

Spring 2021



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THE TRUST TO CONSERVE NORTHEAST FORESTLANDS

The Cutting Edge

Hands-on Stream Crossing Workshops



The Northeast Master Logger Certification Program is pleased to announce it will host new Hands-on Stream Crossing Workshops in 2021!

These trainings are Free for Master Loggers and their employees, and lunch will be provided.

Training dates are as follows:

- **Vermont** (Randolph) - May 20, 2021
- **Southern Maine** (West Paris) - May 25, 2021
- **Northern Maine** (Sherman) - May 27, 2021

Classes in New Hampshire and New York will be held in the fall of 2021. Registration forms will be emailed and mailed soon.

These workshops are generously sponsored by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.



The United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. (the "Endowment") is a non-profit corporation that works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forest and forest-reliant communities.

Spring Logger and Fleet Safety Training!

The Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC) is once again offering its annual Spring Training series March 26-May 24 to Master Loggers in the Northeast!

Since the training is offered online through a combination of live Zoom classes (with question and answer sessions with the instructors), it provides a great opportunity for Master Logger Companies from the Northeast to attend without having to travel.

As a Master Logger Certified Company, you must show evidence



Spring Training continued p. 2



Like us on Facebook:
Search for Northeast
Master Logger
Certification



Training	2
T-shirts!	2
ML Feature	3
Vermont MLs!	4

Hello Northeast Master Logger Companies!



Dear Master Loggers,
I hope this email finds you well and that 2021 is shaping up to be an improvement over 2020 for you.

I want to thank everyone for their commitment to the program, and I have some great news to share: In February we had our yearly 3rd party audit by

the certifying body NepCon. We started this process at the bottom of New Hampshire and worked our way north and west to Vermont. We visited 11 Master Logger Companies over the 3 days and found ZERO non-conformances!!!

This is an amazing achievement and it really shows how well-run and professional your companies are, and I want to thank all the companies involved!

The Master Logger Program has an exciting year planned. We will be offering three Stream Crossing Workshops this spring (see details on page 1.). These will be free, informative, and hands-on. I hope you and your crews can attend. We will be holding workshops in New Hampshire and New

York this fall, so stay tuned if those are better locations for you.

This summer we have a full slate of recertifications planned. You may see a letter in the mail if you are due for a field audit.

This fall is the annual meeting at Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine, planned for Oct. 29. We will be honoring the newest cohorts of Master Loggers. More details will be announced as the date gets closer. This is a fun-filled event and we hope you can make it.

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or thoughts you may have. I look forward to hearing from you. Keep up the good work.

Thanks,
Ted



Ted Wright, Executive Director
Northeast Master Logger Program
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Spring Training cont. from p. 1

that your employees attended safety training as part of your safety regimen for your recertification process. This online training is a great way to provide compliance and reduce your risk.

There is still time to register! Remaining training dates are listed below:

Logger Safety Training Dates:

May 20
May 24

Fleet Safety Training Dates:

May 21

**All training is OSHA compliant. Master Loggers are eligible to take advantage of both training options.*

Do you have a new employee? NE Safe Logger is an entry level safety and workers' comp. compliance training program for new entrants to the logging industry. Learn more at www.tcnef.org/nesafelogger/



Thank you to Katahdin Trust Company for sponsoring our Master Logger T-shirts!

Every Master Logger will receive a free T-shirt.

Email Jessica at masterlogger@tcnef.org to let her know your size and we will mail yours!

Master Logger Spotlight: Parent Timber Harvesting LLC

ST. ALBANS, VT - Gabe Parent doesn't sit still for long. With a busy whole-tree logging operation and only himself to run all the equipment, he can't, and he is fine with that.

Gabe is the owner of Parent Timber Harvesting LLC, a Master Logger certified company operating in northern Vermont not far from the Canadian border, and deep in maple syrup country.

"Most of what I do is whole tree harvesting, a lot of sugar bush thinning which is big in this area, Franklin County Vermont produces a large amount of the U.S. maple syrup, so a lot of it is going in and cleaning the sugar bushes out before they set them up," Gabe said. "I pretty much work by myself running all the equipment, I'm pretty busy but it seems to work for me."

Gabe's ancestors moved to Franklin County from Quebec in 1901, and Gabe grew up on a dairy farm in the area. Like many farmers, his father cut wood on the side so he was exposed to logging at a young age.

After high school, he got a two-year degree in mechanical engineering from Vermont Technical College and went to work in a machine shop for several years, then worked for another shop that fabricated mini-environments used in the production of semi-conductors. But he never forgot logging, and in 1996 he bought a cable skidder and began cutting wood on the weekends.

By 2002, Gabe was spending three days a week logging and the other three working at the shop. When the shop



shut down local production and laid off most of the workers, Gabe didn't miss a beat.

"I was already set up logging so it really wasn't much of a transition, I was done there Friday and I started cutting wood full time Monday," Gabe said.

Since those days his operation has expanded. Today Gabe has a 425 Timbco feller buncher, two grapple skidders in addition to his cable skidder, and a Tigercat loader and slasher with pull-through delimber. He changes seats a lot during a typical day, but he finds the variety is easier physically than sitting in one for a whole day. He also still cuts with a chainsaw quite often for jobs where he will get the best use and value out of the wood for the landowner by doing that.

Gabe cuts a variety of wood and sells it across a pretty wide area, some going as far east as Maine, most logs headed north into Canada, most chips to Burlington Electric, low grade pine and pulp where he can. These

days markets are not as close and abundant as they once were.

Logging has many challenges today in addition to the ones it has always faced. New regulations and restrictions, often driven those who do not understand logging and its role in good forest management, are among them. Rural areas in Vermont are seeing the same influx of new residents from more urban areas that many other rural states are experiencing, and with this, common-sense



practices that make perfect sense to those familiar with the logging industry are being challenged.

Gabe became a Master Logger in 2006 after learning about the program attending workshops in his area and meeting people involved with the program. He has been certified ever since, and the good work he and other Master Loggers are doing in Vermont and across the Northeast plays a big role in educating the public about timber harvesting and its importance to forest health and the local economy.

While the new challenges in logging are not something Gabe or any other logger enjoys, he still loves being in the woods every day. Some tell him he is crazy to have so many machines and only himself to run them all, but he likes the pace - he is never waiting for anyone else and no one is waiting for him, and every day is interesting.

"I like it, it works for me, and I've learned a lot along the way," Gabe said.

NEW DATES: SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2021



**THE AWARD-WINNING
NORTHEASTERN
FOREST PRODUCTS
EQUIPMENT EXPOSITION**

Join us to celebrate this essential industry and get back to serious business.

Every two years thousands of hard-working people gather in Bangor, ME to conduct serious business. The Loggers' Expo is the largest and best exposition of supplies and services, heavy equipment and trucks - for loggers and land clearers, tree care professionals and firewood dealers, sawmillers and landowners. If you're serious about the forest products business - you need to attend or exhibit in Bangor, Maine.

2021 Loggers' Expo | September 24-25, 2021 | Cross Insurance Center | Bangor, Maine

For information about attending or exhibiting at the 2021 Loggers' Expo, visit us on-line at www.northernlogger.com or call 315-369-3078.

Four Vermont logging firms achieve Master Logger certification

The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands (TCNEF) has announced that four logging firms in Vermont have achieved Master Logger certification after meeting the rigorous standards for professionalism and responsible timber harvesting required by the [Northeast Master Logger Certification Program](#).

The four firms are **Olmstead Property Services, LLC**, of Bethel; **Southwind Forestry, LLC**, of Pawlet; **Spaulding Field & Forest**, of Hartland; and **Third Branch Horse Logging**, of Braintree.

"This is a great achievement for these contractors and a testament to their hard work and professionalism," Ted Wright, Executive Director of TCNEF, said. "Master Loggers are critical to the future forest economy and it is companies like these Vermont logging firms that are setting the standard for the industry as it adapts to increasing demand for responsible forest stewardship and certified wood fiber."

There are currently more than 124 Master Logger companies in the Northeast. With the addition of these four new companies, Vermont now has nine certified firms.

Olmstead Property Services, LLC in Bethel is a father and son conventional logging firm working for private landowners throughout Vermont. The company may be reached at 802-234-9390 or olmsteadpropertyservices@yahoo.com. We asked company owner, Michael Olmstead, why did you decide to get your company certified, he said "The services that we are providing to landowners and/or foresters are something that we have always valued and respected. We hold ourselves to high standards and we appreciate that the Master Logger program also advocates for this within our profession."

Southwind Forestry, LLC of Pawlet is a cut-to-length logging operation with two employees working on small private landowners and family woodlots in the Green Mountains. The company may be reached at 802-366-0538 or gaberusso@yahoo.com. We asked company owner, Gabe Russo, why did you decide to get your company certified, he said "Master Logger is a great way to separate the wheat from the chaff."



*Photos, top to bottom:
Olmstead Property
Services; Southwind
Forestry, LLC; Third
Branch Horse Logging,
and Spaulding Field &
Forest.*

Spaulding Field & Forest, of Hartland is an owner/operator conventional logging firm working for private landowners in Vermont. The company may be reached at 802-299-7170 or

spauldingfieldandforest@gmail.com.

We asked company owner, Ben Spaulding, why did you decide to get your company certified, he said "I go above and beyond and Master Logger is a great way to prove it."

Third Branch Horse Logging, of Braintree is a conventional logging operation owned and operated solely by two partners and working in Central Vermont that utilizes draft horses and small scale machinery for timber extraction and forest management. The company may be reached at 802-345-7488 or thirdbranch.horselogging@gmail.com.

We asked company co-owner, Brad Johnson, why did you decide to get your company certified, he said "We are Master Logger certified because we strongly believe that loggers should be held to a higher standard. Our clients demand a final result that is second to none, ecologically and economically, and MLP helps us to convey to them that we share that desire."

Professional logging contractors in Vermont are being encouraged to take advantage of a unique new opportunity to become Master Logger certified at half the cost through a grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The opportunity coincides with a push to expand the ranks of Vermont Master Loggers that qualify for the state's new Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program that will reduce their worker's compensation costs.

"There has never been a better time to become Master Logger certified in Vermont," Wright said. "With this opportunity, Vermont loggers have the chance to achieve certification at a reduced rate and then see significant savings on their insurance costs once certified."

For more information contact Ted Wright at (207) 688-8195 opt. 2 or executivedirector@tcnef.org.