

# “Owner’s Manual” for Landowners from Northern Woodlands

When you buy a car or a refrigerator, you receive an owner’s manual. But when you buy a piece of land, you’re on your own. Until now.

Northern Woodlands, the Corinth, VT nonprofit that publishes Northern Woodlands magazine, is releasing a new publication that will provide Vermont landowners with essential information for taking care of their land and getting the most out of it. The guide, called *The Place You Call Home: A Guide to Caring for Your Land in Vermont*, is being distributed free of charge to a target audience of people who own 10 or more acres in Vermont.

*The Place You Call Home* focuses on the forests of Vermont and introduces landowners to the many animals, trees, smaller plants, and insects that live in our forests. It covers logging and forest management and provides contact information for foresters and other people who can assist landowners. Stephen Long, the guide’s co-editor, said that over the years he’s heard a number of people say they wish they’d been handed an owner’s manual when they bought their land. “It’s so easy to make poor choices when you don’t have good information. We put this guide together to help people make good choices with what happens on their land,” he said.

In one of the stories in *The Place You Call Home*, writer Chuck Wooster points out that 87% of Vermont is privately owned, which means that individuals and families own the vast majority of the land, and their decisions make a tremendous difference in the future of this landscape. Another statistic: 78% of that landscape is forested, and those forests generate just short of \$1 billion in annual revenues. That’s almost 10 percent of Vermont’s manufacturing economy. The forests pay the wages of 13,000 Vermonters, who work either in wood-related businesses or in the recreation and tourism industry.

There are hundreds of timber harvests going on in Vermont at any time. Long said that in an economy that is struggling like ours is now, landowners might be more likely to turn to their forestland for income.

“When it’s done well, a logging job not only provides some immediate income but also increases the value of the land by



photo by Nancy Cassidy

removing the poor-quality trees and improving conditions for the valuable ones. Even better, it can also enhance the diversity of habitat for wildlife. So there’s a lot of potential for good. But if it’s done poorly, if short-term financial needs are the only concern, it can cause lasting damage. There are things you can do to ensure that the work is done well, and a good first step is to get in touch with your county forester,” Long said.

*The Place You Call Home* was produced with the generous support of the Vermont Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; foundations, businesses, landowners associations, and conservation organizations. For a free copy visit [www.northernwoodlands.org](http://www.northernwoodlands.org).

For more information contact Stephen Long, Northern Woodlands, 1776 Center Rd., PO Box 471, Corinth, VT 05039. (802) 439-6292. [www.northernwoodlands.org](http://www.northernwoodlands.org).

Northern Woodlands encourages a culture of forest stewardship in the Northeast by increasing understanding of and appreciation for the natural wonders, economic productivity, and ecological integrity of the region’s forests.

## The Eighth Vermont Voices Author Series Presented by Misty Valley Books, Chester, VT

Vermont Voices 2008 will bring four Vermont authors to Chester, VT on four Sundays in November, and it is a truly eclectic mix—a veteran mystery writer, a consummate gardener, a pig farmer and a trenchant analyst of the situation in Iraq.

As he does every year, veteran mystery writer Archer Mayor leads off Misty Valley Books Vermont Voices series on Sunday, November 2. All four events take place at 2 pm in the First Universalist Church in Chester’s Stone Village.

Mayor returns with his 19th Joe Gunther book, *The Catch*. Set primarily in Maine and focused on the activities of one Alan Budney, the disaffected son of an old-time lobsterman, the story begins in Vermont, where a deputy sheriff is shot to death. The shooting gets Joe Gunther and his Vermont Bureau of Investigation involved, pursuing two bad guys and headed to a rendezvous of sorts with Budney and his plans to usurp and replace Maine’s biggest drug lord.

Known nation-wide for his accurate portrayal of police procedures and for the suspense of his plots, Mayor was awarded the New England Booksellers Association award

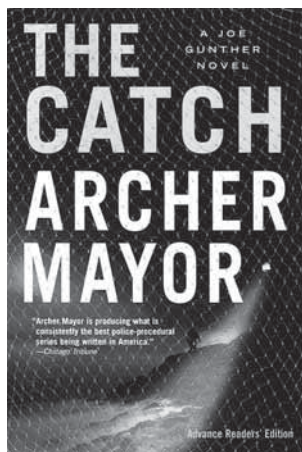
for best fiction in 2004. The characters of Joe Gunther and his associates annually bring readers back for more. An entertaining speaker, Mayor always intrigues and amuses his Vermont Voices audiences. He lives in Newfane, VT.

On November 9, Gordon Hayward, from Westminster West, author of ten books on gardening, will present his latest, *Art and the Gardener, Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design*, with a slide show. Hayward has turned a series of lectures, first presented at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts in 1995, into a very handsome book about the visual language shared between painters and garden designers. By juxtaposing a painting and a garden image on the screen, Hayward explores the many levels of similarity between how the painter and garden designer construct their images.

On November 16, Chuck Wooster will tell us about pigs, adorable, clean, friendly and the fourth most intelligent creatures on the planet, just below humans, primates and dolphins. His book, *Living with Pigs, Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Porkers*, is a comprehensive guide to all things pig with plenty of amusing anecdotes and beautiful color photos by Geoff Hansen. Wooster lives in Tunbridge, VT.

On November 23, Ambassador Peter Galbraith will talk about Iraq and his new book *Unintended Consequences, How War in Iraq Strengthened America’s Enemies*. New York Times columnist David Brooks calls Galbraith the ‘smartest and most devastating critic’ of President Bush’s Iraq policies. Galbraith is from Townshend, VT.

All Vermont Voices presentations are open to the public and free of charge. A reception and book signing at the church will follow. For more information call Misty Valley Books at (802) 875-3400 or visit [mvbooks.com](http://mvbooks.com).



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### My Lucky Dog

by Mellon Tytell

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**My Lucky Dog**  
by Mellon Tytell  
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“Hunter, my majestic eighty-six-pound mutt, was the love of my life for thirteen years. He was ‘my lucky dog.’ I adopted Hunter when he was two. I noticed Hunter’s photo in the window of a pet store in Vermont and brought him home. If I was the lucky break in his life, he was the transforming experience in mine.”

—Mellon