Wayne Wilmans, Assistant Plant Manager, joined the Verpol team in Vermont in June of 2013. He and his wife Sharon, both natives of South Africa, met at Stellenbosch University near Cape Town where Wayne received degrees in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering as well as an MBA. Prior to leaving South Africa, Wayne was employed as a process engineer for the De Beers Diamond Company in Kimberley, South Africa.

Before coming to the United States Wayne and Sharon spent almost a year backpacking in Europe. In 1990 they arrived in California where Wayne was employed by a major Silicon Valley computer networking company. After four short years, Wayne and his family were transferred to Belgium. There they lived in a small village called Overijse, located just south of Brussels. There he was responsible for maintaining network equipment in large computer networks in different countries. In 1997 they returned to the United States where Wayne became a Senior Process Engineer for the J.M. Huber Corporation in Fairmount, Georgia. He was promoted to Plant Manager at the Hawesville, Kentucky PCC Plant and later to Operations Manager for all J.M. Huber Corporation PCC Plants in North and South America. In 2007 Omya acquired the J.M. Huber PCC Plants and Wayne joined Omya as Operations Manager for the PCC Plants in Region Americas. In 2009 he was promoted to Plant Manager at the Omya Arizona Plant in Superior, Arizona and remained there until his recent appointment to the position at Verpol.

Wayne and his family attained U.S. Citizenship in 2008. Wayne, Sharon and their three boys are no strangers to adapting to new and different places. Being avid sports and outdoors people that enjoy ice hockey, hiking, hunting, fishing and skiing they are looking forward to all the opportunities that Vermont offers. Wayne considers it a privilege to be able to work at the Verpol facility and be part of a very strong team.

significant growth in use of Omya SPS
construction or decommissioning, and topsoil replacement above the final cover.

land management
The team has also developed an innovative land reclamation technique to return quarry landforms back to productive forest lands. The success of black locust trees planted on a reclamation landform at Omya’s Hogback Quarry is just one example. The first photo on page 1 shows black locust just one year after planting. The second photo shows the same trees five years after planting.

Omya relies on the natural environment and the long-term sustainability of local natural resources. Robbo emphasizes, “Keeping forests with a wide diversity of species and tree sizes provides a wide range of wildlife habitats and ecological benefits.”
**Significant Growth In Use of Omya SPS**

Omya produces high quality calcium carbonate products which are used in the manufacturing of paper, paint, plastics, food and pharmaceuticals and various other products. The processing of our raw material, marble ore, also yields a by-product, Omya SPS. Omya SPS is a mixture of calcium carbonate and other minerals. Due to its mineral content, low permeability, small particle size, inherent alkalinity and its ability to support vegetation, Omya SPS has found a home in many applications as an economical, environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fillers and extenders. Omya SPS has also proven to be an excellent agricultural liming agent and landfill cover. Omya SPS also qualifies for a recycling credit as a “pre-consumer recovered/reclaimed material” and is an excellent example of how Omya is putting its commitment to sustainability into action! Read on to learn how Omya SPS is being used to bring sustainable value to different processes and products.

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**Land Management**

Did you know that Omya Vermont uses a small percentage of acreage (approximately 10%) for its quarry and mineral processing operations? The remaining landscape supports Vermont’s heritage, tourism, and recreational lifestyles. Omya believes that sustainability is the future to our success. That is why our land management team continues to manage Omya’s Vermont properties focusing on sustainability.

With over 30 years of on-the-ground experience in managing forests throughout Vermont and neighboring states, consulting forester, Robbi Holleran, has provided over 25 years of technical expertise to Omya’s land management team. He has been key to Omya’s efforts to improve forest health, protect diverse wildlife habitat, and enhance timber quality on Omya’s forested lands from Dorset to Middlebury.

In Middlebury we have strived to preserve shag bark hickory for potential future Indiana bat habitat. Robbi’s practice of uneven aged forest management with selective harvesting not only improves the health of the forests, but protects a diverse range of wildlife habitat.

In Pittsford, and lands surrounding Omya’s Hogback Quarry, Robbi continues to successfully enhance critical winter habitat for white tailed deer through the expansion of softwood cover and the development of nearby hardwood browse areas, an important source of winter food for deer.

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**OMYA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014**

**Plant Tours**

We invite you to visit our facility and see what we do. Scheduled a private tour or come as a group (school groups, 4th Grade and up are welcome). See how our highly skilled employees use state-of-the-art processes to produce the highest quality of calcium carbonate products. Our products are used in thousands of consumer applications including diapers, paper, duct tape, vinyl siding, carpet, PVC pipe, and so much more.

The Verpol plant is the largest of the Omya operations in the United States and is the third largest of the Omya plants in the world. In addition, Omya quarries marble, which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate.

For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7650 or leave a message on our Community Feedback Line 802-770-7644.
Calcium Carbonate in Paper

Twenty years ago when my son was young I was a Boy Scout leader in Proctor, VT. If some of you were in my troop, congratulations on having learned the production, use, and value of paper. Yes, there is a merit badge on this topic which I taught on several occasions. Remember the parsley and flower petal laced paper you made in the Proctor lab? That was just for fun but in fact there are commercial printing properties. It has become a common filler and coating pigment in almost every form of paper.

One of the several requirements for the Boy Scout merit badge is to find 10 examples of paper (or paperboard) used in your own home. If you would like to take this challenge with your family, read no further. Just have a look around (hint: I already gave you one example). I think you will be surprised. (The answers are shown upside down in case you get stumped.)

Paper (and paperboard) has many uses common in daily life. In the production of paper, calcium carbonate, like that produced at the Vermont plant of Omya, plays a key role in making paper less expensive to produce, brighter, and with better printing properties. It has become a common filler and coating pigment in almost every form of paper.

Mike Strutz, Manager Technical Service Forest Products Industry

No Stranger to Omya

In February 2014, Heather Fowler took on the role of Safety, Environment & Quality (SEQ) Coordinator at the Verpol plant. Heather joined Omya in 2004, in the Engineering Division of Omya Inc. where she supported the Director of Engineering and 35 engineers. In 2008 Heather moved to the Paper Division where she provided support to Paper Technical Services at Proctor.

Heather participates on the Middlebury Quarry Open House planning committee and is an active member in Omya's successful Health & Wellness program established in 2012. She will support and enhance the internal and external communication efforts at the Verpol plant in Florence. Additionally, Heather will be active on the Community Issue Team and help support the OmyainVermont website. She looks forward to promoting good will for the organization through publicity efforts and community events.

Heather, a native Vermonter, grew up in Clarendon. Outside of work, Heather enjoys spending time with her family, husband Bill, daughter Abigail and stepdaughter Keana. The whole family enjoys boating and biking together. She has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Business Technology and Management from Vermont Technical College and a Bachelors Degree of Science in Business Administration from Castleton State College.

We look forward to Heather’s creativity and participation in the various events and activities that take place at the Verpol plant.
Awareness Training

Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Awareness Training

We are proud to be involved in:

Rutland/Brandon coach for recreational boys soccer, flag football, basketball, wrestling, girls & women's rugby, assistant coach, Varsity and JV football • Civic organizations • Masons (Fair Haven), Shrine (Fair Haven), Moose (Rutland), Aktion (Rutland), Crown Point Road Historical Society, Elks Lodge (Whitehall NY) • Chamber of Commerce Brandon, Rutland • Rutland Economic Development Corporation and Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board • Fireman Pittsford, Chittenden • Booster Clubs members • Director of Otter Valley Football • Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leaders West Rutland, Pittsford, Whitehall NY • McKenzie library fundraising • Pittsford ski program • Pittsford rec field maintenance • Pittsford & Brandon Green Up Day • West Rutland church leader for over 20 years • RAVE (Rutland Area Vehicle Enthusiasts) officer and board member • VT Army National Guard several deployments • raise guide dogs to become guiding eyes for the blind • Vice President Snowmobile Club Granville NY • Modern Woodsmen of American Building & Grounds • Proctor skating rink manager • Black Ice Hockey founder & coach and so much more!

The Omya-hosted LNG training session at the Pittsford Fire Station

On March 29, 2014 Omya hosted a Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Awareness Training session at the Pittsford Fire Station for firefighters and First Responders from Castleton, Proctor, Pittsford, Rutland Town and W. Rutland were on hand to learn from industry experts what LNG is, how it is transported and how it is handled.

Career Firefighter and Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy Instructor Norm Seymour, along with the Director of Safety & Compliance from L.P. Transportation Inc., provided a comprehensive training that included an examination of a truck (double walled insulated) used designed dedicated only for transporting LNG. Omya employees in attendance were Dennis Carroll, Environmental, Health & Safety Manager, Mike Laurent, Pre-grind Area Manager and Dan Firlik, Process Engineer.

Omya Academic Scholarship 2013

Omya announces the recipients of its 2013 Academic Scholarship Program. Omya designed the scholarship program to offer incentives for the development of Vermont’s future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science. Students chosen for the scholarship awards demonstrate a commitment to learning, leadership, and community involvement.

A total of $14,000 in scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

Cody Bradish - Fair Haven Union High School
Josh Cody - Rutland High School
Brandon Grub - West Rutland High School
Abigail Harvey - Mount Saint Joseph Academy
Abigail Elliott - Mill River Union High School
Thomas McKean - Woodstock Union High School
Amy Morale - Otter Valley High School Union
Samantha Raymond - Mill River Union High School
Thomas Roberts - Otter Valley Union High School

Congratulations to each of our 2013 scholarship recipients!

Omya Gives Back

< continued from page 2 >

Fundraiser Walks & Runs
3 Day Stampede for Cystic Fibrosis
March for Babies
Maple Run
Ripton Ridge Run
Rutland County Relay for Life
Susan G. Komen
Community Events
Addison County Field Days
Brandon Chamber - Concert Series
Brandon Independence Day Parade
Brandon Recreation Department
Brandon Senior Center
Brandon Toy Project
Castleton Cares
Castleton College – Concerts on the Green
Castleton Community Seniors
Chaffee Art Center
Fair Haven Sunshine Fund
Festival on the Green
Friends of Brandon Town Hall
Friends of Vergennes Opera House
Paramount Theatre
Town of West Rutland – Concert Series
RAVE
Rutland Creek Bike Path
Ver争论ee Opera House
Vermont Folklife Center
WARMTH

To make a donation request please contact us at 802-770-7500. You can also make requests through our website at www.omyainvermont.net. Simply click on “Contact” and select any one of the contact’s listed or fill out the on-line comment form at the bottom of the page.

All calls and website inquiries will be returned by 5:00 p.m. on the next regular business day.

OMYA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014 3