



130 Austine Drive, Suite 300, Brattleboro, VT 05301-7040
802-257-7967

WOODLOT TIPS



Photo: Creative Commons

WINTER 2016

Programs

Friday, March 4, at 7 p.m. — The Birds in Your Woods: How You Can Help Them

“An Illustrated Presentation,” by Dr. Robert E. Engel, Marlboro College Professor Emeritus of Biology. (Co-sponsored by the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society.)

Vermont Learning Collaborative, 471 Route 5, Dummerston

For further info: Arthur Westing (387-2152; westing@sover.net)

Saturday, March 19, at 11 a.m. — Sugarhouse Tour: Robb Family Farm Sugarhouse, Brattleboro

“Early each spring, just as the blush of new life begins to show in the Vermont countryside, sugaring time starts at the Robb farm. Charlie Jr. collects the sap and then the sap is slowly boiled down the traditional way, with a wood-fired arch. Our maple syrup is the perfect match for pancakes, waffles or ice cream. For the 2011 season, we issued a new logo that was once Great Grandpa Betterley’s label (circa 1890) for our syrup products. Designed in a vintage print style, the logo features two men gathering sap with traditional collecting buckets and a yoke carrier with a sugar house and maple orchard in the background.

The Robb Farm produces 100 percent pure and natural maple syrup with nothing added, free of contaminants — that means, no formaldehyde, pesticides or chemicals. The Robb Family has been maple sugaring for generations, practicing sound woodland stewardship, taking great pride in the hard work required to bring you the very finest pure maple syrup. The

sugarhouse is a special feature of this six-generation farm. Built in February 1998 to replace the old 1920s sugarhouse that “gave up,” it was decided to make it a little more accessible to the road. We are ramping up our operation from 2,200 taps to 8,500 taps. We have also converted part of the old milking room into a kitchen where we will be making all of our value-added products, such as maple candy, maple ice cream and maple coated nuts.”

Directions: Route 9 west for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left at 7-Eleven Market onto Greenleaf Street. After about 1.5 miles go straight onto a dirt road (Ames Hill Road). At first corner, bear right; at second corner, bear left. The farm is approximately 1 mile up on the right and only 3 miles from Route 9.

Saturday March 26 — WRWA Members Only Field Trip — Somerset Old Growth Forest Tour

County Forester Bill Guenther will lead a tour to a Somerset woodlot in what we believe to be a stand of old growth, which consists mostly of yellow birch. This 60-acre property was a gift to Leland & Gray High School many years ago. About 12-15 acres of this property are stocked with the big birches, the remainder in spruce/fir and beaver flowage. We offer this trip only to WRWA members and the group size is limited to 12. **Bill will need to hear from you by March 15th** if you are interested in going. We need a minimum of five folks to sign up for the trip, so please contact Bill by phone or email to let him know you want to sign on.

We will meet in West Brattleboro at 9:30 a.m. to carpool as parking can be very limited out there in the winter. We will travel 1.5 miles up the Old County Road to the western edge of the property, then bushwhack east out to the old growth. **We recommend that people bring a combination of skis and snowshoes: skis for the road and snowshoes for the bushwhack woods where brush complicates movement on skis. So take your pick, but Bill probably will bring both.**

At about lunchtime, we'll stop at the campsite and have a picnic lunch. It will be a nice warmup if you also bring a thermos of your favorite hot beverage. After lunch we'll head out into the birch stand and look at these magnificent specimens; many are well over three feet in diameter.

We hope to conclude our day by about 3 p.m. Keep in mind that Somerset is the icebox of Windham County, and even though the trip will take place in March, we could easily have some pretty severe winter conditions, so dress warmly and in layers. We want to assure a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.

You need to call Bill Guenther at 257-7967 X 305 to reserve a spot, get the specific meeting place, and to make sure you've got the right gear. This trip is moderate to somewhat strenuous, and we'll be a long way from anywhere. Bill also needs to ensure that the private road up to the dam has been plowed. Adverse road conditions could cause us to cancel. Spring comes very late out there!

Thursday, April 21, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. — “Rattlesnakes in Vermont” Town Hall in Townshend, Vt.

Can you believe Vermont actually hosts and harbors rattlesnakes? Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department biologist and rattlesnake researcher Doug Blodgett will discuss this reclusive, but much-maligned and misunderstood reptile and its unique contribution to Vermont’s native wildlife community. Doug will reveal some interesting results of his research on this endangered species, and discuss the tough challenges it faces, as well as the life history of this original Vermont native animal at the very northern end of its range in the continental United States.

Doug Blodgett is a wildlife biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Throughout his 34-year career, Doug has worked as the Vermont Wild Turkey Project Team Leader from 1990 to 2010 and has also assisted on the black bear, deer, moose, furbearer, and

peregrine falcon research projects. Doug has served as the Department's investigator on the dozens of Vermont mountain lion sightings received annually from the public. Most recently, Doug's professional interest has focused on reptiles, and specifically on rare snake research in Vermont.

Directions: 2006 Vt. Route 30 in Townshend Village. The Town Hall is the yellow four-columned building about 75 yards south of the Leland & Gray High School.

Saturday, April 23, at 8:45 a.m. — Excursion to the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts

The Harvard Forest consists of 3,750 acres owned and managed by Harvard University. Founded in 1907 as an ecological research area, Forestry education was moved to Petersham in 1914, and the Harvard Forest was made a graduate school. We will have time to tour a small part of the forest, as well as view the amazing set of handmade dioramas in the Fisher Museum.

The 23 dioramas depict the New England landscape and forest as it changes through time. From the early 1700s, the clearing of farmland, conservation practices and management of the land are demonstrated. A 1936 booklet describes the construction of the models, which represent the landscape in detail. For example, the people are carefully made to scale and the trees are made of strands of copper wire to form the trunks, boughs and tiny branches.

For a preview of this remarkable area, visit www.harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/

Details: The forest is a one-hour drive from Brattleboro. Meet at the Exit 1 Outlet Center in Brattleboro at 8:45 a.m. for carpooling. We will view a video and the dioramas from 10–11:30; have an indoor picnic lunch (**bring your own**); and tour the forest from noon to 2:00 p.m. or so, and be back by 3:30. We will keep to moderate terrain.

Monday, May 23, at 7 p.m. — Our Riparian Woodlands: On Managing this Very Special Habitat

Vermont State Representative David L. Deen, Chairman, House Committee on Fish, Wildlife, & Water Resources, and Upper Valley River Steward, Connecticut River Watershed Alliance will talk about the importance of riparian zones.

A riparian zone is the three-dimensional land area directly adjacent to the water of a wetland, lake, or river that interacts with both the water and land ecosystems. It serves ecological functions disproportionately large relative to its small land area. A healthy riparian zone slows the flow of overland runoff allowing the soils to absorb nitrate and phosphorus pollution, reduces pathogens making their way to the river, helps control over land soil erosion, and provides food and shade for life in the water. These zones are especially important in reducing riverbank erosion during flood events.

Vermont Learning Collaborative, 471 Route 5, Dummerston

For further info: Arthur Westing (387-2152; westing@sover.net)

Thursday, June 23, from 5:30–7:30 — SAVE THE DATE!

Cersosimo Lumber Company Evening Sawmill Tour

Thursday–Saturday, July 28, 29, and 30 — SAVE THE DATE! — Maplerama 2016 (See article below.)

Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Mount Snow, West Dover

Saturday, September 24 — SAVE THE DATE! — WRWA Annual Meeting

Green Mountain Camp, Dummerston.

President's Column

By Sam Rowley

As I soak up the sun on another warm winter day I wonder if winter will ever truly come. Part of me thinks we'll still get a winter but I'm not holding my breath. With a month or so left, the chances of a deep blanket of snow are diminishing. Bits of snow here and there aren't enough to satisfy me, as a person who enjoys four different seasons.

If snow doesn't make winter for you, then temperature must be the determining factor. Here, too, this winter has fallen short. Compared to last winter's stretches of sustained cold temperatures, this winter has a lot of catching up to do.

The lack of winter ingredients can be good or bad for the landscape's plants, animals, and insects. Even with this mild winter, plants have sustained their cold period, or *vernalization*, and should leaf or flower as soon as conditions allow. Animals such as owls probably aren't complaining as food sources are readily seen, caught and eaten. As for the mice, they are left more exposed since their protective covering to carve tunnels does not exist. The tick population is estimated to increase as warmer winters shorten hibernation time and allow ticks more time to feed and reproduce. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an insect originally from East Asia, has been found in Vermont. Our cold winters have been a saving grace in the past, slowing their spread and destruction. The warmer winters may allow HWA to take a stronger hold on our hemlock population.

Why didn't I talk about the other two major invasive insects and the cold? The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) have been surviving winters long before we were complaining about warm winters. ALB larva can survive down to -15F and usually burrows deep into a protective Maple trunk while EAB pre-pupa (end of larval phase) has shown survival down to -23F or colder, from research out of Ontario and Minnesota. As the winters get warmer, I hate to think Vermont may eventually harbor these insects.

The first year I got more serious with my hobby of Maple sugaring, I bought a small pan over February break (I'm a high school teacher so I remember these breaks). I tapped, boiled and was done after about a week. That year was an especially early year. A national news story from February of this year interviewed two sugar house owners in Vermont who had collected their first sap. The Corse Farm in Whitingham was one. If this weather continues as a trend, I worry about how the Maple industry will fare.

Keep busy during this warm winter with our great selection of programs listed in this issue. We are always looking to increase our organization in membership and on the board. If you would like to be involved, please drop us a line. We are always looking for individuals who value our wooded landscapes.

WRWA (*Still*) is Seeking a Newsletter Editor

By Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester

The Windham Regional Woodlands Association sends out a quarterly newsletter, *Woodlot Tips*, that is always well received by our membership. In past questionnaires to our membership, the newsletter always ranks at or near the top of what folks like about our organization. To produce this newsletter requires a good editor at the helm who can edit articles and then lay out the newsletter.

Barbara Evans of Dummerston has been our faithful newsletter editor now for over 10 years, but

Barbara would now like to take a break and pass the torch. We are grateful that two people have stepped up to help with the initial editing, but in a perfect world, someone would be willing to assume the editorship of the newsletter. There are future plans being discussed, and the work could be quite interesting going forward.

If you have any questions about this position please feel free to contact Barbara Evans at: bsebird@hotmail.com.

Our Weird Weather Continues

By Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester

In last summer's newsletter, I wrote about the strange weather patterns of the first half of 2015. The second half came close to being even stranger.

After an exceptionally dry May, June ended up as the wettest month on record. The rains of June and July shifted dramatically into another near drought in August and early September. Those very dry conditions in late summer can lead to leaf desiccation and loss of turgidity. Just as the maple leaves were starting to curl in late August from moisture stress, we finally got some good precipitation in early September that probably saved our foliage season.

Later in September we were finally getting caught up on our moisture deficit. Also we got perfect conditions to create brilliant foliage. Once again I want to dispel the myth that "Jack Frost causes good color." Frost actually can ruin good color. What brings out the real brightness in the autumn is the formation of anthocyanins. This pigment provides the luminescent brilliance that can make our hillsides appear to be on fire! For good anthocyanin formation, we need specific weather conditions that include cool nights in the upper 30s or low 40s, along with days of brilliant sunshine. We lucked out and had about 10 days of this sort of weather in late September and early October and were then rewarded with stupendous colors right around Columbus Day.

As we moved into Fall, the temperatures stayed warm and we had a rare brown Christmas. On

Christmas Eve at my place in Newfane it was a balmy 50 degrees with Christmas Day at 47 degrees! Just before the New Year, we finally got a covering of snow to at least sort of make it look like winter.

While walking along the West River Trail (the old railroad bed) near the I-91 bridge in Brattleboro on Sunday, January 24, I observed a very strange phenomenon. An Asiatic honeysuckle had actually leafed out a few days earlier (!), but the cold of the previous few days had wilted the new growth. This weather can really play havoc with a plant's seasonally connected biorhythms.

With an El Nino in play, this may turn out to be one of the most moderate winters in recent memory. However, this would not be good for inhibiting Hemlock Woolly Adelgid populations. The last two Marches were brutally cold, leading to significant mortality levels of HWA, as high as 99 percent. But with our current weather patterns, many more of these insects most likely could survive this year.

I wish our weather patterns would go back to being a bit more normal. We continue to see extremes where we get extensive dry or rainy periods and wild fluctuations in temperature. All of this does not bode well for our trees, which are used to more stable conditions. In another article in this issue, I address the white pine needle blight problem, which also depends upon the type of weather conditions we're currently experiencing.

2016 Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife Woodland Owner Cooperator Training

If you or some other woodland owner you know might wish to take this great opportunity of a free weekend of training, those of us in WRWA who already are Coverts Cooperators know how much one will benefit from doing this.

Do you love your woodland? Enjoy seeing birds and other wildlife and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat, provide recreational and timber benefits? Are you interested in reaching out to others in your community? Then-join us for one of the Coverts three-day Woodland

Owner Trainings. It will allow you to connect with resource professionals and other landowners just like you while learning how you can improve your woodland. The Spring training dates are May 20-22 and will take place at the Farm and Wilderness Camp, Plymouth, Vt. The Fall dates are September 9-11 and will be held at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Hydeville, Vt. *Space is limited so register now!* To see a sample agenda, or download an application, visit our website at www.vtcoverts.org. You can also contact us by calling Lisa Sausville at 802-877-2777 or e-mail lisa@vtcoverts.org.

Update on White Pine Needle Blight Problems

By Bill Guenther, County forester

For the past five springs we have observed our native white pines turning a bright golden hue, then to brown, and then lots of needle loss of the previous year's needles. As we reported in the past, this affliction is caused by various funguses that have typically impacted the lower portion of the tree crown due to favorable conditions for the fungus spores where there is reduced air flow and lots of moisture. This is why some pines show very thin crowns with few needles near the base of the tree, but the upper portions can have a full complement of needles.

So far we have not found any trees that have been outright killed by fungus, but with the repeated five years of needle loss, many trees are starting to look very stressed. With the heavy rains last June, the stage could be set for yet another year of pronounced infection. The severity of needle blight is greatly determined by the previous year's weather. The spores develop in wetter weather; drier weather inhibits spore production.

Isabel Munck, a forest pathology research scientist with the U.S. Forest Lab in Durham, N.H., is focusing her research on this white pine needle problem. She has found that most of the problem is caused by Brown Spot Needle Blight. This year however, many

of us observed a different phenomenon. A number of trees showed scattered clumps of dead terminal needles from last summer's growth. These needles have persisted throughout the winter and I have observed this problem in many of the towns in the county. One of the funguses identified about ten years ago was *Canavirgelia banfieldii* with a common name of White Pine Needlecast. It has now been determined that this fungus was taxonomically identical to a previously discovered fungus known as Dooks' Needlecast (*Lophophacidium dooksii*). Dooks' is considered to be the likely culprit causing the dead needles to be held into the winter.

Regionally our white pine timber resource is a very valuable component of our wood products industry, so any problem like this gives us reason to be concerned. Hopefully the research will give us some insight in how to best manage this problem that seems to be proliferating with climate change. While no mortality has directly occurred from these funguses, trees that have other stress factors could succumb. White pine in very wet or excessively well drained soils, along with those that have been stressed by high winds or wounding, could especially be at risk. We will keep you updated as this critical research continues.

Woodland Secret No. 21 — Chemical Warfare

By Arthur H. Westing, WRWA Trustee

The Geneva Protocol of 1925 has long outlawed chemical warfare, yet to this day some can still be found in our woodlands, as revealed below.

The trees and other plants growing in our woodlands are generally in constant competition with their neighbors, for sunlight from above and water plus nutrients from below — *i.e.*, for *Lebensraum*. Some trees will have an advantage over their neighbors owing to their size and vigor (through the vagaries of their genes, age, more favorable soil conditions, or pure chance). Such *dominant* trees will be able to out-compete their neighbors to a greater or lesser extent — either or both above ground (for sunlight) and below ground (for water with its dissolved nutrients). The growth of the resulting neighboring lesser trees (the *intermediate* and *overtopped* or *sup-*

pressed ones) will as a result be diminished to the point where some will in time succumb.

Trees growing under their optimal site conditions — generally in the central portion of their geographic range — are strong competitors, and can also be expected to exhibit excellent form and great size (although oddly enough they live the longest at the margins of their range or on otherwise unfavorable sites). However, not all tree species live where they would do best, simply owing to an inability to compete for one reason or another with their variously more aggressive neighbors. For example, Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is thus often relegated to dry, poor, and shallow soils.

In addition to being able to out-compete their neigh-

bors owing to mere vigor and size, some of our tree species have gone one step further in their approach to besting their neighbors. Thus the roots of our unfortunately ever less common Butternut (*Juglans cineria*) produce a toxin (juglone) that leaches out into the surrounding soil and poisons the nearby roots of various other species (technically referred to as an allelopathic phenomenon). It appears that the mode of action is the poisoning of the fungi associated with the roots of the other plants, those forming their needed mycorrhizal symbiosis. The same toxin is also present in the leaves, so that when they fall and decay it also does damage to other seeds and seedlings in the litter.

A reasonable number of other local trees also resort to such chemical weapons in competing with their neighbors, although perhaps a bit less aggressively. These include Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), especially *vis-à-vis* birches (*Betula* spp) and conifers, Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*); also our less common Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*),

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*); and additionally our introduced Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*).

Finally, it is of some further interest to note that: **a)** American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) apparently owed its onetime local prevalence not so much to its fire resistance and ability to sprout as to a toxin that it exuded from its roots and leached out of its fallen leaves; **b)** The invasive herb, Garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*) seems to owe its success on the forest floor to producing a substance toxic to tree mycorrhizae; **c)** The fungal partners of tree mycorrhizae exude a toxic substance to prevent competitive and pathogenic fungi from penetrating the roots of their trees, and **d)** To conclude with a related phenomenon, a considerable number of plants, both woody and herbaceous, produce toxic substances to be stored in their leaves, branches, and fruits that discourage wildlife from feeding on them. Oddly enough, however, Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) has no such adverse effect and is, in fact, a popular source of sustenance for numerous birds and mammals.

Vermont Legislators Back in Session with Several Proposed Pieces of Forestry Legislation on the Table

By Bill Guenther, County Forester

Our state legislators arrived back at the Statehouse in early January, hit the ground running, and have already put lots of proposed legislation on the table. One key bill that will interest all woodland owners is Senate Bill 237 (S.237), commonly referred to as the “Omnibus Forestry Bill.” This bill proposes a number of new actions and also amends some current portions of state law.

The bill starts by laying out the importance of forestlands to the State of Vermont. Vermont law has already established a “right to practice agriculture” and this bill follows a parallel by proposing to implement a “right to practice forestry” by declaring that “forestry operations” as well as “primary processing of materials,” provided they comply with applicable law, shall not be considered a public or private nuisance.

The item that seems to be getting the most attention is a new requirement that landowners file a “harvest notification” with the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation at least a week before the

harvest begins. This requirement would apply to any timber harvests that remove more than 20 cords of wood or more than 10,000 board feet of timber. FP&R would require specific information regarding the harvest, the landowner, the logger, the location, the estimated harvest acreage and volume, and whether or not the property is enrolled in the UVA program. The landowner would then receive a harvest notification number that would uniquely identify each individual harvesting job throughout the state. This number would have to be posted on the log landing throughout the duration of the harvest.

The bill would also require a “trip ticket” to accompany every load of forest products transported from the location of the timber harvest to the location of “first measurement.” (Transportation of cut split firewood or of up to ten Christmas trees would be exempt from those requirements.) Any mill or person accepting a load of forest products from a timber harvest would have to require the transporter to submit a trip ticket prior to the first

measurement. The transporter would give the mill or facility a copy of the trip ticket and the receiving mill or facility would have to maintain a copy of all trip tickets for at least six years from the date of delivery. Any transportation after the first measurement would require a bill of sale trip ticket provided by the mill, facility, or other persons selling the forest products.

Several years ago the legislature developed additional provisions that would enable landowners to recover losses in cases of timber trespass, defined as “knowing or reckless cutting down, destruction, or removal of timber or forest products of another.” An aggrieved landowner could receive compensation of either triple damages (if the damage was proven to have been intentional) or the payment could be assessed on a per-tree basis with values increasing according to the diameter of the trees. This proposed bill greatly increases the value that aggrieved landowners can potentially receive. In the past, timber trespass generally had only a civil penalty attached to it, but this bill proposes a criminal penalty. Someone who “knowingly” or “recklessly” commits a timber trespass, can be imprisoned for up to five years and fined up to

\$5,000, if the timber value exceeds \$1,000. If the value is below that threshold, the penalty can be imprisonment for up to a year with fines as high as \$2,000.

This 48-page bill contains several other minor provisions. To see the full version of S.237, go to <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0237/S-0237%20As%20Introduced.pdf>.

I’ll also mention one other proposal: House Bill 624 (H.624), which proposes a change to the Use Value Appraisal Program. If folks enrolled in the program do not post their land (meaning they keep it open for recreational use, etc.), they would see a five percent reduction in the Use Value. This would translate into a slight reduction in a participant’s tax savings.

Given the detailed nature of S.237, I assume that we will see considerable testimony and time devoted to this wide sweeping bill. Stay tuned for our next issue for a follow-up on all proposed legislation.

WRWA Library Update

The WRWA Library contains dozens of useful woodland-related books, reports, and similar materials that are freely available for use by the membership. Any of the materials can be borrowed on the honor system for up to three weeks.

Recently Arthur Westing, Carol Morrison, Bill Guenther and Casey Murrow, Director of the Vermont Learning Collaborative, put a label in each book in the WRWA library collection, and moved the books into their new location.

We are most grateful to the Vermont Learning Collaborative to now be able to house our Library at its facility, conveniently located at 471 Route 5 in Dummerston, open Monday through Thursday from noon to 5 pm.

If you have items to donate to the Library, please email Carol Morrison at windhamwoodlands@gmail.com and the Library Committee will be in touch with you.

Windham County to Host “Maplerama 2016”

By Sam Schneski, County Forester

Every year, rotating through 12 counties, Vermont hosts an event known as Maplerama. This multi-day event celebrates Vermont’s maple sugaring heritage and gives folks an opportunity to learn about the latest technology and industry trends. The Windham County Maple Association will host this year’s event on July 28, 29, and 30th at the

Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center at Mount Snow in West Dover. The Windham Association previously hosted Maplerama in 1992 and 2004.

Organizing this type of celebration is no small undertaking. Attendees have come from at least 20

states and five Canadian provinces. Typical attendance is around 300 people. The main attraction is the tour of local sugarmaking operations. In Windham County these have ranged from operations that collect sap the old fashioned way using horses, buckets, and a wood-fired evaporator to a 25,000-tap business utilizing state-of-the-art high vacuum systems, reverse osmosis, and a steam-powered evaporator.

This year's event will feature tours of at least 12 sugarhouses and two maple-based value-added facilities, including businesses making liquor and granola! An evening banquet will feature awards to outstanding contributors to the maple industry. Comedian Bucky Lewis will perform his stand-up

act following dinner. Other highlights will include a trade show featuring maple equipment and supply vendors, a maple syrup tasting contest, and a silent auction. The final day of the event will feature more sugarhouse tours, visiting vendors, and a barbeque luncheon with an option to ride a chairlift to the top of Mt. Snow. At the summit you can take in the views and grab a snack or one of many available maple based beverages at the Bullwheel Tavern.

Tickets will go on sale in the early summer. Watch the local newspapers for more news about Maplerama. Be sure to put Maplerama on your calendar now!

Winter Tree Identification Program Cancellation

Due to icy conditions on Ballou Mountain in Halifax, Vt., WRWA had to cancel the February 2016 winter tree identification program and potluck lunch. However, the good news is that County Forester Bill Guenther has offered to lead the program in February 2017. So, let's hope for a more "normal" winter conditions next year!

ATTENTION FORESTERS!

The Forest, Parks & Recreation Dept. is recruiting to fill two full-time County Forester positions, in Windsor and Lemoille Counties.

Below is the posting for the two positions that are currently posted on Recruitment's website. You must apply on-line to be considered for any position. Log in on Employee Self-Service and then select "recruiting activities" and "careers" to view all job openings in state government. The application deadline is March 6, 2016.

Overview

These positions are based in the Morrisville Office (contact: ginger.anderson@vermont.gov) and the White River Junction Office (contact: nate.mckeen@vermont.gov) of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The primary objective of the position is to work with private forest landowners and their consultants on a variety of forest

management practices. This position also includes work with municipalities and home owners on town-owned forest lands, forest and disease issues and community forest health issues. Local travel is required.

Job duties will include: professional and technical assistance and coordination with forest landowners, consulting foresters, other county and state lands foresters, wildlife specialists, other natural resource practitioners, and the general public. These include review of forest management plans for and inspection of parcels enrolled in Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (Current Use+ Program. It will include the management of spatial and other data for private forests for Current Use and the Forest Stewardship Programs.

For more detailed information, visit the DHR Job Specifications page of the department website.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs

(See inside for details)

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Thursday– Saturday, July 28–30

Maplerama 2016! Grand Summit Resort, Mt. Snow, W. Dover

Saturday, September 24

WRWA Annual Meeting, Green Mountain Camp, Dummerston

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.