

Treelines



Winter 2017

Upcoming Events

Details on pages 6 – 7

- | | |
|---|---|
| Tuesdays
January 17
thru February 21
6 – 7:30 pm | Introduction to
Maple Syrup
Production,
Webinar |
| Wednesday
January 25
6 pm | Annual Pot Luck
CCE
Binghamton, NY |
| Saturday
February 4
10 am – 12 pm | CFA – Beginner
Maple Syrup
Making Event,
Margaretville, NY |
| Thursday –
Saturday
February 23-25 | NY Farm Show,
NYFOA Learn
More, Earn More
Seminars
Syracuse, NY |
| Wednesday
March 15
6:30 pm | SOT Chapter
Meeting
CCE
Binghamton, NY |
| Saturday
April 8 | NYFOA Annual
Meeting
SUNY
Syracuse, NY |

Biocontrol of EAB: Hope for the Future of Ash



By Michael Jones, MyWoodlot.com, 4/6/16
If you're a woodlot owner, you've probably heard about the destructive forest pest emerald ash borer. This invasive green beetle has spread over half the US, killed more than 25 million trees, and threatens ash trees with extinction. Though smaller than a penny, the EAB is devastating. Its larvae kill trees by eating the tubes ashes use to transport nutrients throughout the tree. Until recently, the best way to deal with emerald ash borer was to slow its spread by never moving firewood to or from your woodlot (still a good idea, by the way). But in the past few years, another method for dealing with emerald ash borer has gained new promise: biocontrol. This is the introduction and establishment of specialist predators from the native range of an invasive pest. I've been fortunate to contribute research to this control technique, and I wanted to share our work with you.

Biocontrol starts with a visit to the ash borer's native range in Asia to see what animals keep it in check there. Researchers found several specialized predators, called parasitoids.

Parasitoids are amazing insects. They're small, stingless wasps about 1/4" long. When a female parasitoid finds an ash, she taps the bark with her antennae to feel for vibrations of moving ash borer larvae. When she locates a larva, she uses her ovipositor (a modified stinger) to drill through the bark and paralyze the larva. She then lays eggs on the larva, and when those eggs hatch, the wasp larvae eat the borer larva.

In Asia, parasitoids kill up to 50% of emerald ash borers in infested trees. The hope is that if we bring these parasitoids to the US, they could have the same impact in controlling ash borers here.

But before we can release the parasitoids

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We're Growing! Welcome, New Members!

Edmund Ludwig, DeRuyter, NY and Tom Winn, Bainbridge, NY

Steve Speaks

A Message From Our Chapter Chair

This past summer, I attended a picnic at the home of NYFOA member Elliott Reitz. Elliott and I are members of a local British car club and that was the reason for the picnic. Elliott has a beautiful piece of property that he manages for wildlife. The property has three large ponds. The lower pond has an osprey nest and is not so deep. It's fed from the upper ponds by a man made stream with a waterfall. The volume is controlled by changing the number of boards that create a small dam. The upper ponds are about 20 feet deep and contain Bass and Koi fish. Elliott feeds the fish using a pellet food that can be purchased at Agway. What I found to be unique is the triangle shaped dinner bell on the pond's bank that is rung to let the fish know that it's time to eat.

The property has trails that are named. For example: Fox Den Lane, Woodcock Lane, Highway 101 and Boston Purchase Road. Elliott uses a golf cart to travel to his elaborate tree stand which is located between his oak woodlot and his planted field on a trail that he calls Trails End Road. The wildlife field has plants that attract a large variety of wildlife. The tree stand is actually a small room with windows and is supplied so that he can be comfortable in the woods. The tree stand was made with materials from the three story water slide at the former C.F.J. swimming pool that was located in Johnson City, NY. The swimming pool used to be one of the largest in the US. The steel frame from the water slide adds structural strength to tree stand.

Last winter, flying squirrels began using



tree stand as their home. At first, Elliott thought it was annoying to have intruders, but realized that it was perfectly normal for wildlife to seek shelter. He decided to feed them instead.

On the day of the picnic Elliott took me and another member of the car club to the tree stand as it got dark. He brought bird food in a large plastic jar. From the ground he shook the food in the plastic container to get the attention of the squirrels. Soon, a few squirrels ventured down the tree to feed on the bird food that Elliott had in his hand. It seemed at that point that all of the squirrels in the area were alerted to dinner.

The flying squirrels glided in from various directions toward the top of the one tree with food placed on a table at the bottom of the tree. The squirrels cautiously worked their way down to get at the bird food on the table. At one point we had fifteen squirrels in front of us. Several would be eating at one time. The rest clung to the tree waiting for their turn. Elliott told us he has previously had up to twenty one squirrels waiting for their easy meal. The squirrels ate their fill, returned to the top of the tree and then glided to another tree. We had flashlights so that we could watch their movements. The light didn't seem to bother them unless we moved the light too quickly. Once scared, they would scamper back up the



tree for a few minutes then return to feed.

It took Elliott about two months to gain the confidence of the squirrels so they would feed from his hand. If you want to try this in your woods, be forewarned that it takes a while.

According to the National Wildlife Federation northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) and southern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) are the only two native flying squirrel species found in North America. They are both gray-brown. The northern flying squirrel has belly fur that is gray at the base and is 10 to 12 inches in length. The southern flying squirrel has belly fur that is all white and is about 8 to 10 inches in length. Both species are found in New York State but are rarely seen because they are nocturnal. Don't let the name fool you. Flying squirrels don't actually fly. They glide using a membrane that is attached to their legs. They have a flat tail that is used help them glide and act as a brake when they reach their destination.

Have a good winter,
Steve

Photo by Victor Lamaroux. Contact:
607-239-9215

Photo Album – Saw Mill Tours, Antique and Modern, Fall 2016

Hanford Mills, September 24th

Photos by Ken & Sharon Semanovich



Fourteen of us from the SOT chapter took a group tour of Hanford Mills in East Meredith, NY. It was a brisk autumn day.



The mill was a maze of pulleys and belts.



Wooden gears.



The pulleys are made in two pieces so they clamp over the line shafts. This

makes changing the pulleys much more efficient, as they can be changed anywhere along the line shaft without removing other pulleys. Hanford Mills is a working mill, in that the equipment still operates as it did



in the past. We were able to watch most of the saws and other wood-working equipment in operation using the water from the mill pond. Other demonstrations included a shingle making machine, butter tub covers, and various crates and tool handles. Products made at the mill are sold in the gift shop. The shingles they were making the day of the tour were going to lean-to's along hiking trails.



Butter tub lids are sold in gift shop to raise funds for the museum.



The mill was able to obtain a replica of the original steam boiler.



Eventually, electricity came to the mill.

The mill also operated as a grist mill and there were examples



of different mill stones.

The staff was very attentive and extremely knowledgeable. After the tour, many of us enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds. For more information:

Hanford Mills Museum
 51 Co Rd 12, East Meredith, NY 13757
 (607) 278-5744
www.handfordmills.org
[facebook.com/HanfordMillsMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HanfordMillsMuseum)
[youtube.com/hanfordmillsmuseum](https://www.youtube.com/hanfordmillsmuseum)
 Twitter @HanfordMills

Wagner Lumber, November 9th

by Jerry Michael

Twenty-six Chapter members enjoyed a very informative tour of Wagner Lumber Company's Owego sawmill operation on November 9th. On the basis of board feet of lumber produced, the Owego mill is the largest in New York State. Seeing the double-sided band headsaw take off a slab on one pass and the first board on the return, reducing a large log to a cant in less than a minute, was very

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Silent Auction for Youth Forestry is Building Steam



able to deliver the good news about woodlands. Oh...did I mention that we topped it all off with 30 minutes of Q&A and eating delicious sweetened goodies? What fun!

Your auction

By Dean Faklis

NYFOA's traditional silent auction coincides with its annual meeting on April 8, 2017. The auction's beneficiaries for 2017 have been selected from several worthy organizations that are passionate about forestry and NY's young people. The winners are... NY's 4-H Forestry Invitational Team and NYFOA's Woodlands Mini Grants for Educators! There is a lot of good information on the auction and its beneficiaries at the NYFOA website. Please follow the link at NYFOA's home page, www.nyfoa.org.

The NY 4-H Forestry Team continues to post strong results but needs our help to reach more NY youth. We've structured a "one-two punch" to help 4-H. Financially, through our auction, and with our time using our newly-developed forestry workshop for beginners. I gave the workshop for the first time on October 23 to Livingston County families and the room was overstuffed with children ages 6 to well over 60! Thirty minutes of talk and sixty minutes of woodswalk, which included tree identification and tree measurements. Wow, do the kids catch on fast; it was my pleasure to be

donation and purchase will help the 4-H Team and its efforts with cash (their proposal is on the auction's website). And if you're inclined and ready to see big smiling faces, your donation of your time in your community will have big impacts. The presentation and worksheets are free to you for the asking (dfaklis@frontiernet.net). Just coordinate with your Cornell Cooperative Extension and add refreshments for a complete and balanced education.

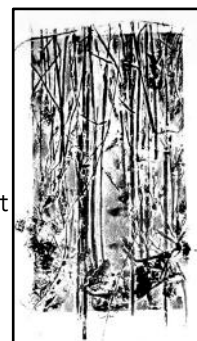
Please visit the auction website at nyfoa.org today. Download the donation form, check it over and please consider giving a generous gift. NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization.

Soon, we'll be posting pictures of the donated items at the auction website for some pre-auction inspection. Some of the items will be available for bidding on-line before and after the annual meeting. Some items will only be available for bidding at the annual meeting on April 8 in Syracuse, mostly to keep shipping costs down. Meeting attendees have the added advantage of being able to bid in-person and on-line, which gives them

access to all donated items.

We're trying to raise \$5,000 for these fine youth forestry programs using the auction. Cash donations directly to NYFOA earmarked for the auction are greatly appreciated too. If you have questions about the auction, please send me a note directly (dfaklis@frontiernet.net) or send a note to the auction email account, auction@nyfoa.org. If you'd like to volunteer to help implement the auction, we sure could use a few more hands so please send us a note. It's easy and many hands make lite work.

Editor's Note: SOT Member, Sharon Semanovich shared a sneak peek photo of her auction contribution with me – an exquisite handmade quilt she thoughtfully titled Treelines (below). That challenged me to donate my print, Spring Gold Forest (right). I now pass that challenge on to you, dear reader! What's your donation?!

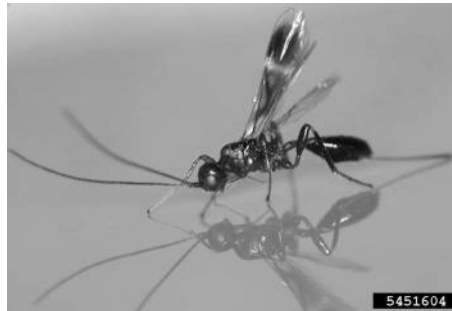


Bio-control of EAB: Hope for the Future of Ash

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in North America, we have to make sure they don't attack native insects. To do that, we first test them against native insects similar to emerald ash borer inside a closed lab. If the parasitoids don't attack the other insects, they're considered suitable for release.

Based on that research, ash borer parasitoids are indeed specific to ash borers. When we gave them a choice between



Spathius agrili, one of the parasitoid wasps being researched to control emerald ash borer.
Photo credit: Jennifer Ayer, Bugwood.org

the ash borer and a native insect, they attacked the ash borer.

With that success in hand, we received permission to release small numbers of the parasitoids in New York, and other researchers have released parasitoids in 22 of the 25 states with known

infestations. So far the parasitoids are establishing at almost every site, but it will still be a few years before we'll know if they can impact ash borer populations. Still, our initial results have been promising, and the parasitoids' establishment is a great first sign of hope that we can save ash from extinction.

Author Bio: Michael Jones is a PhD student in Forest Entomology at SUNY – College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He worked for the US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection for three years in California as a field entomologist studying gold-spotted oak borer, a forest pest similar to emerald ash borer.

Photo credits, Adult EAB, 1st page: Howard Russell, Michigan State Univ., Bugwood.org, CC BY v.3.0.

The Hidden Life of Trees

What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from A Secret World

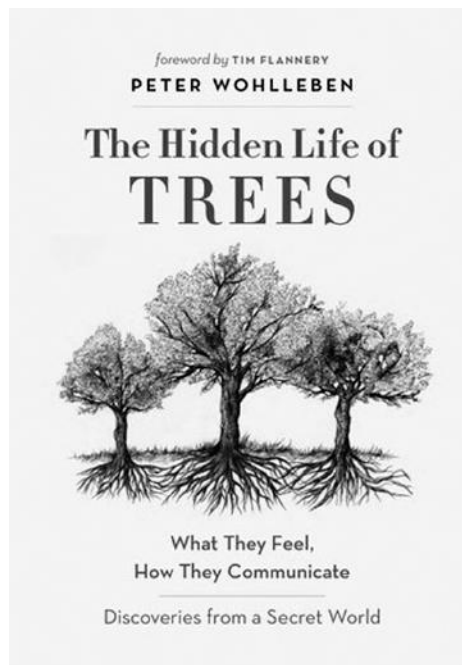
Book by Peter Wohlleben, Tim Flannery (Foreword),

Review by Kathleen Hayek

After spying this tiny 5 1/2" x 7" book in an airport bookstore, I picked it up and saw that it was not a collection of poems as it looked! Published last year in Germany, it hit the bestseller list immediately and it's English version published this past fall debuted at #5 on the NYTimes best seller list. Of course I bought it! Now it's rocking my world with confirmation of what I innately knew but thought was a little weird--that trees do communicate with each other and the world around them. Warning! This book may change the way you think about trees and tree communities we know as forests.

Review from amazon.com follows:

In **The Hidden Life of Trees**, Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific



processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees, like street kids, have a tough time of it

and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. Drawing on groundbreaking new discoveries, Wohlleben presents the science behind the secret and previously unknown life of trees and their communication abilities; he describes how these discoveries have informed his own practices in the forest around him. As he says, a happy forest is a healthy forest, and he believes that eco-friendly practices not only are economically sustainable but also benefit the health of our planet and the mental and physical health of all who live on Earth.

Volunteers Needed At NY Farm Show

From February 23rd through 25th at the New York Farm Show, NYFOA will again sponsor a seminar series. (See page 6 for schedule.) Hugh Canham is looking for volunteers to serve as part-time moderators at some of the seminars or be additional helpers in the NYFOA booth . If you would consider doing either, please contact him by phone: (home) 315 457 4972 or (cell) 315 430 4972 or email: hocanham@esf.edu

Meet & Greet Opportunities and Maple Syrup Production Fill Our Winter 2017 Events Calendar



BF 152: Introduction to Maple Syrup Production Tuesdays, January 17 – February 21 6:00 – 7:30pm EST

This is an online course from the Cornell Small Farms Program. Webinars are recorded for subsequent viewing or if you miss a webinar.

Maple syrup production is rapidly growing around the Northeast and offers a sound financial opportunity to utilize woodlots. This course explores the range possibilities of maple sugaring on your land – be it for supplemental income or for your livelihood. Also discussed are “alternative” trees for production, including Birch and Black Walnut.

The course instructor, Mike Farrell, serves as the Director of Cornell University’s Uihlein Forest, a maple syrup research and extension field station in Lake Placid, New York. There he taps approximately 6,000 maples, 700 birch trees, and several dozen black walnut and butternut trees every year, focusing his efforts on the economics of maple sugaring and sustainable development of the maple industry. Learn more and register at: www.nbeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/all-courses/maplebf152/

Annual Pot Luck Wednesday, January 25, 6:00 pm Cornell Cooperative Extension 840 Upper Front Street Binghamton, NY

Always one of our Southern Tier Chapter’s most popular events, this year’s dinner will be held in the Auditorium at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front Street, in Binghamton. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Doors will open at 6:00 and we’ll dig into the food at 6:30. The after-dinner program this year will be presented by Art Wagner. It will cover his just-completed Tree Farm tour of forest management in Europe. The tour included visits to public, as well as privately-held forestlands in France, Germany and Switzerland. Art found that European forests share many of the same challenges we face in America, but that management often features a high level of cooperation between government, industry, and families who have owned the forestland for up to 600 years. In case of inclement weather call Steve to confirm our meeting: 607-862-9152.

Beginner Maple Syrup Making February 4, 10 am – 12 pm CFA Event, Margaretville, NY

This is a popular workshop in the Catskills! You’ll learn how to make maple syrup on a beginner scale. Chances are you have a few trees nearby and it’s a fun late winter activity. Call for directions. (CFA members free.) \$10. non-members. Pre-registration required. For more information call CFA at (845) 586-3054 or email cfa@catskill.net.



NY Farm Show February 23-24-25, 2017 State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY Learn More, Earn More Seminars

Free programs to help landowners get more benefits from their woodlots will be presented each day during the 2017 Farm Show in Syracuse by the New York Forest Owners Association.

Meet with a forester from the State Dept of Environmental Conservation or speak with a Cornell trained volunteer. Visitors are encouraged to bring their questions and pause at the booth area before or after attending a seminar program. The DEC foresters and trained volunteers are there to help with resource materials, displays and expert advice.

Learn More, Earn More seminars are free and open to all. Topics include federal cost sharing for woodlot improvements, working with foresters, improving bird habitat, heating with wood, and forest farming. Programs start on the hour and allow time for questions and discussion. The booth is on the main corridor of the Arts and Home Center, and the Seminars are held in the Somerset Room just steps away on the lower level of the Center. These programs are presented by the New York Forest Owners Association in cooperation with the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and with special thanks to each of our expert speakers.



It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it. -- John Burroughs

Seminar topics and speakers include:

Thursday, February 23

11 am **DEC Can Help Family Forest Owners**, Matt Swayze, NY Dept of Environmental Conservation

1 pm **Assessing Impacts from Deer**
Kristie Sullivan, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University

2 pm **Legacy Planning for Your Property**, Shorna Allred, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University

3 pm **Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements**, Michael Fournier, US Dep't of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Friday, February 24

10 am **Unwanted Vegetation in Your Woods**, Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University

11 am **Woodlot Inventory: How Many Trees Do You Have?**, Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Cornell University

1 pm **Insects and Diseases That Threaten Your Woods**, Mark Whitmore, Dept of Natural Resources, Cornell University

2 pm **The Law: Rights and Responsibilities of Woodlot Owners**, Timothy Fratesch, Esq. Fratesch Law Firm, Syracuse

3 pm **Getting Federal Aid for Woodlot Improvements**, Michael Fournier, US Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Saturday, February 25

10 am **Heat with Wood While Growing Timber**, Michael Kelleher, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

11 am **Improve Bird Habitat with Smart Timber Management**

Suzanne Treyger, Forest Program Manager, Audubon New York

1 pm **Working with Consulting Foresters**, Rene Germain, SUNY Coll. of Environmental Science and Forestry

2 pm **Wilhelm Farm: A Case Study in Agroforestry**, Ann Wilhelm & Bill Bentley, Woodlot Owners

3 pm **Woodlots and Income Taxes**
Hugh Canham, Emeritus Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

For more information about the NY Farm

Show visit: www.newyorkfarmshow.com. Also, additional details and a schedule of workshops will appear in the Jan/Feb issue of the New York Forest Owner.



SOT Chapter Meeting Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 pm Cornell Cooperative Extension 840 Upper Front Street Binghamton, NY

Join us for a very interesting presentation by Suzanne Treger, Forest Program Manager for Audubon New York, entitled "For the Birds."

Audubon New York recently created forest management guidelines for foresters and other land managers to help improve forest bird habitat while also achieving other landowner objectives, including timber management. The guidelines provide an overview of forest bird habitat requirements and a framework for assessing landscape and stand-level conditions to better determine silvicultural prescriptions that can improve the habitat. Suzanne lives with her family in Whitney Point and works for Audubon New York from an office in Cornell University's Ornithology Laboratory in Ithaca. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.



NYFOA Annual Meeting Saturday, April 8 SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Syracuse, NY

Don't miss our Annual Meeting that will take place Saturday, April 8, 2017 on the ESF Campus in Syracuse. The theme this

year is *21st Century, Our Woodlands, Our Watch*. Program details are still in planning. Further details will be published in the New York Forest Owner and our Spring 2017 issue of *Treelines*. But why wait? You know it will be great! Reserve the date on your calendar now. You can also get your registration in now by filling out the registration form you'll find on a link at www.nyfoa.org.

Photo Album – Wagner Lumber, November 9th (cont. from pg. 3)

impressive. Most of the mill was rebuilt after a major fire in 2014, and is state-of-the-art. Our two guides led us on a leisurely tour that gave us plenty of time to appreciate the technology and ask questions. Many thanks to Wagner Head Forester Eric LaClaire for making the arrangements.



Half of the tour group in the receiving yard where logs are unloaded and graded.



Half of the group in the staging area where finished lumber awaits shipment.

Note: Photos were not allowed inside the sawmill for security reasons.



About Us

Treelines, Southern Tier Chapter News is published for its chapter members of NYFOA, three times a year in early spring, fall, and winter. News concerning managing woodlots in the Southern Tier is always welcomed! Send articles for inclusion to Kathleen Hayek, k_hayek@mac.com, with subject line: Treelines Article. Attach photos in jpeg format

to the email. News stories with a word count of 500 words or less work best.

NYFOA was founded in 1963 and is organized to encourage the wise management of private woodland resources in New York State by promoting, representing and serving the interests of woodland owners. The Southern Tier Chapter was founded in 1985 and encompasses Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware and Otsego counties. For information on becoming a NYFOA member visit www.nyfoa.org, or contact Liana Gooding,

NYFOA Secretary, NYFOA, PO Box 541, Lima, NY, 14485 or at 1-800-836-3566. Annual membership is \$45 and includes: subscriptions to Treelines: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

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