



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

# WOODLOT TIPS



## WINTER 2017

### Programs

**Saturday, March 25, at 11 a.m. — Sugarhouse Tour Bunker Farm Sugarhouse  
857 Bunker Road, Dummerston, Vt.**

The Bunker Farm is run by two families with expertise in raising naturally raised meats, annuals, perennials, and maple syrup. The farm is also an agricultural educational center for students and the community. Located in the heart of Dummerston, the farm is 170 acres, 100 of which are woodlands.

The old sugarbush, which the families brought back into production, is 16 acres, contains 1,100 taps, and includes beautiful old sugar maples that are more than 100 years old. Sap also is collected from a nearby leased property with 3,300 taps. The new sugarhouse, converted from part of an old barn, has a Leader Special evaporator that is fired with wood harvested on the farm. Using sustainable tapping methods, combined with the latest in maple technology, the aim is to harvest sap in a way that will keep the sugarbush healthy and productive for many more generations.

Sugar season at the Bunker Farm is a busy and fun time, and the families invite you to join the action. Watch the boiling process, visit with the farm animals, take a tour of the working sugarbush, and sample the delicious syrup, which won Best In Show at the 2016 Maplerama

tasting competition. This event is family-friendly, free, and open to the public.

From Brattleboro, go north on Route 5 (Putney Rd). At the traffic circle, continue north on Route 5 for 3.7 miles. Turn left at School House Rd. After about 1 mile, turn right on Miller Rd. After 1.8 miles, bear left to continue on Miller Rd. Make a right at a stop sign onto Bunker Rd. The farm is on the left.

**Saturday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. to around 3 p.m. — *WRWA Members Only Field Trip:***

**Somerset Old Growth Forest Tour**

County Forester Bill Guenther will lead a tour to a stand of old growth on a 60-acre property that was a gift to Leland & Gray High School. About 12–15 acres are stocked with the big birches; the remainder is in spruce/fir and beaver flowage. We offer this trip only to WRWA members, with group size of at least five and no more than 12. **Bill will need to hear from you by March 21<sup>st</sup>** if you want to participate.

As parking near the forest is very limited, we will meet in West Brattleboro at 9:30 a.m. to carpool to Somerset. From the road at the western edge of the property, we will bushwhack east to the old growth. **Bill recommends that you bring X-country skis for the road and snowshoes for the woods, where brush complicates movement on skis.**

At about noon, we will have a picnic lunch at the campsite. It will be a nice warm-up if you also bring a thermos of your favorite hot beverage along with your lunch. After lunch we will continue to the birch stand to see these magnificent specimens, many with diameters greater than three feet.

Somerset is the icebox of Windham County; Spring comes very late at the Somerset Old Growth Forest! Although our trip will be in April, we could have severe winter conditions, so dress warmly and in layers. We want to assure a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.

**Please call Bill Guenther at 802-257-7967 (ext. 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 access road has been plowed, and he will notify the registered participants if adverse road conditions necessitate cancellation of the tour.

**Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m. — Into The Woods With Our Children, with Forester Lynne Levine  
Vermont Learning Collaborative (wheelchair accessible)**

The Windham Regional Woodlands Association and co-sponsoring organizations (see below) are pleased to announce that Forester Lynn Levine of Dummerston will describe for us a hands-on approach to awakening in youngsters an enduring love of the natural world. Moreover, Lynn expects to begin her presentation with a brief surprise audience-participation activity.

The key to having our children enjoy the woods is providing them with the opportunity to experience the forest with a parent or other relative, friend of the family, or schoolteacher. A focus of this talk will be how to break down the barriers so that children will want to go into the woods (rather than to be playing with their electronic devices), and how we can help them develop a need to return to the woods again and again. This event promises to be particularly valuable for our region's environmental and science teachers.

Lynn has been a consulting forester for the last 38 years and presently manages over 16,000 acres. During that time, she has been an environmental educator and has taken many hundreds of people into the woods. She has created and taught nature-based curricula for the Vermont Institute of Natural Resources and local elementary schools. Lynn is co-author of

Working with Your Woodland: a Landowner's Guide, and of Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-size Tracking Guide; and is the sole author of Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life Size Pocket Guide, and of two charming children's books, Snow Secrets and Is it Time, Yet?

The presentation is free and open to the public. WRWA is most pleased to announce that this important event is being co-sponsored by the Vermont Learning Collaborative, Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society, Dummerston Conservation Commission, Putney Mountain Association, and Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.

**Directions:** Vermont Learning Collaborative, 471 U.S. Route 5, Dummerston, 1.8 miles north of I-91 Exit 3. For further information, contact Arthur Westing (802/387-2152; westing@sover.net).

**Save the Date! Tuesday, July 25th at 5:30 p.m.**—Join Consulting Forester Ian Martin and County Forester Bill Guenther for a tour of a recent timber harvest. Located on the historic Scott Farm (in Dummerston), this job was done by a mechanical harvester but also has some white pine problems that will be discussed. More details will come in the Spring newsletter.

**Save the Date! Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**— County Forester Bill Guenther will again lead The BIG Tree Tour. This will involve travel throughout Windham County to look at either champions or significant trees on the BIG Tree registry. This is an all-day, fun-filled trip. More details will come in the Spring and Summer newsletters.

### ***Double Congratulations to Bill Guenther!***

Last year Bill wrote in his legislative update in Woodlot Tips that there was a new forester licensing law, which he supported. Bill was first in line for a license, and he is now Forester #1 in Vermont. Well done!

Then on January 12, 2017, Bill celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Windham County Forester. He also is the guiding hand of this organization and of this newsletter. WRWA thanks him for his wisdom and good nature, and for his hard work as Windham County Forester. Congratulations!

## **President's Column**

*By Martha (Marli) Rabinowitz*

Today I am filling out a Forest Management Activity Report for the county forester. My land is in the Use Value Appraisal program, so I have paperwork to keep up on. Last year, my neighbor Shane harvested 21 cords of firewood from what's called Stand 6, and 24 cords from Stand 7. Some wind-thrown pines were cut into boards to build his welding shed—1800 board feet there. Perhaps the county forester doesn't really care about these little things, but my forest management plan promises that I will remove UGS (Unacceptable Growing Stock) from these two stands by 2020, and I want him to know that progress is being made. Shane and I agreed to save some good old habitat trees even if they are "unacceptable" and he sent me a picture of a fat porcupine hiding in one. Hope it doesn't eat up all the trees!

To finish filling out my report I have to look up my property's SPAN number, which is on my town tax bill. Looking at that, I notice that property tax is due soon, darn it. Oh, I also have to file some kind of amendment to ownership with the county forester, and with the town clerk, since my co-owner recently passed away. I will also have to file this with the tax department separately.

Now, I didn't make much money on that firewood. The \$10/cord for logs was in fact swapped for Shane's labor; he also installed some gates and moved a shack. Otherwise I would have to declare it as income, or maybe I still do. Have to find out about that too—another phone call. If so, I could subtract what it cost me to get the forester out there to mark the boundaries of the cut, as an ex-

pense against my “profit.” (More important if I had a larger harvest.) My real profit for now is the improvement in the remaining trees. And the benefit of having Shane working out in the woods to scare off the ATV traffic.

Paperwork is the part of land ownership that does not thrill me at all, just like fixing a sump pump isn’t my favorite part of living in a house. But I am glad for the UVA program, glad to know my forester, and to be accumulating history. I never manage to keep journals or photographic records, but I have a file for my forestry plans and maps from over the years, a file for activity reports, a file for letters from the tax department, another for my application to the Tree Farm Program, and one for when I took the Woodlands for Wildlife training at Vermont Coverts (and half a shelf of forestry books!).

There also are files for how much I paid a neighbor to saw and chip buckthorn, and a young man to relieve me of pulling buckthorn and bittersweet-roots for one year; a file or two of the WHIP program plan that reimbursed me for some of that work; another file for equipment warranties and

receipts; one for the deed when I bought the land, another for the easement I gave to the Vermont Land Trust, and one for the yearly VAST contract.

There is a file with a lot of neighbors’ phone numbers for the many things neighbors need to talk about at times, and one labeled “Plantings and Dreams,” with records of red oak, black walnut, mountain ash, goldenseal, and other plantings for wildlife and medicine, sketches of trails, and a plan for a brick grill and oven. And, of course, old copies of Woodlot Tips and Northern Woodlands on my shelf. There is always more to learn!

Finally, way in the back of the drawer, there is a thick file of records I was given by the previous owner: soil maps, records of strip cuts that are still visible on Google Earth, schemes for Christmas tree farms. I hope whoever eventually inherits this forest from me reads all of this and ponders its history before determining its future.

Meanwhile, if I stop writing this and go finish that report, I can get outside for a walk and see the real trees, the living history and future of this land.

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***Trustee Bios***—*WRWA Trustee profiles will appear as available in future issues of Woodlot Tips.*

**Phyllis Weltz, Treasurer**

As the wife of Hans Weltz, former WOA Treasurer for many years, I helped Hans with the Treasurer’s Reports. When I was asked to continue after Hans’ death 17 years ago, I was happy to come aboard as Treasurer. I have a 150-acre woodlot with a barn in Newfane, and am so thankful for all the help I have received from the Association in caring for this beautiful parcel of land. I was a special education “para-educator” at the Bellows Falls Middle School for about 13 years, and I’m now at the Westminster Center School for a second year. My two sons and their families live in South Carolina and Florida, respectively, so they don’t get a chance to visit that often; however, their father’s dream of keeping the land in the Current Use Program will continue in the future. I really don’t have a favorite tree and just appreciate them all—especially in the Fall, when the colors are spectacular.

**Andrew Snelling**

I grew up in Shelburne in Northern Vermont, which was at the time a small town of fewer than 2,000 people. Early on I was attracted to the woods and enjoyed hiking and camping. My grandparents had purchased 150 acres in Newfane back in 1938 as a summer retreat, and that property was my favorite destination for outdoor recreation as well as peaceful contemplation. My business career took me out of state for 25 years when I managed several manufacturing businesses in the Midwest, and upon retirement I wanted to return to Vermont and Windham County. My wife, Joanna, and I settled in Townshend. We enjoy attending the WRWA outings and learning more about the Vermont woodlands. I spend as much time as possible these days cleaning up blow-downs and cutting firewood, although I run the danger of harvesting more wood than we can possibly use in our passive solar house. My

favorite tree is the Hardhack or American Hophornbeam, a smaller tree that thrives in the understory. It isn't a pretty or majestic tree, but its hard dense wood burns long and bright on a winter night.

### **Dan Healey**

I live in Brattleboro with my wife and two young sons and practice forestry in southeastern Vermont (VT Lic. Forester # 148.0123642) Growing up primarily in eastern Massachusetts, I became interested in the outdoors as a boy by spending time with my grandfather, an avid outdoorsman and an Abenaki elder of the Missisquoi Nation in north-west Vermont. After high school, I followed my interests, and from one tangential experience to another, I found work in the field of forestry.

I moved to Windham County, Vermont about 15 years ago to "chop" for a small cut-to-length logging contractor. At first this was seasonal work. I lived in Vermont for the fall and winter, logging, and in the White Mountains of New Hampshire for spring and summer doing backcountry construction and trail work. In my twenties I eventually settled into full time living and working in Windham County. I struck out on my own for five years with a business focused on arboriculture, small-scale logging and invasive plant control.

Around the time I joined the board of WRWA, I returned to my former employer, Long View Forest, and transitioned from contracting and services based work to full time forestry work. My practical work as a logger, arborist, and invasive plant manager served as a foundation for this. As a forester, my passion is restoration and improvement of our region's largely single-age, first growth

(from agricultural abandonment) forests. The foresters of the last half century had a special role in protecting and managing this resource as well as getting landowners and government on board with the importance of doing so. Their collective experience and stories are important facets of my education as a forester. As our forests, economy and world change, I look forward to contributing my own experience and story to the field as well. My favorite tree is one that is free to grow!

### **Arthur Westing**

Arthur Westing's training was in botany and forestry and he has worked for the U.S. Forest Service, a number of universities and research institutes, as well as for the Environment Programme of the United Nations (UNEP).

He moved to Vermont in 1965, and has been on the faculties of Middlebury and Windham Colleges, and has been an outside examiner at Marlboro College. He served on the Governor's Environmental Control Advisory Committee (helping to develop Act 250), and has been a Contributing Editor of the *Vermont Freeman*. He has served on the statewide Boards of the Vermont Wild Land Foundation, Vermont Academy of Arts & Sciences, and Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife. Locally he has served on the Boards of the Windham Regional [Planning] Commission, Windham World Affairs Council, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, the then Woodland Owners' Association, and now additionally on the Board of that Association now known as the Windham Regional Woodlands Association—and, finally, as well on that of the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, of which he is a co-founder. His favorite tree is the Ginkgo.

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## **Sugaring Season Around the Corner**

*By Sam Schneski, Windham and Windsor County Forester*

As of the date I am writing this article (2/8/17), I know of a handful of producers in Windham County who have already tapped and some who have made syrup. The two-week January thaw we had was enough to drive some of the larger operations, and/or guys or gals who just couldn't bear to see those temperatures without spouts set, to tap. Personally, I wasn't ready so it was an easy decision for me. I replaced all my tubing with natural vacuum 3/16th line this past fall and am almost done putting all the drops in. (The drops are the

section of tubing that connect the tap to the lateral line)

In the latest edition of The Maple News newspaper I saw that a lot of folks across the northeast and mid-Atlantic region were boiling in mid-January. In my opinion, it's a gamble to tap that early for many reasons but when it's a major or sole source of income, I can't blame the folks that are doing it. We know that tap hole sanitation is crucial for good sap flow throughout a season but when

producers tap in late December, it becomes even more important because there is that much more time for bacteria buildup. Bacteria are the first things that slow and/or taint sap, followed later in the season ultimately by the changes in the tree's phenology.

Sugaring operations that have clean tubing, new or clean spouts, and vacuum systems that run whenever it's above freezing are least likely to get bacteria buildup. If the vacuum is shut off during a warm spell, bacteria will colonize sap in the lines and some will get drawn back to the tap much like a hose will siphon water from a tank when you turn off the flow of water. This introduction of bacteria will essentially prompt the tree to begin the healing process and lessen the flow of sap from that tap hole for the season. The direct exposure of outside air on a tap hole with a bucket will also speed up the growth of bacteria and ultimately speed up the healing process.

Sugar maple specifically have an excellent ability to compartmentalize wounds and keep on growing and/or surviving. This is one of the main reasons we can tap a tree for 100 years, but it is also one of the reasons to be mindful of tap hole sanitation. A relatively recent advance in maple technology known as the check valve spout was designed for exactly this purpose. There is a little ball in the head of the spout that gets pushed out of the way when sap is flowing and gets sucked back in place by the negative tree pressure when sap is not flowing and the vacuum (if you have one) is shut off, ultimately protecting the tree from unwanted bacteria.

If you don't have a vacuum system but have some sloping land in your sugarbush, the use of smaller diameter 3/16th tubing might be for you. Retired UVM maple specialist Tim Wilmot conducted research on the effect of using smaller tubing in a sloped sugarbush to form natural vacuum. He found that with the right elevation drop you can achieve good vacuum without the use of a mechanical system. One drawback is that you can't achieve as good vacuum at each tap because the

vacuum level relates to where on the line the tap is relative to the elevation drop to the tank. The rule of thumb that was discovered is that in a tight leak-free system, for every foot of elevation gain from the tank you can see an increase of .88" of vacuum. An ideal situation would be to have a slightly sloping plateau of a sugarbush that then drops abruptly and is at least 30 vertical feet above a collection tank. In theory, every tap would see the maximum vacuum. Maximum achievable vacuum levels vary based on the elevation above sea level of the land, but I use a general benchmark of 27" of vacuum to declare, pretty close to if not exactly, the best possible vacuum.

Some other trends that continue in the sugaring world are highly efficient pellet fired evaporators as well as an electric model that has just come out. Advances in Reverse Osmosis (RO) machines seem to be continuing. Last year I read an article about an RO machine that makes a "super concentrate" sap, which is concentrated to something like 41 percent sugar content! There was a picture of a guy holding a mason jar of the stuff and it looked like skim milk.

Personally, I'm staying closer to "old school" with my operation. Not many buckets anymore, but I'm not using a mechanical vacuum, and all sap is boiled in my wood fired little 2' x 8' evaporator and filtered using gravity through a filter sock (not an actual sock). This year a plumber friend of mine is working with me to build a preheater in which the cold sap will come into the preheater located above the flues on my flue pan. Scalding hot steam generated by the flue pan surrounds the pipes of the pre-heater. After making its way through the pre-heater the sap should enter the flue pan around 200 degrees instead of 35. I'm hoping this increase in boiling efficiency will result in less use of sugarwood. Another benefit will be the constant source of hot water running out of the hood that the pre-heater sits in. I learned on a 4' x 12' rig that had a homemade preheater, and it was very handy to have the hot water for cleanup. Happy sugaring.

**WRWA Members!** Share your thoughts about the woods with fellow members! Is there a woodlot that you love, perhaps your own? What have you learned from the woods? What concerns do you have for our forests? Write down your woodland thoughts and email them to [windhamwoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:windhamwoodlands@gmail.com) for publication in a future issue of Woodlot Tips. You don't need to write a long article—a paragraph is fine.

## Report on the PING 2.0 Private Woodland Owner Study

*The study, a follow-up to the earlier PING 1.0, was conducted in the summer of 2016 by students Karina Agbisit and Kathryn Rawson under the mentorship of David Kittredge from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Emily Silver Huff from the USDA Forest Service, with the support of Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.*

**What is PING?** The study authors developed an improved survey method using electronic means that asked private landowners a question about their land and their thoughts about it. Landowners were “pinged” once weekly in the summer of 2016.

### **Why Was PING 2.0 conducted?**

Private woodland owners all over the country, and particularly in New England, are critically important to the health and future of our nation’s forests. It is important to understand the behavior of private woodland owners because private woodland owners in the United States collectively own more forested land than the federal government or any other type of owner, and their actions and decisions will impact the public goods these forests provide (Butler et al. 2016). Typical studies of private woodland owner behavior involve self-reported surveys where people are asked to recall past behavior or predict future behavior. These surveys are prone to bias, as it can be difficult to remember when things occur or to accurately predict what one will do in the future. PING 2.0 was designed as a continuation of testing a new survey method that aims to reduce this bias and provide a more accurate snapshot of how landowners engage with their land on a short-term basis. We wanted to learn if this survey method was an effective way of reaching woodland owners.

### **What We Learned from PING 2.0**

Ping 2.0 was a success. Overall we had an amazing response of 119 participants willing to contribute to our research efforts. Over 50 percent of participants completed all six PING 2.0 surveys: the initial preliminary survey, the four single question weekly pings, and the final evaluation survey.

One of the most important lessons we learned from this research is that traditional methods of recruiting participants (i.e. mailing out postcards) are not as effective as reaching out through the social networks of environmental or forestry organizations. Without the generous support of the many organizations that helped us spread the word about PING 2.0, we would have had fewer than 10 participants. For our analysis, we took the activities listed in the PING questions and split them up

into two categories: alteration activities (i.e. timber harvesting, trail construction or livestock grazing) and consideration activities (i.e. walking in woods, talking about woods, or thinking about woods).

While the number of alteration activities was greater than the number of consideration activities when considered as total counts, the average number of consideration activities reported per person was significantly higher than the average number of alteration activities per person.

Our experience with PING 2.0 has provided us with many insights and clearer ideas for a direction for future improvements and research. Our sample of woodland owners was similar in terms of age, education, and ownership area characteristics that are reported in typical woodland owner surveys. The majority of participating landowners lived within their woodland, but many absentee landowners reported on their experience as well. Participants did not find the survey method too onerous, as evidenced by the low dropout rates through the process and specific comments recorded in the final survey. We learned that the short weekly contact involved with PING 2.0 was generally effective, but that there may be benefits in testing longer time intervals between surveys or including more in depth questions, since woodland owners are very passionate and knowledgeable about their land.

Future versions of PING are likely to have a shorter list of activities, and more open ended questions so participants can tell us in their own words how they engage with their woodland. We also learned that there are several activities that are important to woodland owners that should be included in the future, such as recreation or wildlife observation.

### **Citation:**

Butler, Brett J., Jaketon H. Hewes, Brenton J. Dickinson, Kyle Andrejczyk, Sarah M. Butler, and Marla Markowski-Lindsay. 2016. Family Forest Ownerships of the United States, 2013: Findings from the USDA Forest Service’s National Woodland Owner Survey. *Journal of Forestry*. Published online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.15-099>

## Wood is Great: The Elevator Pitch

*By Dave Mance III, Editor, Northern Woodlands Magazine*

The world can often seem too complicated for its own good. It's a big reason why people like you and I live in a rural place, where things are simpler to some degree.

Through this lens, I sort of hate having to write columns periodically on why burning wood for heat is good, because of course it's good. We all know this. I don't have to tell you that cutting your own firewood, or buying a load of logs from the local logger, or a pallet of pellets that were produced in this region, and using that fuel to keep your family warm is a million times better than buying an imported fossil fuel product. You already know that the new wood chip boiler in your local public school has saved the taxpayers in your region hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But unfortunately, just knowing it is not enough. People like you and I need to champion wood, lest we lose the culture and the infrastructure that has built up around its use. And if we're going to be good advocates, we need to hone our elevator pitches on why it's a superior fuel. I'm a sucker for a long, meditative essay on the soulfulness of work and fire as much as the next rural geek, but much of the world has no time for meditative essays. People want things quantified and scientized, and there are plenty of misguided environmental activists and PR people from the fossil fuel industry who are filling the numbers vacuum with fuzzy math.

In light of all this, I was happy to read this new study (<https://northernforest.org/programs/modern-wood-heat/wood-pellet-greenhouse-gas-emissions-study>) on greenhouse gas emissions and state-of-the-art wood pellet boilers. The report (<http://sig-nal.org/>) was commissioned by the Northern Forest Center and conducted by The Spatial Informatics Group-Natural Assets Laboratory (SIG-NAL) using data specific to the region's forest composition and harvest practices, and the pellet sourcing and manufacturing of nine northern forest pellet mills. You can read the detailed methodology here

(<https://northernforest.org/images/resources/energy/greenhouse-gas-emissions-study-methodology-web.pdf>).

Here's the elevator pitch:

On day one, using wood pellets for heat reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 54 percent compared to oil and 59 percent to natural gas.

After 50 years, greenhouse gas emissions from pellets drop to 62 percent less than oil, 67 percent less than natural gas, and 56 percent less than propane.

Here's one more for you from the Northern Forest Center website that's handy to have in your back pocket:

Every dollar we spend on regionally produced wood pellets stays in the northern forest economy, creating jobs in forestry, logging, pellet manufacturing, and trucking. In contrast, 78 cents of every dollar we spend on imported fossil fuel (currently \$6 billion annually) leaves the region; much of it leaves the country.

Know a Hillary supporter who's extra motivated these days to do something to fight climate change? They could instantly cut their greenhouse gas emissions in half by switching from oil to wood pellet heat. Know a Trump supporter who's into creating jobs and skeptical that climate change is even a problem? Remind them that only twenty cents of every dollar spent on oil benefits the economy in the Northeast, while one hundred percent of every dollar spent on wood heat helps make the rural Northeast great again.

*This article first appeared as an Editor's Blog on the Northern Woodlands magazine website.*

*Northern Woodlands is published by the Center for Northern Woodlands Education, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance a culture of forest stewardship in the Northeast.*

*Visit [www.northernwoodlands.org](http://www.northernwoodlands.org) to learn more and subscribe.*



## Wood Stove Change-out Rebate Now Available

Vermonters can now change-out their old non EPA-certified wood stoves (approximately pre-1988) with a new cleaner and more efficient wood or pellet stove and get up to \$1,500 off the price of the new stove at participating stove retailers.

The Stove Change-out Program is a collaborative effort between the CEDF and the Agency of Natural Resource's Air Quality & Climate Division.

### Wood Stove Change-out Program Goals:

- Reduce emissions of wood smoke in Vermont
- Increase the use of cleaner wood and wood pellet burning stoves in Vermont
- Promote a sustainable and healthy VT forest economy
- Support VT wood and pellet stove manufacturers and dealers

### Incentive Levels:

Type of Stove	Particulate Emissions Limit	Incentive Amount \$
Pellet or Cord Wood	≤1.5 grams per hr.	\$1,500
Pellet or Cord Wood	≤2.0 grams per hr.	\$1,000
Cord Wood	≤2.5 grams per hr.	\$750
Cord Wood	≤3.0 grams per hr.	\$500

### General Qualifications

- 1 The old wood stove must be destroyed and cannot be an EPA certified stove (approximately pre-1988 wood stove). Therefore the stove cannot be on this list: [www.epa.gov/compliance/historical-list-epa-certified-wood-heaters/](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/historical-list-epa-certified-wood-heaters/)
- 2 The old stove must be in use
- 3 The new wood or pellet stove must be EPA certified to have particulate emission limits equal or less than the limits listed above to receive an incentive
- 4 An incentive reservation is required before the purchase and/or installation of a stove
- 5 The incentive is only available through participating wood stove retailers (for list of participating retailers go to: [www.nerc-vt.org/incentives-program/application-forms](http://www.nerc-vt.org/incentives-program/application-forms))

### Wood Stove Change-out Application and Forms Online:

[Incentive Reservation Application](#) , [Final Project Documentation](#) , [Stove Retailer Participation Agreement](#)

**For More Information on the Wood Stove Change-out Program contact the Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) at:**

Web: [www.RERC-VT.org](http://www.RERC-VT.org)

Phone: 877-888-7372

## A Tribute to a True Steward of the Land

*By Bill Guenther, County Forester*

While reading the *Brattleboro Reformer* one day in October, I was stunned to learn that long time WRWA member John Evans of Dummerston had unexpectedly passed away while traveling back home from Arizona. While John was in his late 70s, he could easily pass for a 50-something with his fit figure and youthful features. After retirement, John and his wife Barbara moved to their Dummerston farm and immediately immersed themselves in many activities including the then Woodland Owner's Association. (Barbara has been our faithful newsletter editor now for over 10 years.)

I think that John had stewardship in his DNA as he immediately sent out to manage his 83 acres near Kipling's historic home, Naulakha. He and Barbara joined WRWA and started attending meetings and programs, and I was always intrigued (and challenged!) by his probing questions and keen intellect. He just did not want knowledge about something, but wanted to learn it all!

John took a very strong interest in invasive plants and once again did not want to know just the basics, but wanted the doctorate, by doing hours of research to learn not only basic identification but the specific traits of each plant and especially concentrating on control measures. At first he learned about the manual and mechanical methods, but found they were not always up to the challenge of rampant invasives spreading, at least on his own property. He then learned as much as he could about the correct use and types of herbicides and

their proper applications. John teamed up with neighbor and past WRWA President Bill Schmidt, and they held several workshops on their properties on invasives control. Their goal was to teach landowners about chemical methods the average landowner could use without a specialized license. He also served on the Dummerston Nature Preserve and Trails committee, and worked with the Prospect Hill Pasture Committee to clear the summit of invasives.

John and Barbara both went through the Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife training in 2002, and John later became very active and served for many years on the Coverts council. In addition, he faithfully volunteered as the Coverts newsletter editor for many years.

There were a number of things I learned about John after his passing, and one was a love we shared of the Adirondacks. He spent a lot of time on Blue Mountain Lake, perhaps the crown jewel of the "Dacks." John was also a fan of the Adirondack Guideboat, a unique wooden craft that functions both as a watercraft and a true work of art. His family acquired one back in 1906 and John, his brother and his son spent many vacation days fishing from the guideboat.

We lost a great friend of the forest this past fall, but the woodlands of Windham County are a better place due to the many efforts of John Evans. John, we sure miss you!

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## Avenza PDF Maps — a Handy Techno Tool for the Woods

*By: Sam Schneski Windham and Windsor County Forester*

I can see Bill Guenther rolling his eyes and digging his heels in now. "I'm a Luddite, a graybeard, all this techno stuff is too crazy," he'd say. "I don't even have one of those cell phone thingies. I threw my television out the window 30 years ago." I sort of understand Bill's resistance to embracing our technological state of being, but another way to look at it is that it's okay to decide there are some tools out there that are pretty useful.

As we entered the age of iPhones, android phones, and other similar phones, the possibilities for

being useful to me in the woods seemed limited. Yes, they have global positioning system (gps) and built in compass capacity, but I still carry a traditional compass and paper map. The charge never runs out on those things. When I got my iPhone three years ago I had a steep learning curve. Little did I know I would be able to check my e-mail messages almost anywhere (sometimes a curse), text people short conversation type messages, or load different apps that do different things like show what the weather forecast is for my area of the state. Those things are neat, sometimes dis-

tracting, but mostly useful. I have experience using a handheld gps unit and loading maps onto them to see where I am on the ground in relation to the surrounding landscape, but I began wondering if there was something I could get on my phone to essentially get rid of yet another battery-operated navigation device. A co-worker up in Essex told me about the Avenza pdf Maps mobile app. He had used it on fire assignments and Vermont Emergency Management incidents.

If you know how to load an app on your phone and find it useful to know exactly where you are on a property, this app may be for you. I can create a map in a Geographic Information System (GIS) in my office, save it as a pdf document and load it on my phone through the iTunes website. I don't really know why it must go through iTunes because it has nothing to do with music, but I do know that when you plug your phone into a computer and open iTunes, you can navigate to your phone and all the apps you have on it. You can then search your computer for a map that was saved as a pdf and load it onto the phone through iTunes.

This comes in handy for me when doing Use Value Appraisal (UVA) site visits. I can develop a map that shows all the UVA parcels in each town and load it on the phone. In the office I can look at clusters of properties and see which ones abut each other, grab the files, and head out to the woods. I have gotten way more efficient at doing my inspections. Because of the ever-increasing UVA workload, county foresters need to be gaining

efficiencies wherever possible. I can park the truck in one spot and spend a day sometimes walking four to six parcels without having to go back to the truck and drive to the next parcel. I can tell where on the parcel I am so if the forest management activity report says there was cutting in stand two or a blowdown in stand eight, I can head right to those stands without spending much time pawing over the paper map figuring out if I'm in the general vicinity of the stands. Another benefit is that the app runs off a satellite connection like a gps unit so cell service is not critical.

Recently Avenza PDF Maps has changed their policy so if you work for a government agency or a big commercial business you are supposed to purchase a license to use the product. Which is a little bit of a pain but I can see where they are coming from. However, a private user can download up to three maps at a time for free. This came in handy the other day. I have been working with a young logger who's cutting a town forest timber sale. I showed him the app when we were doing a pre-sale walkthrough and he asked if he could get the app on his phone. When I got back to the office I e-mailed him the map of the sale and he said he could easily load it onto his phone without even using iTunes and a desktop computer. I'm not exactly sure how he did it, but the point is that now he knows exactly where he is when he's cutting and can figure out how much he's completed and how much he has left to do. For more information on this app go to <http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps>. Happy mapping.

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**Windham Regional Woodlands Association**  
130 Austine Drive, Suite 300  
Brattleboro, VT 05301-7040

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**Upcoming Programs**  
*(See inside for details)*

<b>Saturday, March 25, at 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Sugarhouse Tour Bunker Farm Sugarhouse, Dummerston</b>
<b>Saturday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WRWA Members Only Field Trip Somerset Old Growth Forest Tour</b>
<b>Friday, April 7, at 7p.m.</b>	<b>Into the Woods With Our Children Consulting Forester Lynne Levine</b>
<b><i>SAVE THE DATES!</i></b> <b>Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30</b>	<b>Tour at The Scott Farm of Recent Timber Harvest with Consulting Forester Ian Martin and County Forester Bill Guenther</b>
<b>Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BIG Tree Tour!</b>

*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.