Vermont Forest Products Association

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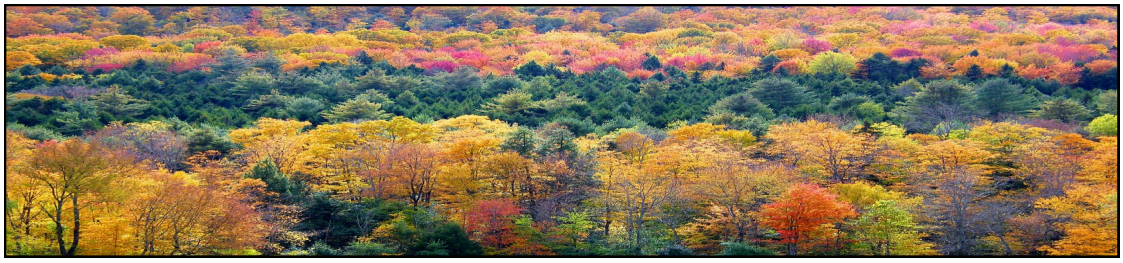
The Mission of the VFPA is to promote and defend the interests of our members. VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont . VFPA meets its mission through:

- **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 16 - 22, 2022



For National Forest Products Week, October 16-22, 2022, we recognize the value of our forests and the vital role they play in our daily lives. Americans depend on their forests for so much – clean air and water, habitat for native fish and wildlife, wood for lumber and other products, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and more. Indeed, forests are the backbone of our environment and critical to our economic success. Forest Products Week provides an opportunity for us all to recognize our nation's forestry sector and reflect on how working forests benefit our economy, the environment and quality of life. The forestry sector is special because it provides numerous essential products made from a sustainably sourced, renewable resource. As nations, local governments, and communities search for ways to mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gases, many are looking to working forests as a natural way to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store carbon in the trees and wood products. And because forest products are made from trees – nature's own carbon sequester – there's growing enthusiasm and interest in forest products as a means of addressing climate change.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

The annual observance dates back to September 13, 1960, when Congress passed a joint resolution providing for the establishment of an annual National Forest Products Week to be held each year on the week beginning with the third Sunday in October. President Eisenhower signed the first proclamation two days later, calling on the people of the United States "to observe the week beginning October 16, 1960 as National Forest Products Week, with activities and ceremonies designed to focus the attention on the importance of our forests and forest products to the Nation's economy and welfare."

PROCLAMATION 3371 – NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

"Whereas the bounty of our forests and timber lands provides our people with a source of strength and pride; Whereas a major renewable resource, supported by the science of modern forestry, wood offers the availability and abundance to satisfy the Nation's ever growing needs for many products – lumber, paper, building materials, chemicals, furniture, and cloth – all dedicated to improving the lives of our people;

(continue on page 2)

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Whereas the Congress, in order to reemphasize the importance of our forest resources, has by a joint resolution approved September 13, 1960, designated the seven-day period beginning on the third Sunday of October in each year as National Forest Products Week, and has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for the observance of that week: Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the people of the United States to observe the week beginning October 16, 1960, as National Forest Products Weeks, with activities and ceremonies designed to focus attention on the importance of our forests and forest products to the Nation's economy and welfare. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed. DONE at the City of Washington, this fifteenth day of September in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-five."

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

- Take part in the observance by attending educational seminars.
- Learn about sustainability efforts and how forests impact our communities.
- Become involved in how our forests are managed.
- Simply look around you. Consider the number of products you use that come from forest product's, it's more than paper and wood.
- Visit your local forests and national forests to learn more about conservation.

Thank you to all the families, who for generations, have dedicated their lives to the forest products industry– those that work in and manage our forests and also the businesses that make the many wood products that we all use in our daily lives.

Celebrating Vermont's Forests

Vermont Forest Products Association

~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

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

"The voice of the forest products industry in Vermont since 1977"

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VFPA Legislative Report

By:
Ed Larson, Lobbyist for
Vermont Forest Products Association

Fall 2022

Forest Futures Roadmap Process Begins

Last session the Legislature passed a bill becoming Act 138, that lays out a program and a process that looks to the future of our industry. How prepared is the forest products industry for the future? Are we poised for prosperity, or will the challenges become so insurmountable we only see contraction and disinvestment? How can we as an industry work together and with others to address challenges, seek expertise and inform lawmakers about our situation as we promote forest industry friendly legislation? The Dept. Of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is administrating this 16-month project. It is led by the Director of Forests, Daniel Fitzko with strong support from Paul Fredricks and FPR hired an international facilitator, "Future iQ" who in concert with Christine McGowan of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund will lead the process.
Commissioner, Mike Snyder was charged with appointing an Advisory Panel and the panel met in person in early October at the Vermont Tech. College campus for an orientation meeting.

Members of the panel are:

1. Trevor Allard, Allard Lumber Company
2. Chris Brooks, Vermont Wood Pellet Company, LLC
3. Chris Castano, Maine Woods Company
4. Scott Duffy, Rockledge Farm Woodworks
5. Jamey Fidel, Vermont Natural Resources Council
6. Chris Fife, Weyerhaeuser
7. Liz Gleason, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
8. Charlie Hancock, North Woods Forestry
9. Steve Hardy, Green Mountain Forestry
10. Dave Lane, Farm Credit East
11. Ed Larson, Vermont Forest Products Association
12. Elizabeth Lesnikoski, Burlington Electric Company
13. Chris Lindgren, University of Vermont Extension
14. Abby Long, Kingdom Trail Association
15. Luke McNally, Ruffed Grouse Society
16. Tucker Riggs, Laughing Stock Farms (LSF) Forest Products LLC
17. Stanley Robinson, Stan Robinson Wood Procurement
18. Gabe Russo, Southwind Forestry LLC
19. Joe Short, Northern Forest Center
20. Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk—Abenaki Nation
21. Allan Thompson, Vermont Woodlands Association
22. Molly Willard, Vermont State University Education

There is diversity on this panel with a good mix of industry folks from all aspects of the supply chain as well as expertise from academia, banking, recreation, environmentalism and indigenous people. Notice that many VFPA members are appointed and that three of the panel members are Directors of VFPA. I was appointed to represent our association while all others are representing their individual business. At the end of this year and a half process, we expect it to result in a report of our work with recommendations of action by legislators, FPR, other state government departments and the industry. There are several methodologies that will be used including surveys, listening sessions, focus groups, a think tank, data visualizations and a future summit.

VFPA is hopeful all members will find time to get involved in this process. Be on the lookout for a survey and for opportunities to be a member of a focus group. We will make every effort to keep you informed of the process as it unfolds. It is important that we hear from as many voices from the forestry sector as possible.

(Continue on page 4)

The next meeting of the Advisory Panel is Wednesday, November 2nd via Zoom. The next in person meeting is December 13.

Use Value Appraisal Program
New Forest Reserve Category starts to take shape.

During the last session, Act 146 was passed making a pivotal change to the Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA). The bill, H.697 introduced by the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife creates a new **"Reserve Forestland"** subcategory. "Reserve Forestland" is defined in the act 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. VFPA opposed its passage. In the proposal created by the Dept. of 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 into law, enrolled parcels less than 100 acres must have at least 50% of the area of a parcel containing certain significant ecological features in addition to steep slopes to qualify. On parcels above 100 acres, only 30% of the land must contain these ecological significant features to qualify. If a parcel qualifies the entire parcel can be enrolled in this new subcategory.

FPR is now charged with establishing standards and guidelines or rules for this new subcategory. The Private Lands Advisory Committee, a committee created by FPR comprised of forest industry folks have been working on shaping the rules. This process is led by FPR Private Lands Program Manager, Keith Thompson. Thompson indicates that the work is close to a preliminary draft and plans to host a meeting for foresters and others to get a first look and offer comment. The meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2022, at the Canadian Club in Barre, look for an announcement soon. Thompson adds that at that meeting they plan to share their initial thinking on eligibility, plan standards, and management standards and use the opportunity to hear people's questions and ideas for improvement.

Once finalized there will be additional outreach efforts about the final standards and how to navigate the new subcategory. The rules need to be in place by the end of the year and presented to the Legislature in January.

Ed Larson, Lobbyist, VFPA
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Natural Resources & Forestry Instructor Position Available

Stafford Technical Center offers fourteen full-day technical education programs, each of which offers college credits or industry certifications to students as part of their high school education. Students are prepared for higher education and/or entry into business and industry. Stafford Technical Center has a Natural Resources & Forestry faculty opening beginning in January of 2023 school year.

The successful applicant will have a diverse and thorough knowledge of the Forestry and Natural Resources field. The instructor is responsible for teaching work place skills, equipment safety, forest management and management practices in the areas of land, soil, and water conservation. He/she will instruct in the areas of the operation and maintenance of forestry/conservation equipment, safe practices in harvesting forest products, timber processing techniques, and landscape design.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of an Associate's Degree, with a Bachelor's Degree preferred. Industry experience in the natural resources and/or forestry field is required and possession or willingness to obtain Type 2 School Bus Endorsement or Class B CDL with School Bus Endorsement. Obtaining Licensure as a Career & Technical Education instructor with the Vermont Agency of Education, if not already licensed, will be part of the first 4 years of employment.

Only completed, on-line applications at www.schoolspring.com will be accepted. A completed application must include: cover letter, resume, transcripts, three CURRENT letters of reference, and license(s).

For more information contact:
Melissa Connor, Director
802-770-1030
melissa.connor@rcpsvt.org

STAFFORD TECHNICAL CENTER

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
Good for you. Good for our forests.®
SFI-00001

SFI Standards – Implementation Phase

The SFI Inc. Board of Directors adopted the new revised standards and has begun its implementation process. Third party audits will need to be applied to these standards on all audits starting in 2023.

SFI Vermont's Implementation Committee (SIC) is working with New York, New Hampshire and Maine's SICs to create a Northern New England guide that certified organizations may use to take steps making changes to meet the more rigorous standards. The first phase is focused on the forest management standards, and we began with a workshop on climate smart forestry practices. The guide will offer options that a certified landowner organization may apply to the specific features on their land to adjust management treatments that minimize and mitigate climate change impacts. Other regions are using the same model creating guides that relate more effectively for the forest types found in their region.

To date, more than 375 million acres/152 million hectares are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, and tens of millions more certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. Due to the size of these certified lands, SFI finds itself in a strong leadership role in educating all forest managers on technics they can apply to maintain healthy working forests based on how SFI certified organization adapt to these standards.

There will be other workshops taking place soon to address other topics in the new standards including water quality and quantity, forest fire resiliency and loggers' training programs.

SFI / PLT Annual Meeting 2022

The 2022 SFI Annual Conference took place June 14-16 in Madison Wisconsin. This was the first time in which SFI and Project Learning Tree (PLT) combined their annual meetings into one big event. Vermont's own PLT Coordinator Rebecca Roy attended the meeting. She reports that it was large, well-attended and was full on excellent learning opportunities.

This year's conference provided engaging ideas and thought-provoking themes, presented by a great lineup of speakers. Takeaways included: best practices on climate-smart forestry and fire resiliency; knowledge and tools to meet and report on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) targets; ways to become a leader in advancing opportunities for diverse communities; and resources to support a forest-literate society. **Speakers included** Randy Moore, Chief, USDA Forest Service. Both organizations claim the dual conference was successful and plans to combine the meeting every other year.

Outreach Activities

As with all of us, the Vermont SIC found it difficult to move forward with our outreach and education efforts because of Covid-19. After two years of cancelled conferences, expos and summits, we were finally able to gather this year. SFI Vermont had display booths at both the Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition, otherwise known as the **Loggers' Expo**, held every other year at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, VT and at the **Vermont Forestry Industry Summit** held in Burke, Vermont organized by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. Both events were well attended, people were happy to see each other.

SFI Vermont is also working on bringing back the **AIV/SFI Forest Policy Task Force** meetings. We invite officials of Vermont's Depts of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Fish and Wildlife and other departments of interests and from the Green Mountain National Forests to provide reports and updates on their current activities. We get a preview on the upcoming Legislative Session and other news pertaining to forestry and the forest products industry. We are also focused on better understanding carbon storage and sequestration in Vermont's forest and how to engage the public in how important working forests are for climate resiliency and mitigation.

Another important outreach we have missed for three years now is our annual **SFI Legislative Breakfast**. We held this in the Vermont Statehouse cafeteria usually mid to late March and tie in various meetings and other events if we can. We are looking at returning to the Statehouse for a meet and greet day in some format in 2023.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE

As with just about everything, efforts to advance PLT growth in Vermont was hindered by Covid-19. The Steering Committee will meet early fall to regain ground on growing teacher participation. Rebecca Roy received a grant from SFI Inc. to support a facilitators training session later in the fall. Facilitators are trained to be able to demonstrate PLT to teachers. She also reports that the Hubs are working fine but that because of turnover in these various hubs, she needs to provide more training of their new staff to manage PLT in their locality.

Forest landowners, foresters, loggers and others making a living in the forestry sector make great facilitators. If you have interest in getting a more balanced education on forests and forestry to our students and has some time to commit to reaching out to K-12 teachers, day care providers, and other youth oriented educational programs, we would love to hear from you. PLT is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Since becoming part of SFI in 2017, PLT has won two *Learning*® Magazine Teachers' Choice℠ Awards including for its *Energy in Ecosystems* curriculum for grades 3-5 in 2019, and its *Carbon & Climate* curriculum in 2020.

Ed Larson SFI VT Coordinator
Bill Sayre, Chair SFI VT
http://www.aivt.org/sfivt.html

Goodridge Lumber, Inc.
A Family Affair

The Modern Woodmen Magazine

It was 1974, and the Goodridge family wanted to build a log home. They bought a used saw for $500 and started pulling trees out of the woods. "We thought it would be a wonderful thing to saw our own logs," says Colleen Goodridge, a Modern Woodman member from Albany, Vermont.

The old saw needed new parts, so they sold some of their logs to pay for repairs – and stumbled upon a business opportunity.

The Goodridge Family started selling railroad ties and gradually transitioned to fencing, decking and logs for cabins. Colleen left her teaching job to work full time for the family business. "I grew up on a dairy farm, and all of us kids helped with the milking and haying," says Colleen. "I was used to hard work outdoors."

FAMILY AFFAIR

Today, Colleen is president and CEO of Goodridge Lumber, which she owns and operates with her three sons, Doug, Mark and Brian. They specialize in white cedar, a rot-and insect-resistant wood that grows in the forest surrounding their mill in Albany. Goodridge Lumber processes 1.2 million board feet of cedar every year, all harvested within a 75-mile radius.

In the early days, the boys were given simple jobs, like stacking boards and sweeping. Now Doug, the oldest, has a degree in civil engineering and oversees the sawing. A trained fabricator, Mark takes the lead planing the wood. Brian has his CDL and is in charge of the log yard and deliveries.

The company employs three other full-time workers, including one of Colleen's nephews. And Colleen's four grandchildren have taken over many of their father's childhood tasks. "Everybody has their own specialty and takes a lot of pride in their work," says Colleen.

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS

Part of Goodridge Lumber financial plan includes life insurance in the company's key employees – Colleen and her three sons. Each plan names Goodridge Lumber as the beneficiary. This will help maintain the company's stability should anything happen.

The family also trusts Modern Woodman to meet personal insurance needs, a tradition that began with Colleen's grandparents. "My mother's parents were the first Modern Woodman members in our family," says Colleen. "Mom and Dad took out a small policy (certificate) when I was born, and I still have that today."

Doug, Mark and Brian have personal life insurance with Modern Woodman, and so do their wives and children. "When you're married and have children, your needs change," Colleen says. "Modern Woodman has always been very good about advising and selecting plans to meet our needs."

GROWING THE FUTURE

As Vice-President of the Vermont Forest Products Association, Colleen is a passionate advocate for the industry. She believes in sustainable logging for healthy forests. "They're good for so many things: clean air, clean water, wildlife, recreation, even Christmas trees and maple products," says Colleen. "For all the logs that come in, we have more trees growing. I enjoy knowing that if we do it properly, the forests will be here for the next generation."

Trees aren't the only resource at stake. Like farming, forestry is an aging industry. Many young people have chosen to leave Vermont to pursue other careers. That's why Colleen is working to cultivate the next generation of forestry workers. She hosts field trips, holds seminars and serves on the advisory board of a nearby technical center. "My classroom isn't in a school building with four walls," Colleen says. "It's right out here in the lumberyard." Once a teacher, always a teacher.

The Myth of Free Wood

Eric Kingsley | FRA Northeast Region Coordinator

As oil prices climb to once imaginable levels, and we watch electricity prices continue their upward march, entrepreneurs are flocking to biomass energy. Using wood to create energy is nothing new in our region. Wood was out first fuel and continues to be the heat of choice for many in the Northeast, and the region is scattered with wood-fired power plants that take low-grade wood to produce green electricity. In the past few years, we have seen pellet firms emerge as real players in the wood-to-energy field, and tomorrow promises advancements in wood as a feedstock for transportation fuels such as ethanol.

To date, the wood-to-energy industry has been dominated by firms that were wood companies first, energy firms second. These firms often grew out of sawmills or paper companies, bringing a clear knowledge of the complexities and nuances of the forest products industry– an industry with a highly fragmented structure, involving hundreds of landowners, loggers, foresters, and wood-using industries working with and against each other.

That has changed. More and more traditional "energy companies" are trying to enter the field– firms that made their mark in natural gas, coal, and oil companies.

In my role as a consultant, I have worked with dozens of energy companies to help them understand, evaluate, and act on opportunities in the wood-energy field. Many of these firms hail from Dallas or Houston or serve as energy investment bankers in New York City. They see opportunity in wood and are looking for ways to make money– and often ways to make a difference– by harnessing their knowledge and experience and applying it to a new field. That's a good thing.

Of course, these folks often don't understand the wood industry and their potential role in it. Almost universally, the initial conversation includes them saying something like, "If I can get the wood for free, I can really make this project work." Never a truer statement was made. Of course, "free" is the extreme. Some come with an expectation to pay for wood, but it is often well below any reasonable market price. This is particularly true following the closure of a pulp mill, when many developers seem to think that huge volumes of "cheap" wood are flooding the marketplace, apparently unaware that all logging equipment comes with an "off" switch and that wood stores quite well on the stump.

We all know that it costs money to grow, harvest, and transport wood. Landowners practicing good forestry see infrequent revenue from each particular stand, and it can be decades between any revenue at all. When a harvest does occur, it is sawlogs for lumber that make the most money for the landowner, but markets for pulpwood and biomass are important as well. Loggers, of course, also assume costs: felling, skidding, chipping, and transporting wood cost money, and loggers need to make a fair return on their work.

In my office, dispelling "the myth of free wood" has become an almost weekly event. It is easy to wonder how so many people got such a notion, but then I look at the language the forestry community has long used to describe wood used for energy purposes. It is often called "residue" from harvests or manufacturing, giving the impression that it is wasted, just hanging around looking for a home. At best, we think of wood for biomass as "low grade" (which it is), but that doesn't give the outsider an impression of a product with real value.

On the other side of the equation , I've met many landowners over the last few years who see the rise in energy prices as their opportunity to get rich. They see themselves as the next incarnation of the Saudi oil sheik, and their wood– and the wood of their neighbors– as such a vast energy reserve that they'll soon be laughing all the way to the bank. Do they know that the folks looking to buy their wood are hoping to get it for free?

Wood contains energy, but only so much of it. Existing technologies can convert wood to thermal and electric energy, and do so well. However, these still compete against traditional fuels– mostly fossil in origin– and biomass is just now becoming attractive against these dominant industries. The future promise of ethanol, bio-oil, and other liquid fuels from wood is great, but it remains that– a promise. When these technologies do reach maturity, expect them to be limited by the laws of physics and economics in the amount they can pay for wood. I know some cellulosic ethanol developers, and I can assure you none of them have asked for help in finding expensive wood.

The myth of free wood and the myth of the oil sheik woodlot landowners are laughable, but they offer real challenges to the effective, rational, and responsible deployment of biomass projects. In the Northeast, where we face high energy costs and have an abundance of forests, it is in the interest of both the forest community and the energy companies to better understand one another's needs and businesses so that we can move forward together with reasonable expectations.

Forestry Building Vermont State Fair

From August 16-20th, the Forestry Building at the Vermont State Fair entertained thousands of visitors. Thanks to the 32 individual volunteers and over 15 organizations and businesses, this forestry educational opportunity offered the public a fun place to escape the heat and an opportunity to learn about forestry in Vermont.

Keeping Northern Woodlands magazines and any information to pick up for give aways was impossible, as people seemed to be hungry for materials to hold onto. Although Smokey tried to visit, it was just too hot for the bear to take a walk around the fairgrounds! It was especially hard to keep the older generation out of the Kid's Cabin, and even caught a few of them coloring inside. Tim Smith, Rutland City Forester drew lots of people while demonstrating his Alaskan Sawmill. The forest carbon display was shown amidst the indoor "forest" complete with Freddie the Fisher, a fearful red squirrel and relaxing red fox. Birdsongs, monarch chrysalis', lumber and wood identification, log grading, the new AMP app, Stafford Vo-tech Forestry, and wood products from all over the state all rounded out the diverse collection of education in the building.

Our organizations who either donated time, materials or people:

Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation
Vermont Woodlands Association
Vermont Tree Farm
Vermont Woodworks Council
Vermont Forests Products Association
Vermont Wood Pellet
Ames True Temper
Gagnon Lumber, Inc.
US Forest Service
Northern Woodlands Magazine
Rutland County Audubon
Stafford Vo-Tech
LEAP
Master Logger
Northeast Woodland Training
*and I probably missed someone!

If you have an interest in helping out next year, we start planning in December! Contact Kathy Beland at kathy.njtinc@gmail.com.

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

Coaching Available for Forest Products Businesses!

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that provides forest products businesses with one-on-one advising and technical assistance to help achieve long-term success.

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

If you are considering:

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

We can connect you with a professional advisor to help you build business skills, meet your goals, and plan for the future. Whether times are tough or you need help managing growth, we're here to help!

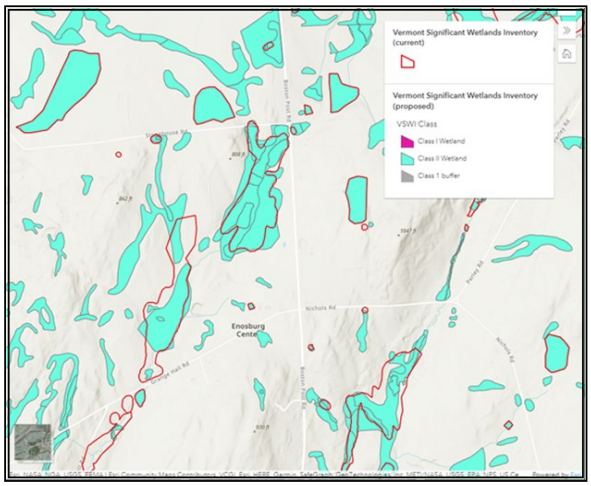
The Viability Program is also offering coaching services to businesses navigating impacts of the pandemic. Our advisors can provide support with navigating relief programs, seeking new markets, financial planning, and more. Information on our COVID Business Coaching

Get Started:

Contact Calley Hastings: calley@vhcb.org or by calling 802-828-3370

visit our website at www.vhcb.org/viability

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



Public Hearings on Proposed Rule to Update Vermont Wetland Maps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release
Contact:
Laura Lapierre, Wetlands Program Manager
Department of Environmental Conservation
802-490-6177, Laura.Lapierre@vermont.gov

Montpelier, VT, September 30, 2022 – The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will hold public hearings in October and November on a proposed rule to adopt edits to the state's wetland maps.

The DEC has a map which identifies the general location of some protected wetlands (Class I and II) called the Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory (VSWI). From 2020 to 2022, the DEC completed more mapping of wetlands in the northwestern portion of Vermont in the Missisquoi River Basin. The new maps more accurately reflect wetland locations and need to be officially added to the VSWI.

"Wetlands – such as swamps, marshes, and bogs – are found throughout Vermont. They store flood water, protect clean water, and provide homes for wildlife," said DEC Commissioner John Beling. "By updating these maps, we can help landowners avoid impacts to significant wetlands."

From May to July 2022, the DEC received public comments on the updated VSWI. The DEC then reviewed comments and provided a responsiveness summary (bit.ly/3CK5IA0). By late August, the DEC decided to start rulemaking to formally adopt the edits to the VSWI. The Secretary of State placed the rulemaking filing on formal public notice on September 28, 2022.

Members of the public are invited to submit comments by November 12, 2022, to Laura Lapierre at Laura.Lapierre@vermont.gov and attend the upcoming public hearings:

- **October 31, 2022, at 5:00 pm:** Welcome Center, 51 Depot Square, Suite 100, St. Johnsbury, VT.Register to participate virtually (bit.ly/3UGJDZK).
- **November 1, 2022, at 5:00 pm:** Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Rd, Hartland VT. Register to participate virtually (bit.ly/3LLBgYJ).
- **November 2, 2022, at 5:30 pm:** RRPC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row (Opera House), Rutland, VT. Register to participate virtually (bit.ly/3xSoK40).
- **November 4, 2022, at 5:00 pm:** 120 First Street, Swanton, VT. Register to participate virtually (bit.ly/3dK6H9h).

"If the State formally adopts the updated wetland maps, we can better protect these special places and their benefits," said Beling. "However, even with the updates, we know not all protected wetlands will be mapped. You should still contact your District Wetlands Ecologist if you are proposing construction activities near a wetland, whether the wetland is mapped or not."

Members of the public can find contact information for their District Wetlands Ecologist online (bit.ly/contactwetlands). They can also use the interactive map (bit.ly/draftwetlandmap) to view the updated VSWI.

Landowners can use the DEC's Wetland Screening Tool (bit.ly/wetlandscreeningtool) to find out if they might have a wetland on their property. Farmers, realtors, non-profits, and towns are also encouraged to use the screening tool when making land management decisions.

Activities within protected wetlands and their 50-foot buffers often require a permit. Any unauthorized activity or construction in a significant wetland prior to its mapping is still a violation of the Wetland Rules (bit.ly/VTwetlandrules).

To learn more, view the rulemaking webpage (bit.ly/wetlandsrulemaking). If Laura Lapierre is not available, contact Julie Follensbee at Julie.Follensbee@vermont.gov or 802-490-6177.

Stephanie Brackin (she/her) | Communications Coordinator
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
(802) 261-0606 | stephanie.brackin@vermont.gov
Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, or our Website

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Forests of Vermont, 2020

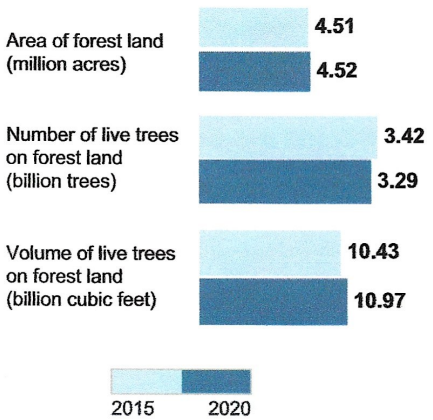
74% forested*

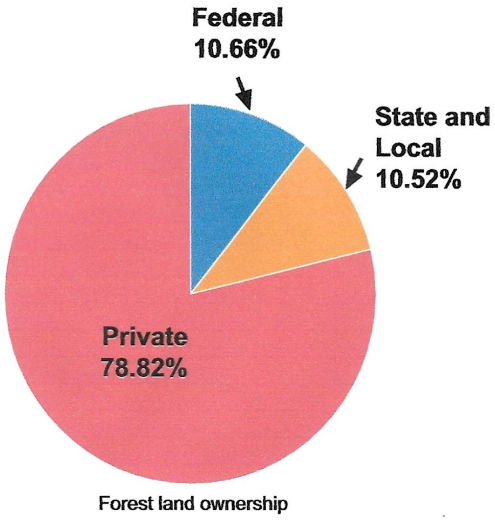
Vermont has an estimated **4,522,888** acres of forest land.

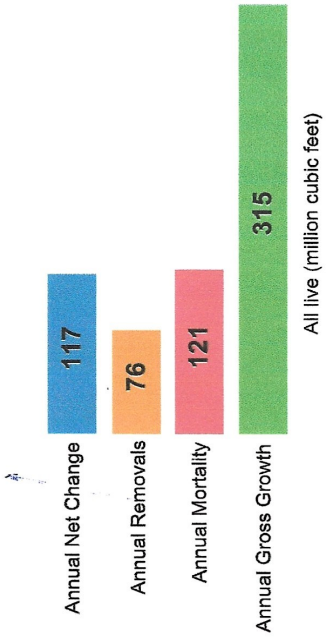
* Percent forest is forest area/total area. Percent forest with water removed from total area is 76%.

This resource update is a brief look at some of the basic metrics that describe the status of and changes to forest resources in Vermont. This information is based on field data collected using the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annualized sample design, and it is updated yearly.

Vermont has 1,120 sample plots across the State, of which 920.0 are currently forested. Each year, about 10-20 percent of these plots are visited and measured by field crews. Data used in this update were accessed from the FIA database on 06/02/2022.







3,439 acres of nonforest revert back to forest annually*

12,649 acres of forest land convert annually* to nonforest

42,914 acres of forest land are treated by cutting (harvest, thinning, etc.) annually*

0 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by fire

709 acres of forest land are disturbed annually* by weather events

USDA Forest Service - Forest Inventory & Analysis

The estimates presented are based on data retrieved from the FIA database (06/02/2022) and may not reflect the most recent data available from the FIA program. Note – this publication does not include estimates of uncertainty. The most current data and sampling error for the estimates above can be found by visiting https://www.fia.fs.usda.gov/.

*Average annual estimates are based on data collected across 5-10 years and may not be indicative of the nominal year presented in the title by itself.

News from Vermont's Watershed Forestry Program

AMP Summary for 2021- Dave Wilcox-Watershed Forester

During 2021, FPR AMP foresters conducted site investigations on 26 logging operations where water quality complaints were received by ANR. Upon investigation, 9 of these cases either displayed an on-going discharge or exhibited evidence that a discharge had recently occurred as a result of logging. The remaining 17 cases revealed no active discharge or recent evidence thereof as a result of logging.

In all of those nine cases where discharges had occurred, AMPs were prescribed and implemented to stop discharges to State waters, and the site was brought into compliance with the AMPs, and/or the logging operation was properly closed out.

Enforcement and assessment of penalty were not pursued in any of the 9 cases on the grounds that (1) voluntary remediation and compliance were successful, (2) the site investigation did not reveal that there was substantial failure to comply with the AMPs, and (3) the logger did not have a history of non-compliance with the AMPs in combination with discharges to State waters.

In addition to the complaints that were received by FPR, there were 16 requests for technical assistance during 2021. Requests for technical assistance generally entail an AMP forester meeting with a logger, forester, or landowner at their request. The meeting is generally held on-site before a logging operation begins to provide recommendations to protect water quality and control soil erosion during and after the operation. Most assists deal specifically with stream crossings.

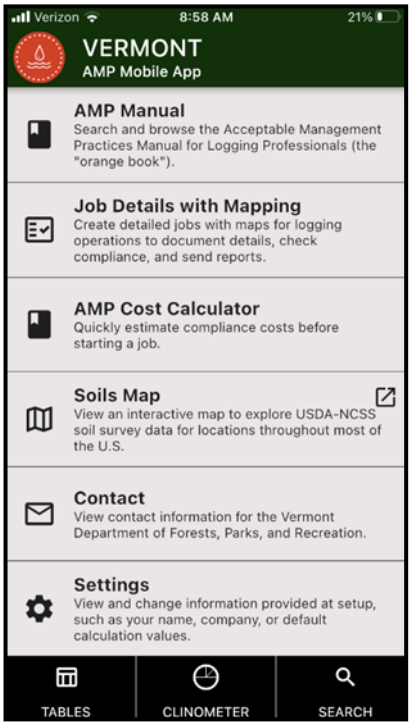
2021 SUMMARY OF AMP ACTIVITY

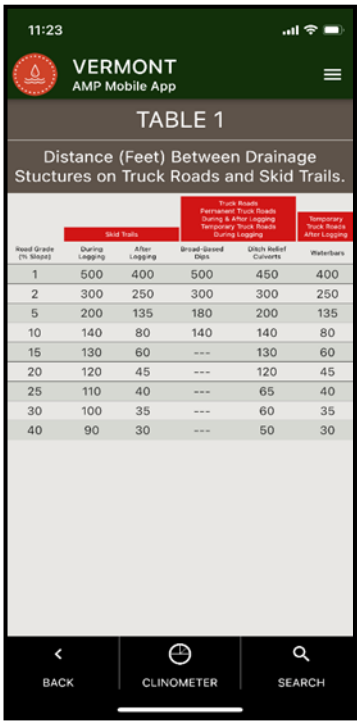
	DISTRICT					
	Springfield I	**Pittsford II**	**Essex III**	**Barre IV**	**St. Johnsbury V**	**Total**
Total Number of Water Quality Complaints Investigated	5	1	4	8	8	26
Number of Cases with No Evidence of Discharge	5	0	4	4	4	17
Number of Cases With Evidence of Discharge	0	1	0	4	4	9
Number of Cases Resolved	0	1	0	4	2	7
Number of Cases Involving ANR Enforcement Division Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Requests For Technical Assistance	2	2	1	9	2	16

Total number of AMP activities in 2021 (Tech assists plus complaints) = 42

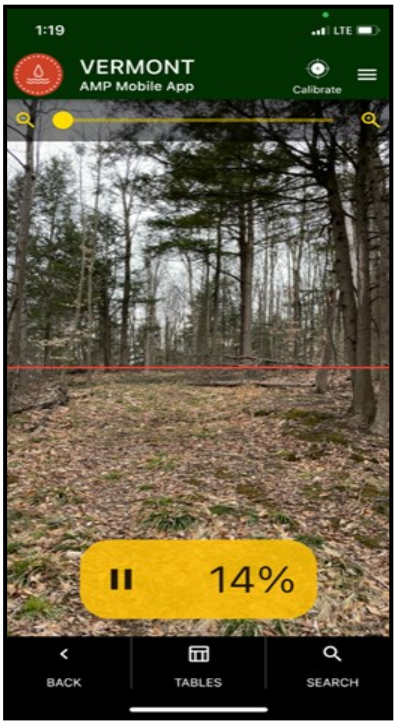
Vermont's New AMP App is now available for your smart phone or tablet!

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "Vermont AMP" and you can download the new App for **FREE!**





Road Grade (% Slope)	Skid Trails During Logging	Skid Trails After Logging	Truck Roads Permanent Truck Roads During & After Logging Temporary Truck Roads During Logging: Broad-Based Dips	Truck Roads Permanent Truck Roads During & After Logging Temporary Truck Roads During Logging: Ditch Relief Culverts	Temporary Truck Roads After Logging: Waterbars
1	500	400	500	450	400
2	300	250	300	300	250
5	200	135	180	200	135
10	140	80	140	140	80
15	130	60	---	130	60
20	120	45	---	120	45
25	110	40	---	65	40
30	100	35	---	60	35
40	90	30	---	50	30



This new App puts the AMP manual on your phone and along with all the information that is available in the printed manual, it includes an AMP mapping tool, a clinometer tool, and an AMP cost calculator to estimate implementation costs across a job.

For more information, visit our website at-https://fpr.vermont.gov/forests

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester
david.wilcox@vermont.gov, 802-793-0265

The Vermont Department of FPR Offers Consulting Foresters Meeting

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) is excited to extend an invitation to a statewide consulting foresters meeting on November 4, 2022, in Barre, VT, renewing a tradition that was interrupted for a few years by COVID. At the meeting, we'll present information about the latest threats to Vermont's forests and emerging strategies for climate adaptation forest management. In addition to being a great chance to connect and learn with fellow foresters and hear updates from the Department, the meeting will offer the opportunity to provide input on the minimum management standards for the new Reserve Forestland subcategory in Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA). Don't miss this opportunity to come together to learn, share, and discuss. Plus, our work is better with your input.

Consulting Foresters Meeting Details

DATE: Friday, November 4, 2022
TIME: 9am– 2:30pm
LOCATION: Canadian Club, 414 E. Montpelier Road, Barre, VT

REGISTER: To manage space, if you plan to attend, please fill out the brief registration form. Any additional information will be sent to those who have registered.

AGENDA:

8:45am ~ **Registration -** morning refreshments provided
9:15am ~ **Welcome and Department Update:** Michael Snyder, FPR Commissioner and Vermont State Forester
9:45am ~ **Forest Health Update:** Josh Halman, FPR Forest Health Program Manager
10:30am ~ **Break**
10:45am ~ **Climate Adaptation Forest Management Strategies:** Ali Kosiba, Vermont UVM Extension Forester
11:30am ~ **Reserve Forestland Introduction:** Michael Snyder, FPR Commissioner and Vermont State Forester; Keith Thompson, FPR, Private Lands Program Manager
12:00pm ~ **Lunch** - lunch on your own
12:30pm ~ **UVA Reserve Forestland Discussion:** Keith Thompson, FPR Private Lands Program Manager
2:30pm ~ **Safe Travels**

More on the UVA Reserve Forestland Subcategory

The new Reserve Forestland Subcategory was created during the 2022 legislative session and directs FPR to develop the minimum management standards by December 31, 2022. During the session, FPR will outline the current state of thinking about possible standards for the Reserve Forestland Subcategory, and hear your input and questions. An internal FPR team, with support from the Private Lands Advisory Committee, has been working to develop the new standards to effectively meet its statutory purpose and be reasonably administered. We are now ready and eager to hear from you.

This meeting is geared towards consulting foresters– as the primary agents for landowners navigating UVA program requirements– but is open to anyone interested in hearing the current state of the standards and providing input. If you can't attend or would like to provide input in advance of the meeting, please fill out a brief form.

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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

David L. Grayck, Esq.

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Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-0659
David@graycklaw.com
"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"

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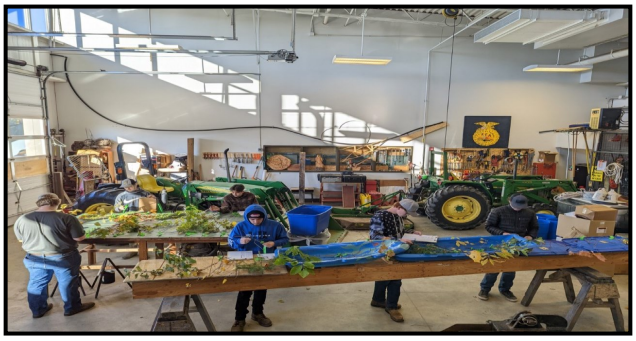
Nancy Cass
Michelle Cass-Fortin

TECH CENTER NEWS

Hello from North Country Career Center's Natural Resources Program. Here are a few pictures showing some of our recent activity including sawmilling, tractor operations, chainsaw safety and use (including chainsaw carving a chair), water quality measurements on Lake Memphremagog, whitewater canoeing on the Clyde River, timber marking at the Land Lab with our county forester, boundary line surveying and mapping, tree identification, arboriculture, cider making, and FFA!

Stay safe.
Yours in the Outdoors,

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



August 27, 2022

GMTCC Forestry was proud to host a LEAP Educators Workshop where other CTE forestry teachers from around Vermont received the training to teach LEAP courses! Now our students can leave class with a LEAP certification! We also trained these teachers in our timber sports events so they can have their students compete in our spring timber sports forestry event!

September 23, 2022

GMTCC Forestry conducted a Logger Rescue and Extraction Training with Dana Hinkley!

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. Claredon, 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 **www.vtleap.com**

LEAP 2022 FALL WORKSHOPS

Upcoming Workshops
Continuing Education Credits (8)

Logging Costs and Productivity Workshop

Presented by Dr. Steven Bick, Northeast Forests LLC and Vermont Forest Business School
November 8, 2022: UVM Extension Office, 327 US RTE 302, Berlin, VT
November 9, 2022 UVM Extension Office, 271 North Main Street, Rutland, VT
Time: 8:00am—3:30pm
Cost: $30 (includes lunch)

Please pre-register at: *https://www.vtleap.com/logger-training-workshops/*

8 LEAP Elective Credits
7 SAF/Forester Licensing Credits

This workshop will demonstrate how to accurately calculate annual logging costs (cost/year & cost/ton) and apply them to specific jobs and harvesting opportunities. The workshop will also cover how to calculate productivity as the ration of output to effort, and how to use this information to compare weeks, months, years, and individual timber harvests. Loggers and their family members who participate in the business are encouraged to attend. Free mobile apps will be used to make the calculations.
Participants should bring their mobile phone and a copy of their most recent IRS Schedule C or Form 1120 to use in inputting their own cost information.

Specific Topics Covered:
- Identifying and understanding logging costs by category
- Throughput accounting in logging
- Accurately estimating annual production costs
- Allocating logging costs by ton, day, week, or month and job site
- Understanding and calculation of productivity as the ratio of effort (machine hour) to output (loads of wood)
- The free LC Benchmark Logging App
- The Free Log-In-Vermont Mobile app

To register, visit the VT LEAP website at *https//www.vtleap.com/logger-training-workshops/*

For more information or if you cannot register online, please contact: Paul Frederick, VT FPR, at 802-777-5247 or *paul.frederick@vermont.gov*

YOU MUST CANCEL AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE WORKSHOP TO RECEIVE A REFUND.

This workshop is co-sponsored by the VT Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation; NE Forests LLC; and the VT Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Program (LEAP) and made possible through a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant from the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region, State and Private Forestry.

Questions? CONTACT DAVID BIRDSALL: logger@vtleap.com

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
2022 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 Advocate, 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 vtfpa@hotmail.com by December 14, 2022

Awards will be presented at the January 28, 2023 VFPA Annual Meeting.

We will submit our VFPA winners to the NELA competition by January 31, 2023.
NELA Awards will be presented at the Annual Logger's Banquet to be held on May 18, 2023 in Bangor, Maine.

VFPA is asking for everyone's help in raising funds to pay for services for the 2023 Legislative Session.

This VFPA fundraiser will start on October 21st and will end on November 11, 2022. This guarantees Christmas delivery!

Wear your shirt proudly to show your support and celebrate the people who work the Working Landscape and share in the important work of our industry organization. Thank you!

*To order, please go to the **Vermont Forest Products Association Facebook page** or use this link in your internet browser*
https://www.bonfire.com/vfpa-legislative-fund-campaign

Check out the new items that are available !

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

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.

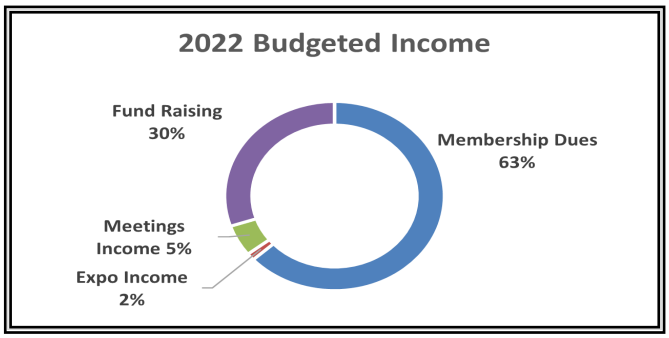
Your membership in VFPA is important. As a member of VFPA we can collectively seek ways to improve opportunities for our industry. Your membership gives you a place to learn more about improving your business, voice your concerns and share with others in helping Vermont remain a rural state that is proud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

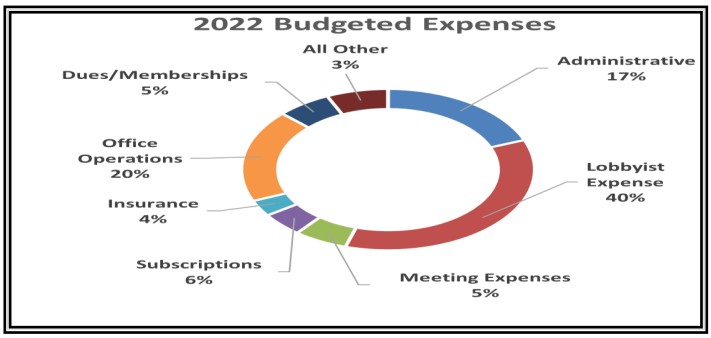
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

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.





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 Vermont Forest Products Association also meets its mission by lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers–

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

Thanks to Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, who works tirelessly on behalf of the industry– monitoring the issues, providing information to the membership, participating in discussions concerning the industry, promoting the industry and defending it when necessary.

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

Phone: 802-461-5688

E-mail: vfpa@hotmail.com

www.vfpa.org

Dates and Events

November 17 - VFPA Directors Meeting, via Zoom

December 15 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Location to be determined

January 28, 2023 - VFPA Annual Meeting, Location to be determined.

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

**** These meetings may be subject to change****

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