



Sappi Maine Forester: Lucas Lamond

Not Afraid to Get His Feet Wet

Lucas (Luke) Lamond grew up in the forestry business. His father, Ken, worked as a forester for McPherson Timberlands and later his own forestry consulting firm in Brewer. Luke spent a lot of time working in the woods with his father, where he learned not only about forest management, but also hard work. In the words of Paul Griffin, for whom Luke is managing 150 acres of forest land in Levant, “Lucas is not afraid to get his feet wet and get out in the woods.” Paul also says that Luke is the most efficient forester he has ever hired.

Luke started with the Sappi forestry team in 2015, initially working as a forestry technician under Paul Larrivee, and now working under Forest Briggs assisting landowners in central Maine. Lucas became a licensed forester in Maine last year. He assists landowners throughout Penobscot and neighboring counties. “I enjoy working for Sappi Forestry because I know I have a great team of people behind me that can assist me with anything I might need.”

Luke is a graduate of the University of Maine in Orono with a degree in Forest Operations, Bioproducts and Bioenergy. In 2014 he was awarded the College of Forest Resources’ Dwight B. Demeritt Forestry Award, which recognizes the top students in forest resources and wildlife.

Luke was an all-star hockey player at Brewer High School. In his spare time Luke enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

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summer/fall 2017 Newsletter

Paul and Mary Griffin: Extending the Runway



Mary and Paul Griffin in their Levant Home

“Lucas is the most efficient forester I’ve ever had. If he tells you he’ll do something, he’ll do it. That’s a plus.”

- Paul Griffin, Landowner

Paul Griffin and his wife Mary have been living in their Levant home for 60 years. “I never got money enough to get out of town,” Paul jokes. But if he really wanted to, Paul could get away quickly in either of his two airplanes or the ultralight aircraft that he keeps meticulously maintained in their hangars. He flies his planes out of his private airstrip on the property.

“We bought this house and 55 acres of land for \$2,000,” Paul says. “We only had \$200, but couldn’t get a loan for the other \$1,800.” Mary’s father talked the bank into loaning the rest. Paul and Mary took a 5-year mortgage at \$33/month. “The taxes are now more than what I paid for the house.”

Paul and Mary have increased their landholdings, so that they now have more than 150 acres, with 60 acres in the tree growth program. Steve Coleman, a private forester who tragically drowned in 2011, managed the land for many years. Paul praises him as “a pilot and a great guy,”

My grandfather told me, ‘Land will always be a good investment.’ It has.” Paul says. It has not only brought in cash, but Paul has used lumber off his land to build his garage and two airplane hangars. Pine paneling molded from his trees lines the garage; Paul and Mary’s children used beautiful 20-inch wide pine paneling in their own homes. Paul has burned as much as 20 cords of his wood each winter for heating, but has scaled that back in recent years.

Paul and Mary’s land is now being managed by Sappi’s Lucas Lamond, who is overseeing a current harvest on a portion of Paul

and Mary’s woodlot. Paul is very happy with the program and his relationship with Lucas. “Lucas is the most efficient forester I’ve ever had. If he tells you he’ll do something, he’ll do it. That’s a plus.”

Landowners have many objectives when managing their land, but Paul has a unique one with this current harvest. He is having his runway cleared by an additional 800 feet. After the harvest, Paul will have a 3,000-foot landing strip. Paul Griffin loves to fly, and says it will be much nicer and safer to land his planes with the longer runway.



Paul Griffin and Lucas Lamond in the plane hangar

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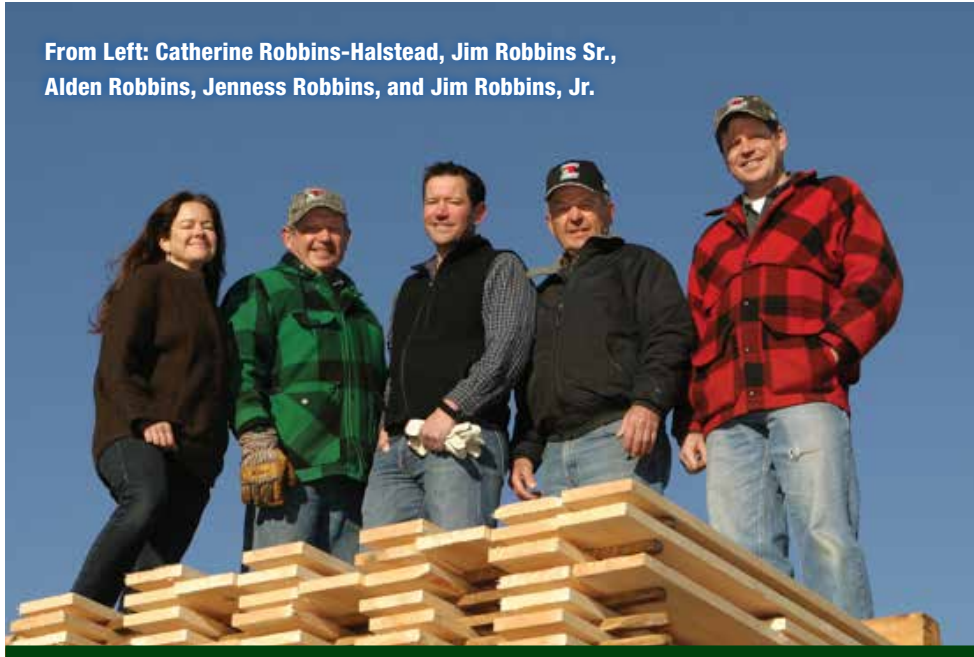
Featured Maine Mill

Robbins Lumber

“We pride ourselves in white pine management,” says Mark Vannah, Log yard buyer/procurement manager for Robbins Lumber. Robbins Lumber owns and manages 30,000 acres of its own forests, but Mark says that this is only a small fraction of the wood they need for the 29 million board feet of top-quality Eastern white pine lumber the mill produces each year. “We rely heavily on private landowners for our procurement, including companies like Sappi and their landowner assistance program. We also have our own forestry program working with private landowners which utilizes four ‘hand crews’ and occasional mechanical operations. We are always looking for high quality pine logs.”

Robbins Lumber is one on Maine’s oldest family-owned and operated companies. The business was started in 1881 by Frank and Otis Robbins. Jim and Jenness Robbins, the fourth generation of the Robbins family to run the business, recently stepped down from

From Left: Catherine Robbins-Halstead, Jim Robbins Sr., Alden Robbins, Jenness Robbins, and Jim Robbins, Jr.



their leadership roles. Since 2013 the company has been run by a team of Jim’s three children. Jim Robbins, Jr. (Jimmy) is the president of the company; assisted

by his brother and vice president, Alden Robbins; and sister, Catherine Robbins-Halstead.

In addition to selling pine boards, Robbins Lumber manufactures pine products, including ice cream buckets and laundry drying racks. Their subsidiary, Penobscot Bay Coatings, makes pre-coated lumber. They collect and sell manufacturing by-products including wood shavings, bark, chips and sawdust.

Robbins Lumber has the capability to mold pine boards into nearly 100 patterns. Tongue and groove and shiplap are the “meat and potatoes,” but Robbins Lumber makes many variations of these products as well as clapboards, flooring, stair treads, and log siding.

Travis Reynolds is an English major, whose father works at Robbins Lumber. Travis worked as a laborer at the mill

Robbins Lumber cont’d

during his summer breaks from school. Five years ago, after completing his degree, Travis agreed to join the management team at Robbins Lumber. He is now the safety director and ISO representative for the mill, and is proud of the fact that the mill has not suffered a lost time accident since 2014. The company also takes pride in its employee tenure and employee benefits packages.

The Robbins pine mill has grown from a small stave (wooden plank or post) mill, to its current facility that includes a 1.2

MW co-generation plant, 780,000 board foot capacity kilns, computerized sawmill, planing mills, cut up shop, 70,000 square feet of warehouse, and the company’s general offices.

The company is continuing to grow, having recently formed Georges River Energy (GRE), held by members of the family, with Alden Robbins as its president. GRE is building a new 8.5 MW biomass-fired Combined Heat and Power System that will generate electricity and produce steam. The new biomass CHP plant will

allow Robbins to use its byproducts, provide loggers a market for low-grade wood fiber, and generate a new revenue stream. The plant could burn 16 loads of chips per day, in addition to five loads of wood chips produced at the mill.

Robbins Lumber may be a family run business, but it has little resemblance to the mill Frank and Otis opened in 1881, growing a little more with each generation.

Maine Pine Pest: White Pine Weevil

According to the Maine Forest Service, the white pine weevil is the most serious economic insect pest of white pine. The weevil kills the top of conifers. When the terminal growth is killed a side branch in the highest whorl of branches will assume the terminal leader position, resulting in a stem crook and stunting height growth and development.

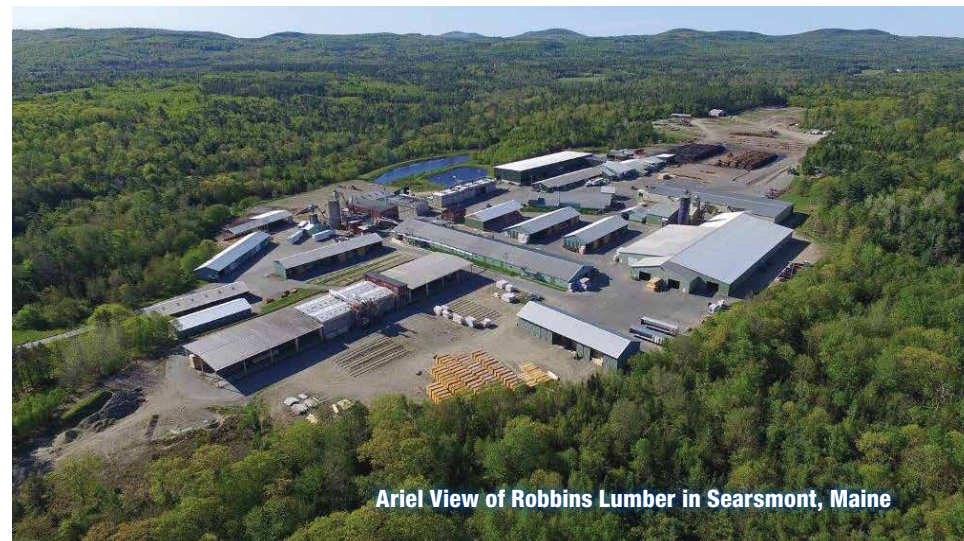
One of the first symptoms of attack in the spring is the presence of pitch flowing from the feeding punctures in the previous year’s leading shoot. Beginning in late June the new growth on infested shoots starts to droop. Shortly thereafter the tops die and turn brown. Multiple weevil attacks over successive years can result in highly deformed and defective trees (often referred to as wolf trees or pasture pines). The damage results in trees that are multi-topped, crooked, and of much lower value for saw-timber.

Adult weevils mate and lay eggs from early May through June in the bark of the previous year’s leader. The adults are brown,

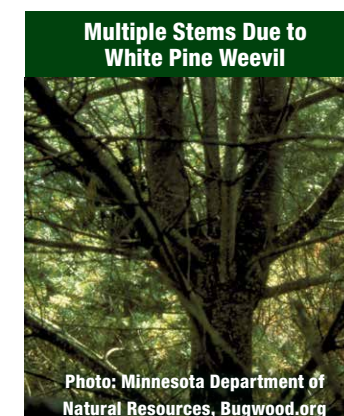
approximately ¼ inch long, and are covered with white and tan scales, arranged in large and small spots.

Upon hatching the young, legless grubs start tunneling downward under the bark. The grubs gradually enlarge their tunnels as they progress downward until they completely girdle the infested shoot killing as much as 1½ - 2 feet of the leader. Mature grubs are yellowish white, legless and about 7 mm long. They quickly become adults, emerging as early as mid-July when they feed for a time on new shoots then enter the ground litter at the base of trees to overwinter.

The weevils prefer open-growing trees; pines growing under a hardwood overstory are less susceptible to weevil attack. In open areas, the Forest Service recommends keeping a high density of young white pine until the trees reach about 20 feet in height. In stands of saplings, pruning the infested terminals before adults emerge can reduce the weevil population.

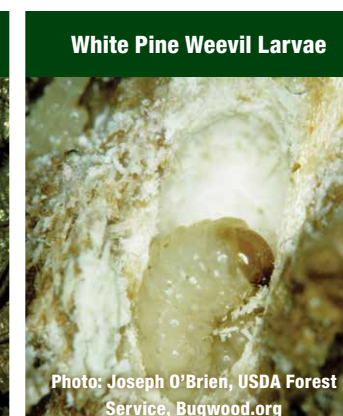


Ariel View of Robbins Lumber in Searsmont, Maine



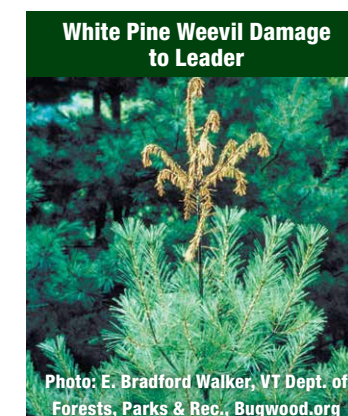
Multiple Stems Due to White Pine Weevil

Photo: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



White Pine Weevil Larvae

Photo: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



White Pine Weevil Damage to Leader

Photo: E. Bradford Walker, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Rec., Bugwood.org



White Pine Weevil Adult

Photo: Dave Powell, retired, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

An Abundance of Pine Cones

According to Mark Vannah, 2017 is a big year for white pine cone production. He should know—Mark buys the pine for Robbins Lumber.

Pine cones visible in 2017 were pollinated in the spring of 2016. Precipitation and temperatures in prior years play a role in cone development.



Pine Cones on White Pine



Pine Cones on White Pine

Cone production in white pines is also cyclical. Good seed years occur every 3 to 5 years.

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