

Town Forests for the People, by the People.



“When I think of the word forest, I think of a German forest because while I was stationed in Germany I took up ‘volksmarching,’ German for ‘people’s march’ — a form of non-competitive fitness walking typically done in the wilderness.”



Meet Al Robertson...tree farmer, volksmarcher, and creator of a town forest.

Al Robertson lives in Sheffield, Vermont, and he has conserved his 60-acre tree farm by establishing a trust so it can be used by the community today, and long into the future.

What made you decide to put your land into a trust for the town?

“I’m single with no children, and you certainly can’t take it with you, so I thought it would be good to give a town forest to Sheffield.”

How does the process work?

“I established a trust that holds the land for Sheffield as a town forest. The town must manage the land properly, and folks can use it for timber production, firewood, hunting, hiking, skiing...relaxing.”

What impact has your decision had on you?

It’s made it a lot easier knowing that I can die and not worry about what’s going to happen to the place. I feel good knowing that my land will be used for the greater good.”

“If your community needs a public forest, why not donate your land to the town, or establish some kind of trust that conserves it for the town?”

To get in touch with Al, and for more information on the Pfälzerwald Town Forest, connect with Sheffield’s Town Clerk at townclerk@sheffieldvt.org or 802-626-8862.

For information on Vermont’s town forests, and to find yours, visit www.vtcommunityforestry.org/YourVTTownForest



A collaboration between the USDA Forest Service and Vermont Town Forest Centennial Celebration Committee.
Celebrating 25 years of USDA Forest Legacy, Forest Stewardship and Urban and Community Forestry Programs and 100 years of town forests in Vermont.

