

2015 Outstanding Vermont Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

On September 12, 2015 at David Paganelli's Clover Hill Tree Farm in So. Strafford, VT, over 100 people gathered to attend the 2015 Outstanding Vermont Tree Farmer of the Year Tour. Two concurrent sessions were offered in the morning and afternoon. In Session 1, attendees joined Dave Wilcox and Paul Harwood. Dave spoke about care of wild apple trees, including release, pruning, mowing, liming, grafting and demonstrated how these things are done. Paul demonstrated forest stand improvement work and explain how manipulating species composition and improving stem quality affects future timber value. They both discussed the importance of establishing and maintaining a proper road, trail and landing system.

During Session 2, participants joined Toby Alexander, Steve Hagenbuch and John Buck. John spoke about vertical and horizontal structure and how it impacts habitat for a broad range of wildlife species. Steve talked about forest structure and how it impacts bird habitat. Toby discussed the range of NRCS practices that help to enhance wildlife habitat, create and maintain forest openings, reduce soil erosion, treat invasive plants and improve the quality of young forests managed for timber. *Special thanks to Sun Edison for their sponsorship!*

