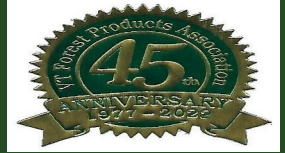




Vermont Forest Products Association



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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

Vermont Forest Products Association Annual Meeting Held Saturday, February 26, 2022

The Vermont Forest Products Association held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 26, 2022 via Zoom. President Steve Hardy opened the meeting by announcing that VFPA was celebrating its 45th Anniversary (1977-2022) this year. The Vermont Forest Products Association began as a grassroots gathering of individuals of the Forest Products Industry aimed at addressing the IRS "Independent Contractor" status, which was raising havoc with the industry. Although there have been organizational changes since 1977, the mission of promoting and defending all sectors of the Forest Products Industry is unwavering and is as strong today as it was in its early days.

The business portion of the meeting included election of Directors. Leadership of VFPA is provided by volunteers from all sectors of the Forest Products Industry that are located throughout Vermont and surrounding communities. Directors elected for the 2022-2024 term are Trevor Allard, Caleb Currie, Colleen Goodridge, Mike Green, Tyler Mousley and Ken Gagnon. These Directors join the 2021-2023 Director's slate of Steve Hardy, Robbo Holleran, Michael Molleur, Bill Sayre, Chris Fife, Eric Parenti and David Grayck.

Commissioner Michael Snyder, VT Dept. of FPR, Mike Covey, Executive Director of VT Traditions Coalition, and Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, gave legislative updates. Issues at the forefront facing the industry include Act 250 Reform, Climate Change legislation in response to the Climate Council's December report, VT Use and Value Appraisal Program (UVA) - a bill proposing a new "Forest Reserve" category, Conserved Lands Legislation, Forest Fragmentation, Carbon Sequestration, Wetlands, Overweight Truck Permits, Transportation Climate Legislation and more.

The VFPA tradition of Awards for Excellence in the Forest Products Industry, recognizing the good work that is being done, was highlighted with the presentation of five VFPA Forest Products Awards....

VFPA "Outstanding Wood Manufacturer" Award: Columbia Forest Products, Veneer Operations, Newport, VT
For being an economic anchor for Newport City and the Northeast Region – providing employment and a consistent market for logs from loggers and landowners, as well as being a community partner and leader involved in many civic activities and organizations. Employee owned, innovating responsibly, manufacturing hardwood veneer products of the highest quality, providing outstanding customer service – from the forest to the finished product.

VFPA "Outstanding Contribution to Safety" Award: John Adler, Northeast Woodland Training
In recognition and appreciation for 40 years of commitment and dedication, helping loggers work safely and efficiently in the woods. Co-owner and Senior Trainer of Northeast Woodland Training – offering Game of Logging, LEAP, and instruction on the cut-to-length system of logging – and his contributions to the design of the VT Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. A logging safety "evangelist" – making a difference in the Forest Products Industry throughout the United States.

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VFPA “Outstanding Commitment to Forest Industry Education” Award: Kathleen Wanner, Vermont Woodlands Association

In recognition of her commitment and advocacy for healthy forests of Vermont – landowners, producers, and manufacturers. A dedicated forest educator, she has identified needs, coordinated and secured funding for educational opportunities touching thousands of landowners and the general public – of all ages. Travelling the Vermont roads, her “classroom” is wherever she is – promoting the Vermont Woodland Life.

VFPA “Outstanding Service to the Forest Industry” Award: Bill Savre, The A. Johnson Co.

In appreciation for his outstanding service, leadership, integrity, dedication, and contributions for the betterment of the forest products industry and his community – beneficiaries of his wisdom, knowledge, foresight, resolve, patience, experience and positive outlook – as friend, colleague, mentor, advocate, radio host and “kindred spirit”. Thank you Bill – “Keep the Faith”

VFPA “Director Emeritus” Award: Bruce Shields

In sincere appreciation for his leadership, integrity and commitment in distinguished service for the betterment of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont. Awarded by his friends and colleagues from The Vermont Forest Products Association.

The meeting concluded with the raffle drawing for the Husqvarna 562G chainsaw. The lucky winner was Justin Holbrook, Holbrook and Sons Logging, Hardwick, VT.

Thank you to our members for their continuing support of the Vermont Forest Products Association!

The meeting adjourned with the hope of having an in-person Annual Meeting next year!



Vermont Forest Business School is Recruiting for the 2022-23 Session

The Vermont Forest Business School is now recruiting mid-career small business owners and related professionals for a six-month session that begins in mid-October. The group meets remotely one evening each week, with occasional in-person classes.

This program is geared toward accomplished people who want to make improvements in their businesses and work. We study mental models, continuous improvement, project management, financial measures, sales, persuasion and systems thinking and apply them to rural businesses. Audiobooks, podcasts and other reading materials form the basis of weekly sessions, with a heavy emphasis on discussions and peer interactions, rather than lectures.

If you are an accomplished person who wants to dedicate time to professional growth, this program might be a good fit for you. The Forest Business School is not intended for early career professionals, hobbyists or those nearing retirement. The program is free, but participants are responsible for obtaining course materials.

Please visit www.vtfbs.com or contact Dr. Steve Bick at FBS@northeastforests.com if you are interested in enrollment.

Space is limited. He will encourage you to talk with some of the FBS alumni. This group includes loggers, sawmillers, woodworkers, foresters, farmers and public agency professionals.

The Vermont Forest Business School is funded by the VT Agency of Agriculture’s Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.



Attention Vermont Loggers

The Vermont Forest Viability Program has provided funding to benchmark logging costs and productivity in the State of Vermont. The purpose of this effort is to provide Vermont loggers with accurate information they can use to assess their businesses in comparison with their peers. With this in mind, none of the information collected will be shared with anyone but the participants (no mills or landowners will be given this information). All data will be confidential and blind summary results will be shared with all participants.

To participate in this benchmarking effort and to receive a comparison of your costs and productivity to other Vermont loggers, download the free Logging Costs Benchmarking App and install it on your mobile phone:

www.loggingchance.com/lc-benchmark-app

Next, enter your 2021 production and costs data, along with your machine hours. A button on the results page allows you to submit your results (you will have to provide an email address to receive a summary report). Participation is open to anyone who wants to use the app, but a Vermont specific report will be compiled for Vermont loggers.

Stop wondering where you stand. Use the app, submit your results and share in useful information provided by your peers.

For more information on benchmarking logging costs, see this recent article from *The Northern Logger*: <https://bit.ly/NL2022LCBM>

Northeast Forests, LLC
Forest Operations Research

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
VERMONT FARM & FOREST
VIABILITY PROGRAM



www.loggingchance.com/lc-benchmark-app

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**VFPA Legislative Report**

By:

**Ed Larson, Lobbyist for
Vermont Forest Products Association**



The session ended Thursday, May 12 in one of the most surprising sequence of events. Two weeks earlier, we all felt we will be on the losing side of four, maybe five bills. In the end, however, S.234 the comprehensive Act 250 bill fell apart, Ryegate got its ten years with a reasonable deadline to find a way to utilize its waste heat, Forest Futures Roadmap travelled through the Senate with no changes from the House version which we supported and if the Governor were to veto two bills we opposed, H.697 UVA Forest Reserve sub-category and H.606, conserve 30% of Vermont by 2030, 50% by 2050 we could have won everything. But we fell short on one bill, the most profound and damaging policy change we did not want to see passed, did pass. Disappointment overshadows accomplishments.

Normally this letter would start with the positive, but to witness a government-imposed policy to shrink the timber resource base, the passage of a bill affecting the original premise of the Vermont Use value Appraisal Program (UVA) is too important to save to the end.

H.697 Use Value Appraisal Program - VETO was Sought and we Lost

For the first time in the 43-year history of Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA) a proposal to allow land to be enrolled in a category to exclusively grow an old growth forest is becoming law. This is the first deviation from the original purpose of encouraging productive forest management to a passive type of management that would allow a landowner to not cut any trees, certainly no commercial logging.

The bill, H.697 introduced by the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife creates a new "Reserve Forestland" sub-category. "Reserve Forestland" is defined in the bill as: land that is managed for the purpose of attaining old forest values and functions in accordance with minimum acceptable standards for forest management and as approved by the Commissioner. This new subcategory allows a landowner to manage the forest for ecological services and focus on creating and maintaining old growth characteristics. The management plan does not need to include management for timber products. In the proposal created by Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Commissioner, Mike Snyder, enrollment is constrained, is portable

and the tax is at the same assessment as the managed forestland category. As passed the House, at least 30% of the area of a parcel must contain certain ecological features and steep slopes that are difficult to access for timber to qualify. If a parcel qualifies the entire parcel can be enrolled in this new sub-category. In the house version, as much as 30% of land already enrolled that is suitable for growing timber would have been eligible. The Senate version cut it back the eligibility of suitable timberland by about a third. Senator Westman (R), Lamoille, proposed an amendment to increase the amount of ecological significant acres on a parcel from 30% to 50% on parcels less than 100 acres. Parcels 100 acres and larger must have 30% in order to qualify. The Senate adopted the change and the House concurred after some disgruntled comments.

This proposal began last year in the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife in which "Forever Wild" advocates proposed a new category that was wide open for eligibility to enroll land and do nothing. VFPA and FPR Commissioner, Mike Snyder pushed back. Then, by request of the House Committee Chair, Amy Sheldon, the Commissioner came in with this proposal this year that puts in the 30% guard rails to target lands that already contain some old growth and/or ecologically significant features. To our misfortune the committee accepted it in its entirety and moved it forward. According to the Commissioner's summary report to the committee, based on the bill as passed, estimates of the loss of access to the timber base on private forests includes the following:

- FPR estimates up to 575,000 acres is eligible for this new subcategory, 420,000 already enrolled in UVA much of it from the managed forest category. Approx. 12% of Vermont's entire forested land
- FPR estimates a loss of up to 250,000 acres containing suitable accessible timberland. Approximately 20% of enrolled land in the managed forest category.

To stop this measure from becoming law, VFPA established this as a priority effort. VFPA did not get many chances to testify, the House Committee did not even invite us to testify on this specific proposal, and the Senate Committee only allowed us three witnesses and less than an hour to make our case.
(Continue on Page 4)

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Your Lobbyist reached out to the Governor's office at least once a week throughout the session asking for a meeting with him and VFPA leadership to explain our position, but we were not allowed that opportunity. We sent out a call to action several times to our members asking them to talk to Legislators and eventually to contact the Governor to stop this train wreck.

UVA has many moving parts and is very complex. Although the narrow guard rails in this bill will limit eligibility, those things can change in future legislation. We opposed this bill based on the precedent of deviating from UVA program's core purpose, to manage those acres that are suitable for growing timber. The Legislature and our Governor cast aside the principle of productivity and we can never get it back. Time will show that this was the moment, this bill, will have been the turning point to what our industry becomes.

It was very discouraging working in opposition to the FPR Commissioner, your association works hard to establish solid working relations with lawmakers and government officials. In this case we really felt this bill "flies in the face" of promoting a rural economy. We are told this is a compromise, we feel this compromises the integrity of UVA, the most important conservation tool in state government. When our commitment to working forests is compromised by legislation, we will do all we can to prevent that and cannot back down.

This new law is not the end all for the environmental lobby. To them, this is only the "first step". They vowed to come back and take more land out of production in the near future. The train has left the station folks and the future of our industry is that much more challenging.

S.161 - Ryegate Power Station Gets More Time

S.161 was introduced by Caledonia County Senators Kitchell and Benning to allow the plant more time to seek a way to utilize the waste heat from generating electricity to improve its efficiency. You may recall the Legislature passed Act 34 two years ago that extended the plants "Utilities must buy order" an additional two-years. Ryegate's owners, Stored Solar, felt they needed more time to show a potential investor more surety that an investment in using the heat can be a profitable venture. The Senate Committee on Finance struggled with this request as some of the Senators would rather shut the plant down. It was difficult to watch the committee debate this issue. Wood heat and the forest products industry was not looked on favorably by members of the committee. It appeared, at one point, this proposal would die. The committee tabled the discussion but managed to get back to it just prior to the mid-session crossover deadline. The Finance Committee only offered a one-year extension added to the two-year extension they were granted last session.

It was a vastly different story in the House Committee on Energy and Technology. Members of that committee were incredibly open to entertain the owner's request and eventually passed a version that tracked very closely with their original proposal. The House passed version gave the plant its full ten-year new "must buy" order if they achieve certain benchmarks defined in the bill. The plant must show they have a signed contract and engineering for using the waste heat by July 1, 2023, and if the heat is being used by October 1, 2024 they get the ten year order. If they fail, the order disappears, and the rate payer subsidy goes away on November 1, 2024.

The bill as amended by the House was sent back to the Senate to either concur with the House or order a Committee of Conference. A very surprising action took place in the Senate Committee on Finance and that after vigorous debate, the committee voted 7-0 to concur with the House and it passed the full Senate on a unanimous voice vote.

The Governor signed it into law May 31 and is now Act 155. Much praise goes to the members of the House Committee on Energy and Technology for their thorough work that gives the owners of this plant a good chance to find an investor to capture and utilize the waste heat.

Key players that made positive efforts on this bill include:

Rep. Lucy Rogers, Rep. Katherine Sims, Rep. Sally Achey, Rep. Laura Sibilia, Rep. Avram Patt, Sen. Chris Pearson, Sen. Ann Cummings, Sen. Jane Kitchell and Sen. Joe Benning

Act 250 - As predicted, they did not get it right.... again.

S.226 added some Act 250 sections of S.234 and passed – S.234 Vetoes

If you are feeling a "Deja-Vu" as you read this, reforming Act 250 has been a struggle for at least the last four years and as predicted, they didn't get it right again. Complexity is a big reason, but more than that are the different diverging ideologies among the Legislators and with the administration.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy introduced S.234, their version of Act 250 reform. It contains sections on housing and attempts to relax Act 250 requirements on development in designated growth centers such as downtowns and village centers. It also contains sections that add a review for fragmenting forest blocks and habitat connectors. The language around this is the same language that passed two years ago that was eventually vetoed by Governor Scott. The bill also contains a section that reduces certain conditions on an Act 250 permit for forest operations. The bill also includes a new 2000-foot road trigger for an Act 250 permit on all private roads except those used exclusively for agriculture and forestry purposes. The Governor sent signals of opposition to many sections of the committee's proposal, especially the road trigger and the forest fragmentation review.

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Meanwhile the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife introduced and passed H.492, voting 8-3 along party lines, a bill changing Act 250 governance. The bill seeks to restructure the Natural Resources Board and eliminate the use of the Environmental Court for Act 250 appeals. There is complexity to the Act 250 permit process and the controversies surrounding governance caused the committee to struggle to arrive at a position. The Governor also indicated strong opposition to moving appeals away from the Environmental Court to a reformulated Natural Resources Board.

Both bills made crossover and the other chamber worked on their changes. The House added H.494 to S.234 to put it all in one big complex bill and sent it back to the Senate. This bill went on a wild ride during the last day of the session. Governor Scott publicly made it noticeably clear that S.234 as passed by the House is VETO bait. The bill sat on the Senate calendar for four days and they passed over it each day as the Senate wrestled with what to do. They were running out of time.

Eventually leadership decided to pull sections that the Governor did want passed and added them to S.226, a bill expanding access to safe and affordable housing. All reference to forest blocks, habitat connectors and most of the other forestry sections were not included in this amendment. In another surprising event, House members of the Working Lands Caucus stepped up and fought to restore forestry sections and managed to add to the final deal flexibility to hours of operations to the conditions on a permit for forest operations. For example, a sawmill that has conditions of their permit to only operate 7:00 AM- 5:00 PM Monday thru Saturday and not on Holidays, can accept deliveries from log trucks outside of these hours during mud seasons. S.234 did pass the Senate and as warned, as promised, vetoed by the Governor. S.226 was signed by the Governor.

Vermont Forest Future Roadmap H.566 / H.703 / S.11

The House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry received a bill H.566, referred to as an economic development bill titled "Vermont Forest Future Program". The bill describes a two-year process that creates a "Vermont Forest Future Action Plan". As introduced, it spends \$250,000 of general fund dollars and gives it to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to manage this process and come up with a plan to "strengthen, promote, and protect the forest products industry in Vermont". The bill's lead sponsor Rep. Katherine Sims of Craftsbury, is a member of the Working Lands Legislative Caucus and a leader in organizing a series of Legislative tours last summer visiting several forestry operations to learn about our industry and gather ideas to make it stronger.

VFPA testified early on expressing several concerns. It appeared that with the gallant effort of certain Legislators to meet with our industry last summer that this appears to be the only measure in play was disappointing. We also read into the bill that those making decisions and running the process were not members of the forestry community but a non-profit non-government organization (NGO). We expressed concerns about language in the bill that alluded to regulations rather than measures to boost our rural economy. We wanted more say and to make it clear that the industry drives the process and gets to define who will be included in the investigative and reporting processes.

A new draft was presented to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry after two weeks of off-line negotiations. Rep.

Katherine Sims has chaperoned a deal between VFPA, Sustainable Jobs Fund and Mike Snyder, Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) arriving at a much different version. The name of the project has changed from Vermont Forest Future Program to Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap. Many specific changes we proposed were accepted and is now in the new version. It is not perfect, but we did achieve the main goal that the forest products industry will have much more control over the process and the content of the plan and the report to the Legislature. FPR Commissioner is tasked to appoint individuals to a Forest Future Strategic Roadmap Advisory Panel. This panel will be limited to members of the forestry sector along with experts in state government and academia.

The bill did not get to stand alone. The House Committee on Appropriations added this project to H.703, a workforce development bill and then the House Committee on Commerce moved H.703 to S.11 a Senate passed economic and workforce development bill. S.11 eventually passed with the language as passed the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee unchanged.

S.280 DMV Changes- overweight truck permits – Maybe a path forward.

One of the recommendations from the Working Lands Caucus was to increase truck weights for forest products to improve competitiveness. We have been down this road several times and was doubtful this initiative would make it through the process. The Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the Governor has not been supportive of increasing the weight on overweight permits in the past. A bill H.673 introduced by Rep Lucy Rogers (D) Waterville and other Working Lands Caucus members was sent to the House Committee on Transportation. To our surprise the committee was open minded to the concept but also knew it would be a big lift to make it through.

Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Butch Shaw, (R) Florence, took the lead on this effort. The committee waited for a bill making changes to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) coming from the Senate and added a report back provision on truck weights. The report back is on a future meeting of VFPA, DMV, AOT, FPR and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to discuss if and how we can increase truck weights. The House committee passed it with a unanimous vote and sent it back to the Senate. The Senate immediately stripped it out of the bill, citing the fact that we stand to lose federal highway funds. This started a stalemate between the House and Senate, eventually killing the entire bill.

The Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Michele Boomhower, was asked how language in a bill directing a conversation about increasing truck weights could jeopardize federal funding. She expressed great concern about this and said the federal officials have made it specifically clear that any effort to increase weights at this time will cause them to withdraw transportation funds. She did agree, however that we can still have a meeting, just keep it out of any legislation. VFPA leaders will discuss how we may want to have that meeting.

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H.606 30% by 2030, 50% by 2050 - VETO

Introduced by Rep. Amy Sheldon (D) Middlebury and Chair of the committee of jurisdiction, H.606 proposes to **establish State goals of conserving 30 percent of the land of the State by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050.**

The bill as passed the House and Senate defines four types of conserved forest listed below. To assist in determining which type, it uses the Vermont's Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's "Vermont Conservation Design" document as the guiding tool. The types are:

- (1) "Ecological reserve area" means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference.
- (2) "Biodiversity conservation area" means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area and is managed for the primary goal of sustaining species or habitats. These areas may include regular, active interventions to address the needs of particular species or to maintain or restore habitats.
- (3) "Natural resource management area" means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area but that is subject to long-term sustainable forest management.
- (4) "Sustainable forest management" means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, State, and regional levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

The House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife took considerable testimony from mostly environmental organizations all providing testimony which was way over the top. They expressed total impatience, demanding Vermont adopt such a policy to save the planet and we have no more time left. Lots of mis-statements and lies were said such as Vermont has lots of young forests, logging is fragmentation and the only way to be resilient from floods is to stop all logging on state-owned land in our headwater areas.

In January, VFPA was one of very few that testified in opposition to its passage. We refuted the misstatements and citing several concerns:

- According to UVM we have already conserved 30% so why do we need this?
- This "top-down planning process" disrupts our already robust planning regimes both local and regional as well as internal government agency planning processes.
- This centralized mandate could also frustrate the conservation efforts of non-government and quasi-government non-profit conservation organizations.
- What happens when we fail to reach these goals?
- There was inadequate public involvement in the bill as introduced.
- Vermont Conservation Design (VCD) was designed to be an internal document to guide the work of the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, it was not designed to be a regulatory tool. In addition, VCD has not undergone any formal public review or comment.

Most of the work and all changes occurred in the House. The Senate simply concurred with the House and sent it to the Governor who vetoed the bill.

VFPA thanks former FPR Commissioner and ANR Secretary, Jonathan Wood for providing context and understanding as to how this new plan affects our industry.



Ed Larson
Lobbyist, VFPA
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For further information, please visit:

www.fpr.vermont.gov
www.fpr.vermont.gov/forest-uva-reserve-forestland
www.legislature.vermont.gov
www.fs.usda.gov
www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53629
www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192



Representative Lucy Rogers of Lamoille County, was recently on the cover of the Northern Logger and Timber Processor magazine!

She was spotted at the Northeastern Loggers' Association Equipment Expo in Essex Junction, VT signing magazine covers for her fans!



VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION NORTHERN REGIONAL ROUNDUP

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY 1977-2022

The Vermont Forest Products Northern Regional Roundup was held Saturday, April 23rd, at the Eastside Restaurant In Newport, which included a hearty breakfast buffet and meeting.

VFPA President, Steve Hardy, and VFPA Vice-President, Colleen Goodridge, welcomed the group of about 60 attendees to this popular regional event. Information about the VFPA, now celebrating its 45th Anniversary of serving all sectors of the Forest Products Industry was presented, along with a brief history of the organization.

“The Vermont Forest products Association began in 1976 as a grassroots gathering of individuals of the Forest Products Industry aimed at addressing the IRS “Independent Contractor” status, which was raising havoc within the industry. The gathering led to the formation of the Vermont Log Truckers Association and, soon after, the Vermont Timber Producers Association, encompassing a larger group and finally the creation of the Vermont Forest Products Association. Although there have been organizational changes since 1977, the mission of promoting and defending all sectors of the Forest Products Industry is unwavering and is as strong today as it was in its early days.”

Several area legislators joined the group for breakfast and offered updates from the statehouse.

Speakers for the meeting included:

Caleb Currie, Long View Forest, Inc. and VFPA Director – LEAP Logger Training News
David Wilcox, Watershed Forester, FPR – New AMP App and other updates
Paul Frederick, Forest Economy Program Manager, FPR – Market Update

Christine McGowen, Forest Products Program Director, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, announced the Vermont Forest Industry Summit that will be held at Burke Mountain, June 9th and 10th.

Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, reported on issues at the forefront facing the industry including Act 250 Reform, Climate Change legislation, VT Use and Value Appraisal Program (UVA) – a bill proposing a new “Forest reserve” category, Conserved Lands legislation, Forest Fragmentation, Carbon Sequestration, Overweight Truck Permits, Transportation Climate legislation and more. Thanks to the VFPA Action Team and others who gave up their work time to come forward to testify on various legislative bills on behalf of all sectors of the Forest Products Industry.

LEAP and SAF Continuing Education credits were given for this half-day event for those attending.

Thank you to all VFPA members for their continued support of their Industry Organization – “The voice of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont since 1977.”



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS ROUNDUP POSSIBLE!

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The Faces of Industry: Meet NELA'S 2021

By Eileen Townsend

In early May of this year, the Northeastern Loggers' Association held its annual Logger's Expo in Essex Junction, Vermont. We at NELA and *The Northern Logger* particularly looked forward to this year's event as an opportunity to get back to normal after 2020 and 2021 shows that were affected by the COVID pandemic. We were lucky enough to have perfect weather at this year's Vermont event. We welcomed 4,127 registrants to this year's Loggers' Expo, all of whom enjoyed extremely sunny and pleasant conditions for both days of the show. There were 152 exhibiting companies at this year's Loggers' Expo in Essex Junction, VT. While this number is a bit lower than what we normally feature at the show, we're extremely grateful to each of our exhibitors and their commitment to the industry. Among our largest exhibitors, we were happy to host CJ Logging Equipment, United Construction and Forestry, Anderson Equipment, Chadwick Baross, Bandit/Kleis Equipment, and Teupen North America. In addition, many loggers enjoyed seminar presentations by Steven Bick, who spoke about his Vermont Forest Business School; Charles Levesque, who presented on "Megatrends Affecting the Forest Products Industry"; and Dale West, who presented on "How Loggers Can Save Thousands in Taxes and Become Invincible to Lawsuits." Thanks to all who attended, spoke, and exhibited at this year's Expo for a great show. We look forward to seeing you in 2023 in Bangor, Maine.

Perhaps the most special moment of our annual Loggers' Expo is the Loggers' Awards Banquet, when we honor the men and women who make the forest products industry what it is today. Our "Faces of Industry" are men and women who have spent their career promoting professionalism in the woods, whether it be through logging, trucking, advocacy, forestry, sawmilling, or education. These individuals are an inspiration to all of us, and our industry is lucky to have them.



Outstanding Service to the Forest Industry: William "Bill" Sayre

Bill Sayre is a partner in A. Johnson company, a Bristol, Vermont based company that grows timber and manufactures lumber. Sayre is an economist who previously worked with the Federal Reserve but has devoted much of his career to advocating for the forest products industry in the Northeast. In addition to hosting a regular radio show on WDEV Radio Vermont in which he speaks about free market principals, Sayre serves on the boards of many forest industry associations. He has served as a member of the Vermont Forest Products Association Board of Directors for several years and was instrumental in the formation of the Vermont Traditions Coalition that brings diverse land use organizations together to work on common interests. Sayre is known for his intelligence, ability to grasp complex issues and convey pertinent points of interest in a thoughtful manner, as well as his tireless work ethic.



Outstanding Leadership in Industry: Brad Simpkins

For 12 years, from 2008 to 2020, Brad Simpkins served as the State Forester of New Hampshire, a crucial government position of service for the forest products industry. In this role, Simpkins consistently advocated at the state level for New Hampshire's forests – for their health, sustainability, and value. He has been a key advocate for strengthening the vital role forests play in the quality of life in the Northeast. Simpkins has been an especially strong advocate for biomass markets for low-grade wood and woodchips. In his former position, he never turned down an invita-

tion from timber industry associations and remained informed and active in the community. As of 2020, Simpkins has worked in the U.S. Forest Service's Cooperative Fire Program in Durham, New Hampshire, where he continues to exercise leadership and professionalism.

Outstanding Wood Manufacturer: Columbia Forest Products Veneer Operation

Columbia Forest Products has been a critical foundation to the forest products industry in Northern Vermont for decades. The company's Newport mill manufactures high-quality rotary-cut veneer for use in hardwood plywood, furniture, and case goods.

Over time, the mill has adapted to increase efficiency and safety, all while maintaining high quality production. Over the last two years, as demand for plywood saw a tremendous rise, Columbia Forest Products not only continued to meet this demand, but did so with a focus on their employees, maintaining a safe work environment while balancing employee job satisfaction and enjoyment. Columbia Forest Products is a vital member of the Northern Vermont community and are committed to forest stewardship.



Outstanding Logging Operator: Heath Bunnell

Heath Bunnell received this year's honor because he has built a truly contemporary logging company – safety minded, professional, and diversified. Heath Bunnell is a fourth-generation logger based in New Hampshire. Growing up in a logging family, Heath always knew he wanted to work in the woods and built a business known throughout the region for professionalism and for diversification. HB Logging has a crew of 12 employees and has diversified into trucking and excavating beyond logging. The range of jobs that HB Logging can tackle is impressive, from clearing homesites to large jobs and commercial projects. An HB Logging timber harvest shows full utilization of best-management practices. The company's commitment to safety is notable. Bunnell is a Master Logger and HB Logging employees are all certified and have daily safety meetings.



Outstanding Contributions to Safety: John Adler

Vermont-based logger John Adler has been involved in helping loggers work safely in the woods for over 40 years. John grew up working in the Maine woods and attended Paul Smiths' college in New York's Adirondack Mountains. Today, Adler is the co-owner and senior trainer for Northeast Woodland Training, an organization that has helped thousands of loggers, power company workers, municipal employees, trail crews, high school and college students as well as landowners implement best practices while working in the woods. A professional logger himself, Adler has experience both as a hand-cutter and running a fully mechanized operation. Most recently, since the inception of the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program, Adler has donated countless hours to helping to design that program and develop the curriculum. He has provided valuable insight into not only the best practices to avoid injuries, but the best way to deliver the message to his peers.



(Continue on Page 9)

(Continue from Page 8)

Outstanding Industry Advocate: John Bartow

Bartow works tirelessly to educate law makers at the federal, state, and local levels about all that the wood industry has to offer. Traveling frequently for work, he meets with many trade associations, environmental groups, and committees as a part of his advocacy. His bank of knowledge about all aspects of the forest products industry speaks volumes of his commitment to his position. Bartow is a proud New Yorker and graduate of three SUNY colleges: SUNY Morrisville; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; and SUNY Albany. He has made a career of getting to know the timber industry in the Northeast thoroughly and is known across the industry for his professionalism.



Outstanding Contributions to Forest Industry Education: Kathleen Wanner

Kathleen Wanner is an excellent communicator and has spent most of her adult life immersed in language. As the parent of a deaf son, she immersed herself in learning American Sign Language and spent twenty years as an interpreter in Vermont's public school system. She also worked for years as a freelance technical writer before entering the wood industry. Wanner is now the Executive Director of Vermont Woodlands Association and Chair of the Vermont Tree Farm Committee. Both organizations help private landowners sustainably manage their forests. Wanner is also involved with Project Learning Tree, an organization that helps educate the next generation of forest stewards and forest landowners as well as helps teachers, non-formal educators, parents, and caregivers connect children to nature. Across the organizations she works with, her example of identifying needs, making and implementing a plan, recruiting and organizing volunteers, and being present at events has earned her a reputation for professionalism.



Outstanding Sawmill Operator: Thompson Native Lumber

Thompson Native Lumber began as a part time, seasonal mill sawing railroad ties in the winter months to help support the family's dairy farm in the late 1950's. Today, Thompson Native Lumber is a successful mid-sized mill providing essential markets in Rhode Island. The mill saws both hardwood and softwood and produces specialty beam logs for post and beam timber frames and uses low grade logs for pallet production. The mill has survived the test of time as a diversified small family operation. From producing lumber, building pallets, making specialty products like grade stakes, trailer planking, post and beam timbers, to mulch, firewood, and playground chips, the mill does it all, prospering for over 70 years in the small state of Rhode Island.



Outstanding Management of Resources: Steve Tatko

For a decade, Steve Tatko has worked as the Director of Conservation and Land Management for the Appalachian Mountain Club in Maine. In this position, he has been responsible for the implementation of the Maine Woods Initiative's goals of promoting and managing outdoor recreation, with responsible preservation of ecologically important habitats, sustained-yield forest management, and environmental education. Tatko exemplifies professionalism by implementing a management style that satisfies both wood production and outdoor recreation use – which can be a delicate balance. In his role as Land Manager of approximately 70,000 acres, he has earned respect from harvesting contractors, peers, and the general public.



Coaching Available for Forest Products Businesses!

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that provides forest products entrepreneurs with one-on-one advising and technical assistance to help them meet their goals.

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

Viability Program offers professional advising in a variety of areas, including:

- Expanding or diversifying a business;
- Improving financial record-keeping;
- Determining cost of production and increasing profitability;
- Preparing a business plan to access capital or apply for grants;
- Honing marketing and sales strategy;
- Or exploring other business developments

Get Started:

Contact Calley Hastings

(calley@vhcb.org or 802-828-3370)

or visit our website at www.vhcb.org/viability

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

Outreach & Communications

Coordinator

T: 802.828.1098

mariah@vhcb.org

**58 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602**



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

columbia

FOREST PRODUCTS™

Veneer Operations, Newport, VT Receives “Outstanding Wood Manufacturer” Award



Columbia Forest Products, Veneer Operations, Newport, VT, was recently the recipient of both the Vermont Forest Products Association and the Northeastern Loggers' Association “Outstanding Wood Manufacturer” Award.

This Newport business has been an economic anchor for Newport City and the surrounding area since 1945 – 77 years – providing employment, log markets for the forest products industry and continues to be a community partner and leader, involved in many civic activities and organizations.

CFP Veneer Operations in Newport has gone through many changes and transitions since it was built in 1945 by Arthur Roe and as Lakeside Plywood. It was bought by Atlas Plywood in 1951, shut down between 1956 and 1958, at which time Douglas Rice started it as

Indian Head Plywood, and it was converted from a plywood to a veneer mill in 1961 by Reginald Sherman. Columbia Forest Products bought the mill in 1966 and it has operated as a veneer mill since that time.

The Newport Plant, part of the Columbia Corporation (a large, diversified corporation) employs a workforce of 115 and has run a 2-shift operation for several years, after decades of being a 3-shift mill, in part because of the difficulty of finding enough employees. The company is employee owned and the corporation is one of the largest 100% employee-owned companies in the United States (44th according to the National Center for Employee Ownership).

The plant has several log buyers, who work out of their homes (trucks), buying logs from nearly 300 vendors in New England, New York and Pennsylvania, and processes about 7 million board feet per year, with the species being primarily birch, oak and maple. Lean manufacturing has been a focal point of improving their production process for the last 10 years (product quality, reduce wasteful activities, and spot problems early are among the tenets of Lean), with several former Toyota employees being hired at the corporate level.

Safety has been a focus of the mill for the last 25 years or so. During that time, they have reduced their OSHA injury rate from nearly 20 to less than 4 incidents per 200,000 work-hours.

Columbia Forest Products is the largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and hardwood veneer products in North America.

For the last 15 years, Columbia Forest Products has been the primary supplier of hardwood plywood to all US and Canadian Home Depot stores; supplying birch and oak plywood and, to some stores, maple. Newport produces most of the oak and a portion of the birch veneer for these panels.



Columbia was the industry leader in developing “PureBond” in 2006, a formaldehyde-free glue used for making plywood, meeting the strictest EPA and California (CARB) requirements. When using products made with “PureBond”, you are helping to reduce toxins within the indoor environment compared to traditional hardwood plywood products.

Columbia is well ahead of regulations by converting its manufacturing processes to PureBond, benefiting their workers, their communities, and the environment.

Columbia Forest Products Veneer Operation, Newport, VT, an integral part of the Columbia Corporation, is very deserving of these award recognitions- known for “Innovating Responsibly – providing World-Class Customer Service” and remains true to its mission – “Our ideas will be groundbreaking, and our stewardship will be forever mindful of the ground we live on”.

Vermont Sugar Season Sweet Success



June 10, 2022 | Montpelier VT – The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported today that 2022 Vermont maple syrup production totaled 2.55 million gallons, once again leading the nation in this category and a noteworthy increase from the

previous 2 seasons. The 2022 Vermont maple production total is an 800,000-gallon increase from 2021.

“As I always tell my fellow governors, Vermont has, hands-down, the best maple syrup in the world,” said Governor Phil Scott. “This year’s record level of maple production is good news for our sugar makers and our economy, and I appreciate all the hard work that goes into producing the best maple syrup and so many great Vermont maple products every year.”

Vermont remains the top producing state in the Nation. Vermont maple syrup producers put out 6.65 million maple taps in 2022, an increase of 150K over the 2021 total. Yield per tap is estimated to be 0.383 gallon, significantly up from 0.269 gallon from the previous season. Location played a significant part in individual production. The earliest sap flow reported was on New Year’s Day in Vermont. On average, the season lasted 40 days, compared with 29 days in 2021. Vermont’s 2021 value of production totaled \$56 million, up from \$52.7 million in 2020. The average retail price per gallon was up .80 cents per gallon to \$46.30.

“Mother nature smiled on us this year with ideal weather, sap flows and sweetness,” said Allison Hope, Executive Director of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association. “Vermont’s sugar makers harvested a great maple crop all across the state; one that was record-breaking for many. For added sweetness, this spring producers celebrated the welcome return of familiar traditions like Maple Open House where they could share their stories and their craft with visitors from near and far. As more and more families make Vermont maple a kitchen staple in their pantries, there’s plenty of the new season’s crop on tap!”

Vermont has led the U.S. in the number of maple taps every year since 1916 and was only out produced in 1926 and 1918. In 2003 Vermont had 2.12 million taps and has been steadily increasing to 6.65 million in 2022. Annual production prior to 1935 was typically between 1 million and 1.4 million gallons. This dropped to around 200,000 to 300,000 gallons in the 1970’s. Since 2003 Vermont’s maple syrup production has increased from around 500,000 gallons to 2.55 million gallons in 2022.

“Vermont producers were tired after a long, sweet season but they once again have led the country in making a high-quality maple syrup. We are fortunate to enjoy Vermont maple at every meal. Thank you sugar makers,” said Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts.

For the complete Maple Syrup statistics, go to the ‘Crop Production’ report at: <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/tm70mv17/ng452p51p/3x817t30t/crop0622.pdf> The ‘Crop Production’ report and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

Scott Waterman
Policy and Communications Director |
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
802-622-4662 | scott.waterman@vermont.gov

Vermont Officials Report Second Year of Spongy Moth Outbreak

June 14, 2022 | Montpelier VT – In some parts of the state, Vermonters are noticing the return of a disturbing sight in our forests and backyards: masses of spongy moth caterpillars. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) and Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) have received numerous inquiries from concerned citizens regarding large numbers of spongy moth caterpillars, *Lymantria dispar* dispar, (also known as LDD, formerly gypsy moth). While the spongy moth can emerge anywhere in the state, unusually high populations observed last year and again this spring are localized in western areas of Vermont. The impacts of the caterpillar include defoliation of the forest canopy, causing stress on trees, and being a nuisance to people and property. Although primarily a forest pest, both agencies have received reports from Vermonters who have experienced skin irritation likely from spongy moth caterpillars, which have hairs on them that may cause reactions in some individuals.

Spongy moth is an exotic pest that was introduced into the US in the late 1800s. Spongy moth has been established in Vermont for over 100 years, and populations occasionally exhibit a temporary, large increase (“outbreak”) in an area. Vermont’s last large-scale spongy moth outbreak was 30 years ago, ending in 1991. The drought from 2020-2021 may have allowed spongy moth populations to build and expand, and likely contributed to the current outbreak. Populations usually collapse after 2-4 years from a combination of factors including starvation, malnutrition, viral or fungal diseases, and high rates of parasitism.

Monitoring the spongy moth population has shown a significant increase in egg masses in 2020 and 2021, indicating that 2022 will be the second consecutive summer of the outbreak. Spongy moth outbreaks are difficult to control over wide areas. There are a range of management options for landowners including waiting for the outbreak to pass, installing barrier bands such as burlap around the trunk of the tree to capture caterpillars as they crawl up the tree, and chemical treatments. Since caterpillars will soon be entering the cocoons stage and will stop feeding, applying pesticides at this time is not recommended. Individuals interested in pursuing pesticide treatments for next year if the outbreak continues, should contact a licensed pesticide applicator to understand their options to protect their trees safely and effectively. Responsible use of pesticides is important to prevent human and environmental health impacts and ensure that the intended pests are appropriately targeted.

Although consecutive years of defoliation may stress and weaken a tree, most trees will survive and produce a second flush of leaves after the spongy moth caterpillars have stopped feeding, in late June-early July. The drought Vermont experienced over the past couple of years has subsided, which will help trees by reducing additional stress. Precipitation during the caterpillar phase can also promote natural predators and a subsequent reduction in the population. We will continue to monitor the population and the impacts on trees closely.

More information regarding the impacts of spongy moths on trees and forests can be found at <https://fpr.vermont.gov/spongy-moth>.

Scott Waterman
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VTC Forestry Program Offers Career Opportunities for Vermonters



By: Robbo Holleran

A new opportunity in forestry education is bringing young people into the forest products industry. Potential new hires are coming along, and if you know of potential students, they should check out Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT. VTC is well-known for its practical approach to teaching with a hands-on curriculum for career-ready education, with a wide range of majors from Agriculture to Veterinary Technology.

Our new Associate in Applied Science degree in Forestry is earned through a practical approach to a broad range of knowledge and skills. The program offers hands-on learning, outdoor labs, industry exposure, and classroom learning. The campus includes two actively managed farm woodlots, a commercial sugarbush, and a small sawmill. Lab courses include exposure to further activities in the surrounding region.

Students may choose to enter their career with an associate degree, but there are several options to continue to a bachelor's degree or beyond. VTC offers a "Plus 2" in Diversified Agriculture or Business Technology and Management. Students can transfer directly to the University of Vermont as juniors to complete a Bachelor of Science in Forestry at the Rubenstein School.

The Associate degree in Forestry prepares students for a range of careers in forest management or the forest products industry. Graduates can obtain a Vermont forestry license after completing four years of SAF-certified forester experience and passage of the SAF-certified forester exam. Or they can complete a four-year degree and add two years of experience. Students will have a wide range of skills needed to be successful entrepreneurs and forestry professionals in private practice, forest industry, or government service. We prepare students for careers in forest management, logging, and forest products.

Vermont is the Green Mountain State, with 78% forest cover. Prudent management of this resource is critical to our culture and rural economy. The forest products industry contributes about \$1.4 billion annually as family-wage jobs are dispersed throughout the state in a wide range of careers. Large and small businesses own, manage, or harvest these forestlands. Other businesses are making natural wood products from these raw materials. There are related opportunities in forest resource careers in the public, non-profit, and private sectors. VTC is at the heart of this activity.

Molly Willard, a botanist, directs the working lands trainings and forestry program at VTC. She teaches Dendrology and Forest Ecology for the forestry degree program. She brings enthusiasm and a deep knowledge of botany and ecology to her teaching. Robbo Holleran is a successful forestry consultant with 40 years of experience and teaches the Timber Harvesting and Forest Management courses in the spring semesters. These are all-day classes with both classroom and fieldwork, along with field trips to active projects. We offer broad courses that integrate a wide range of subject matter and skills. New courses are being developed to further improve the program. You can look us up at www.vtc.edu.

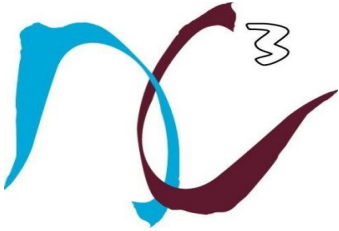
*Robbo Holleran is a consulting forester from Chester, VT.
He teaches forestry at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT.*

Congratulations to Ed Pike of Arlington, VT!
He was the lucky winner of VFPA's Chainsaw Raffle drawing
at the Northeastern Loggers' Equipment Expo in
Essex Junction, VT.

He is now the proud owner of a Stihl MS 400C!
Thank you to all who purchased tickets!



TECH CENTER NEWS



Hello from North Country Career Center,

We just found out this morning that we came in 1st place at FFA State Convention for the Forestry Career Development Event (out of 7 schools competing), which means it is time to start preparing to compete at Nationals in Indianapolis next fall. The state event tested a wide range of skills and knowledge including tree and lumber species identification, log, lumber, and tree measurements, topographic map reading, compass and pacing navigation, and forest stand measurements.

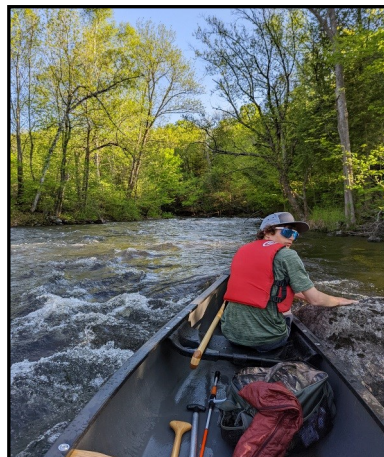
It has been a busy stretch jam-packed with activities and experiences since the last newsletter. Highlights include harvesting about 10 MBF of white pine logs. We sold two truck loads to Piette's sawmill and trucked the rest back to school to mill up for a variety of community projects including baseball dugouts for the Junior High and lean-to shelters for Prouty Beach campers.

We had a banner year for maple syrup and broke all our records for syrup volume bottled. Please contact me (samuel.nijensohn@ncsvt.org) if you would like to purchase any syrup, we have plenty!

This past weekend we enjoyed a whitewater canoe camping trip along the Clyde River with a former student, Parker Castle, who is now a professional guide and owner of *Northeast Kingdom Outfitters and Guide Service*. We spent the night at a Northern Forest Canoe Trail campsite which includes a lean-to shelter built by Allen Yale, a Natural Resources Advisory Board member. Natural Resources students have performed multiple timber harvests on Allen's land; it was wonderful to get a chance to experience firsthand the connections between forest management, environmental stewardship, and outdoor recreation.

Stay safe,

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





SFI certification is a powerful tool to provide customers and producers of forest products with the tools and guidance they need to make responsible supply chain decisions and achieve responsible forest management goals.

The SFI standards help us achieve our mission to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaboration and these new standards include a variety of updates that help us address global challenges. With 370 million acres/150 million hectares certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, and tens of millions of acres positively influenced by the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI is working to create solutions at the scale needed to help protect the environment, combat climate change, reduce fire risks and promote dialogue and cooperation.

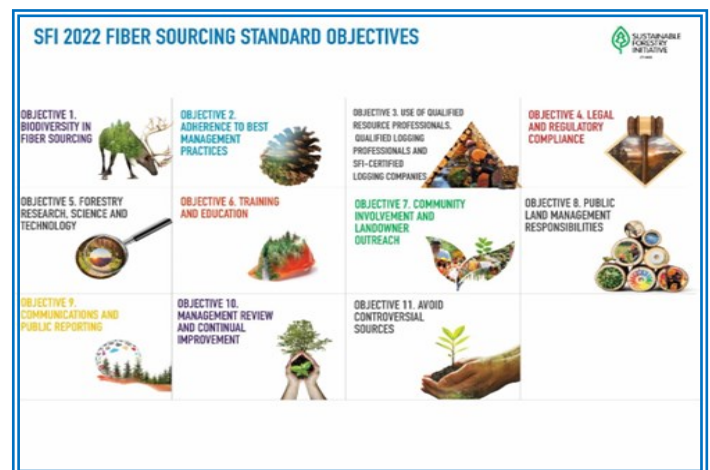
Over the last two years, SFI has engaged in extensive consultations as part of our goal of continuous improvement in our standards and guidance. We gathered input from more than 2,300 stakeholders from the conservation community, Indigenous communities, the forest products sector, brand owners, private forest landowners and public forest managers, government agencies, trade associations, landowner associations, academia, and the public, and have released new requirements in a variety of areas.

The **SFI Climate Smart Forestry Objective** requires SFI-certified organizations to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The **SFI Fire Resilience and Awareness Objective** requires SFI-certified organizations to limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.

The new Objective 8, **Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights**, ensure respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge, and are aligned with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

When procuring fiber, avoiding controversial sources is critical to achieving sustainability targets. Recognizing this, SFI also developed a new definition of controversial sources and expanded requirements for a due diligence system to assess the risk of controversial sources entering a certified organization's supply chain



SFI Vermont SIC
Ed Larson, Coordinator
William Sayre, Chair



Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Program

In 2019, Vermont established occupation-specific training standards for employees engaged in logging to be classified as a "Safety Certified Mechanized Logger" and/or "Safety Certified Non-Mechanized Logger" in the workers' compensation insurance system. The Vermont Logger Safety & Workers' Compensation Insurance Program (VLSWCP) is a partnership between the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Vermont Department of Financial Regulation, Vermont Department of Labor, and Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (VT LEAP), offering training and safety certification for logging contractors in Vermont. Employers who present a current VLSWCP safety certificate to their insurance carriers are eligible to receive a 15% reduction in workers' compensation insurance premiums for all employees listed on the certificate as meeting the training standards.

The requirements for certification through VLSWCP are:

INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Requirements for employer:

- Owner or at least one employee is enrolled in, And in good standing with, VT LEAP
- Owner or operations supervisor complete Forestry Operations Supervisor training in addition to The VLSWCP core courses

Requirements for employees:

- Complete the VLSWCP core courses
- Participate in an on-site evaluation at the company's Jobsite completed by a VLSWCP approved Loss Control Specialist

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION

Requirements for employer:

- ~Maintain initial certification requirements
- ~Owner or operations supervisor complete Forestry Operations Supervisor refresher course every 2 years

Requirements for employees:

- ~Complete the VLSWCP continuing education requirements
- ~Participate in an on-site evaluation at the company's jobsite completed by a VLSWCP approved Loss Control Specialist

VLSWCP CORE COURSES

MECHANIZED LOGGERS

Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety
Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR

NON-MECHANIZED LOGGERS

Game of Logging (Levels 1-4) OR Game of Logging Level 5
Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR

VLSWCP CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

MECHANIZED LOGGERS

Annual Logger Safety Workshop
Maintain First Aid/CPR Certification

NON-MECHANIZED LOGGERS

Annual Logger Safety Workshop
Maintain First Aid/CPR Certification
Game of Logging Level 5 – Refresher (every 5 years)

For additional information contact:

Paul Frederick, Forest Economy Program
(802) 777-5247
paul.frederick@vermont.gov

Katharine Servidio, Forest Economy Program
(802) 636-7804
katharine.servidio@vermont.gov

Learn more at VTforest.com



FPR Portable Bridge Rentals

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

Wood over steel skidder bridges: FPR has three, 25' long, 2 section steel I-beam bridges that have wooden decks. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder and a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have been used for trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. FPR rents these bridges for \$100 per month with a \$500 deposit. These are two piece bridges, and each half weighs 5,000- 7,000 lbs. depending on the deck. These bridges are located in Barre, Springfield and Rutland. These bridges were funded through a grant with the US Forest Service.



Wood over steel truck bridges: FPR has two of these temporary truck bridges, 30 and 40 feet long, that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM in Penn. They weigh approximately 27,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. FPR rents these bridges for \$100 per month with a \$500 deposit. These bridges were funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Rental for the bridges is administered by:

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

(802) 793-0265

david.wilcox@vermont.gov

For more information, please visit: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/acceptable-management-practices>

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"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



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Nancy Cass

Michelle Cass-Fortin





FPR

Watershed Forestry Program



AMP TECHNICAL ASSIST



BRIDGE RENTALS



HEAVY CUT APPLICATIONS



TRAINING

Call or email your closest FPR office, or your local AMP Forester:

District I- Springfield
Aaron Hurst (802) 279-8625
aaron.hurst@vermont.gov
 100 Mineral Street, Suite 304
 Springfield, VT 05156-3168
 (802) 289-0613

District II- Rutland
John Lones (802) 786-3878
john.lones@vermont.gov
 271 North Main Street, Suite 215
 Rutland, VT 05701-2423
 Phone (802) 786-0060

District III- Essex Junction
Matt Leonard (802) 279-1371
matt.leonard@vermont.gov
 111 West Street
 Essex Junction, VT 05452-4695
 (802) 879-6565

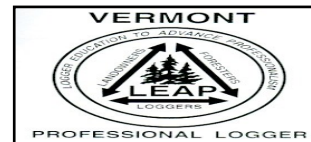
District IV and V- Rick Dyer (802) 505-5530
rick.dyer@vermont.gov
IV-Barre **V-St. Johnsbury**
 5 Perry Street, Suite 20 374 Emerson Falls Road
 Barre, VT 05641-4265 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
 (802) 476-0170 (802) 751-0110

For General Program Questions contact:
Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester
(802) 793-0265
http://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts_forests/amps

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 Officers:

President: Robbo Holleran, Chester, Consulting Forester (802) 875-3021

Vice President: Steve Hardy, Chesterfield, NH, Forester (603) 254-1644

Secretary: Bruce Shields, Eden, VT, Landowner, Sugarmaker (802) 888-5165

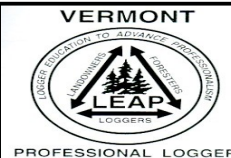
Treasurer: Brandy Inkel, Albany, VT, Sugarmaker (802) 755-9250

Current Trustees:

Dennis Allard, Springfield, VT, Logger ~ Bill Sayre, Bristol, Sawmill ~ Chris Fife, Fairfield, ME, Landowner ~ Sean Barrows, West Rutland, Sawmill ~ Bruce Shields, -Eden, VT. Landowner/Sugarmaker ~ David Grayck, Montpelier, VT. Attorney ~ Everett Thurston, N. Clarendon, VT, 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



How it works! Vermont LEAP New Requirements

For Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP Certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

For Non-Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

**If completed GOL more than five years ago, must take Level 5 GOL (Refresher)*

Continuing Education Requirements

For both Mechanized and Non-Mechanized Logging Operators- Continuing education is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification. Within every two years, except as otherwise noted, and after completing LEAP requirements, the following is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification:

- Safety Workshop (8 hours annually – 8 credits)
- *LEAP elective (1 day – 8 credits)
- Maintain First Aid/CPR certification

Contact David Birdsall for more information:

logger@vtleap.com or visit Website: **www.vtleap.com**

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.

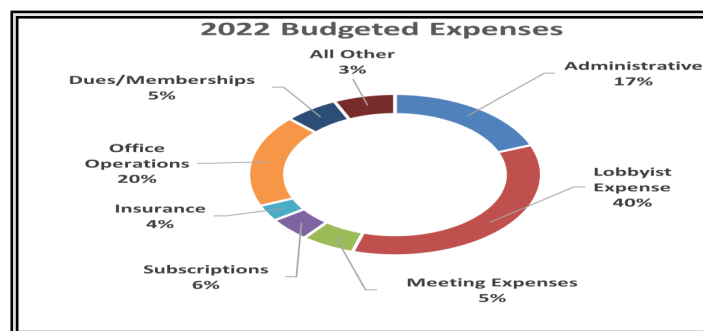
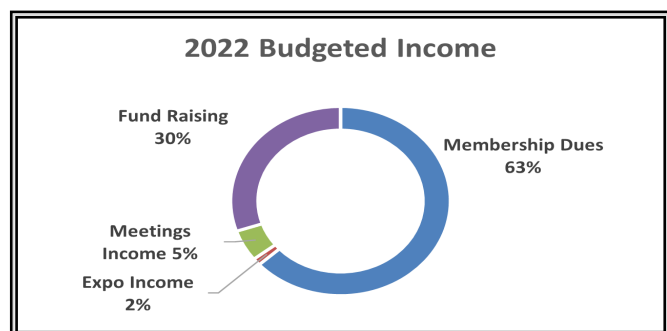
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

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



VFPA Operating Budget for 2022 is \$41,100.00

Please consider a contribution to the 2022 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.



Welcome to our New 2022 VFPA Members!



~Timothy Angell, Randolph Center, VT

~Dana Backus, Westfield, VT

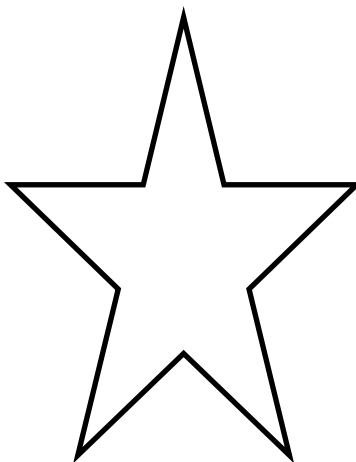
~Michelle Cass-Fortin, Newport, VT

~Gregory Chase, Hartland, VT

~Dale Covey, Groveton, NH

~Jean-Paul Cyr, Milton, VT

~AJ Galfetti, Washington, VT



~Joey Goudreau, Saint-Malo, Quebec

~Dakota Harvey, Rutland Town, VT

~Wyatt Hayward, Topsham, VT

~Senator Russ Ingalls, Newport, VT

~McHarg's Logging & Trucking,
Lyndonville, VT

~Doug Sherlaw, Newport, VT

~Brodie Webster, Barnard, VT

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

Enjoy Your Summer Vacation!



The Vermont Forest Products Association began in 1976 as a grassroots gathering of individuals of the Forest Products Industry aimed at addressing the IRS “Independent Contractor” status, which was raising havoc within the industry. Although there have been organizational changes since 1977, the mission of promoting and defending all sectors of the Forest Products Industry is unwavering and is as strong today as it was in its early days. VFPA represents all sectors of the Forest Products Industry— landowners, foresters, loggers, truckers, firewood processors, sawmills, secondary manufacturing and biomass processors and generators in Vermont and surrounding communities. ***Its vision is for a strong Forest Products Industry and its mission is to promote and defend the interest of our industry.*** VFPA meets its mission through providing information and continuing education and training to industry members, working with other organizations on topics and issues of common interest and continuing and increasing public outreach and education.

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of every individual.

We THANK YOU for being an essential part of our organization's success!

**VERMONT FOREST
PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
Celebrating 45 years!
1977-2022**
