



New York Forest Owners Association

Central New York Chapter

COVERING CAYUGA, HERKIMER, MADISON, ONEIDA,
ONONDAGA & OSWEGO COUNTIES

AUGUST 2017

2017 Summer Picnic - August 12, 2017

Location: Beaver Lake Nature Preserve, East Mud Lake Road, Baldwinsville, NY. In the pavilion or indoor room in case of inclement weather. Access to BLNP : \$4.00 per car

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00pm. Followed by **Guided Walk** (see below)

Agenda: Chapter/member picnic and steering committee meeting. **Bring a dish to pass**, your own beverage & place settings. Self-guided tours of the BLN Preserves trail systems before and after picnic. There may even be raffles...Do you need a levier d'abbatage, pv, peevey, timber jack? Do you know what it is?

1:00pm to ?

Guided Woods Walk on Julie Bernard and Mark & Cynthia Greene's properties on East Mud Lake Road featuring hardwood timber purchased by McDonough Hardwoods. Excellent example of property stewardship including timber stand improvement, and excellent prior commercial harvesting resulting in a high quality present timber sale. Discussion to center on how silviculture and monetary considerations meet to form a basis for a timber sale and at the same time set the stage for the next future harvest. We will walk from the pavilion, cross the road, and access the properties which lie exactly across the street from Beaver Lake. Guide: Daniel Zimmerman, Chief Forester & MBA, McDonough Hardwoods, Chair CNY-NYFOA

Web site: WWW.BeaverLakeNaturePreserve for directions, hours of operation, and restrictions. See page 3 for BLNP Trail Descriptions.

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UPCOMING NYFOA-related events

August 18 - 20. Woodsmen's Field Days - See tentative schedule at

<http://www.starwebhosting.net/woodsmen/schedule.html>

Kristina Ferrare, in her role at the Onondaga office of Cornell Cooperative Extension has asked us if we can find NYFOA volunteers to work at the Woodsmen's Field Days on any of the 3 days from 9 AM -1 PM or from 1 PM - 5 PM. If you can help out, please contact her at kaf226@cornell.edu or 315-424-9485 ext. 231

September 23 - SAVE the date for possible Woods Walk!



RECENT EVENTS

The well-deserved CNY-NYFOA Chapter Service award was presented in June to former CNY-NYFOA chairman Ralph Meyer by current chairman Dan Zimmerman.

CONGRATULATIONS, Ralph.

Ralph has agreed to continue his service to the chapter by staying on as a member of the **Steering Committee**.

Carl Stearns has also agreed to become a **Steering Committee** member.

Thanks to both for offering their services to our organization. Volunteers are always welcome!

If you have announcements, photos, articles, suggestions etc. of general interest to share, please send them to danielzimmerman57@yahoo.com

OR to

randi.starmer@gmail.com

OR contact any of the officers listed on the left side of page 1 of this newsletter

TRAILS AND EXHIBITS at Beaver Lake

The **Lakeview Trail** features signs interpreting the forest and lake, as well as telescopes for spotting distant herons and ducks. This handicapped-accessible trail is only 0.3 miles round trip, but groups may take a while to walk it with numerous stops. Inspiration Point provides a splendid view of the lake.

The **Bog Trail** has an elevated platform with a telescope for a panorama of the lake. The boardwalk passes through a fascinating floating environment that has insect-eating plants and other uniquely adapted flora. Watch for squirrels and chipmunks while walking the **Hemlock Hollow Trail** on the way to the bog. The hike to the bog is about 1 mile round trip.

The **Three Meadows Trail** winds 1.5 miles through wooded areas and open meadows, making this trail an ideal location to look for deer, fox, rabbits, and woodchucks.

Pine Meadow Trail is half a mile long and circles a large meadow winding through stands of pine and spruce. A pond on the meadow's edge is ideal for hands-on wildlife exploration. Watch for signs of woodchucks, deer, or even a fox.

Deep Woods Trail leads through a magnificent forest and provides great views of Beaver Lake along the way. A large variety of birds, trees, and understory plants can be observed from this 1.4 mile-long trail.

The **Woodland Trail** covers 1.1 miles in forested areas with thick canopies of cherry, maple, beech, tulip tree, and Eastern hemlock. This trail may be walked in a loop that circles Beaver Lake's sugar bush.

The **Lake Loop Trail** is a wonderful 3 mile hike over boardwalks and through majestic forests. It is the longest trail at Beaver Lake Nature Center and takes well over an hour for most groups to complete.

Indoor Exhibits include the **Exhibit Room**, with wildlife specimens and live turtles, and the **Wildlife Viewing Room**, a comfortable spot to take a seat and watch a variety of birds visit Beaver Lake's bird feeders.

WHAT'S IN YOUR FOREST ? by CNY-NYFOA CHAIRMAN, DAN ZIMMERMAN

Forest owners have many challenges and concerns to deal with. One concern that has been around a while in our woodlots and forests that should not be ignored is Eutypella! In cruising timber and working in the forest I've seen this pathogen frequently. The severity of infection varies greatly but stewardship of forest resources dictates recognition and control measures that should be implemented during firewood removal, timber stand improvement, and timber harvesting. Tree species at risk of infection generally belong to the genus *Acer*, the Maples. Trees within this group include Sugar (Hard) Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Red (Soft) Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), and Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*). I see it occurring mostly on stands that are predominately Sugar Maple! Given the value of Sugar Maple compared to other maples, care, involving diagnosis, treatment, and management of this pathogen is a justified cost in my opinion.

Eutypella canker, is one of the "target cankers" caused by the fungus *Eutypella Parasitica*. This fungus belongs to the Phylum *Ascomycota*, characterized in reproduction by the production of perithecia (fruiting bodies) that contain sexual spores called ascospores. Perithecia are usually produced within five to eight years after primary infection, so the disease takes years to become fully evident. High humidity and moderate temperature are ideal conditions for ascospore release. Dispersal is wind dependent.

The fungus infects recently wounded trees, usually through branching. Upon entering the tree, *Eutypella* spreads inside the bark where it invades the underlying wood. It kills the phloem (the inner bark layer of vascular cells that transport sugars throughout the tree), the cambium (the one cell thick growing part of the tree) and can even invade and decay the sapwood (xylem) of the tree. This decay can extend up to a foot into the tree. Many trees infected with *Eutypella* canker are so weakened that they break during strong storms and in high winds. Typically, the infection does not kill the tree except for younger saplings and sometimes pole-sized timber.

Eutypella causes necrosis (premature death in cells caused by infection) of the host tree. The disease can start with a relatively small infection, usually in damaged branching and leads to formation of a canker on the branching or on the bole itself. The necrosis is most pronounced and observable on the main stem. Over time (years), the canker slowly enlarges by increasing in width and, length! The yearly new infection (usually in the tree's dormant season) and resulting formation of callus (protective formation of wood cells by tree) forms an unsightly canker that builds in severity over time.

Observable factors indicating the diagnosis of *Eutypella* are: a sunken, bowl-shaped depression on the tree bole or branching usually showing cracked and dead wood with significant callus formation around the periphery of the bowl and very observable from a distance; often a dead branch in the center of the canker; noticeable black perithecia fruiting bodies near the canker center of older occurring specimens. Removal of bark near the edge of canker yields layer of light colored fungus underneath. Target-shaped pattern of annual growth rings may be found in the face of older cankers where bark has fallen off.

Management of this fungal disease centers on removal, especially within the forest. Since infection of healthy trees is from neighboring diseased trees via wind dispersal, it is recommended that tree cutting be done on a dry day or better yet, in winter. Correct pruning of diseased branching can also help. It is recommended that all residues be burned.

When marking timber and doing timber stand improvement, I tend to center in on trees with this canker! One cannot miss them! Appraisal of the damage to the bole on merchantable timber and the estimation of the resulting viability of the forest product is very important. Damage can be negligible, extensive, or in between. Can it be cut out in the bucking process? To what extent is the decay present and hence the grade of forest product (usually lumber) and therefore, its value. Experience in cruising, bucking, and sawmilling are invaluable!

I have included four pictures showing Eutypella Canker from two timber stands, predominately Sugar Maple that I have marked for harvesting. One is in southern Herkimer County and one in central Madison County. Herkimer County has shallow soils, heavy to limestone, and in my opinion a comparatively poorer growing site for Sugar Maple. A history of high grading about 25 to 30 years ago, left trees now large and dominant that are all severely defected. A high percentage of these trees have Eutypella and it has spread to the succeeding residual stand. The Madison County stand has better soils and a much higher growing site index together with a history of one commercial harvest occurring about 15 years ago that was carried out very well but did not address the Eutypella problem!

Picture A (below) shows a dead tree with infection that occurred in two areas on the bole: one higher up (10 to 15 feet) and one close to the ground (a basal infection). This tree indicates infection of this stand many years ago, perhaps decades!

Pictures A and B are from Herkimer County



Picture B (below) shows a close up view of basal infection



c/o Randi Starmer
7022 Bush Road
Jamesville, NY 13078



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Pictures C and D are from Madison County.

Picture C (below) shows bole infection
on an otherwise healthy tree



How about that marked crop tree in Picture D,
(below) showing diseased tree marked as cull
for removal since appraisal of tree showed
significant rot extending both upwards and
down the bole with additional indicators on
the opposite side of tree?



So, as Capitol One credit card
commercials say:
"What's in your wallet?",
I would say to forest owners:
"What's in your woodlot?"