

Treelines



Winter, 2016

Upcoming Events

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday
January 13
6:00 pm | Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Cornell Cooperative Ext.
Binghamton, NY |
| Wednesday
January 20
7 – 8:15 pm | Deer and Deer Management
in NY State
Webinar Series: Session 1 |
| Wednesday
January 27
7 – 8:15 pm | Deer and Deer Management
in NY State
Webinar Series: Session 1 |
| Saturday
February 6
10 am – 12 pm | Beginner Maple Syrup
Making,
CFA Event |
| Thur – Saturday
February 25 – 27 | NY State Farm Show
Fairgrounds
Syracuse, NY |
| Thursday
March 10
6:30 pm | SOT Chapter Meeting
Cornell Coop Ext.
Binghamton, NY |
| Saturday
March 19
10am-12pm | Old Apple Tree Care
CFA Event |
| Saturday
April 16 | NYFOA Annual Meeting
SUNY College of ESF,
Syracuse, NY |



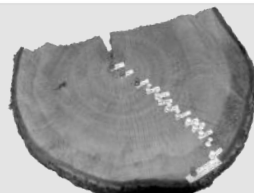
Return of the American Chestnut to the Eastern Forest and NY

By Allan Nichols

Editor's note: Our speaker for our March 10th SOT Chapter Meeting will be Allen Nichols of Laurens, NY. Allen is the president of The NY Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, and since the 1960s, has been studying and working to restore this once dominate tree of the Eastern Forests from Maine to Georgia. Says Allan, "I will cover some of the history of the American chestnut, the blight and how 100 years later we have finally, with new technology, been able to produce a truly blight resistant American chestnut.

I grew up in Walton and become aware of the American chestnut, when I saw the remains of the dead trees in the woods, in the 1960's. I had seen many of the sprouts that come up from the old root systems over the years, as the blight does not kill the root system.

I worked for NYSEG for over 30 years in the line department. In 2001 I contacted the American chestnut foundation to report *[continued page 7]*



We're Growing! Welcome, New Members!

James Povero & Sandy Yahner of Cortland, NY and Tom Pavlesich, of Walton, NY.



Changes to NY's Forest Tax Law Program

By Joshua VanBrakle

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation released a new draft of its proposed changes to the state's Forest Tax Law Program, or 480-a. We attended a stakeholder meeting at the Nature Conservancy office in Albany on October 27 to find out more.

A lot of the new proposal looks the same as the previous one that didn't make it to the legislature during the last session. We've put copies of the new proposal on our website, www.ny480a.com, so you can see the full program breakdown. DEC staff indicated they are working to have their changes included in the governor's 2016 budget proposal, which comes out in January. The reason for this, they indicated, is that without a provision to reimburse towns for lost property tax revenue, any proposed changes to 480-a are likely to fail politically.

A brief summary of what we saw as the big changes from last spring's proposal: The biggest change relates to landowners already in 480-a. The "1000-acre" special program is gone. Instead, any landowner already in 480-a will be able to stay in that program. However, that program would change. The 6% stumpage tax would be eliminated, and the annual work schedule would be replaced with a broader 10-year work window. Management plan updates would occur on a 10-year cycle, not 5 years as they are now.

The tax reduction for 480-a landowners

would remain at 80% for the first 10 years, but thereafter it would drop to 60%. As a result, landowners in 480-a will pay higher property taxes after 10 years.

No new entries to 480-a would be allowed. The option above would exist only for landowners currently in 480-a. DEC staff indicated landowners passing land to immediate family could keep the land in 480-a, but if they sold the land to a non-relative, the buyer would not be eligible for 480-a. The new program to replace 480-a (480-b) will require a "management practice" to enroll. Landowners would need to complete 10 acres of commercial timber harvest, pre-commercial stand improvement cutting (TSI), invasive plant control, tree planting, or riparian buffer establishment. Landowners would have to complete a plan for their practice that would be approved by DEC.

Once enrolled in 480-b, landowners would only need to commit not to develop enrolled acreage, and there would be limits on subdivision size. Landowners would not have to get or follow a management plan, and there would be no harvest requirements. If an enrolled landowner decides to do any of the practices from #4 in the future, they would first have to complete a Practice Plan and have that plan approved by DEC. The 15-year enrollment commitment that was proposed has now been restructured to be a rolling 10-year commitment like the current 480a law.

Eligible acreage for 480-b was a point of

confusion in the meeting. According to the DEC's proposal, the minimum acreage to be eligible is 25 acres, with at least 10 acres of forest or 25% forest, whichever is greater. It was unclear whether this meant a 200-acre property with 40 acres of forest would be ineligible, or if the landowner could enroll a portion of the property. We received clarification from DEC after the meeting that indeed landowners will be able to enroll a portion in this situation. For example, the 200-acre property with 40 acres of woods could enroll 160 acres (40 acres of woods plus 120 acres of open, non-agricultural land).

There was disagreement at the stakeholder meeting over whether the reduction in tax savings from 80% to 60% would result in landowners' costs going up. DEC staff contended that the higher property taxes would be offset by not needing to pay stumpage tax and lengthening plan update cycle from 5 years to 10. Foresters in attendance were skeptical that those savings would equal the 20% increase in property taxes 480-a landowners would pay. The forest certification option remains effectively unchanged. The DEC appeared more open to the idea of allowing group certification, but they were vague in what the requirements would be. Their new proposal reasserts their desire for eligible certifications to include annual third-party audits at the property level, something group certification currently doesn't do because of the

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Winkler Woods Walk Photo Album

Photos by Ken Semanovich

October 17 was a bright and beautiful, crisp, cloudless autumn day, perfect for the drive to the Winkler Family Farm. More than a dozen woods walkers parked along the apple tree lined drive. The trees were loaded with a bumper crop.



We gathered around the Winkler's apple press from which we sampled fresh apple cider at lunchtime and enjoyed the astonishing alpine view of autumn color!



At the head of the timber trail, Frank Winkler spoke to the group telling about his experience with a planned and not so



planned timber harvest. We were able to see clear results of the TSI in this lovely and steep hillside forest. The climb took some effort but the view

was well worth it! Even with excellent trails some logging damage is to be expected in a timber harvest.

Ryan Trapani of CFA was on hand to demonstrate the apple press and he also offered ideas on restoring fruit production to old apple trees.

The posted sign said "huff n' puff" and indeed we did! But the delicious lunch fed the appetite we worked up and all went home warmed with good cheer!



Mushroom Inoculation — Another Woodland Crop

By Ken and Sharon Semanovich

On January 13th at the annual potluck dinner our program will outline some alternative uses of timber, and TSI byproducts (woodchips) for use in the cultivation of commercially available mushroom strains. The program will look at the relationship between the various strains, and the substrates that are best suited with their propagation, including the use of Ironwood (Hophornbeam), and various Beech varieties that affords the landowner other uses of otherwise undesirable species of timber that inhibit the growth of other more commercially viable timber.

The program will include a look at the tools needed to facilitate a smooth and effective means of establishing a recurring crop, that



can provide years of enjoyment for the mushroom lover, as well as the possibility of a commercially suitable crop for those who wish to pursue it past their own dinner table, and hobby interest. Additionally, we will look at some of

the procedural aspects of growing mushrooms, including the dressing or cleaning of the logs, attachments for drilling of logs with either plug, or sawdust spawn, inoculation, sealing of plugs, and the marking of the logs for identification.

Along with the presentation, additional material will be made available to those who might like to learn more. A sign up sheet will be available at the dinner to assess

interest in a possible spring workshop that will provide the opportunity for a hands on experience at the inoculation process. Each participant will go

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Annual SOT Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, January 13, 6:00 pm
CCE, 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 Ken & Sharon. They will tell us about ways and means of cultivating mushrooms using timber and other by-products of TSI. We will look at tools and discuss best procedures to follow. There will also be additional materials available. Maybe we should mention that Ken & Sharon's dish to pass will be some of the homegrown mushrooms that will be the subject of their program.



Deer and Deer Management in NY State – Webinar Series

Session 1: Wed, January 20, 7 – 8:15 pm

Session 2: Wed, January 27, 7 – 8:15 pm

NY DEC, CCE, & Cornell HDR Unit

You are invited to join an upcoming webinar series, "Deer and Deer Management in New York State," presented by the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Cornell's Human Dimensions Research Unit. It will include a pair of 1.25-hour, evening webinars. You may participate in the webinars from the comfort of your own home, or participate on-site at one of 3 locations, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The schedule and topics to be covered are as follows:

Session 1: DEC's Public Engagement Pilot Project (Overview of deer, deer management)

7:00 pm Welcome and Introduction

7:05 Overview of Pilot Initiative,

Aggregate Wildlife Management Units

7:20 Deer Natural History

7:40 Deer Management Options – What

Restore New York Woodlands Winter Events Mark your Calendars Now!

Works, What Does Not and Why

8:05 Questions and Answers

8:15 Adjourn

Session 2: Deer Impacts in the Central

Finger Lakes Aggregate WMU (Deer

impacts and public survey results)

7:00 pm Welcome and Introduction

7:05 The Positives and Negatives

Associated with Deer

7:30 Participant Poll – Deer Impacts

Experienced and Actions Taken

7:35 Results, survey of residents in

Central Finger Lakes WMU Aggregate

7:50 Summary, Next Steps

8:05 Questions and Answers

8:15 Adjourn

Participants can register online at

https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_89fgXa76slhgehv by January 15th, 2016.

You may also view the webinar series at

the following locations, hosted by

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Cayuga County: Wells College, Room

212 Zabriskie Hall, Aurora NY

Seneca County: Seneca County CCE

Office, 301 Main Street Shop Centre,

Waterloo NY

Tompkins County: Village of

Trumansburg Office, 56 E. Main Street,

Trumansburg NY

This webinar series is part of the Dept of

Environmental Conservation's pilot

project to improve collection of public

input about deer populations and

impacts.. For more information about

upcoming events and opportunities to

get involved in the pilot effort, please

contact me, or visit

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/cecp/deer/>.

– Kristi Sullivan, Cornell Dept. of Natural

Resources, 218 Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY

14853, 607-255-5508

Beginner Maple Syrup Making

Saturday, February 6, 10 am – 12 pm
CFA Event

Local sugar anyone? Why not make your own? Learn how to make maple syrup on a beginner scale. Chances are you have a few trees nearby. Call for directions. (CFA members free.) \$15. non-members. Pre-registration required. For more information call CFA at (845) 586-3054 or email cfa@catskill.net.

NY State Farm Show

Thursday – Saturday, February 25 – 27
State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY

Free "Learn More, Earn More" seminars to help landowners earn more benefits from their woodlots will be presented each day of the 2016 Farm Show in Syracuse by NYFOA.

Meet with a forester from the State Department 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 with expert advice and free resource materials.

Learn More, Earn More seminars are open to all. Topics include federal cost sharing for woodlot improvement, working with foresters, improving bird habitat, heating with wood, and forest farming. Programs start on the hour and allow time for questions.

The NYFOA 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 with the cooperation and backing of the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and

with special thanks to each of our expert speakers.

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.



The American Chestnut – Past, Present and Future SOT Chapter Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 6:30 pm
CCE, Binghamton, NY

We will meet at the Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front. St, Binghamton, NY (607) 584-5013. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Our speaker will be Allen Nichols of Laurens, NY. Allen is the president of The NY Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, and since the 1960s, has been studying and working to restore this once dominate tree of the Eastern Forests from Maine to Georgia. If you are interested or planning to plant any American chestnut trees, you need to attend this meeting! There are some significant Do's & Don'ts that Allen will explain, so bring your questions, and pencil and pads!– Gary Sergio

Old Apple Tree Care

Saturday, March 19, 10 am – 12 pm
CFA Event

Do you have some old neglected apple trees on your property? Haven't been

cared for in decades? Don't just let them go; bring 'em back to life! We'll demonstrate how to properly re-invigorate this tree from years of neglect. A demonstration will take place at a CFA member's property. Call for directions. (CFA members free) \$15 non members. Pre-registration required. For more information call CFA @ (845) 586-3054 or e-mail: cfa@catskill.net

NYFOA Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 16

SUNY College of

Environmental Science & Forestry

Syracuse, NY

Our Annual Meeting will be held at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse on April 16th. Program details are still in planning, but we can report that NYFOA will return to a previous practice of providing three door prizes to NYFOA members who attend. Prizes are: a mid-size Dolmar chainsaw, two sets of chaps and two forestry helmets--for a total of 5 prizes donated by Dolmar and NYFOA. Further details will be published in the New York Forest Owner and our Chapter Spring Treelines, but better reserve the date on your calendar now. Those door prize odds are pretty good!

–Jerry Michael

And Save These Dates, Too!

Details in the Spring 2016 Treelines...

- Ray Nolan Woods Walk, Sat, May 14
- SOT/CFA Woods Walk, Sat, May 28
- SOT/CFA Joint Program, Sat, July 9

Wait! There's more!...

Plans are being made for the 2015 Windsor Chair Camp to be held this summer. Contact Dave Williams if you would like more info: kdwillmill@gmail.com.

And if you're interested in a spring Mushroom workshop contact Ken & Sharon Semanovich: aait@stny.rr.com.



Protecting Eastern Hemlocks from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

By Jerry Michael

HWA is showing up throughout the Southern Tier and, once present, usually kills a Hemlock tree in four to eight years. Although there is not a good commercial market for Hemlock sawlogs, our Hemlock trees are important for erosion control, watercourse shading, wildlife food and cover, and aesthetic values. Fortunately, the chemical treatment of Hemlocks to protect them from HWA is relatively inexpensive if done early, and lasts for up to seven years.

If the tree is lightly infested with HWA and there is no noticeable thinning of the crown, a restricted chemical containing a 21.4% concentration of imidacloprid can be applied as a basal bark spray to the bottom four feet of tree trunk by a Certified Pesticide Applicator. The cost of the chemical for

an 18-inch diameter tree is less than \$3.00 and, in my opinion, the basal bark treatment is a more environmentally-responsible method of application than the less-effective soil drench method available to the public. Hemlocks with a well-established HWA infestation that are already showing crown thinning should also be treated with a second, much more costly restricted chemical, dinotefuran. If you want to save any of your Hemlocks, and your money, it pays to take action as soon as HWA is identified on your trees.

Although I have retired from the Christmas tree business, I have maintained my pesticide applicator certification and treated more than 1,000 Hemlocks this past spring as a volunteer at the IBM Glen and the Ross Park Zoo, plus a commercial job for the Hillside

Garden Center in Binghamton. I have found that, depending on tree size and accessibility, you can treat about ten to twenty trees per hour. Doing some rough math, if you wanted to save 15 Hemlocks that averaged 18 inches in diameter and were reasonably close together, you could do it for about \$60 in labor costs (plus travel time) and about \$40 in chemical costs. Hopefully, within seven years the population and distribution of predatory insects to combat HWA will have built up to a point where additional chemical treatments will be unnecessary. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. A good web resource on HWA and other invasive insects and plants is www.nyis.info.

– Jerry Michael, GoTreeGo@stny.rr.com
(607) 648-2941



Mushroom Innoculation...

home with a log they prepared themselves during the workshop. There will be a nominal charge of \$5.00 to cover the cost of materials for NYFOA members payable in advance, and \$15.00 for non-members. This affords the perfect opportunity, and reason for non-members to join, and save on this program, and the many other values NYFOA looks to bring to its membership. We look forward to

seeing everyone for an informative fun-packed evening with our members and guests. Look for more information regarding this workshop, and other upcoming events in our Spring newsletter.

Return of the Chestnut...

the location of several trees I had found. Subsequent to that I joined TACF and then became the director for District 4 in NY and finally took over as president of the NY chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, TACF-NY, in 2014." Allan will tell of the tragic loss of the dominant tree on the east coast and possibly the worst forest disaster in history. He will explain how it was used by the people and why it was such a loss to them, as it was the keystone tree species from Georgia to Maine. We will learn what TACF has been doing to produce a blight resistant tree, and finally now that we have a truly blight resistant American chestnut, what interested people need to do to help reintroduce this magnificent tree back into the forest. There is even hope that this same technology may be used to produce trees that are resistant to some of the other invasive species, such as the American elm and the ash tree.

NY Forest Tax Law...

prohibitively high cost for smaller acreages. Meeting attendants remained skeptical that the forest certification option as written would be a realistic choice for family landowners.

We greatly appreciated the DEC's willingness to share their proposal and their continuation of the 480-a dialogue with another round of stakeholder meetings. 480-a is a critical program for NY landowners and New York woodlands, and we all want to see it made better for both. We look forward to continuing the conversation.

The revised changes are at this link: http://nycwatershed.org/ebursts/480a/comparison_chart_V2_10_22.15.pdf This is a comparison of the current 480a to the Revised 480a, 480b: Forest Certification and 480b: Sustainable Forest Management Program.



One of the most exciting developments in the world of forest ownership is the return of the American chestnut. The chestnut blight killed three to five billion trees over a fifty year period. It's estimated that at one time one in every four trees growing in the eastern forest was a chestnut. It's a fast growing tree for timber production while providing food for wildlife. The wood takes a long time to decay so it's excellent for building. It produces nuts every year unlike red oak or beech. To learn more about the history of the American chestnut go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xgbedXnbfw> to view a video called *American Chestnut Blight – Greatest Forest Loss in History*.

The American Chestnut Foundation (acf.org) has been financing the research to develop a tree that's highly resistant to the chestnut blight. Two programs were developed to restore the species. The breeding approach is accomplished by crossing the American chestnut with the Chinese chestnut to capture the ability to resist chestnut blight. The Chinese chestnut is an orchard tree that in this case is an undesirable trait. The trees are then backcrossed with pure American chestnut to recapture the trait of being a timber tree. The transgenic approach uses a wheat gene that is introduced to a pure American chestnut. The timber traits are retained but the tree can now fight the oxalic acid attack by the fungus. Before these transgenic trees can be distributed approval must be obtained from the Federal Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture and the Environmental

Steve Speaks...

A Message From Our Chapter Chair

Protection Agency. To get a better understanding of the effort to develop a blight free tree visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYHQDLCmgyg> to view a video called Reviving the American forest with the American chestnut: William Powell at TEDxDeExtinction.

I have four chestnuts growing in tree tubes on my property. The first two I received as a gift at one of our woods walks. The second two I received from Allen Nichols who is president of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. I met him at the Catskill Forest Association Forest Festival this past summer. Allen gives two trees to each new member. I planted the trees soon after receiving them and watered them throughout the summer. Individuals who are members of the American Chestnut Foundation for at least three years and have established pure American mother trees will be first in line to obtain a transgenic tree when they become available. The offspring resulting from the cross with the mother trees will have a greater than a 99% resistance to the blight and have genetic diversity. Trees that use the breeding approach like the Dunstan trees that can be purchased at the Binghamton Agway are not acceptable as mother trees. For information about starting trees from nuts go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVc1oLXelmg. This video by Allen Nichols is called *American Chestnut Planting Demonstration*. If the landowners do not take the initiative to reestablish the American chestnut, who will?

I hope to see you at our annual pot luck supper.

– Steve



About Us

The Southern Tier Chapter News is published for its chapter members of NYFOA, three times a year in early spring, fall, and winter.

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 this newsletter: to the bimonthly NYFOA state wide publication, The New York Forest Owner, attendance at

chapter meetings and statewide meetings.

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