



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 Hosts Annual Meeting on January 26, 2023

The Vermont Forest Products Association held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier, VT from 9am to 3pm with a group of approximately 40 attendees.

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 the state of Vermont. Directors elected for the 2023-2025 term are Steve Hardy, Robbo Holleran, Bill Sayre, Chris Fife, Eric Parenti, David Grayck and Justin Holbrook. Elected for a one year term 2023-2024, to fill a vacancy, is Jason Lowell. VFPA Officers elected for the 2023-2025 term are President: Steve Hardy; 1st Vice-President: Colleen Goodridge; 2nd Vice-President: Trevor Allard and Secretary/Treasurer: Brandy Inkel.

Invited guests for the meeting included Julie Moore- Secretary, VT Agency of Natural Resources; Danielle Fitzko- VT Director of Forests; and Christine McGowen- Forest Program Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, and key-note speaker- Steve Bick, Northeast Forests, LLC who spoke about "Changes and Adaptations in the Forest Products Supply Chain."

Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, provided a legislative report.

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



VFPA Outstanding Sawmill Operator Award 2022- Cersosimo Lumber:

"In recognition of Cersosimo Lumber Company, celebrating 75 years in business, led by 3 generations of family, producing high quality NE Hardwood and Eastern White Pine Lumber- committed to consistency in quality and utilizing modern technology and innovation as they have grown. They are advocates of good forest stewardship and have made contributions to the industry and their community. The Old Man Says: You can't do business from an empty wagon."

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VFPA Outstanding Industry Advocate Award 2022– Ed Larson: “In recognition and appreciation for his dedication and contributions to the forest products industry and his community– the beneficiaries of his many efforts. Because of his life experiences of obtaining a forestry degree, owning/operating a sawmill business, and also forming a forestry and legislative services business, we consider him one of us and he understands the challenges of the industry firsthand– unwavering in his commitment to advocating for a strong forest products industry, for the people that dedicate their lives to the working forests and for the rural traditions of Vermonters.”



VFPA Outstanding Service to the Forest Industry Award 2022– Michael Snyder: “In recognition and appreciation for his dedication, contributions and service for the betterment of the Forest Products Industry– 14 years as Chittenden County Forester, 12 years as Commissioner of FPR, teacher, author, foliage reporter– with a deep love of the woods and a passion for the industry. Thank you for being a strong consistent voice advocating for forests, the people who own and manage them, our forest products economy and so much of what makes Vermont a special place.



VFPA Outstanding Logging Operator Award 2022– Glenn Brown: “In recognition and appreciation for over 45 years as a logging contractor who understands that forest management is about growing trees as well as harvesting trees, respects and assists landowners in their long-term goals, possesses skills and equipment well suited to varying terrains, produces good logs and pays competitive prices for timber he harvests.”

The day long meeting concluded with viewing the WCAX TV Super Senior, VFPA member Ray Colton, Colton Enterprises, Pittsfield, VT. The highest bidders picked up a variety of items from the Silent Auction Fundraiser.

LEAP and SAF continuing education credits were available for those attending this full day meeting.

Thank you to our ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS!

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**VFPA Legislative Report**

By:

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

**Legislative Day in the Statehouse**

Thursday, April 6, 2023, is VFPA Legislative Day in the Statehouse. Come one, come all and show our lawmakers how we value our jobs, our industry, our forests and our state. Bring something to show and proudly join us in the Card Room as we meet and greet Legislators, administrators and visitors. Come as you are, bring employees and family members. This is not a waste of time folks, it is an important investment in your business and our industry for the future.

Under the Gold Dome

This Legislative session is not your typical session. An historical turnover of membership and leadership took place this past election cycle. There are 47 new Representatives and ten new Senators. In the house there are nine new chairpersons and there are three new Senators in chair positions. It has been a big learning curve for many, and it took many weeks before we saw what one might regard the process as normal activity.

In the House, Speaker Krowinski reconfigured the committees as well. She reduced the number of policy committees from 14 to 13 by basically combining last year's Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Energy and Technology committees into a single Environment and Energy Committee. Rep. Amy Sheldon (D) Middlebury, who chaired the Natural Resources committee last biennium will chair the new Environment and Energy Committee. Since the pandemic, to spread people out to reduce the spread of germs, all the smaller committee rooms are no longer committee rooms, but are lounges or small meeting places. Many committees are moved to other larger spaces in the building, it took a while to find them all.

As of this writing the Legislature is at its midpoint of the first year's session. Known as crossover, policy committees must have voted out bills they want to see move through the process by the St. Patrick's Day's deadline or the bill dies for this year. Money committees have one additional week to get their budget bills out. Soon after crossover, there becomes a huge flurry of floor activity as they try to get priority bills and the various budgets out and sent to the other chamber for their review and action. Big money bills include the General Fund Budget, Capital Construction Budget, Transportation Budget (T Bill) and a Miscellaneous Tax Bill. We may also see a Fee

Bill for the first time since Phil Scott became Governor. Other big and controversial bills in play this year include a housing bill (S.100) and S5, An act relating to affordably meeting the mandated greenhouse gas reductions for the thermal sector through efficiency, weatherization measures, electrification, and decarbonization, AKA "Affordable Heat Bill". In a big part, the Forest Futures Roadmap that passed last year, Act 183, now ongoing, has in some cases, effectively caused Legislators to offer deference and pause on considering legislation that directly affects our industry this year. The roadmap began in summer 2022 and will continue until the final report is presented to the Legislature in January 2024. Then all bets are off. As a result, this year there are only a handful of measures in the process VFPA is monitoring.

Conserved lands – Establish state-wide goals

Top-down planning has not been popular in Vermont, but Legislators want to force it on us anyway. Last year the Legislature passed H.606, a bill to **establish State goals of conserving 30 percent of the land of the State by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050.** The Governor Vetoed the bill so it failed to become law. To try again this year, H.126, an act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection was introduced and sent to the House's newly renamed committee on Environment and Energy. The bill, as introduced was almost identical to the as passed version of H.606. On or before December 31, 2025, the Secretary of ANR shall develop a plan to implement the conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design to meet the goals established in this bill. ANR is also directed to create an advisory group and hold at least 12 public hearings with assistance from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) before bringing the plan back to the Legislature. Reaching 30 percent of all land in Vermont by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 shall include a mix of permanently protected ecological reserve areas, biodiversity reserve area and natural resource management areas. It also adds a new definition of sustainable forest management and conservation. These three land areas are defined as follows:

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“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.

“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.

“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.

“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 bill also includes a specific definition of “Conserved” which means protected and meeting the definition of ecological reserve area, biodiversity conservation area, or natural resource management area as defined in this section. VFPA opposed H.606 last year and continues to express valid concerns about what this bill does to existing conservation efforts, the permanence of how land is held inside each of these categories and how it will affect the forest products economy. We asked for changes to answer these questions and are in the negotiation process as of this report.

Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program Administration proposes change to the Use Change Tax (penalty for withdraw)

In 2015 the Legislature changed the penalty from a pro rata calculation to a stand-alone appraisal for the portion removed. This move was intended to make the tax much higher as a disincentive for landowners to remove land from the program, but it also made the process in determining the tax and enabling timely property transfers considerably more complex. As predicted a near firestorm has been brewing among listers, buyers and sellers of the removed land. Confusion, complexity and the long waits has the Dept. of Property Value and Review (PVR) Director, Jill Remick fielding numerous complaints.

Now PVR wants to go back to prorate the acreage removed and apply the tax to the original listed value of the full parcel. To keep in line with the policy of raising the tax to discourage withdraws. The question becomes, what tax rate is appropriate? Before 2015 the rate was a two-part declining scale, for the first ten years of enrollment, 20% was applied to the prorated value of the portion withdrawn and after ten years, the rate dropped to 10%. PVR offered a matrix in which the rate is different depending on how much land is originally enrolled and how many acres are withdrawn. Obviously, this creates an even more complex process and in which there are winners and losers. The matrix also created certain cliffs, in other words, if one increased the amount of land they otherwise would not withdraw, they can achieve a much lower tax rate. Recognizing these cliffs are problematic, PVR has gone back to the drawing board to see if they can propose a different schedule. The Current Use Advisory Board is on record supporting this change.

During her testimony, Director Remick stated the intended purpose for changing the tax in 2015 to discourage withdraws has not worked, in fact there has been a considerable spike in withdraws during the pandemic. This proposal is so far, just that. There is no formal bill introduced and language has not been finalized to even create a bill. Therefore, this measure will not likely be considered this year.

Truck Overweight permits – Déjà Vu Surprise

Last year there was an effort on the part of the House Committee on Transportation to add a report based on a meeting of Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) and stakeholders including VFPA on what can be done to increase truck weights in Vermont. Last year the Senate did not support that study nor did the Administration, so it was pulled out of the Miscellaneous DMV bill. The administration opposed it because they said this language would jeopardize federal highway funds. This year the Senate Committee on Transportation introduced the misc. DMV bill, put the same language (found below) into the bill S.99 and voted it out of committee 5-0. The bill is on the calendar for debate on the Senate floor as of this report. DMV Commissioner, Wanda Minoli supports the section adding “we proposed it”. asked what changed about the concern about federal funding and she said they aren’t concerned about that anymore. Strange as it is, we will likely have that meeting this summer after all. Here is that section of the bill:

*** * Gross Weight Limits on Highways; Report * ***

Sec. 39. REPORT ON INCREASING GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS THROUGH SPECIAL ANNUAL PERMIT (a) The Secretary of Transportation or designee, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee; the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns or designee; and the President of the Vermont Forest Products Association or designee and with the assistance of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee, shall examine adding one or more additional special annual permits to 23 V.S.A. § 1392 to allow for the operation of motor vehicles at a gross vehicle weight over 99,000 pounds and shall file a written report on the examination and any recommendations with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 2024.

(b) At a minimum, the examination shall address:

- (1) allowing for a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer combination transporting cargo of legal dimensions that can be separated into units of legal weight without affecting the physical integrity of the load to bear 18 a maximum of 107,000 pounds on six axles or a maximum of 117,000 pounds on seven axles by special annual permit;*
- (2) limitations for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight permits based on highway type, including limited access State highway, non- limited-access State highway, class 1 town highway, and class 2 town highway*
- (3) limitations for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight permits based on axle spacing and axle-weight provisions;*
- (4) reciprocity treatment for foreign trucks from a state or province that recognizes Vermont vehicles permitted at increased gross weights;*
- (5) permit fees for any additional special annual gross vehicle weight permits;*
- (6) additional penalties, including civil penalties and permit*

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revocation, for gross vehicle weight violations; and (7) impacts of any additional special annual gross vehicle permits on the forest economy and on the management and forest cover of Vermont's landscape.

S.93 – Sales tax exemption for advanced wood heat

This bill would extend the date of the repeal of the current sales and use tax exemption for advanced wood boilers from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025. This bill is on the move. It left the Senate Finance Committee, unchanged from as introduced, on a 6-1-0 vote and passed second reading on the Senate floor Friday, March 17 on a voice vote. No amendments are contemplated. This bill will next move to the House for its consideration.

Skidder Bridges – Capitol Bill pauses on funding this year

For the past few years, the House and Senate Committees on Institutions and Corrections included bonded funding to subsidizing skidder bridges for the forestry industry. A few hundred have been built and distributed among many loggers around the state with low cost portable bridges. This year it appears that moneys are being shifted to increased road building in state forests. The bill is expected to be finalized by the House committee in the next week.

Forest Future Roadmap - Act 183

As you all are aware, we are in the midst of an 18 month process to establish a roadmap of the future of our industry. Passed by the Legislature last year, this timely comprehensive review of where we are and a robust facilitated discussion on where we want to be in ten or more years has so far been productive. Administered by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) \$250,000 was appropriated to undergo this potentially very meaningful endeavor. FPR contracted with an international facilitator, "Future IQ" to manage the process. VFPA is well represented on the Steering Committee that was created in the law. We meet monthly, sometimes more than once and are about halfway through this process. A draft report will be created in June and a final report to the Legislature is due January of 2024. As an advocate for the industry, it cannot be overstated, that your involvement is necessary if we want to have control of our future. Please take the time to stay abreast of its activities and attend the open sessions and share your vision, your challenges and your hopes. Our general goal is for a future with a strong profitable forest economy operating with a well-managed and abundant forest resource base to sustainably supply our industry for many generations to come. Visit the Forest Future website regularly and please contact VFPA with your concerns, interest and ideas. <https://lab2.future-iq.com/vermont-forest-future/>

Time for Change

For most of the last 25 years, I have proudly served as your lobbyist. It is truly an honor to represent this very important signature industry in the Vermont Legislature. It is however time to step aside and allow the next generation to take the helm. Back in December, I announced to the VFPA Board of Directors that this will be my last year as the lobbyist to allow sufficient time for the Board to seek and find a replacement. The board has created a search committee and will begin the process of advertising, screening and recommend new representation to the full Board sometime later this year. I am not going into retirement yet. I plan to continue as a consulting forester for a few more years. I also want to continue teaching forestry classes at the Vermont Technical College. So I will not be riding into the sunset, but will seek other things I can do to continue advocating for our industry.

Thank you for the opportunities presented.



***Ed Larson,
VFPA Lobbyist
Montpelier, VT
(802) 224-9177***





SEEKING FOREST INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER INPUT

The Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap planning process is gaining momentum. The VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) has already conducted an extensive stakeholder survey, statewide industry roundtables, a two-day Think-Tank workshop, and a series of community engagement events.

We are now planning a series of **virtual Forest Industry Engagement sessions** for the week of **March 27-31**.

These events will be one-hour virtual sessions. The purpose of the Forest Industry Engagement sessions is to explore industry stakeholder views about the future of the Vermont Forest economy and seek industry input into identifying a preferred future and building actionable strategies.

"Forests and the goods and services they provide are **vital** to Vermont's future, and we need Vermont forest industry stakeholders to weigh in on how we **support** forests, the forests products sector, and broader forest economy into the future."

- **Danielle Fitzko**, Interim Commissioner Director of Forests, VT FPR

By January 2024, FPR will deliver to the General Assembly the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap – a ten-year plan to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect Vermont's forest products sector and the broader forest economy. The Vermont forest products sector provides nearly 14,000 jobs, generates \$2.1 billion in annual sales, and produces products used and enjoyed by Vermonters every day. This project is authorized by the Vermont Legislature and signed into law by Governor Scott in [Act 183 of 2022](#). From now through June 2023, there will be additional opportunities to get involved. For more details on the Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap project and to be part of the process, visit the portal at the link below.



bit.ly/vff-portal



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Photos courtesy of Erica Houskeeper | VSJF

Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program: Part 1

Written by: Charles Levesque, President, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC



This is a first in a series of exclusive Green Energy Times articles on some myths about climate change and the role trees and forests play in mitigating climate change's effects.

We Shouldn't Cut Trees if We Care about Climate Change – Right? Wrong. It seems simple and intuitive, right? If we want our forests to help mitigate the effects of climate change, we should just leave them alone to grow. Sometimes simple ideas are correct, but this one is not – in fact it's dead wrong. There are important myths surrounding this issue. There are some who believe if we don't harvest trees, then the forest keeps on growing and sequestering carbon forever. That is not true. Trees and forests, though often longer lived than humans, age as they grow bigger and older and their growth slows down – quite a bit, actually. Their sequestration of carbon also slows down. And let's not forget that what this all about is climate change being caused mostly by greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels in electricity power plants, manufacturing facilities, heating buildings and transportation vehicles. Forests only off-

set some of those emissions here in the U.S. and in the world. The real way to reduce emissions is to slow or stop them at the emitting point – the power plant, factory, building heating unit or car or truck on the road.

There are two important terms to understand if we want to talk about forest carbon and climate change:

Carbon sequestration – the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and storing it in another form that cannot immediately be released – wood.

Carbon storage – the total amount of carbon contained in a forest both aboveground (mostly trees) and below ground (mostly soil) at a given time.

Carbon sequestration is about today and the future. What we want from our forests is to offset as much of atmospheric emissions today and into the future – across the landscape. Scale – i.e. landscape – discussion is extremely important because climate change and greenhouse gas emissions are not just about one spot on earth, instead, it is a global issue. The kind of forest across the landscape that sequesters the most carbon is a young to middle aged forest – NOT an old forest.

Rate of Carbon Sequestration in Forests of the Northeast U.S.

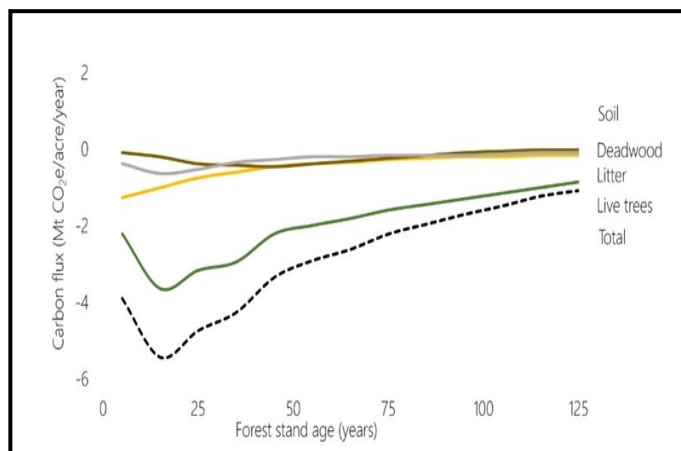


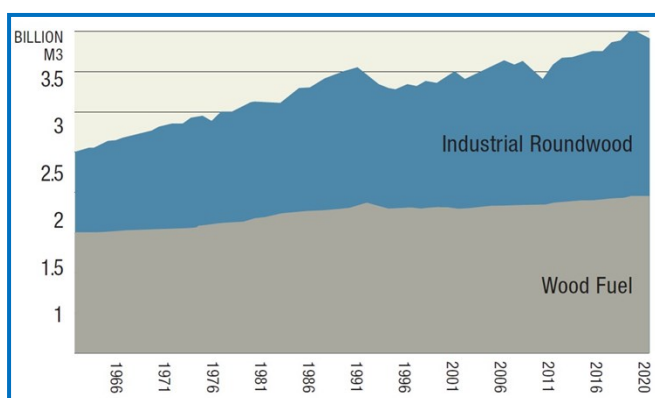
Figure 1 shows that forests less than 20 years old sequester the most carbon. Larger negative numbers in the graph show the highest sequestration rates. As the forest ages, the rate of sequestration over the landscape is reduced. So, if we want high carbon sequestration rates today and in the future to offset greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change – we want younger forests.

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Carbon storage is the opposite of sequestration when it comes to forest age. As forests grow older and the trees become larger, they store more carbon than younger forests. This carbon storage represents the sequestration that occurred in the past – which we cannot change. We don't want to release all the forest carbon in these older (or even younger forests), but carbon storage does not address today's, and future, emissions. Younger, vigorously growing forests are the best across the landscape at removing the most greenhouse gas emissions (carbon) to combat emissions from fossil fuel burning and their effects resulting in climate change.

What about cutting trees? We use wood from trees for so many things in our lives: from our homes, to furniture, to heat our homes and yes, for toilet paper and paper in books. Products from trees are so much more environmentally friendly than from fossil fuel sourced products (think steel and concrete in buildings or plastics) because trees and forests are renewable. In the northeast U.S. they grow back naturally – we don't have to plant them – because our soils, climate and tree species naturally produce seed or sprouting from stumps to regrow our forests. Simple thinking says if we don't cut trees then the planet will be better off because trees sequester carbon. The problem with that thinking is the issue of "leakage" and myth #2. Leakage from a forest carbon perspective is that if you don't harvest a tree here for products, it will be harvested somewhere else because demand for wood products is increasing in our region, the country and the world (Figure 2). It is naïve to think that if we stop harvesting a tree on a property or in our region that there are only positive climate effects. In the northeast U.S., we have laws and regulations to assure that timber harvesting is done in an environmentally sound manner. If we don't harvest trees here, they will be harvested elsewhere – and maybe in parts of the world with less resilient forests like the rainforests of South America. This would not be better for the planet. Harvesting trees sustainably here also can increase growth rates on the remaining trees in the forest where harvesting occurred, resulting in increased carbon sequestration rates – the most important part of forest carbon and climate change.

Global timber consumption for all uses 1960-2020



And by the way, we grow way more trees and carbon in our northeastern forests than we remove each year. We will talk much more about that in the next article. So, the bottom line is that younger forests sequester more forest carbon per area than older forests and cutting trees here in the northeast, for all the valuable products we need, can be done sustainably in a forest that grows way more than is harvested each year. Not harvesting here just pushes the demand for forest products to other forest harvesting elsewhere and does not result in an improvement in our global climate change situation.



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.



Former VFPA Director Ray Colton is Vermont's Super Senior

PITTSFIELD, Vt. (WCAX)

When the weather dips, Ray Colton's business heats up.

Vermont has a rich tradition of heating homes with wood. In the early '80s, Colton is credited with helping to change the industry.

He was delivering green wood to a Killington condo that he says was going through wood "like no tomorrow." Ray said, "I got to ask, how do you burn this stuff?" And the guy said, 'No problem. We go ski in the morning, fill the oven right up, turn it on high, get home at night, and we got nice dry wood!'

Reporter Joe Carroll: Sounds like a fire hazard to me. Ray Colton: A fire hazard and expense for somebody.

Colton decided to do the same but on an industrial scale. "I think most people thought I was nuts anyhow thinking about it," he said. Now, Colton Enterprises processes up to 7,000 cords of kiln-dried wood a year.

Reporter Joe Carroll: How much is a cord going for now? Ray Colton: \$400, picked up here.

Joe Carroll: Yikes! It's gone up, huh? Ray Colton: Well, I can give you my oil bill. You want to see how that's going!

Colton says other people have taken his idea but he's the king of the wood pile in the Green Mountains, even selling wood throughout New England. "You can't hardly sell wood if it's not kiln-dried," he said. "We started, basically, with nothing," said Lynda, Colton's wife of 54 years. "He used to split with a little homemade wood splitter." "We have two, wood chip burning boilers," explained. He says it takes close to three days to get the moisture out.

Although the winter months are prime time for the business, in November there's still time for another tradition -- deer season. "I got to tell you about these, I shot all three of these. That one there, my wife got," Colton says, showing off the family trophies.

Reporter Joe Carroll: You bagged a deer too, huh? Lynda Colton: Well, Mr. Suburu committed suicide on the hood of my car.

Lynda survived unscathed and was allowed to keep the carcass. "Everybody who was working here loaded into two trucks and a car and we went and got him," she said. Colton's deer camp is high up in the hills of Pittsfield. "Clears your mind. Sit in that swing on the porch there, have a cold one," he said. On weekends, the bunks are filled with family and friends.

Reporter Joe Carroll: You know deer hunting, especially with kids, is fading away Ray Colton: Tell me about it... I don't like it but I don't know what you're going to do about it. Hunting will be at the crack of dawn, so after a quick meal, it's back to the mill. "I don't think he's capable of slowing down," Lynda said.

Yankee ingenuity that's cut above the rest.

Reporter Joe Carroll: You're kind of a wood tycoon. Ray Colton: I guess.

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“VFPA at the Statehouse”
Thursday, April 6, 2023
8:00am– 2:00pm
Card Room Display



This is an important opportunity to showcase our industry and VFPA in front of our Legislature. The Card Room is located just off the House Chamber and the cafeteria. Every Legislator passes through this room at least once a day. This is our chance to impress those who make laws, many with little or no knowledge of what we do, with a strong presence. Please let us know if you want to attend and help explain our way of life, our occupations and make our industry real to our elected leaders.

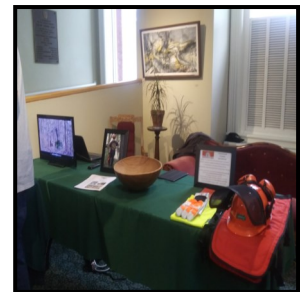
If you plan to attend, bring a photo of your business, a small display, items from the forest, the mill or a product of interest made here.

Most importantly, bring yourself. Having our industry represented by folks from all reaches of the state in all aspects of the industry is most favorable and a goal we should try to achieve. Great face to face conversations occur all day. Make it your day with VFPA. You will value your time and I know the Senators, Representatives, Commissioners, Administration Officials and all Vermonters in the statehouse that day will value your time also.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending, time frame and if you will be bringing an item/display that requires table space.

You may contact Brandy Inkel, VFPA Administrative Secretary for additional information at:

802-323-3591 or email: vfpa@hotmail.com





Vermont Future Forest Strategic Roadmap Virtual Session

**Forest Industry Engagement Virtual Session for:
Vermont Forest Products Association Members and Guests
April 6, 2023
7:00 -8:00 PM via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82371775196?pwd=U3pEbHJC�WNHQUXZKZkHhc1BwemlyZz09>

By January 2024, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) will deliver to the General Assembly the **Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap**, a ten-year plan to strengthen, modernize, promote, and protect Vermont's forest products sector and the broader forest economy. FPR has already conducted an extensive stakeholder survey, statewide industry roundtables, a two-day Think-Tank workshop, and a series of community engagement events to guide the effort.

FPR is now planning a series of virtual **Forest Industry Engagement Sessions**, hosted by organizations representing your industry and specifically designed to gather input into identifying a preferred future and building actionable strategies.

The Vermont Forest Products Association (VFPA) will be hosting one of these sessions on April 6th from 7:00-8:00 PM online at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82371775196?
pwd=U3pEbHJC�WNHQUXZKZkHhc1BwemlyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82371775196?pwd=U3pEbHJC�WNHQUXZKZkHhc1BwemlyZz09)

David Beurle, CEO of Future iQ will provide an overview of the project to date after which participants will be asked to complete a short survey.

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE YOUR INPUT TO THIS PROJECT WHICH WILL HELP GUIDE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN, MODERNIZE AND PROMOTE YOUR INDUSTRY!

Learn more and stay connected at: <https://lab2.future-iq.com/vermont-forest-future/>

SUPPORT THE WORKING LANDSCAPE

Portable Skidder Bridges Available for Rent

We often hear of how farming and forestry practices can *degrade* water quality but rarely hear how good management practices can **protect** water quality. One way you can minimize the potentially negative environmental impacts of harvesting is by incorporating the use of Portable Skidder Bridges into your harvest planning. These skidder bridges provide a temporary structure for crossing streams with logging equipment. They are easy to transport, install and remove, while also minimizing disturbance to the stream channel and stream bed during the logging operation. Portable Skidder Bridges are designed to aid loggers in following “Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMP’s).”

WITH THE RIGHT PLANNING, WATER QUALITY PROTECTION CAN BE COST EFFECTIVE! PORTABLE SKIDDER BRIDGES CAN:

- Prevent debris from entering streams and lead to less soil erosion and sedimentation occurrences
- Prevent the alteration of the stream channel and restriction of water flow
- Reduce costs associated with temporary stream crossings

PORTABLE SKIDDER BRIDGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT FROM THE ORLEANS COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT (OCNRCD) FOR \$100/MONTH



Please consider skidder bridges in your harvest plans.

Call OCNRCD at (802) 334-6090 x7008

to discuss reserving the bridge.

Technical assistance on placement and use is available from the Vermont Forest Parks and Recreation staff.

***Since 1946, the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) has been working to protect and enhance the soil and waters of Orleans County by seeking solutions to local environmental concerns. ***

For more information on bridge rentals or OCNRCD projects, please contact the District at:

Sarah Damsell (802) 334-6090 x7008

sarah.damsell@vtncdnet.net

This project was made possible by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and the forestry program at North Country Career Center.





Summary of Portable Logging Bridges Available in Vermont

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

david.wilcox@vermont.gov, 802-793-0265

Wooden three-panel portable skidder bridges: FPR is currently working on a program to provide temporary wooden skidder bridges to Natural Resource Conservation Districts across Vermont. The rental program through the NRCD's has seen many of its original bridges wear out. **Starting in the spring of 2023, 15 new bridges will be available to NRCD's that are interested in continuing the rental program.** The Orleans County NRCD received a bridge from FPR this winter and has that bridge available to rent. Contact your local NRCD to see if they will be continuing the bridge rental program. These bridges will be available directly through the NRCD's.



Wood-over-steel skidder bridges: FPR has three, 25' long, two-section steel I-beam bridges with wooden decks. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder or a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have also been used for log trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. These bridges are located in Barre, Springfield and Rutland. Rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. These bridges were funded through a grant from the US Forest Service. If interested in one of these bridges contact Dave Wilcox- 802-793-0265



Steel truck bridges: FPR has two temporary truck bridges that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM Fabricating in Pennsylvania. FPR has a 30' and a 40' bridge. They weigh between 25,000 and 30,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. These are substantial bridges and require at least one, and sometimes two medium to large excavators to load, unload and set in place. They also require a solid abutment to be set on, so they don't twist. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month and the rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. When not in use, these bridges will be located at the AOT yard in Williamstown at Exit 5. These bridges were funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. If interested in this one of these bridges contact Dave Wilcox- 802-793-0265.



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"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



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2022 SUMMARY: Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs (AMPs)

During 2022, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) foresters conducted site investigations on 29 logging operations where water quality complaints were received by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Upon investigation, 15 of these cases either displayed an ongoing discharge or exhibited evidence that a discharge had recently occurred as a result of logging.

In 10 of those 15 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. In the 5 remaining cases, temporary measures were installed to stabilize the site, and those cases are scheduled to be closed out as soon as the weather is cooperative in the spring of 2023.

Enforcement and assessment of penalty were not pursued in any of the 15 cases on the grounds that: (1) voluntary remediation and compliance were successful; (2) the site investigation did not reveal that there was a 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 the FPR received, there were 27 requests for technical assistance during 2022. 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.

2022 Summary of AMP Activity

*This figure is the sum of “Number of Cases With Evidence of Discharge” and “Number of Cases With No Evidence of Discharge”.

**Resolved either by the AMPs’ being implemented or the operation closed out to the satisfaction of the State.

	DISTRICT					Total
	Springfield I	Rutland II	Essex III	Barre IV	St. Johnsbury V	
Total Number of Water Quality Complaints Investigated*	4	1	1	16	7	29
Number of Cases with No Evidence of Discharge	3	1	0	7	3	14
Number of Cases with Evidence of Discharge	1	0	1	9	4	15
Number of Cases Resolved**	1	0	0	6	3	10
Number of Cases Involving ANR Enforcement Division Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Requests For Technical Assistance	7	0	6	12	2	27
Total number of AMP site visits	11	1	7	28	9	56

TECH CENTER NEWS



GREEN MOUNTAIN CAREER CENTER STUDENTS WORKING IN CRAFTSBURY ACADEMY WOODLOT

Submitted by: Jared Nunery, Orleans County Forester, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Since the 1950's when the land was originally granted to the school to be used for educational purposes, the 80 acre Craftsbury Academy Woodlot at the end of Wylie Hill Road in Craftsbury has been a classroom for hundreds of students. For many years management activities were completed annually by students from Craftsbury Academy, working in the forestry program from the school, but this work ceased when the program ended a little over a decade ago. This winter, the hum of chainsaws in the hands of students resumed in the woodlot, as the students from the Green Mountain Career Center (GMTCC) began implementing the Forest Management Plan prepared by the Orleans County Forester.

On the first week at the job site, GMTCC students hosted the Craftsbury Elementary School (40+ students) for a demonstration and explanation of what they are doing in the woods. GMTCC students worked throughout the winter, thinning the white pine trees planted in 1952 by Craftsbury Academy students, carefully protecting hardwood saplings that were established following past management activities, and managing the closure of recreational trails that bisected the harvest area. Work for this year has ended and will resume next fall.



GMTCC Forestry and Land Management Program students (From left to right, Cyrus Tanner, Jake Davison and Morgan Foster) and GMTCC Instructor, Meghan Luther (far right) meeting with students of the Craftsbury Elementary School to discuss why they are managing the forest.

GMTCC Students began working at the Craftsbury Academy Woodlot in January of 2023, implementing the Forest Management Plan prepared by the Orleans County Forester.

Photos credits: Meghan Luther, GMTCC Forestry and Land Management Program Instructor



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

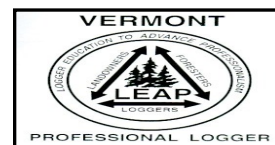
Treasurer: Brandy Inkel, Albany, VT, Sugarmaker (802) 755-9250

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



LEAP 2023 SPRING WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello VT LEAP Loggers. I finally have the schedule for the Spring 2023 workshops. It was a challenge getting presenters and sites this year and as you will see there are still a couple of sites yet to be announced. I will send another note when I can get these completed. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY!

We took everyone who was current with LEAP, pre-Covid and bumped up the expiration date to June 1, 2023. That is coming up! Many of the SFI mills and other organizations were relaxing Logger Certifications during the last couple of years. The time to get back on top of certification is now.

Check out the website and see what credits you need. A reminder - LEAP has two different Tracks for Loggers. If you are using a chain-saw to fell trees, you would be in the *Non-Mechanized* Track. If you use a Mechanical Harvester you would be in the *Mechanized* Track. If you use both, your certification should be your primary method of logging.

As of 2021, there are new requirements for the Core LEAP curriculum. If you have been a LEAP Logger for many years, you may need to take some of the new Core training requirements. Please note that the Professionalism workshop and the Managing Forest Ecosystems workshop will not be held this Spring. They will happen every other year, the next offering being in 2024. If you are needing these workshops, your LEAP certification will not expire this year. Your certification year will be bumped to June 1, 2024.

Once you have completed the Core curriculum requirements, the *Continuing Education* part of LEAP kicks in (as in the past). A slight difference, as of two years ago, is the content of the workshops needed every two years. One of the workshops in your two-year certification period must be a safety workshop, and the other can be an elective of your choice. You will need to maintain your First Aid and CPR every two years as well, same as before.

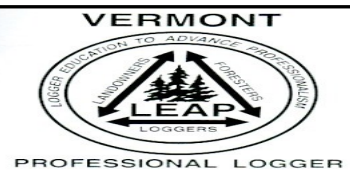
We are hoping that we can utilize the website and these eNewsletters as a means for you to view your transcripts, sign up and pay for workshops - all online. There are fewer and fewer loggers who do not have or use a mobile phone or a computer. If signing up for workshops online is not working for you, contact me and we can still use the phone and mail.

Here is the YouTube channel to see the Tutorial video on how to navigate the VT LEAP website: <https://youtu.be/woQEesQJjwY>

You can also find this video on YouTube by typing in VT LEAP

Thank you very much! Good Luck with this crazy weather and BE SAFE!

LEAP 2023 Spring Workshops



Please go to www.vtleap.com to register and pay for workshops.
Because the nature of planning - No walk-ins and no refunds!

NOTE: Though it seems Covid 19 masking requirements have stopped, it's possible some State or Town agencies may still require masks while inside. We will be following their requirements in-place at the time of the workshops.

Mechanized Logger Safety Review Workshop (8 LEAP credits; CFE credits pending)
A Safety Workshop is mandatory ONCE every two years for all LEAP Loggers. This will satisfy that requirement.
 May 1, 2023 8:00am to 4:45pm Long View Forest Shop, 48 Picz Road, Westminster, VT
 May 18, 2023 8:00am to 4:45pm GMTCC Forestry Program, 433 N. Main St., Hardwick, VT
 Cost: \$75 Instructors: Tim Emperor, Northeast Timber Safety Services

This workshop will focus on understanding OSHA regulations, Worker's Compensation, VT Harvesting Laws as well as recognizing hazards while operating a safe and controlled landing and dealing with transportation issues.

Game Of Logging (8 LEAP Credits per Level, CFE credits pending)
Levels 1 & 2 are mandatory for all Non-Mechanized LEAP loggers. If it's been over 5 years since taking GOL, then taking a L5 (Refresher) is mandatory. L5 can be used to fulfill Continuing Education requirements as either an Elective OR Safety workshop.
Level 1 Level 2 Level 5
 May 8 May 9 May 12
 May 10 May 11
 8:00am to 3:30pm
 Sites TBA; Will be North and South for Levels 1&2 and mid state for Level 5
 Cost \$100 per day. Instructor: John Adler - Northeast Woodland Training

Climate Resilient Forest Management for Forest Professionals (8 LEAP credits; CFE credits pending)
This workshop is an elective course.
 May 22, 2023 8:00am to 3:30pm Old Fire House, 8 Mountain View Rd. Tinmouth, VT 05773
 May 31, 2023 8:00am to 3:30pm TBA, working on a site in mid to Northern VT
 Cost: \$75 Instructor: Ali Kosiba – UVM Extension; Assistant Professor of Forestry

Join Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension Assistant Professor of Forestry and licensed Vermont forester, for an in-depth workshop designed for loggers, foresters, and other folks that work in or manage forests. Get up to date on how Vermont's climate is changing and learn about the ways that these changes affect forests and forest management. Ali will share strategies for best adapting forests and management to these changes. The workshop will start with an indoor presentation and discussion, and then we will head out into the woods and discuss ways management can be tweaked to accommodate change.

Wildlife Workshop (8 LEAP credits; CFE credits pending)
This Workshop is an elective course.
 April 5, 2023 8:00am to 3:30pm Barnard Town Hall - Barnard, VT

Cost: \$75 Instructors: Pat Bartlett, VT Licensed Forester, Wildlife Consultant & Guide
 Alyssa Bennett, VT Dept Fish & Wildlife, Small Mammals Biologist
 Josh Blouin, VT Dept Fish & Wildlife, Wildlife Specialist

Topics for this workshop will include Pat Bartlett sharing information about Deer Wintering Yards, their characteristics and recommended management guidelines; Alyssa Bennett will share her passion about bats and their importance in the world. She will provide an overview of their habitat needs and provide management guidelines. Josh Blouin from the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife will share his work with the Moose Research Project. He will give an overview on the project, mapping habitat and how moose are dealing with winter ticks. He has been working on this project since 2017.

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17)

Advanced Logger Safety (8 LEAP credits; CFE credits pending)

This Core workshop is mandatory for all LEAP Loggers who are new to LEAP or who have not yet taken this training. It can be used to fulfill Continuing Education requirements as either an Elective OR Safety workshop OR FA & CPR.

April 26, 2023 8:00am to 3:30pm TBA, North or South

May 4, 2023 8:00am to 3:30pm TBA, North or South

Cost: \$75 Instructor: Tim Emperor, Northeast Timber Safety Services

This workshop will focus on responding to serious injuries on forest operations. It will demystify some rescue methods as well as reinforce the “Do’s and Don’ts” to keep loggers healthier and alive longer! This workshop is applicable to any logger whether they are Mechanized or Non-Mechanized operators. It would also be invaluable to truckers and foresters, who are often the first on the scene of a logging accident. This workshop also satisfies LEAP’s First Aid and CPR requirements.

Please go to www.vtleap.com to register and pay for workshops.

David Birdsall, VT LEAP Director

Questions? Please email or call David Birdsall
logger@vtleap.com; 802-235-2908

The VT LEAP Program has been generously sponsored by: Allard Lumber, Durgin & Crowell, Cersosimo Lumber Co., A. Johnson Co., International Paper, and the Vermont Forest Products Association.



ARE YOU SERIOUS
ABOUT THE
FOREST PRODUCTS
BUSINESS?

The award winning Loggers' Expo returns to the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine in 2023!

Join thousands of the hardest-working people you'll ever meet to conduct some serious business. The Loggers' Expo is the largest and best exposition of supplies and services, heavy equipment and trucks— for loggers and land clearers, tree care companies and firewood dealers, sawmillers and landowners.

If you are serious about the forest products industry, this show is for you. Contact us for information about exhibiting at or attending the 2023 Loggers Expo:

Visit: northernlogger.com

Email: expo@northernlogger.com

Call: (315) 369-3078



Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo * May 19-20 * Cross Insurance Center * Bangor, Maine

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.

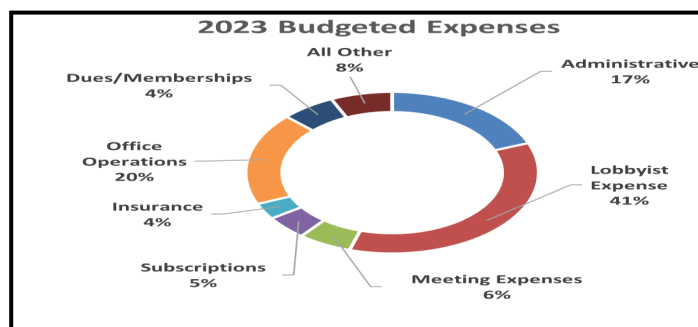
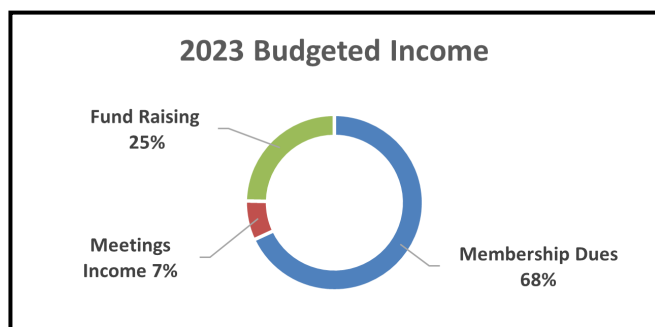
Your membership in VFPA is important. As a member of VFPA we can collectively seek ways to improve opportunities for our industry. Your membership gives you a place to learn more about improving your business, voice your concerns and share with others in helping Vermont remain a rural state that is proud 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 2023 is \$41,375.00

Please consider a contribution to the 2023 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 bio-mass 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: 802-323-3591
E-mail: vtfpa@hotmail.com
www.vtfpa.org

Dates and Events

April 6- “VFPA at the Statehouse” 8am-2pm, in the Card Room

April 20- VFPA Directors Meeting, 4pm, via Zoom

April 29- Northern Regional Roundup Breakfast/ Meeting, 8am-11:30am, Eastside Restaurant, Newport, VT

May 18- NELA Annual Loggers’ Awards Banquet, Bangor, ME

May 19-20- Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo, Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, ME

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!

We welcome the following new members:

~Adam Allen, Wolcott, VT

~Thomas Lathrop, Bristol, VT

~Jed Lipsky, Stowe, VT

~Jason Lowell, Woodbury, VT

~Andrew Rowell, Glover, VT