

# VALA NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF VERMONT'S LISTERS & ASSESSORS AND PROVIDING A UNIFIED VOICE IN VERMONT'S LEGISLATURE, AS WELL AS TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF ASSESSMENT.



Randy Viens

**Under the Golden Dome  
Your organization in action!**

Legislative Committee Member Randy Viens has spent many hours working with legislative committees representing VALA's interests in the following:

- Current Use compatible language that best represents VALA members interest.
- Solar Energy taxation language.
- Subsidized Housing
- State-wide parcel mapping

Vice President Todd LeBlanc has worked with Randy on these bills. They are optimistic that VALA's input will be incorporated in the Current Use and Solar Energy Bill. They are less optimistic for the recommended changes to the Subsidized Housing Bill. The state-wide parcel mapping is still a work in progress.

## SPRING 2014 NEMRC WORKSHOPS

**Didn't attend and wondering what did you miss?  
In 2014 it is now required that Listers identify the following on each Non-taxable/ State owned land parcels:**

- \* You must select the statute that the parcel falls under to make it non-taxable
- \*Each parcel must have a value
- \*You must identify whether the value used is the Insurance or Assessed value

### Insurance or Assessed value

Chris reviewed the new drop down boxes on the NEMRC main menu parcel maintenance screen. He illustrated the process of using these fields and the various options to input the correct information. Your input information will appear your Grand List Non-tax Parcel Document and are filed with PVR.

**Did not attend!** You will need to contact Chris Miele at NEMRC to obtain the Non-taxable parcel summary information.

### **Other topics Covered- System Changes, Enhancements, and Options**

- Parcel transfers for contagious and split parcel procedures
- Current Use
- Annual Rollover
- Backing up data
- Tax Department Homestead documents

Call NEMRC or go to their website [www.nemrc.com](http://www.nemrc.com) to contact Chris. Penny Allyn, VALA Newsletter Editor

## VERMONT ASSESSORS & LISTERS ASSOCIATION

Yes, time flies. And where did it leave you? Old too soon...smart too late.

~ Mike Tyson ~



## LIFE AS A FORESTER

My name is Ben Vicere and I am a consulting forester working in predominantly southeastern Vermont, but I work all over the entire state and am also licensed in New Hampshire. I was born in Jericho, Vermont which is about 20 minutes to a half hour outside of Burlington.

Generally I am up with the birds at about 5 o'clock Monday through Friday and sometimes Saturdays too. Having two young children and a wife that works full time sometimes makes it tough to roust, but I manage. I have a cup of coffee (sometimes more, depending on how late in the week it is or my lack of rest), some breakfast, pack a lunch and am off and running for the day. Most days find me in the field either marking timber for harvest or cruising (taking inventory of) a woodlot. Most folk's think that I must have gotten a 4 year degree in forestry to avoid paperwork and their assumptions would be justified except, the reality is that there is a lot of paperwork involved in my job. When not in the field, I am generally dealing in some way with Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program.

When I meet a new client, I go over the ins and outs of Use Value with them, generally, before even setting foot inside their woodlot

### *LIFE AS A FORESTER CONTINUED...*

It's my job as a consultant to be sure they have a good understanding of the program before they sign on the dotted line. Let's face it, UVA isn't for everyone. When a client decides to enroll, I take care of the Application process and then I have to draft a forest management plan and maps in accordance with the criteria for UVA standards. This plan is written from data that I gather while "cruising" the clients' woodlot. I then send the plan to the client for their review. If they approve, they will sign it and send it with three maps to the County Forester for his approval. If the County Forester deems it worthy, he will sign it and then it is up to me to implement said plan. This is done by marking the timber in accordance to prescriptions for each stand, and then, hiring the right logging contractor for the job and marketing the wood to the vast numbers of sawmill options. While the harvest is underway, it is my job to oversee the progress and correct any problems along the way. Most jobs go smoothly, but some have issues such as too much residual stand damage, water quality issues and in the worst case, timber theft.

If a client decides to sell or transfer their lands to another owner, I am required to file a Notice of Change of Ownership form, a new Application with the new owners' information, as well as change the map and draft a new signature page to the management plan.

Generally I have to communicate with the town Lister in order to get much of the required information. This includes things such as grand list acreage, SPAN number, parcel ID, grand list description and landowner contact information. It is absolutely imperative that the forester communicate with the Lister's office to avoid issues brought upon by assuming that something may or may not be correct. I have begun getting into the habit of going to the Lister's office when at all practical and having a face to face conversation about this information I require in order to complete my paperwork. Not only are you putting a name with the face, but it makes it so much easier to have the correct information the first time rather than assume something and find out from Property Valuation and Review that you were incorrect.

*Ben Vicere*  
*Consulting Forester*



**EINSTEIN'S DEFINITION OF INSANITY: DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AND EXPECTING A DIFFERENT RESULT!**

**Quote for the Day!**

**If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts." - Albert Einstein**



**John Vickery**  
**VALA Education**  
**Committee Chair**

John wants to remind all VALA members that there is an IAAO Ratio Study Class in Bellows Falls, Vermont on August 11th – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

This class provides education credit for Lister certification.

The Ratio Study Class will better enable Listers to analyze their Equalization Study for trends that will impact their Grand List.

VALA needs at least 25 attendees for a viable class. Remember VALA members always receive a class discount.

Instructor is Bob Estey.

See the VALA display at the TOEC Workshop!

See VALA web site at [www.valavt.org](http://www.valavt.org) for updated Lister education classes and workshops.



## IAAO WORKSHOP 452 FUNDAMENTALS OF ASSESSMENT RATIO STUDIES

This is a **VALA** sponsored workshop and provides a very basic introduction to the development and uses of assessment sales ratio studies based upon the IAAO Standards of Ratio Studies: January 2010. The workshop covers the topics of sales analysis, sampling, and the development of assessment ratio studies. The workshop also covers managerial and technical issues, which include staffing, timing of studies, use of study results, statistical testing and assessment regressively and progressivity. This workshop includes an exam.

**DATE:** August 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2014

**TIME:** 8a.m. – 5 p.m. 8/13 is a half day

**LOCATION:** Rockingham Public Library in 65 Westminster St. Bellows Falls, Vermont

**TUITION:** \$300 for regular attendees and \$270 for VALA members

**PAYMENT DEADLINE:** Payment is required by July 25th, 2014

Recommended: Course 101. IAAO recertification credit: 18.5 credit hours-2 ½ days VPA IV credit  
 To print registration form and obtain additional information please click on the link: [IAAO 452 Ratio Studies Registration Form 8 2014 \(2\)](#)

**VALID AND NON-VALID PROPERTY TRANSFERS – HAVE YOU RESEARCHED NON-VALID SALES AND CREATED BACK UP INFORMATION FOR YOUR DISTRICT ADVISER?**

***Don't forget HS 122 weekly downloads – tax exempt property values – Current Use downloads and validation!***

# VALA NEWSLETTER

## **PV&R Director Bill Johnson will be retiring in 2014.**

The VALA organization thanks Bill for his many years of service to the Vermont Listers.

Bill has always been very approachable with Listers when they had questions or concerns about their responsibilities. He has never been too busy not to attend VALA Meetings and provide updates on what was happening in Montpelier.

VALA wishes Bill the best in his well-earned retirement and hope that all Listers will communicate to Bill their thanks for a job well done!

Bill will be missed.



**PV&R DIRECTOR  
BILL JOHNSON**



PLEASE SEND ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO:

Editor/Coordinator Penny Allyn

Email address is:

[rtownhall\\_464@comcast.net](mailto:rtownhall_464@comcast.net)

***COMING SOON, CHECK YOUR MAILBOX!***

***VALA MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP FORMS, BROCHURES AND MARKETING PACKET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL VERMONT TOWN LISTER OFFICES IN MAY 2014.***