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In this issue: Gratitude to Kathleen Stutzman, close look at Vermont's reptiles and amphibians, autumn chainsaw training classes, and more. (photo above by Ira Powsner)

Thank you, Kathleen!

After eight years with Vermont Family Forests, **Kathleen Stutzman** is heading to back the forestry program at the University of Vermont to pursue a masters degree. In 2014, Kathleen began working at VFF as a volunteer, and she soon joined the VFF staff as conservation forester.

We will miss her a lot and wish her great adventures in her graduate studies. In her research, she'll be assessing regeneration success in the pitch pine forest community in response to various management practices, with the goal of helping land managers sustain and restore this rare community.



Photo: Kathleen shares the art of inoculating oak logs with shiitake spores at VFF's Wells Farm.



The Wild World of Vermont' Amphibians

In spring of 2020, the Covid pandemic put a halt to our Hogback Community College courses, just as we were about to start the field-study portion of herpetologist Jim Andrew's **Conserving Vermont's Amphibians** course. Two years later, our class reassembled for the first of three field trips—to the vernal pools and wetlands on the south end of Snake Mountain. What a day!

Photo: Who's who? Read the blog to find out!

[Read about what we discovered >](#)

Autumn Chainsaw Training Courses

This fall we're offering **Basic Chainsaw Use and Safety** and **Game of Logging Level 1**. Because our September 27 and 29 offerings of these courses filled almost immediately, we've added two more sessions, October 4 and 6. We currently have one opening in the September 29 Level 1 course, plus several spaces in the October 4 Basic and October 6 Level 1 courses.

Visit our Eventbrite page for details and to register. Since we often get cancellations, be sure to add yourself to the waitlist of any course that's full.

[For details and to register >](#)





Conserving Vermont's Reptiles

The 19 students in our latest **Hogback Community College** course had plenty of up-close time with some of Vermont's remarkable reptiles. Most importantly, they learned conservation practices for helping maintain and encourage reptile populations.

[Check out our photo-blog!](#)



Students in Jim Andrew's **Conserving Vermont's Amphibians** course found several spring salamanders in this mountain stream near Goshen. Their presence was a great indicator that this stream is clean, clear, highly oxygenated. Ira Powsner captured this image of this beauty.



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