



Association, Inc. 11 University Way, Suite 4, Brattleboro, VT 05301-3669
802-257-7967 ext. 12

WOODLOT TIPS



AUGUST 2009

Save the Date!

2009 ANNUAL MEETING, BBQ and Potluck

When: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
(Rain or shine)

Where: Brian McNeice & Jenny Ramstetter property
in Halifax (near Marlboro College)

Bring: Lawn chair and pot luck salad, side dish or dessert

Program

9:30 Coffee and doughnuts

10:00 Welcome Stuart Thurber, President of WOA

10:15 Field tour

12:00 BBQ and Pot Luck with Barbeque Master Sam Schneski, Assistant County Forester.

WOA will provide burgers and hot dogs for Sam to grill, and also fixings, rolls and beverages. *Members and guests are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert for pot-luck sharing. There will be a \$5/person donation on arrival to pay for the burgers, hot dogs and beverages.*

1:00 Annual WOA membership business meeting. There will be short reports from the secretary, treasurer and board committees. A budget for 2009-10 will be presented. Scholarship awards will be made and the election of new trustees held.

1:45 Field tour

3:30 Wrap up

Advance registration will be appreciated to help with food purchases.
Please call Carol Morrison at 802-257-7967 or e-mail her at carol.morrison@uvm.edu

Directions:

Upcoming Fall Programs

Women-only Game of Logging — Saturday, September 26

The Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District will be hosting a Women-only Game of Logging — Level I — on September 26th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Newfane. For more information and registration please contact Jolene Hamilton at 802-254-5323 ext 104 or email her at jolene.hamilton@vt.nacdnet.net.

Saturday, October 31 — The Big Tree Tour is Back!



Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester, will lead a daylong tour to view some of the largest trees in Windham County. The tour is planned for Saturday, October 31 starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at approximately 5 p.m. It will happen rain or shine. **Participants need to bring sturdy footgear and clothes to match the weather, as well as water and lunch (or you can purchase your lunch in Newfane Village). Lunch will tentatively be from 1:10 – 1:45 p.m. at the Newfane Courthouse.** The Big Tree Tour is free and open to the public.

Many of the trees are registered as champion trees on the Vermont Big Tree Register. A complete list of all the big trees in Vermont is available on the Vermont Tree Society web site www.vermonttreesociety.org. Most of these trees grow on private property, so folks on the tour are encouraged to carpool to lessen the impact of the tour. It also is very difficult to keep a lot of cars together, so it is hoped that participants will be willing to carpool wherever possible.

The tour is still in the planning phase but will likely include the following state champions: sugar maple, silver maple, red mulberry, white ash, paper birch, white pine and sycamore. We'll also visit some impressive runners-up: butternut, apple and hemlock.

For those who wish to join just the afternoon portion of the tour, you can join the group at the Newfane Courthouse tentatively between 1:10 and 1:45.

Since the big trees are spread out around the county, the tour involves driving from one area to the next, then hiking to the specific trees. There will be 10 or 11 trees on the tour this year. Nine of the trees are within 100 feet of parking. The other two involve some hiking. The first of these is a five-minute walk across a pasture. The other is more challenging, in that it involves a somewhat steep walk through the woods of the Londonderry Town Forest and requires a reasonable amount of stamina.

A booklet is provided that includes the day's schedule, types of trees, locations, and tree identification information. There also is an explanation of how to take the three measurements that are used to qualify a tree for the Big Tree Register.

The American Forestry Association began a nationwide big tree registry in 1940 and it continues today. States have their own registers and some towns do, too. Persons knowing of large trees can nominate them by contacting the county forester.

Final details of the tour will be available by about October 10th. Please give us a call, check our website (www.woodlandownersassociation.com/Programs) or look for an article in the newspaper. For more information, contact Bill Guenther or Carol Morrison at the Extension Service Office, 257-7967.



President's Column

By Stu Thurber

White hard hats, white pickups and massive machinery invaded our quiet countryside a month ago. This was the Velco (Vermont Electric Power Company) power line construction project.

Unseasonable rains gave the project unforeseen challenges. One hayfield and wet area required over thirty log truckloads of wood mats. After the line is finished these mats have to be removed and trucked away. I used a farm tractor to dig a ditch to divert a stream because only the landowner had the legal right to change the flow of water to its historic streambed. I did this while a large excavator and erosion control official could only stand and watch.

A large feller-buncher (which can grab trees and cut them at the base), with its skidder, excavators, and a huge grinder were on our property for ten days. A chain saw crew filled out the arsenal. The tops and branches were

placed in a windrow and the tree stems were lifted to the outside. An excavator did the sorting. A 750-horse power grinder followed, chewing up the waste. This machine consumed 300 gallons of fuel per day.

Presently we are salvaging the marketable logs, concentrating on the pine and maple. Our neighbor volunteered to help with his tractor and winch. We also purchased a Medivick tractor forwarder to help transport to the loading area.

Velco is cooperative and doing a responsible job. I have had my bad moments, but they respond to concerns and are doing a good job with erosion control and seeding.

As I recover from this invasion, I look forward to our annual meeting and picnic on September 19 where the sun will shine and we will have great fellowship.



WOA Library

By Margaret S. MacDonald

You may not know that the Woodland Owners Association has a reference library for member use, located next to Bill Guenther's office in Brattleboro. In January, Library Committee members Diana Todd and Margaret MacDonald went through the entire collection and created the first-ever catalogue for the collection, which will be posted on the WOA website. The catalogue serves as a starting point in our efforts to make the library more useful to the membership.

The collection is very small, and not all of it is timely or relevant to landowners' current concerns. The materials, most of which were donated by current and past members, vary

widely, from the essential reference work *Working with Your Woodland: A Landowner's Guide*, coauthored by WOA member Lynn Levine, to elderly pamphlets, brochures, and academic texts. Bill Guenther also has a complete set of *Northern Woodlands* magazine available, and the library includes a subscription to *New York State Forestry* magazine, which has technical as well as general interest articles.

The Library Committee would like to upgrade the collection by making it more relevant to member needs. Like the trees from which most of the items were made, the library would benefit from both pruning and growth.

Pruning, in this case, includes discarding items such as pamphlets and brochures or materials focused on geographic areas distant from Windham County. If you are interested in any of the older materials, especially the brochures or other ephemeral materials dating back more than 10 years, please check with Bill Guenther or with Carol Morrison, who may very well invite you to keep them. Some of the older books, though no longer useful to today's landowner, might have historical value to researchers, to departments of forestry, or to state or local departments of natural resources. If you know of people or organizations that might be interested in these items, the Library Committee would be glad to follow up on your suggestions.

As for growth, the need is obvious, particularly in the area of newer materials related directly to

member interests. What items would you like added to the library — bearing in mind our limited budget? Do you have relevant books, journals, or audiovisual materials that you might be willing to donate, so that we could make them available to the membership?

We also plan to post links to the many online resources recommended by woodland owners and the foresters who work with them managing their land. But we have been advised that, given the irregular availability of broadband throughout Windham County, it is important to have the library in real as well as virtual form.

The Library Committee — Bill, Diana, and Margaret — welcomes your feedback on how to improve the collection. You can reach us by calling Carol Morrison at 802-257-7967, Ext. 12. We hope you will come and visit the library.

Bridges for Rent

The Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District, in cooperation with the Forest Watershed Program of the Agency of Natural Resources, has constructed two portable skidder bridges to rent to loggers and consulting foresters in Windham County.

Portable skidder bridges are designed and intended for use as temporary structures for crossing streams during logging. They are economical since they are reusable as well as easy to install and transport from job to job. They are a reliable solution to help reduce logging costs associated with temporary stream



crossings. Portable skidder bridges ensure that equipment and logs crossing over water bodies are not causing streambed or stream bank disturbance, and thus they minimize the potential for soil erosion. Portable skidder

bridges allow loggers to harvest timber in compliance with Vermont's Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) for maintaining water quality on logging jobs.

If you are interested in further information regarding the Rental Program please contact Jolene Hamilton with the Conservation District at (802) 254-5323, Ext. 104.

For background information on AMP and the Forest watershed Program, these Web sites are helpful:

www.vtfpr.org/watershed/portbridgebroc.cfm

www.vtfpr.org/pdf/ampreport2004.pdf

Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer Detection — Training Workshops in Vermont

From Amanda Priestley, Vermont Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Coordinator, Agency of Agriculture

The Asian Longhorned beetle (ALB) threatens the health of a variety of hardwood trees in North America, including sugar maple. Native to Eastern Asia, it has been found in New York City, Chicago, Southern New Jersey, and in 2008, the largest infestation on U.S. soil was detected in the Worcester, Massachusetts region, 60 miles south of the Vermont border. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), another pest native to Eastern Asia, has been identified as the cause of widespread ash decline and mortality in Southeast Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. It has been detected in eleven states, including Chambly, Quebec, Ontario, less than 40 miles north of the Vermont border. It feeds on all true species of ash, including white, black, and green ash.

These insects have led to the death and decline of millions of hardwood trees across the U.S., and have cost billions of dollars in eradication and outreach efforts.

Based on what we know from past detections of both of these highly destructive pests, New England states including MA, NY, PA, CT and NJ have jumped on board to create Forest Pest Outreach and Surveillance teams across state borders. Many of these coordinated efforts are subjective to each state's needs, although the message is simple and consistent; early detection is key to stopping the spread of these destructive forest pests.

As part of Vermont's efforts in the forest pest project, a number of proactive approaches have been taken which include educational opportunities, visual surveys of high risk-sites, contacting secondary homeowners from infested areas, and a firewood campaign.

Educational Opportunities

We've been busy with a series of forest pest outreach and educational training workshop opportunities throughout Vermont. Workshops are aimed at teaching volunteer citizens how to identify signs and symptoms of Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) damage in Vermont.

In the classroom, attendees learn: 1) The threat Vermont's forests face from non-native pests (current update on ALB and EAB), 2) Biology, including how to recognize the larval and adult stages, 3) How to recognize external symptoms of ALB/EAB infestation on host trees, 4) Who

to contact should they recognize these pests.

In the field, attendees spend time doing a walk-through of high-risk host hardwood trees, and have the opportunity to practice survey techniques.

Both beetles are not yet known to occur in Vermont, so having trained volunteers who can recognize both of

these pests will increase our chances of early detection.

Workshops are free and open to the public. Any person or group interested in learning more about the threat of non-native forest pests should contact Amanda Priestley, VT Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Coordinator with the VT Agency of Agriculture at Amanda.Priestley@state.vt.us or at (802) 522-0951. Workshops are part of a collaborated effort between the aforementioned agency, Forests Parks and Recreation, and USDA APHIS.

Vermont's efforts as part of the multi-state Forest Pest Outreach and Surveillance project include educational opportunities, visual surveys of high risk-sites, contacting secondary homeowners from infested areas, and a firewood campaign.

August Visual Surveys

Visual surveys took place over two towns in two days and relied on teams of professionals and trained volunteers. One survey was in Brattleboro, which was chosen due to its close proximity to the Worcester, Mass., infestation.

The second survey was in Burlington, chosen because it is a travel destination, and because its media access helped get the word out. Teams

surveyed high-risk sites for signs and symptoms of both Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer. Visual surveys are taking place within two high-risk communities in every New England state including Mass., N.Y., Penna., Ct., and N.J..

One survey was in Brattleboro, which was chosen due to its close proximity to the Worcester, Mass., infestation.

Mailings to Out-of State Landowners from Infested Areas

With assistance from Redstart Forestry and the Vermont Land Trust, we have developed a mailing list of Vermont property owners with zip codes from Asian Longhorned Beetle regulated areas in Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. There are over 2000 Vermont properties owned by residents of these areas. We will be sending out a mailing shortly to the 200-plus property owners from Massachusetts. Responses to the mailing will help target visual surveys.

Firewood Campaign

Visitors to State Park campgrounds are being asked to burn any firewood brought from over 50 miles away within 24 hours. Firewood that won't be burned in that timeframe is collected and exchanged for local wood. As of the week of July 15, the Green Mountain National Forest prohibits bringing out-of-state firewood into the forest, with a result of a \$5000 penalty.

We are continuing to spread the Don't Move Firewood message through press releases, brochures, fair exhibits, and a full-page

advertisement, which will appear in the fall issue of Northern Woodlands magazine.

Campground Surveys

We will be surveying state and private campgrounds for Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer.

Campgrounds to be surveyed have been selected on the basis of number of visitors from the Worcester areas since 2002 (there were over 1800 visits to Vermont State

Parks between 2002 and 2008 by residents of the regulated area in Massachusetts), and proximity to known infestations. Surveys will begin in August.

Public Service Announcement

We've created a 30 second commercial with content on forest pests and the movement of firewood in the State of Vermont. The commercial will air from the week of July 21st, over the next six-weeks on WCAX. The commercial will run 2x daily, 3 days/week (once in the morning and once in the evening) creating about 1.8 million viewer impressions.

Emerald Ash Borer Specific Surveys

We are participating in a multi-state effort to detect Emerald Ash Borer by monitoring colonies of a ground-nesting wasp, *Cerceris fumipennis* that feeds on metallic wood borers (*Buprestidae*). The flight season for the wasps has begun, and several active nests have been detected.

"Purple traps" are being monitored at 143 high-risk locations statewide. Trap trees to detect Emerald Ash Borers are also being monitored at 3 locations in Grand Isle County.

Vermont State Fairs

A panel of experts is appearing at the forestry buildings at Vermont State Fairs to discuss forest pest issues

VERMONT WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION'S 2nd ANNUAL LEVEL II FORESTRY SCHOOL

When: September 12-13, 2009	Where: Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, VT
Time: Saturday, 9:00 AM (registration 8:30 - 9:00 AM) through Sunday, 3:00 PM	Why: To take you to the next level of forest management.
Cost: \$100.00 per person (includes overnight accommodations and 4 meals) OR \$75.00 per person for commuters.	Notes: Alcoholic beverages are not provided by Hulbert. BYOB; Hulbert has a NO PETS policy.

Saturday will consist of morning classroom discussion followed by afternoon field session. Sunday will be an all day field session.

This workshop will allow you to better understand the following:

Forest Terminology — Terms, phrases, and definitions used in the forestry profession and management plans.

Tree Identification — Common and native forest species.

Timber Harvesting — Equipment, methods, reasons for harvesting, contracts, foresters, market products, and regulations.

Forest Pests — Identification and detection of common important insects and diseases.

Wetlands — Definitions, terminology, and regulations.

Wildlife Habitat — Defining objectives, goals, and capabilities. Small projects with important results. Fitting small woodlot practices into the larger landscape prospective.

Forest Soils — Identification using Soil Conservation Service field maps - why soils are important.

Forest Roads and Trails —Defining purpose, uses, and users.

Boundary Lines — Surveys, mapping, marking, and maintenance. Timber theft.

Exotic Invasive Plants — Influences on our local ecosystem. Detection, identification, and control techniques.

Please complete & return with your check for \$100 per person
(includes registration, overnight accommodations and 4 meals)
OR \$75 per person for commuters to:

VWA, PO Box 6004, Rutland, VT 05702-6004 no later than September 4, 2009.

Name: _____ Additional name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

11 University Way, Suite 4
Brattleboro, VT 05301-3669

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Save the Dates! — See Inside for Details

2009 ANNUAL MEETING, BBQ and Potluck

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 9:30 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

Fall Programs

Saturday, September 12-13 — Vermont Woodland Owners Assoc. Level II Forestry School
Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

Saturday, September 26 — Women-only Game of Logging — Level I,
9 a.m.–4 p.m., Newfane, Vermont

Saturday, October 31 — The Big Tree Tour
8:30a.m.–5 p.m.

Mission of Woodland Owners Association

WOA is a non-profit association of woodland owners and managers, members of the wood products industry, and other interested parties in the Windham County Region who advocate both sustainable management practices and the enjoyment of forests and their ecosystems. In support of these ends, WOA offers educational opportunities for all age groups. Areas of interest include: biodiversity; clean air and water; cultural and historic resources; fair and equitable taxation of woodland; forest products; recreation; scenic beauty; and wildlife habitat. We recognize that these concepts are continually evolving and therefore will strive to consider the most current thinking and values regarding them.