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WOODLOT TRIPS



SUMMER 2012

Saturday, August 30 — An Elysian Hills tree walk from the mail box to the driveway will be held for WOA members on August 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. (*See story inside*)

Directions to Elysian Hills: From I-91 Exit 3 roundabout go north on Rte. 5 for 1.4 miles and turn left on Middle Rd.; go 1 mile to Tucker Reed Rd. and turn right and go to top of hill. From Rte. 30 Iron Bridge (Covered Bridge is closed) go left on Quarry Rd. to East-West Rd. and turn right for 3 miles east to Dummerston Center; turn right on Middle Rd. and go 1.75 miles to Tucker Reed Rd. on left; turn on Tucker Reed Rd. and go to top of hill. Parking is in the field opposite the mailbox.

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 15 — WOA Annual Meeting, at the Margaret MacDonald property in South Newfane

The MacDonald woodland consists of approximate 475 acres and has been actively managed for many years. We will observe and discuss white pine management, shelterwood harvesting, hardwood crop-tree management and invasive plant removal. Expect a full meeting announcement in early September.

President's Column

By George Weir

Regulating Forest Health and Sustainability

When I wrote an article on the difficulties of defining sustainability in the Winter newsletter, I certainly did not anticipate the legislature would enact a law with the intent of ensuring forest health and sustainability. The section below is excerpted from act S.214, "the energy bill," and was added to the bill near the end of the legislative session. There had been extensive discussion in many settings about the energy bill. This section was added to the bill after those discussions and caught many of us by surprise. The act is 71 pages long and the language below is found on the final pages.

Here are the sections that relate to use value lands.

(a) The secretary of natural resources shall develop voluntary harvesting guidelines that may be used by private landowners to help ensure long-term forest health. These guidelines shall address harvesting that is specifically for wood energy purposes, as well as other harvesting. The secretary may also recommend monitoring regimes as part of these guidelines.

(b) The commissioner of forests, parks and recreation (the commissioner) shall adopt rules or procedures to modify the process of approving forest management plans and forest practices on lands enrolled in the use value appraisal program, established under 32 V.S.A. chapter 124, in order to address long-term forest health and sustainability. These modifications shall include requirements for preapproval by the commissioner or designee of whole-tree harvesting and for applying the guidelines developed under subsection (a) of this section to harvesting on lands enrolled in the use value appraisal program.

Although I have no idea what guidelines, procedures and rules the ANR Secretary and FPR commission will adopt, I have concern. To date, the state does not have a list of approved or disapproved practices and only regulates biomass harvests in important wildlife habitat and heavy cutting. Both require permits.

Much of S.214 dealt with whole tree harvesting for biomass and wood energy. The sections added in the eleventh hour include all harvesting practices on Use Value lands. With respect to forest health and sustainability, S.214 allows the state to allow or disallow specific harvesting practices. This begs the question, are there commonly employed practices on UVA land that threaten either?

To try to get a better understanding of what constitutes forest health and sustainability I went to the internet and came across numerous definitions. All refer to resilience over the long term; some emphasize the production of commodities and allow restoration of natural conditions through management interventions, others leave human use out entirely and emphasize biodiversity, ecosystem function, recurrence, persistence and natural processes. And some include both natural processes and commodity production.

Several articles I came across advise that statements about forest health and sustainability require narrowly focused definitions of each to avoid ambiguity. Neither is easily measured or quantifiable and both are subject to bias, based on individual perspective. What is true for statements is more than true for law. Unfortunately, S.214 provides no guidance on this and presumably, it is left to the Commissioner and Secretary to establish those definitions. Ideally from my perspective, the law would be revised to focus solely on large-scale biomass harvesting. Concerns for soil nutrient depletion when entire trees are removed from the forest are justifiable, quantifiable and narrowly focused. Going beyond that would allow for interpretations based on personal opinions

However, I doubt anyone will undertake revision of the law. The broader powers the law allows have the support of many in the legislature as well as a number of environmental organizations. The best that can come of S.214 is a probably prolonged and possibly contentious — but perhaps productive — discussion on what constitutes forest health and sustainability.

Don't forget to renew your WOA membership
and support the scholarship fund!

WOA Email Address: woodlandownersassociation@gmail.com

Strolling of the Heifers, June 2

The rains came and didn't let up, cutting significantly into the audience for Brattleboro's annual Strolling of the Heifers. One of the few refuges in soggy, chilly Brattleboro was the tent protecting the Forestry Exhibit, where WOA and other environmental organizations had set up displays and demonstrations. Exhibitors reported lively traffic throughout the morning, as drenched visitors sought shelter and took the opportunity to learn about local forestry

programs and collect informational materials. Still, by 2:30 the tent was empty except for the exhibitors themselves. Being sensible people, all of us soon packed up our materials and headed for home and the opportunity to change into dry clothing.

We wish the event organizers better weather next year ... and we will always welcome volunteers to help staff our table.

— *Margaret MacDonald*

Strolling of the Heifers Hike, June 3

After a soggy Saturday, day two of Strolling of the Heifers weekend brought sunshine and perfect weather for hiking and bike touring, both starting at Lilac Ridge farm in West Brattleboro.

About a dozen others and I hiked to the top of Round Mountain, stopping along the way to discuss the forest vegetation and history, and to catch our breath. From the summit we enjoyed the views to the east

and south and looked down on the festivities at Lilac Ridge — music playing, bicycles coming and going.

The Round Mountain trail results from the generosity of the Thurber family and the work of Brattleboro Career Center students. It is easy to find and follow, not too strenuous, and a wonderful way to spend several hours on a summer day. Thanks to the Thurber family for creating the trail and allowing public use.

— *George Weir*

Tree Walk From Mail Box to House Driveway — 33 different trees: *August 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m.*

by Bill Schmidt, former WOA president

This summer I've taken particular account of the number and kinds of trees along and readily visible from the road between our mailbox and the driveways to our house and barn. Amazingly there are 33 in all, a broad range of deciduous trees and conifers, hardwoods and softwoods, native, naturalized, and ornamentals plus some fruit trees. In the mix are two that are considered invasive.

Especially impressive is the parade of black locusts along the road, a beautiful blue spruce, an unusual weeping willow, and near the entrance, magnificent red oaks and a huge black cherry. Prominent are sugar and red maples, white pines, hemlock and of course the plantation balsam fir, canaan fir, and white spruce Christmas trees grown and sold at Elysian Hills.

There's white oak, white ash, elm, basswood, black and white birch, beech, hop hornbeam, pin cherry,

aspen, red pine, and Norway spruce. Ornamentals include a magnolia, crabapple, Japanese maple, and weeping cherry. Fruit trees are some apples, pears and a plum. A honey locust, not native to New England, joined the assemblage this spring. The invasives are a Norway maple and the black locusts.

This potpourri of trees is wonderful for tree identification with leaf and bark contrasts readily apparent. The collection also invites a view of trees as a metaphor for life. An example for me is a weeping willow that Hurricane Floyd pushed over in 1999. The fallen tree surprised me. Several of the branches on its trunk reached up, and over the years have become trees themselves — or maybe I should say a great willow bush. The metaphor here is that one shouldn't give up and think all is lost when life goes awry and something terrible or unfortunate happens. Life can go on in unforeseen, remarkable ways.

A Walk in the Woods: Surveyors Workshop

By Margaret MacDonald, WOA trustee

WOA trustee Diana Todd hosted a workshop on land surveying at her home in Halifax, Vermont, on May 5. Three local surveyors — Malcolm Moore from Marlboro, David Mann from Keene, and Tom Wagener from Guilford — introduced WOA members and other guests to the principles and practices of surveying. They began the workshop by stating that “ownership” is really a bundle of rights that include title, possession, and the right to convey property. Malcolm then described the three types of evidence that surveyors use to determine boundaries: physical (e.g., fences, marked trees, stone walls), records, and parole (spoken). Evidence as to boundaries involves imprecision and contradiction from the start: the deed held by one property owner may not coincide with the deed held by his or her neighbor. Old deeds may refer to markers that no longer exist (e.g., a tree), or be ambiguous (e.g., “the stone wall” when there are several stone walls in the area). Furthermore, some owners assume that their tax bill, or use value map, portrays their boundaries accurately; these are not surveyors’ maps and do not meet the legal standard for determining ownership.

Perhaps surprisingly, courts give the most weight to unwritten rights, or “adverse possession,” when determining property boundaries. This means, in essence, that even without a deed someone can become the legal owner of a property by “openly and notoriously” (i.e., in a way that the public could perceive) asserting a right over the property for 15 years — if the abutting landowner makes no objection. For example, a person could assert a right by cutting trees or building a structure. A neighbor who believes he or she actually owns the land must act immediately, either by protesting or by also making some physical modification to the land. (As it happens, during our afternoon walk Diana pointed out a trail that her neighbor apparently considered part of his land; Malcolm advised her to declare her rights by dropping a few trees across the trail and putting up a “No trespassing” sign.)

Next to adverse possession, courts give weight to senior rights, or the sequence of conveyances: the older sale applies. Then, in descending order, the courts weigh physical evidence, bearing and distance, and statements of acreage. The surveyors also

explained the difference between a warranty deed (a seller guarantees that the buyer owns the property), a quitclaim (an owner releases rights to another person), and a tax deed (the town sells the property to the owner).

Various surveying maps, ranging from a chart showing how Vermont land was laid out in 1687 to the current town map of Halifax (which Diana maintains), were on display during the workshop, as were surveying tools dating back to the Civil War. All of the maps, even the most recent, reveal uncertainties regarding boundaries.

Some other key points from the workshop:

- All boundaries were created by subdividing a larger parcel. Surveyors try to trace the chain of ownership on both sides of the property, and if possible interview the person who created the boundary originally. This means that they also examine the history of abutting parcels, and interview the neighboring landowners.
- Landowners should walk their boundaries every year, both to ensure that neighbors have not attempted to assert rights over part of their property and to maintain the condition of existing markings.
- Surveyors have a quasi-judicial function: while they report to the landowners who hire them, they are impartial and represent objective truth. A landowner may therefore not be pleased with the surveyor’s findings. Because of this, the surveyor must ask the landowner for permission to put the survey results on record.
- Acreage is calculated on the basis of linear distance between coordinate points as though the earth were flat. Today’s geographic information systems (GIS) give a far more accurate portrayal, since they reflect elevation and slope as well as latitude/longitude.
- Today’s technology enables surveyors to take measurements to an accuracy of 1/8 of an inch — far more precise than most

boundary markers. Even an iron pin is far broader than 1/8 of an inch!

- Precise GIS measurements can be obtained from the Vermont Transportation Department and from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) network (<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/CORS/>).
- The EPOCH GPS [Global Positioning System] Receiver – EPOCH 10 – <http://www.spectraprecision.com/epoch10-page.aspx> makes it possible to place the property on coordinates on the earth – including elevation. Coordinates are now considered the lowest criterion for establishing location – unless the coordinate was established by the government. For example, monuments set up by the U.S. Geological Survey are accurate if they were established using GPS.
- The term “monuments” refers to physical evidence; it covers both natural and man-made markers. For a monument to be considered a valid marker, the owner and surveyor must believe the monument has not been moved from its original location. A replacement monument (e.g., an iron pin marking where two fences used to come together) can take on the authority of the earlier marker. Again, a surveyor may wish to verify the position of a monument by checking with the former owner of the adjoining parcel. If no monument exists, the surveyor must defer to the next criterion, such as distance or bearing (e.g., “A point 100 feet ESE from the iron pin”).
- Many surveyors no longer blaze trees. Instead, they set metal fence points and use paint.
- Barbed wire fences are not reliable boundary markers. Farmers put the fences near their boundaries, but the boundaries predated the fences. A stone wall is considered a more reliable monument: such walls take more work to build than barbed wire fences, so landowners had to be certain about their right to the land before expending so much effort.

- Many deeds are inaccurate representations of a property. Diana told us that a neighboring landowner was shocked to discover that the “approximately 75 acres” he thought he owned – and had been paying taxes on – were in fact little more than 50 acres. The description in the deed had probably been made in good faith, based on earlier reports that were never verified by a formal survey.
- Surveyors only began to be licensed in the late 1960s.
- If a brook or stream marks a boundary, the legal standard is that the boundary moves to follow the body of water if the change is “gradual and imperceptible,” but stays the same if a sudden and catastrophic change occurs, such as the radical alterations that followed Tropical Storm Irene. A boundary marked by a river may shift from the bank to the center depending on where the body of water becomes navigable. The historical standard seems to be that if the deed does not specify “the water’s edge” or “the bank,” the boundary is at the center.
- Surveys are expensive, and a survey may be unnecessary unless landowners intend to sell property or subdivide it, or find themselves in a boundary dispute. However, a survey does provide certainty regarding the extent of the property over which a landowner has control.

The surveyors described the procedures they follow in conducting a survey, and displayed and demonstrated some of the equipment they use, including the standard surveyor’s chain, several types of theodolite, and GPS equipment. Before we headed out into the field, Diana demonstrated how to read a compass; she then lent compasses to interested participants and encouraged us to use the readings to find and follow the boundary descriptions she handed out. During the walk, the three surveyors pointed out features they would look for, and we discovered some boundary flagging that Diana had not previously been aware of – as well as further damage to trees and structures caused by Tropical Storm Irene.

Thanks to Diana for hosting this workshop, and to Malcolm, David, and Tom for sharing their knowledge with us.

The Past, Present and Future of Southern Vermont's Forests

Excerpts from a presentation at the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center (BMAC)

Part I

By Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester

Back in June I was invited by the BMAC to serve on a panel with ecologist Tom Wessels, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Biologist Frost Hammond, and John Caveney, Vice President for Timber at Cersosimo Lumber Co. (and also a WOA trustee). WOA President and consulting forester George Weir served as moderator. The museum had had a four-month exhibit featuring many facets of trees and thought it would be good to include a panel discussion with a group of local folks having woodlands expertise.

The theme was the past, present and future of the regional woodlands, with each panelist providing a different perspective. It was a fun evening for me to present with such esteemed colleagues. My goal was to give an overview of our woods in Windham County through my eyes during the past 25 years, 2012 being my Silver Anniversary down here in the "Banana Belt." Past WOA President Bill Schmidt suggested that I offer some excerpts from my remarks to WOA members in the newsletter, with some additional comments in the next issue.

Starting off, I like to refer to our woodlands as a "Verdant Treasure" that provides us with a vast array of benefits. Our forests are rich in biodiversity. With an incredible mix of tree species, they provide a backdrop for a wide variety of recreational pursuits

and, very importantly, they are a huge economic driver for our local and statewide economies. Tourism generates the highest number of dollars for our little state, but without the backdrop of our wooded countryside, this industry would not be where it is today. Just think of the fall foliage season! The wood products industry is the second largest manufacturing industry in the state (after IBM) and Windham County is home to the state's two largest sawmills. Other specialty products from our woodlands, such as maple syrup, add to both the economy and the cultural fabric that make Vermont such a popular tourist destination.

We next explored some metrics and I pointed out that Windham County is the second most forested in Vermont at 87 percent, eclipsed by only the Northeast Kingdom county of Essex. This translates to roughly 445,000 acres of forestland. The next number seemed to surprise the crowd: Windham County is the timber capital of Vermont, measured by the fact that we have the highest number of board feet stocking per acre of all 14 Counties. Additionally, we have a very productive output of new growth as our increment of new wood produced is about 250,000 cords per year.

(To be continued in the Fall newsletter.)

Who Is the Next Generation of Forest Landowners?

By Diana Todd, WOA trustee

Nearly 50 percent of forestland in the United States, including nearly 60 percent of productive timberland, is privately held (not owned by government agencies or by forest products companies). These private owners are aging, with 60 percent being over 55 years old, and half of those being over 65. Researchers, anticipating a massive change in private forest landownership over the next two decades, have begun looking into the attitudes of the children of today's family forest owners.

What have they found? "The general picture that emerges of the next-generation owners . . . is that most have had little involvement to date in the management of the family forest; and many of these individuals have little interest in becoming more involved."¹

Catherine Mater, a senior fellow at the Pinchot Institute, conducted the first such study in 2005, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies. She designed a study that conducted telephone interviews with 300

potential heirs of 200 family forest landowners from six regions of the United States, including the Northeast. Having identified the younger generation by first contacting the current forest owners, she knew that few of the study families had discussed what would happen to the family forest when the parents died.

Mater found that most of the interviewees stated that they did want to inherit the land, but 60 percent were not involved in the current management of the forest (regardless of location, gender, or age). Most of the potential heirs did not live near their family's forestland and did not plan to live on the forestland in the future. Nevertheless, the younger generation did, by and large, expect that the family forest would provide them with a source of income in the future, primarily from timber harvesting. Over 60 percent of the offspring stated that they believed their parents were managing the forest for wild-life protection, not as a timber crop.

Interesting gender differences were revealed. When asked why they wanted to inherit the land, males tended to cite the potential for income or desire to use the land themselves, while females were more likely to focus on maintaining the family legacy of the land. Males ranked the ability of the land to produce income as its most valuable characteristic, while females emphasized the undeveloped nature of the land. The

younger generation tended to have fewer affiliations with forestry or environmental organizations than their parents, but female offspring were even less connected than their male counterparts.

In general, the younger generation stated that they intended to hold on to the land, but they anticipated taxes on the forest being a burden that might eventually prompt them to sell. They also worried about not having the knowledge to manage the forest (females especially), and anticipated potential issues arising out of sibling rivalry (males especially). Both older and younger generations, male and female, cited medical costs as being a factor that could motivate them to sell their land.

Who will inherit your land? Are they aware of your forest management plan? Have you asked them if they want to inherit the land? Do they share your goals for your forest? Will they be able to afford the taxes and management costs? Start talking to your potential heirs now.

For more information on the Mater study, go to www.pinchot.org.

"The New Generation of Private Forest Landowners: Brace for Change", The Pinchot Letter, News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, Vol. 10, No. 2, Winter 2005.

Woodland Secret #7 — Our Forest-Dependent Birds

By Arthur H. Westing, Former WOA Trustee

Various of our local bird species have become ever more rare in recent years. Some of those diminished sightings surely derive from losses in the particular (sometimes very specific) habitats upon which each bird depends. For those that spend their winters in Central America or the Caribbean this may well be resulting from diminished or degraded habitats there. But for those that spend either their whole year or summers here those losses are at least somewhat under our more direct control. Among the local habitat

requirements in question could be: sufficiently large (or at least adequately interconnected) tracts of woodland (whether upland or lowland, dry or wet); the mix of tree species they contain (whether conifer, hardwood, or mixed); the health status of the trees (whether healthy and vigorous, sick and weak, or dying and dead); the age distribution of the trees (whether juvenile, mature, or over-mature); or the successional stage of the forest.

Thus, significant numbers of our local woodland birds invariably build their nests on or near the ground, protected from their predators by being hidden in the understory. Among those ground and understory nesters are several thrushes with their magical songs, including the Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) and our Vermont State Bird, the Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). Several warblers are also ground-nesting woodland birds, including the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and the Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Warblers are strictly insectivorous, while thrushes eat berries and other fruits as well. Three game birds — Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), and Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — all spend much time in the woods and, once again, also build their nests on or near the forest floor.

Sad to say, the woodland ground-nesting birds, especially in southeastern Vermont, are in jeopardy owing in part to the extraordinarily high numbers of Whitetail Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), some 30 per square mile, perhaps double a safe and sustainable density. This overpopulation of deer has resulted from the essential elimination of their natural predators in combination with climate warming and overly low hunting pressures on both bucks and does. Those browsing deer not only decimate the necessary protective cover for the nests built at ground and near-ground levels, but at the same time consume such seedlings as Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Ameri-

can Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and especially Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) — thereby being detrimental not only to the birds, but additionally to desired forest regeneration.

Several woodpeckers depend on large dying and dead trees for both their sustenance (which includes the larvae of important forest insect pests) and their nesting sites, among these the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) and the Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). And their abandoned nesting cavities subsequently provide further nesting sites for Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and various small mammals. Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) live in our woodlands. Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) build their nests high up in tall forest trees. Brown creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) scavenge insects and spiders hidden in the bark of mature forest trees and even build their nests under appropriate bark flaps. Least Flycatchers (*Empidonax minimus*) utilize either open woodlands or forest borders.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that our woodland birds are an integral component of the ecosystems of which they are a part, and an aesthetic one at that. Some are important in the dissemination of tree seeds with fleshy fruits, such as those of Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*); and others in consuming large numbers of insect pests. Our hawks and owls keep seed-eating rodent numbers down, thereby favoring natural regeneration following forest fires or logging.

Update On The Big Three

By Bill Guenther, Windham County Forester

The Big Three (invasive insects) – HWA (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid), ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) and EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) – have concerned those of us in the natural resources community for a number of years. I'd like to give a brief update on the current status and distribution of each of these.

ALB – Reports from the Worcester, Mass. area indicate there has been no additional spread and the quarantine area is still listed at 110 square miles, the same as last fall. The surprising outbreak about 20 miles east of Cincinnati, Ohio, caught everyone by surprise. The initial survey last June necessitated a quarantine area of 47 square miles, which was raised a couple of weeks later to 56 square miles. As of August 2012, the infested area has not been expand-

ed. About 8,600 infested trees have been detected and most of these have been removed. No other outbreaks have been reported and the insect has not been found in Vermont.

EAB – Since my last update, this devastating pest has been found on the east side of the Hudson River in Rhinebeck, NY, which caused some alarm. Then this July it was discovered in two locations in the Prospect, Conn., area near Waterbury. As of this writing, I do not know the full extent of this infestation, but the detection was accomplished with the help of a predatory wasp known as *Cerceris*. *Cerceris* feeds on the family of borers (Buprestids) to which EAB belongs. The wasp stings the Buprestid and brings it back to its ground nest. Once the wasp

nests are identified, they can be monitored. It was during this process that the first EAB in Connecticut was detected. At this time, we don't think that there are enough *Cerceris* to kill off an EAB population, but they do provide a detection scheme for us.

HWA – The volunteer citizen's group known as First Detectors (see article in this newsletter), has been a big help in our surveys to determine the extent of the spread of HWA. A First Detector over in Pownal discovered a 2-acre infestation of HWA; this was the first known infestation in Vermont outside Windham County. Since Pownal is right on the Massachusetts border, this find was not really unexpected, but still is a new area. Likely our very mild winter has al-

lowed the northward spread; we saw very low mortality rates from this past "winter" that never really got here. Additionally HWA has also been now detected in Halifax and Wardsboro. At this time, we have not found any trees that have been killed by the insect, but HWA definitely creates a stress. If it occurs with other insects, diseases, or abiotic stressors, it could cause the demise of weakened trees. My Dep't has recently revised the landowner's guide on how to treat HWA infestations. The latest version can be found on our website at:

http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/documents/VTFPR_HWAinVT_RecommendationsforLandownerResponse.pdf

Help Protect Vermont's Trees: Become a Forest Pest First Detector

Burlington — Wanted: Volunteers interested in becoming Vermont Forest Pest First Detectors. Responsibilities include monitoring trees in their communities on a regular basis for the first signs of three destructive insect pests--the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and hemlock woolly adelgid.

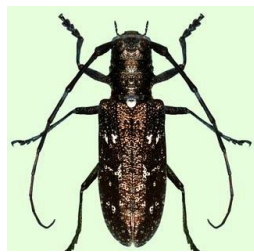
First Detectors also will assist state agencies with site visits and sample collection and help increase public awareness through community outreach efforts such as meetings, exhibits and newspaper articles. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least two hours a month for a year.

Free training will be provided through University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and includes seven online modules and one day of field training. The online sessions must be completed prior to the all-day training, which will be offered from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on two Saturdays in September. Volunteers may attend either session.

These trainings are scheduled for Sept. 15 at Castleton Community Center, Castleton, and Sept. 22 at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Forest Center, Woodstock.

To register or if requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Caitlin Cusack, Forest Pest First Detector Program coordinator, at (802) 656-7746 or caitlin.cusack@uvm.edu by Aug. 31. Continuing education credits are available for both the online and in-person training.

The First Detector Program is a joint initiative between UVM Extension; the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. To learn more visit www.vtinvasives.org/tree-pests/first-detectors/program



Left:
White spotted sawyer beetle with scale and up close.

Right:
Asian longhorned beetle up close.



WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs

(See inside for details.)

Saturday, August 30

Elysian Hills Tree Walk, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 15

**WOA Annual Meeting at the MacDonald
property in South Newfane**

Mission of Woodland Owners Association

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

Upcoming Programs

(See inside for details.)

Saturday, June 2

Strolling of the Heifers

Sunday, June 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Family Hike on Round Mountain

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 15

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