

**VERMONT WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, November 5, 2020  
Via GoToMeeting**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year, the meeting was conducted via GoToMeeting to ensure the safety of the participants. There were approximately 57 attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Allan Thompson at 7:02 PM; all were welcomed to this unique annual meeting. Allan related the hurdles the Association has had to overcome, and he introduced Paul Harwood, Put Blodgett's friend and forester, to provide a celebration of Put Blodgett, who passed away on March 3, 2020.

Paul gave a moving and emotional remembrance of Put Blodgett's life and accomplishments. Born in 1931, Put, a graduate of Dartmouth College was a skilled and award-winning cross-country skier, an avid hiker, and a passionate canoeist. Originally a dairy farmer, his true love was of forests and forestry. He was member or officer in many forestry or related organizations in NH and Vermont and President of VWA between 2000 and 2020. He was an early member of the Vermont Tree Farmer Program (TF #73) and won the state TFOY in both 2000 and 2011, winning the Regional award in 2011. Senator Leahy had recognition of Put placed in the Congressional Record on August 5, 2020. The state of Vermont's forests is better for his presence; he will be sorely missed.

Allan then described the work of the Association and how the strength of the forestry community effort of sharing like interests with others has helped carry on progress and find new ways of communication in these trying times.

Kathleen Wanner could not attend due to a family loss, and Allan introduced Kate Ziehm, President of Morning Ag Clips (MAC), which purchased Ghostwriters, and is now broadening VWA's capabilities to communicate and reach out to both members and the public – MAC clearly represents a “deep bench” and many new “tools” for Kathleen's Executive Director efforts. Kate introduced Stephanie Kelly of MAC who presented a comprehensive and exciting review of activities ongoing in VWA, in five areas:

- Online communications: MAC is expanding social media platforms, and the website, now being updated on a regular basis, has seen an increase in traffic.

- eNewsletter: The weekly effort is including more entries and advertising!
- Print publications: MAC is now doing a lot of the work on the quarterly publication; the December issue is now in production.
- Outreach: VWA/MAC is involved in a host of outreach activities, including Women Owning Woodlands; the Tree Farm Committee; Water Wise Woodlands; Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers; Legacy planning; Land Ethic Vermont; Our Vermont Woods; new carbon programs, and the state logger safety program; also helping with the effort to find a legislative liaison replacement.
- Partnerships: VWA is continuing partnerships with VT Coverts, FPR, Audubon, AFF, VLT, and VFPA.

From the Nominating Committee of Chris Fife, Leo Laferriere, and Marli Rabinowitz the following nominations for Board of Directors were presented and confirmed via the mail-in voting procedure used in the invitations sent out for the meeting (roughly over 140 ballots were returned and almost all were in the affirmative for the slate): Jamey Fidel, Luke Hardt, Dan Kilborn, Leo Laferriere, Marli Rabinowitz, Allan Thompson, and Stephen Webster.

Financials for VWA have been posted on the VWA website and will be available again in the March newsletter.

Rick Bizzozero, Co-Chair of the Tree Farm Program, presented the Starr family from Troy (5 Tree Farms!) as the Tree Farmers of the Year for 2020. The Starr family and their history represent a very successful effort to involve the entire family in the Tree Farm Program. A very large family event was held celebrating their achievement on Saturday, August 22, 2020.

Kathy Beland, Co-Chair of the Tree Farm program, described program progress and statistics, and she presented the annual awards to our inspectors for their accomplishment of support activities critical to the success of the program:

- In the program this year, 71 inspections were completed, much better than last year, 5 new TFs were brought in, and 12 were decertified.
- Ryan Kilborn won the award for the most inspections accomplished over the past year.
- Alan Calfee won the Inspector of the Year award for all the inspections and other activities he participated in that achieved the highest point total in the award scoring system.

50-year and 25-year Tree Farmer recognitions were provided for:

- 50 Year Tree Farmers: None this year
- 25 Year Tree Farmers:
  - Meadowsend Timberlands with three of their properties:
    - Delectable Mtn. Forest (992 acres): Barnard
    - Bridgewater Hollow (1131 acres)
    - Chateauguay Forest (2 parcels of 290 and 1222 acres): Bridgewater
  - Vermont Land Trust (111 acres): Woodstock
  - Patrick Leahy (139 acres): Middlesex

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Robertson  
Secretary