

# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

*For people who care about New York's trees and forests*

March/April 2009



**Member Profile:**  
**John Hastings**

*Inside: 2008 Annual Appeal Donors Recognition*

*Volume 47 Number 2*



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## In This Issue . . .

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAN CLEVELAND ..... 5

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VOICE

MARY JEANNE PACKER ..... 3

### KNOW YOUR FOREST FROM THE GROUND UP!

EMILY L. SELLECK..... 6

### NEW YORK STATE TREE FARM NEWS

ERIN O'NEILL ..... 8

### KID'S CORNER

REBECCA HARGRAVE ..... 9

### WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS

MEREDITH ODATO ..... 10

### NYFOA SAFETY TIP.....

11

### 2008 NYFOA DONORS .....

11

### COUNCIL OF FOREST RESOURCES ORGANIZATIONS .....

12

### TIMBER THEFT AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN ..... 13

### FOREST OWNERS ARE GROWING MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMERALD ASH BORER AND ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN AND KIM B. ADAMS ..... 16

### PLANTING HARDWOOD SEEDLINGS A GREAT SPRING PROJECT

ROBERT WOOD ..... 18

### MEMBER PROFILE – JOHN HASTINGS

ALEXANDRA SILVA..... 21

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$35.

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**COVER:** The Hastings family, John, Pamela and Brittany, pictured at the back of their home in Queensbury, NY. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of the Hastings.

# From The President

## Hello fellow forest owners.

It was great to see so many members at the Annual Meeting last month. I was truly impressed to hear the Chapter Award presentations and the important work that chapters are involved in. The May/June edition of *The Forest Owner* will include a complete list of award recipients. A special thank you to the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter for their generous donation of wood plaques used to recognize this year's award recipients. Also, thanks to the Central NY Chapter for putting together a terrific three days of educational programming with our partners Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYS DEC.



Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYS DEC.

At the annual meeting, I was pleased to announce that the Board had launched a new and ambitious


approach for establishing NYFOA's annual plan of work. The first step in the process was a member survey that was distributed last month via email. If you didn't get one, that means we don't have your email address. Please send your address to Liana. If you would still like to participate in the survey via email, or don't have email, call Liana and request a copy. So far, we have heard from 180 members. I want to thank Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester and Ex Officio member of the NYFOA Board for designing and administering the survey. The next step in the planning effort began earlier this month with the formation of a five-member ad hoc strategic planning committee led by Vice President Mike Seager.

The 2009 NYFOA budget was adopted by the association's board at their meet-

ing in February. The board recognizes the potential negative impacts to traditional revenue sources as a result of the current economic downturn. As such, the group made a deliberate effort in developing the budget to carefully control costs while continuing to provide important member services.

**Thank you to the over  
275 donors who  
contributed to NYFOA's  
fund appeals in 2008.  
See complete list of  
donors on page 11.**

We continue to hear great things about *The Forest Owner* magazine; and I want to thank Mary Beth, Liana, Mary Jeanne, and our contributing writers and photographers for the excellent work in preparing and delivering this publication six times each year. The 2009 editorial committee is Chair Peter Smallidge, Rich Taber, Bill LaPoint, Ed Neuhauser, and Daniel Price. I know that these folks would welcome your comments and suggestions for making the publication even better in the future.

An exciting new networking opportunity for forest owners will be April 3 in Watkins Glen. For the first time, the Northeastern Forest Products Expo will have a NYS venue. NYFOA is planning a reception at the Harbor Hotel. Check NYFOA's website for details. In addition to the reception, NYFOA will have a booth at the Expo; and NYFOA's Southern Finger Lakes Chapter is working with CCE to host educational programming. See story on page 14. Hope to see you there. 

—Dan Cleveland  
NYFOA President

The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

**Join!** NYFOA is a not-for-profit group promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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NYFOA's Annual Membership Meeting was February 28 in Syracuse. We had a great turnout; and an interesting program on carbon market opportunities for forest owners. Thanks to Jon Pomp (left) from FORECON and Mike Burns (right) from Empire State Forest Products Association for their presentations. NYFOA's state and chapter awards are announced – a complete list of award recipients will appear in the May/June edition of *The Forest Owner*.

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Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email (lgooding@nyfoa.org). You would get an email every two months announcing when the current edition is available for download; and be given the URL for a webpage where you can go and get a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

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# Executive Director's Voice

As a result of the passage of the new federal Farm Bill, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is now the primary federal conservation program available to forest owners providing financial assistance for forestry practices. NYS DEC is working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop protocols and standards. Bruce Williamson, DEC forestry bureau chief




says, "while there is no established date for program rollout, it is anticipated to be in a matter of weeks."

A final decision has not been made

on eligible forestry practices, but Bruce anticipates them to be similar to last year's – forest improvement, road and trail stabilization, and wildlife habitat enhancement. A Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the State Forester will likely be required to participate in EQIP. In order to access funding for potentially forestry practices, you will need to establish your eligibility. Visit your local Farm Service Agency office to enroll your property and complete necessary paperwork. Last year, NRCS awarded 112 contracts valued at \$290,000 for forestry-related projects. NRCS hopes to have at

least \$500,000 available this year, and some of that may be available for cost-sharing Forest Stewardship Plan development.

It's maple season. Maple production is a traditional and sustainable use of forests. With the demand for pure maple products currently outpacing the supply and prices at record levels, there is a significant opportunity in NYS to increase production and fill growing markets. Only about 1% of the maple trees in the state are currently tapped. Maple syrup production can provide forest owners with an annual income and may help you qualify for ag exemption on your taxes. Get involved - become a producer or lease your trees to a neighboring producer. 

—Mary Jeanne Packer  
Executive Director



Three new NYFOA board members were elected to three-year terms at NYFOA's Annual Meeting on February 28 – Kelly Smallidge and Otis Barber (pictured), and Jim Minor; Frank Winkler was re-elected to a second three-year term.

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*All shirts are heavy weight cotton with white lettering on the green and green lettering on the grey.*

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# Know Your Forest From the Ground Up!

EMILY L. SELLECK

Forest soil is more than meets the feet. It is a dynamic system that serves as home for countless living things, a disposal area for Nature's "wastes", a filter of potentially noxious substances, and a storehouse for nutrients and water.

Water is one of your forest's most important assets. Each time it rains and whenever the snow melts most of this water is added to the ground water. The composition and depth of your forest's floor determine how fast water from rain and snowmelt moves through the soil making it available to trees and other forest vegetation, and how much of it is added to the underground reservoirs characteristic of healthy forest land.

Over the years, considerable amounts of organic material are returned to the soil in the form of leaves, twigs, branches, decaying roots, and eventually fallen dead trees. This layer of organic material—the litter layer—is incorporated into the top layers of the soil by the process of fungal decay and the action of a host of soil animals such as microscopic protozoa, springtails, and millipedes. This mixing of organic material with the soil particles creates structure in the soil.

Soil structure is the arrangement of individual soil particles into aggregates or clumps. Soil clumps increase the size and the amount of spaces in the soil. The soil spaces contain both air and water, both essential for plant growth. In addition, the litter layer not only absorbs several times its own weight of water, but it breaks the impact of raindrops that would otherwise loosen soil particles and clog soil spaces thus reducing the infiltration rate and increasing run-off.

Healthy forest soils tend to be resilient to erosion because more water moves into them than runs off. This movement of water into the soil is called infiltra-

tion. The infiltration rate largely determines the capacity of the soil to hold water, i.e., the higher the infiltration rate, the more water-holding capacity. The combination of the sponge-like action of the litter layer and the infiltration rate of the soil below is what prevents runoff and erosion in forest lands.

Let's take a closer look at the soils themselves. Soils are products of their bedrock, also affected by the vegetation. A typical soil profile, or the cross-sectional view of its Horizons, shows how the soil is arranged above its bedrock. The forest floor—the litter layer—is known as the "O" Horizon. The O Horizon is the top layer and may be several inches thick. It is made up of decomposing organic material as mentioned above. It is the most organic of all the horizons. In some situations, non-native earthworms have reduced or eliminated much of the organic layer in forests. Below the

O-layer lies a thin layer of soil, the "A" Horizon, a mixture of both organic and inorganic materials. Below "A" is the "B" Horizon, often a tan subsoil layer of varying thickness consisting largely of an accumulation of mineral salts. The "C" Horizon, made up of rocks and small stones, lies between the "B" and "D" Horizon, the bedrock. Bedrock may be acidic or alkaline. Over time, as bedrock disintegrates it adds mineral salts to the overlying Horizons, ultimately affecting the pH (acidity or alkalinity) of the topmost layers.

The plants that grow in a forest often give clues to the soils below. We have great fun exploring the thirty-three acres of largely forested land we own on the southeast side of Owls Head Mountain in Keene. We have found that many of the plants on the southern, lower half of our property are quite different from those on the northern, upper portion. The lower parcel is bounded by a substantial stream, Walton Brook that originates between Cascade and Porter Mountains. As the property goes northward from the Brook, it is laid out in a series of east-west running ridges and small ravines, great for the eight or so miles of trails we have made over the years. This topography lends itself to cool, shaded



*Healthy Forest Soil*

areas near the Brook and other small streams. Majestic hemlocks, hobble bush, club mosses, and a variety of springtime wildflowers such as bishop's cap, star flower, painted trillium, and pink lady's slippers flourish here. The combination of the hemlock litter and the underlying bedrock—presumably acidic granite—maintains suitably acidic conditions for these acid-loving plants.

The upper parcel is quite different. Its northernmost border meanders alongside a granite palisade in an east-west fashion achieving elevations of about eighteen hundred feet. In early spring, hepaticas, saxifrage, and columbine grow on these southeastern-facing slopes. Near the palisade, there is little above-ground water although farther down we see seeps, several vernal pools, and even some swampy areas where trout lily and foam flower bloom in early spring.

One year, in search of other springtime beauties, we followed the palisade west beyond our property line and found scores of yellow lady's slippers growing alongside an intermittent brook at an elevation of about 2100 feet. Whereas pink lady's slippers prefer acidic woodland soils, yellow lady's slippers are fond of alkaline soils and cool breezes. Quite possibly, as the glaciers moved across the Adirondacks they deposited a band of alkaline sedimentary rocks in this particular spot.


More than a hundred years ago, the upper parcel was pastureland. Today, even-aged hardwoods, predominately northern red oak and sugar maple grow in abundance. Red oaks can adjust to a variety of soil types as long as there is sufficient soil depth and drainage. Sugar maples can also survive in a wide variety of soil types, but for maximum tree growth and sap production, their soils should be deep, moist but well-drained, and with medium or fine textures. On our

property, we see more maples on the lower, moister portions whereas the oak tend to dominate the upper, drier areas. At the foot of the palisade where the soils are relatively shallow, several of the mature oaks have succumbed to blow-down caused by high winds and heavy loads of early, wet snow.

We are planning to maintain our forest by planting smaller, suitable trees in this area near the palisade. We also hope to keep the remaining trees healthy by culling "undesirables" such as weedy poplars and any significantly damaged trees. The more healthy trees growing in the forest, the more the leaves, twigs, and branches will be added to the litter layer, and the more soil and water will stay put.

Our plan also includes making more trails for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing using established Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are recommended practices and devices that can be used in trail and road construction to control erosion. Any time soil is disturbed there is the possibility of its being transported by run-off and ending up in streams or other bodies of water. Building water bars in trails to divert runoff, avoiding placement of trails or roads in wet soils, and keeping trails and roads away from streams when possible are examples of BMPs.

So, take a walk in *your* forest. Look around. Make a management plan that includes a discussion of forest soil health. It will protect your investment – from the ground up!

For additional information on forestland activities that will benefit your objectives, visit Cornell's forestry website at [www.ForestConnect.info](http://www.ForestConnect.info) or contact your local office of Cornell University Cooperative Extension. 

*Emily L. Selleck is an Extension Educator with Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Essex County.*

# NYFOA Calendar

## Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Expo

**April 3-4, Friday and Saturday**, at the Racetrack in Watkins Glen, New York. Sponsored by the Northeastern Loggers Association of Old Forge, NY. This will be a world class forest products equipment expo showcasing New York and Pennsylvania forests. Featured will be hundreds of exhibits from companies with the latest in logging and sawmilling technology, services, and equipment. For more information go to <http://www.nefexpo.net>

## 4-H Natural World Exploration Camp

**April 13-17, Monday-Friday, 2009, 8:30am - 3:30pm or 5:00pm**

Our world is amazing! We've selected a few of the wonders of our local world to visit and some great activities to keep you going through spring break. On Monday our travels will include the Museum of the Earth, in Ithaca, to see dinosaurs and fossils and learn about our climate and Taughannock Falls, one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rocky Mountains. Tuesday we'll caravan back to Ithaca to tour and do plant biology activities at the Boyce Thompson Institute and tour Cornell's Plantations. Wednesday and Thursday will take us to local forests for skills, games and tours. And, Friday we will fly off to the Butterfly Conservancy to walk among not only butterflies, but lizards and crabs too, and then head over to the Oneonta Science Center for more fun. Bring your own lunch and approximately \$10 for admissions on Monday and Friday. You'll need good walking shoes, warm clothes for outdoor trips, and wear red on Friday to have butterflies land on you! Register by April 6, 2009 for any or all days, by calling CCE in Norwich at 607-334-5841.

## Game Of Logging Level 1

**Friday, June 12, 2009, Orwell, NY**

Thanks to today's chaotic economy, many of us have installed woodstoves and are contemplating harvesting our own firewood. Please Consider Chainsaw Training!

Each participant is required to wear a helmet with face shield and muffs, gloves, chainsaw chaps or logger pants and protective footwear. Bring your own saw. You'll be in the field all day, so you must dress for the weather, rain or shine. Bring lunch. Everyone will fell a tree, learn open-face and bore cutting, pre-planning the fell and understanding hinge-wood strength. RSVP: Winnie Godfrey at (315) 298-7258 or [godfrey5@frontiernet.net](mailto:godfrey5@frontiernet.net). Training is limited to 10 people and will cost \$125.00. Pre-register by April 25th; the class will be canceled for lack of registered participants.

## 3rd Annual Woodwalk at Cuncaniensis

The topic will be Firewood Harvesting & It's Effect on Forest Stand Improvement with Emphasis on Wildlife Enhancement and Woodlot Safety Issues. The walk will take place on Saturday June 20th at 10:00 a.m. Meet at 2772 CR 22, Orwell, Oswego County. Leader and Lecturer will be Winnie Godfrey, MFO & CN, G.O.L. Level 3. Pre-Registration Is Required. please contact Winnie Godfrey at (315) 298-7258 or via email at [godfrey5@frontiernet.net](mailto:godfrey5@frontiernet.net).

# New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



## Let's talk CARBON!

I know there's a lot going on right now; carbon footprints, carbon credits, carbon offsets it all gets so confusing!

First, the basics; all organic materials contain carbon. Carbon dioxide is a waste product of oxidation released when organisms breathe and during the combustion of fossil fuels. The carbon dioxide is removed from the air during the plant process photosynthesis that we all learned in elementary school as plants turn carbon dioxide into sugar. So, the basis for all the hype, the science says that as man's intervention by creating more technology and removing more forest and farmland throws the carbon balance "out of whack." Whether this causes global warming or not remains an issue for another discussion.



Now for the good stuff, everyone has a "carbon footprint" even just by existing. The basic premise is that the more things a person does that produces carbon, even the things we don't think about, the bigger the person's mark is on the earth and the more plants are needed to "offset" your footprint. You can reduce your footprint by doing all the things we always hear about (most of them are money savers too); turn off the lights and unplug your electronics when you're not using them, turn down your heat another two degrees, turn down your hot water setting. There are also the things we sometimes forget; the three Rs: Reduce – don't buy things with extra packaging; Reuse – there's a lot of things that can be cleaned and used again; and Recycle – it's a myth that it takes more energy to recycle items than to make new ones! I also like to throw in a fourth R...Repair. We have gotten so used to going to the store and getting a new one!

So, what does carbon have to do with Tree Farmers you ask? Well, Tree Farmers have an opportunity to be on the cutting edge of small landowner carbon credit trading. This is when you take an inventory of your forest and through a very complicated formula determine how much carbon your trees are converting and you're able to actually sell those credits to environmentally responsible companies looking to offset their carbon usage. Tree Farm will work with a brand new company called CarbonTree LLC. If you'd like more information about it, or becoming a Tree Farm, remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away.

Like I always say, just think of the possibilities as you consider being a Tree Farmer. ▲

*Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.*



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Would you like to receive updates via email on emerging forestry issues and opportunities for forest owners? If so, please make sure we have your current email address. Contact Liana in the NYFOA office:  
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# Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Kara Rumfola of Delevan, NY submitted this photo showing three generations cutting up firewood from TSI work. Pictured (left to right) is Mark, Gretchen (2 years old), Chuck and Garrett (3 years old) Rumfola and their Swiss Mountain Dog "Greta." Their property includes 96.4 acres and they have owned it for the past 8 years.

Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, (address on page 22) and it may end up on this page!

## Looking for the Wild...Flowers

Early spring brings out some beautiful wildflowers in our woodlots. From Dutchman's breeches, one of the first with its white and yellow pants shaped flowers, to blue-purple violets, many colors decorate the forest floor.

With all the wildflowers out there, how can you learn a little more? The first step is to go out and find them! Get out into



Meadow rue

the woods every couple of weeks and look! Most plants only flower for a short time, so you have to get your timing right if you want to see them.

Identifying them is the next trick. There are many great wildflower field guides, and most of them are arranged by color. Brush up on your descriptive words like: *petal* – colorful part of a flower; *sepal* – structure under the true flower petals (usually green, but sometimes colorful); and *umbel* – a flat-topped cluster of small flowers. But don't worry; most guides have a glossary of definitions.

Also, think about where those plants are living. If you're trying to decide between meadow rue, which grows in moist meadows and stream sides, and columbine, which like rocky cliffs and sandy soil, look at the soil. Also, many flowers have shade requirements. Some will even bloom in deep dark areas.

For more information on wildflowers you can go to the Forest Service's Celebrating Wildflowers web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>.

You can see photographs, learn about rare and interesting plants and learn about how plants work.

There's also a neat Forest Wildflower Id Quiz at <http://forestry.about.com/library/weekly/aa052002.htm>.

Many wildflower hikes are also offered in the spring. Check into Mother's day hikes, parks and forests events and information in your local paper.

Enjoy the hunt! 🌿

Meadow rue image citation: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 2: 120.

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.



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# Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

## AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*)



*The American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is a medium-sized bird similar in size to a dove. Its bill is long in proportion to its body, which is round and heavy. It has a short neck a large head. Its big eyes are set high on the bird's head, giving it 360-degree vision. This trait, along with cryptic brown and black coloration, protects the woodcock from predators. Both sexes look alike. Nesting occurs from mid-March into June. Females lay four eggs in a shallow depression on the ground, camouflaged by dead leaves. The precocial chicks hatch in about 21 days, and are raised entirely by the female.*

The American woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle or bog-borer, is a popular migratory game bird that overwinters in the southern states. In March, the woodcock returns to its breeding grounds in the northeast. Returning males establish territories, or singing grounds, in open fields next to thick brush or woods. They often return to the same area year after year, defending their territories against other males. Singing grounds are typically openings of about one-quarter acre in size, with a straight, 20-30 yard take-off strip that is clear of impeding vegetation.

The courtship flight of the woodcock is an intriguing aerial display that can be seen at dusk and dawn beginning in late March or early April, and sometimes continuing into May. The best time to hear and see the display is between sundown and complete darkness. The male will take off and fly 200 to 300 feet up into the sky. His wings make a distinctive twittering sound as the wind rushes through his wing feathers. Upon reaching his upward destination, he spirals or zigzags back down to the ground, making a gurgling sound as he falls and landing back at his take-off site. Back on the ground, he sounds a nasal, insect-like buzzing call described as “peent” for several minutes, and then repeats his courtship flight.

Females seek out the males on their breeding grounds, and usually nest within 150 yards of the singing grounds where they mated. Favored nesting habitat includes damp woods near water, hillsides above moist bottomlands, old fields with low ground cover, briar patches, and edges of shrub thickets and young conifer stands. There may be little overhead cover (old fields) or up to 50 feet of vegetation (hardwood stands). The average cover height is 12 feet.

Woodcocks feed on a variety of invertebrates and some plants. However, this bird favors earthworms, and its long bill is specially adapted for probing the ground in search of its prey. Sensitive nerve endings in the lower third of the bill help a woodcock locate earthworms. A special bone-muscle arrangement lets the bird open the tip of its upper bill, or mandible, while it is underground. The long tongue and the underside of the mandible are both rough-surfaced to grasp and pull slippery prey out of the ground. The best feeding habitat is pole-sized hardwood or alder stands with a dense overstory, fairly open ground cover, and moist, fertile soil that supports earthworms.

The best way to maintain habitat for woodcocks is to protect springs, seeps,

moist depressions, and wetlands on your property. These areas provide important feeding grounds. Maintain, by burning or mowing, open grassy areas near water sources. These are prime nesting and courting grounds because of the water source and the food they provide. Maintain shrub cover in riparian areas and adjacent to wet areas for adequate cover. Alder, hawthorns, gray dogwood, spicebush, and silky dogwood are all good cover species for woodcock. Creating or maintaining areas of young forest will also provide singing grounds, and rejuvenate brood and nesting cover. By maintaining habitat for this unique bird, you and your family can continue to enjoy the courtship flights that usher in the spring. ▲

Is there a certain species of wildlife that you would like to see featured in an upcoming “Wild Things” column? If so, email Kristi Sullivan at [kls20@cornell.edu](mailto:kls20@cornell.edu)

*Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at [www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/)*

# NYFOA SAFETY Tip

## Hidden Hazards

As forestland owners we are well aware of what we can see as we walk our properties. This includes hazards. We look for hazards that could strike us, but some hazards are unseen.

Recently a logging contractor was opening an access road to a log landing. He had called the Call-Before-You-Dig service. They came and did their search and gave him the all clear. The contractor's bulldozer was 30 feet from the public road when it went through a buried cable that was just inches below the surface. The cable was nowhere near where they

searched. The contractor made a good faith effort to locate lines so he could not be faulted.

A landowner may have recollection of buried line location and any knowledge should be passed to contractors on the land. It may be helpful to check with the previous landowner regarding what they know about underground hazards. A property title abstract can reveal forgotten rights-of-way and most owners should have a copy of their abstract of title.

*continued on page 19*

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The New York Forest Owners Association thanks the people and organizations that supported our programs and publications in 2008. Your help is essential to our work.

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# Council of Forest Resources Organizations

New York's 18.5 million acres of forest land are in crisis, their future imperiled by economic and ecological threats. Traditional markets are changing; subdivision and development threaten wildlife, watersheds, clean air, recreational values and economic productivity; invasive pests endanger valuable species. These difficulties threaten our forests' ability to respond to modern needs for new energy sources and relief from the effects of climate change. The Council of Forest Resource Organizations urges the following prompt executive and legislation actions:

**I. Destructive invasive species threaten to destroy NYS's forests. Expand State efforts to combat invasive species by allocating more resources for research on, and assistance to, private forest lands. Healthy private forest lands contribute more than \$40 million annually to the State's economy and provide important public benefits such as clean water, soil stability, and wildlife habitats.**

- The NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee, the NYS Invasive Species Council, and the 10 PRISMs should recognize the importance of invasive forest insects, plants and diseases in prioritizing inventory and eradication efforts statewide; and continue to assure active involvement of forestry interests.
- Fully fund DEC's new Office of Invasive Species and its efforts to craft an integrated map that pinpoints invasives in and near New York, create an information clearinghouse for invasives and work with the federal government, and plan and implement a more effective emergency response system.
- Accelerate Asian Long-Horned Beetle survey and eradication efforts in quarantine areas of New York City and Long Island; containment of this pest is vital to the survival of the many industries, ranging from maple syrup to furniture, that depend on New York's vast and valuable maple woodlands.
- Reinforce efforts to contain the spread of known invasives, such as the Emerald Ash Borer, which threatens another of the state's most valuable and famous hardwood species.

- Request that federal agency partners increase monitoring and inspections for invasives at New York's ports and borders.

**II. Ease the economic strain of increasing, burdensome taxes on forest owners. Such taxes encourage early harvests and subdivision, thus preventing sustainable management of forest resources and often disrupting wildlife and important non-timber plant species.**

- Create a new refundable income tax credit to offset property taxes on forest ownership.
- Eliminate the so-called "Tree Tax" which is applied by local assessors under the guidance of the State Office of Real Property Tax Services.
- Expand the reimbursement to towns for revenues "lost" through RPTL 480A.
- Preserve the practice that was established in 1886 of maintaining comparability of tax payments on Forest Preserve Lands with those on private land.


**III. Traditional and new markets for forest products can provide greater employment and revenues than are currently realized. Increase the economic contributions of New York's forest resource through focused state actions. Encourage good management of forest lands and grow their role in the state's economy by actively encouraging the exploitation of new markets, particularly wood energy and biofuels, and encouraging investment in the necessary infrastructure.**

- The Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYS DEC, and Empire State Development should work cooperatively to support forest products manufacturers through promotion, market development and technical assistance.
- Expand the scope of study in NYSDA's recent RFP for a Renewable Fuels Roadmap and Sustainable biomass Feedstock Study that seeks to address critical issues related to energy alternatives in New York. Currently, the RFP seeks to study only biomass-based liquid fuels ("biofuels") as a potential alternative energy technology utilizing forest derived biomass. There are other proven biomass-based energy alter-

natives (e.g., heat, co-generation, power production) with much greater potential to be implemented in the coming decade.

- NYSDA and the PSC should work to expand the Renewable Portfolio Standard to include "biomass" as an eligible Tier II Customer Sited fuel.
- Limit proposed restrictions on existing or new outdoor wood boilers that provide affordable heat and hot water for rural families.
- The Attorney General and DEC must vigorously enforce laws governing timber theft. Educational programs need to be continued and expanded.
- Provide public incentives - such as expedite review of permissible activities for participants - that recognize landowner and industry investments in forest certification programs such as the Tree Farm System, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).
- DOT should not impose routing restrictions on log trucks.

**IV. Sequestration of atmospheric carbon has been identified as a part of the solution to global climate change. Well-managed forests are effective in removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and sequestering them for many years. Reward good forest management and encourage forest owners to combat the effects of climate change.**

- The Governor and DEC's Office of Climate Change need to accept and advocate for the inclusion of forestry and forest management as an offset strategy in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and to advocate for the establishment of a national cap-and-trade system to limit and/or offset the production of greenhouse gases.
- Income from the sale of carbon credits from managed forest lands should be exempt from state and local taxes. As there is no current revenue from carbon trading, there will be no net effect on state revenues and the State will encourage viable solutions to climate change. 

*The Council of Forest Resource Organizations is made up of a number of groups including NYFOA, Adirondack Landowners Association, Catskill Forest Association, Catskill Landowners Association, Empire State Forest Products Association, NY Society of American Foresters, NYS Farm Bureau, NYS Maple Producers Association, NYS Timber Producers, NYS Tree Farm, and Tug Hill Resources Investment for Tomorrow (THRIFT).*



# Timber Theft and How to Prevent It

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

The folks that oppose timber theft continue to look ahead, like those fighting other kinds of crime. While there is still a long way to go, much progress has been made.

Timber theft laws in New York had remained virtually unchanged for decades, when in the mid 1990s, Environmental Conservation Law changes made clear prohibitions on cutting another's trees, not just "evergreen" trees as had been the case, and authorized DEC enforcement to investigate on private lands. Later, the Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources formed an advisory committee and subsequently held hearings which led to increased penalties for timber theft, and special funding to help familiarize law enforcement and judicial personnel about timber theft.

The Commission continued to host landowners, loggers, consulting foresters, truckers, buyers and mills, along with state law enforcement personnel. In recent months a number of next-step suggestions have been made as all have come to recognize that increased penalties alone are simply not an adequate deterrent.

As this article is being written, we are looking forward to continued discussions hosted by the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources.

Here are a few of the ideas that have been raised:

- landowners, before a timber harvest, register their intent to harvest, and guarantees the boundary of the sale area,
- loggers in signing the contract acknowledge the sale boundary and agree to only cut marked trees within that boundary,
- truckers will only haul logs accounted for by a contract, and

- mill or other buyer must make a reasonable effort to determine that the source of the logs and the seller are legitimate.

The sale boundary suggestion clearly puts responsibility on the landowner. Confusion over boundary lines is common among timber theft incidents and is often blamed when criminal cases go to the civil courts.


If the sale area encroaches on a neighbor's land, the owner having the harvest would be liable. If the logger (having signed the contract) violates the sale boundary, the logger would be liable. A contract that spells out such terms would serve as an "authorization" for the logger to be cutting on the land, be the basis for a 'bill of lading' so the trucker can safely transport, and for the mill to know that the seller had permission to harvest the logs being sold, and, thus avoid the risk of buying stolen property.

Additional suggestions for enforcement include: requiring harvester insurance and bonding; facilitating State Attorney General assistance to county DAs, and codification of timber theft laws.

While there are many "what ifs" to be addressed, we believe there is consensus that further preventative/curtailing action is needed and that that each party in the process - landowner, forester, loggers, truckers, buyers and mills, law enforcement and the public must assume a greater responsibility.

The Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, under the chairmanship of Senator George Winner has been a strong ally in the efforts to advance many forestry causes over the years. With the retirement of Ronald Brach as the Commission's Executive Director, and the change in leadership in State

legislature, it is very fitting that we offer our most sincere thanks to these individuals for their hard work and attention to sustaining one of our most valuable resources in New York. We look forward to working with the new leadership.

As efforts continue, we would like to have your questions and comments. Email Hugh at: [hocanham@esf.edu](mailto:hocanham@esf.edu); Ron at: [rwp22@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rwp22@nycap.rr.com). 

*Hugh Canham is a retired professor from SUNY ESF and a member of NYFOA's CNY chapter. Ron Pedersen is a past President of NYFOA and is a member of the Capital District chapter.*



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**Friday, April 3, 2009  
from 5 pm – 7 pm  
at the Harbor Hotel  
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Get details at [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

The Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County will also be hosting educational presentations during the Expo of interest to forest owners. Topics are:

**Invasive Species and Their Impact on  
Our Forests**

Friday April 3rd – 1:30 to 4:30 pm

***Interfering Plants***

Dr. Peter Smallidge - NYS Extension Forester for Cornell Cooperative Extension

***Major New Insect Threats***

Dr. Jerry Carlson – Chief of Forest Health and Protection, NYS DEC

***New Paradigms for Dealing with  
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**Business Skills for the Woods**

Saturday, April 4th – 10:00 am -12:30 pm

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Jim Ochterski – Ag Economic Business Specialist, CCE Ontario

***Tips for Working Better With the Forest  
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*\$10 Admission per half day session will go to the Log a Load for Kids Program. Started in South Carolina in 1988, "Log A Load for Kids" has grown to include 24 states. In 1997, Log A Load raised more than \$2 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, making it CMN's fastest growing national donor and the seventh largest contributor. 100% of the money raised remains with the local participating Children's Miracle Network hospital, or the hospital of the donor's choosing.*

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# The SFI® Program

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Founded in 1995, SFI is an independent, internationally recognized Forest Certification organization. Certification is a voluntary process in which the management of a forest is documented as meeting certain economic, environmental, and social standards. Wood fiber users and producers that agree to abide by the SFI® Principles are certified by an independent 3rd party as meeting or exceeding the performance standards.

**Hancock Timber Resource Group** is just one of the many companies that are certified to the SFI Standards of Sustainability and participate in the New York State SFI Implementation Committee.



John Levavasseur, Hancock Forest Management Allegheny Area Manager, Chad Casselman HFM, Forester, and Ken Hill, BVQI auditor, review the management plan for the Special Management Area on Hancock Forest Management Investor lands in Cattaraugus County, NY.

## Hancock Timber Resource Group

For the Hancock Timber Resource Group, good stewardship is good business. We have a long and proud history of providing high quality forest management for our investor's owned properties. The foundation of Hancock Forestry® rests on a commitment to perform leading-edge forest management and environmental stewardship. Our goal is to improve overall returns, reduce risk, and improve alignment of interests while protecting and enhancing environmental and social aspects of the lands we manage.

We realize that these high standards require continuous improvement in all aspects of our forest operations—our standards are measured against the industry's recognized benchmarks including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®. All of the 3.1 million acres of timberland under our management in North America, including more than 12,000 acres in New York State in Cattaraugus and Chatauqua counties, are SFI-certified.

Our goal is to implement a land stewardship ethic that integrates the growing, managing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air, and water quality; biological diversity; wildlife and aquatic habitat; and recreation, and aesthetics.

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**Want to know more about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative? Attend the information session at the Northeast Forest Product Expo in Watkins Glen on April 3 & 4.**



# Forest Owners are Growing More Concerned About the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Long-horned Beetle.

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN AND KIM B. ADAMS

We hope by now most forest owners are aware of these two invasive insects. Both have the potential to wreak havoc on New York State's forests. Fortunately, to date only the Asian long-horned beetle has been found in the State, and so far its movement has been limited. The ash borer is close by, but to the best of our knowledge it has yet to be found within our borders.

Though adults of both species are capable of flying, their major mode of dispersal is via infested firewood or logs that are moved from an infested area to another region where the insect does not occur. A recent study in Michigan inspected firewood that was collected at the Mackinac (pronounced "mack-i-naw") Bridge, a five-mile span that connects that state's Upper Peninsula with the Lower Peninsula. Of 19 pieces of ash firewood inspected, none had live

emerald ash borers (EAB); however, 11 had ash borer larval galleries and two had dead adults beneath the bark.

Currently several federal and state agencies in Massachusetts are removing and destroying hundreds of trees in the vicinity of Worcester, MA that are infested with the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB). This is another situation where the movement of firewood from an infested part of southeastern NY to the Worcester area most likely is responsible for this isolated outbreak.

## Why the concern?

EAB, first discovered in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002, spreads quickly, and it is capable of killing all species of ash—an important component of many forest types in NY State. ALB was first identified in the U.S. in Brooklyn in 1996. It is capable of attacking many species of broadleaved tree, but it pre-

fers maple and, as most forest owners are aware, this is the most common tree in many regions of NY.

Recognition of damage or the adult insects, prompt removal of infested material, and immediate reporting of suspect insects are essential if we are to restrict the spread of these invasives. If either becomes established in our forests, they could greatly alter the ecology of many hardwood stands and diminish their economic potential and recreational value.

## Asian long-horned beetle

### Adult (Figure 1)

- Size varies but most are 1.0 to 1.25" long.
- Male antennae are 2.5 times the body length; female antennae are 1.3 times body length. The antennae are marked with alternating black and white.
- Body shiny black, like patent leather.



Figure 1. Adult Asian long-horned beetle; Michael Bohne, USFS, Bugwood.org



Figure 2. Galleries in the wood produced by the tunneling of the larvae of the Asian long-horned beetle; E. Richard Hoebeke, Cornell University, Bugwood.org





Figure 3: Adult emerald ash borer; Therese Poland, USFS

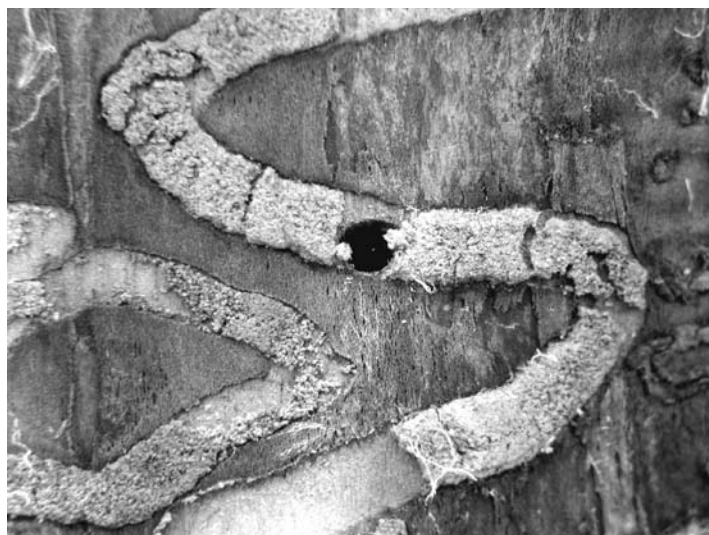


Figure 4: Winding, sawdust and excrement-packed gallery produced by the emerald ash borer larva; Therese Poland, USFS

- Wing covers (“back” of adult) has about 20 white dots.

#### Damage (Figure 2)

- Large galleries (approx. 0.4” in diam.) occur throughout the heart-wood.
- 0.4” diameter adult emergence holes occur in bark of branches and trunk. They look like bullet holes.
- Large amounts of sawdust-like wood particles appear in the vicinity of or beneath emergence holes.

#### **Emerald ash borer**

##### **Adult (Figure 3)**

- Adults are metallic green, 0.4 to 0.5” long.


#### Damage (Figure 4)

- A few to many S-shaped (winding) galleries occur on the surface of the sapwood beneath the bark.
- Initially these Galleries are narrow, but they widen as the larva grows.
- Galleries are tightly packed with fine wood chips.

#### **Management Strategies are limited.**

Early detection and rapid removal and destruction of infested trees is important. If you suspect the presence of either invasive, contact your regional office of DEC, Division of Lands and Forests.

Very shortly, NY will implement a permanent regulation that (1) bans the importation of firewood into New York State unless it has been kiln-dried to eliminate pests and (2) prohibits the movement of untreated firewood within the State more than 50 miles from its source.

As of October 2008, the EAB can be found in the following states; Michigan (first identified in 2002), Ohio (2003), Indiana (2004), Illinois (2006), Pennsylvania (2007), Missouri (2008), Virginia (2008), West Virginia (2008), and Wisconsin (2008). It has also been found in two Canadian Provinces; Ontario (2004) and Quebec (2008). On December 1, 2006, the Federal quarantine expanded to cover the entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, in addition to the already covered Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Individual counties are quarantined in the other states. The most likely avenues of beetle movement, in addition to nursery stock, include green lumber and firewood. Because it is difficult to identify larval stages, movement of all hardwood firewood is regulated as are wood chips, whether composted or not. Similarly, a Federal quarantine prohibits the movement of firewood and wood products of all hardwood species out of areas known to be infested with ALB. 

*This is the 97th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF and Kim Adams is an Instructional Support and Extension Specialist at SUNY ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/31301.html>.*

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# Planting Hardwood Seedlings

## *A Great Spring Project*

ROBERT WOOD

In the summer of 1998, I looked over a 135 acre woodland parcel I had dimensionally cut at 16 inches. There were a number of areas which were now quite open and producing little but Beech, Black Birch or blackberries. I decided it was time to get serious about forestry and was fortunate enough to touch base with Bruce Robinson and get him out to give me some advice (something which I should of sought much earlier). One of his suggestions was to plant some Red Oak seedlings with tubes and stake them. He said he could put in an order for me and in the spring of 1999, fifty Red Oak seedlings, (with as much root structure as they were tall, 12 to 18 inches both ways—excellent quality), with tubes, stakes, ties, and nets for the top of the tubes arrived. Thus, my project began.

What you also need to know is that this woodland is on a relatively steep hillside and the hillside also slopes about 25 degrees as you go up it and goes back over 3000 feet. I commenced with the project—first hiking up the trail with the tools I thought I needed, shovel, maul, etc.; and then I made two more trips up the hill with the seedlings, tubes, and stakes. This was much more effort than I expected, and then it took a couple of days to get the seedlings planted—25 a day seemed quite productive.

Once completed, I watched with anticipation and was rewarded to see about a 95% success rate as the seedlings put out leaves and grew that summer. This

initial success made me decide to continue this endeavor, but what about the labor involved? In June of 1999, I bought a new ATV and put a metal basket on the front and an expanded metal basket with the drop rack on the back. Now I had something that could handle the terrain and haul all the tools, seedlings, tubes, stakes in one trip! With this work effort addressed, I proceeded to order 200 Red Oak seedlings and 50 Black Cherry for the next spring.

In the spring of 2000 these arrived and between late April and mid-May all were planted. I might add that these came with four foot tubes and five foot white oak stakes. I found that working diligently, once, on the planting site, I could plant about one tree every 10 minutes, (average). I also found planting in groups of five worked well and I would survey the site first and then toss the five tubes and stakes where I thought they would best be positioned. This went so well, that I decided to do another 250 trees the following spring, and continued this through 2005. I found ordering the trees through my professional forestry consultant worked well, in terms of quality of the seedlings and the timing of their arrival.

Well it is now fall of 2008 and I can share some observations I have made which may be useful to those of you who might be considering a project like this. With over 2000 plus Red Oak Seedlings planted, and 100 Black Cherry, I can say without question the Red Oak did the

best. I would not recommend Black Cherry given the high mortality rate within the first 2 years. Just for further informational purposes, I reside in the Allegany foothills, (Cattaraugus County), and in an area where both Black Cherry and Red Oak do exceptionally well. The Red Oak did remarkably well, and in some instances where sprouting out of the top of the tubes in 2 years. Nonetheless, two extremely dry summers, (drought conditions), and shade took a toll on a number of the trees. I also found that I needed to put a one foot extension on some of the tubes, as the deer found it easy to browse on those which topped the tubes. A rather easy adjustment to do on your own. I did receive 5 foot tubes one year, but have to say the mortality rate was higher for these than the 4 foot tubes, so I would recommend going with the shorter tubes and putting on extensions if you need to.

This year, (nine years after I first started this project), I did an inventory of all the trees, and can say comfortably that there has been at least a 10 percent overall survival rate. This may seem low, but I am not discouraged. A couple of the Oaks are now over 15 feet tall, and the other approximately 200 are doing quite well. If I was starting over, and was giving advice to anyone considering a similar project, whether it be for one year or over five years, I would have started earlier—the spring following the timber sale/cutting. I waited four years, and this gave other vegetation and trees a head start on the tubed seedlings.

When planting take your time, get organized and do a quality planting job. This means ensuring the seedling roots are always covered with a damp towel or something to keep the roots moist. Dig a hole deep enough to contain the root structure

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Robert Wood stands alongside one of his original seedlings.

which is sometime over 12 inches in length. I found special planting shovels which were relatively narrow but 12" in depth work very well. Always ensure the entire root structure is covered tightly and when you put the tube on rotate it and sort of drill it into the ground, helping ensure small rodents cannot get at the seedling.

While I was relatively attentive to pruning back competing trees around the seedlings, this is intensive work and in retrospect I think in some instances, (not all), spraying a herbicide like Round Up three feet around the tube would be very effective. We just did this on 50 Red Oak seedlings we planted on a neighboring

parcel of land, and the results were excellent. Periodically, like each spring, you need to go around and ensure your stakes are secure and the ties tight, and there may be other fast growing small trees, e.g. Beech, Striped Maple and Black Birch which are crowding and/or shading your tubed seedlings. You need to cut these back.

So how much did all this cost? My billing receipts show that the seedlings, tubes, stakes, ties and net caps for the tubes came to just a little over \$4.00 per tree, most of it for the tubes. So my actual costs when I was doing around 250 trees a year was about \$1000, which was a write off on my certified Tree Farm and I believe may be covered under a federal tax write off for special reforestation projects (up to seven years). Now of course it will be many more years before there are mature Oak saw lumber trees, but I feel I have done something for the next generation, and enhanced the value and well being of the woodland. 🌲

*Robert Wood is a member of the Allegheny Foot-hills Chapter of NYFOA, a Master Forest Owner volunteer and Certified American Tree Farm.*

## NYFOA Safety Tip (continued)

Old oil and gas lines that have sunk into the ground may be found with a metal detector but newer plastic lines may not have any tracer wire. Even known pipeline locations can be a problem.

Other hidden hazards are wells, cellar holes and outhouse pits. It is common that the road access point to woodlots is actually the site of an old homestead or camp; sometimes the well or spring may have been in the basement. Just 20 or 30 years of growth will hide a lot. Depending on the vintage of the building there may be a buried steel or stone septic tank or dry well from the old homestead. The hazard is that someone or a piece of machinery could fall into the void.

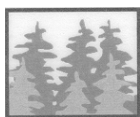
With any hazard the options are to remove or avoid it. One way to remove the hazard is to add fill over pipelines or into holes. Also, if hazards are located they can be flagged like a crime scene so contractors can avoid the area, or plans can be made to fill and re-grade the land. 🌲

*Safety tip provided by Ed Wright, President, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc.*

### The Saratoga Tree Nursery is announcing the availability of tree and shrub seedlings for sale.

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# Member Profile:

## *John Hastings*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

Between early March and mid-April of each year, John Hastings is joined by his brother, Don, as he taps the maple trees on his mother's property in Warren County. John, a retired forester, visits the twelve-acre property between three and four times a week in order to extract sap for home-made maple syrup. Though John's father purchased the property in 1946, the family did not start tapping the trees until 1979. Since then the original one-hundred and fifty taps has expanded to an impressive six-hundred operational taps.

Initially, John and his brother produced just enough syrup to supply their family, including their mother, father and three other siblings. Now, however, John is able to produce a decent amount of surplus syrup. The excess syrup is sold locally and the added income is then

used to purchase new equipment or to repair the older machinery in the sugar house.

John is able to complete the entire production process on the property. At the beginning of March he treks out into the woods with Don, who is retired from the Postal Service, and installs a tap into each maple tree. Using a cordless battery-powered drill, a hole is drilled to for the small-diameter spouts. The two brothers, sometimes aided by Dave, another sibling, are able to complete the process in two days.

The sap then flows through the network of tubing connected to each tree and eventually reaches the storage tank outside of the sugar house. From the storage tank, the sap is passed into the evaporator, which boils the sap into syrup. The syrup is packaged right there

in the sugar house and then stored or sold, depending on how many pancakes the family plans to eat that year!

After the month and a half long process of syrup production, John is left to clean the equipment. Through pump action, a water/air mixture is pushed through the tubing, which removes any residual sap and bacteria. All of the taps must also be removed from the trees, allowing the water to flush out each spout and drop line. While the taps must be removed and the tubing cleaned every year, the entire process usually only takes John and Don a single day to complete.

Though John does dedicate quite a bit of time to maple syrup production each year, he considers it to be more of a hobby than a job. In order to make his hobby another source of income, John states that he would need to lease another stand of near-by maples in order to retrieve more sap. Moreover, the current sugar bush occupies more of a west, northwest slope, while optimal locations usually boast a southern exposure and so maximal yield is not obtained. As such, John's hobby will most likely remain a hobby and not become a full time business.

Though the forested area on his mother's property is predominantly maple, there are also pine and oak trees scattered throughout the area. Hemlock, however, are not as prominent since they tend to shade the maple tubing, preventing sap that freezes overnight from thawing, and thus impedes syrup production. John typically removes hemlocks from the sugarbush.

The twelve-acre property, along with John's own thirty-acre property, is part of the Tree Farm System run by the American Forest Foundation, a national nonprofit organization. Having the two properties certified as part of the Tree Farm System signifies a commitment to sustaining forests, watersheds and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

John acquired his own thirty acres of land from a co-worker at the DEC,



*The Hastings' sugar house in Warren County, where all of the family's maple syrup is produced.*

*continued on page 22*



*John Hastings in the sugar bush with Betty (far right) and Amanda (center) Gregory.*

while he and Pamela, his wife, lived in Fort Ann. At the time, the property was only two to three miles away from their home. While John and Don often hunted on the property in the past, John rarely hunts there anymore since he now lives farther away in Queensbury.

Though the land is primarily oak and hemlock, there are also pine and maple interspersed throughout. Since purchasing the land in 1982, John has organized several harvest cuts, including a commercial

thinning and a cutting to harvest firewood. The property is currently being logged to harvest mature oak, maple and pine.

An alumnus of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, John began working immediately after graduating with his Bachelor's Degree. John joined the DEC in 1979, where he worked as a professional forester for thirty-four years.

Retired as of 2003, he now spends much of his time working with the Warrensburg Historical Society. John is not only on the Board of Directors for the Society, but is also the newsletter editor. At present, John and the Society are in the process of restoring the artifact collection at the Warrensburg Historical Museum, which is to reopen in the spring. In addition to his work with the Warrensburg Historical Society, John also does a small amount of forestry consulting on the side.

In addition, John is also an active NYFOA member and a member of the NYS Maple Producers Association. After joining NYFOA in 1987, John acted as an instrumental member in the establishment of the Southern Adirondack chapter of the organization. He has previously volunteered as the newsletter editor for the SAC and continues to help with many SAC events. John was also a part of the NYFOA State Board of Directors during the late 1990's.

When not working outside the home, John passes his time at home with



*John Hastings, with fellow NYFOA member Betty Gregory and her granddaughter, Amanda, as he explains the workings of the sugar house.*

Pamela, a high school music teacher. Their only child, Brittany, currently attends Wheaton College near Boston, MA. When home for break, however, Brittany and her parents regularly enjoy pancakes, made with hand-picked blueberries from their home property and topped with family-made syrup! 🍷

*Alexandra Silva is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853.*



*A panoramic view during a recent logging of the Hastings' property in Fort Ann, NY.*



# MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the May/June Issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at [mmalmshe@syr.edu](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu). Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

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