



130 Austine Drive, Suite 300, Brattleboro, VT 05301-7040
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WOODLOT TIPS



Summer 2015

Programs

Sunday, September 6 — Hogback Wildlife Festival, Hogback Mountain, Marlboro

Saturday, September 12 — 33rd Annual Marlboro Fair, Muster Field, Ames Hill Road, Marlboro

Windham Regional Woodlands Association has been invited to exhibit at these two local daytime events. *We need volunteers* to staff a WRWA table at each, as both provide opportunities to share information about WRWA at well-established events that draw local people as well as visitors. You don't need to stay the entire day, since we hope that a cadre of WRWA members will volunteer! If you can help at one or both events, please contact Linda Lyon (802-368-2211, or LindaALyon@gmail.com).

Saturday, September 12, 13, and 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Game of Logging: Promoting Chainsaw Safety

This fall WRWA and Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD) will team up to co-sponsor the Game of Logging chainsaw training at the Franklin Farm in Guilford. This world renowned class emphasizes technique and planning to achieve the safest and most efficient performance from your chainsaw. Whether you've never picked up a chainsaw or run one for more than 40 years, everyone can learn something from this class.

Swedish logger Soren Eriksson initially wanted to develop a safe and efficient way of using a chainsaw so that he had enough energy after a full day of logging to pursue his hobby of boxing at night. After many years of mentoring American instructors, the Game of Logging was developed, and Soren's techniques and theories have been shared with class attendees ever since.

To register please visit the "Courses" section of www.northeastwoodlandtraining.com or call Jolene Hamilton at 802-254-5323. **Register now before the class fills up!**

Saturday, September 19 — WRWA Annual Meeting

(Look for details and directions in a separate mailing)

This year the Annual Meeting will be in the Kiwanis Pavilion at Living Memorial Park. The meeting, with good company, an interesting program, and good food, always is popular. As always, Sam Schneski will be the grillmeister, cooking up burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. Please bring a potluck dish to share — members' casseroles, salads, desserts, etc. — always help make the day special and convivial!

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 a.m. — The Big Tree Tour

County Forester Bill Guenther's Big Tree Tour only happens every two years, so if you have never participated, now is your chance. The tour travels around Windham County looking at trees listed on the Big Tree Registry. Trees on this list are the largest within their species by measuring the tree's circumference, height and crown and then applying a formula. The day often includes viewing some significant runners up as well as some that may be farther down the list, but that are very significant in size.

The details about where to meet and the day's schedule, including a lunch stop, will be locally publicized and posted on the website when available.

Make a note:

New e-mail addresses for Windham and Windsor County Foresters Bill Guenther and Sam Schneski:

bill.guenther@vermont.gov

sam.schneski@vermont.gov

Black Gum Tour

On Friday evening, August 7, a hot, but otherwise perfect evening, County Forester Bill Guenther led a tour of the famous Black Gum swamps in the town of Vernon's J. Maynard Miller Memorial Forest. The Black Gums (roughly 450 years old) are a unique natural community and are a relic of a warmer period. Southern Vermont is at the northern edge of its range. More than 30 very enthus-

iastic folks turned out for this walk that Bill leads every few years. One participant, a member of the Rockingham Conservation Commission, did a write-up with pictures on their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.970014559688734.1073741837.595881837102010&type=3>

President's Column

By Sam Rowley

What a great summer we have had in beautiful Vermont! Overall this summer has had some pretty nice weather. The weather since snowmelt, however, also has brought drought, flood, and even fire. A few relatively sizable wildfires hit our state mainly in May, including one that burned over 40 acres in Brattleboro. This year also saw a fairly rare statewide Red Flag wildfire warning. In June a late mild frost damaged young tender plants in Wilmington. But on the whole, the summer has been quite delightful, and now autumn is just around the corner.

I recently spent some time in Northern California. While I was there for family reasons, I was able to get away from my obligations and soak up some of the coastal scenery and woodlands. Being a plant focused person I was happy to recognize a few plants and trees that we have here in Vermont. However, the majority of the flora consisted of unfamiliar plants. Of course the most interesting to me were the redwood trees.

While speaking to a wildlife photographer who lives in the area I visited, I learned that a redwood forest is not really that diverse. This makes sense, as this tree has evolved to be at the top of the list of largest living organisms, and therefore commands the surrounding area with dense roots and shade cover. The trees are so tall and the understory so oppressed that few birds and animals truly live amongst the trees.

As I was walking with a group through open hillsides and into second growth redwood stands

we stopped at a vista. Here one of the group leaders pointed out a few distant features. One thing she pointed out was a hillside cemetery. She described it as a very old cemetery that had been reclaimed from the weeds and brush. She said it was very old because some of the stones had dates on them from the mid 1800s. I had to keep my chuckle quiet as in my opinion, the 1800s are not that old, especially in a "very old cemetery."

Being in a place with trees older than 2000 years and an "old cemetery" from the 1800s got me thinking about the perspective of time and how humans have shaped the landscape. California is a truly amazing place, but I was happy to return home to the green mountains. They are truly green, especially compared to what I saw during my visit west. The lush green and diverse woodlands of Vermont create a place so special it sometimes requires a trip away to truly recognize and appreciate how unique Vermont is.

During this very special time of the year we are holding the Windham Regional Woodlands Association Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 19. (See Program listings for more information.) I hope to see a good turnout of our membership. Also, please consider bringing a friend to this event. The annual meeting is a great time to meet and network with like-minded folks who value the importance of our woodlands. I hope to see you there.

Changes in the Law Affecting the Use Value Appraisal or Current Use Program in 2015

By Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester

The last six years saw attempts in the Vermont Legislature to make substantive changes to the Use Value Appraisal (UVA) or Current Use Program. Finally this year we got a bill making program changes. A summary of these is below, but perhaps the biggest change relates to how the Land

Use Change Tax (LUCT) is to be calculated and how a temporary "Easy Out" period is created, in which landowners can remove an entire parcel, or portion of a parcel, without paying the full LUCT liability.

Changes to the Land Use Change Tax Calculation and the Temporary “Easy Out” for Land Withdrawal

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) calculation

Starting October 2, 2015, the LUCT will be imposed as a single rate of 10 percent of the full fair market value of the land that is developed, *regardless of how long it has been enrolled*. The current system of calculating the penalty using a *prorata* figure, when just a portion of a parcel is developed, will be discontinued as of October 2, 2015. This means that small portions of a parcel that are removed (these tend to have a much higher per-acre value) will see a greatly increased LUCT, whereas if an *entire* parcel is developed, there is usually no change in the LUCT.

LUCT is also due when land is withdrawn from the Current Use program and the owner voluntarily wishes to remove the lien. When an owner withdraws land without removing the lien, the LUCT will be due when the land is developed later on, or when the lien is later removed. In any case, land that is withdrawn or developed will be valued at the time it is withdrawn, even if the LUCT is not immediately due.

The key point to remember in this change is that if only a *portion* of a parcel is developed or withdrawn, that portion will be *valued as a separate parcel* and the 10 percent tax rate will apply to that portion of the parcel only.

“Easy Out”

Between July 1 and October 1, 2015, owners of enrolled land can utilize an Easy Out option to withdraw land from the Current Use program and remove the lien without paying the *full* LUCT. Owners withdrawing land during the Easy Out period are exempt from paying the first \$50,000 of LUCT. For those lands exceeding the \$50,000 cap, the previous method for calculating the LUCT (that prorated the value of the withdrawn land on the basis of total enrolled acres) will be used during this July 1 – October 1 time frame. A property owner who uses Easy Out is required to retroactively pay the full property tax on land withdrawn under this provision based on the full fair market value for the 2015 tax year. Any land that is withdrawn using Easy Out cannot be re-enrolled in the Current Use program for at least five tax years.

The Property Valuation and Review Office (PVR at the Vermont Department of Taxes) has already mailed a notice to all UVA enrollees detailing the above-listed changes. The *Application to Discontinue Land* form through the Easy Out option will be posted on the Department of Taxes website but will **not** be mailed to each landowner. If landowners wish to withdraw part or all of their enrolled lands, it is imperative that **all** information be properly filled out in this form and submitted by the deadline of October 1, 2015. Of note and per standard practice, **all** landowners must sign the form with original signatures. Additionally, landowners must include payment for the lien release fee (\$10/town) when submitting the application. Incomplete applications will be grounds for denial of the request for discontinuance, so we encourage folks to pay close attention to the Department of Taxes detailed instructions.

For partial withdrawals, three copies of up-to-date Current Use maps must accompany the application. Where a property involves multiple towns, clients must submit three copies of each map of each town. Maps that do not meet PVR standards may be sufficient grounds to deny the withdrawal request. ***In brief, please ensure that PVR instructions are followed to the letter.***

The PVR Office is available to assist you **before** the application is submitted. Because the PVR internal review process is on a tight deadline, an incomplete or incorrect application may be sufficient grounds to dismiss the withdrawal request.

Please note: For participants who wish to take advantage of this Easy Out option, maps, forms, and fees must be sent directly to the PVR Office, **not** the County Forester. All questions related to Easy Out should be directed to the PVR Office at (802) 828-5860.

To access the Easy Out form (CU-312) and directions on its submission, see: <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/forms/pvr/CU-312.pdf>.

There were several other components to the legislation, some which do not affect forestland owners. One worth mentioning is that our Department is charged with doing a study to see if there are enough county foresters to adequately oversee the

program. While we will put together a good unbiased study, I can say from personal experience that I know what the outcome will be! I had a very full time job when I took over Windham County in 1987 with just over 300 UVA parcels. The number

of UVA parcels in Windham County is now over 1,500, although I do get some help from Windsor/Windham County Forester Sam Schneski. The bottom line is that the staffing levels have not nearly kept up with the increases in the program.

Forest Health Highlights For The First Half of 2015

By Bill Guenther, County Forester (with excerpts from Vt. Forests & Parks Dep't. newsletters)

The weather patterns for the year continue to be quite quirky and to have serious impacts on our forests. We started the year after a December with over two inches of rain and nearly bare ground in the valleys for much of January. We then got a huge amount of snow, mostly in a six-week period. I keep snow records with the help of my neighbor up on the mountain, and in 27 years of observations, the earliest that snow has entirely left my back lawn is April first and the latest has been May first. This year the last little patch dried up on the sixteenth of April. We got very little spring rain and almost none in the month of May, which caused us to have Red Flag fire warnings early in the month. Several large brush fires occurred in Vermont, one consuming over 50 acres in West Brattleboro on May 4th.

These dry conditions led to Windham County being at Level 2 drought for much of May and June. This is not good for tree health as the spring flush of growth takes *lots* of moisture from the ground leaving it bone dry. Just when things were looking a bit dire, with maple leaves starting to curl, we got the spring rains. And then the rains would not stop, which then led to an abundance of leaf/needle diseases that proliferate in wet and humid weather.

The extremes of spring gave us 82 degrees in Springfield on May 17 while on May 22, scattered frost occurred across much of the state. Most of Windham County was spared, although I did find frost damage out in the hills of Wardsboro. The National Weather Service has coined the term "Weather Whiplash" for our conditions this spring.

The rains brought us another round of white pine needlecast, which can be caused by three different fungi. We got hit pretty hard this year with the disease impacting last year's needles. The lower branches turn a golden hue (less air flow lower on

the tree equates to more damage at the bottom of the tree), then turn brown and soon fall off the trees. For the last six years we have seen this problem attack our native white pines, and while we cannot find a tree killed solely by these needlecast diseases, they are a serious threat, adding a major stressor that can be compounded if other biotic or abiotic (non-living) agents attack the tree.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar (ETC) and Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC) were observed earlier than normal and appeared before the end of April. These insects are defoliators that can impact a tree's food making capability. The former was feeding on trees in the rose family such as the apples and cherries. FTC will go after a wide array of hardwoods and especially likes sugar maple. Damage I observed was generally light. The ETC actually does create a fairly large tent, but the FTC is a bit of a misnomer in that no tent is produced.

WRWA Trustee Marli Rabinowitz sent in some photos of a large gall that appeared to be consuming the roots of the nasty invasive exotic oriental bittersweet vine. We had hopes that this could be a biological control, but alas it turns out the bacteria that forms the gall is a "generalist" and is not the silver bullet for invasive control we are looking for.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) continues to spread throughout the county with 15 towns now infested. My woodlot in Newfane has three more infested trees that will be harvested and the branches burned. As we reported last year, the Hemlock Elongate Scale was discovered in Guilford and Vernon, and the two insects together cause considerable damage which could possibly lead to mortality.

We are still blessed to have no Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) or Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Vermont as yet. Statewide there are 650 traps to

try to catch EAB. Some of the now familiar purple traps will be replaced by the more effective green “funnel traps.”

We need to be ever vigilant in efforts to detect EAB and ALB. I have many different types of outreach materials on both pests, so feel free to contact me to obtain some. We have wallet cards, flyers, brochures, posters and bumper magnets, all trying to spread the word about these two devastating insects. Let’s hope we never see either of them in the Green Mountain State!

Bill is doing his biennial firewood logging this summer, which normally is done in the winter. His logger had an injury earlier this year, so now it is a summer project with skidding being done by wheelbarrow. Bill has HWA on his 23.5-acre woodlot on Bensch Mountain, discovered in the winter of 2013, and to his dismay he has discovered three more infested trees. He does burn hemlock in his wood burning furnace (make sure it is at least two years dry) so he makes use of all of the bole wood of the tree (he uses it as “evening wood”). Then all of the brush is burned.

So far, he has located nine infested trees that all have substantial avian activity, being edge trees. While he initially thought the impact was minimal, the largest infested tree (slated to be cut for log landing bunks this winter) is showing a greatly increased amount of decline.

The King’s Broad Arrow

By Carol Morrison

If you look closely at paintings portraying the Battle of Bunker Hill, you’ll notice a curious detail: the rallying flag bears the image of a white pine tree.

The Eastern White Pine was highly prized among New England colonists in the 1700s. Tallest of the pine species in North America, trees of 150 to 240 feet were plentiful at that time. The wood is light, strong, easy to work with, and rot-resistant. Colonists used it to make everything from buildings and bridges to furniture. It was especially useful in shipbuilding, for frames, planking, knees, and for its pitch and tar. Above all, its tall, straight trunks made excellent masts.

Great Britain, struggling to maintain supremacy at sea, had long ago cut down all its mast-quality trees. For masts, the British were purchasing Baltic firs, which were also being sold to the French, Spanish and Dutch. It was no surprise when in 1691 the Crown, claiming dominion over New England’s forests, sent out surveyors to mark as the King’s property all white pines 24 inches or larger in diameter at 12 inches from the ground.. Harvesting a tree marked with the three hatchet cuts known as “the king’s broad arrow” was punishable by a fine of £100. This meant that a colonist could not cut down any white pines on his

own land until a Deputy Surveyor came to mark the larger trees, and then he had to purchase a costly royal license to legally cut the unmarked white pines.

The colonists generally ignored this law and continued to cut white pine at will. However, as Baltic fir became scarcer and more costly, British Parliament made the law more restrictive. In 1722, white pines as small as 12 inches in diameter were claimed with the king’s broad arrow. The new law was more strictly enforced, fueling the colonists’ resentment. As acts of rebellion, all the marked white pines in some areas were harvested and the king’s mark obliterated, or the mark was placed on smaller trees. In colonial houses, floorboards more than 12 inches wide became fashionable. In 1772, Ebenezer Mudgett, leader of the Weare, New Hampshire, mill owners, led what came to be known as The Pine Tree Riot, rather than pay fines on king’s mark pine timbers found in a search of the Weare mills.

Some believe that the Pine Tree Riot was an inspiration for the better-known Boston Tea Party. In any case, the versatile white pine, unique to the New World, played a key role in events leading to the Revolutionary War.

Woodland Secret No. 19 — The Nature of Vermont

By Arthur H. Westing, Former Trustee

The State Legislature has over the years designated a diversity of symbols meant to represent to the outside world the very essence of the nature of Vermont, beginning this largely outdoor litany as early as 1895 with the introduced Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) as our State flower, to be followed in 1941 with the native Hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) as our State bird. However, it was not until 1949 that the native Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) finally became our State Tree (and then in 1994 with maple syrup becoming the State flavor).

Several further official State symbols were soon proclaimed, among them especially the Morgan breed of the introduced horse (*Equus ferus caballus*) in 1961, the introduced Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), native Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and native Walleye (*Sander vitreus*) these three in 1978, the native Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) in 1987, granite, slate, and garnet in 1991, the native Painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) in 1994, the native Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) in 1998, and the fruit of the introduced Apple tree (*Malus domestica*) simultaneously with apple pie in 1999, the latter one of its clearly most valued uses.

These officially enacted symbols of our State certainly suggest the importance to us of its rural character, much of it woodland associated. Of further interest is that several of these symbols are naturalized alien introductions, primarily from Europe — thereby subtly (or perhaps unwittingly) celebrating, or at least acknowledging, the origins of the bulk of Vermont's citizenry and fully one-fifth of our now wild flora. A few words about several of the locally important woodland symbols follow:

Sugar maple: This splendid local climax forest species, which can live for 300-400 years, during that time typically attaining a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 24-36 inches [61-91 cm] and a height of 80-110 feet [24-34 m], produces a very hard wood valued for furniture (some with fancy grain), flooring, and many other items. Various animals feed on its fruits. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, urged his fel-

low Americans to use maple sugar as a sweetener so as not to support the slave-based production of cane sugar then being imported from the Caribbean islands. The tree's autumn foliage is magnificent. Finally, there is some concern that Vermont's maple syrup industry will suffer in the coming decades as our State continues to warm.

Hermit thrush (see page one illustration): We know when these birds return in the spring to our as yet sufficiently cool mixed woodlands (often seeking out the wetter areas) owing to their exquisite singing (having even been referred to as the "American nightingales"). They feed on insects and some berries. Hermit thrushes are programmed to build their nests and raise their young on or near the ground, hidden from their predators by the underbrush. But this has become a locally serious problem for them owing to the grievous over-abundance in our woodlands of browsing White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), which chew away the Thrushes' protective understory leaving them and their eggs open to predation (at the same time, such browsing preventing the reproduction of our desirable Oaks and Maples). However, some do find safe nesting sites in otherwise undesirable woodland patches of Hayscented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), the latter also preventing tree regeneration.

Brook trout: These native game fish (actually not trout, but char) are highly sought after by anglers (especially by fly-fishers). In our area, Brook trout live for 3 or more years, feeding on insects and much other small animal life. During this time they might grow to a length of about 12 inches [30 cm] and weigh 2 pounds or so [ca 1 kg]. They depend here upon pure, clear, cool, turbulent (thereby well-oxygenated) woodland streams free from competing alien fish introductions. This makes it crucial that our streams not be channelized and that they remain shaded and otherwise protected by a significant tree-covered riparian zone. Here too, as the climate warms, our local streams will become ever-poorer habitat for trout. It might be added that the State does do some stream (and pond) restocking (replenishment) to counteract over-fishing.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center (BMAC) to Host Programs on Forestry

By Bill Guenther, County Forester, with additional information provided by Susan McMahon, Windham Regional Commission, and Lynn Levine, Consulting Forester

Several parties interested in sustaining the working forest in Windham County have been meeting for over one year. This includes members from the Windham Regional Commission, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, Vermont Woods Studio, and Forest*Care.

One important first step was the need to educate the region about the importance of forestry not just as a place to recreate or conserve, but also about its economic importance. Long term this group would like to see our region's forestry sector on par with the importance of local agriculture. From this group several events are planned that expand the understanding of the forest economy.

From October 2 to January 3 — BMAC Exhibit: *Shedding Light on the Working Forest* (more information at the BMAC website.) You can go to Kathleen Kolb's website for more information on the exhibit as well.
<http://www.kathleenkolb.com/Shedding-Light.htm>

Another event is a panel discussion with local and state forestry related businesses on what would it take to get people interested in local wood products. Also in the planning stages are tours of local sawmills and possible logging jobs.

10/2 — Friday, 5:30 p.m. — Opening reception during Gallery Walk

10/8 — Thursday, 7 p.m. — Artist Talk: Kathleen Kolb and Verandah Porche

10/15 — Thursday, 7 p.m. — Storytelling with Bill Torrey, Logger

10/22 Thursday, 7 PM Panel — *Shedding Light on the Working Forest in the Windham County Region*. Moderator: Susan McMahon, Associate Director of Windham Regional Commission. Keynote speaker: Michael Snyder, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation.

Panel members:

Jack Manix — owner of Walker Farm and Elysian Hills Tree farm

Eli Gould — owner of Ironwood Brand: Timber/Mill/Design/Build

Lynn Levine — consulting forester for Forest*Care

Peggy Farabaugh — founder and CEO of Vermont Woods Studios

Look for more details and articles in *The Commons* next month.

Bylaws Revision

By Linda L. Lyon, trustee

In 2013, the Woodland Owners Association adopted Windham Regional Woodlands Association as our “doing business as” name to better reflect that woodland *ownership* is not a requirement for membership. That change requires that we tend to some administrative tasks, including adding the new name to our bylaws. When we realized that it has been nearly 15 years since the last revision of the bylaws, it seemed that we were overdue for a thorough review to ensure that all provisions were still pertinent. In May 2015, members of the Membership and Finance committees met to discuss draft revisions to the bylaws. We used information regarding model bylaws for non-profits,

provided by the Vermont Secretary of State's office, to structure the revision.

On first glance, it may appear that the Trustees are proposing substantial changes. However, the essence of the proposed revision remains substantially similar to our current document. Most of the proposed changes fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Use plain language, including simple words and the active voice, to make the text unambiguous and easy to understand.

- Make the document more self-explanatory so that one need not look up basic information in other documents. E.g., rather than simply reference the “Purposes” from our Articles of Incorporation, the proposed revised bylaws explicitly includes our Purposes.
- Remove punitive provisions, including the actions to terminate a membership. The proposed revision simply states that members must submit an application and pay annual dues. We also added a non-discrimination statement to the membership section.
- Update, as appropriate, to reflect current practice. E.g., the existing bylaws state that we will hold the Annual Meeting on the third Saturday of August. However, for more than a decade, we have not had the Annual Meeting in August. So the new wording reflects the new reality and is phrased to allow reasonable flexibility (i.e., late summer – early fall).
- Follow the Vermont Secretary of State's model bylaws, as appropriate. (Note: These are no longer posted on the Secretary of State's web site.)
- Reorder sections, when it was sensible to do so. E.g., the revision now defines the roles of the board and officers *before* stating the actions that the board and officers can take.
- Subdivide some sections with their own headings to make it easier to find specific information.

In July, the Trustees voted to submit the revised bylaws to the membership to vote on at the Annual Meeting on 19 September. Before then, please review the revisions. You can find the (1) current Bylaws, (2) draft revised Bylaws, and (3) Articles of Incorporation at <http://www.woodlandownersassociation.org/>. Contact Linda Lyon via e-mail (LindaALyon@gmail.com) or telephone (802-368-2211) if you have questions. Copies also will be available at the Annual Meeting.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs

(See inside for details)

Sunday, September 6	Hogback Wildlife Festival, Hogback Mountain, Marlboro
Saturday, September 12	33rd Annual Marlboro Fair, Muster Field, Ames Hill Road, Marlboro
Saturday, September 12, 13, 20	Game of Logging: Promoting Chainsaw Safety
Saturday, September 19	WRWA Annual Meeting, Living Memorial Park, Brattleboro
Friday, November 7	Big Tree Tour

Mission of Windham Regional Woodlands Association

WRWA 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, WRWA 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.