

[View this email in your browser](#)



In this issue: 2021 Annual Report, our new conservation forester, Cold Brook land purchase, in the forest with LCMM students, and more!

2021 Annual Report

Take a look back, in photos and words, at what Vermont Family Forests was up to throughout the seasons of 2021. We are deeply grateful to be part of this vibrant community in this beautiful place we are so fortunate to call home.

[Check out the Report >](#)

Highlights of 2021 **Winter**

White Pine on the Water
In February, we helped VFF landowner Tom Kenyon (left, with son David) mark trees for a timber harvest. Several pines looked like they'd yield great boat-building wood. We checked with our friends at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and earmarked seven trees for them. The logs were trucked to the museum and milled into boards. Local students in LCMM's Longboats Program will use this wood to build wooden boats that will join the LCMM fleet, fostering community well-being through rowing.

Lines of Grace
As climate change brings stronger storms to Vermont, it's more important than ever to create and maintain stable, gently sloped, erosion-resistant forest access trails—what we call Lines of Grace. In 2021 we helped Little Hogback Community Forest stakeholders create stable access for an upcoming timber sale. Winding across the hilly parcel at a 7% average grade, the 3600 feet of new access replaced several existing sections of steep logging trails.
We also continued trailwork at our own Abraham's Knees land in Lincoln, where we're replacing the steep, eroding access road with lines of grace that gently climb the steep rises for which the land is named.

Hunting Partnership
We allow hunting of deer, turkey, grouse, and woodcock by written permission on the lands we hold. We consider hunters important conservation partners and always appreciate their feedback on their hunting experience. In 2021, 22 hunters requested permission to hunt on VFF's Anderson lands. Hunters Kurt Naser and Jody Atkins shared this photo of a moose, which walked close by as they were hunting deer on VFF's Anderson Guttrie-Bancroft land.

Cultivating an Earth-Centered World View
David gave a special presentation to the Lewis Creek Association. **EARTH ALIVE!** Applying an Earth-Centered Worldview in the Forested Watersheds of Home addressed the tangible actions we can take, here in the Center-West Ecoregion, to address pressing ecological issues and cultivate mutually beneficial relationship with the forests of home.

EARTH ALIVE!
Partnering an Earth-Centered Worldview with Forested Watersheds of Home
David Naser, Vermont Family Forests



Welcome, Ralph!

In March, Ralph Tursini joined the Vermont Family Forests team as conservation forester. Ralph brings a wealth of forestry, teaching, and woodworking skills to our organization, and we're thrilled to have him on board.

[Read more about Ralph >](#)

Into the forest with LCMM boat-builders

When VFF executive director David Brynn took boat-building students from Lake Champlain Maritime Museum into the Kenyon Family Forest, a timber sale was in full swing. Students met the living white pines that would help build LCMM longboats and witnessed the process of harvesting them.

[Read about their adventures >](#)



Welcome, Cold Brook!

What a month—we welcomed both a new staff member and a new piece of land. In March, we purchased a 95.6-acre parcel of land in Bristol and Lincoln. We call it Cold Brook, after the stream that runs through it. Learn why we're so excited about this land.



[More about Cold Brook >](#)

Hogback Community College

Our Hogback Community College courses are back after a Covid hiatus! The incomparable Jim Andrews is teaching two courses at the moment—*Conserving Vermont's Reptiles* and *Conserving Vermont's Amphibians*. Students will be heading into the field in less than two weeks—spring is here!



[View our current courses >](#)



Morning light on Mount Abraham, as seen from Vermont Family Forests' Anderson land in Lincoln.



[Update Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

