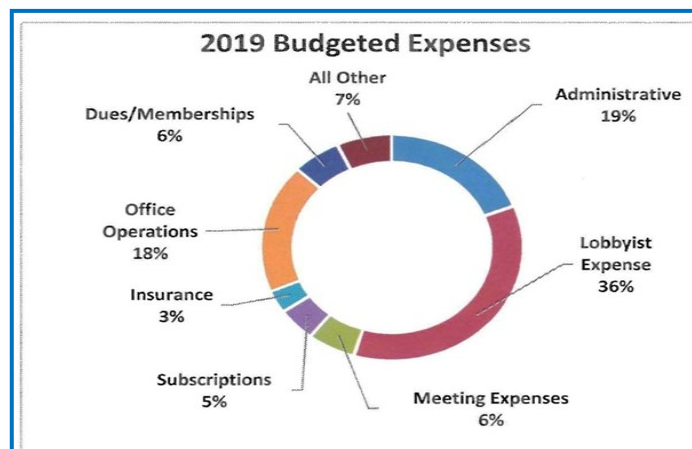
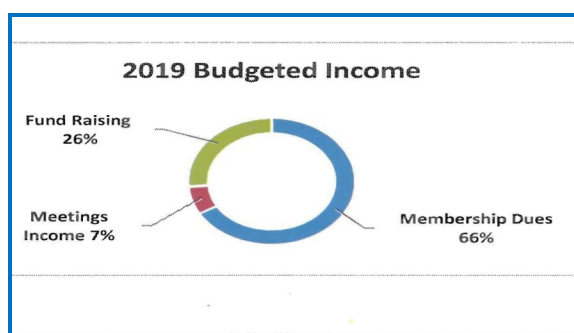
Chris Melendy
Reese Pedro-Pedro Logging
Brian Piper-BP's Excavation Logging
& Trucking
Robert Spring - Spring Tree Co.

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

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, \$10,000.00 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

November - No Meeting

December 19 - VFPA Directors Meeting,
The Steakhouse Restaurant 1239 US Route 302
Berlin, VT 4pm.

January 25 - VFPA Annual Meeting,
The Steakhouse Restaurant 1239 US Route 302
Berlin, VT 9-3pm.



*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