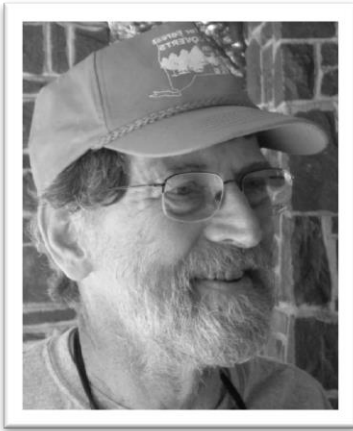


# New York Forest Owners Association Capital District Chapter Newsletter

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## Message from the Chairman



### A Lesson on TSI from Our Back Yard

In the 1970's, back when the future seemed infinite with us still in it, we planted trees. I can look out my window now and see the result as we have a good number of pine trees over 30 feet tall. We also planted a black walnut, no bigger than my little finger, but only about five feet separated one particular pine tree from the black walnut. The pine and walnut both thrived, and for years that was OK- I could just squeeze the lawn mower between them. Much later, as I learned the importance of active forest management, I came to know that these two beautiful trees were going to spell trouble unless one of them was removed. I could never bring myself to resolve which to cut down so that the other would develop with a full crown. My ignorance and indecision left it up to the trees to fight it out. The walnut and pine tree both developed one-sided branching as they competed for light. The next stage of my denial was to prune side limbs from both of them as high as I could reach with my chain saw pruner. That seemed to work for a long time; both trees still thrived as too-close neighbors sometimes do. Yet especially the walnut compensated by developing a markedly bowed stem.

This year, the mast of nuts on the ten inch diameter walnut was huge, and the sheer weight of the nut crop bent it over so far I was sure it would pull the tree out by the roots and break the fibers of the trunk so it would never recover to stand reasonably straight. The one-sided branching had led to trouble. The walnut is my favorite tree, although the pine was still perfectly straight.

Last week a friend came by and we cut down the pine tree, as sad as that was to do. It should have been done 10 years ago. Now all we had was a badly bent walnut tree heavy with a hundreds of nuts, limbs almost touching the ground. We trimmed off a pile of lower limbs to relieve stress, took an extension ladder to as high as we dared, and installed a ring of cable inside a rubber hose to make a collar high on the walnut. We then linked a series of turnbuckles and tied off the cable to a nearby stout ash tree. Now we begin to ever so slowly take some of the bend out of the walnut. This process may not save the tree and will take a long time, probably years. It was a Hobson's choice as whether to risk it all and try to save the walnut and cut the pine, or go the other way and cut a beautiful walnut and leave a straight pine. We will see.

Life is a one-way street of decisions that we don't get to drive down a second time. This is especially true as we work our forests. Every woodlot is the accumulation of hundreds of years of actions and non-actions, including-for good measure- those of nature itself. We have much that could be done to steer the development of the forest toward the next 100 years. We need to be in a hurry and yet work patiently, with a vision and goals. In the yard, we had let our emotional attachment to both specimen trees get in the way of taking needed deliberate and cold-minded action. I hope we can do better with major legacy decisions on how our land is prepared and passed to the next generation. Timely decisions about a forward-looking TSI cut and harvest seems especially prudent as we look at the bent, but hopefully recovering, black walnut in our yard.

*Dick Gibbs*

## Chapter Picnic

The annual picnic was held at Thacher Park at the Glen Doone picnic area on the Helderberg escarpment. Good weather, good food and good company were enjoyed by everyone who attended.



## Lemanec Woodswalk

On Sunday, August 17th a small group of us visited Tracy Lamanec's home and woodlot in the Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County.

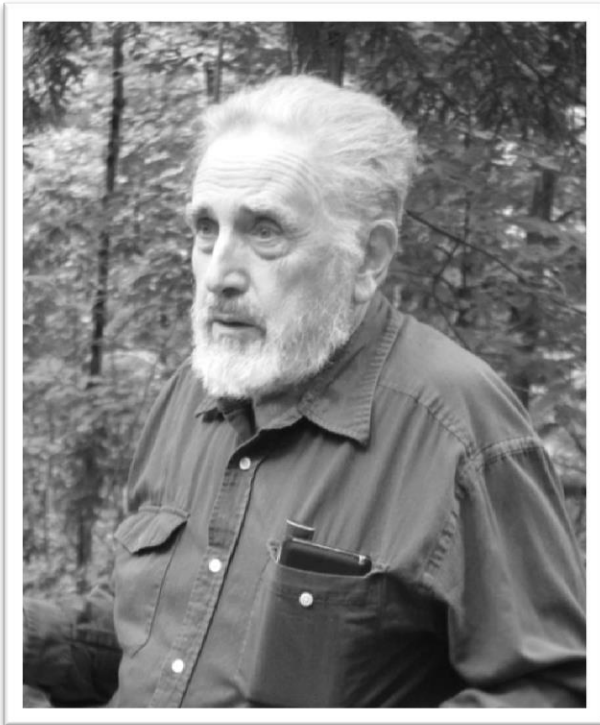
Tracy has always been an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He was formerly the outdoor writer for the Schenectady Gazette. So when he had an opportunity to purchase an adjacent parcel of woodland twenty years ago, he did so.

For many years he used the land for hunting and gathering wild mushrooms. However, the growing timber in the woodlot eventually attracted the attention of loggers who asked if he would consider selling. Tracy knew Mike Greason and asked Mike to mark the mature trees. The marked trees were purchased by Meltz Lumber of Columbia County.

Although Mike was not around for the completion of the harvest, we visited the site and discussed some of the financial and silvicultural aspects of growing timber profitably.



Inspecting Residual Trees



Tracy Lemanec



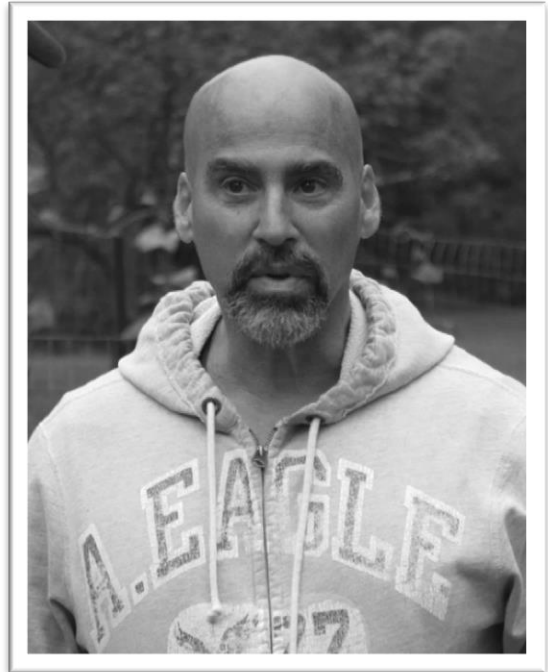
The Argo – Tracy's transport solution for wet areas of the woodlot.

Tracy's property is at the crest of land overlooking the Mohawk River valley. It's a windy spot, and that makes it a good location for a wind turbine. Three years ago Tracy got serious about exploring the possibility. He contacted Hudson Valley Wind and Solar (www.hvwindenergy.com) and with their help and with a grant from NYSERDA, had a small turbine installed last year.

According to Doug Passeri of Hudson Valley Wind and Solar, a wind turbine will typically provide a rate of return of 6% - 25%. The best candidates for a wind turbine are those with a residential or commercial property of at least 1 acre, and electric bills averaging over \$150 per month. Currently there are Federal and State programs that can cover up to 75% or more of the installation costs.



The turbine tower



Doug Passeri of Hudson Valley Wind and Solar



The wind turbine



The inverter

## Questionable Advice

The Internet is a great source of information about almost any subject you can think of – including timber harvesting. However, not all of it is sound. Here is an example that will test your knowledge. Consider the following advice about logging and sustainable woodlot management.

### ***Sustainable Forests and Practicing Selective Logging***

#### ***Selective Logging***

*Smart Loggers maintain sustainable forests by practicing selective logging. Timber, is a renewable resource, this fact makes forest timber products one of the greenest materials available. Why not go one step farther and harvest timber in such a way that is conducive to its replenishment?*

#### ***Does that mean planting a tree for every tree we cut down?***

*Maybe, but the forest itself does a pretty good job reseeding as long as we leave some parent trees to do the job. This means we need to avoid clear cutting a forest. Clear-cutting leaves nothing to reseed. If a clear cut is unavoidable then yes we should replant at least one tree for everyone that was harvested.*

*Not only that, but we should replant the same species that we harvested. If we don't replant we could end up with a lifeless piece of ground, as a result of erosion. Or, invasive species will take over and choke out any chance of forest regrowth. Think about loggers in the future, they will need something to harvest as well. If we leave a forest barren then there will be nothing left for future generations to harvest.*

*We also need to avoid cutting all of a particular species out of an area. Leave something to reseed. This is easy to do, generally there will be many different trees of the same species in a small area.*

*Let's say that there is a little grove of oaks in the forest we are logging. There will be some trees that are of a harvest-able size and some that are too small. Go ahead and cut all the harvest-able trees and leave the younger ones to continue the diversity of the whole forest.*

## Some Misconceptions

There are several misconceptions in this post.

To start, selective logging does not “maintain sustainable forests” unless it improves future value and productivity. Selective logging can do just the opposite. Most landowners don't want their woodlots clearcut, but many want the highest price they can get from a selective harvest. That's understandable. But essentially this means the logger is being asked to selectively cut the most valuable trees and leave the rest. Cutting all the most valuable trees often reduces future value and productivity which is not “maintaining sustainability”.

Second, selective logging is not the same as the selection system of silviculture which includes leaving an adequately stocked residual stand of desirable trees. Having the trees marked by a forester before they are cut is the surest way to ensure that there will be a healthy, valuable, and diverse residual stand for the next harvest.

Third, clearcutting is considered a sustainable forestry practice in some cases. Ironically, years of selective logging in mixed northern hardwoods can create those conditions. A woodlot with a high percentage of low value trees is often the result of poor cutting practices in the past. In some cases the most cost effective option to restore a degraded stand for the future may be to clearcut and start over.

Finally, cutting all the trees of harvestable size and leaving the smaller trees is known as diameter limit cutting. Unfortunately, the smaller trees in an unmanaged stand are often the same age as the larger trees. They are small for a reason. They may be genetically inferior and/or too weak to respond to a thinning. The largest trees are often the healthiest and fastest growing and will provide a good seed source for the next generation of trees. Both high-grading and diameter limit cutting are not considered sustainable forest management practices because they can degrade future value and productivity.

For the original posting on-line go to:  
<http://logging.about.com/od/Eco-Friendly-Logging/tp/Sustainable-Forests-And-Practicing-Selective-Logging.htm>

# Beech Scale Nectria Canker

Beech bark disease causes significant mortality and defect in American beech. The disease results when bark, attacked and altered by the beech scale insect is invaded and killed by nectria fungi. The disease, originally from Europe, was introduced in Nova Scotia about 1890. By the 1930's, the scale and an associated nectria fungus were killing trees throughout the Maritime Provinces and in localized areas of eastern and southcentral Maine. In addition, isolated infestations of scale were occurring in southwestern Maine and eastern Massachusetts. The scale insect has continued to spread to the north into Quebec and to the west and south throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, and northern and eastern Pennsylvania.

Large trees, over about 8 inches in diameter, succumb more readily than small ones. Research data from plots in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine show that about 28% of the large beech had died, another 22% were dying, and many of the surviving trees were so severely injured that they offer little hope as a source of quality wood.

Diseased Beech Trees



But are all beech trees doomed? It doesn't seem to be the case in our woodlot. Thirty years ago many of the trees were infested with the beech scale insect. Hundreds of cords of beech were cut for firewood because it seemed unlikely that the beech trees would ever produce high quality logs. However, I'm starting to look more closely at the residual trees and new saplings and pole sized trees. Some have little or no scale insects. If these trees are resistant they probably should be saved.

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## Events Calendar

**What:** "I own Woods, Now What?" woods walk  
**When:** Saturday October 4, 2014 10:00 a.m. - noon  
**Where:** Abbot Farm, 172 Abbott Road, Buskirk, NY 12028

Does your property include some woods? Would you like to do something with those woods? Forester Erin (O'Neill) Perry will lead us on the stroll and discuss how to begin the planning process of woodland management. The walk will be held on the 120-acre Abbott Farm owned by Jack and Cindy Parillo. This is a free event open to the public. The woods walk is sponsored by ASA in partnership with New York Forest Owners Association, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, NY Tree Farm and the Master Forest Owner Program with the generous support of the Robert H. Wentorf Foundation. Please contact ASA at 692-7285 with any questions.

**What:** Game of Logging Workshop – Level 1  
**When:** Friday, October 10, 2014  
**Where:** Pineridge Cross Country Ski Area  
1463 Plank Road  
Petersburg, New York 12405

The Game of Logging is the premier chainsaw and logging safety training program in the country and open to anyone who uses a chainsaw. This workshop combines demonstration with participation to teach safety, productivity, conservation and cutting techniques. Limited to ten participants - \$25 fee. You must pre-register to take this course. To register call Erika Scott, NYCAMH, at (800) 343-7527

**What:** Tour of a Log Buyers Yard  
**When:** Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 10:00 am  
**Where:** Hudson River Hardwoods, 1339 CR 23B, Leeds NY 12451

You strive to grow the best quality trees possible. But what is it the buyer of your trees looking for when the log truck rolls into his yard? What are those logs really worth? Jason Post, owner of Hudson River Hardwoods will show us how tree length logs are initially processed to get the most value and utilization from each. Jason will also discuss current timber market conditions and the surprising places raw wood products go. Join us for an inside look at how locally grown timber is marketed around the globe. For further information contact Jason at (518) 577-4101.

**What:** Ties To The Land: Planning for the Future  
**When:** Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405

Few challenges faced by family forestland owners, are more important than the issue of passing the land and its responsibilities on to the next generation. Many small landowners want to preserve their family lands but don't know how to involve family members in ownership and operation of their land and forests.

Succession Planning -- the human side of Estate Planning -- focuses on ways to maintain family ties to the land from generation to generation, building awareness of key challenges facing family businesses and land ownership, and motivating families to address those challenges. Contact the Agroforestry Resource Center at (518) 622-9820 for the latest details.

**What:** Winter Gathering - Potluck Dinner  
**Speaker:** Lori Rulison, Rulison Honey Farm  
**When:** January 17th, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Bethany Presbyterian Church, Lyons Ave, Menands NY

Our annual winter meeting is always a great meal prepared by the many good cooks in the chapter. Lori Rulison will be our featured speaker. She will tell the story of the honey farm and the important role of bees in making honey and in keeping local fruit and vegetable farms productive.

**What:** Maple Sugar Operation (a chilly walk and live demo!)  
**When:** Tentatively this event will be held the second weekend of March 2015 but is dependent on the sap flow.  
**Where:** The location will be 245 Hidley Rd., Wynantskill. NY 12198

The tour will walk the sugar bush, and examine the forestry issues for a sugaring operation, review the collection system, and follow with a visit to the evaporating house at a nearby property.

For more news and information about enjoying and managing your forest, log onto: [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org). If you would like to receive reminders of future chapter events, contact Phil Walton ([pw Walton518@gmail.com](mailto:pw Walton518@gmail.com)) to be added to the electronic mailing list.

# **Join NYFOA**

## **Help Support Sustainable Forestry**

The New York Forest Owners Association is a not-for-profit organization established to encourage sustainable forestry practices and sound management of privately owned woodlands. Members include woodland owners and all others who care about the future of New York's trees and forests. Please consider joining because your support helps make a difference. Regular annual dues are just \$45.00 for an individual or family.

**Contact: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 1-800-836-3566 [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)**

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