



SPRING 2006  
Upper Valley Edition

# Green Works

Newsletter of Tree Preservation, Forestry and Land Enhancement

Another northern New England winter is coming to an end, and spring, or at the very least mud season, is in the air! As of this writing it's certainly been a "mock" winter, with more cycles of rain than outdoor winter sports enthusiasts care to see. Despite the back road conditions, spring bird song and the light and warmth of longer days are most refreshing to the senses and heartening to the winter-weary soul.

This edition's featured article by our consulting forester Mark Fogarty answers several questions with regard to forestry practices and may be of particular interest to those enrolled or considering enrollment in either the New Hampshire or Vermont Current Use Program.

We have an idea for a good family outing on a muddy spring day: Visit us once again at the Hanover 2006 HomeLife Show at Leverone Field House, Dartmouth College, on March 24-26 and bring the completed coupon found within this newsletter to enter our drawing for \$1,000 worth of tree work at your property! *-Will Russell*

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## Should You Hire a Consulting Forester?

Mark Fogarty, *Licensed Forester, ISA Certified Arborist*

While the practice of forestry in the field is very dynamic, the majority of a professional forester's time is spent consulting with landowners, developing their goals for stewardship, educating them on forest practices, and quelling any fears or hesitations about timber harvesting. During these discussions the most frequently asked questions regard how forest products are sold and how the revenue from the sale of the timber is calculated.

Wood products can be sold through a number of different avenues, all of which have both advantages and disadvantages. In the northeast there are two primary ways of marketing saw timber: **Lump Sum Sale** and **Pay-As-You-Go**.

*"The trees that have it  
in their pent-up buds  
To darken nature  
and be summer woods"*

—ROBERT FROST

In the **Lump Sum Sale** method, timber is marked for removal and volume calculations are made for each tree designated to be harvested within the woodlot. Marking is done with a "two dot" system. The first blaze is at eye level so the harvester can identify each tree designated for removal. A second dot is painted lower on the stem, to verify to the landowner and forester post-harvest that the tree was indeed intended for removal.

Once the stand has been marked and all volume calculations compiled based on species of wood, grade, and quality, price negotiations begin with timber harvesters. Two advantages to this system are that all payments are made up front before any wood is cut, or any equipment is moved onto the property and the contractor has incentive to maximize the wood resources and minimize waste.

However, the Lump Sum Sale method is not without disadvantages. Since the grade and quality of each stem in the harvest area is unknown, the value of the timber can greatly increase or decrease when it goes to market. If you do not have a good working knowledge of what may be produced from the harvested stem, or have not performed this type of sale before, be cautious when reviewing the bid results.

**Unit-Priced** or **Pay-As-You-Go** starts out much the same as Lump Sum by painting the harvest area and performing volume calculations.

*-continues page 2*

## Advice from a Tree

Dear Friend,  
Stand Tall and Proud  
Sink your roots deeply  
into the Earth  
Reflect the light of a greater source  
Think long term  
Go out on a limb  
Remember your place  
among all living beings  
Embrace with joy  
the changing seasons  
For each yields its own abundance  
The energy and birth of Spring  
The growth and contentment  
of Summer  
The wisdom to let go of leaves  
in the Fall  
The rest and quiet renewal  
of Winter  
Feel the wind and the sun  
And delight in their presence  
Look up at the moon  
that shines down upon you  
And the mystery  
of the stars at night  
Seek nourishment  
from the good things in life  
Simple pleasures  
Earth, fresh air, light  
Be content  
with your natural beauty  
Drink plenty of water  
Let your limbs sway and dance  
in the breezes  
Be flexible  
Remember your roots  
Enjoy the view!

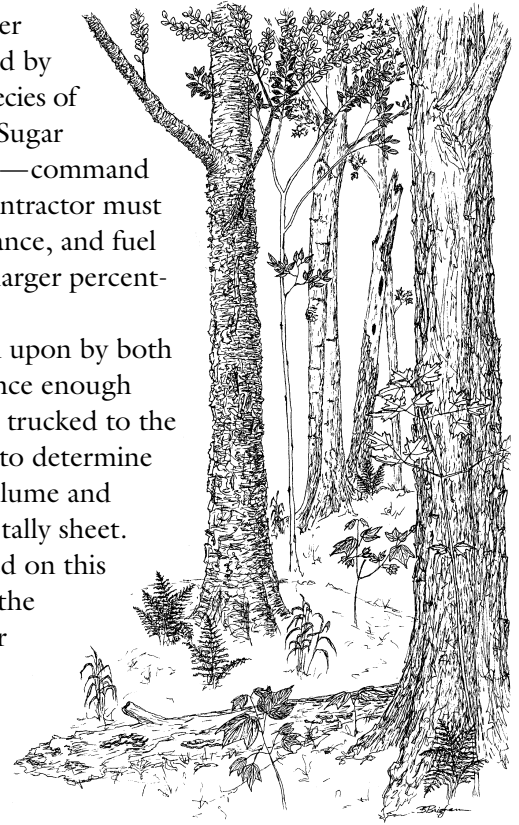
—Ilan Shamir

—continued from page 1

Timber is sold based on a price per thousand board feet, as influenced by market averages, demand, and species of wood. Hardwoods—particularly Sugar maple, Black cherry and Red oak—command the highest prices. The timber contractor must cover his time, machine maintenance, and fuel cost, and therefore commands a larger percentage of the overall market price.

After the numbers are agreed upon by both parties, the harvesting begins. Once enough wood has been accumulated, it is trucked to the appropriate mill. Logs are scaled to determine the actual wood content, with volume and grade for each log recorded on a tally sheet. The mill pays the contractor based on this tally sheet and copies are sent to the landowner with payment for their percentage of each category or type of products that were sold. Unlike in the Lump Sum Sale, a contractor may not utilize a tree to the fullest extent due to a small financial return on the extra time spent moving lower grades of wood.

When it comes time to perform any kind of harvest on your woodlot, start the process with a contract. A good one protects the landowner and the contractor and should include what is to be cut, payment methods, insurance and liability, and final job close out. A professional forester can offer assistance to landowners with all aspects of contractual agreements, as well as specific tree selection, market prices, and timing of the operation to assure maximum profits and minimal degradation to the woodlot.



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## Defining Land Enhancement

**Jason Eaton**, *Senior Operations Manager, ISA Certified Arborist*

What is “land enhancement?” To us it means to improve upon an existing characteristic of your land. We have developed a systematic approach to land enhancement projects that begins with formulating a plan.

Most of our clients have specific goals for their property. We make suggestions based on these goals following a careful examination of the characteristics of their land. Often we are called upon to help identify unique qualities of a property. Usually we prioritize the areas surrounding the house or house site, as this is where our clients spend most of their time. Driveways, highly visible forested areas, orchards, or stone walls are other features that often benefit from enhancement.

After identifying the areas of significance, we form a plan to improve upon the existing condition of any area in question. Frequently that entails lessening the “wall” effect of forest land close to the house, pruning or removing trees to open up scenic vistas, or creating nature trails to promote outdoor activities.

## chippers

Lebanon (603) 448-4800  
Meredith (603) 279-7400  
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www.chippersinc.com

Following an accepted proposal and start date, we then begin implementation. Lead by a foreman with at least 4 years of experience, a highly trained crew utilizes a four-wheel-drive tractor, a PTO (Power Take Off) chipper, a PTO winch, and several hand tools. Specific equipment is chosen to meet the needs of each job. We always strive to minimize our impact on the environment at every job site.

One of the most important factors of any land enhancement project is communication. Pre-start, during, and post job communication between the project supervisor and the land owner is essential.

Well planned and executed land enhancement work has an immediate visible impact. A word of caution: once you see the results of our work, you won't want us to leave!

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## Notes from the Arborist: *Customer Forum*

**Q: I have an old oak tree with some decay in the trunk and ants living inside the tree. Do I need to kill the ants to save the tree?**

Ironically, the ants are just taking advantage of the decay in the tree and if anything are slowing the decay process. However, extensive decay may be a cause for concern and the tree should be evaluated by a certified arborist or consultant.



**Q: I need to prune my apple trees soon—should I paint the pruning cuts? I've heard mixed opinions.**

All of the research suggests that wound dressings have no effect on the time it takes for the tree to close the wound. Some research shows paint and other dressing may even cause harm to the tree.

**Q: Last spring I noticed that my crabapples just started blooming at the same time I saw small tent caterpillars beginning to make tents. Can I expect the same this year?**

Yes! What you observed is called Plant Phenology and it is an excellent way to time the life cycles of destructive insects in the garden—much more accurate than using a calendar.

Our pest management crew uses something called Growing Degree Days (GDD) which tracks the high and low temperature of each day beginning the first of January. The average of that day is divided by 50 degrees and added to the previous day. Days with values of less than zero are not included—this means there are no accumulated numbers until it begins to warm in late March. Eastern tent caterpillar begins to hatch at 50 to 100 GDD which is about the time the early crabapples bloom.

Please email your tree related questions to: [askthearborist@chippersinc.com](mailto:askthearborist@chippersinc.com).

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**CORRECTION:** In our Fall'05 edition of *Green Works* we inadvertently listed Bishops Weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) as a recommended groundcover to plant under mature trees. This plant is listed on the *Vermont Invasive Species Plant List* and should not be planted. For more information about invasive species, please consult <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/invasives/invasives.htm>.

*We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this mistake.*

## MEET A CHIPPER




**Joel Rowland** of North Pomfret is a fabulous lead arborist based in our Woodstock location. Entering his 10th year of service to our team, he graduated from the NY State Ranger School in 1996, spent the subsequent eight months with the US Forest Service in Lake Tahoe, CA, and then, luckily for us, ended up in Vermont.

Born and raised in Iliion, New York, Joel is an avid snowboarder (when there's snow!), mountain biker, and gem stone digger and collector. He first became interested in working with trees when taking a natural resource management class in high school.

Joel was awarded the *2005 Most Valuable Contribution to the Company* prize of a \$1,000 US Savings Bond for bringing the "Business for Sale: French's Tree Service" ad in a trade magazine to the attention of our owner, resulting in the subsequent acquisition of that Lake Winnepesaukee-based business last April.

Joel and his fiancée Kelly Richards, a teacher at the Bridgewater School, purchased their first home last summer, and their wedding is planned for June. Best wishes Joel and Kelly!

 **GREENWORKS** is provided free of charge to anyone who loves plants. If you know someone who might enjoy this publication, have them call us at (866) 683-6222. Back issues are available.

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# Spring Check List

- Visit local home and garden shows
- Order next year's firewood
- Sign up for **chippers** Plant Health Care program
- Plan for any pending construction
- Prune shrubs
- Have trees professionally inspected
- Test soil
- Remove protective mulch
- Rototill gardens
- Sharpen mower blades
- Add decorative mulch
- Fertilize trees & lawns
- Divide summer & fall blooming perennials
- Be on the watch for tent caterpillar webs
- Visit our website:  
[www.chippersinc.com](http://www.chippersinc.com)

*“Happiness is sharing a bowl of cherries and a book of poetry with a shade tree. He doesn't eat much and doesn't read much, but listens well and is a most gracious host.”* —ASTRID ALAUDA



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Woodstock, VT 05091

*Ready for Spring?*

Come visit our booth #C26-28 at the 2006 Hanover HomeLife Show, Leverone Fieldhouse, Dartmouth College on March 24-26. Enter our Drawing to win one of three great tree work prizes!

Show Hours: Friday 5-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 12-5pm

Name

Address

City

Phone

Email

**chippers 2006 HOMELIFE SHOW DRAWING**

**1st Prize** \$1,000 Worth of Tree Work at Your Property

**2nd Prize** 100 Gallons of Our New England Blend Tree Fertilizer

**3rd Prize** Two-Hour Arborist Consultation at Your Property

*Winners to be notified by phone after March 26, 2006.*

2006 HomeLife Coupon

*printing as a seperate tip-in and hand inserted into folded piece during mailing*