

Winter 2017



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THE TRUST TO CONSERVE NORTHEAST FORESTLANDS

# The Cutting Edge

## Road Building Workshop



Bridge building demonstration at Treeline Inc. in Lincoln, ME.

**LINCOLN, ME** - The Northeast Master Logger Certification Program held a forest road building workshop Oct. 20 in Lincoln and Medway Maine co-sponsored by the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine with support from EJ Prescott, Gardiner, ME. Lunch was sponsored by Verso Corporation, and facilities and additional support was provided by Treeline Inc. and Health Access Network of Lincoln.

The workshop was well attended by approximately 60 people and included morning sessions in Lincoln led by Terri Coolong, Maine State District Forester; Pete Hanrahan, E.J. Prescott; and Dirigo Culverts.

Field stations included:

1. Vegetating Slopes & Channels (Joe Koziell, North American Green)
2. Keeping Sediment Under Control (Jack Eaton; Certified Erosion Control)
3. Stream Crossings; Load Support (Mike Everhart, E. J. Prescott, Inc.)
4. Haul Road Building & Maintenance (Bill Maier, Tensar Corporation)
5. Culvert Rehabilitation (Don LeBlanc, Snap-Tite)
6. Culvert Installation Basics (Blaine Miller, Dirigo Culvert)



Thanks to all

who made this workshop a success and to the generous sponsors and supporters!



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# Hello Northeast Master Logger Companies!



Hello everyone,

I want to take this time to say that it has been an honor to work for you all this year. The hard work and dedication of each Northeast Master Logger is exceptional. I have been working

on bringing this good work to the attention of landowners, people in the forest products industry and to the public as a whole. It never ceases to amaze me how much pride and professionalism Master Loggers have.

This past year we have also been stepping up our public presence with media attention including stories by Bill Green's Maine and a Vermont feature, a new Facebook site and an updated website. I also had a booth at the Loggers Expo, SWOAM field day, Fryeburg Fair and worked with Connecticut Timber Producers.

The Master Logger Certification

Board met in April 2016 and certified four new members, and efforts to further increase the ranks of Master Loggers in 2017 are underway.

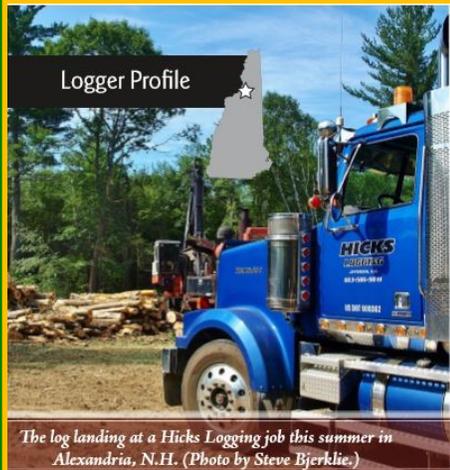
I look forward to working with you over the next year to improve and promote our commitment to the forest products industries of



New England and to the safety of you and your employees.

Ted Wright, Executive Director  
Northeast Master Logger Program  
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## IN THE NEWS: New Hampshire's Hick's Logging LLC



Logger Profile

The log landing at a Hicks Logging job this summer in Alexandria, N.H. (Photo by Steve Bjerklic.)



In a tough market, Forrest Hicks attributes his ability to operate profitably on relationships and a talented team of employees. (Photo by Steve Bjerklic.)

Master Logger company Hick's Logging LLC was featured in the summer edition of Timber Crier Magazine in an article entitled: Growing With Diversity. Great job! The full article is available on the Master Logger website.

# Important Dates

**Northeast Master Logger Certification will be attending the 2017 Northeastern Forest Products Expo May 19-20 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine. Hope to see you there!**



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Inspired by life

# Tips from a Master Logger

By Sam Lincoln, Lincoln Farm Timber Harvesting, Randolph Center, VT

With so much attention focused on water quality issues in Vermont, our operation has invested in some new areas that will directly and indirectly reduce the amount of sediment that might move on our jobs.

The simplest changes we've made are utilizing some sediment control devices; straw wattles, Filtrexx compost filter socks and straw mats. These products were demonstrated at a Vermont Woodlands Association workshop in the spring and what caught my eye was how easy they are to use compared to hay bales or silt fence.



Brush rake mounted on skidder.

Compost socks are mesh tubes filled with bark mulch or compost that allow a certain amount of gallons of water per minute to flow through them while stopping sediment. The "wattles" are similar but filled with straw and are used in lighter flow applications. We have used both in areas where silt fence, hay bales or no controls would have been previously used. In each application, we placed these items below pole crossings of a drainage where water was only likely to flow in a heavy rain, at the edge of newly constructed roads where culverts and water flowed under them and in tandem with waterbars on truck roads during what few heavy rain events we had this summer. In each case, they let cleaner water pass through and visibly stopped sediment from traveling any further. 10' compost socks are \$31 each and 25' straw wattles are \$40 each.

A larger investment we've made was in a 10' brush

rake that will mount on either of our John Deere grapple skidders. A whole tree harvesting operation concentrates a lot of brush at the landing. Daily

truck traffic sometimes requires it to be swept up several times per day and many of our landowners utilize their woodlots for recreation and request that the main trails be swept clean during closeout.

Using a skidder blade to push brush when it's not frozen can be frustrating, and to be effective, requires moving a lot of soil at the same time. A 10' brush rake with teeth spaced 12" apart has only 10% of

the contact with soil that a blade does. This certainly doesn't reduce the soil moved by 90% but it does allow for pushing up considerably cleaner brush to return to the woods from the landing. It also allows for far less soil to be moved/loosened when pushing brush out of trails during the harvest and at closeout.

When it wasn't on the skidder I have kept it within reach of the slasher and grabbed it in the middle with the loader bucket and swept the area around my loader. The delivered price of the blade was \$2,970 with two sets of brackets and we spent another \$700 between welding and steel to mount it on both skidders.

*If you have a tip to share - please let us know!*

Thanks!

## DID YOU KNOW:

Master Loggers can use the Rainforest Alliance SmartLogging logo in their marketing?



Meets Rainforest Alliance requirements for SmartLogging

# Master Logger Spotlight - Rocky Bunnell Logging

**MONROE, NH** - When Rocky Bunnell got out of the Air Force in 1973 he considered different careers, but his father Bill Bunnell was trucking wood and he decided to first help him out. As is often the case in the woods business, one thing led to another, and it wasn't long before he bought his own truck.

"Next thing you knew I had crews cutting wood and I was trucking it just like he did, and then later on I got right out of the trucking and I went strictly to the woods," Rocky recalled recently as he looked back over the four-plus decades that have taken him from that small start to owning his own Master Logger certified logging operation and being honored by the American Loggers Council (ALC) for his efforts on behalf of loggers in Washington D.C.

Rocky grew up on a farm in Vermont logging with his family using horses. In the late 1960s his father got into buying, selling and trucking wood and moved across the Connecticut River to Monroe, New Hampshire. Rocky started out doing the same in Monroe, but over the years he ramped up; first adding subcontractors with cable skidders, then buying his own slasher, then his first skidder. Eventually he reached the point where all the equipment and the workers on his jobs were part of Rocky Bunnell Logging.

Today Rocky has four men working for him and a full-time whole tree logging operation. His company operates two John Deere grapple skidders and an older 518 Cat skidder – the first he bought, a Tigercat feller buncher, a mobile Hood slasher/loader, a pull-through delimeter hooked to the slasher, a Tigercat 220 log loader on a Mack truck, and a Western Star tractor trailer. He now shares a garage and office with his oldest son, who operates an even larger independent logging firm.

Over the years Rocky became involved in organizations including the New Hampshire Timber Harvest Council, largely due to a friendship with veteran New Hampshire logger Dan Keniston who was already involved. This led Rocky to involvement with the ALC, where he is now a board member and well-known for speaking plainly on behalf of loggers

in Washington D.C.

This fall Rocky was honored by the ALC with the President's Award for his leadership and service promoting more participation in the ALC's Spring Washington, D.C. Fly-In, where loggers meet with

elected officials to advocate for the industry.

Being involved and informed is critical right now for loggers, Rocky says: "If you didn't vote and you're not involved, you're in trouble."

There are certainly plenty of loggers in trouble right now given the state of wood markets, especially for low value wood fiber. A great, professional

crew like the one he employs is key to staying in business, Rocky says.

Rocky still enjoys being on the job with the crew in his favorite piece of equipment, the Tigercat 220 loader, loading trucks. It's where you will find him in the busy winter season.

"In the wintertime I like being right on the job with the crew," Rocky said. "That's what I like to do, I like loading trucks, I like being on the landing seeing everything that's happening."

Rocky became a Master Logger after learning of the program through Verso Paper, and the quality of work and respect for the forest Master Logger stands for serves his company well.

"The quality of work right now is a big thing for landowners, that personal touch and going the extra mile," Rocky said. "When the job is done and they've got a piece of property that they very much like and they still use, it means a lot to them."

Over the years logging has become more than just cutting wood for the avid outdoorsman, who believes strongly in what it does for the forest and the wildlife.

"When good logging is done you can't beat it if you want to talk about helping the environment - you're doing a lot more than just logging," Rocky said. "That's a passion right there, just trying to educate people. Once they see it and take the time to study it and see what it's all about they, go, 'wow I had no idea this is what was taking place.'"

