

Forrest E. Orr Conservation Center Update
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Just a few short weeks ago the Jericho Research Forest was locked in winter's grip. Over the winter, work on the Forrest E. Orr Conservation Center included building some new storage sheds, cleaning out the pole barn, and lining up students and contractors to do the work.

Now that early summer conditions are upon us, things are moving into high gear. Bill Torrey of West Bolton, one of the state's foremost logging operators, arrived at Jericho with his four-wheel drive farm tractor and Hardy log forwarder. Bill harvested 4,380 board feet from the Japanese larch plantation in Compartment 4 and 3,165 board feet of white pine in Compartment 6. The logs were carefully rolled to the sawing site, scaled, and end-sealed to prevent loss due to end checking.

One cannot help but be impressed with the effectiveness of a small forwarder in the hands of a skilled conservationist like Bill Torrey! There were almost no negative impacts upon the road system and residual stand damage was virtually non-existent. The log landing is tiny and the logs are neatly stacked and ready for sawing. Bill even used bio-degradable, non-petroleum bar and chain oil to protect ground water supplies.

Leo Boutin of Williston rolled in with his Woodmizer Unit and proceeded to saw over three thousand board feet in the first day! Some of this wood went to the Nature Conservancy's Williams Wood Trail Project in Charlotte. The rest was carefully stickered and stacked on the wood handling platform. Many thanks to Brendan Weiner and Emily Shadler for all of their hard work!

The Japanese larch will be dried and milled into tongue and groove, beaded wainscot by Kurt Plank of North Ferrisburgh. The pine will be sawn into dimension lumber and used for wall framing. As the lumber is air drying, we will focus on pulling the trusses together and replacing the leaking roof.

Stay tuned!