

A wooden bowl filled with water, surrounded by green foliage. The bowl is made of light-colored wood and is positioned in the center of the frame. The water inside the bowl is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. The background is a dense field of green plants, possibly basil, with some leaves in the foreground being more prominent.

Value-added Forest Products in Vermont and Puerto Rico

Current activities, needs, and opportunities

What is a Value-added Forest Product?

- A forest resource that is processed within the forest, community, or region of origin in such a way that the value of the resource is increased.
- Whether it's sold within the community or exported, the profit from the original resource and the final product stay in the place of origin.

Examples of Value-added Forest Products



Courtesy of Beeken Parsons



Courtesy of Gardener's Supply



Courtesy of Tropic Ventures, Inc.



Courtesy of Café Madre Isla/Casa Pueblo



Courtesy of Tropic Ventures, Inc.



Courtesy of Wikipedia

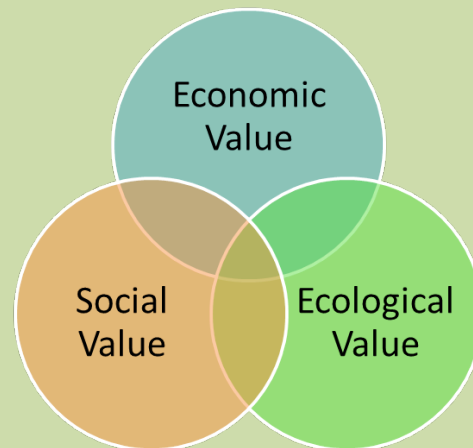
Why Value-added Forest Products?

Beyond economic value, the process of creating value-added products can also add ecological and social value because it...

- Brings people together to build a sense of community
- Connects people with place and promotes forest stewardship
- Increases the profit per tree, reducing the number of trees that must be harvested
- Allows for the use of traditionally underutilized materials (“character wood”)

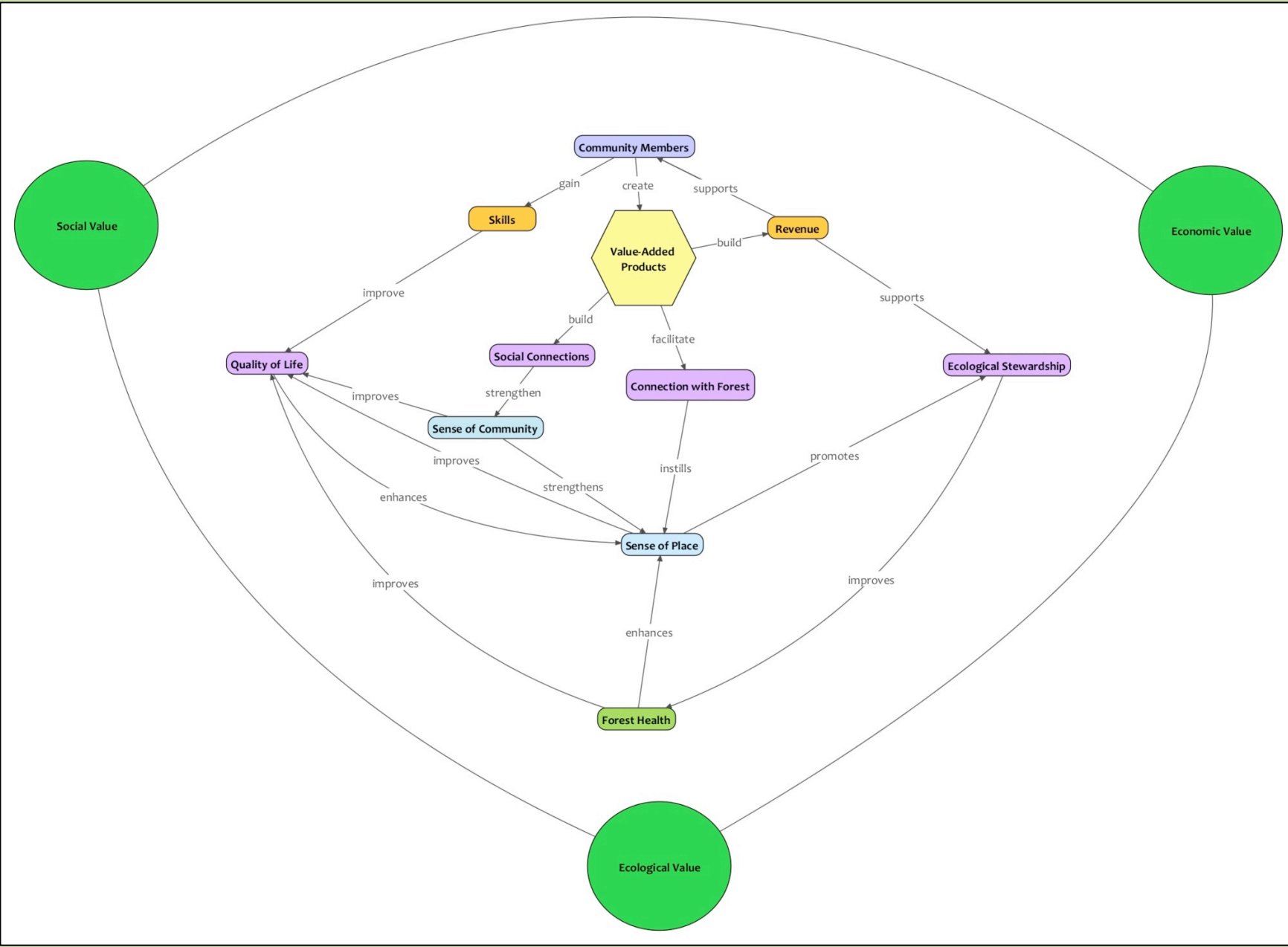


Courtesy of Casa Pueblo



Courtesy of GreenWood

The Benefits of Value-Added Forest Products: A Concept Map

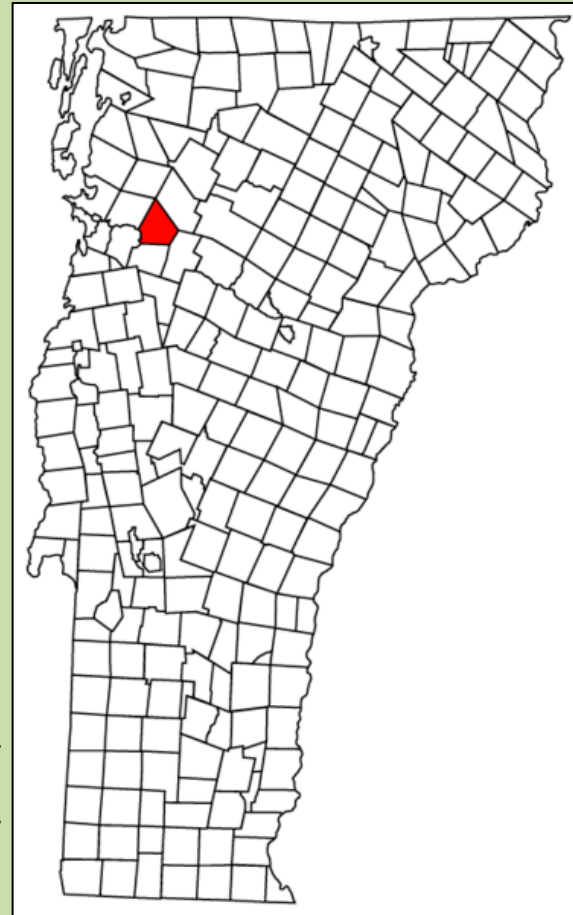


What's happening in Vermont?

Focusing on the University of Vermont's [Jericho Research Forest \(JRF\)](#)



Courtesy of the University of Vermont



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Healthy Forests, Humble Bowls



Courtesy of Walter Poleman



Courtesy of the University of Vermont

[Woodturning & Conservation](#) class at UVM

1-credit class, students learn about:

- Principles of sustainable forestry
- Common tree and wood ID
- Processes involved in converting standing trees into functional wooden objects
- Foundations of lathe operation and safety
- Tool control, and cutting techniques for safe and efficient turning
- How to design turned objects with respect to wood structure and properties

Also...

- Students in the [GreenHouse Residential Learning Community](#) established a student woodturning guild
- JRF is selling bowls in the UVM bookstore
- Bowls are given to distinguished speakers at UVM

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Adirondack Chairs

[GreenHouse Residential Learning Community](#)



Courtesy of Walter Poleman

Students living in the GreenHouse RLC participated in a workshop to build Adirondack chairs from wood harvested from the Jericho Research Forest.

The main purpose was to provide seating for the GreenHouse, but they also wanted to see if the chairs could be sold.

It turned out to be quite time-intensive, so production for sale may not be feasible. The project is still in the works.

The Greening of Aiken Project



The Jericho Research Forest was recently certified by the [Forest Stewardship Council](#) as a green forestry operation.

125 trees were harvested from the forest to be used in the renovation of the Aiken Center, home of the [Rubenstein School of Natural Resources](#).

The wood will be used as paneling in the interior of the LEED-certified building.

Courtesy of the University of Vermont



Courtesy of the University of Vermont



What's happening in Puerto Rico?

Focusing on two sites: [Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas](#) and [Las Casas de la Selva](#)



Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas

- Works with community members to manage forests within the Puerto Rican Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses ~35,000 acres in the central highlands region.
- Manages community forests and educational forests, and provides guidance to private landowners.



Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas



Courtesy of Casa Pueblo

- Casa Pueblo operates a community store, which sells products made by regional artisans.
- The artisans are not currently using local woods, even though the forests include many useful tree species.
- Most community members have little knowledge about harvesting methods and uses for local woods.

Las Casas de la Selva

[Tropic Ventures, Inc.](#)

- ~1,000 acres of Tabonuco forest in the southern central highlands.
- Researching silvicultural methods suitable for Puerto Rico.
- Trying to demonstrate to the public the economic benefits of silviculture and sustainable forestry.
- Goal is to reduce Puerto Rico's dependence on wood imports while promoting ecological stewardship.

Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons



Las Casas de la Selva

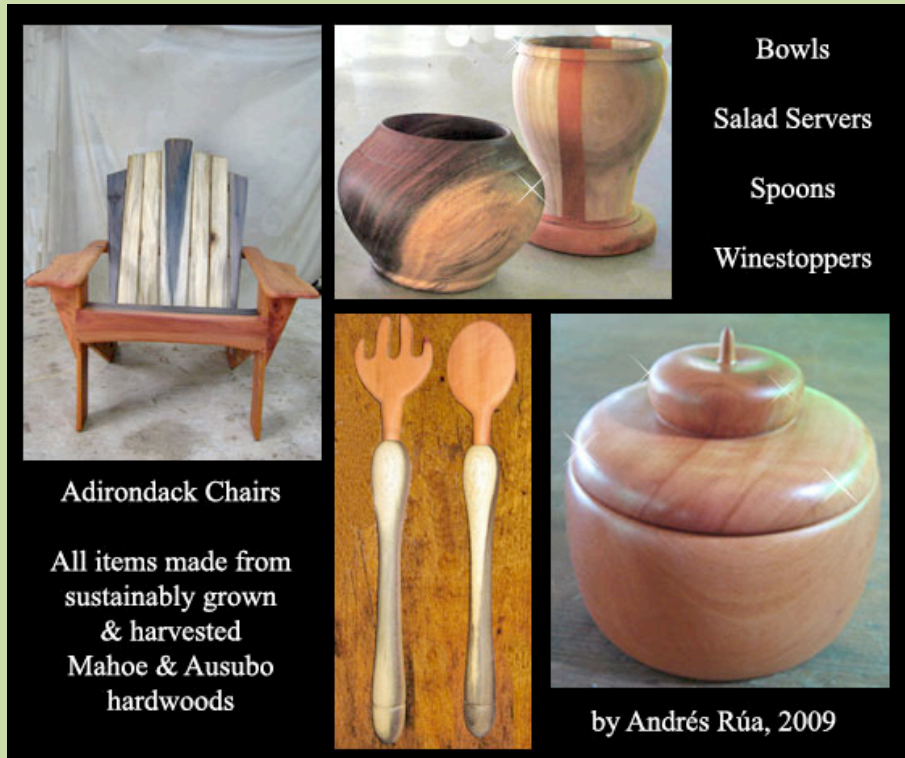
[Tropic Ventures, Inc.](#)



Tropic Ventures owns one of Puerto Rico's [15 sawmills](#) as well as a woodworking shop.

Las Casas de la Selva

[Tropic Ventures, Inc.](#)



Courtesy of Tropic Ventures, Inc.

Tropic Ventures creates and sells value-added forest products at Las Casas and on their website. They mostly sell to tourists and volunteers, and to buyers in the continental US.

What are the goals?

Jericho

- Community involvement
- Forest stewardship
- Education (university)
- Supplemental revenue

Puerto Rico

- Community involvement
- Forest Stewardship
- Education/Training (public)
- Economic Growth

Courtesy of the University of Vermont



Looking Ahead: What are the opportunities?

Jericho

- Partnerships with other forests in New England, as well as regional woodworkers and schools
- Student leadership (more work with student guilds and classes)
- Community events



Courtesy of the University of Vermont

Puerto Rico

- Collaboration between Tropic Ventures and Casa Pueblo
- Partnerships with PR universities and other forests in PR
- Improved infrastructure
- Training programs/ workshops
- Local market research



Jericho Research Forest, Las Casas de la Selva/Tropic Ventures, and Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas can be excellent resources for each other. They share similar goals, and could share ideas and exchange information as future partners.



Courtesy of Amanda Egan

Woodturned bowl at JRF



Courtesy of Tropic Ventures, Inc.

Woodturned bowl at Las Casas de la Selva



Courtesy of Walter Poleman

Adirondack chairs at UVM (from JRF wood)



Courtesy of Tropic Ventures, Inc.

**Adirondack chair at
Las Casas de la Selva**

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