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WOODLOT TIPS

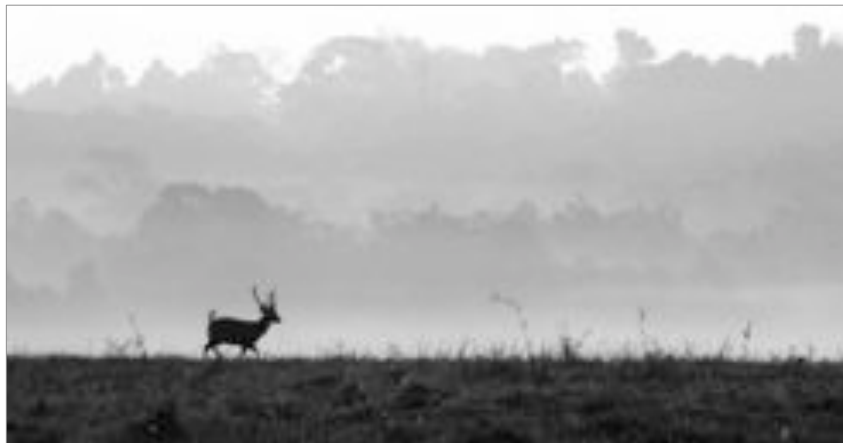


Photo: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

FALL 2014

Programs

Friday, January 16, 10 a.m.–approx 2:00 p.m. — Timberframe tour

WRWA Trustee Hayden Lake will lead a tour of *two* woodworking shops specializing in designing and building post-and-beam-style timberframe homes, barns, sheds and other structures. The first visit will be to Bensonwood Homes in Walpole, New Hampshire. Bensonwood was founded in the 1970s by Tedd Benson and has evolved over the decades to become a state-of-the-art modern timberframe company raising frames country wide and employing 65 people.

Our second visit will be just up the hill, also in Walpole, to the workshop of Tom Page. Here we will learn more about timberframing from a small 2–3 person operation using more traditional methods and local woods.

Directions: Meet in the Bensonwood Homes parking lot a few minutes before 10 a.m. at 6 Blackjack Crossing, Walpole, N.H. From Westminster Station, cross the Connecticut River, turn right on Rte. 12 South and go approximately five miles. Blackjack Crossing

and a sign for Bensonwood will be on the left. Both tour locations will be inside in heated shops. No dogs, please. Carpooling would be a plus. Prepare to stand for a few hours on hard surfaces.

Saturday, January 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. – noon — Oak Plantation and Winter Logging Tour

Willem van Loon, WRWA trustee and consulting forester, will lead a double-bill tour of a five-year-old oak plantation and an active white pine harvest on the woodlot of David Snyder and Sara Coffey in Guilford, Vermont. Heavy deer browse prevents the regeneration of valuable hardwoods in our region. Come see what happens when deer are prevented from browsing a patch of woods. White and Burr Oak are uncommon in our region and you will see what it takes to establish a young plantation of these interesting species.

What does an active winter timber harvest look like? We also will tour a cable skidder-based white pine logging job and discuss logistical challenges, markets, silviculture, ecological impact and more.

Please bring snowshoes and weather-appropriate clothing. The walk will not be long, but will include some moderate hill climbing. No dogs, please. Please carpool, if possible, and park at Guilford Sound, 542 Fitch, Road, Guilford (Brattleboro), Vt.

Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. — Winter Tree Identification and Potluck Lunch

County Forester Bill Guenther will lead a winter tree identification walk in the woodlands of Everett Wilson and Linda Lyon, a WRWA trustee, on Ballou Mountain in Halifax, Vt. Ballou Mountain, the second highest hill in Halifax, has a special richness of hardwoods and conifers. The walk will be followed by a potluck lunch. For those who may not be up for snowshoeing, you are welcome to come and sip hot cider and talk about trees while the others are on the walk. Well-mannered dogs are welcome to participate in this event.

Parking is limited, so please carpool if you can. You likely will need four-wheel drive to get up our driveway. Bring your snowshoes, as the mountain's north slope typically has snow cover well into April. If necessary, we may be able to arrange for some parking at our neighbors' for those who can make the walk through the woods to our house. If you plan to join us, please contact Linda (LindaALyon@gmail.com) or 802-368-2211) for directions.

Three Dates to Save! (Final program details will be in the Winter issue of Woodlot Tips.)

Saturday, March 21 — Annual Sugarhouse Tour

Friday, March 27, Newfane Common — Management/Pruning of Ornamental Sugar Maples, with Arborist Kevin Shrader and Windham County Forester Bill Guenther

Saturday, March 28, Winter Walk at Somerset Reservoir with Bill Guenther. Ski or snowshoe to a 12-acre old-growth yellow birch stand.

New Home for County Forester and Windham Regional Woodlands Association (WRWA)

The office of Windham County Forester Bill Guenther is now at the new location of The University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Office in Brattleboro. The new offices are at the former Austine School and Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, 130 Austine Dr., Suite 300. The phone number is (802) 257-7967 or (800)

278-5480 (toll-free in Vermont). Office hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The newly renovated space features state-of-the-art technology and meeting space for workshops, meetings and seminars.

The quarterly trustee meetings of the Windham Regional Woodlands Association (WRWA) are now held there. The small forestry library temporarily has been placed in storage.

Carol Morrison, who has been the clerk of the WRWA for many years, is retiring from the

Extension Service at the end of January, but will be winding up her service in December due to accumulated leave time. The good news for WRWA is that she will continue her work with the organization, for which we are grateful. Meanwhile we wish her well in her new free time!

It's official!

The Woodland Owners Association has a new name. It is now the Windham Regional Woodlands Association (WRWA). The trustees became aware of people's confusion about membership and noticed that many think woodland ownership is a requirement. Others think they are ineligible because they live elsewhere but own property in the Windham County region.

The mission statement, which appears at the end of every issue of *Woodlot Tips*, already refers to an

association of "...interested parties in the Windham County region who advocate both sustainable management practices and the enjoyment of forests and their ecosystems."

Therefore the board voted to begin using the d.b.a. ("doing business as") name **Windham Regional Woodlands Association** to free the organization from the misconception that only owners of woodland can be members. Invite your friends to join and enjoy our upcoming programs!

2014 Annual Meeting at Jamaica State Park

Aaron Hurst, State Lands Forester and WRWA trustee, welcomed the group and gave an overview of Jamaica State Park and its facilities, including some management challenges that have occurred on this unique parcel.



Aaron Hurst, State Lands Forester and WRWA trustee

Guest speaker Geoff Mandel, Research Supervisor and Field Technician in the UVM Archeology program, stirred our imagination, leading us back in time to a period when the West River was a major Native American transportation route linking the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain regions. Large encampments at the state park site overlooked the West River, and footpaths were sometimes followed by war parties.

From the park's rustic, open pavilion, we could look down at a major salmon pool where nets once gathered fish harvests, and look across a flat open

space where native peoples went about the business of making tools, preparing food and sharing their lives.

Mandel described the results of a 25-square meter dig near what today are rest room facilities at the park. Three thousand artifacts were discovered, primarily of stone. Evidence showed that stone sculpting was a major activity, indicating it was a busy place. Some tools were used for scraping, such as fleshing hides. Others were sharp, useful for cutting fish. A blunt edge hand tool was suitable for girdling trees.



Guest Speaker Geoff Mandel explaining some items from the Park's archeological dig.

About 60 projectile points for arrows and spears were found, and meeting attendees had the opportunity to study numerous examples. One was a triangular spear point dating back to around 1,000 A.D., long before any contact with Europeans.

A single pottery fragment survived the disintegration of time, dating to around 1,500 A.D.

A spear point with a long stem, which might be dated to 4,000 B.C., is evidence of the influence of a native culture in the Ohio Valley occupied by people we know today as Mound Builders. The point could be a recycled tool, or indicate early trading linking native peoples far beyond the New England region.

Geoff spent 10 years learning how to fashion tools by stone, a sometimes painful learning process, which left the imprint of sharp shards on his body. Today, as an expert in the field of stone implements, he often receives samples from digs elsewhere around the country and is asked the question: How was this used?

The Jamaica State Park archeological dig, which required excavating a section of the asphalt parking lot, is one of 13 known archeological sites in the West River Valley.

After the annual potluck lunch, anchored by grillmeister Sam Schneski, Jim Esden, Forest Protection Specialist with Forest, Parks and Recreation, gave us an overview and update on the big three insect invaders. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), including the active infestation in the park, seems to progress, but slowly, while the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) have yet to be found in Vermont, although the latter is in all the surrounding states.

Jeremy Schrauf, a former trustee, spoke about the activities of the Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance. The group has been doing water testing along the West River and its tributaries, providing valuable information on water quality, at all the swimming holes, for example. The work is done by volunteers, and Jeremy issued an appeal for more people to participate in this important work.

Jamaica State Park, now comprising 772 acres, was completed and opened to the public in 1969. Previously, the area had supported a few small farms and a sawmill. The West River Railroad ran through the park. The old railroad bed is now used as the trail that leads along the West River to Ball Mountain Dam. The railroad operated from about 1879 until 1927, when a flood wiped most of it out.

— *From the Jamaica State Park website*

Warren S. Patrick, age 103, lives in Townshend and wrote this brief story for Woodlot Tips about the beginnings of the park, site of the 2014 annual meeting.

Here is the true story of how Jamaica State Park was established. I was Town Clerk and Treasurer of Jamaica from 1957 to 1968 when I retired. I then started a real estate and insurance business from my home. One day I received a letter from a couple who wanted to sell a small piece of land that included a part that bordered Salmon Hole. At the time, Salmon Hole was used by local families for picnics and swimming.

At the same time I received the letter, I happened to read that the State was looking for a piece of land in Jamaica for a state park. So I immediately got the parties together, and the State bought the small piece of land. (I did not accept a broker's commission for the sale.)

Soon the State erected a shelter there, plus several fireplaces for the public. And, a year or two later, Tony Cersosimo, who ran a lumber company near Brattleboro, donated a large piece of land adjoining the park.

Sometime later, an entrance gate and a park custodian were added. A small fee was charged for entry to the park.

MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING

September 20, 2014

The meeting was brought to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Margaret MacDonald, who welcomed all to Jamaica State Park.

Secretary's Report – The Secretary's Report was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Phyllis Weltz presented the WOA Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget and explained the bank accounts held by Woodland Owners Association: Money Market, Scholarship Fund accounts and Halsey Hicks Fund accounts. She thanked the membership for generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund of over \$2,000.00. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Scholarship Committee – Committee Chair Barbara Cole explained that WOA offers scholarships to support students in Windham County pursuing undergraduate degrees in forestry-related fields. WOA awards up to four scholarships per year of \$750.00 per semester to applicants who meet these criteria. This year, WOA is awarding three scholarships. The first is to Connor Hunt, entering his senior year at Lyndon State College studying for a career as a Game Warden. The second scholarship is awarded to Marissa Smith, now a sophomore at Stockbridge Mass. School of Agriculture, majoring in Forestry. The newest recipient is Brennan Douglas, a freshman at Paul Smith College.

At this year's Strolling of the Heifers celebration, Woodland Owners Association had a tri-fold display featuring past and current scholarship recipients, and raffled a beautiful wooden bowl hand-crafted by WOA Trustee Peter Wimmelman, which raised almost \$800 for the Scholarship Fund. We intend to expand the raffle for next year's Strolling.

Program Committee – County Forester Bill Guenther reported that the Program Committee urgently needs a Chair. He and County Forester Sam Schneski will assist the member who accepts this position. Trustee Linda Lyon reminded the group that any member can join and chair a committee. If you are interested in helping out by

chairing the Program Committee, please contact Clerk Carol Morrison at 802-257-7967 ext. 302.

Bill reviewed recent programs: the maple sugar-house tour at the Plummers in Grafton in March, the invasives control workshop in Dummerston in May, the booth at Strolling of the Heifers and Dan Healy and Jim Bettidge's invasives workshop in June, the tour of Nate Waring's woodworking workshop, and the 'brontosaurus' demonstration at Diana Todd's in Halifax September 17th. WOA co-sponsored with NRCD the Game of Logging hands-on instruction and safety course, also in September.

Linda Lyon urges the membership to suggest and sponsor programs that you are interested in. **If you have a program suggestion, or would like to sponsor a program, please contact Clerk Carol Morrison at 802-257-7967 ext. 302.**

Newsletter Committee – Woodlot Tips Editor Barbara Evans thanked all the contributors to the newsletter and mentioned consistent contributors Bill Guenther, co-editor Margaret MacDonald, and Arthur Westing.

Website Committee – Trustee Phil Edelstein reported that the website is up and running, but it is stalled. We need a number of people to upload data, and the mechanism for uploading data needs to be easier. The website needs to be simplified.

Nominating Committee – Bill Guenther explained that the WOA bylaws require that trustees serve no more than two consecutive terms. For this reason, trustees Margaret MacDonald, Diana Todd, and Barbara Cole will not be serving as trustees during the upcoming year. Trustee nominees for the upcoming term are Marli Rabinowitz and Bob DeSiervo. All nominees were accepted by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Margaret Macdonald explained that Woodland Owners will begin using the d.b.a. ("doing business as") name **Windham Regional Woodlands Association**, to free our organization

from the misconception that only owners of woodland can be members.

As of October 23rd, our address will be changing as well, to **130 Austine Drive, Suite 300.**

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

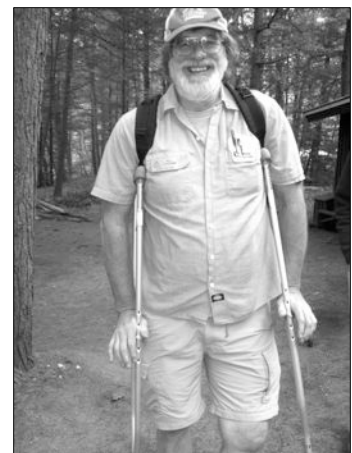
Respectfully Submitted,



Carol R. Morrison, Clerk



From top left: Jim Esden of FP&R; Trustee Linda Lyon and outgoing president Margaret MacDonal; former trustee Arthur Westing and Put Blodgett of the Vermont Woodlands Association.
Right: Former trustee Jeremy Schauf and current trustee Bob Twitchell.
Below left and right: County Foresters at play: Grillmeister Sam Sceneski and Bill Guenther, persevering.
Below center: Emerald Ash Borer (with the suitcase) cartoon and thoughtless camper.



New Trails Open at Hogback

By Diana Todd

A new set of trails leading to the true summit of Hogback Mountain has been established in the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area (HMCA) in Marlboro, Vermont. Many people are familiar with the portion of the conservation area south of Route 9, which encompasses the former Hogback Ski Area. There's an easy half-mile hike to the fire tower near the top of the old ski lifts, which is a local favorite. Most people assume they are at the top of Hogback Mountain when they clamber up the steel staircase to the old observation post. But surprise, surprise! That's not Hogback Mountain! In fact, the fire tower isn't even in the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. It's just over the town border, in Wilmington, and is part of Molly Stark State Park. That fire-tower-topped mountain is officially named Mount Olga.*

So where is Hogback Mountain? And where are these new trails?

Hogback Mountain is in the part of the 591-acre conservation area that is north of Route 9. The summit is in the northeast corner of the conserved land. The new trails extend a network of trails that are suitable for hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing and mountain biking. These trails for human-powered activities are complemented by a trail that is part of the VAST system (Vermont Snow

Travelers Association — for snow mobile use). Parking for access to all these trails is in the big parking lot on the north side of Route 9 and west of the gift shop/museum complex.

The new trails lead through several forest environments, including maple, beech, and spruce. The trail passes several dramatic rocky outcrops. The broad, flat summit is essentially wooded, but there's a large patch of fern that helps to open up the view. The trail loops around the perimeter of the summit plateau, letting visitors admire the view in all directions. The distance from the parking lot to the summit and back is about three miles, depending on which trails in the network you follow.

For a trail map, go to www.hogbackvt.org and click on the maps link.

** Why is it called Mount Olga? It is named after the person who donated the part of the land which became Molly Stark State Park, Olga Haslund. Three linked summits make up a mini-chain, which the early settlers referred to as "the hogback". The individual names for the three summits, from south to north, being Mount Olga, Little Hogback, and Hogback Mountain, don't seem to have been applied until the mid-20th century.*

Book Review by Arthur H. Westing

Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-size Pocket Guide: Tracking through All Seasons

By **Lynn Levine** (illustrated by **Martha Mitchell**)
East Dummerston, Vt.: Heartwood Press, 44 pp. 2014. \$14.95

Many of us devote a valued portion of our leisure time to the outdoors, absorbing both the beauty and variety of the natural world. And oddly enough, this uplifting effect is enhanced by being able to actually identify and name what we see and hear, whether this be birds, flowers, trees, or the occasional elusive salamander, snake, or other wild animal.

To help those of us living in the Northeast to readily identify the regional mammals at least by the evidence they leave behind, we now have an ideal resource: namely this waterproof, pocket-sized (4½ x 6½ inch) field guide to both their tracks [footprints] (especially useful with snow on the ground) and their scat [feces] (equally useful the year round). The track and scat of

each mammal is briefly described and also pictured in its actual life size for on-site comparison with the real thing — a most important feature apparently unique to a field guide, at least for this region. Keys to tracks, track patterns, and scat assist in the identification process. So don't wander about in the woods without it!

And finally it might be mentioned that a prior (2008) waterproof publication by the same author and illustrator is also still available that contains the same illustrations in their actual life size, but with considerably more text information, although (at 8½ x 11 inches) it does not have the advantage of being pocket sized.

From NHTOA Market Pulse, Summer 2014

A Case of “Grade Inflation”

By Eric Johnson

Program & Membership Director

New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association

In my quarterly round of calls to various producers and consumers of forest products in New England I had a very interesting discussion with a pulp buyer who purchases roundwood pulp products for an out-of-state pulp and paper mill. He mentioned that over the course of last winter and spring they were unable to procure all the wood that they needed to feed their mill. I asked him why, and he said, “A good chunk of wood that used to head to our mill is now being siphoned off by ‘fringe’ markets. These markets are not ‘fringe’ anymore.”

So perhaps I need to reexamine the blanket term “low grade” when it comes to some of the “new” markets that have emerged to compete with the traditional low grade markets such as biomass and roundwood pulp. Is a new “mid-grade” marketplace emerging? Grade inflation is a good thing in the forest products marketplace as far as I am concerned. To illustrate this, I propose we look at a hypothetical load of logs that meets the following criteria:

- All logs will be hardwood species, excluding poplar.
- All logs will be 16' 4" long.
- All logs will be a minimum of 10" diameter, inside the bark on small end.
- All logs have zero clear faces, and all the logs will be straight and sound.
- The volume for the load will be 6,500 board feet, or 13 cords, or 32.5 tons using standard

conversion formulas.

- For a location, let's put the load in the middle of the state — in Plymouth.
- All values will be expressed as gross value, not factoring in stumpage, harvesting, or trucking costs.

Option A: Roundwood pulp — Based on responses to our most recent market survey, the average delivered price for hardwood pulp in the central region is \$45 per ton. So our hypothetical load weighing 32.5 tons would have a gross value of \$1,462.50. No special equipment needed to produce or haul the load.

Option B: Firewood — Again using the average delivered price for log-length firewood (\$120 a cord) in the central region of the state, our hypothetical load would be worth \$1,560 delivered. The specifications of the load are such that a large firewood producer might actually pay a premium per cord, since straight wood can go through a firewood processor quickly, resulting in higher per hour production. No special equipment needed to produce or haul the load.

Option C: Pallet logs — A 6,500 board foot load of logs using an average delivered price for pallet logs of \$240 per MBF would result in a gross delivered value of \$1,560. Exactly what that load would fetch as a load of log-length firewood. It should be noted that if you had a full load of oak pallet logs, the value of the load

would be closer to the \$325-\$350/MBF range. No special equipment needed to produce or haul the load.

Option D: “Matt logs” — This is an emerging market that utilizes a 10" diameter minimum log with a 16'4" standard length. Straight and sound are the only “grade” criteria. The logs are squared up at the mill and assembled using threaded rod into 4-foot-wide by 16-foot-long “matts” that are used for pipeline and right-of-way construction. While I do not have a price listed in our market survey, reports of delivered pricing average \$425 per MBF (with a range of delivered pricing from \$350/MBF up to \$500/MBF). That means our hypothetical 6,500 board foot load would result in a gross delivered price of \$2,762.50. No special equipment needed to produce or haul the load.

Option E: “Bole chip” — If you were to take this 32.5 ton load of logs and run the logs through a whole tree chipper to create a “bole chip” — a relatively uniform-sized chip with a low bark percentage — for use by a school district for thermal heating load, the product would have an average delivered price of \$60 per ton. The gross value of the load would be \$1,950. *But* — and here is a big “but” — the logging contractor would have the additional cost of chipping, and there would be an additional transportation cost of hauling the chips in a self-unloading live-floor

trailer. These two costs need to be calculated when factoring in the overall value of the load. Looking at these five options, the value of our hypothetical load of logs ranges from a low of \$1,462 up to a high of \$2,762.50. Now it needs to be noted that not all of these markets are available in all regions of the state, but for many timber harvesting contractors, at least three of these five markets are available within a 50-mile trip of their shop or woodlot.

Many market observers note that the emergence of all these “mid-grade” markets shows the strength of the forest products marketplace. The strong pricing for mid-grade products also allows for good forest management to occur, as it makes it more profitable for timber harvesting contractors and ultimately the landowner to harvest the abundance of mid-grade trees that are present in New Hampshire forests.

A final disclaimer: While things are improving in the forest products marketplace, please keep in mind that for timber harvesting contractors, their cost to get these products to market has done nothing but go up for the last five years. The price of fuel is going up and the cost of tires is up more than 17 percent over the last five years, for example. The price increases and market expansion for all of these mid-grade products is a welcome and much needed development in our regional forest products marketplace.

Woodland Secret No. 16: Responding To Gravity And Light

By Arthur H. Westing, Former Trustee

When you stop to think about it, the fact that most plants know how to tell which way is up — and are then even able to actually act upon that information — blows the mind. Thus, both our coniferous trees (our so-called softwoods) and our dicotyledonous or dicot trees (our so-called hardwoods) are able to sense the direction of the gravitational field. And particularly, our dicots are additionally able to sense the direction from which the light comes, something our conifers do far less well.

Responding to gravity: We all know that the main stem of a tree grows up, the main root

down, and the branches and side roots at some characteristic angle. The tree senses the direction of the gravitational field in all of its dividing (meristematic) cells, both those in the tips of the main stem and root leaders (apical meristems), and independently beneath the bark in the main stem, main root, branches, and side roots (cambial meristems). When those meristematic cells of either sort are upright (parallel to a plumb line), they grow symmetrically, but when either the leader or the main stem is tipped out of the vertical they grow asymmetrically in such a way as to bring the leader or stem back into alignment with the gravitational field.

It turns out that our coniferous and dicotyledonous trees differ remarkably in their response to those gravitational stimuli. In a leaning conifer, the main stem produces a special kind of wood on its lower side — known as *compression wood* — which acts like an expanding compressed spring to right the stem. Conversely, in a leaning dicot, the main stem produces a special kind of wood on its upper side — known as *tension wood* — which acts like a contracting stretched spring to right the stem. The main root in both the conifers and dicots grows down, and the compression and tension woods are produced accordingly, although often less pronouncedly so (curiously, unless exposed to light). And the branches and side roots of both the conifers and dicots also depend upon the formation of either compression wood or tension wood appropriately located and in sufficient amount to independently maintain their inherent angle in relation to the gravitational field.

Responding to light: The apical meristem cells in the leaders of our dicotyledonous trees (although not the cambial meristem cells in their stems and

branches) have a rather strong tendency to grow toward the light (as do also many non-woody [herbaceous] plants), thereby augmenting their directional growth determined by the gravitational field. By contrast, our coniferous trees do this only as seedlings, and then only to a modest extent, and soon outgrow that trait completely. These light stimuli do not result in the formation of either compression wood or tension wood.

Three final observations: (1) The actual receptor mechanism in the meristematic cells of trees that senses the direction of either the gravitational field or the direction from which the light comes has not as yet been elucidated, despite considerable efforts. (2) The tumors produced in some conifers by certain insects consist of compression wood (e.g., in Fir trees [*Abies* spp] by *Adelges piceae*). And (3) The presence of either compression wood or tension wood in lumber is quite a defect, causing it to twist, warp, and even split; it is also less desirable than normal wood for pulping.

The Municipal Forests of Windham County

By Bill Guenther, County Forester

A number of the towns throughout the Windham County have what I refer to as Vermont's "best kept recreational secrets," our Municipal or Town Forests. Nineteen of the County's 23 towns have some sort of publicly owned forestland. The sizes of these tracts range from just a few acres to the remote and wild 1,391 acres in the town of Dover.

There is some interesting history in how these lands were acquired. In one case, a town forest came to be from the old days when towns had their own "poor farms" where the indigent were housed and fed in exchange for working on the farm. In a more recent case, the town purchased the above-mentioned Dover property for over \$400,000 when Dover realized that rampant development could leave a watershed unprotected.

Back in 1973, Maynard Miller, a long time dairy farmer and legend in Vernon, convinced the town to spend the then unheard of sum of \$175,000 (\$389 per acre) so that the town could have a rec-

reational use area, watershed protection and a source of firewood for Vernon town residents. This was the year the nation was facing a particularly severe energy crisis. There is an unsubstantiated and very interesting rumor that the town was also very interested in the acquisition because at the time, the area had a number of farms being bought up by young and back-to-nature urban- and suburbanites from downcountry seeking a country lifestyle. There was a concern that this land could be bought up and turned into a hippie commune! The forest was named in Mr. Miller's honor and it is now called the J. Maynard Miller Memorial Forest.

These varied properties offer some true multiple uses, such as producing wood products, maintaining and improving wildlife habitat, providing watershed protection, and offering varied recreational opportunities, as well as being used for conservation education. In some cases they support rare plant communities, such as the Miller Forest in

Vernon, which has an excellent example of black gum trees found in “kettle” swamps that by rights should be many miles south of here.

Municipal forests that have high quality timber can provide some substantial income. On the Brattleboro Watershed Forest, over \$30,000 was realized on a timber sale that covered less than 30 acres. This showcase forest also has excellent wildlife habitat, a wide range of non-motorized passive recreational opportunities, and it also provides a clean source of water for nearly 10,000 town residents.

Newfane’s relatively new town forest is used by several area schools as an outdoor educational la-

boratory. It also provides a trail network that fills a niche in the middle of the West River Valley. We are truly blessed that our region has these forests that are unique and diverse. They are not bound by the often-stringent management requirements of the National or State forestland but usually are overseen by some sort of town committee. The Windham County Forester provides management assistance to several of the town forests while some are managed by private consulting foresters.

In future issues of our newsletter, I will highlight some of the recreational opportunities that our town forests provide.



*For membership information or email notices of upcoming programs, contact
Carol Morrison, WRWA Clerk, at 802-257-7967*

Windham Regional Woodlands Association
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Brattleboro, VT 05301-7040

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs

(See inside for details)

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday, January 16, 10 a.m. | Timberframe Tour, Large and Small Operations |
| Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m. – noon | Oak Plantation and Winter Logging Tour |
| Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. | Winter Tree Identification and Potluck Lunch |
| <i>Three Dates to Save!</i> | <i>Saturday, March 21, Annual Sugarhouse Tour</i> |
| | <i>Friday, March 27, Ornamental Maples Management</i> |
| | <i>Saturday, March 28, Winter Walk, Somerset Reservoir</i> |

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.