

Dear Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation,

Thanks to your generous gift, I was able to spend ten weeks logging in the area of Fryeburg, Maine this summer, using draft horses as our primary source of power. My teacher for the summer, John Plowden, has used the power of draft animals to harvest timber, pulp and firewood for over twenty years. Along with logging with the horses, over the course of my internship I was immersed in all peripheral work that having a horse-powered operation requires;



John and I spent many days mowing, raking, and baling hay and the better part of a week welding, cutting, grinding, and remanufacturing an old logging cart to John's specifications. As John would tell me after a particularly grueling hay-day: "It's all part of horse logging."

While this internship, like most draft-horse-centered learning situations, was unpaid, your scholarship helped make it economically feasible for me, from the obvious equipment I needed to purchase (chainsaw and safety gear) to less obvious expenses (purchasing a credit from UVM so I could be covered by their general liability insurance). I also became connected with an international community of teamsters and draft horse enthusiasts, Draft Animal Power Network (DAPnet) which recently elected me to their board of directors, due to my experiences with John and general enthusiasm for our craft.



I see working with draft horses, and draft horse logging in particular, to be a big part of my future. I love the way that they treat the forest, and I love the way that I feel when I work with them. Thanks to your gift, I was able to discover this passion of mine, which will shape my future choices and contributions to the field of forestry.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Sincerely, J. Ethan Tapper