

NHTOA 110th Annual Meeting Supplement

May 13, 2021



Contents:

110th Annual Meeting Business Agenda, page 1

Minutes of the 109th NHTOA Annual Meeting, page 2

2021 NHTOA Annual Budget, page 8

Proposed 2021/2022 Officers and Board of Directors, page 12

New Director Bios, page 13

In Memoriam, pages 14-15

2021 NHTOA Award Honorees, page 15

NHTOA 110th Annual Meeting Business Meeting agenda

Call to Order – Linda Brownson
President’s Report – Linda Brownson
Treasurer’s Report – Anson Burt
Granite State Woodland Institute Report – Bob Berti
Executive Director Report – Jasen Stock
Nomination of Directors and Officers – Linda Brownson
Adjourn

Minutes of the 109th NHTOA Annual Meeting
Zoom conference call
June 13, 2020

Call to order

Shaun Lagueux, president, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed the attendees to the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association's (NHTOA) 109th Annual Meeting. He announced there were over 30 NHTOA members participating on the call, satisfying quorum requirement for the transaction of business.

Shaun Lagueux called for a motion to accept the minutes of the 109th NHTOA Annual Meeting held at the Danforth Bay Campground in Freedom, New Hampshire on May 4, 2019.

Leo Maslan made a motion to accept the minutes of the 108th NHTOA Annual Meeting held at the Danforth Bay Campground in Freedom, New Hampshire on May 4, 2019, as written.

Seconded by Pete Howland

Motion passed

President's report -- Shaun Lagueux

This is my last message as President of the NHTOA. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow board members for their time and dedication to the organization. It has been a pleasure serving as President.

Although this year has been an unusual year for non-profits and all of us (having this meeting through a Zoom conference call is testament to the unusual times we are in) I want to thank all NHTOA members, sponsors and partners who keep the organization going. This includes your financial support through membership dues, purchasing advertising, and annual fund revenues, as well as your work testifying on bills, and calling your local Representative or Senator to ask their support of policy proposals we are advocating for. Our partner's support on workshops and tours is also greatly appreciated as our PLP remains one of the best training programs in the country.

And, last but not least, I want to thank the NHTOA staff, Steve Bjerklie for all his work on our publications and communications, including his help every quarter with my President's Column in the *Timber Crier*. Thanks to Cheri for the excellent slate of classes (PLP and landowner) the NHTOA produces and runs and thanks to Debbie for helping to keep the office going. I also want to thank Jasen for his work advocating for all the work we do as forest products businesses and timberland owners. We saw this over the last two years with our biomass vetoes. And, despite the outcomes of those votes, the NHTOA's credibility in the NH Legislature remains strong.

As I pass the ax to Linda I look forward to finishing my term on the NHTOA Board and remaining engaged in this organization.

Marcy Perry made a motion to accept the President's Report

Seconded by Leo Maslan

Motion passed

2019 NHTOA Treasurer's Report -- Anson Burt

On pages 5 through 9 in the Annual meeting Supplement you will find the 2019 profit and loss statement and 2020 budget.

Although the NHTOA experienced a negative cash flow in 2019 the organization's fundamental financial position remains strong as the NHTOA's and Granite State Woodland Institute's current assets as of September 30th – the

end of our fiscal year are \$321,093, up \$6,564 from September 30, 2018. This is in addition to the Endowment which on September 30, 2019 was \$29,037

Revenues

In 2019 the NHTOA and its 501c3 supporting organization, the Granite State Woodland Institute, raised \$502,323. This was \$3,047 off budget. The difference can be attributed to the lack of grant revenues and a decrease in membership revenues. NHTOA and the Granite State Woodland Institute made up much of this with \$282,929 in contributions which exceeded budget estimates by \$42,929.

Expenses

The Board and staff continue to do a good job managing our expenses which were slightly above budget by \$6,701 or 1.3%.

Salaries and program specific staff expense are the organization's single largest expense which was \$7,598 above budget or 3 %.

The only other noteworthy expense is under strategic plan – forestry economics project. This is a forestland economic study the NHTOA plans to do. It was not finalized during the 2019 fiscal year. When completed this fiscal year, this will be a Granite State Woodland Institute funded project.

Looking forward to 2020

Like for everyone in America, 2020 is a year of uncertainty. Fortunately, the NHTOA Board took a conservative approach to developing its 2020 budget. This can be seen with the revenue projections. Specifically, the Board took a conservative cutting revenue projections (mostly Contribution revenues) by \$24,500 from last year's and cutting spending by \$17,404 (mostly from staff and professional fees).

But, also like everyone in America we are looking forward to moving our programming forward and pursuing the projects our membership wants to see. This is reflected in the expense line items under Strategic Plan.

This concludes my Treasurer's report.

Linda Brownson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

Seconded by Marcy Perry

Motion passed

Chris Fife made a motion to accept the proposed 2019/2020 budget as presented.

Seconded by Jenn Barton-Scaranza

Motion passed

Granite State Woodland Institute report -- Robert Berti

Before I give Granite State Woodland Institute report I would like us to have a moment of silence for the three NHTOA members we recently lost who are listed in today's program, Bruce Schwaegler, David Tellman, and Isobel Parke. Two were clients and all three were friends.

Moment of Silence

Before I get into the Granite State Woodland Institute's financial performance, I want to take a moment to thank the NHTOA staff. The quality of our staff and leadership of our boards has made this organization one of the most effective in the state. I am proud to be a part of this.

As you can see in the financial report, the Granite State Woodland Institute had a good year in 2019. Our support continues to rise and we are seeing modest growth in our endowment. In 2019 GSWI raised \$88,449. In this figure are also a couple of donations to the endowment, which is now approaching \$30,000.

The turmoil we are seeing in financial markets and with the stability of profit and non-profit organizations since March is a great reminder of why it is important we dedicate more time and energy towards growing our endowment. Although our endowment may not cover all of our expenses, it can certainly help provide some stability to our revenue in times like we are seeing.

To this end, as the NHTOA looks to update its strategic plan and how it will deploy its staff and resources, I want to make sure the Granite State Woodland Institute gets some additional assistance to grow its fund raising work and endowment.

Susan Bryant Kimball made a motion to accept the Granite State Woodland Institute report with the following correction to the list of legacy members as printed in the Annual Report

- **add David Tellman,**
- **remove extra Harold Cook**

Seconded by Liz Hager

Motion passed

Executive Director Report -- Jasen Stock

I want to thank the NHTOA Board, Timber Harvesting Council members, all the committee members and our staff. Our volunteerism is impressive.

I also want to thank the thousands of members, donors, advertisers and other supporters who really help keep our organization going.

For my report I want to take a few minutes to highlight the most significant projects your organization is working on and the challenges and opportunities we see ahead.

Financially

Anson talked about our revenue and cost controls. And, despite a modest loss of \$2,322 in 2019 our balance sheet remains strong with over \$321,093 in current assets.

And as we heard from Bob Berti, also getting stronger is the GSWI's performance as we see more members supporting the NHTOA's work through this tax deductible vehicle. And, we have more members looking to support the NHTOA through their estate plans, non-cash gifts, and gifts to the endowment. Today we have half dozen members committing to support NHTOA through their estate plan.

You will see listed in our Annual Meeting Supplement a write-up on Dave Tellman, Isobel Park and Bruce Schwaegler. The NHTOA Board thought it appropriate to recognize them for their perennial support for our organization.

Operationally

The NHTOA through our program director, Cheri Birch, continues to develop logger and landowner training workshops that are the envy of many states. These enhanced programs are a service our members want and we anticipate seeing more activity in membership recruitment and retention.

In addition to Cheri's work on the Forestry Careers Field Day Shaun mentioned she is also working with the NH Sustainable Forestry Initiative's state committee in organizing a teacher tour. This four day boot camp will teach New Hampshire educators about the value and importance of working forests, the forest products industry, and multiple use management.

Lastly, our publications/communications continue provide our members information on markets and industry and timberland owner and we are pleased with the recent award recognition of the Timber Crier.

Politically

Despite the biomass veto battles, the NHTOA saw several significant victories in the legislature as we successfully blocked several negative bills that would have increased taxes on timberland owners, added regulatory and administrative hurdles to forestry operations and forest products businesses. We successfully blocked onerous tax (timber and property) proposals and regulatory hurdles.

Looking forward

There is no doubt the remainder of 2020 and 2021 will be challenging as markets, and our economy come back.

This is why the NHTOA's work is more important now than ever.

Protecting Current Use – State and local coffers will be looking for revenues everywhere. Next month the NHTOA is releasing its working lands economic study to help buttress the argument that timberland already more than pays for itself in forest products and other benefits.

Reasonable and sensible regulatory standards – Margins for timberland owners and those in the forest products industry are razor thin. We cannot afford any additional operating or administrative costs.

Markets, markets – NHTOA will continue to work with its partners in and outside government, at UNH Cooperative Extension and UNH Thompsons School exploring new and alternative markets for our forest products (low grade timber in particular)

But none of any of this work can happen without the support of our members and the dedication of our Boards, committee members, staff and their families. For this I am personally and professionally thankful.

I look forward to working with all of you next year.

Comments from members

Ann Davis – I want to also recognize Put Blodgett who recently passed away for his service and dedication to NHTOA. He was an active member (cut and split his own firewood until he was over 80) and was an inspiration to many.

Ann Davis – I want to thank Jeremy Turner for his 8 years of service on the NHTOA Board of Directors.

Liz Hager made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report.

Seconded by Linda Brownson

Motion passed

Nomination of new NHTOA Officers and directors – Shaun Lagueux

Please review the proposed slate of directors and officers listed on pages 9 and 10 in the Annual Meeting Supplement. I am seeking a motion to approve the proposed slate of directors and officers as listed.

**Dennis McKenney made a motion to accept the slate of directors and officers as proposed
Seconded by Bob Berti
Motion passed**

Incoming President's Remarks -- Linda Brownson

Regrettably, we can't quite match our usual, joyful gathering this time, but I give all of us credit for becoming more tech savvy with virtual meetings. I prefer to view every crisis as an opportunity, though it is not always easy to see the movement forward. We are weathering the situation, however, thanks to Jasen, our excellent staff, and the participation of our board of directors. NHTOA is productive and strong and our strength is the best place to come from in these challenging times.

In reading over our 2019 Annual Report, this strength is most evident in the impressive list of contributors to our Annual Fund! Our many members and friends clearly understand the important work of our organization and choose to lend support.

In reviewing the history of our organization this past week, I was moved by how North Country timberland owners in 1910 came together as a force in forest fire protection. When enough members of the group had acted favorably, dues were paid, and directors were elected. The NHTOA was born! They realized that working together, they would be more effective than the fragmented efforts of each timberland owner acting separately. Then, as now, this is a winning strategy. Working together toward our common goals enables us to achieve greater recognition from, and access to, both the legislature and governmental agencies as well as from people in the private sector.

I wish to thank all those who supported the Annual Fund for their contributions. The Fund comprises 50% of our annual budget and allows us to advocate for our membership, communicate, and expand and maintain the excellent educational and certification programs we offer.

I am honored to assume the role of President of the NHTOA. Thank you so much for your support. Shaun has provided a great model on how to do the job well; I have learned from him on many issues and I thank you for your leadership Shaun. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to work with Chris Fife, our vice-president. Fortunately, we are privileged to work with and learn from a knowledgeable and diverse board of directors. There exists a variety of ways to educate, coordinate, and take action to assist forestland owners and forest industry members ---but what actually occurs is largely a reflection of the dedication, experience, and vision of our board, our members, our staff---Deb, Steve, Cheri, ---and our Executive Director Jasen..... We have a great team!

NHTOA Annual Awards Recipients:

As you well know, every year the NHTOA sends out a call for awards in order for us to recognize an individual or business who deserves to be recognized for outstanding professionalism, service to community, and service to the industry. Nominations are then reviewed by our Awards Committee and approved by a vote of the Board of Directors. Nominees for the President's Award and Kendall Norcott Award are reviewed and approved by the Board.

Given the circumstances of the pandemic, we are not at this time able to recognize them properly in person, however, we plan to formally acknowledge them at an awards social event sometime this autumn.

In the meantime, I would like to announce the award winners and say just a few words, as a prelude to our autumn event:

Our NH Outstanding Logger is Chris Goodnow of Goodnow Logging and Trucking in Winchester, NH.

From its start in wood transportation, Goodnow Trucking has expanded into full-service logging with a reputation of quality, skilled work. Chris manages the firm, overseeing buying and bidding, while he and his father Lloyd handle the selling. Goodnow is a big believer in the power of good relationships and says that “servicing the needs of landowners is always first and foremost.” Chris is an enthusiastic supporter of the PLP and a Goodnow logging job exemplifies what the PLP certification is all about.

NH Outstanding Forest Industry: Chris and Rebecca Crowe of Timberwolf Logging in Littleton.

Our award acknowledges the company’s reputation for high-quality logging, excavation, milling and firewood processing, as well as Chris and Rebecca’s 34 years of contribution to the industry. Chris has a strong interest in new projects. He and his crew are restoring an old sawmill in Lewis, NY and he has recently purchased a carbonator to make biochar in Mass from “junk mats.” The company has been growing its firewood business and now produces more than 2,000 cords a year. True to its origins as an outgrowth of his father Luther Crowe’s logging business, Timberwolf remains a family company.

President’s Award: Tom Thomson, Thomson Family Tree Farm, Orford, NH

For over 35 years, Tom has been actively engaged in educating the public on the importance of the forest industry and how to apply good conservation practices to our forestland. Tom’s efforts have always been about protecting our rights to continue to own and work in our state’s oldest, continuous industry. He knows well that a healthy forest industry provides good markets for our forest landowners, **and** how we manage our forestland helps drive the economic engine of our recreation and tourism industries. Tom’s commitment to the forest industry is proven by his continued involvement in myriad organizations---too many to name! He truly is a champion for our forest community!

Kendall Norcott Award: Pete Howland, Cersosimo Lumber (retired), Conway

Pete studied forestry at UNH and started his professional career working for Kennett Corp, a large land ownership and management company out of Conway. Following that, Pete went into the sawmill side of the industry as a hardwood log buyer for Saunders Brothers and eventually ending his career purchasing hardwood saw logs for the largest hardwood sawmill in Northern New England, Cersosimo Lumber.

Throughout his career in the hardwood lumber business Pete was very active in the U.S. Forest Service’s timber management program in the White Mountain National Forest, bidding on and operating timber harvests. He has served on numerous state forestry boards and commissions, and served as our NHTOA President from 2016-2018. The Kendall Norcott Award recognizes a person for service and dedication to the organization well beyond board and committee work, and that is Pete!

There is yet another call for recognition. Reviewing NHTOA history, I noted that Jasen became Executive Director in the year 2000. So, this is his 20th anniversary year serving our organization! His is an impressive record! On a personal note, I have to say that I have served on many boards throughout my career and I have never experienced the luxury of working with as competent, dedicated, and committed Ex. Director as Jasen Stock. Thank you, Jasen.

If there is no other business to come before this meeting, I would entertain a motion to adjourn the 109th Annual Meeting of the NHTOA.

Other Business

Linda asked if there was any other business to come before the Annual Meeting.

Ann Davis expressed thanks to the board (including Rich Roy) for their time and service to the organization.

Leo Maslan expressed thanks to Shaun Lagueux for his service as President.

Shaun Lagueux made a motion to adjourn the 109th NHTOA Annual Business Meeting.

Seconded by Bob Berti

Motion passed

2020 financial results and 2021 Proposed NHTOA Budget

DESCRIPTION	2020 Budget	2020 Results	2021 Budget
Income			
HOLD	500	3,160	1,000
Advertisng			
Annual Meeting	8,000	5,506	5,000
Sales Discounts	-1,500	-1,366	-800
Logger Convention	10,000	6,406	7,000
Timber Crier	25,000	16,420	20,000
Total Advertising	41,500	26,966	35,000
Annual Meeting Income	8,000	175	9,000
Contributions	145,000	153,692	160,000
Grant Income-Misc.	1,000	6,555	1,000
Interest Income - NHTOA	400	643	600
Membership - New	5,000	2,445	4,000
Membership - Renewals	97,000	97,199	97,000
Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0
NHTOA workshops	5,000	2,045	3,000
Promotional	300	65	300
Refund Income	0	-299	500
S.P.A.C.E. income/reimbursement	0	0	0
SFI Income	16,970	20,702	15,370
Special Programs (career field day)	0	3,550	0
THC Income			
THC Forestry Course Income	30,000	6,525	25,000
THC Forestry Course Income from SFI	21,000	17,000	18,000
THC Loggers Convention	6,000	3,820	6,000
THC Income-Miscellaneous	1,000	655	1,000
Total THC Income	58,000	28,000	50,000
****Projected GSWI Income: Contributions	70,000	281,809	60,000
****Projected GSWI Income: Grants	32,000	15,000	25,000
Total Revenue (NHTOA/GSWI)	480,670	641,707	461,770
Expenses			
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0	0	0
Annual Meeting Expenses - 2019	0	150	0
Annual Meeting Expenses - 2020	0	3,769	0
Annual Meeting Expenses - 2021	10,000	0	8,000
Awards	3,000	4,980	1,800
Bad Debts	4,000	-488	1,000
Bank Service Charges			

Bank & Credit Card Charges - GSWI		250		373		250	
Merchant Account Service Fees		200		385		400	
Bank & Credit Card Charges - other		1,300		1,313		1,300	
Total Bank Service Charges			1,750		1,698		1,950
Business Enterprise Tax			1,676		3,832		1,660
Development Expenses							
Literature/Letterhead		3,000		5,961		3,000	
Other (postage and reception)		0		175		0	
Consultation Fees/Travel		1,000		413		500	
Total Development Expenses			4,000		6,549		3,500
Donations			100		0		0
Dues/Subscriptions/Prof. Activities			1,100		2,007		1,300
Equip-Phone Sys ops.			40		0		0
Equipment Purchase/lease			0		800		0
Equipment Maintenance			500		0		0
Grant related expenses			500		3,218		1,000
GSWI Staff allocation & exp.			0		9,188		0
Insurance (business, D&O)			5,150		5,109		3,998
Insurance (D&O) - GSWI			709		720		720
Internet			2,200		2,409		2,200
Legal/Admin./permit fees - GSWI			2,000		75		500
Legal fees - NHTOA			500		0		500
Log A Load			0		438		200
Low-grade Wood Project Expense			0		0		0
Membership							
Staff		0		0		0	
materials and other		500		2,609		500	
Total Membership Expenses			500		2,609		500
Miscellaneous Expense (discrepancy correction)			0		0		0
Office Supplies			4,000		9,533		7,000
Office Supplies, Misc. -- GSWI			0		109		100
Paypal - fees			700		481		600
Payroll Expenses							
Intuit Fees		800		552		800	
Payroll Expenses - taxes/social sec. & medicare		17,092		18,802		16,933	
Payroll Expenses - Workers Comp Insurance		700		1,737		892	
Unemployment - SUTA		1,200		56		1,200	
Total Payroll Expenses			19,792		21,147		19,825
Postage			6,000		13,313		8,000
Postage - mail assistance			2,000		401		300
Printing Expense							
Printing - Annual Report		2,000		4,293		3,000	
Printing - Copies		500		1,561		500	

Printing - General Office Supplies		1,800		2,138		500	
Printing - Other		0		839		0	
Printing - Timber Crier		20,000		20,553		20,000	
Total Printing Expenses			24,300		29,384		24,000
Professional Fees (Admin. Support)			8,000		8,293		8,000
Professional Fees (Accounting)			12,000		13,643		13,000
Professional Fees (Accounting) - GSWI			1,200		1,915		1,200
Professional Fees (Legal)			1,000		10,511		5,000
Professional Fees (Writing)			1,500		0		2,000
Programs/Workshops/Meetings			7,000		3,637		3,000
Promotional			2,000		176		500
Refunds			0		0		0
Rent			10,300		9,809		10,300
Staff Salary							
Salary - Communications Director		25,009		25,512		18,698	
Salary - Executive Director		93,820		77,599		96,915	
Salary - Office Manager		44,563		27,476		44,563	
Salary - Program Director		56,025		837		56,025	
Salary - Admin		800		532		800	
Salary - proposed increase/bonus		3,204		0		4,340	
Total Salary			223,421		131,956		221,342
SFI Expenses							
SFI General Program Admin.		0		292		0	
SFI Internal Oversight		1,400		363		1,835	
SFI Outreach/Research Expenses		5,500		6,920		4,000	
SFI Program (teacher tour)		0		0		12,020	
SFI Staff Time		0		11,647		0	
SFI Expenses - Other (print cert, web, adv, hfh)		4,000		1,479		500	
Total SFI Expenses			10,900		20,701		18,355
Simple IRA Company Match			6,703		4,036		6,640
Software			200		56		0
State filing fees			150		125		125
Strategic Plan							
Prepare next plan (meetings, facilitator)		5,000		5,000		4,300	
Goal 1, Obj. 2 and Goal 2, Obj. 1 - T/C mailed to policymakers		0		0		0	
Goal 2, Obj. 1, and 2 - workforce dev.		27,000		3,839		24,000	
Goal 3, Obj. 2 - forester/logger info.		0		0		0	
Goal 1, Obj. 3 - regional partnerships		0		0		0	
Goals 3,2,5, Obj 3,2,1 - forestry economics project		7,000		20,412		0	
Total Strategic Plan			39,000		29,251		28,300

Telephone			4,500		4,504		4,500
THC Expenses							
THC-ALC Dues/Travel		6,000		3,648		6,000	
THC-L&T Convention Exp.		10,000		6,364		9,000	
THC-PLP Admin. Expenses		2,000		12		2,000	
THC-PLP Course Materials		7,000		3,294		7,000	
THC-PLP Hall Rental		200		0		200	
THC-PLP Instructor Wages		9,000		6,608		9,000	
THC-PLP Program Expenses		5,000		4,201		4,000	
THC-PLP Copies		2,500		2,894		2,000	
THC-PLP Postage		3,500		1,026		3,000	
THC-PLP Staff Time		0		64,311		0	
Total THC Expenses			45,200		92,358		42,200
Travel			10,000		7,874		9,000
Travel Meals			2,000		960		1,000
Tree Farm Expenses			500		0		0
Website Maintenance/Hosting			400		706		400
Total Expenses			480,490		461,943		463,514
The bottom line			180		179,764		-1,744
Endowment							
Revenue							
Grants/Gifts			0		7,950		5,000
Interest/dividend			500		678		500
Total Revenue			500		8,628		5,500
Current Balance (Sept. 30, 2020)							
			\$34,291.00				

Proposed 2021/2022 NHTOA Board of Directors & Officers

Executive Committee

NAME	COUNTY	REPRESENTATION	OFFICER TERM ENDS	DIR. TERM ENDS
Linda Brownson, president	Grafton	Landowners	2022	2025
Chris Fife, vice president	Coos	Landowners	2022	2022
Anson Burt, treasurer	Cheshire	Loggers	2022	2022
Jeff Snitkin, secretary	Sullivan	Consulting Foresters	2023	2023
John Randall, at-large	Cheshire	Sawmills	2023	2022

Directors

NAME	COUNTY	REPRESENTATION	DIR. TERM ENDS
Jennifer Barton-Scaranza	Coos	Landowners	2022
Susan Bryant-Kimball	Carroll	Landowners	2022
Ross Caron	Coos	Pulp & Paper	2025
Joe Carrier	Merrimack	Sawmills	2025
John Fuller	Carroll	Sawmills	2025
Liz Hager	Belknap	Landowners	2023
Shaun Lagueux	Grafton	Consulting Foresters	2022
Bill Lipfert	Sullivan	Landowners	2025
David Marden	Rockingham	Landowners	2025
Jeff Normand	Merrimack/Coos	At-Large	2023
Brendan Prusik	Coos	At-large	2025
Don Quigley	Strafford	At-large	2024
Rich Roy	Merrimack	Wood Energy	2024
Michael Sharp	Grafton	Logger	2023

County Chapter Chairman

Jeff Snitkin, Sullivan

New Members of the NHTOA Board

Ross Caron – Pulp & Paper

Ross Caron is a wood buyer for Sappi North America, responsible for buying open market roundwood in New Hampshire and southern Maine. He is a 1997 graduate of UNH with a BS degree in forestry and is a NH licensed forester, certified logger, certified weighmaster, and Maine licensed log scaler. Previously, he worked as a log buyer, forester, log scaler, and equipment operator at White Mountain Lumber in Berlin, NH. He is a partner with his brother in a small sawmill business and enjoys managing his family's woodlots, hiking, canoeing, reading, wood projects, and learning to play acoustic guitar.

Joe Carrier -- Sawmills

Joe Carrier manages HHP sawmill in Henniker, N.H., an integrated forest products company that includes a state-of-the-art hardwood sawmill, paper-quality chip production and the manufacture of pallets and skids. Founded in 1966, HHP was purchased by the Carrier family in 1989. Joe began working at his father's chipping mill, Ossipee Chipping, while he was still in high school. At HHP, he employs a team approach to management -- "The advantage of our team approach is that when someone has a new idea, we look at it across the whole operation," he says -- and is especially interested in bringing new technology into milling.

John Fuller -- Sawmills

John Fuller is general manager at Madison Lumber in Madison, N.H. He is responsible for safety, environmental and regulatory compliance, cost control and improvement, strategy development and execution, participation on divestiture and acquisition teams, participation on labor negotiation teams, and leading organizational development and work process improvement effort. "My greatest satisfaction comes from driving process and organizational improvement efforts that result in stronger financial performance and business growth," he comments.

Bill Lipfert -- Landowners

Bill Lipfert is a landowner in Cornish, N.H. The 775-acre Lipfert property extends into Claremont, N.H., and is under a conservation easement managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust. Bill is committed to sustainable forestry and a healthy forest, and toward that goal he has installed waterbars and culverts, seeded log landings, converted cornfield to hayfield, released apple trees, created snag trees, controlled a variety of invasive trees and shrubs, planted native shrubs along the Connecticut River for wildlife and soil stabilization, and built a 16-mile trail network which is open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, and skiing. Currently, Bill is chairman of the Cornish Planning Board.

Jeff Normand – At-Large

Jeff Normand is a life-long resident of Coos County. He grew up in and went to school in Groveton, N.H., where he currently resides. Jeff and his wife are the proud parents of five children (four boys, one girl) and they are pleased most of them still live in the area. Jeff is a sales representative for McDevitt Trucks. With offices in Lancaster and Manchester, McDevitt Trucks is a prominent supplier of trucks, trailers, and associated equipment to the forest products industry in northern, New Hampshire, northern Vermont, and western Maine. In fact, over half of the business at McDevitt's Lancaster location is forest products-related. When not selling trucks or spending time with his family, Jeff is in the woods. An avid hunter, fisherman, hiker, and camper he tries to get out into the forest whenever possible.

Michael Sharp -- Logger

Michael Sharp grew up in the logging business, first working for his father until inheriting the family business. From his base in Bristol, N.H., he is also an equipment dealer, selling a wide range of heavy logging machinery. A longtime member of the NHTOA, Michael has hosted NHTOA events, classes, and workshops, and was a crucial supporter in 2018 of the successful drive to overturn Gov. Sununu's veto of legislation to support the biomass energy industry in New Hampshire.

In Memoriam: Put Blodgett

Putnam “Put” Blodgett grew up on a dairy farm in Bradford, Vt., and after graduating from Dartmouth College in 1953, Put and his wife Marilyn took over the family business. While he won awards from the state of Vermont for milk production, the difficult economics of dairying forced Put to look elsewhere for opportunities. He found them in the woods. He managed a 700-acre woodlot that remains in the family. “I got into woodland management after I realized paying for a modern dairy layout one squirt of milk at a time didn’t make sense,” he told Dartmouth Alumni Magazine last year. “I’d wandered the woods since childhood.” His son Peter recalls, “His relationship with wood goes back a very long way.”



At Dartmouth, Put got to know Ross McKenney, the woodcraft adviser to the Dartmouth Outing Club and who oversaw the construction of Dartmouth’s Moosilauke Ravine Lodge in the 1930s. (When the lodge was rebuilt four years ago, more than 100 White Pine logs used in the construction came from the Blodgett woodlot.) A longtime Maine guide, McKenney encouraged Put’s interests in woodworking and forestry. When the two met, McKenney’s duties included teaching woodcrafting at a camp for young boys and organizing woodsman weekend competitions, in which Put captained a winning team as a senior. “When he got an idea in his head, he pursued it,” his son Boo Blodgett told the Valley News. “He was a very competitive person. He didn’t have the natural athletic ability to do some of the things he wanted to do, so his determination made up for it.” Later, Put turned part of the Bradford farm into a youth camp. According to Boo, children came from cities to the camp to experience living in an Adirondack shelter, cooking over an open fire, learning to canoe and take hikes. Put continued to operate what he called Challenge Wilderness Camp for more than 20 years into the mid-1980s, long after selling the dairy farm. “Running a camp gave me the opportunity to canoe and hike and be in the woods — to do all the things I loved but didn’t have time for as a farmer,” Put told Dartmouth Alumni Magazine.

The wood lot has been in the Blodgett family for more than 90 years, and managing it became Put’s primary business. Kathleen Wanner, executive director for the Vermont Woodlands Association, said Blodgett — the VWA’s president for 20 years, up to his death — always made his intentions obvious. “He was very clear about what was important to him,” Kathleen told the Valley News. “He was very focused on our forest resource and caring for the land. He had very strong opinions, and you could always count on knowing what Put thought. Everything he did while I knew him was toward ensuring that the working landscape remained intact.” Put was instrumental in the effort to put Vermont’s current use program into law in the 1970s.

“Put is probably the most energetic, creative, self-motivated person I know,” Paul Harwood, an Orange County forester, said. “There was nothing that was too much of a challenge for him. That pretty well described his interest and attitude about owning land, that it was a challenge. He looked at it for multiple resources: wildlife, timber, recreation, water quality, air quality, soil health. It was everything, the big picture.”

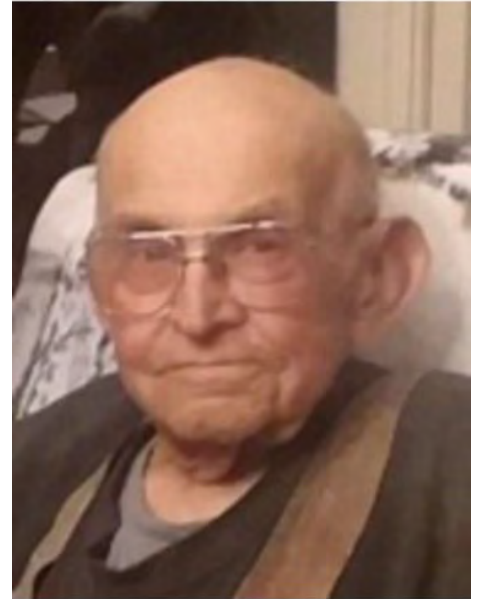
Besides managing the family woodlot, Put became an expert canoeist and cross-country skier, and learned how to set cross-country tracks. He created courses for several Dartmouth College winter carnivals, three NCAA Championships, and the cross country and biathlon competitions at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Even late in life, Put regularly hiked to the summit of Mt. Moosilauke – “Dartmouth’s Mountain” -- including on his 88th birthday. The memorial service for Put Blodgett was held at Moosilauke Ravine Lodge on Aug. 1, 2021, on what would have been Put’s 90th birthday.

In Memoriam: Fred LeClair

Known as “Pork,” Fred LeClair was a native of Fremont, N.H. While serving in the U.S. Army 3rd Armored Division, Pork participated in what became known as the “Berlin Crisis” in 1961, when Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev demanded the exit of all Allied forces from the city, ultimately dividing Berlin with the Berlin Wall. An avid outdoorsman, Pork was a deer hunter and fisherman, but he was also a passionate woodsman. In 1984, his company, Fred LeClair & Sons Logging, was named Logger of the Year by the NHTOA. The company specializes in logging, selective cutting, chipping for biomass, and land-clearing.

Pork’s wife Joyce (Hall) LeClair died in 2016. He is survived by two sons, Fred S. LeClair and his wife Linda of Fremont, N.H. and Michael S. LeClair of Fremont, N.H.



2021 NHTOA Awards Honorees

Please join us on August 26, 2021, at the HHP sawmill in Henniker, N.H., for a special event honoring our 2021 NHTOA Award recipients, beginning at 5:00 p.m.. Watch the NHTOA website and Facebook page for details.

Outstanding Logger

Moose Mountain Logging, Bill Dirubbo

Outstanding Forest Products Industry

Ossipee Mountain Land, Jeff Coombs

President’s Award

Brad Simpkins

Put Blodgett

Kendall Norcott Award

Dennis McKenney

