

Vermont Tree Farm Newsletter



Vermont Tree Farm Committee Members

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Tree Farmer, Sheffield, VT*

*Kathy Beland, Co-Chair
Forester, Clarendon, VT*

*Jayson Benoit
Forester, E. Charleston, VT*

*Richard Bizzozero
Tree Farmer, Brookfield, VT*

*Paul Harwood
Tree Farmer, Forester,
Tunbridge, VT*

*Ryan Kilborn
Forester, Bradford, VT*

*Ian Martin
Forester, Newfane, VT*

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State of Vermont*

*Rebecca Phelps
Project Learning Tree
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Kathleen Wanner
Rutland, VT*

2015-2020 Tree Farm Standards

by Steve Sinclair, Vermont State Forester

The AFF Board of Trustees approved the 2015-2020 ATFS Standards of Sustainability at their meeting in November. These revised ATFS Standards represent an important milestone for the American Tree Farms System and an exciting step in their work to support America's woodland owners in their stewardship.

As Chair of the Independent Standards Review Panel, I got a behind-the-scenes view of what forest certification is all about. I was impressed by the interest and breadth of public comments provided during the process and the dedication of the AFF staff in ensuring that the proposed language reflected public comment and the needs of forest landowners.

Below is an overview of the 2015-2020 Standards, key revisions and the transition process, including training and inspections. Additional details are also available at the ATFS website.

Preview the Standards

The 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability and Guidance and Eligibility Requirements replace the current version (2010-2015) and are available on the ATFS website. A complete summary of the transition process is outlined below.

Overview of Revisions

The 2015-2020 Standards reflect a limited number of revisions from the previous version. The small number of revisions to the Standards and accompanying Guidance are designed to advance forest conservation while providing clarity, flexibility and resources for landowners. Operational transition to the 2015-2020 Standards is anticipated to be relatively simple for entities which currently conform to the 2010-2015 Standards.

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www.vermontreefarm.org

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Tree Farmer Profile: Meadowsend Timberlands

by Ryan Kilborn, Forester

Meadowsend Timberlands LTD (MTL) is a small family owned business that was established in 1996 by Bob French, who recently was awarded the 2014 Tree Farmer of the year in New Hampshire. The French family has long been part of the forest industry with the sixth generation now working in the family business. The company was established on the principles of long term ownership, conservation, and sustainable management practices.

Over the past 19 years, MTL has acquired over 30,000 acres in fee, spread throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York. MTL's management objectives of sustainable harvesting, protection of water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, promoting historic use, conserving large continuous blocks of forest, and encouraging non-destructive recreational uses coincides well with Tree Farm's national standards. This is why MTL has chosen to enroll all its properties throughout the four states into the program and is Vermont's largest Tree Farmer with over 19,439 acres in 8 counties.

Besides owning land in fee, MTL also offers consulting services and currently manages over 25,000 acres of privately owned woodlands. One principle MTL believes in is education and outreach, and partners often with land trust organizations for walks in the woods to discuss the benefits of forestry and sustainable management. Besides enrolling the company's own land into Tree Farm, MTL also encourages its clientele to enroll

their own forest into the program to help meet their management objectives through attending workshops and receiving the informative newsletters that keep landowners up to date on legislation, forest health topics, and other forestry related issues.

Keeping diversified is an important aspect of MTL's long term ownership. Only depending on the finances

of harvesting timber would leave a company susceptible to fluctuating markets, which have been unpredictable over the past decade. One way that MTL has diversified its land base has been through the process of becoming a leader in renewable energy in the state of Vermont. Currently, MTL has one working wind farm in Sheffield, VT, and another potential site that is being studied for suitability in Windham & Grafton, VT, where the company's largest parcel of 5,000 acres is located. Cabin leases and the sale of conservation easements have been two other means of

diversification. Approximately 75% of the company's entire land base has working forest easements, with Vermont's first working forest easement being placed on MTL's Lowell Mountain Forest in 1996.

One of MTL's key traits is its ability to link the correct wood product to the right market in order to maximize a products value. A benefit to being a Tree Farmer that has recently helped MTL is the ability to have the companies timber certified under the American Tree Farm



Photo (L-R): George French, Will French, Bob French, Jer Turner, Steve French

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Welcome New Tree Farmers!

From July through December 2014, the Vermont Tree Farm program enrolled twenty-five new Tree Farms with 4775 acres. The Tree Farms ranged in size for 10.1 to 1685 acres and were located in nine Vermont counties. New Tree Farms are scattered around the state in seventeen towns.

Welcome new Tree Farmers! We appreciate your thoughtful stewardship and hope you will be an active participant in Tree Farm activities.

- 1641 Jayson Benoit, E. Charleston
- 1642 Reed & Christine Cass, E. Charleston
- 1643 Carey Haskell, Tunbridge
- 1644 Robert Gaiko, Bethel
- 1647 Peggy Farabaugh, Vernon
- 1648 Charles & Ellen Woods, Morgan
- 1649 VLT - Mud Pond Forest, Greensboro
- 1650 Penny Miller/ Gillian White, Norwich
- 1651 Black Hills Timber, LLC, Greensboro
- 1652 Peter & Debra Evans, Northfield/Roxbury
- 1653 Maverick Farm (Arthur & Anne Berndt), Sharon
- 1654 Michael Caldwell, N. Wolcott
- 1655 Guy Wilson, Bradford
- 1657 Craig & Dot Tomkinson, Belmont
- 1658 Tim and Deborah Dailey, Groton
- 1659 Ray & Susan Toolan, Montpelier
- 1660 Jerry & Judith Rankin, Danville
- 1661 Jim Starr & Jennifer Gaffney, No. Troy
- 1661a Jim Starr, No. Troy
- 1661b Jim Starr, No. Troy
- 1662 Ila Starr Revocable Trust, No. Troy
- 1662a Ila Starr Revocable Trust, No. Troy
- 1663 Wilbur Dyer, Readsboro
- 1664 David & Sylvia Hutchinson, Troy
- 1665 Dan & Laurie Celik, Brandon



Inspector thanks!

Inspectors are the foundation of a solid Tree Farm program. We would like to thank those of you who have worked for the program to enroll new properties, reinspect existing properties, or help us in any other way to stay connected with our Tree Farmers.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Russ Barrett</i> | <i>Andy Hutchison</i> |
| <i>Pat Bartlett</i> | <i>Dan Kilborn</i> |
| <i>Rose Beatty</i> | <i>Ryan Kilborn</i> |
| <i>Kathy Beland</i> | <i>Lynn Levine</i> |
| <i>Jayson Benoit</i> | <i>Ian Martin</i> |
| <i>Markus Bradley</i> | <i>Ross Morgan</i> |
| <i>Jan Brough</i> | <i>Jared Nunery</i> |
| <i>Rich Carbonetti</i> | <i>David Paganelli</i> |
| <i>Beth Daut</i> | <i>Russell Reay</i> |
| <i>Peter Everts</i> | <i>Jim Roberts</i> |
| <i>John Frohn</i> | <i>Harris Roen</i> |
| <i>Steve Handfield</i> | <i>Richard Root</i> |
| <i>Jock Harvey</i> | <i>Sam Schneski</i> |
| <i>Paul Harwood</i> | <i>Steve Slayton</i> |
| <i>Frank Hudson</i> | <i>Ray Toolan</i> |
| <i>Don Huffer</i> | <i>Randy Wilcox</i> |

Every forester action is important to the continued strength of the program, whether it's an initial inspection, a reinspection, or a decertification.

And believe it or not, decertifications are probably the most important for maintaining the integrity of the Vermont program. As foresters, you are our link to changes in ownership or management. If you have Tree Farm clients who have sold property, are no longer interested in the program, or whose plans do not meet the 2010 standards please let us know.

If property changes hands but stays within the family, it can retain its Tree Farm number and history. The same is true if the ownership type changes, for instance, to an LLC or other family entity. Only ownership information needs to change. If property is sold outside the family, the new owner may choose to enroll in the program as a new Tree Farmer with a new Tree Farm number. The new record may be linked in the database to the old record for historical purposes.



Stems with a Future by Allen Yale

In 2012 Alan Robertson, co-chair of the Vermont Tree Farm Committee introduced me to the book *Management of Irregular Forests: Developing the full potential of the forest*. Originally written in French by the Association Futai Irreguliere (Irregular Large Wood Association), this book argues for uneven age management that tries to retain the ecological benefits of a natural forest. After reading the book, Alan and I joked about the expression “stems with a future;” wondering whether it was a quaint translation from the original French. Since then, I have come to embrace this expression as it applies to the thinning of early regeneration. While “Crop Tree Release” implies the releasing of those trees that will eventually be harvested for timber, “stems with a future” suggests thinning to retain those stems whose form will make them good candidates as they compete to become a crop tree. “Stems-with-a-future” are individual trees with straight stems, with good vigor, and with as well developed and balanced crown as possible.” (p. 89)

According to the book, there are several unacceptable defects within the first ten feet of the bole of the tree that disqualify it as a “stem with a future.” These include: forks, rising branches, strong inclination, sweep, canker, frost damage, recent or callused damage, burls, epicormic growth, numerous large branches, or spiral grain in oaks.

Much of this discussion applies primarily to hardwood trees. Nothing in this article is meant to suggest that every stem with any of these defects should be removed. It merely suggests that should two stems be in competition such that one should be removed, the more number or severity of these defects might help the forest manager determine which stem has more potential of becoming a crop tree. Other considerations might include species, shade tolerance of species, site appropriateness, etc.

Since “crop tree” implies one that produces straight, clear logs from which the optimal amount of lumber can

be sawn, the following defects reduce the amount or quality of the resultant lumber.

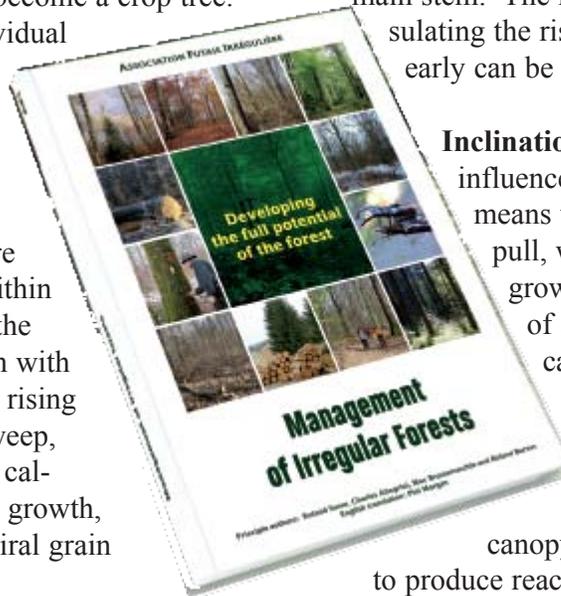
Forks: Forks consist of two or more almost equal-sized stems dividing at a point in the bole of the tree. With forking, these stems compete for space and as the tree grows a split develops as the stems of the fork wedge against each other, eventually resulting in splitting of the bole below the fork. The split at the fork weakens the tree such that wind or snow/ice load might cause the tree to break at that point

Rising branches: Rising branches refers to limbs which come off the stem at an acute angle. Ideally branches should come off the stem as perpendicular as possible. As a rising branch grows it comes in conflict with the main stem. The main stems continues to expand, encapsulating the rising branch. A rising branch caught early can be pruned off, solving the problem.

Inclination: Both geotropism and phototropism influence plants as they grow. Geotropism means the stems grow away from gravitational pull, while phototropism causes them to grow toward light. Inclination is the result of a tree that has shade directly overhead, causing it to seek a brighter area to the side, resulting in the stem leaning toward the light. This is most common on the edges of fields and roads or where there are openings in the canopy. Being out of vertical causes the tree to produce reaction wood; tension wood on the upper side of the stem or compression wood on the under side. Hardwoods develop more tension wood on the upper side of the lean and conifers more compression wood on the lower side. Even if the inclined stem is straight, when lumber is cut from a log that had grown in inclination, the stresses within the log are released, causing the lumber to twist, cup or warp.

Sweep: Sweep is a curve in the stem. Sweep often occurs when a stem develops inclination in its early development and then reaches full sunlight overhead or is released to overhead sun. It then changes direction of

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Share Woods Magic by Rebecca Phelps, VT PLT Coordinator

Children today are growing up indoors and are becoming less and less connected to nature. The statistics are shocking: American children ages 3 -12 spend 27 percent of their time each week watching television, and only 1 percent outdoors (Hofferth & Sadberg, 2001). You can be the change in this trend.

Who you are today is a result of early experiences you enjoyed in nature. Think back to those early moments. That tree fort you built, the boats you tested in the stream, and the wood frog eggs you held in your hand inspired you to care for your woods today. You can be the catalyst and introduce woods magic with the smallest people in your life. Create family bonds and help inspire the spark of curiosity in a child.

Start with family activities from the American Forest Foundation (AFF). These activities are easy ways for you to share your woods with children. You can use these with your children, grandchildren or other small visitors to your special place. Access activities such as The Fallen Log and How Big is Your Tree on this AFF website: <https://www.forestfoundation.org/family-activities-in-nature>

These fun, engaging activities are adaptations from the Project Learning Tree (PLT) conservation education curriculum. Educators, landowners and natural resource professionals around the state participate in workshops to receive these curriculum materials. PLT helps teachers and landowners share the forest with children and workshops help adults feel comfortable teaching and leading children outdoors. Once you share a few of the family activities from the AFF website, you may want to dig a little deeper and further develop skills to teach and share the woods with children. PLT facilitators will come to you and lead a workshop in your woods or in your community. For more information or to schedule a workshop, visit the Vermont PLT website: <http://vermontplt.org> Be the one to change the future, touch the life of a child and share some woods magic.



Each year, VWA participates in the Vermont Farm Show held at the Champlain Valley Expo. This year's show was held from January 27-29 and once again we were there to "schmooze" with the public. The new interactive Tree Farm display was prominently featured. The display was a collaborative effort created by Maple Landmark in Middlebury, Paul Harwood, and Kathy and Tom Beland. Each triangular panel opens to reveal the components of management related to wood, water, wildlife, and recreation.

VWA and Tree Farm take advantage of many opportunities to be a Voice for Forestry and spread the message of stewardship.



2015-2020 Standards, cont. from page 1

Notable themes of the revisions in the ATFS Standards include:

- Clarity regarding threatened and endangered species.
- Emphasis on landowner's objectives and on-the-ground stewardship.
- Enhanced approach to Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI), formerly high conservation value forests or HCVF.
- Holistic, integrated approaches to forest health.
- Continuity with the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and other global sustainability frameworks.

Details about the revision process itself, including the multi-stakeholder Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP) are available at the ATFS Standards Review website.

Guidelines for Transition

The process of transition to the 2015-2020 ATFS Standards will commence in earnest at the start of 2015.

Tree Farm Inspection Record (004 Form): Update of the inspection record to encompass the revised 2015-2020 Standards is currently underway. This process is supported by a small task group of Tree Farmers, inspecting foresters, State Program Administrators and Database Managers, AFF Woodlands Operating Committee members and ATFS staff. Considerations in the revision of the form include ease of use by foresters in the field, efficiency in transmission of inspection information to the ATFS Database, better characterizing conservation contributions on-the-ground, ensuring clarity and consistency in documentation for certification purposes, and brevity. The revised form is slated for availability in early January. All 2015 Required Samples will be pre-populated in the revised form. Pre-printed paper forms will not be available.

New Inspections: After March 15, all new landowners and properties entering the ATFS program must be inspected to the 2015-2020 Standards utilizing the revised Tree Farm Inspection Record (004 form) form

or mobile app for smartphones, iphones and tablets.

Required Sample Inspections: All 2015 Required Sample inspections must be inspected to the 2015-2020 Standards utilizing the revised Tree Farm Inspection Record (004) form or mobile app for smartphones, iphones and tablets.

Reinspections: After March 15, 2015, all re-inspections of landowners and properties currently certified in the ATFS program must be inspected to the 2015-2020 Standards utilizing the revised Tree Farm Inspection Record (004) form or mobile app for smartphones, iphones and tablets. ATFS is developing tools, such as an updated ATFS Management Plan Addendum, to help in the transition. These tools are anticipated to be available in the first quarter of 2015.

Inspecting to the 2015-2020 Standards: To be qualified to inspect to the 2015-2020 ATFS Standards, all ATFS Inspecting Foresters must update their credentials to the 2015-2020 Standards via the online refresher or classroom training. Descriptions of training opportunities, including eligibility are described below.

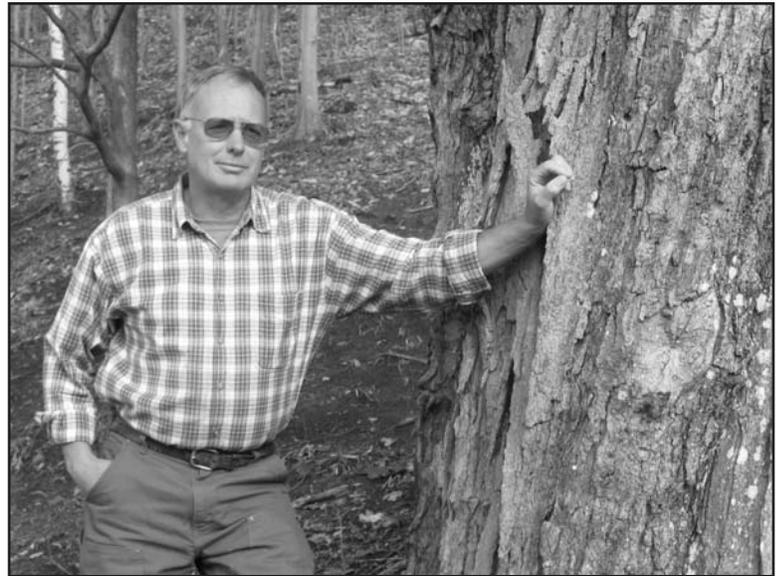
Online Refresher: The online refresher is designed to provide a high level review of the ATFS program and processes, new features of the program and the ATFS 2015-2020 Standards, including key revisions and how to address them in the field. **Current and active ATFS Inspectors, those that are trained in the 2010-2015 Standards and have completed an inspection within the last 2 years (2013 and 2014) are eligible to update their credentials via an online refresher.** If you have no Tree Farm actions in the last two years, you must attend an onsite training to recertify. We would also encourage all inspectors to participate in an onsite training. We will offer four trainings; the first to be held on Friday, March 27 at the NESAF Annual Meeting in Lake Morey. Dates and locations of additional training will be sent to all foresters. There is no cost for training and attendees are eligible for Society of American Forester CFE credit.



Paul Harwood: Northeast Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

by Kathleen Wanner

The Vermont Tree Farm program is pleased to announce that Consulting Forester Paul Harwood has been named as the Northeast Regional Tree Farm forester for 2015. Harwood was nominated (surreptitiously) by the Tree Farm committee for his exemplary service to Tree Farmers and the Tree Farm program. He has been involved with the program since 1975. Tree Farm foresters are responsible for enrolling new Tree Farmers and conducting regular inspections on Tree Farm properties. During the first ten months of 2014, Harwood completed seven Tree Farm inspections and enrolled eleven new Tree Farmers. While this activity is very important, the Outstanding Inspector must also show a commitment to growing the Tree Farm program and the forestry community in general. Harwood excels in all areas.



Forestry and Paul Harwood are synonymous... his Vermont heritage goes back to the 1700s and 3,000 acres, now Merck Forest in Rupert. He has broad experience and is highly regarded. Prior to founding Harwood Forestry Services in 1989, he worked for the State as a forest resource protection specialist, state lands forester, Orange County forester, and forestry lecturer at UVM. Harwood Forestry manages over 400 properties that total more than 45,000 acres.

Every forest management plan that Harwood writes meets the high certification standard that Tree Farm has set and includes a landowner recommendation to enroll in the program. In interactions with his clients he discusses Tree Farm and the value that the program brings. He is very well versed in the tangible benefits that come through the national office as well as the pride of stewardship that comes with the Tree Farm sign.

Perhaps you've seen the green and white diamond-shaped "Certified Tree Farm" sign. This sign is the emblem of stewardship and source of pride for landowners everywhere who have chosen to do the right thing with their land. Behind many Tree Farmers you'll find a forester who has guided on-the-ground stewardship. Harwood believes that foresters are the hope for the future of the Tree Farm program, that without a strong

forester corps, the program cannot grow. It seems very fitting that he receives this recognition for his dedication to the program.

Harwood is a believer in recognizing exemplary stewardship and in 2013 nominated John Hemenway of So. Strafford as the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. He and John together planned a tour of the Taylor Valley Tree Farm that highlighted forestry, wildlife habitat, and archaeology and attracted more than one hundred people. While this was Hemenway's opportunity to bask in the glory, Harwood is the man behind the scenes who guided the outstanding work on this 3,000 acre parcel.

Tree Farmers and Tree Farm foresters are part of a nationwide community of landowners and natural resource professionals who want to leave the land better than they found it. Nationally, the American Tree Farm System is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation. In February 2015, Harwood will attend the annual National Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO where one National Outstanding Inspector from the four regions will be announced.

In addition to his service to Tree Farm, Harwood has been on the VT Woodlands Association board since 2001 and vice president since 2006. His commitments

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New Year's Resolution: Review Management Plan Reprinted from ATFS website

January 2015 – It's a new year and time to review your Tree Farm's management plan.

Your woods are constantly changing. Seasons come and go, trees grow and die, weather and timber markets vary, and natural disasters or invasive species can take their toll. And just as your Tree Farm changes, you and your family do too: a major life event, such as a birth, death or illness, can alter your relationship with your woods.

A new year means taking the time to reflect on what happened last year, how your woods were affected, and what you may choose to do differently in the future. This review of your management plan and goals does not have to be daunting or difficult. It can mean adding just a few handwritten notes to your plan, and it can start with a simple walk in your woods.

The following easy steps can assist you in reviewing your management plan:

1. Take a walk in your woods. Look for signs of stress, like unnaturally yellowing or browning leaves, as well as damage from summer storms. Check the condition of all your Tree Farm's resources—not just the trees themselves, but the soil, vegetation, water sources and drainages, and wildlife as well.

2. Ask yourself these questions.

- Is my Tree Farm progressing the way I want it to?
- How many trees did I harvest last year? How many trees did I plant? Keeping track of your Tree Farm's production and the maturity of your trees will help you plan for future harvests.
- Have I properly planned for and protected wildlife habitat?
- How have I handled threats to my Tree Farm?

- If you battled pests or invasive plants last year, revisit treated areas to take stock of their recovery. Make note of pruning, herbicide applications and other vegetation control methods used and how your woods responded, so you know what has worked for you and what has not.
- Are my roads and trails adequate and in good condition? Road access is critical for harvesting, maintenance and for fighting fires. If building or repairing roads and trails needs a place on your list of activities planned for the year, it's better to know sooner rather than later.
- Are my property boundaries clearly marked? Are there signs of trespass? Keep fences and boundaries in good shape to protect your resources and keep out unwanted visitors. If you have acquired or parted with property, you will need to update your management plan map and inventory information.
- Am I up to speed on permit requirements and regulations?

Walking through your Tree Farm as you consider these basic questions is the easiest and most effective way to update your management plan. The experience should give you a sense—a year-end snapshot—of how your Tree Farm is doing and how far it has come since you last reviewed your property and your goals for its progress. Knowing where your woods are now will help you plan for where you want them to be.



Future, cont. from page 4

its growth more vertical, resulting in a curve in the stem. Sweep results in greater waste as a log is sawn. Mills discount logs with moderate sweep and reject logs with too much sweep. Not only is there less lumber from logs with sweep, but it also contains reaction wood that will twist, cup or warp when sawn.

Canker: Cankers are fruiting bodies of various fungus or bacteria that result in defective or decayed wood within the stem. Removal of these trees may be desirable to prevent the continued spread of the microorganism causing the canker.

Frost damage: Under extreme cold temperatures, freezing of the moisture in trees can cause them to split longitudinally. This causes a split in any lumber that is sawn from logs taken from this tree.

Recent or Callused damage: When the bark of a tree gets mechanically damaged, the opening provides a pathway by which pathogens can invade the tree. Most trees have the ability to callous-over bark damage if it is not too extensive, but by then pathogens may have entered. Even if the tree remains healthy, the site of damage will develop scar tissue which will be a blemish in resultant lumber.

Burls: A burl is a tree growth in which the grain has grown in a deformed manner. It is commonly found in the form of a rounded outgrowth on a tree trunk or branch that is filled with small knots from dormant buds or otherwise hypertrophic cell development. If the aim is clear lumber, then a burl is a defect, but there is a market for burls among bowl makers and other specialty wood workers, so the forest manager may want to check this market before eliminating trees with burls.

Epicormic branches: An epicormic shoot is a shoot growing from an epicormic bud, which lies underneath the bark on the trunk of the tree. Epicormic buds develop from differentiated vessel cells as a result of increased heat, usually on the south side of a tree that previously grew in the shade. Think heavy logging, new road construction/land clearing, etc. Shaded tree stems that get exposed to high temps and lots of sun typically develop these branches. This is an almost exclusively hardwood issue. It results in the growth of a branch in an area previously branch free. To the extent that a knot

is a defect in the finished product, epicormic branching is a defect to be avoided. I make it a practice of removing epicormic shoots when I see them, but am not sure whether this practice will have any meaningful impact on my woodlot.

Numerous large branches: Trees usually have a leader and lateral branches. For many trees, the survival of lower lateral branches depends on the openness of the canopy. Trees growing in the open develop very robust lateral branches. This is one of the reasons for not opening the canopy too much, unless you are developing a sugar bush. In a closed canopy, some tree species have a tendency to self-prune, their lower branches die and eventually fall off. This is especially true of the more shade intolerant species, such as ash and cherry. Former Orleans County Forester George Buzzell was a strong advocate of pruning hardwoods to improve their form and increase their value. If large branches survive, they greatly diminish the value of the saw log as it will produce lumber with many large knots.

Spiral grain: I found little information on this defect except that a log with spiral grain is undesirable at the mill. Spiral grain can be found in almost any tree species (hardwood or softwood). It is more a genetic defect rather than environmental. Wood from spiral grained trees is inferior with few exceptions.

The concept of “stems with a future” has greatly helped as I work in my woodlot on timber stand improvement and am faced with decisions on which tree to cut and which to save.

More information on irregular forestry

Individuals wanting to know more about irregular forestry can get a copy of *Management of Irregular Forests: Developing the full potential of the forest* from Si Balch, 438 Naskeag Road, Brooklin, ME 04616, Cell # 205.578.1003, Land line # 207.359.3343, E-mail balch77@gmail.com

Allen has participated in the Tree Farm program since 1976. In 2012 he and his wife were selected as the Vermont Tree Farmer of Year. The next year Allen was the Northeast Regional Tree Farmer of the Year. He is currently a member of the Vermont Tree Farm Committee.



Tools and Resources for Tree

Farmers Reprinted from ATFS website

Harwood, cont. from page 7

Integrated Pest Management

As a woodland owner, you know every decision counts. From the trees you plant to the methods you use to harvest them, your stewardship builds a living legacy.

So when invasive and destructive species threaten your woods, you want a solution that protects your trees now and preserves the health of your forest for the future.

That's the goal of Integrated Pest Management.

IPM is a system of methods and practices that controls pests long-term in an economically and environmentally sound way. It's also part of the ATFS 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. Visit the ATFS Woodland Resource (<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/woodland-resources>) to learn:

- How does IPM work, and why should I use it?
- Putting IPM into practice
- IPM Resources in your state

Saving Special Places

Whether your woods are home to an important historic site, or just a meaningful spot where your parents or grandparents spent time, you hold a unique link to the past.

Protecting these special places for the future is part of the ATFS 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. But it doesn't have to be costly or difficult. With some information and a little planning, you can preserve a piece of America's heritage for generations to come. Visit <http://www.treefarm-system.org/special-sites> to learn:

- What are special sites?
- Why should they be protected?
- How should they be protected?

Resources to help (includes national level resources as well as the resources available in your state.

include serving on the consulting forester advisory committee to guide services provided to colleagues; the education committee to plan and implement annual educational programming; and the Tree Farm committee. Paul created and launched the "Forestry School" weekend in 2009, now known as Woodland Retreat, and taught the first five classes. He also hosted several "Walk in the Woods" events on his 56-acre Tree Farm.

Vermonters are fortunate to have such a dedicated forester and the Tree Farm program is fortunate to have Harwood within its certified Tree Farm forester ranks.

Continued from page 2

Standards, which is third party certified by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The certification of MTL's timber allowed for the marketing of pulp from a timber sale last summer to Finch Paper that offers an incentive for certified wood. In this case, the incentive was additional money per ton.

Every five years the American Tree Farm Program audits each state and needs to tour several properties to verify that the American Tree Farm Standards are being met. In the summer of 2014, MTL's name was drawn for an inspection and a tour was given of the 2,700 acre King George Forest in Sheffield, VT. The inspection consisted of touring recent sale areas, review of the management plan, and discussion of MTL's philosophies. At the end of the day the Auditor was exceptionally impressed with MTL's management and confirmed that the companies approach exceeded the standards set forth by the American Tree Farm Program.

If any readers would like more information regarding MTL or how their private consulting services can help manage your forest, please visit their website at www.mtlforests.com and contact a member from the MTL team.



Who Supports Your Tree Farm Program? by Kathleen Wanner

There is no simple answer to this question but rather various revenue sources for various types of expenses. VWA, as the Tree Farm sponsor, underwrites program administration expenses that are not covered by other sources of revenue. Program administration costs approximately \$20,000 per year.

1. Tree Farmers pay a \$10 annual administration fee that provides about \$3,500-4,000 per year.
2. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF) helps to fund state programs. Each year, ATFS sets a per Tree Farm rate that is paid to the states for each certified Tree Farm. The expected rate for 2015 is approximately \$4.25, which will net approximately \$2,000 for Vermont.
3. Donations sent directly to ATFS in support of the national program are shared with the donor's state (50/50) so anyone who contributes to national is also contributing to the state. We do not have figures on the expected income as of this writing.
4. ATFS offers annual grant opportunities to state committees and Vermont has had the good fortune to receive grants for the last five years. These grants are awarded based on specific program proposals or specific program requirements. They have helped us meet many of our objectives, including the publication of this newsletter, inspector training, tree farm outreach, and much more. Although we have been successful in grant applications to date, this arena is very competitive and non-profits cannot rely on grants to complete their work.

How can you help?

1. Become a VWA member: Other state Tree Farm programs are sponsored by state landowner organizations. However, in several of those states membership in the landowner organization is required. The VWA

board and Tree Farm committee discuss this almost annually and always decide to make this optional and encourage our Tree Farmers to become VWA members. Thus, we have enclosed a brochure and return envelope in the newsletter. If you are a VWA member, thank you and please feel free to pass along the brochure to a family member, friend, or neighbor with your testimonial about the great work that VWA does for woodland owners. If you are not a member, please consider joining today to help support both VWA and the Tree Farm program in Vermont.

2. Make a tax-deductible contribution to Tree Farm: In 2003, the family of Richard Bizzozero (aka Biz), a dedicated Tree Farmer and past Tree Farmer of the Year, established an annuity fund in his memory. The income generated from this fund supports the VT Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The annuity has been growing with contributions from the family and also other Tree Farmers wishing to ensure the future of the program. VWA's annual fund drive offers contributors an opportunity to designate funds for Tree Farm support. If you wish to contribute to the Bizzozero Fund, you can return your contribution in the enclosed envelope allocated to Tree Farm.

Now that you know the various ways we support your Tree Farm program, we hope you will consider becoming a financial supporter yourself. We are very serious about taking the financial burden off of VWA and thus are also launching a dedicated fundraising effort to reach those who benefit from your stewardship. So, we ask if there are any Tree Farmers in our ranks who have development expertise that they would like to lend to our efforts. We've done a lot of research and are currently preparing our collateral materials. We have members of the committee who would be very good at fundraising and some who would not. What we need is a guiding star – someone who can get us off the ground comfortably. If that's you, please contact Kathleen at 802-747-7900 or email kmwanner@comcast.net.



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